

THE SONGWRITER'S BEAT

The Songwriter's Beat
c/o The Cornelia Street Cafe
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<http://songwritersbeat.com>
<http://corneliastreetcafe.com>

SONGWRITER'S BEAT FESTIVAL 2007

ARTIST BIOS

(in alphabetical order)

JON ALBRINK is a New York City based singer/songwriter. His two CDs of original songs have garnered praise for their *"haunting melodies and arrangements"...* *"beautiful, soulful, intelligent music"...* *"perfect lyrics."* Jon has collaborated on songs with Jeff Franzel, Nikki Gregoroff, Amanda Homi, Phil Galdston and Danielia Cotton, among others. He performs regularly as a solo artist and with Amanda Homi's "Drumgirl" band.
<http://www.jonalbrink.com/>

ALLEN ALEXANDER Guitarist, composer and producer ALLEN ALEXANDER was born in Panama City, where he studied music at the Conservatorio Nacional and won the Manuel López National Guitar Competition. The following year, he relocated to New York City, continued his classical guitar studies at the Manhattan School of Music, and studied with guitar masters Carlos Barbosa-Lima, Manuel Barrueco, Ben Verdery and Sharon Isbin. From his earliest days Allen also wrote songs, and while working as a session guitarist he began working as a commercial producer. As a songwriter, Allen combines lyrical comment on daily life with rhythms and elements of rock, pop and romantic ballads. This year his tune "Si te interesa" was included on a CD compilation of promising ASCAP composers and is part of his recently finished collection of songs. In addition, Allen is executive producer for the production/sound design house Razorhead Music in New York City, with credits in national and international radio and TV campaigns for *Pepsi, Bacardi, Mitsubishi, Cingular, Hyundai, M&M, Snickers, Mountain Dew, Lifesavers*, and many others. An active voice-over artist, Allen's voice is currently heard in campaigns for *Chrysler, Verizon, Bud Light, Head & Shoulders, Chivas Regal, Heineken and the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)*. Allen currently performs in New York venues, co-writing and recently appeared in the series *Sonidos Acústicos de ASCAP*, presented in both Puerto Rico and New York.

CHRIS BELDEN is currently recording the follow-up to his first CD (Songs About Anything). With any luck, the new CD (Camouflage) will be available in the Fall. Meanwhile, he continues to write & perform his melancholy pop songs, often at the Cornelia St. Cafe.
<http://chrisbelden.com>

DENI BONET Lilith Fair artist, **DENI BONET** is a singer/songwriter and world-class electric violinist. She was an original cast member of National Public Radio's premier music show, MOUNTAIN STAGE and performed with Cyndi Lauper, REM, Sarah McLachlan, etc. before forming her own highly regarded

band. Deni quit the classical world to pursue a solo career because she hated wearing black and having to sit still! The Wall Street Journal recently described Deni's music as "*like Sheryl Crow meets the B52's*".
<http://www.denibonet.com>

TINA CERNERO "A return" is how TINA CERNERO describes her musical journey. This New York City resident and her deep soulful voice found an immediate home in clubs around the city. From her years of singing and acting in Off-Broadway productions to her tenure as a founding member of the band DOLLHOUSE, Cernero forged ahead to make a name for herself as a vocalist who can morph seamlessly into any musical genre. As of late, Cernero is best known for her soloist position in the Jerriese Johnson East Village Gospel Choir at Middle Collegiate Church on Second Avenue. But Tina Cernero's talents are not limited just to voice. An accomplished songwriter, she has published music in R&B, Jazz, Ambient, House and Rock. A session singer for years, her broad-based talents include a specialization in Middle Eastern vocals and keyboard programming, both of which can be heard on Integrity Music's ambient praise record, *Garment of Praise*, Kathy Shooster. "Post-modern Gospel: soul with a modern edge", is how one commentator described Cernero's latest work. With this heartfelt return to her Gospel roots, it's clear that she's bringing a rich growth and new breadth with her that, much like her song "Carry Me", is both fresh and memorable.

