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Dallas Songwriters Association
Song Contest Awards
December 8, 2017
6:30 PM Sons of Hermann Hall
DSA Board of Directors 2017

President / Membership Director - Michael Brandenberger
Executive Vice President, Program Director, Fundraising - Bobby Montgomery
Newsletter, Song Contest, Admin - Barbe McMillen
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Directors for 2018
Michael Brandenberger, Bobby Montgomery, Barbe McMillen, Harry Hewlett, Jessica Ewy, Steve Sullivan, Gene Schiliaci, Alexis Tapp, Ken Duren, Dan Roark, Joe Milton, Marcus Belmore, James Pappas, Phil Casteel

2017 SONG CONTEST JUDGES

Grand Prize Judge : ROY ELKINS, CEO of Broadjam, Inc.

CATEGORY JUDGES

Americana: KENDRA TERRY, Booking manager of Uncle Calvin’s Coffee House.
Christian/Inspirational: BOBBY AND DORINDA SMITH - Christian producers and performers, worship leaders
Instrumental: TERRY HANKINS, premier jazz guitarist
Love Songs/Easy Listening : TONY HAKIM , Jazz performer and owner of the jazz venue, Kitchen Cafe.
Pop/Rock - Music Director KATHY FORSTE, KC Cafe Radio www.kccaferadio.com
Singer Songwriter: DAVID CARD, Owner, Poor David’s Pub

SONG OF THE YEAR JUDGE

MR TROLL, manager, open mic, door man, Poor David’s Pub

SONG OF THE YEAR FINALISTS
I DON’T NEED TO BUT I DO by Craig Langford
ISLAND RED by Rickey Gene Wright
LOVE WITHOUT MONEY by Barbe McMillen & Bobby Dallas
LUCKY MAN by Craig Langford
NOTHIN’ ON YOU by Rand Overton & David Banning
ONE MORE OUTCAST by Morri Hartgraves
TAKE ME HOME by Serges Himbaza
WHERE I AM by Randy Overton
YOU GOT THIS by Allen Larson
YOU’RE THE BEST by Michael Brandenberger

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNER

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR presented by Michael Brandenberger
Explanation of the process.
The songwriter who has the most Best Songs of the Meeting in this years’ finalist with the highest points from the judges score sheet becomes our songwriter of the year.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

Thank You

Special thanks to Bobby Montgomery for catering, fundraising, and working tirelessly on providing quality programs for DSA that meet our members needs.
Harry Hewlett for co-directing the contest, and providing the audio clips and sound tonight.
Joe Milton for the pasta salad and beans and sausage dish
Dave Lewis of Historic Sons of Hermann Hall for our venue & Lisa Byrn, SOH Manager.
Our Song Contest Judges
Our Lyric Judge, Gene Schiliaci and thanks Gene for manning the door
Alexis Tapp, Karol Brandenberger for setting up and decorating
Michael Brandenberger for ramroding DSA through 2014 - 2017
Special thanks to James Pappas for the beautiful Ice Sculpture.

DallasIceSculpture.com
Songwriter, Musician & DSA board member
214-641-1182

The Dallas Songwriters Association is a 501 C3 educational organization dedicated to providing learning opportunities in the craft and business of songwriting.
SUMMER 2017 SEMIFINALISTS
Caterpillar by Alexis Tapp, Wylie, TX
Two Choices by Ross Miller, Newton, MA
Sunday Town by Martin Robley, Ballaraua, Australia
Peace by Aadi Farook, Pakistan
If I Step Onto That Train by Michael RJ Roth, Arlington, VA
Fog of War by Ross Miller, Newton, MA
Sullivan's Hollow by Alexis Tapp, Wylie, TX
My Mirror and I by Alexis Tapp, Wylie, TX
My Favorite Old Song by Bill Kapac, Wildwood, NJ

