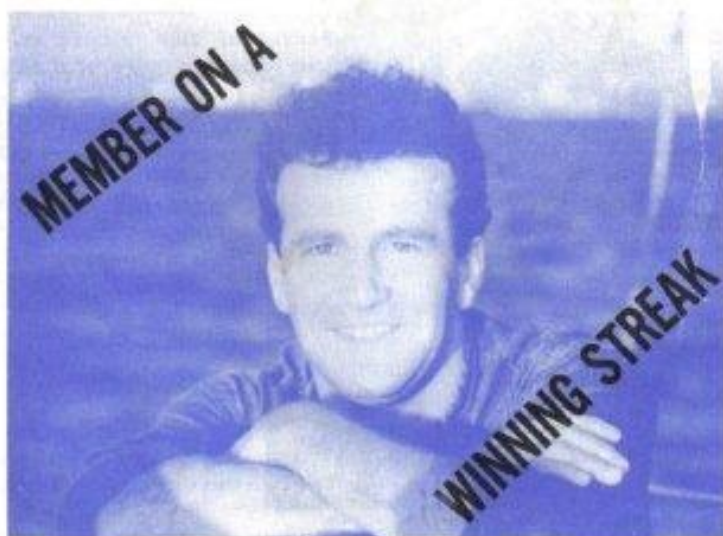


AUSTRALIAN SONGWRTITERS MAGAZINE

NEWSLETTER — EDITION 27

APRIL - MAY 1985



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Spirit of Adventure

AIMS: To provide a central service that bridges the seemingly infinite gap between Australian songwriters and the Music Industry.

To offer a source of learning for developing songwriters covering all aspects of songwriting as well as the Music Industry.

To provide support and an avenue for collaboration for members on their road to becoming successful and/or satisfied songwriters.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 127, Surrey Hills, Vic 3127

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

President	-	Russell Zimmer	ph. 704 6528
Secretary	-	Kerri Foubister	ph. 786 1443
Treasurer	-	Lilli Michelson	ph. 580 4339
Enrolment	-	Gary Withers	ph. 288 8397
Publicity	-	Jim Shomos	ph. 850 2150



This Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of the late RUDY BRANDSMA for his guidance and inspiration as our friend and our Chairman of The Songwriters Association February 1980, until his untimely death on August 19, 1983.



Editorially Speaking
with Kerri Foubister

A warm and friendly 'hullo' to all!

MY sincere apologies for the delay in getting this edition to you. With a very hectic business schedule and a great lack of 'old man time', it has been necessary to postpone the newsletter until now. You will note also that the format of the newsletter has been changed somewhat for the time being. There will be more news to this end forthcoming at a later date.

Don't think though, that you have been forgotten That is not the case. You are EVER in our thoughts (wonderful Committee as we are) and to keep the adrenalin soaring through the arteries and fill you with enthusiasm and inspiration, we have included an article on one of our very talented members, who entered and won the ADULT ORIENTED SONG CATEGORY of the recently presented PETERS AWARDS in Sydney. This very same member also entered and won the TONGALA TENT TOWN SONG CONTEST held in March, of which the Australian Songwriters Association featured quite prominently. Of the eleven finalists in the contest, four were members of our Association. I think that's a big PLUS for the A.S.A. Give yourselves a round of applause.....
Read all about our talented fellow member on page 2.

"SPOTLIGHT ON" this month, features longtime and much respected member, MICHAEL GROSS. Learn of Michael's talents and achievements - it makes for interesting and worthwhile reading, beginning on page 7.

Rus Zimmer discusses the success of his recent guitar classes offered to A.S.A. members, and announces a new SYNTHESIZER COURSE, all geared up to begin shortly.

There's some surprising news on how old demo tape masters belonging to members, and thought to be lost forever (the demo tapes, not the members) were located by a chance meeting. Details of how to go about collecting these tapes can be found on page 6.

Kerrie Salo has kindly sent in details of up-and-coming song contests (thanks Kerrie) and there's even a column dedicated to "in-house news"Russell has brilliantly titled this column 'ON THE GRAPEVINE'...! Good one Rus! I wouldn't be surprised if someone doesn't try and steal your ORIGINAL idea.....!

