



THE KSA SONGWRITER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
THE KNOXVILLE SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

Volume No. 4 Issue No. 9

Date: September, 2010

Knoxville Songwriters Association

P.O. Box 603

Knoxville, TN 37901

View the KSA Songwriter online at www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org

Founded in 1983 by Sara Williams
27 Years of serving Songwriters in the Knoxville area

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to welcome the officers that were elected and re-elected on August 31. Also I would like to thank all who submitted their name to the ballot and were willing to volunteer with the management of the KSA for the coming year. A complete list of the current officers is shown elsewhere in this issue. Members with suggestions on things that might benefit the entire group are encouraged to present them to me or one of the other officers for consideration. New ideas from old and new members are always welcome.

The **Jerry Salley** Workshop on August 28 was a great success. **David Lauver** covers the event elsewhere in this issue. I would like to take the opportunity to thank David for his work on arranging the workshop. I would also like to thank Jerry for taking the time out of his busy schedule in Nashville to come to Knoxville and conduct the workshop. We had 27 in attendance and everyone had good comments about the content of the workshop and the entertaining presentation that Jerry provided. I can't say enough about the workshops that we have had this year. Those of you that haven't taken the time to attend one of these workshops have missed out on a lot of good professional information and instruction from qualified speakers. We will have one more workshop in 2010 and unless the schedule is changed we will continue to offer four workshops in 2011. I encourage all members to make plans to attend these events as part of the benefits of your membership. The KSA is dedicated to bringing professionals from Nashville to the Knoxville area as a matter of convenience for the local songwriting community. Please support these events by attending.

The new KSA bumper sticker is available at the regular meetings. See me for yours.

The Song of the Quarter contest will be held the last Tuesday of the month which is on September 28.

Submit your entries to **Richard Ratledge** by September 21 so he can prepare the ballots. The winner will receive a certificate suitable for framing.

I'm looking forward to serving as President of the KSA for 2011 and appreciate all of the positive comments that I have received on where we presently stand as an Association. The progress made in the last two years is the result of participation and hard work by several people, not just the President. Those people know who they are and they have my thanks for stepping up to the plate and making things better for all of us.

Regards,
Gene B.

FROM THE EDITOR

The newsletter is only as good as we want it to be so keep those articles and information coming. If you can't seem to get a song cut and played at least you can get your articles published in the KSA Songwriter. Our thanks go out to members **C. D. Johnson, David Haley Lauver, and Linda Perry** for their contribution of articles to this month's issue.



WHITEWATER RECORDING STUDIO

By **C. D. Johnson**

Recently, I realized I had reached a stalemate regarding the effective use of my studio equipment and my recording skills. Considering the time and

money I have invested in setting up a fairly decent home studio I really expected to be turning out a better product by now. My studio at this point consists of mostly semi-pro equipment with a sprinkle of pro stuff. All capable of making quality recordings if you know what your doing. And I was beginning to think I didn't! Considering I've been writing, tracking, mixing and mastering my own songs and those of others for quite a few years I truly expected to be a tad more accomplished than I am. Anyway, as my Daddy used to say, "Ain't no shame in askin' for help if you need it!" Knowing Daddy weren't no fool and realizing I needed help I went looking. And whether it's important or not one of my first considerations was location. I wanted it close but I wanted to stay away from the Nashville studios. (There's too much polish and not enough heart, at least to my way of thinking.)

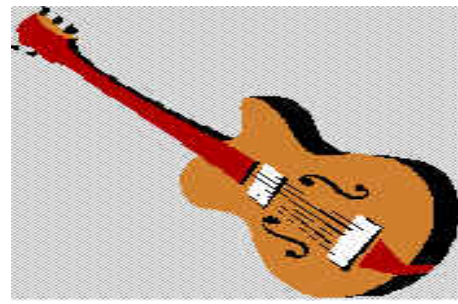
I was looking for a comfortable place with a good reputation and a quality product. If our collaboration worked out then I didn't want travel distance to be a problem. And, if they were in the ballpark economically speaking, then it would be more the better. I started searching the internet and looking thru my copies of recording magazines. And my eyes kept coming back to a studio located on Sleepy Gap Road, Arden, North Carolina_ Whitewater Recording Studio's_ owned and operated by Mr. **Adam Greenberg**. The more research I did on this studio the more I liked it. But what really sold me was the excellent examples of the finished recordings I discovered on their website. If you're looking for quality and the skill to put that indefinable radio sheen on your CD's then look no further these boy's got it. All the different styles of music I listened to on their website were first rate. At the risk of sounding like a paid pitchman let me say they can do it all. From tracking, mixing, mastering and right on thru to retail ready CD's. In house musicians, you name it they can do it. Oh, yeah and did I say at a reasonable cost. Of-course, every project is different but in my opinion this is one time I actually got more than I paid for. Hopefully, if you choose to try them out you'll see what I mean.

