The Australian Songwriter

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Chairman's Message

Hi Everybody,

Well, as I write this, restrictions placed on us all by the Government because of the COVID-19 pandemic are slowly being lifted, bit by bit. That is great news for the ASA. Some time ago your Board made a decision to push ahead with plans for the 2020 National Songwriting Awards, scheduled to take place late October. At the time the forecast, as to whether it would be even allowed to happen was looking pretty grim. However, with every passing week, things seem to be coming back slowly but surely into some sense of normalcy. This means we can continue to plan for the Event, hoping that by October we might be able to have more people at a gathering.

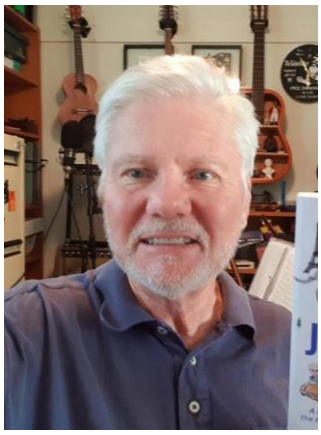
Having said that, this pandemic has caused both of our Major Sponsors, APRA and Wests Ashfield, sadly to be unable to give the ASA the support they have previously. It is totally understandable because of circumstances. Wests Ashfield, in particular has been closed for some time. They are about to open their doors again from June 1st, but in a restrictive form. They could well do with a visit or two, to help them get through this period, so if you are in the vicinity, please stop by to say hello.

Therefore, the ASA will have to try to find funds to enable our Awards Night to go ahead. With this in mind, you, our Members, could help your Organisation by entering a few more songs in our 2020 National Songwriting Contest.

Anyway, Vice Chairman and Editor Alan Gilmour has prepared a bumper 'lockdown edition' of the eNewsletter for this month. Please give it a read before you venture out again. Hope to see you at the Wax Lyricals soon.

Denny Burgess
Chairman

Editor's Message



Hi Everyone,

In this "lockdown" edition, we'll be featuring interviews that we did at the 2019 National Songwriting Awards with Category winners, **Skii Harvey** and **Samantha Mooney**.

We'll also have our roundup of recent online Wax Lyricals as well as **Mark Cawley**'s Songwriting Blog.

Also make sure that you put your entries in for this year's Australian Songwriting Contest.

Take care and stay safe,

Alan Gilmour,
Editor and Vice Chairman

Important Announcements

2020 Australian Songwriting Contest

The 2020 Australian Songwriting Contest is now open and will be proceeding as normal, despite the current health crisis.

The 2020 contest will be conducted entirely online via the two entry platforms, so as not to pose any health risks to the entrants or the judges. Regrettably, we will not be able to accept physical entries this year. To enter, simply go to the ASA website at www.asai.org.au and follow the links.

There are some major changes to the contest this year. All contest categories will now be open to international, as well as Australian songwriters. As a result, the former International Category has been removed. In its place, we have created a new category for Comedy/Novelty songs. The thirteen categories will now be:

Australia
Ballad
Comedy/Novelty
Contemporary Pop/Dance
Country
Folk/Acoustic
Instrumental/World Music
Lyrics
Open
Rock/Indie
Songs For Children
Spiritual
Youth

As in the past, the 2020 APRA/ASA Songwriter of the Year will be announced from among the Category Winners.

The 2020 winner of The Rudy Brandsma Award for Songwriting Excellence will be announced from the ASA member entrants who are present at the 2020 National Songwriting Awards. If the event is unable to go ahead, due to the current health crisis, the winner will be selected from all ASA member entrants.

ASA Wax Lyricals

We regret that due to the current health crisis, the ASA will not be able to provide its live monthly Wax Lyricals until further notice.

Some ASA Regional Co-Ordinators will be holding virtual Wax Lyricals over the internet, so please check with your local Regional Co-Ordinator to see if this will be happening in your area.

2020 National Songwriting Awards

The 2020 National Songwriting Awards have been scheduled for Wednesday 28 October 2020 at the Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club.

The Club is temporarily closed due to the venue restrictions resulting from the current health crisis, and the event can only go ahead once the restrictions are lifted.

The ASA is planning a virtual National Songwriting Awards if venue restrictions are not lifted. More on that coming up.

Skii Harvey: 2019 Winner Of The Rock/Indie Category

Skii Harvey was the winner of the Rock/Indie category in the 2019 contest with her song, Burn and Die.

ASA: Welcome, Skii. You have been a previous winner in the Contemporary Pop/Dance category, and you're a winner once more. Your song is called Burn and Die. That's a confronting title, so please tell us about your song?

Skii: Its very much about our core civilisation as we are today, where we just keep going at it full on. One of the lines in the song is "so much stress pushing you down". I doubt there is a person that wouldn't identify with this and what's going on today with the level of stress they have in their lives, with our work commitment, family etc. The load that we carry is overwhelming at times.

Sometimes in a family, it can be just one person that is carrying that load, so stress is heightened even more. The song is very much about saying settle down, catch on to life, because if we all keep doing this we are going to burn and die.

ASA: What made you write this? Does it come from personal experience or someone you know?

Skii: Both me and everyone else, I think. I don't think there is anyone that cannot escape in today's society.

ASA: You have a passion for soul music. Tell us about that?

Skii: Australians don't have a category for soul which is a shame. It would be great if we did. I find it very difficult to put my work into a genre. Certain songs of mine fall into rock, others into ballads. If you put them all together, they fall into soul and R & B category, which we don't have in Australia, so I am fighting for that.

ASA: You have won a Hollywood award for one of your songs?