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUMMER LYRIC CONTEST WINNER

PERFORMANCE by critique finalist Allen, Larson, Dallas, Tx
You Got This
He started playing guitar and piano in high school, took a few lessons, but is mostly self-taught. For several years he played in a group with long time friend and DSA board member Craig St. Clair. Even back in his early years playing, he dabbled in songwriting occasionally, and still does a few of those songs that originated in those early years. But it wasn't until Craig got him in the DSA about 12 or so years ago that Allen started writing in earnest. He began stepping up to the mic to sing on a regular basis and work out the bugs of being a solo performer. Nowadays he enjoys mixing originals and covers at solo gigs and open mics around town, or playing with others. Recently he added bass and cajon to his arsenal. Over the years he has played in a wide range of venues and occasions. He joins with the No Contact band on their occasional gigs, including their being house band for last summer's DSA Hall of Fame Awards where Allen sang "Little Red Riding Hood" honoring Sam the Sham. Allen previously won an open mic contest at a Texas Songwriters' Expo at Sons of Hermann. Other than that, though, he has only once had a song entered in a songwriting contest before now. Here to perform three songs who were finalists in the Best Songs of the Meeting, is Allen Larson.

2017 BEST SONGS OF THE MEETING

SONG OF THE YEAR presented by Harry Hewlett
Explanation of the process
Each month songs of members are critiqued at the monthly meeting. Each month the songs are published in Songwriters Notes. At the end of each year, the songs are judged by industry pros and the Song of the Year is awarded to the songwriter whose song garnered the highest points from the judges.

WELCOME - Barbe McMillen
Founding President Emeritus, Newsletter Editor, Administration & Song Contest Director
Barbara McMillen
Barbara founded the DSA in 1987 after running the group for several years as part of the now defunct Texas Music Association. Currently a working Music Therapist, performer, and Associate Professor of Songwriting at Collin College, Barbara is caring for the admin duties and editing a newsletter for DSA. She is a voting member of the Recording Academy and a member of the Producers and Engineers Wing of the Academy. She has produced a number of albums for other artists and her own. Her songwriting spans the genres of Rock, Pop, R&B to Americana. Her rock musical, Give Me A Break, has been performed in the metroplex and off Broadway. To get to know more about Barbe or to sign up for an online Songwriting Class, visit her website, http://www.barbaramcmillen.com.

PERFORMANCE by multi-semifinalist Ireland, Grapevine, TX
Never, Addiction, Dream With You Only Once
Ireland is a local singer songwriter who, even at the young age of 16, is a storyteller at heart that effortlessly captivates listeners with lyrics that speak directly to the audience. She started writing songs and playing guitar and ukulele at age 12 and has over 20 originals already under her belt!

Barbe presents AMERICANA Semifinalists
America I Miss You by Clark Ford Aimes, IA
Are There Hillbilly Bands In Heaven by Kevin Hale, Brentwood, TN
I’m Finally Going Home by Kevin Hale, Brentwood, Tn
Never by Ireland Casteel, Grapevine,TX
Hard To Let You Goby Nancy Line, Clifton, Virginia

AMERICANA AWARD

PERFORMANCE by Christian and Instrumental semifinalist Alexis Tapp, Wylie, TX Searching For Hope
A wife, mother, and businesswoman enjoying life in small town America, Alexis’ passions include being an artist and singer-songwriter. As an involved member of the Texas Music Association as well a long-time member of the Dallas Songwriters Association, Alexis still finds comfort and joy in writing a lyric. Traveling with her band, Alexis has performed her original tunes from Greenville Avenue and Billy Bob’s Texas to the Detroit Renaissance Towers and on to the Las Vegas Strip. A published member of the Poetry Society of Texas, member of BMI performing rights organization, and first place winner of Amnesty International’s Peace Song Contest, Alexis is foremost a devoted member of the body of Christ. alexisartandmusic.com.
Barbe presents Christian/Inspirational judges E ROBERT SMITH AND DORINDA DUNCAN - Author and Gospel Producer E Robert Smith who traveled the road many years with Christian artist, Dion, has switched his creative talents to fiction writing. His new novel, Downline, is a gripping tale of the world of multilevel marketing. DORINDA is a songwriter who has performed across the US, most notably at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville. Former recording artist with Capitol Records, she is currently cutting a Christian album with Bobby producing. Bobby's book on Amazon. http://www.amazon.com/Downline-E-Robert-Smith/dp/0988820900

