

February 2007

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## WRITER'S CHOICE: 'LITTLE BIRD' WINS

BY WALTER SARGENT

"Little Bird" By Maria Elaina DiFalco took the January Writer's Choice by a landslide. "Little Bird" is a tender song about a mother asking a bird in her window about a daughter she had given up for adoption. Members praised the song: "poignant, heartfelt, powerful, gorgeous, brought me to tears..."

No wonder "Little Bird" got more votes than all the other songs combined. It was an actual majority, as opposed to a plurality. However, what looks like an easy win on paper belies the fact that we heard many stellar musical accomplishments.

"While Birds Still Fly" by Suzanne Ernst took the runner-up spot, brilliant in both concept and execution. There is a broad consensus that the chorus soared.

The ISS wants to recognize two utterly superb first-timers, Ryan Mack and Randy Black. Ryan blew us away with "Green Fairy", an intimate telling of a man's struggle with absynthe. Randy blew us away with "Two Birds", a dreamy mood piece on love. Both songs have it all - concept, lyrics, melodies, delivery and an up-to-the-minute sound.

*Special Awards for January:*

Artist Development Award: "I'll Be Yours" by Andrew Kirschner for conspicuous artistic development and progress.

Master Procrastinator Award: "Don't Let Me Down" by A.J. Ross for writing an excellent song on the way to the meeting!

Best Entertainer Award: "Saturday Night" by Vince Gangi, a.k.a. "Slap Jackson." As anyone who was there can attest, the introduction was priceless.

Overall Musical Achievement Award (tie): "Still To This Day" by John Pagliarulo and "Motherland + Fatherland" by Bill Goldsmith. These guys are known for nailing a musical hook into every line and these songs were no exception.

Underrated Song of the Month (tie): "Letting Go" by Denise Romas and "Mother's Prayer" by Susan Davis-Stemp. I am sure these exquisite songs would've garnered more votes had they been presented earlier in the evening.

## Tedeschi Takes a Night Walk in Manhattan

ISS member Tony Tedeschi played a set at the 169 Bar in the Lower East Side of Manhattan in late January, opening the show with his signature song, "A Night Walk in Manhattan." Tony was accompanied by Doug Kwartler on lead guitar and Mike Lueci on drums. They played a tight five-song late-night set that had feet tapping and heads nodding. It was Tony's first time playing in the big city, and he was energized. It was a rocking performance that left the crowd wishing for more.

***Next ISS Workshop: March 5***

## ISS

### Director

Sonny Speed

### Webmaster

Walter Sargent

### Writing Coach

Mel Glazer

## Newsletter

### Editor

Sonny Speed

### Contributors

Walter Sargent

Tony Tedeschi

Suzanne Ernst

Dave Cook

Gerry Dantone

Sonny Meadows

Mike Svezia

Steve Robinson

Frank Gambino

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Next ISS workshop:

March 5

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[www.islandsongwriters.com](http://www.islandsongwriters.com)

## Who Played What

Here is the list of the performers and songs from last month's ISS workshop:

### Howard Pavane

Make A Wish

### Mike Svezia

Cruel Water/Calm Water

### Andrew Kirschner

I'll Be Yours

### Maria Elaina DiFalco

Little Bird

### Suzanne Ernst

Little Birds Still Fly

### David Bailey

For You

### John Pagliarulo

Still to this Day

### Rob Coffin

Tear

### Robert E. Lee

When I See You Again

### Tim Dillon

A Change in Plans

### A.J. Ross

Don't Let Me Down

### Ryan Mack

Green Fairy

### Bill Goldsmith

Motherland + Fatherland

### Vince Gangi

Saturday Night

### Guy Pezzulo

A Peace of the World

### Susan Davis Stemp

A Mother's Prayer

### Denise Romas

Letting Go

### Randy Black

Two Birds

Near You.

## Monthly Workshop

Test out your songs in front of a crowd by playing them for fellow musicians who will provide constructive feedback with the goal of helping you improve as a songwriter.

The ISS workshop takes place the first Monday of every month, except if it falls on a holiday, at Five Towns College, off Burrs Lane in Dix Hills. Run by ISS Director Sonny Speed, the workshop starts at 7:30 p.m.

Bring a guitar if you wish to perform your song live, or you may bring a

recording on CD or tape. A piano is available for those who write their songs at the keys.

Be sure to bring 25 copies of your lyric sheets so the other workshop attendees can follow along while listening to your song. It is much easier to provide constructive criticism when people can read the lyrics.

The ISS workshop is at the center of the organization's mission to help songwriters perfect their craft. Many performers on Long Island got their start at ISS.

## General Information

For general information about ISS or how to join the organization, contact ISS Director Sonny Speed at [mcspeed@optonline.net](mailto:mcspeed@optonline.net) or 631- 462-3300.

To submit items for publication in the newsletter, contact Pedro Pereira at [pedropereira@verizon.net](mailto:pedropereira@verizon.net).

Visit our web site at [www.islandsongwriters.org](http://www.islandsongwriters.org).