Skii: Yes, I did last year. The Hollywood Songwriters Award for my song, Make No Mistake, in the Soul Category, which I found very interesting to win. Usually in the States, its normally those big African American blokes who have the big belt out voices, and I am just small and white, so it came as a surprise.

ASA: You are still writing and recording songs, so tell us about what you are doing now?

Skii: At the moment, I am recording my seventh album. It had a few hitches, so it won't be out until 2020. It's an eight track album called Broken, so I am excited about that, and I'm following the release with a concert launch in Sydney which will be a lot of fun. I will be producing some choreography with dancers. I think its lovely to have a visual performance not just me standing up singing and doing my thing.

ASA: Are you planning a tour?

Skii: Well that depends on how the concert launch goes.

ASA: Let's hope it doesn't Burn and Die then. Thanks for chatting Skii, it's been a pleasure.

Wax Lyrical Roundup

Nothing will keep the ASA down, not lockdowns, not club and pub closures, not even the COVID-19 itself.

In the current climate, the ASA has suspended all live Wax Lyrical events for the time being, but many of our Regional Co-Ordinators will be conducting online Wax Lyricals.

Here's a collection:

ASA Hobart TAS, 29 March 2020, Online Wax Lyrical

Photo: ASA Regional Co-Ordinator, Matt Sertori, with Special Guest Artist, Dee Mac (Dee McEldowney), at the online Wax Lyrical event.

Matt Sertori's first online Wax Lyrical was an outstanding success, with 821 people tuning in to the debut live streaming event, And I Feel Fine, featuring Dee Mac (Dee McEldowney). The show had a reach of 3,400 people.

ASA Yarra Valley VIC, 16 April 2020, Online Wax Lyrical

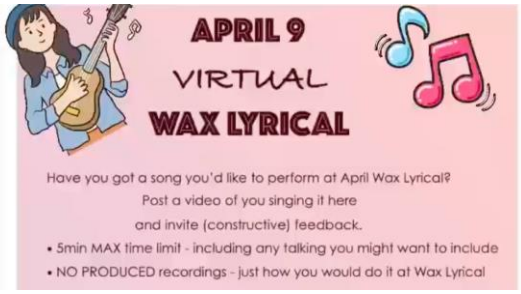
Wendy J Barnes' first online Wax Lyrical on 16 April 2020 had video performances from Liz Loria (Mandate), Robert Durante (Lazy Rock Song), Esme MacDonald (All My Devices), Ray "Rusty Strings" Smith (Follow The Wind), Gaz Plier and Evan Plier (Side By Side) and Wendy J Barnes herself (Perfectly Timed).

ASA Sunshine Coast QLD, 19-25 March 2020, Online Wax Lyrical

Kerrie Garside's first online Wax Lyrical took place on 19 March 2020. Performers included Glen Major (Love Bomb), Nick Hamby (Breathe Miss Sunshine) and Kerrie herself (Away From It All).

ASA Sunshine Coast QLD, 9 April 2020, Online Wax Lyrical

Kerrie Garside held her second online Wax Lyrical on 9 April 2020. Here's Kerrie performing.

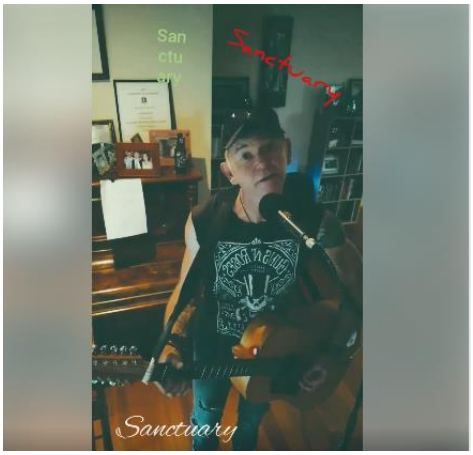


ASA Canberra ACT, 19 April 2020, Online Wax Lyrical

Ana Key held her first online Wax Lyrical on 19 April 2020, with guests including Lachlan Irvine (Isolation Lockdown Blues) and (Rockin' Down Under) and Stephen Sarre (What Was I To Find).

ASA Melbourne VIC (Sunbury), 2 April 2020, Online Wax Lyrical

Brian Ward's first online Wax Lyrical was held on 2 April 2020 and included songs from Dusty Man (Ned Kelly Was A Funny Man), Wayne Elkin (Sanctuary), Brendan Smoother (My Movie), Stratos Stratos (Rest Of My Life), Michelle Parsons (What Am I Supposed To Do), Graeme Walker (My First Born Son), Elly Em (Running Around), David Lane (I Don't Give A Damn If I Can't Sing). The event was hosted by Michelle Parsons.



THE REST OF
MY LIFE

Samantha Mooney: 2019 Co-Winner Of The International Category

Samantha Mooney shared the number one spot in the 2019 International Category with fellow Queenslander, Donna Dyson, and Donna's co-writer, Damien Leith.

ASA: Welcome Samantha please tell us the story behind your winning song, In This Town?

Samantha: The town that the song is about is South West Rocks in NSW, I spent about seven years there as a child and my brother and sister went back to visit a few years back, they said how much it changed but also how the beaches were still beautiful, even though some things have changed other things have stayed the same.

ASA: You have been a previous category winner and a Ruby Brandsma Award winner, so what have you been up to since that time?

Samantha: After winning the Rudy Brandsma Award, I went back to work on the guitar and wrote a few more songs and I completed an album which is called Dive In Deep and I was really happy with it. I think that was a good achievement for me, because sometimes you write things and you are just not quite sure whether its good bad or otherwise, whereas this time I thought no matter happens with it I am happy with it.