Workshops planned for 1985 look set to be 'real beauties' (well, after all, this IS an AUSTRALIAN Association..).
Our venue for workshops, now re-located to the BELVEDERE LODGE, RICHMOND, is proving to be highly successful. Pre-workshop drinks get the evening off to a congenial start, and tea & coffee help to finish off the evening most admirably. I look forward to seeing many members attend these carefully planned workshops throughout the year. At this point in time, we envisage one workshop per month, based on the first Tuesday in the month. So set aside these dates and have your pencils and paper poised for invaluable note taking....

In closing, I raise my glass (figuratively speaking of course) to the continued success of all songwriting projects and to a fruitful and inspirational year ahead for the Australian Songwriters Association.

Our motto, never to be taken lightly - COMMITMENT & THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE, stands steadfast and true. See you soon.

Ed.

A Word from the Chair

with Russell Zimmer



The recently held PATERS awards by the Australian Academy of Broadcast Arts and Sciences attracted some 5,039 entries from Australia. This fabulous response caught the organisers completely by surprise and made the judging process a gigantic undertaking. However, eventually finalists and then category winners were finally selected.

We are very proud indeed to be able to announce that the winner of the ADULT ORIENTED SONG CATEGORY was our own Songwriters Association member STEVE WADE.

Steve's song, "OCEAN DEEP" won the category over four other finalists. Steve takes up the story:

"The award presentation night was held at the Hilton Hotel, Sydney on 10th November 1984. On stage the song categories were read out by Michael Gudinski and Donnie Sutherland. Naturally I was elated to be awarded the best Middle-of-the-Road Song for 1984.

The award was recognised in the form of an impressive glass trophy in a three dimensional shape of the Academy's emblem and symbol. Both the trophy and a certificate were presented to me by the Prime Minister, Mr. Bob Hawke.

Afterwards the Hilton was left open all night for the guests of the awards. We "hopped and hopped" from disco to party to swimming pool and back."

The paters awards will be held in Melbourne next time, and we are sure Steve's great example will encourage other members to enter the 1985 when they are announced later on in the year.

Several other members received notice that their respective song entries were judged in the top 50 positions of finalist sorting. And remember, there were 5,039 entries.

All of those composers and writers could benefit from this Association and throughout 1985 we will be regularly advertising to attract them to our membership.

Finally, YOU can help tremendously by introducing new members yourselves, where the opportunity presents itself. Don't forget our mailing address - P.O. Box 123, Surrey Hills 3127.

After all, the larger the membership, the more the individual member can benefit from increased services.

Congratulations again Steve Wade!

As if winning a Paters Category isn't enough - we are again proud to announce the winner of the TONGALA TENT TOWN CONTEST is Association member STEVE WADE!

Steve's song "1,000 BIRDS" was judged with ten other finalists at a live concert in Victoria's northern TONGALA. Steve performed his song live with just his guitar and won the event over the other finalists, incorporating professional backing tapes and complete bands. The prize for first place was a 4 track cassette recorder (a mini studio) valued at \$1,500, which will be invaluable to Steve when composing future songs. Second prize was one day's recording time at a 16 track studio in Bendigo. It was won by a country music band.

(next page please)

Beginners Guitar Classes

The first series of beginners guitar classes aimed specifically at accompaniment to singing, is proving to be a great success. Held by RUSSELL ZIMMER at his recording studio/home, the group class of six Association members has been meeting once a week for what is basically a crash course is coming to grips with playing and singing.

Russell's own method of teaching is based on his own lifetime of guitar-playing accompanying all forms of popular music. Ages of the members in the class range from pre-teens to middle age, and each student is showing a good progress.

This first course which was at a reduced cost was partly to establish the student's needs, and therefore develop a suitable syllabus as the course progressed.

The basic course will finish soon, with a more advanced course to follow later for those interested.

Bookings for new students for the next BASIC course are now open and those interested to should ring Russell on 704 6528 as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Requirements are only access to a guitar for lessons and practise, an ability to sing along with a tune, transport to lessons and a desire to have a go!

A suitable evening is arranged with students when enquiring, to allow for one regular weekly lesson. Fees are \$5.00 per lesson, payable in advance at the first lesson. That is, \$30 for the six week course. This ensures all lessons are attended, as with a crash course, one lesson missed makes further lessons with the other students almost impossible.

Synthesizer Course starting soon!

Guitar courses at Russell's Studio have produced a number of enquiries for other music related programs. As a result of this interest, Russell has decided to offer a series of lessons which hopefully will shed some light on the complex and fascinating world of SYNTHESIZERS.