From my very first e-mail contact to the inevitable phone calls my every question and concern was addressed. To use the word personal touch would be an understatement. Clear concise instructions as to what the studio needed to be able to do the best job possible were always spot on. They were always ready and willing to "re-explain" things to me. (As usual, I found this very important.) Their patience and willingness to work with me has made me a very satisfied customer and I can see myself doing more

business with Mr. Greenberg and his studio. I would feel extremely comfortable having Adam and his crew do a complete project from start to finish. As it is, by using an A/B comparison on Whitewater's masters and my original master's plus the assistance and advice of Mr. Greenberg I feel that cost of this mastering only project has been of great benefit to any mastering I may attempt on my own in the future. It is a rare thing to find a professional individual willing to give useful advice to a do-it-yourselfer. For this I thank Mr. Greenberg.

Just in case you readers think I've been to free with my praise I'm gonna give you Whitewater's websites. (www.whitewaterrecording.com or you can also click on www.whitewateraudiopost.com) . Do yourself a favor, take a trip to web surf-land and listen to some of his studio's finished work. While you're at it check out what they offer. I think you'll be sold too! To those members I see on a weekly basis I am perfectly willing to let you listen to my original masters and compare them to the Whitewater project. I'm here to tell you I'm almost embarrassed there's such a Great Big Difference! Despite my embarrassment, thanks again to Adam and his crew!

Until next month you members keep on writing those Hits! As far as Whitewater Recording Studio is concerned I don't really think they need my cheerleading to continue to turn out a quality product. But, RAH, RAH, RAH anyway!



Jerry Salley Shares Writing Advice at KSA Summer Workshop

By **David Haley Lauver**

"If you don't want this so bad you'll die if you don't make it . . . you won't make it."

Hit songwriter **Jerry Salley** didn't mince words when he described the passion for writing that's necessary for professional songwriters to succeed in the music

business.

Salley, who has had more than 300 of his songs recorded in his 28-year career in Nashville, spoke and critiqued songs at a Knoxville Songwriters Association workshop on August 28. He also appeared earlier in the day on the "Rise 'N' Shine" with Jenny program on Knoxville's WDVX-FM. Successful writers are able to marry a melody and lyrics in a memorable way that touches a listener's emotions, Salley said. And pro writers recognize the value of re-writing, he said, since most songs can be strengthened before they're really finished and ready to pitch.

A native of Ohio, Salley came to Nashville after graduating from college in 1982. He got a job as a cast member at "Opryland USA" and wrote with other aspiring writers such as **Aaron Tippin** and **Steven Curtis Chapman**. It took six years for his first song to be recorded—time Salley spent honing his craft and learning from veteran writers and performers.

"Everything's changed since those years," Salley said, "from the music itself to the way business is done." He said Nashville was filled with many small publishing companies located in old houses where developing writers could learn from experienced writers. Today, he said, there are far fewer publishers and development opportunities and a more corporate business atmosphere.

"When I came to town, there were a few great artist writers," Salley said. "Most country music performers let the writers come up with the songs. Now, if you get a record deal you're automatically a songwriter. It's a lot harder (for writers) to get songs cut, and a lot depends on who owns the song."

"A lot of the publishing business is focused on building relationships, Salley said. He told of a publisher friend who said, "We don't call ourselves songpluggers. Now we're 'songwriter facilitators' who set up appointments for writing."

When asked if he formally files for a copyright for each song, Salley said that publishing companies normally don't copyright songs until they are recorded. Publishers will, however, register the songs with performing rights organizations. He also reminded KSA members that you can't copyright a title.

Salley also cautioned members not to be taken in by would-be song pluggers who charge fees based on vague promises that a song will be cut. He said

writers who hire pluggers should expect detailed monthly reports.