<http://www.myspace.com/tinacerneromusic>

TUEY CONNELL - Tuey Connell's soulful voice and accomplished guitar and banjo playing in his mix of Americana, gospel, roots, jazz standards and folk music make him a one of a kind. A Connecticut native reared in the jazz and rock clubs of Chicago, Tuey Connell is a protégé of the great jazz singer Mark Murphy but also draws upon the likes of Bill Withers, Johnny Hartman, Wes Montgomery and Bela Fleck, in addition to blues, swing and roots music, to create his unique, intoxicating sound. Connell is one of those rare, multi-faceted musicians like Chet Baker, Nat King Cole and Shirley Horn whose striking talent on an instrument is matched by their intuitive and intimate vocals. Not only does Connell sing sophisticated music, but he writes it, contributing three memorable songs to his 4th CD, *Under the Influence* (Minor Music). "One of a kind Connell delivers on promise." Chicago

<http://tueyconnell.com>

TOMAS DONCKER - legendary nyc producer/singer-songwriter/guitarist TOMAS DONCKER returns to the festival, this year he will be celebrating the release of his much anticipated "acoustic/soul" cd, "inside out". Tomas will perform with his quartet, (featuring camelia cabazard on vocals) as well as a few "special" guests.

<http://www.myspace.com/tomasdoncker>

MICHAEL FRACASSO - I grew up in the steel-mill town of Mingo Junction, Ohio. My parents were Italian immigrants and my Dad worked in the mill. I learned about music through listening to a.m. radio and the times we went to the Country Music Jamboree in Wheeling, W.Va., near my home on The Ohio River. Upon my arrival in New York, the first place I headed to was the Cornelia Street Cafe. Every Monday night in this Greenwich Village Cafe a songwriter exchange was held where you could only perform a new song. In the audience and on stage were some of New York's best songwriters of the new folk scene: Suzanne Vega, The Roches, Mark Johnson, Steve Forbert, etc. To get up in that small cafe was intimidating, but the exhilaration of playing is what kept me going. It was during this time that I published my first song, "Big Sister" that went to #11 on the Canadian charts and recorded a song for The Cornelia Street Songwriters Exchange album. Eventually the scene changed and I felt like I needed a to make a move. In 1990 I came to Austin, Texas with everything that would fit in the back of my Volkswagen Rabbit, which was mostly my guitars. In Austin, with the help of a lot of talented musicians and friends, I was able to record my first album, *Love & Trust* (1993) and organized my first national tour with Jimmy Lafave, David Halley, and Jo Carroll Pierce. I recorded *When I lived in the Wild* (1995) and the album was a critical success and followed it up with *World in a Drop of Water* (1998) and *Back to Oklahoma* (2001) both produced by Charlie Sexton. Also with the help of Charlie Sexton I wrote and recorded most of the music for the movie *Monster Hunter*. Around 2002 I started doing gigs around town

with Patty Griffin as my backup singer. She's featured on my next album Pocketful of Rain (2004 Texas Music Group) and has had me as her tour opener, most recently the Spring of 2006. My musical travels have taken me to many exotic and some not so exotic locals (read: sofas) and I've appeared on several national syndicated radio shows including World Café, Mountain Stage and Acoustic Café. I feel blessed to have this job and with the support of my fans, I hope to continue.

