

Cable Television Show Features Local Artists

By Sonny Meadows

LT1 - Local Talent One is an independently produced public access television show exclusively featuring Long Island musicians, songwriters and bands. After a limited start in a few townships, LT1 is about to go Island-wide. The show is the brainchild of **Bruce Figarsky** of Community Media Network, Inc. Bruce produces and directs each installment of the thirty-minute show. Each airing focuses on one artist or band performing four or five tunes and an interview with the show's host Dave . Several ISS members have recorded so far – **DeStefano and McCloud, Jeff Curtis, and Sonny Meadows**. Jeff Curtis wrote and performed the theme song for the show along with **Laura Gallucci** of St. Huckleberry. The piece was produced and recorded by our own **Sonny Speed**.

The LT1 Schedule is:

Huntington Town, Babylon Town, and Nassau County – Channel 71 – Thursday Nights - 1/18/01 at 12:30 AM, then beginning 1/25/01 –12:00 AM.

Brookhaven and Islip Towns –

Channel 70 – Sunday Nights at 10:30 PM.

Hamptons and Riverhead Towns –

Channel 70 – Saturdays at 2:00 PM

If you want to be considered for a performance on LT1 send a press kit, bio, recordings – audio and/or video, and other pertinent information to:

Bruce Figarsky
LT1
Community Media Network, Inc
PO Box 2801
Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

NEW SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND

Vincent Crici has been working very hard for quite some time to get the new **Borders Books in Farmingdale** to have a songwriters in the round. After much persistence, Vinnie will be the host, and the first event is scheduled for Monday, **February 26**. It is crucial that you show your support for this since future events there will depend on how well this one is received. If all goes well, more dates will be added and hopefully it will become a regular occurrence as with Borders Westbury. See back page for more details and mark your calendar.



UPCOMING ISS EVENTS

WORKSHOP MEETING: **February 5**

OPEN MIKE @ BORDERS SYOSSET: **January 4**

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND:
@ BARNES & NOBLE, COMMACK: **January 11**
@ BORDERS, WESTBURY: **January 19**
@ BORDERS, Farmingdale: **February 26**

SONG OF THE YEAR

Martha Trachtenberg's song "*I Choose You*" received a prestigious surprise from **John Platt (WFUV)**. He was doing his last Sunday morning show of 2000, and playing a batch of favorites. Toward the end of the show, he announced his **favorite song of the year** and played Martha's song, "*I Choose You*", from her outstanding CD, "**It's About Time**". Martha admitted she was in the shower at that exact time (doesn't it always happen that way) but hubby **Tom Griffith** cranked up the stereo so she could hear it! Congratulations and many more successes to follow!

ISS WORKSHOP MEETING

Five Towns College

January 8, 2001

By **Sonny Meadows**

T'was a cold, snowy winter's night. **None but the hearty, or the foolish, or the songwriters with fresh melodies in their heads and new words upon lips (and 25 pieces of copy paper) would venture out in weather like this. About a dozen brave souls made it to the site of the monthly pilgrimage to share their newest creations and create new situations with post-holiday salutations.**

Bill Anacker – started the evening with "*Rosalie*" - A gentle and touching piece he created for piano, synthesizer and cello. I just love Bill's voice. The naturalness and the tenderness of Bill's vocal styling creates a wonderful sense of harmony amongst the elements of his songs. Jamie felt there were some really great lyrics but some lines seemed to be driven by rhyme rather content. Sonny S. said it would work very well as an Irish ballad.

Mike Clark - borrowed a guitar and delivered a great Irish drinking song – "*Song for Kerry*" 'bout four pints Guinness and going all night long in Killarney. Be it Ireland or Mexico, nobody writes a good drinking song like Mike Clark. Andrew felt it had the true melancholy of a good drinking song. Sonny S. offered some suggestions to make the music a little more authentic rhythmically.

Tania - delivered "*The Side of the Road*" a country tune about being abandoned by love and finding the strength to carry on. Everyone liked the song particularly Tania's vocal approach to the melody. Suggestions for the lyrical changes focused on developing more sympathy for the central character. We all agreed with Jamie's comment that Tania's voice could sing the phone book and everybody would stop and listen with rapt attention.

Bill Ryan – provided us with a sad gallows tune "*Hangin' Chad*". The general consensus was that it captured the days following the 2000 Presidential Selection quite well. Discussion focused on ways to make it last into the future by tying in the inauguration, the cabinet choices and other pending events.

Walter Sargent – played a soft jazz flavored piece entitled "*I Won't Say a Word*". Jamie loved it and said not to change a thing – musically or lyrically. Everybody felt the simplicity and the brevity of the piece made it extremely powerful. A masterful song – I won't say a word more.

Sonny Meadows – played "*Steppin' Out Tonight (Wearin' A Dead Man's Suit)*" another bluesy piece I've been workin' on as part of a musical which will hopefully get finished some time this year. I appreciate and will incorporate the suggestions for using other terms for "wearin'". Geraldine suggested playing it slower so the lyrics don't seem as rushed.