I have also had quite a bit of radio play and I have a band which I have just started so we have been in rehearsal for the last six months, it's going to be a combination of covers and original songs and we are going to see where it takes us over the next few months, so I have been quite busy.

Photo: Samantha performed her winning song at the 2019 National Songwriting Awards accompanied by her son, Max, on guitar.

I did take a break for a while from writing, because I find for me when I write and record a lot of songs over a long period of time I just knew I needed a break and switch off, but I am now at the stage where I am wanting to get back into writing.

ASA: Tell us a bit about some of the tracks on the album Dive in Deep.

Samantha: One of the songs that I won the Country Category with is called Brand New Life, the song Free and Fearless which I won the Rudy Brandsma with is one of my favourites. Because I also perform as a cover singer I included a Kasey Chambers song that I love, but the song I love singing the most is the title song Dive in Deep, it's just a fun song about love.

ASA: What would you say to your younger self now about song writing?

Samantha: I would say you have to make a start, it was something I had always wanted to do but in my brain it was like it's just too hard. So make a start and be willing to branch out in your writing, I think when I first started I was very much rigid, as I developed as a songwriter I got more experimental. Don't expect things to come so quickly, you have to put the work in and listen to other people to a degree, but experiment, if it is sounding boring to you than you have to find ways to change it, also some times less is more.

ASA: Thanks, it's been great chatting to you again, Samantha.

Sponsors Profiles:

1. **Major Sponsor: Wests Ashfield Leagues Club**

Thanks to major sponsor, the **Wests Ashfield Club**.

A premier entertainment and dining venue, and home of Wests Tigers and Wests Magpies Rugby League teams, Wests Ashfield is an excellent place to visit in Sydney's inner west.

Not only supporting a host of local sporting and youth-related activities, the Club lifts itself above the rest by also being a "Patron of the Arts", as demonstrated by its incredible ongoing sponsorship of the ASA.

All music lovers are encouraged to return the favour by becoming members of Wests Ashfield and, at very least, indulging yourself by enjoying some of the culinary delights the Club has on offer.

The Club is located in Sydney's inner west, at 115 Liverpool Road Ashfield, and provides great dining restaurants, great coffee, and regular community activities for members and friends. Check out the website at www.westsashfield.com.au.

A message from Wests Ashfield in the current health crisis:

"As you are all no doubt aware, the Prime Minister has announced that further measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 would be introduced that will require the temporary closure of all licensed venues and it is with much sadness that I inform you that Wests Ashfield is now closed effective immediately.

It has always been the focal point of Wests Ashfield to provide support for our members and guests, now more than ever we ask that we care for one another. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our community for their ongoing words of kindness and support.

We will continue to remain positive and are confident that once we have all come through this challenging time, Wests will be back in operation and welcoming in our members and guests once more.

For more information please visit https://westsashfield.com.au/latest-news/

Follow us to stay up to date with all
information https://www.facebook.com/WestsAshfield/

Stay safe, look after one another and we look forward to seeing you again soon at Wests Ashfield."

2. **Major Sponsor: APRA AMCOS**

APRA AMCOS is a major sponsor of the ASA, and provides generous support, including prize money of $3,000 annually to the APRA/ASA Songwriter of the Year, which this year, was **Steve Montgomery**.

The ASA would like to thank APRA AMCOS for its continuing support, to assist make ASA activities, such as the Australian Songwriting Contest and the National Songwriting Awards possible each year.

A message from APRA AMCOC in the current health crisis:

"We're doing our part to shore up the wellbeing of our people and music community during the spread of COVID-19.

Our staff across our Australian and New Zealand offices will be working from home from Wednesday 18 March. Our offices will be closed, and we're pausing our events and face-to-face meetings. We want to assure you that we're still able to help you with your membership and music licensing queries. You can send an email to apra@apra.com.au and a team member will contact you directly.

The OneMusic team will also be working from home. We understand that the current situation may have an impact on your business. If music customers have any questions, please contact us via Live Chat or email hello@onemusic.com.au

We understand that you, your business, and the wider music industry, are facing unprecedented disruption and uncertainty. We'll be doing everything we can to keep our members' royalties flowing efficiently and on time. Please contact us about how we might be able to assist you at this time. Email us at writer@apra.com.au

It is completely normal to experience a range of emotions at this time including sadness, anger, hopelessness and anxiety. If you feel that you are not coping, free support services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

Support Act Wellbeing Helpline: 1800 959 500
Mental Health Line: 1800 011 511
Lifeline: 13 11 14

Event cancellations and postponements are massively impacting our members and all of our live music community. You might have seen the I Lost My Gig call-to-action. We encourage you to contribute your story if you are a performer, crew member, manager, booking agent, promoter, hospitality worker who has been impacted. Thanks for your understanding of our changing work environment.

3. Sydney Theatre Company

Sydney Theatre Company (STC) has been a major force in Australian drama since its establishment in 1978. The Company presents an annual season of diverse productions at its own venues at The Wharf and nearby Roslyn Packer Theatre at Walsh Bay, and as the resident theatre company of the Sydney Opera House. The current Artistic Director is Kip Williams, who was appointed in 2016.

STC offers audiences an eclectic program of Australian plays, interpretations of the classic repertoire and the best of new international writing. It seeks to produce theatre of the highest standard that consistently illuminates, entertains and challenges. It is committed to the engagement between the imagination of its artists and its audiences and the development of the theatrical art-form.

Go to www.sydneytheatre.com.au for more information.

4. Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo

Taronga Western Plains Zoo, formerly known as (and still commonly referred to as) **Western Plains Zoo** and commonly known as Dubbo Zoo, is a large zoo near Dubbo, New South Wales.