Especially aimed at the uninitiated, the course will look at all aspects of synthesizers and its applications to the modern musician. On the other hand, there won't be a requirement for keyboard skills, nor will it aim to teach them. "Many people don't realise that the keyboard is only one of the many ways of controlling a synthesizer. These days, guitarists, vocalists and computer operators are all benefiting from the advantages of synthesized sound", explains Russell.

Different types of synthesizers will be available to students for hands on experience during the course. For those people who have no experience with these machines but would like to learn something about them, a course of six weekly lessons is planned to enable students to determine if synthesizers can help them, and whether further more advanced courses would be beneficial.

Full details can be obtained by phoning Ruseel at his studio on 704 6528.

Thanks for your time and effort Rus. I am sure many members will appreciate these opportunities. EJ.

Songwriting Competitions

LIONS ROCKHAMPTON COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL, 1985

First Prize, \$1,200; second, \$500; third, \$300.
Entries close 1st May 1985.
Cassette, plus copy of lyrics and music
Entry forms from P.O. Box 722, Rockhampton, Queensland 4701

NEW ZEALAND GOLD GUITAR AWARDS

Substantial Prizes.
Festival Begins 25th May 1985.
Closing Date for entries unknown.
Entry forms available from P.O. Box 382, Gore, Southland, N.Z.

U.S. Contact Point

In the Christmas issue, edition No. 26, I published an article entitled "U.S. CONTACT POINT", setting out details of a letter sent to the A.S.A. from ex-member Victor Royer who is now residing and working in America as the President of MRM ENTERTAINMENT.

It has been brought to my attention, that I neglected to publish any contact address for those members interested and I now do so below, extending my apologies for the oversight:

VICTOR ROYER
MRM ENTERTAINMENT
C/- the LASS,
6772 HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD,
HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90028 U.S.A.

The Committee of Management - A.S.A. - express once again, that the suggestions expressed in the abovementioned letter, are not necessarily supported by the A.S.A., although the letter was published for your interest.

Members Tapes Located

Two years ago our President, RUDY BRANDSMA tragically passed away. The following scramble to recover demo-tape masters before his studio was sold, resulted in some members being unsuccessful or too late in their attempts. They were thus considered eventually lost forever.

At the recent Tongala song contest, however, Russell Zimmer discovered by coincidence, that a business at Shepparton had purchased Rudy's 8 track machine and virtually all of the associated one inch multi track tapes. Even more exciting, was the fact that due to the new facility being incompleated at this stage, the said tapes had NOT been wiped clear, and were still labelled as to the general contents. The new owner has indicated that he sympathetic to the situation and is prepared to 'remix' any song demos to make a new master tape for the original composer to keep. There would of course, be a reasonable charge for the work to be done.

Interested persons should make direct contact with:

PAUL WALTERS
R.S.D.
SHEPPARTON EAST. (phone - 058 292525)

"Spotlight on..."

This month we take a look at member MICHAEL GROSS.

When we look to our peers for inspiration, we often see only the public image of that person as portrayed by the media. Often that image is an exaggeration to encourage more popularity. From a commercial point of view, that approach is a successful one, both to the record buying public as well as those who would like to emulate the success, themselves.

However, behind that shining image is the team of people who really make it happen for the star out front. These people don't often have their name up in lights or have the chance to take a bow, and yet their skill in presenting the artist impressively, is essential to the future success of that artist. Invariably, these "backroom" people have committed their life to their craft from an early age and as such, have become experts in their chosen field. Few of us in the Songwriters Association can claim to be sufficiently qualified or experienced to really tread in the footsteps mentioned, with the exception perhaps of one man - MR. MICHAEL GROSS.

The list of achievements which follow, will I believe, serve to illustrate the depth of talent and perseverance of this amazing man:-

MICHAEL GROSS has been a member of the Australian Songwriters Association since its inception in 1979, and currently acts in the capacity of Musical Advisor to both the Committee and to every individual member who feels they could benefit from Michael's help.

Born in BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA, Michael attained three major qualifications which are the basis for all his musical activities:

1. B.A. Graduate in music at BELGRADE CONSERVATORIUM Piano 1972/3 as a concert pianist.
2. Diploma graduate in music composition at the above institution 1973/4.
3. Diploma of Education 73/73 YUGOSLAVIA, 1978 Australia.

Secondary Education before University commenced H.S.C. 1967, H.S.C. Music 1968.

As a pianist from classical to pop, jazz, rock - solo and in groups he has experienced all aspects of music along the way, and is currently employed at the Victorian College of the Arts (V.C.A.).