Salley was named "Country Music Songwriter of the Year" in 2003 by the SESAC performing rights organization and has earned a Dove Award from the Gospel Music Association. His hits include "I'm Gonna Take That Mountain," recorded by **Reba McEntire**, top singles by **John Anderson** and **Wade Hayes**, and ten "top twenty" gospel songs. "His Grace is Perfect," co-written by Salley and Chapman, has been recorded more than 200 times and is included in several hymnals.

As an artist, Salley has performed on the Grand Ole Opry and television's "Late Night with David Letterman," "Regis and Kathie Lee," and NBC's "Today Show." His recent CD, "New Songs, Old Friends," features performances with **Vince Gill**, **Doyle Lawson**, **Del McCoury**, **Ricky Skaggs**, **Rhonda Vincent**, and other guest artists.

Among the songs Salley performed for KSA members was "Showing My Age," the likely title cut of a CD that he plans to release next year. The song is an upbeat look at turning 50 by a man who says, "I feel I have a lot more creative years left."

CHOOSE FROM 120+ CLASSES AT SEPTEMBER "SONGPOSIUM"

The Nashville Songwriters Association International plans to turn Music Row into a "songwriting university campus" next month, offering more than 120 "Songposium" classes taught by top songwriters, producers, and other music industry leaders.

An "a la carte" menu of classes for the September 21-24 event enables writers to put together their own schedules based on their needs and interests. A variety of classes are offered in each of these topical areas: inspiration/creativity; the craft of writing; the music business; studio/technology; vocal/performance; and guitar.

Participants can sign up for one 90-minute course (at \$50 for members/\$60 for non-members) or take as many as 16 classes throughout the week and enjoy reduced rates with one-day to four-day "Max Pack" discounts. For more information, including class descriptions and bios of presenters, see www.nashvillesongwriters.com.

@@@@@@@@@@

HOW TO USE IDEAS FOR LYRICS

(Reprinted by Permission from www.lyricideas.com)

Submitted by: Linda Perry

The song lyric ideas you choose will form theme ideas for lyrics. All the words to a song will support the theme. If you use the music that you're creating to brainstorm lyric ideas, you'll find that some song lyric ideas will fit better when you write a song than others. You'll need to first work out how many syllables' your rhythm has then look for phrases that have the same rhythm pattern and theme idea. You may need to join two ideas for lyrics together. Only use a song word or phrase if it fits perfectly with your theme ideas and music ideas. Whichever approach you use to choose your music and words, you should find the new lyric ideas below helpful.

When you write a song,

THINK about a possible location for the idea for lyrics to give it a setting. Imagine the mood the phrase is being said in and who is saying it. Ask relevant questions like: Why did they say it? What could have happened? The questions will help you to formulate a purpose for the lyric. It will give the words you choose when you write a song meaning.

COMPARE your unused lyric idea or chosen song theme from the "Song Lyric Themes" page, with the lyric ideas on the Home Page. Look for ideas for lyrics which matches your chosen theme. Write a memorable first line when you start to write a song. Next, decide on a rhyming pattern. You will soon have written your first verse.

TAKE ideas for song lyrics that appeal to you immediately. Write a few lines to follow. Now stop and think about where your lyric is heading and who or what the song is going to be about. Set the tone for your music and lyrics. Imagine singing or performing it as a full song.

NOTE down a few ideas for lyrics that you like and keep them with you. During your day you may be in a variety of environments. Looking at the ideas for songs throughout the day, as your perspective changes, may provide you with the ideas for lyrics you need when you write a song.

MATCH two or three phrases together to form the basis for your song lyrics.

LOOK for additional phrases that will fit with the music and lyrics that you have so far.

BRAINSTORM using the unused song ideas to generate new ideas for lyrics within your own personal field of interest. Write down as many words as you can think of related to that basic idea for lyrics. Include them in the lyrics when you write a song.

USE the unused ideas for lyrics to great effect as album titles.

COLLECT themed lyric ideas together before looking for a starting point

CHOOSE one of the ideas for lyrics and reword it. Perhaps putting a new slant on it

READ the list of unused lyrics titles with either the negative or positive aspects of the phrase in mind.

MAKE a vivid picture of the subject of your song and their lifestyle in your mind

WRITE a brief story based on the idea for lyrics. Now remove anything unnecessary to the telling of the story. Highlight only key phrases and use them to write your lyrics when you write a song.

