

S·V·S·A music news

Feature article:

Summer Camps for Songwriters

By **Mike Pearrell**

We like some songs for the words, some for the music and some for the rhythm. The songs that we love usually have a great marriage of all those elements. Our job as songwriters (seasoned and fledging) is to create our own best songs.

One of the ways to learn more about songwriting is to attend one of the many camps that offer classes in guitar, songwriting and performance. The classes are generally small and you get a chance to learn from professionals about the way they approach their craft and creative process. A part of most of the songwriting classes includes getting feedback on your own songs or songs in process (much like we do at SVSA meetings).

The camps cater to both beginning and experienced musicians and writers. Three of the ones I've attended and would recommend are the **Swannanoa Gathering** at Warren Wilson College near Asheville, North Carolina; **Summersongs** in Ashokan, New York; and **Cedar Run**, which is held just a little north of Charlottesville.

These three emphasize the singer/songwriter genre of music (that's a pretty broad genre). There are other camps that specialize in guitar or specific musical styles.

I'm looking forward to going back to the Swannanoa Gathering this year. One of the reasons is to visit with old friends I haven't seen in a couple of years. That's another benefit of these camps – meeting people from around the country that share your interests. I've become a fan of many of them.

The camps aren't cheap – most range from \$750-900 for a week so consider it as using up a chunk (or all) of your vacation funds.

I believe we can all benefit from these kinds of schools. Learn and have fun. What could be better?

SWANNANOA GATHERING

Website: www.swangathering.org

This summer's workshops include these: Celtic Week, July 13-19; Old-Time Week, July 20-26; Contemporary Folk Week, July 27-Aug. 2; and Guitar Week, July 27-Aug. 2.

SUMMERSONGS

Website: www.summersongs.com

Classes, held August 2-8, will include songwriting, song arranging, performance/stagecraft, harmony singing, co-writing, guitar, keyboard, marketing, and more. All levels are welcome. This year's instructors include Cosy Sheridan, Bob Franke, Sloan Wainwright, Steve Gillette, Cindy Mangsen, Penny Nichols, David Roth, and Ruth Ungar.

CEDAR RUN WORKSHOPS

Website: www.cedarrunworkshops.com

Summer songwriting and performance week for 2008 will be held from Sunday, July 6 through Friday July 11 at the SevenOaks Pathwork Center in Madison, Virginia. Instructors for the week will be Kate Campbell, Tom Kimmel, Brooks Williams, Kathy Hussey, Johnsmith, Joe Jencks, and Eric Garrison.

Next Meeting:

Wed., June 25, 7:30 p.m.
Third Street Coffeehouse, Roanoke, Virginia

New non-profit coffeehouse opens in Bedford

Still Waters Coffee House will have its grand opening **Saturday, June 21**, with blues and classic rock music by Mark Keeney as the feature. There will be an Open Mic between sets. Doors open at 7 p.m.; Music starts at 8 p.m. The coffeehouse is located at 117 S. Bridge Street in Bedford. For more information, call 540-583-1003, or see the coffeehouse's website: www.stillwaterscoffeehouse.com.

Songwriting Workshop June 21 with writer of "The Kid"

Singer/songwriter Buddy Mondlock, who has had songs recorded by Guy Clark, Nanci Griffith, and Janis Ian, among others, will perform in concert at Gravity Lounge in Charlottesville on Friday, June 20 at 7 p.m. Bahlmann Abbott and Mary Gordon Hall will be opening.

The next day, Saturday, June 21, Mondlock will lead a songwriting workshop at Terri Allard's house in Batesville, Virginia (near Charlottesville). The workshop is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; the cost is \$20. To reserve your spot at the workshop, call 434-981-7667 or e-mail Mary Gordon Hall at mghall@ntelos.net.

SVSA DISCLAIMER: The ideas and opinions contained in this newsletter are intended to be helpful to songwriters. The SVSA companies and organizations mentioned are believed to be legitimate SVSA music news; however, SVSA does not endorse any products or services and offers no guaranteed success based on the content. We are always looking for articles about SVSA members and articles of interest to the songwriting community. Send articles and information to the Editor, Kathy Acosta, at 125 Polk St., Radford, VA 24141, or svsa@davidsimpkins.com. SVSA is a non-profit organization.

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THIRD STREET COFFEEHOUSE

Third Street Coffeehouse is located in Trinity United Methodist Church at the corner of Third St. & Mountain Ave. in Old Southwest Roanoke. The coffeehouse is open from 7-10 p.m. every Friday night, offering live music and socializing in a smoke-free, alcohol-free environment. Open Mic is 7:00-8:00 pm; sign up at the door. Main act 8:00-10:00 pm. No cover charge; we pass the hat for musicians. Supervised children are welcome. Drinks, snacks and desserts are sold.

For more information about Third Street Coffeehouse, contact **Marian McConnell** at **540-309-4707**.