The zoo is run by the Taronga Conservation Society (formerly Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales), along with Taronga Zoo Sydney. Western Plains Zoo is located on the Newell Highway in west Dubbo about 4 km from the city.

For further information, go https://taronga.org.au/dubbo-zoo.

5. The Code

Katcha Live Studio has been operating for ten years in the Sydney suburb of West Ryde, since 2009. It is run by husband and wife team, Cha Samaraweera and Kat Ferguson.

"We opened and dedicated to teach for one reason and one reason only: "To get you performing live. Whether it's in front of your family, friends or other audiences we want to see you perform in confidence. The bottom line is to be able to perform in front of many with confidence and entertainment skills. It does not matter how old or young you are, you need to be able to do this if you want to learn an instrument." For more information, go to www.katchamusic.com.

6. Vagabond Cruises

With over three decades experience, **Vagabond Cruises** is one of Sydney Harbour's longest established cruise companies!

"As a family run business, we deliver a wide range of convenient and all-inclusive packages including live entertainment lunch and dinner cruises, private functions for any personal or formal occasion such as weddings, receptions, corporate events, harbour transfers, school formals, university parties and formals, birthdays, hens and bucks parties and much, much more!"
Further information may be found on www.vagabond.com.au.

7. PaintballBookingOffice.Com

Love paintball? Then look no further than Paintball Booking Office.

Paintball Booking Office is an international organization for paint ballers, with 22 locations around Australia.

For further information, go to www.paintballbookingoffice.com.

8. James North Productions, Brisbane QLD

James North is an award-winning Australian musician, producer, recording and mix engineer who works with local, national and international acts in his boutique studio environment in Brisbane.

James also contributes to recordings when required as a session grade guitarist, bass player, piano/keyboard player and drummer. He is also a professional songwriter, arranger and composer and these skills are used daily in the production process.

For further information, visit www.jamesnorthproductions.com.au.

9. Magesongs

Magesongs School of Songwriting has mentored over a thousand songwriters since 2002 some of whom have achieved various successes and opportunities, staffing for record labels, APRA, signed to labels, music publishers, while others forming successful bands enjoying a solo performing career.

Many of Magesongs students have made the top 10 finalists at the ASA Awards, some have been first prizes winners, and three (3) of them have taken home the prestigious APRA/ASA Songwriter of the Year Award besides Jacques Gentil himself, their mentor.

Jacques has run workshops around major Australian cities mentoring thousands of songwriters as well as via his Magesongs live web-conferencing portal. His songwriting philosophy is based on applying the tools and techniques that's proven to have worked for successful songwriters over the past decades. With an eye and ear for detail, Jacques knows what can make or break a song. His own songwriting talent has given him the opportunity to collaborate with hit songwriters such as Joe Dolce, Grammy award winners Diane Warren and Joey Kibble (Take 6) amongst others.

His webinar classes of 20 sessions cover both the songwriting and business aspect of a songwriter's career, including homework while writing one song throughout the entire course under Jacques guidance, to finally be produced in studio. If your song has never brought you any success, why not also join the ranks of Magesongs achievers and make a difference.

New live webinar classes starting soon.

Book now: 0417 585 767 admin@magesongs.com

Website: www.magesongs.com

P.O. Box 239, Hampton Park, VIC, 3976, Australia

10. Maton Guitars

Maton has been a premier Australian musical instrument maker since 1946.

Maton manufactures acoustic guitars, electric guitars, ukuleles and accessories. All Maton instruments are hand crafted in Australia from sustainably sourced Australian timbers.

Maton is a sponsor of the ASA, and each year, it presents one of its beautiful acoustic guitars as the prize for the winner of the Rudy Brandsma Award For Songwriting Excellence.

For more information: www.maton.com.au.

11. Vocal Art Studios

Established in 2003, VAS is Australia's Award Singing & Music School and the only Australian Partners of The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance in Europe as well as the leading trainers and exam centre for Rockschool in Australia.

All Levels and Ages from Beginners to Professionals; Children, Teens and Adults.

For more information: www.vocalartstudios.com.

12. Griffith University Queensland Conservatorium

Queensland Conservatorium is one of Australia's leading music and performing arts schools, offering a wide variety of specialist degrees, from classical music, jazz, opera, popular music to musical theatre, acting and music education.

Study music and performing arts at Griffith, and you'll learn in an environment that will enable you to flourish. Our award-winning teachers are dedicated to producing polished music professionals of the highest calibre. Relevant, cutting-edge courses allow students to tailor their studies to suit their interests and aspirations.

Contact the University at www.griffith.edu.au.

13.Kix Country

If you're a country music fan, The **KIX Country** radio network is the one for you.

Broadcasting throughout Regional Australia, **KIX** gives you an exceptional music choice that you can listen to at work, at home, or heading down the highway. So, keep it country and turn on to **KIX**. For more information, go to www.kixcountry.com.au.

14. Hal Leonard Australia

Hal Leonard Australia is part of the Hal Leonard Corporation, which is known internationally as the world leader in the print music industry. Hal Leonard sells some of the best-known music from some of the best known Australian and International artists. www.halleonard.com.au.

15. **QMusic**

QMusic is Queensland's music industry development association and has been transforming music industry careers since 1995.

Best known internationally for our signature event, BIGSOUND, **QMusic** also offers an extensive and free professional development program throughout Queensland, and a grants program funded by Arts Queensland.

QMusic also stages the annual Queensland Music Awards to celebrate everything that makes Queensland music great. **QMusic** works closely with government at all levels, to ensure a thriving Australian music industry, and sustains partnerships with corporate and philanthropic partners who want to support the future of Australian music.