LYRICS FOR MUSIC - Finding meaning

Many of the song ideas have deeper meanings or can evoke powerful images in the mind. Remember to meditate on the meaning behind the words in order to develop the feelings behind possible lyrics for music. Acoustic sessions are becoming increasingly popular. This could well be due to the public being able to link to the raw emotion of the song. If you have written your song well, it will hold its own as an acoustic version.

KEEP YOUR SONG LYRICS

Don't be too eager when you write a song to discard the words to songs that you're unhappy with. Keep all unused song lyrics that you have given thought to. What you are unhappy with today, may suit a new trend in music later. (That may NOT necessarily be

wishful thinking.) Better still, it may be just song lyrics artists of a different genre are looking for.

Your viewpoint of your own abilities will often change with your mood. So, when your mood changes, you may be able to revamp the unused lyrics or song successfully. Be patient with yourself whilst striving to improve your song writing techniques. Don't lose sight of the possible rewards for your efforts.

©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©

©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©

OUT AND ABOUT

By Gene Blair

Recently seen on a bumper sticker, "The Driver Is Singing!"

The following information concerns local and close-in venues that you might want to visit if you are in the mood for some good music and an evening of entertainment or if you want to just strut your own stuff in front of an open mic.

Andy Maiden and The Silver Clouds perform every Saturday night at the **Nashville Connection** on Highway 63 west of Harrogate from 7:00 until 10:30. This venue is family entertainment with lots of young talent on the stage. Open mic is available and there is always someone who wants to sing. As well as the local talent there are folks that drive in from Kentucky and Virginia to perform and to listen to others. No alcohol, no drugs, no smoking (outside smoking is allowed.) Theatre style seats near the stage are comfortable. Décor is all music and country related. Dance floor for line dancing and two-stepping. Cover is \$6. Sandwiches, popcorn, soft drinks, and a bottomless coffee are available. Check out their Website for info. <http://www.myspace.com/andymaidenthesilverclouds> Several links to other performer's websites are also available through this website.

Town and Country Music is located on Highway 63 about 6 miles east of LaFollette. **Jim Poindexter** on guitar and vocals, Jim's wife **Linda** on keyboard, and their friends, including **Herschel Turner** and comedian **Danny Brassfield**, play and sing Friday and Saturday nights, 7:00 till 11:00. **Joyce Arrington** handles the backup and harmony and does a right good job of it. The band plays a mix of

music. Slow dancing is available as well as line dancing and two-stepping. If you are into traditional country music this is the place to be. Open mic is available if you want to participate. No booze, no drugs, no smoking (outside smoking is allowed). There is a large dance floor for line dancing and two-stepping. Cover is \$5. Sandwiches, soft drinks, and a bottomless coffee are available.

LaFollette Senior Center, live country music on Thursday 7-9:30 p.m. with **Kubel Hopper** performing with the house band. On Saturday 7:00 till 10:00 music is provided by the **TNT Band**. The center is located in downtown LaFollette. Open mic is available if you want to participate. They have a large dance floor for line dancing and two-stepping and also offer line dancing instruction on Tuesday mornings. No booze, no drugs, no smoking. Open to all ages on Thursday, cover \$4 and Saturday, cover is \$5. 423-562-6672

Judy's Barn, Maynardville. Southern Gospel only. Open summer only. Associated with Union Gold Studios. No booze, no drugs, no smoking. No cover charge. Summer schedule as well as sample videos can be found at <http://www.myspace.com/judyscountrygospelbarn>

Time Warp Tea Room, 1209 N. Central Street, Knoxville. Open mic on Monday evening 7-9:30. No booze, no drugs, no smoking. No cover on Monday. 865-524-1155.

Ray's ESG, 7355 Kingston Pike, across from Chili's Restaurant near West Town Mall. Open mic on the first and third Tuesday of each month. 10 p.m. till ????. 865-330-0159.

Mulligan's Restaurant in Gettysvue Center Shopping Center, near the intersection of Ebenezer Road and Westland Drive in West Knoxville. Open mic 6:00 till 10:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, hosted by songwriter **Rex Gibson**. 865-691-1324

Brickyard Bar-B-Que at 7554 Brickyard Road, Powell. Open mic at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays hosted by songwriter **Rex Gibson**.

Buster's at 222 S. Broad Street, New Tazewell, TN. 423-626-0363. Karaoke and live music Friday and Saturday nights. Affiliated with WTAZ 98.3 FM radio station. Not sure about open mic on Saturday.