<http://michaelfracasso.com>

VALERIE GHENT - Singer-songwriter/producer/keyboardist **VALERIE GHENT** is a native downtown New Yorker with a strikingly powerful voice, piano chops to match and "*soul-stirring, uplifting songs full of vitality and joy*". Founder of The Songwriter's Beat and the nonprofit World Foundation for Music and Healing, Val is the recipient of multiple grants and awards, including the Betances Center's Paul Ramos Award for Service to the Arts. Valerie has written music for film, dance and theatre as well as released three critically acclaimed CD's on her record label, West Street Records: *Unstoppable* (1997), her father's *Songs for Children and All Their Friends* (1999) and the 9/11 benefit CD, *We'll Carry On* (2002). Musician and recording engineer with Songwriter's Hall of Fame inductees Ashford & Simpson since 1989, Val toured with Debbie Harry (Blondie) and composed music for two new off-off Broadway musicals, *The Hamlet Project* (2002) and *Betty and the Belrays* (2007) – both received rave reviews and sold-out performances. Val has run the successful acoustic songwriter's night, The Songwriter's Beat, since she founded it in 2000. A volunteer at the WTC site for nine months after 9/11, Val co-founded the World Foundation for Music and Healing and raised over \$650,000 for its *Feel the Music!* program, which brings music and creative self-expression to children and families affected by trauma and loss. As photographer and student of Chinese internal martial arts, over 500 of Valerie's photographs of martial arts master Gao Ji Wu are included in the 2007 book, "*Essentials of Ba Gua Zhang*". Valerie has performed, toured, recorded with *Ashford & Simpson*, *Deborah Harry*, *Dr. Maya Angelou*, *Nina Simone*, *Billy Preston*, *TM Stevens*, *Defunkt* and many other artists.

<http://valghent.com>

BILL GRADY is a Singer/Songwriter living in New York City and his debut album, "A Room Called Home" is a collection of his tunes both solo and with a band. The songs cover a myriad of styles - blending Soul, Folk, and Acoustic Pop. He has been compared to a variety of artists, including Billy Joel, Paul Simon, Ani DiFranco, Martin Sexton, Bob Dorough, Norah Jones, Ben Folds, Jack Johnson, Jamiroqui, and G. Love.

<http://www.billgrady.net>

<http://www.myspace.com/billgrady>

REBECCA HART - **Rebecca 'the female dave matthews' Hart** is a New York based actor and musician originally from New Jersey. Yeah, that's right. Born into a theatre family, RH has been in live theatre since before she could speak, and has been writing/playing music "out" for a slightly shorter time. She is a graduate of Brown University's Theatre department and a survivor of the Los Angeles independent music scene. Upcoming projects include a tour of Ireland in December and the role of "Prozak" in the **Jill Sobule/Elise Thoron** rock musical "Prozak & the Platypus" at Hartford Stage. RH tours regularly on the East and West coasts and in Ireland. She has just released her first full-length album, "Crash & Strum", produced by Benjy King.

Visit <http://www.rebeccahart.net> for album reviews, tour dates, and more.

HELEN HOOKE's musical career has taken her through classical, pop, rock, country, bluegrass, jazz, Scottish and new age music. Known in music circles for superb fiddle playing, songwriting, guitar and vocals, she has released 4 albums of original music on Montana Blake Records. Her groundbreaking all-female band **The Deadly Nightshade** released two albums on RCA records produced by Felix Cavalieri and Charlie Callello (supporting musicians included Steve Gadd, David Sanborn, Leslie West, the Brecker Brothers and Howard Johnson), was influential in the musical arena, and became a seminal band for the women's movement. She has toured and recorded for artists including Deborah Harry and **Blondie**; Roma Baran and **Local Tomatoes**; Gretchen Langheld's **House Afire**; **Strange Cave**, led by

James Mastro; **Valentine Smith**; and **Okra All-Stars**, featuring Dave Schramm and Jeb Loy Nichols. She has performed on, and written and recorded music for, **Sesame Street**. Helen currently fronts the all-woman band **HoneySpots** and performs her original music with smaller ensembles.

db leonard is a shot of adrenaline to a listless industry. he has re-invented music and made it his own creation.' songwriter's monthly... performing brand new material from his new beast ep, due out in february. joined by long time compadre jon frederick on upright bass. db will be performing with jezebel, a 1932 acoustic parlor guitar. 'try to imagine dylan embodied in the spirit of joe jackson.' boston globe.
<http://www.dbleonard.com>