16. **Christian Fox Accountants**

Christian Fox Accountants undertake all types of accountancy work, including Income Tax Return preparation.

They are located at 8 Ingleburn Road Ingleburn NSW 2565 and can be contacted on (02) 9829 3111.

So, if you need assistance with accounting, please contact Christian Fox Accountants.

www.

17. Ashton

Ashton musical instruments are designed in Australia for Australian musicians.

Products include acoustic guitars, classical guitars, electric guitars, drums, ukuleles and accessories.

With over twenty years of experience, Ashton's aim is to design reliable, quality equipment at affordable prices, in conjunction with industry experts.

For further information go to the web site: www.ashtonmusic.com.

18. **Black Pearl Studios**

Black Pearl Studios offers its clients a truly unique recording experience in a state-of-the-art environment. The studio was designed with the help of world-class theoretical acousticians and environmental sound specialists and constructed in Melbourne by qualified Victorian builders. The project was completed in January 2012, and since has steadily carved a reputation as a studio of the highest calibre, with a gear list that would attract the envy of the famous Abbey Road.

The fully equipped turnkey recording studio boasts two large acoustically designed studio rooms, providing clients with an exceptional creative space and a chance to record with an unrivalled collection of top quality gear. The services available include live recording, mixing and production, with access to on-site services including the legendary Black Pearl mobile studio van.

Black Pearl Studios
9/21 Capella Crescent, Moorabbin, VIC, 3189
Contact: (03) 9939 7209; 0417 356 026
Website: www.blackpearlstudios.com.au

19. **IndieCentral.com**

Thanks to IndieCentral.com for co-hosting this year's Australian Songwriting Contest.

For more information on the services offered by IndieCentral.com, visit their website at www.indiecentral.com.

20. **SongCentral.net**

Thanks to SongCentral for co-hosting this year's Australian Songwriting Contest.

For more information on the services offered by SongCentral, visit their website at www.songcentral.net.au.

Members News and Information

1. Songwriters Meeting Point

Perth WA lyricist, **Patrick McMurray**, is looking to pursue musical collaboration with like-minded composers. Patrick can be contacted at Patrick@patrickmcmurray.com.

ASA member, **Donna Hotz**, is a lyricist who is seeking a composer to help create songs from her lyrics. If you can help, please contact Donna on donna_hotz@hotmail.com.

Sydney songwriter, **Bob Brown** is looking for a co-writer. His musical likes are "ballads/ country/ country rock/ guitar instrumental, but I'm open to whatever project." "I've been in the Top 30 of ASA but never cracked it further in." Bob has sent us some recordings which we are happy to pass on to anyone who is interested. Bob can be contacted on hbmarvin@gmail.com.

ASA Member, **Liz Connolly**, is a vocalist, lyricist and songwriter, looking for a Gold Coast or Northern NSW based songwriting partner who can help write/co-write guitar/piano accompaniments to her songs.

Liz has half a dozen songs in a variety of styles (pop, rock, folk, ballads), that she has completed or semi-completed using electronic songwriting tools.

In 2014, her song "Don't be Afraid" was short listed for the ASA song writing competition Contemporary Pop/Dance Category but didn't progress any further. Liz can be contacted at lizconnollymusic@gmail.com or 0409345133.

Willy57 is a lyricist who is looking for someone to write melodies to his lyrics. If you are interested, Willy can be contacted at willy57@optusnet.com.au.

Spencer Kelly writes "I've been writing songs for years but it's only in the past 6 years that I've been getting Stacy Hogan at Writers Paradise studio to produce them.

Have been on the lookout for a great co-writer / lyricist as I tend to get a bit tired of my own lyrics - I've got a lot of great backing tracks/melodies I've written and demo'd (100+), but haven't developed further, so if you know of a good writer who might be interested, I can be contacted at spencerwho@yahoo.com.

John Pope is a Melbourne-based lyricist who is looking to co-write with a melody writer. John's contact details are: todaysmail7@gmail.com.

Looking for somebody? Contact us on alang@asai.org.au.

People in the live music and entertainment industries are being severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Thousands of jobs have been lost in recent weeks as a result of the cancellation of concerts, festivals, tours and shows. Reported losses across the sector amount to well over $100 million and are rising daily.

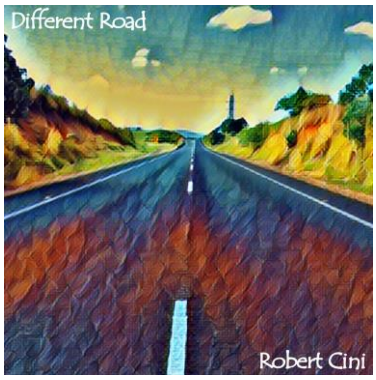
While clearly necessary to protect the health of the nation, these cancellations have affected a huge array of music industry workers including artists, crew, management, promoters, vendors, publicists and everyone else who rely on live events for their income. The vast majority of these workers do not have the luxury of sick leave or annual leave - most live from gig to gig, tour to tour, or show to show.

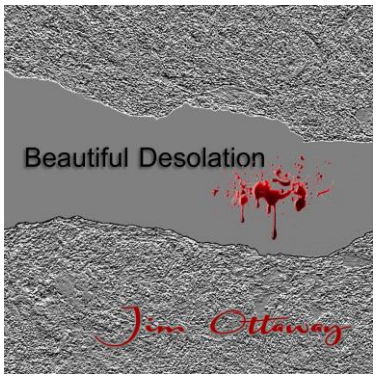
As the most prominent music industry charity, Support Act is committed to doing what it can to help those in need but our resources are limited. We urgently need to build our own war chest in order to provide even a modest level of crisis relief to people who have been impacted.