As a composer, his attributes cover mostly short piano pieces, but also longer pieces such as Sonatas, four ballets, 7 books of music for contemporary ballet, four cassettes of improvised music for Commonwealth Association of Teachers of Dance.

As an educationalist, he has to his credit, the qualifications of Professor in Yugoslavia. In Australia - head of musical departments in technical schools.

In 1981/82 Michael wrote seven books of modern dance music for ballet schools.

In 1983, he composed four ballets - "BODYSONGS" for the Australian Contemporary Dance Company (ACDC). He also composed the Preston Soccer Club song in two versions - English and Macedonian. At the end of '83 and into 1984, he was involved in a project for a new Australian anthem to be released by the ABC, possibly not far into the future.

P.T.O.

These compositions involved symphony orchestra, choir and two soloists.
In 1960 C.A. he composed a D Minor Piano Sonata Alla Fantasia, and
a composition titled "Sonata for Violin and Piano". He has also set aside
various folk songs and Waltzes for the V.C.A.

For most of Michael's works, he acts in the capacity of musician, composer,
arranger, lyricist, producer and recorder - especially for the pop music
field.

Whilst in Yugoslavia, most of his activity was as a soloist performer
for approximately 10 years.

He was engaged by four major BELGRADE theatres as a pianist/composer,
and member of the orchestra as well as arranger.

He performed as musician and was cast in the stage productions "HAIR"
"JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR", "ZIPPER-ZAPPER" etc.

He was also engaged as a member of the vocal backing OCTET for T.V.
shows similar to Australia's New Faces.

Engaged in five movies, the last winning in 1976, first prize at the
Italian International Film Festival.

Michael's musical abilities began when he was just seven years old.

Later he had a number of T.V. appearances as a gifted young pianist, and
won second prize in Yugoslavia Pianist Contest.

He has publicly performed as classical pianist in various chamber groups,
duets, trios, small pop groups, as a singer, entertainer, pianist,
entertainer, choir conductor and in 1982 produced a comedy show in
which he performed for schools and restaurants.

Michael also composed the music for the rock opera "STARGODS" but a lack
of finances prevented the project from being released.

He has composed a number of short vocal instrumental pieces for various
associations concerned with music e.g. calisthenics.

As a music writer he has prepared four books covering the following
topics:-

- * Songwriting
- * Music for Dance
- * Music Improvisation
- * Hints for piano playing, performance and composition.

Since working in Australia, Michael has suffered from the language problem
and found it hindered his progress with the establishment and from forming
valuable contacts. But despite these problems, connected with immigration,
he has decided to be as self reliant as possible in the fields of Lyrics,
Singing, Composing, Arranging, Producing and Recording, Script-writing,
Entertaining including Comedy, Improvisation, Conducting and Band Leading.

The following is a list of work that Michael has PUBLICLY PERFORMED in
Australia as well as a summary of his achievements:-

Many hotels, Receptions, Restaurants, in Melbourne and away.
(1976-1984) as a freelance pianist, composer, songwriter, singer
and entertainer.

1981/82 - twelve entertaining shows.

1983/84 - on four occasions with schools, restaurants, charity
concerts for elderly people as singer, comedian, musician, etc. etc.

1978 - Radio 3UZ - twice won one round with own music.

P.T.O.

1983 - Radio ABC - own music ballet "BODYSONGS".

1983 - National Theatre - "BODYSONGS" ballet for two seasons and at schools.

1983/84 - A record for Preston Soccer Club.

1984 - "EXPO 1984" - Pianist Improvisor

1984 - Piano Sonata in D Minor for V.C.A. (2 seasons)

1984 - National Theatre for ACDC "SHEARERS" (2 seasons)

1984 - GRANT STREET THEATRE for V.C.A.
"Polkas and Waltzes Aside" (2 seasons)

1984 - Improvisations for Kinetic dance - T.V. Channel 9 Canberra.
- "SALE OF THE CENTURY" - one week with own music.

1982/84 Band Leader Yugoslavia Pop Group.

1983/84 Resident pianist in various restaurants - singer, songwriter, entertainer.

1981/82 Rock Opera unreleased (own music)

Music Director for three calisthenics clubs in Melbourne.

Privately teaching composition, improvisation, piano, songwriting, arranging, theory, A.M.E.B.

1975 - Army choir conductor and pop group leader.

1970/72 - T.V. Belgrade, Yugoslavia show "MAXIMETAR"

1968-76 - Five movies

1969-73 - Three rock operas

1968-76 - Four theatres as pianist, arranger, composer, visiting artist composer/arranger.