Dorinda and Bobby Smith Present
CHRISTIAN/ INSPIRATIONAL Semifinalists
A Cross On A Hill by Carol Montag, Cedar Rapids, IA
Addiction by Ireland, Grapevine, TX
Come Unto Me by Kevin Hale, Brentwood, TN
Give Me Grace by Jane Fallon, Brookline, NH
I Paid For Your Sins On Calvary by Kevin Hale, Brentwood, TN
Jesus Pick Me Up by Nancy Line, Clifton, Virginia
Searching For Hope by Alexis Tapp, Wylie, Texas
Butterfly by Shonna Stallworth, Dallas,TX
Hallelujah Moment by Susan Odella, Virginia MN
Hang On by Susan Odella, Virginia, MN
Heaven Had A Phone by Louie Cate, Alexandria, VA
Hope Rising by Derrick Floyd, Ft Lauderdale, FL
Moving Mountains by D.B. Rielly, NY, NY
Our Time by Debra M Gussin, Los Angeles CA

CHRISTIAN/ INSPIRATIONAL AWARD

PERFORMANCE by COUNTRY SEMIFINALIST finalist Don Wall Dallas, TX Cornbread
An award winning television journalist turned singer/songwriter, who played drums in garage bands all his life, our next performer didn't start playing guitar until he was 40. His songs, which he calls "Stories with a Beat," are written in the Americana style, country folk rock with bluegrass roots. He previously played bluegrass in the Hot Corn Band and put together another group, Texas Switchgrass to record a double EP of his originals called the Texas Switchgrass Sessions. Born and raised in Massachusetts, he lived in New York City before moving to Texas more than 30 years ago.

PERFORMANCE by Singer Songwriter semifinalist Megan Sullivan, DARlington, TX
Say Anything, Tension Leave This Town
Megan grew up playing the drums. After playing with a band in college, she taught herself the guitar so she could write her own songs. Today, she enjoys writing and recording her own tracks at home, where she plays every instrument on every track. You can hear her full band sound online.

SINGER SONGWRITER Semifinalists presented by Harry Hewlett
Darkness Falls by Michael Ryan, Clifton, VA
Dear Me by Hayley McDaniel, Jody Stewart Regner, Denton,TX
Fais Do Do by Michael Ryan, Clifton, VA
How It Feels by Michael Ryan, Clifton, VA
Just Like That by Denise Rosier, Colorado Springs, CO
Life Beneath The Rust by Michael Ryan, Clifton, VA
Never by Ireland Casteel, Grapevine,TX
Say Anything by Megan Sullivan, Arlington, Tx
Tension Leave This Town by Megan Sullivan, Arlington, Tx
These Two Hands by Michael Ryan, Clifton, VA
Winter by Erin Clum, Nashville, TN
Wren by Cameron Coiro, McKinney, TX
SINGER SONGWRITER AWARD presented by Harry Hewlett

GRAND PRIZE WINNERS Announced- presented by Barbe McMillen
Roy Elkins of Broadjam.com was our grand prize judge. You can read his detailed comments on the DSA website.
Explanation of the process.
All three winners in each category were placed in drobox for our Grand Prize judge to listen to and pick the Grand Prize Winners. It is unknown to the judge how each song placed in it's category. In the past we've had an HM win the grand prize. Also, he does not know who the songwriter and singer is. It's very blind judging.

WINNER OF THE IPOD - Don Wall, Dallas, TX
LYRIC CONTEST WINNERS 2017
FALL 2016 Cufflinks by Bill Kapac, Williamstown, PA
WINTER 2017 Close Your Eyes by Michelle Gonzales, Hollywood, CA
SPRING 2017 Letting Go by Myra Litton, London, UK
A native of Illinois, who moved to Dallas a few years back, Al’s a singer songwriter who writes a mix genre of alternative, folk, soul, and Americana. When in the studio he plays guitar, keyboards, bass, drums, percussion and is currently working on an EP to be completed in 2018.

Harry Hewlett, Director of A&R, Co-Director of Song Contest, Harry grew up near Lubbock, Tx, and went to Texas Tech, where he sang and played guitar in the quintessential 1960's 4-piece garage band, performing mostly for frat parties and HS dances. He began songwriting years later, while living in NYC, where he joined the Songwriters Guild and Nashville Songwriters Assoc.He’s been writing and entertaining with his own songs and humor ever since. Now retired, he lives in Dallas, and has two CDs, World Class Dirty Old Man and Tahoka Daisy. He is currently serving as A/R Director on the DSA board of directors. We thank him tonight for providing the song cues of the winning songs.