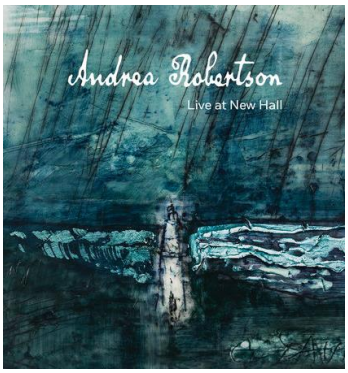
Today we have therefore launched the COVID19 Emergency Appeal to accept donations from all sections of the Australian community. The target for the Appeal is $20 million and Support Act has contributed $100k from its limited reserves to kickstart the campaign. To donate, please visit our dedicated appeal page http://bit.ly/2Qvyf3A or follow the links from our website: www.supportact.org.au

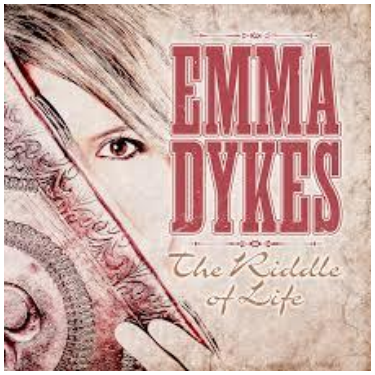
New Music Releases From ASA Members And Friends

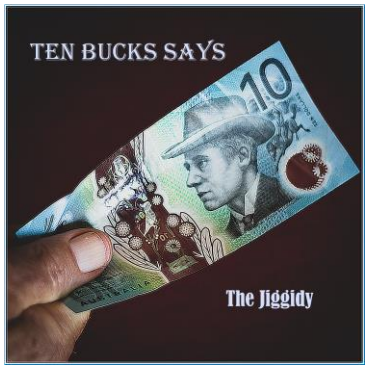
If you have any new music releases, let us know and we'll feature them here.



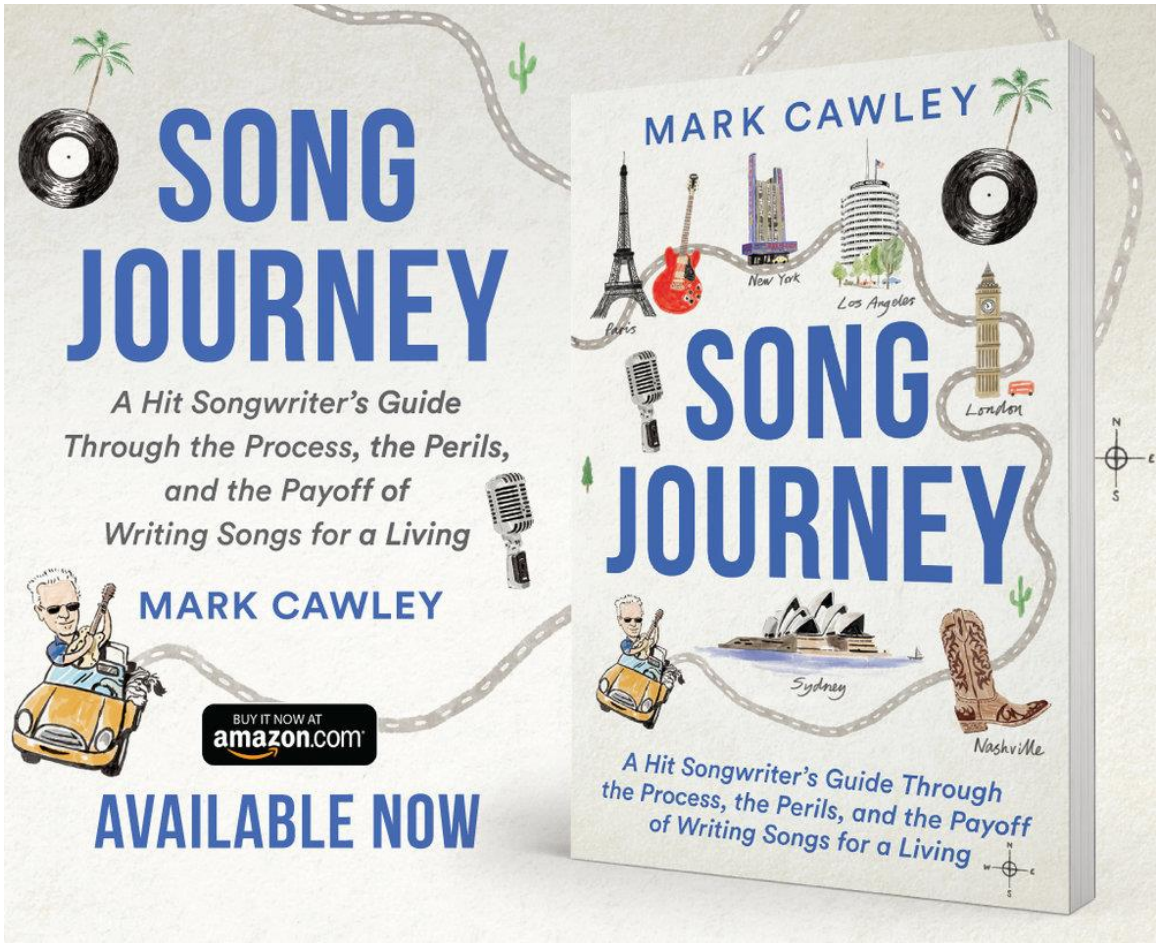








Mark Cawley's Monthly Songwriting Blog



Staying Creative In These Difficult Times

Well, the pandemic probably changed your plans and lifestyle as much or more than my own over the past few weeks. It's causing all of us to decide how to best use our time. Maybe it's time away from work or just time away from leisurely pastimes. I know I keep checking ESPN an MLB hoping for a miracle and a full schedule of Yankee spring training games to magically reappear.