If anyone is familiar with any locations in the Metro area where they play music or have an open mic

please let me know and I will list the location in the KSA Songwriter. deblair@mindspring.com

CRITIQUE SESSION LESSON 1

THINGS OF INTEREST

Ira Braden submitted the following link that may be of interest to some of you. It connects you with the TAXI website. It has some good suggestions on songwriting.

<http://www.taxi.com/music-business-faq/songwriting/>

#####

The following URL is for **Kim Copeland**, a Nashville song promoter who also operates a professional demo studio. She has a newsletter that you can subscribe to that has beneficial information.

www.kimcopelandproductions.com

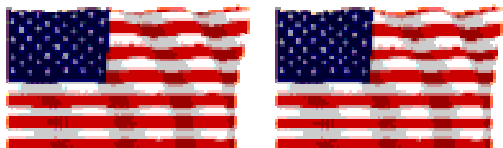
www.myspace.com/kimcopeland

~~~~~

Here's a good website from the gal that hosts at the Bluebird Café on songwriter's nights, **Barbara Cloyd**. <http://www.barbaracloyd.com/>

~~~~~

Check out www.tspcountryradio.com Dixie McCorkell will accept songs from any independent artist as long as they are good quality and the artist holds the copyright.



The radio portion of **SongwriterRadio** is drawing songs from all over the U.S. and listeners from all over the world. You can post your songs on this site for publishers to hear and also for the general public to hear. You can also list your songs for sale as downloads through a method of trading purchased "credits" for a period of time that the songs will be available for sale. Check out this Website, it is being improved and updated frequently. www.sendussongs.com

©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©

What to look for when providing a "critique" of a lyric. Try to be constructive in your comments rather than negative or discouraging.

1. Is the form (format) correct?
2. Is the rhyme scheme consistent?
3. Are the syllables in the right places?
4. Is the meter correct?
5. Is the tense correct throughout?
6. Is the viewpoint consistent?
7. Does the lyric tell a clearly understandable story?
8. Does the story flow to a climax?
9. Are there too many words in the lines?
10. Does the lyric contain words that might be difficult to sing?
11. Is the song so long as to be boring?
12. Is there a distinct hook?
13. Is the hook in the right place?
14. And most important of all, "Is the song conversational?"

If these items are all considered and comments are noted on the lyric sheet the songwriter will probably have enough information to help fix any problems with the lyric. At least the songwriter will leave the session with a little more knowledge of the technique of songwriting.

©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©©

RESOURCES

Tim Worman: (banjo, guitar, fiddle, and mandolin) Works out of a studio above Pick and Grin on Kingston Pike. 865-556-7147 (Bearden area)

Wolf Valley Productions is a one-man operation but this one man can do wonders for your songs. The

studio belongs to **Michael de Bills**, an experienced artist, songwriter, author, producer, musician, arranger, vocalist, ASCAP member, and all around nice guy who can put your songs into a professional format for you to enjoy or send out as demos. Michael produces quality work out of his studio located in the basement of his home northeast of Andersonville at 459 Mill Creek Road. Cell Phone number is 865-755-5665.

Leigh Ann Cox: Guitar, Bass, Banjo, and Dobro. Graduate of Belmont University in Nashville with a degree in Commercial Music/Music Business. Graduate of the School for the Performing Arts in Chillicothe, Ohio, and former staff writer and picker in Nashville. Leigh Ann works out of Broadway Sound in Fountain City. 865-599-8277

Jack Hatfield: Banjo. Smoky Mountain Banjo Academy. 1-800-426-8744 or contact Jack at jnhatfield@chartertn.net or www.hatfieldmusic.com

Old phonograph repairs: Terry DeWick, WB4NHB, 1829 Plumb Branch Road, Knoxville, TN 37932. Phone 865-691-2446. Antique repairs, audio repairs, electronic restoration.

News of Note:

We welcome new member **Florence Ann Sartin** who has joined our group to learn about the craft of songwriting.

The Hogman, **Jerry Isham**, appears as a regular on the Ciderville Farm and Home Hour show every Saturday evening between 7:30 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. WYSH TV Channel 12. Streaming on Web at www.wyshtv.com Older videos are available in the archives.