POP/ROCK Semifinalists presented by Harry Hewlett
Dance On The Ocean by Al Lumbreras, Carrollton, TX
Freedom by Robb Smith, Laguna Beach, CA
Get Me Out of My Head by Daniel Griffin, Lake View Terrace, CA
Heart and Soul by Thomas Kinney, Red Wing, MN
I See Again by Jacquelyn Schwartz, Dallas, TX
I Will Never Set You Free by Charles Carter, Dallas, TX
It Just Gets Better by Al Lumbreras, Carrollton, TX
Little Miss T by Charles Carter, Dallas, TX
Lose It by Daniel Griffin, Lake View Terrace, CA
Love Song by Casimiro Castro, Lausanne, Vaud, Switzerland
Maybe Tomorrow by Jose Gomez, NY, NY
One Foot On Your Doorstep by Renee Safier, Andy Hill & Hard Rain, LA, CA
Only Once by Ireland Casteel, Grapevine,TX
Pistol Packin’ Mama by Charles Carter, Dallas, TX
Santa Cruz by Steven Ford, Dallas,TX
Taxman by Steven Ford, Dallas,TX
The State I’m In by Steven Ford, Dallas,TX
U So Mean Nothing 2 Me by Debra M Gussin, Los Angeles, CA
Waiting on a Train by Renee Safier, Andy Hill & Hard Rain, LA, CA
Worst Addiction by John Friday, Bonita Springs, Fl

DSA VP of Programs, Bobby Montgomery, 2014
Songwriter of the Year, has been writing songs since he was a teenager. He says songwriting is a form of therapy and is his reason for writing. He has performed his songs at private parties, festivals, local venues and church. Recording his songs at JoMusik studios this past year, many have won the monthly critiques. Many thanks to Bobby for leading our fundraising drive and helping DSA stay afloat. He was Songwriter of the Year 2014 and is in the running for Song of the Year tonight. Thanks to Bobby for organizing our buffet tonight.

COUNTRY Semifinalists presented by Bobby Montgomery
Behind Bars by T. Edwin Doss, Silver Springs, MD
Blue Collar Man by Charles Carter, Dallas, TX
Bottled Promises by Hayley McDaniel, Jody Stewart Regner, Kerry Meacham, Denton, TX
Colorado by Charles Carter, Dallas, TX
Cowboy Hats and Daisy Dukes by Andrew Loraditch, Arlington,TX
DALLAS by Charles Carter, Dallas, TX
Disappear For The Weekend by James Baker, Amarillo, TX
Hearts The Speaks by Jayne Sachs, Trotwood, OH
I Think Her Name Was Conchita by Alex Stuart, Phoenix, AZ
Little Hearts Break Too by Gregory Thoroman, Nancy Line, Martinez, CA
Save A Little For Me by Charles Carter, Dallas, TX
Something About Trains by Candy Kattenburg, Nancy Line, Martinez, CA
Stuck by Mark Patterson, Lee Parvin, Bобр Tassi, Plano, TX
Take Me Home by Serges Himbaza, Irving, TX
Texas Crude by Ross Miller, Randy Crenshaw, Newton, MA
That Look In Your Eyes by James Baker, Amarillo, TX
The First Time by James Baker, Amarillo, TX
Toys by Roy Williams, Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada
What Did I Do by Howard Delnick, Orleans, Ontario, Canada
When Horses Were Better Than Boys by Jeff Moxcey, Waterville, ME

COUNTRY AWARD

DSA President, Michael Brandenberger has been involved in music for over 40 years playing blues and jazz guitar since his high school days in San Antonio. His most recent band in Dallas was Big Daddy and the Swell-Tones who made the Hole In The Wall their home base up until its demise. He only started writing songs several years ago but has had a few on local and internet radio stations. The Dallas Songwriters Association has given him many opportunities to play his original songs at open mics plus the Deep Ellum Arts
Festival, the Wildflower Festival and the House of Blues.