Frank Gambino – After a string of wonderful humorous songs, which garnered either the Writers' Choice Award or honorable mention, Frank presented "*But I'm Going Home*" a simple but powerfully serious piece about a soldier returning from war. This song hit me on a very personal

and emotional level. It captured the essence of war and what remains when one comes home – “the rage”, “the pain”, “the fright”, and “the shame”.

Bill Goldsmith – played “*Four Story Building*” a song from his new CD *Gravity’s Last Stand* which was recorded with his band Sideways. (Sideways is the name of the band not the position they were in during the recording session.) Bill A. saw it an effective whimsical piece. Everyone enjoyed Bill’s imagery of his neighbors – especially the woman in the full body cast. Some suggestions focused on restructuring the instrumental breaks between verses.

Andrew Kirschner – finished up the evening with “*What If I Follow You Home*” which generated some discussion about whether or not this was a song about a stalker. Andrew intended it to be a “loving and caring” piece about an enchanted but reluctant suitor. It did manage to convey that feeling despite the twisted minds that sought to pervertify it.

Well, if the snow gets any deeper I’m gonna need someone to follow me home. I’m out of here – see you February 5th.

Another year at the ISS is complete. Hard to believe. Next meeting is February 5, 2001! Be there.

BORDERS RECAP

*Borders, Syosset
December 7, 2000*

The open mike scene at Borders hosted by **Bill Ryan** is still going strong with performances from various ISS members. This night is dedicated to showcasing ISS members so come on down, bring a song and support your fellow ISSer’s.

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND - COMMACK

*Barnes & Noble – Commack
December 7, 2000*

Sonny Meadows hosted an evening of guitar instrumentalists with **Mark Yodice**, **Jeff Curtis**, **Nick Vermitsky** and **Jim Tepe**. You don’t have a combo of talent like this too often. See Sonny Meadows for more info or call him at 673-3605. Support L.I. music. Next roundtable is January 11, 2001.

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND - WESTBURY

*Borders – Westbury
December 15, 2000
By Shari Diamond*

Rich Stein hosted as well as performed this round with **Jim Dexter**

See Rich Stein at meetings or gigs for more info or visit [Clearsteer Music](#). Next Borders roundtable event is January 19, 2001.

SONGWRITER’S CHOICE

Bill Graeser for “Lisa”

By Shari Diamond

Bill Graeser’s song “*Lisa*” is what quality songwriting is all about. Most found this song very clever and funny. This was a very well written song about TV girls. One ISSer added that this song had a touching melody and a beautiful simple chorus that offset the business of television.

Coming in second was **Frank Gambino**’s song “*When Pigs Fly*”. He has such a groovy feel within this song while his lyrics are very grounded yet humorous. One ISSer thought this song was perceptive and had a contrary view that rings true. This song was also noted as being quite clever, catchy and funny but with a poignant message.

Honorable mentions go to **Sonny Meadow**’s “*Tango*”, **Sarah Haddock**’s “*Strong As I Am*”, and **Geraldine Brockwell**’s “*A Blanket of Our Finest Wool*”.

Text Box: Scoop's Link O' the Month The ISS Web Site News www.islandsongwriters.org GETTING YOUR MUSIC HEARD ON THE NET copyright 2000 Bill Ryan reprinted with permission Your Own Dot Com – part 1 This is the first in a series of articles designed to help you not only get your music out on the internet, but also get it heard! Whether you're in a band, solo, have a CD, or just a few demos - the internet is a great showcase for your work. And whether you're new to the Internet or a cyber-geek, I'll try to make this series useful to everyone. The first thing to consider is getting your own web-site and dot com. What's a web-site? What's a dot com? A lot of you are already familiar with web pages. You know you can create a web page through America On-Line, and other Internet services. And you know you can get pictures on your page. But once you've put the effort into creating this generic web page, who's going to know about it? And how are they going to remember to type in <http://members.aol.com/~yourname.html>. Look, you've put a lot of effort into your songs, why not put some effort into setting up a place where everyone can easily access your music and any information you want them to have. A web site is more than a simple web page. It needs to be directed towards a goal, whether it's getting people to come to your gigs, promoting your CD or simply displaying your lyrics. I'll get into the details of creating web sites in the next installment, but first a word about dot coms. What is a dot com, why get a dot com? If you're reading this article on the web, you're actually reading it at a dot org (www.islandsongwriters.org), not a dot com. Dot org's are for non-profit organizations, you may be non-profit, but you're probably not an organization. You're commercial – dot com. Setting up a dot com is more involved than simply throwing a page up on AOL. Why go to the expense and trouble of getting www.yourname.com? There are a number of reasons, but at the top of the list is the fact that it's the easiest web address for people to find you at. Not only people but search engines also. I'll get into more on dot coms in future installments. That's the scoop for now.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS at FIVE TOWNS COLLEGE