UPCOMING AT THIRD STREET COFFEEHOUSE

- Jun 20 Bob Grubel & Grace Note
- Jun 27 Andrew Kasab
- Jul 4 Just Us
- Jul 11 Donna Pearson & Brad Archer
- Jul 18 Gretel
- Jul 25 Drew Arnn & Billy Via
- Aug 1 David Simpkins
- Aug 8 Bleecker Street
- Aug 15 Rusty Curling
- Aug 22 Special Surprise Tribute
- Aug 29 The Starlings
- Sep 5 Mike Pearrell
- Sep 12 The Aardvarks
- Sep 19 Chuck Schaeffer
- Sep 26 Mary Gordon Hall and Friends
- Oct 3 Kat Mills
- Oct 10 SVSA Songwriters in the Round
- Oct 17 Larry Sakayama
- Oct 24 Clinton Collins & the Creek Boys
- Oct 31 Kimmon Waldruff
- Nov 7 Grace Note
- Nov 14 Kim & Lana

SVSA Performing Member Gigs

Friday, June 20

David Simpkins with back-up by Greg Trafidlo
Coffee Buy the Book, Pulaski, Virginia
6:30-9:00 p.m.

Admission is FREE; donations appreciated. 10 W Main St, downtown Pulaski VA 24301 -- (540) 980-4424

<http://www.coffeebuythebook.net>

Saturday, June 21

Marc Baskind with the Collegians
Tazewell, Virginia Mini-Park, 7-10:30 p.m.

Friday, June 27

Marc Baskind with The Source
Annie Moore's Pub, 8-11 p.m.

Electric Road, Roanoke, Virginia

Saturday, June 28

David Simpkins
Radford Farmers' Market, Radford, Virginia
10:00 a.m.-noon

Main St., Downtown Radford, Virginia 24141. For more information:

www.mainstreetradford.org/market.php

Saturday, June 28

The Three Old Guys With Guitars
(Frank Dieter, Steve Langston, Britt Mistele)
Hickory Hill Vineyards

Near Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia

Saturday, July 19

Marc Baskind with The Source
Annie Moore's Pub, 8-11 p.m.

Electric Road, Roanoke, Virginia

Saturday, July 19

David Simpkins
Radford Farmers' Market, Radford, Virginia
10:00 a.m.-noon

Main St., Downtown Radford, Virginia 24141. For more information:

www.mainstreetradford.org/market.php

Tuesday, July 22

Marc Baskind with Leslie Brooks
Roanoke Public Library, 6-8 p.m.

Downtown Roanoke, Virginia

Saturday, June 28

Marc Baskind with Paddy Dougherty
Huddleston Winery, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, July 25

David Simpkins
Coffee Buy the Book, Pulaski, Virginia
6:30-9:00 p.m.

10 W. Main St, downtown Pulaski VA 24301 -- (540) 980-4424

<http://www.coffeebuythebook.net>

Saturday, July 26

Greg Trafidlo
Swannoa "Reunion"
The Crooked Door, Marion, North Carolina

Thursday, July 31

Marc Baskind with John Yates
Brambleton Blend Coffeehouse, 7-10 p.m.

Brambleton Road, Roanoke, Virginia

Friday, August 1

David Simpkins with very special guests
Third Street Coffeehouse, 7:30-10:00 p.m.

Third St & Mountain Ave, downtown Roanoke VA 24015. Basement of Trinity United Methodist Church -- (540) 344-6744 (ext 309)

[Third Street Coffeehouse website.](#)

Saturday, Aug. 2

Marc Baskind with the Collegians
Southpoint Park, 7 p.m.

Bluefield, West Virginia

Wednesday, Aug. 13

Marc Baskind with the Collegians
Tazewell, Virginia, County Fair

Saturday, August 16

David Simpkins

**Radford Farmers' Market, downtown Radford,
Virginia, 10:00 a.m.-noon**

Admission is FREE; donations appreciated. Main
St., Downtown Radford, Virginia 24141.

Wednesday, Aug. 20

**Marc Baskind with the Collegians
So. Charleston, WV**

Saturday, Aug. 23

**Marc Baskind with the Collegians
Pipestem State Park, WV**

Friday, September 5

Mike Pearrell

Third Street Coffeehouse, 7:30-10:00 p.m.

Admission is FREE; donations appreciated
Third St & Mountain Ave, downtown Roanoke
VA 24015.

Saturday, September 13

David Simpkins

**Radford Farmers' Market
10:00 a.m.-noon**

Admission is FREE; donations appreciated. Main
St., Downtown Radford, Virginia 24141.

Saturday, Sept. 13

**Marc Baskind with the Collegians
Bluefield, Va. Autumn Jamboree**

Friday, October 3

**Marc Baskind with the Collegians
Bluefield, Virginia: Octoberfest**

Friday, October 10

**SVSA performing songwriters "In the Round"
Third Street Coffeehouse, 7:30-10:00 p.m.**

Note: No Open Mic this week.

Admission is FREE; donations appreciated
Third St & Mountain Ave, downtown Roanoke
VA 24015. In the basement of Trinity United
Methodist Church.

Saturday, October 18

David Simpkins

**Radford Farmers' Market, downtown Radford,
Virginia
10:00 a.m.-noon**

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**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 25
Third Street Coffeehouse, 7:30 p.m.**