Jerry also appears at Yonder Hollow, 319 W. Rockwood Street, Rockwood, TN 865-250-6717 on Friday nights. Admission \$5, ticket sales starts at 6:30 p.m. with show starting at 7:00 p.m. Stop in sometime and see our very own "Hogman" in action. www.yonderhollow.com

DUES REMINDER

Questions about membership and due date of annual dues should be directed to Richard Ratledge 865-573-1025 or ComposerR@aol.com

Memberships expiring in September, 2010:

Sharee Fulmer 9/29/2010

Phyllis Julian 9/29/2010
Fred Williamson 9/1/2010

Membership expired during 2010:

Scott Head 8/15/2010
Leigh Ann Cox 7/14/2010
Stephen P. Ferguson 7/7/2010
Kathy Bunch 6/9/2010
William Emmert 6/23/2010
Michael Paul 6/23/2010
Octavio Sera 6/9/2010
Jeff Johnson 5-16-10
Tom Cole 4-14-10
Sam Laugherty 4-7-10
Gary Howard 3-17-10

Please keep your annual dues up to date in order to continue receiving member benefits, including *The KSA Songwriter* and the four "free" workshops during the year. The annual dues of \$30 is a real bargain if you consider that it will cost you \$10 as a non-member to attend each of the workshops. And keep in mind that you cannot serve as an officer if your dues are in arrears.

OFFICERS

President: **D. E. "Gene" Blair**
423-562-9866
Vice President: **C. D. Johnson**
865-609-9844
Treasurer: **John Morris**
865-687-0273
Secretary: **Anna Morris**
Membership Dir.: **Richard Ratledge**
865-573-1025
Education Dir.: **David Haley Lauver**
865-671-0432
Publicity Dir.: **Linda Perry**
865-671-0432
Newsletter: **Gene Blair**
cell 770-377-6817
Directors at Large: **George Boley**
No number
Ira Braden
865-278-2024
Joyce Brown
810-356-8948
Art Daniells
704-578-3911
Elaine Newby
865-766-5766

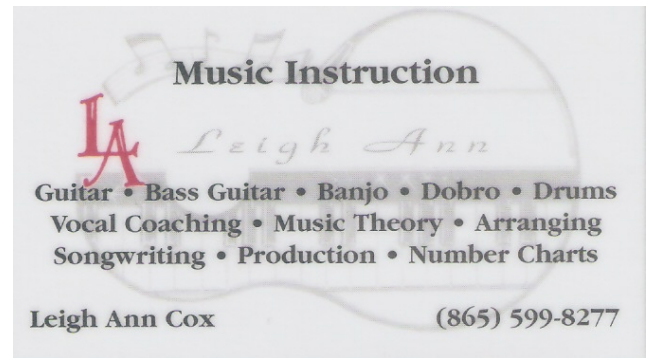
Note: Closing date to submit material for the October issue of the KSA Songwriter is September 28, 2010.

Contact the Editor for questions on Advertising in the KSA Songwriter.

Late addition: Linda Perry provided the following link to a very good Website with lots of good info.

www.musesmuse.com

Check it out for yourself.



Music Instruction
LA Leigh Ann
Guitar • Bass Guitar • Banjo • Dobro • Drums
Vocal Coaching • Music Theory • Arranging
Songwriting • Production • Number Charts
Leigh Ann Cox (865) 599-8277

Knoxville Songwriters' Association
P. O. Box 603
Knoxville, TN 37901

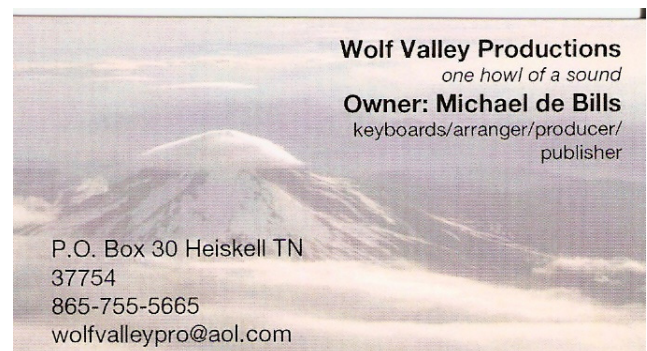


SongwriterRadio.com

The place for Independent Songwriters to be heard.
And now, the place to sell your songs to the world!!

SongwriterRadio™

SongwriterRadio is brought to you by SendUsSongs.com
and is a family-friendly music site!



Wolf Valley Productions
one howl of a sound
Owner: Michael de Bills
keyboards/arranger/producer/
publisher

P.O. Box 30 Heiskell TN
37754
865-755-5665
wolfvalleypro@aol.com