The biggest disappointment for me has been the new travel restrictions including the postponement of my book tour to Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Had to post this sad edit of the poster. My wife and I and some great buddies have a week in Florence, Italy and one week near Toulouse, France scheduled for the beginning of May and praying hard for a cure by then.

This new-found free time got me thinking of some creative go-tos, things I can do to keep inspired. I've been doing this songwriting thing a long time and there have been tough periods in the past where I might not feel like working on a song or dealing with the music business. I've found this can be a great time to intentionally look for inspiration from other sources.

Reading. I'm not a fan of audio books, I guess I need something more tactile even if it's an iPad which is my source for books these days. You can download books for free from your library through apps like Hoopla or buy them through iTunes and other apps. I also like to find instructional videos to try and learn something new on an instrument or piece of gear.

Here are a few of the books and sites I've found to be inspiring lately. Hope some of these are a help to you if you find yourself holed up at home and a might stir crazy.

Books:

"How Sweet It Is" by Lamont Dozier.
Fantastic behind the scenes stories and even has a section in the back devoted to the best bits of advice in the book.

https://books.apple.com/us/book/how-sweet-it-is/id1483510460?fbclid=IwAR19Z0Ol7TEkS0SSbcmumB4Hz76-eAFGzA96YKwmEH8kHRG-EsTgYpMzR38

"Me" by Elton John
What a journey though the life of one of the best songwriters of our time, loved it. Great sense of humor throughout.

https://www.amazon.com/Me-Elton-John-Official-Autobiography/dp/1250147603

"The Creative Habit" by Twyla Tharp
I keep going back to this one over the years. A great American choreographer with some inventive practices.

https://www.amazon.com/Creative-Habit-Learn-Use-Life/dp/1480589837

"On Writing Well" by William Zinsser
A Bible of creative writing.

https://www.amazon.com/Writing-Well-Classic-Guide-Nonfiction/dp/0060891548

"Sound Man" by Glyn Johns
Fun trip through some of the biggest records of the 60's and 70's.

https://www.amazon.com/Sound-Man-Recording-Rolling-Zeppelin/dp/0147516579

The Beatles Complete Chord Book
Every time I pick this up I find a new chord or two as well as a new appreciation of their genius.

https://www.amazon.com/Beatles-Complete-Chord-Songbook/dp/0634022296

YouTube Videos:

James Taylor Free Guitar lessons
Just started going through this, love the inside of the sound hole view!

https://www.jamestaylor.com/guitar-lessons/

Justin Free Guitar lessons
Just plain fun. He makes it easy to learn or revisit some old favorite songs on guitar.

https://www.justinguitar.com

Harry Connick Jr How To Play Piano
Just started to explore this one for new chord shapes. Looks good so far!
https://www.playgroundsessions.com

Apps:
"Hoopla" free books from your library.

https://www.hoopladigital.com

I would urge you to poke around the app store for apps to help with guitar chords, lyrics, memos, drum loops … anything that will help inspire you.

What creative releases do you implement when you need a spark of inspiration or escape? Stay safe and God bless! Please keep my town of Nashville in your thoughts and prayers dealing with the recent Tornados.
if you'd like to stay up with iDoCoach including receiving the latest blogs and my favorite 7 Toolbox tips here ya go!
http://idocoach.com/email-newsletter

I'm currently coaching writers worldwide, online, one on one and taking new clients for the spring. Visit my website for more info www.idocoach.com or write to me at mark@idocoach.com*.*

Mark Cawley
Nashville Tennessee

Mark Cawley is a hit songwriter who coaches other writers around the globe through his one-on-one, online service iDocoach.com. His songs have been on more than 16 million records with cuts ranging from Tina Turner to Wynonna Judd to The Spice Girls. His book, Song Journey, was released in April 2019 and went to #1 in 6 categories on Amazon. Mark is a judge for the UK Songwriting Contest, Nashville Rising Star, Belmont University's Commercial Music program, and West Coast Songwriter events. He's also a contributing author to USA Songwriting and Songwriter Magazine, a sponsor for the Australian Songwriting Association, and a mentor for The Songwriting Academy UK. Born and raised in Syracuse, New York, Mark now resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Load Out

Official Sponsors of the Australian Songwriting Contest

About Us:

The Australian Songwriters Association Inc. is a national, not-for-profit, member organization, dedicated to the support of songwriters and their art, by providing avenues for encouragement and education of developing Australian songwriters, and recognition and promotion of our accomplished members.

Aims of the Association:

- To celebrate the art of songwriting;
- To assist and encourage developing Australian songwriters;
- To provide information and general advice to members;
- To create performance opportunities for members;
- To aid the professional development of members;
- To enable members to meet and/or exchange ideas and information;
- To facilitate member transition into the established music industry;
- To facilitate delivery of member services at a National, State and Regional level;
- To salute our best songwriters at major industry events such as our National Songwriting Awards Night.

History of the ASA:

The Association was founded in Melbourne VIC in August 1979 by the late Tom Louch (1932-2009) and the late Rudy Brandsma (1944-1983), who saw the need for an organisation that would bring Australian songwriters together.

Today, the Association has a vibrant membership Australia-wide and enjoys an established and respected role within the music industry.