(Dix Hills) ~ The Island Songwriters Showcase (ISS) is a no fee organization. Group efforts include monthly meetings at Five Towns College, located on Burr's Lane in Dix Hills, Huntington, NY, generally on the first Monday of the month. **IT'S FREE.** Songs are often premiered at the meetings, and so much material is presented that there is limit of one song per writer. Writers may bring an acoustic guitar, CD, or cassette tape (no Dolby n/r reduction is best), and a piano is available for keyboardists. Lyric sheets are encouraged and ensuing discussions regarding presented songs can range from passionate to hilarious to instructive. To become a member, simply come to a meeting. That's it! Really!

Come join us on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. on the following date: February 5 March 5

Becoming an ISS member also entitles you to participate in our open mike night at any of our showcases (see highlighted below). Sign ups are at 7:30 P.M. All artists are able to play 2 original songs. Also, you can become eligible to be invited to perform at one of our Songwriters in the Round. No critiquing – just fun! Original bands are also welcome – please call Sonny in advance. Make friends. Make contacts. Get heard!

For more information call our director Sonny Speed at (631) 462-3300 or email him at mcspeed@aol.com.

Schedule of Local Open Mikes:

Mondays

- The Stephen Talkhouse – 8:30 P.M. Amagansett. 267-3117, hosted by Gene Hamilton

Wednesdays

- The Broadway Beanery – 9:00 P.M. 2 Broadway, Lynbrook. 596-0028, hosted by Stuart Markus
- The Cup Café – 9:00pm. Railroad Street, 3268 Railroad Ave., Wantagh. 826-9533
- MVP Café – 8:30 P.M. 1485 Hicksville Rd., N. Massapequa, (516) 529-5845, hosted by Jackalope Junction, original or cover

Thursdays

- **BORDERS Syosset - 425 Jericho Tpk, Syosset, 7:00 p.m. sign-up, 7:30 p.m. start on the 1st Thursday of the month, ISS exclusive showcase hosted by Bill Ryan.**
- Bunnery Pub - 9pm. 3120 Hempstead Tpk, Levittown, 735-0105, hosted by Frank Walker

Weekly Venue:

ISS Postcard Mailer

If you didn't receive the postcard mailer that was sent out recently, or want to receive future updates on ISS events via mail or email, please provide Sonny Speed with a completed membership form available at meetings or gigs.

Director's Blurb

ISS workshops have become increasingly popular and we want to ensure that all members get enough time for comments. If you want your song heard but you're not looking for critique, please save the debut for the showcase. If you want feedback, **please remember to bring 25 copies of the lyric sheet** (or be prepared to pay a hefty fine – just kidding!)

ISS Address

**ISS
P.O. Box 430
East Northport, N.Y. 11731-0430
Phone: 631-462-3300 (Sonny Speed)**

E-mail: mcspeed@aol.com

- **Sundays at Seven Series** – The Northport Historical Society Museum, Main St., Northport on the north side of the street opposite the police station. 7 PM. Contact hosted by Kate Kelly at 757-1111 for listing of scheduled performers. The Sunday At Seven Arts in Concert Series is supported by funds from the NYC Council of the Arts, distributed in Suffolk County through the Huntington Arts Council. They request a \$2 donation for the evening.

ISS Staff

- Ø **Director:** Sonny Speed
- Ø **Press Secretary:** Bob Caltrano
- Ø **Newsletter Writing Staff:** Gerry Dantone, Bill "Scoop" Ryan, Walter Sargent, Michael Clark, Sonny Meadows, Mike Mattel, Frank Gambino, Vince Crici, Andrew Kirschner, Martha Trachtenberg, Rich Stein, and James Yarsky
- Ø **Website Coordinator:** Bill "Scoop" Ryan
- Ø **Newsletter Editor/Publisher:** Shari Diamond (looking for a new me)

Songwriters In The Round:

- 2nd Thursday of the month @ Barnes & Noble, Commack, hosted by Sonny Meadows
- 3rd Friday of the month @ Borders, Westbury, hosted by Rich Stein.
- Monday, February 26 @ Borders, Farmingdale, hosted by Vincent Crici

Please make sure you check out our website www.islandsongwriters.org for info about the ISS, past newsletters, and member performances. If you would like to have a newsletter emailed to you, please send your request to Shari Diamond at shari@kidtestedtunes.com.



Don't forget to get your copy of the first ISS compilation CD featuring 14 ISS members recorded Live at the ISS Showcase at the Pepper'd Owl in 1996. This is a lot of talent crammed into this one CD and this is only volume 1! George Trapani made this release possible and he continues to record performances at ISS events. The Cost is \$12 per CD and you can get yours from George when you see him at ISS events, via the web at www.cyber-songs.com or email him at gtrapani@optonline.net.