Piano concerts etc.

Michael is an active member of the Musicians Union, Music Arrangers Guild, and Australian Songwriters Association.

Well there you have it. If that's not talent, I don't know what is!!

Hats off and much respect to our Man of the Month, MR. MICHAEL GROSS.

If any members know of others members with special talents and achievements, Russell would be pleased to hear about it with a view to including those people in our regular feature "SPOTLIGHT ON".

Write to Russell c/- our mailing address : P.O. Box 123, Surrey Hills 3127

Letters from Publishers

This month we publish a letter received from CHAPPELL MUSIC in regard to approaching publishers with our demo's.

Mr. Rob DuRose, Professional Manager of Chappell Music writes:-

In answer to your questions.

1. Personal appointments are not necessary, but often contingent upon the original submission requiring further discussion. Most submissions are by post in the first instance and this is certainly adequate.
2. Submissions may be in any format, but cassettes are preferred, because they're easiest to handle and of course, cheaper and safer to mail.
3. As many songs as seems appropriate should be submitted but bear in mind the quantity is not what impresses, but the quality. I have to listen to an awful lot of demo's and sending me 20 songs usually means it will take a long time to get through them. Usually four or five of a writers BEST songs will be adequate to assess potential.
4. Yes, there is a continual back-log and responses can take up to six weeks.
5. Provided submissions includes full postal address, I try wherever possible to return unwanted material. A self-addressed, stamped package, usually ensures quick return.
6. Chappell deal in all areas of music and I can't say I'm ever looking for any one particular style of music. So long as the submissions are good and show real ability and potential, they will be favourably reviewed.

I hope this helps you and I wish you and your Association the best of luck. Looking forward to hearing from you in the future.

Best Regards

ROB duROSE
Professional Manager

The address of Chappell Music is: P.O. Box KX250,
KINGS CROSS 2011

On the Grapevine

- * Association member TISH LANGLEY is about to enter proceedings involving Breach of Copyright. It seems one of Tish's songs has popped up in Holland on to Dutch Top 40 and sung in Dutch.

Good Luck Tish - keep us informed of any development!

- * Our new workshop venue at Richmond promises a great new atmosphere as was found with the 1984 song contest. Members will be able to meet socially before the workshops commence and enjoy a drink.

Bar service will again be available, as well as coffee and tea of course, after the workshop. We hope members will take advantage of the opportunity to meet and socialise in this way now that the B.B.Q's are not a regular part of our Association activities any more. Our thanks to JIM SHOMOS for organising this venue and also to MICHAEL GROSS for his help over 1984 with the St. Kilda road workshops.

- * Seen on channel 10's "Star Search" was successful Association member, Steve Wade, recently. Steve gave a fine vocalist performance on the popular new show. It's only a matter of time before big things happen in the charts for this talented musician. Our fingers are crossed for you Steve!

- * Vice President and Public Relations man for the Association, JIM SHOMOS, recently announced his appointment to the crew producing "SALE OF THE CENTURY" for GTV Channel 9. Jim will no doubt be making excellent contacts in his new environment and his appointment in such a competitive field indicates a persistence in Jim's makeup which is so essential in this industry. Good Luck Jim!

- * Popular Godfather of the Association, RON LEIGH, is currently (at time of this newsletters preparation) overseas on a trip taking in U.S.A., BRITIAN and EUROPE. Ron aims to renew friendships with associate STEVE KIPNER of Olivia's "Physical" fame, and generally soak up the L.A. writing atmosphere before returning to our shores. We'll be looking for an article of news and inspiration when you get back Ron!

- * Newly elected Enrolment Director, Gary Withers, is doing an excellent job in keeping our new enquiries and new members informed. Also making sure we don't forget to pay our renewal subs on time! Keep up the good work Gary.

- * Russell Zimmer heard over Melbourne's Radio 3AK recently with a jingle for MERINO WOOL WASH. The world of commercials seems harder to crack than ever before, but persistence is paying off for Rus with that "Commitment & the Spirit of Adventure" which is the Association Banner.

- * Clint Canteford recently announced his engagement to be married. Congratulations from all of us Clint. Seems Clint and Dominic Crae were the stars of a New Years Eve party, where their dulcet tones and strummings kept the guests entertained with 50's Rock, early Beatles and the HOKEY POKEY round the pool till the wee small hours.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS.....Rus.