**INSTRUMENTAL Semifinalists presented by Michael Brandenberger**
Going To Dallas by Franz Groll, Cologne, Germany
Leslie G by Roy Ash, Canton, TX
Mixit Roy by Ash, Canton, TX
Putting Together by Roy Ash, Canton, TX
Saxy Business by Roy Ash, Canton, TX
Treacherous Trip To The Top by Alexis Tapp, Wylie, Texas

**INSTRUMENTAL AWARD**

**PERFORMANCE - Singer Songwriter semifinalist**
Mike P Ryan, Clifton, VA  *Darkness Falls, Fais Do Do, How It Feels, Life Beneath The Rust, These Two Hands*

Our next performer writes heartfelt songs about the experiences of everyday people. Mike’s Southwestern roots and keen eye for detail have made him a favorite among Texas music fans. He has been a finalist in The Kerrville Folk Festival “New Folk” competition and the Dallas-based Wildflower Singer/ Songwriter contest. He has performed twice at The Dripping Springs Songwriter Festival and is a semi-finalist in this year’s Dallas Songwriter’s Association Song Contest. No stranger to success outside the Lone Star State, he has been a finalist in the Connecticut Folk Festival Songwriting Contest and a winner in American Songwriter Magazine’s lyrics contest. In 2017 he won 1st Place in the Roots/ Americana category of The Mid-Atlantic Song Contest. A combat veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, who lives with his wife and son in Northern Virginia, he performs nationwide and is hard at work on a follow-up effort to his critically acclaimed debut CD: “American Tales.”

*Michael presents*

**LOVE SONGS/ EASY LISTENING**
Dream With You by Ireland Casteel, Grapevine,TX
Even If It Hurts by Gladys Padron, Miami, FL
If It Mattered by Jane Fallon, Brookline, NH
Just A Summer Fling, by Louie Cate, Alexandria, VA
Just To Be With You by Denise Rosier, Colorado Springs, CO
Let’s all In Lovesick by Ross Miller, Newton, MA
Valentine by Kari Tieger, Providence, RI
You're Wrong by T. Edwin Doss, Silver Springs, MD

**LOVE SONGS/ EASY LISTENING AWARD**

**NOVELTY / CHILDRENS Award**

**PERFORMANCE - Singer Loralai Milton for Novelty/ Children semifinalist Charles Carter, Dallas, TX**
Joe Milton on Guitar - *Dreamland*

A 15 year old freshman at Sunnyvale High School whose first evident that she could sing was when she was 3 years old, and randomly spit out a flawless rendition of “Part Of Your World” from The Little Mermaid while, riding in the back seat on a road trip with headphones on. Indeed, the whozits and whatzits and gadgets and gizmos march on. Currently in the Varsity and all-region choirs, she was first chair flute last year in the all region symphonic band, and is performing with The Raider Pride Color Guard, where, besides tossing and spinning rifles and sabres, she opens and closes the show with a featured vocal. She has performed in numerous musicals with Plano Children’s Theatre, Dallas Summer Musicals, 4 original productions at First United Methodist Of Garland, and has performed the Star Spangled Banner at several Roughriders games and the Mesquite Rodeo. She is also a very experienced and versatile studio singer, having sung over 50 tunes professionally.

**DSA Song Contest Sponsor, JeriAlice Arsenault, Novelty/ Childrens Judge** - She is a solo recording artist and front woman for the band Enchanted Rock. She has also performed with Joe King Carasco. She currently manages and is owner of the Riversounds studios, campgrounds and Merlin’s Cabin. Riversounds Recording Studio provides the creative atmosphere, equipment, sound studio, and accommodations for aspiring artists. Musicians of all genre have recorded there In addition, she founded the non-profit organization Chemo Sabe, a group dedicated to providing uplifting music to cancer patients in addition to organizing, supporting, and providing recording services for cancer benefits and events. The group also provides newly diagnosed patients with support and resources for navigating life with cancer.

**CHILDREN Semifinalists presented by JeriAlice**
I Married a Squirrel by Nancy Line, John Statham, Clifton, VA
I'm A Honey Bee by Marv Conan, NY, NY
In Dreamland by Charles Carter, Dallas, TX
Muddin In A Truck by Randy Sauer, Hays, KS
Rescue Dog by Ross Miller, Randy Crenshaw, Newton, MA
Tamborine Star by Randy Sauer, Hays, KS
Texas Crude by Ross Miller, Randy Crenshaw, Newton, MA

**NOVELTY / CHILDRENS AWARD**