The ASA's membership is diverse and embraces and explores all genres of music.

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Youtube:	www.youtube.com/austsongwriters

Patron: Glenn A Baker

Life Members: Tom Louch, Rudy Brandsma, Russell Zimmer, Dominic Crea, Marie Murphy, Colleen Zulian, Alex Bialocki, Rob Fairbairn, Brian Henderson Ward and Kieran Roberts.

Directors:

Denny Burgess	Chairman
Alan Gilmour	Vice Chairman, Public Officer, Financial Officer, Online Content Manager and Editor of The Australian Songwriter Magazine
Clare Burgess	Director, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary
Gary Luck	Director and Manager of Regional Co-Ordinators

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Webmaster:

Dean Mackin, F1 Internet Services, (0409 240 660)

2019 APRA/ASA Australian Songwriter of the Year

Steve Montgomery (NSW)

2019 Rudy Brandsma Award Winner

Tiffany Gow (NSW)

2019 PPCA Live Performance Award Winner

Winner: Frances Madden (NSW)

Runner-Up Prize, In Memory Of The Late John Manners: Robert Cini (QLD)

2019 ASA Regional Co-Ordinator Of The Year:

Paul Vella (Central Coast NSW)

Australian Songwriters Hall Of Fame:

2019: Andrew "Greedy" Smith & Martin "Plaza" O'Doherty (Mental As Anything)

2018: Iva Davies (Icehouse)

2017: Vikki Thorn, Donna Simpson & Josh Cunningham (The Waifs)

2016: Andrew Farris and Michael Hutchence (INXS)

2015: Johnny Young

2014: Kate Ceberano

2013: Garth Porter (Sherbet)

2012: Don Walker (Cold Chisel)

2011: Steve Kilbey (The Church)

2010: Richard Clapton

2009: Ross Wilson (Daddy Cool, Mondo Rock)

2008: Doc Neeson, John Brewster & Rick Brewster (The Angels)

2007: Brian Cadd

2006: Glenn Shorrock, Beeb Birtles & Graeham Goble (Little River Band)

2005: Russell Morris

2004: Harry Vanda, George Young & Stevie Wright (The Easybeats)

Lifetime Achievement Award:

2017: Christine Anu, for her work as a Songwriter in the Music Industry for First Nations Peoples

2019 Australian Songwriting Contest Category Winners:

Steve Montgomery (NSW) (Australia Category)

Steve Montgomery (NSW) (Ballad Category)

Jemma Siles (VIC) (Contemporary Pop/Dance Category)

Jason Greenwood & John Greenwood (VIC) (Country Category)

Robert Cini (QLD) (Folk/Acoustic Category)

Robbie Bostock (QLD) (Instrumental Category)

Donna Dyson (QLD) & Damien Leith (NSW) (International Category - Joint)

Samantha Mooney (QLD) (International Category – Joint)

Charlie Cacciola (QLD) (Lyrics Category)

Jourdain Wongtrakun (VIC) (Open Category)

Skii Harvey (NSW) (Rock/Indie Category)

Anna Van Riel (NSW/NZ) (Songs For Children Category)

Jacques Gentil (VIC) (Spiritual Category)

Jazzy Dale (NSW) (Youth Category)

Australian Songwriters Of The Year & Rudy Brandsma Award Winners:

The title of **Songwriter/ Song of the Year** was first awarded in 1980, following the establishment of the ASA in late 1979. **The Rudy Brandsma Award** was first awarded in 1983, following the passing of ASA co-founder, Rudy Brandsma.

	Songwriters Of The Year	Rudy Brandsma Award Winners
2019	Steve Montgomery	Tiffany Gow
2018	Anirban Banerjee	Lola Brinton
2017	Steve Montgomery	Samantha Mooney
2016	Donna Dyson & Damien Leith	Alex Tobin
2015	Karen Guymer	George Begbie
2014	Rick Hart	Robert McIntosh
2013	Jacques Gentil	Dani Karis
2012	Andrew Winton	Melia & Nerida Naughton
2011	Brian Chapman	Katie Hardyman
2010	Kate Rowe	Karen Guymer
2009	Tony King	Kate Lush
2008	Jason Campbell-Smith	Jo-Kelly Stephenson
2007	Simon Shapiro	Brenda-Lee Heathcote
2006	Emma Joleen	Daniel Arvidson
2005	Michael Maher	K'Crasher
2004	Trish Delaney-Brown	Callee Mann
2003	Contest Not Held	Contest Not Held
2002	Kyls Burtland	Sara Downs
2001	Helen Mottee	Keith Armitage
2000	Andrew Horabin	Tomino Speciale
1999	Alf Tuohy	Mike Kidd
1998	Kyls Burtland	Not Known
1997	Xanthe Littlemore	Michael Waugh
1996	Mark Crocker	Felicity Hunt
1995	Rob Pippan	Sharon Bothe
1994	Danny Hooper & Steve Cole	Nigel Foote
1993	Not Known	Billy Dettmer
1992	Not Known	John Cooney
1991	Not Known	Not Known
1990	Ian Paulin	Jane Robertson
1989	Steve Wade	Not Known
1988	Steve Wade	Steve Wade
1987	Not Known	Not Known
1986	Rob Stambulic	Stu Storm
1985	Ross Nicholson & John Coco	Steve Wade
1984	Not Known	Debbie Bignell & Tony Stark
1983	Chris Lamech & Debbie Bignell	Chris Lamech & Debbie Bignell
1982	Not Known	N/a
1981	Not Known	N/a
1980	Not Known	N/a
1979	Commenced in 1980	Commenced in 1983

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