U.E. LYNCH started his musical career at the ripe old age of six by joining the St. Rose of Lima boys choir after the choir director heard a bunch of children singing and asked, "Which one of you has that great voice?" He thought to himself, "Surely this man knows talent when he sees it!", and raised his hand. The rest is history. In his teen years he shed the restraints of traditional church music and joined the legendary teen rock band Paradox as drummer/front man. Then in the late eighties and nineties he shed his drumsticks for a guitar and fronted the greatest unknown band of all time....Threshold. More recently he's gotten back to his roots and stripped it all down to just him and his guitar, providing a sound of an acoustic singer/songwriter ready to break out into a full band at any moment. Aside from his pending major record deal and numerous arena gigs he can be heard on the "We'll Cary On" CD.

MICHAL (w/ Whitney Nichole) Emmy winning composer and songwriter **MICHAL** was born in Israel and raised in New York City. Discovered at 13 on the anti-folk scene, she signed to Columbia Records at 17. She has released three CDs of original music, two on Columbia: *Sky with Stars* (2000) and *Coma* (2002), and her latest effort, a jazz record called *Desireless* (2006) was released on the indie label Shorebreak. She is a classically trained pianist and self-taught guitar player. A veteran of SXSW, CMJ and the New York Anti-Folk Fest, Michal has also graced the stage at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and most of the clubs in lower Manhattan. She is a composer for *One Life To Live* on ABC, and most recently she wrote three of the songs on the CD *One Life to Live "Prom Night the Musical,"* which is available on I-tunes. She graduated Yale University Cum Laude. Following graduation she toured the world with Yale's all-senior, all-female a cappella group, *Whim n' Rhythm*, a group which also included Whitney Nichole. She is currently attending Columbia Law School.
<http://www.michalmusic.com>,

ROBERT MORSBERGER is a composer, songwriter, arranger and performer. In addition to his own records, his recent credits include *Chiara Civello*, *Marshall Crenshaw*, *Jules Shear*, *The Roches* and *Loudon Wainwright III*. He is composer for the PBS series *NOVAscienceNOW*.
<http://www.robmorsberger.com/>

ROBERTO POVEDA is without a doubt a performer with the unique ability of reaching deep down into his Cuban roots, and deliver Soulful, Eclectic, and Hypnotizing songs which he both writes and performs with the passion of a true artist. Poveda is a performer who has wandered with his guitar from one venue to another over the past few years, building an audience of loyal followers. Poveda's unique approach in combining the various Cuban music forms of Son, Bolero, Rumba, & Timba, with Jazz, R & B, and Rap has resulted in a sound all his own. Following in the steps of his grandfather, a Cuban Trobadour in the traditional vein, Poveda joined Havana's Nueva Trova movement, maturing musically among a new generation of Cuban singer/songwriters. In 1989, Poveda moved to Colombia, where he starred in Soap Operas, and in 1997 he relocated to Miami with a publishing deal with Peer Music. Commissioned to write the kind of catchy pop that could be recorded by Latin stars and hit the charts. (His brother, Donato, is one such Latin hitmaker). His first U.S. album - *Son Electrico*, takes you beyond boundaries rarely heard or experienced. *Son Electrico* resonates with tremendous feeling delivered by Povedas rum-on-the-rocks vocals and genuine playing. *Son Electrico* features 10 tracks, all written by Poveda or co-written with other artists, including Colombian singer / songwriter Juanes.
<http://myspace.com/robertopoveda>

PATTI ROTHBERG is a native New Yorker. Patti's professional career in music started in a New York City subway tunnel connecting the 1 and 9 trains to the F train. Patti busked in the subway for fun and a bit of money, but couldn't have predicted the exposure this gave her. Patti was swept along by the enthusiasm and found herself signed to EMI America. In 1996 Patti recorded her first album, "**Between the 1 and the 9**", named after her preferred busking location and decorated with art from her senior college project. Soon Patti was appearing on Leno and Letterman, had videos on MTV and toured with acts like *The Black Crowes*, *Chris Isaak*, *The Wallflowers*, and *Paul Westerberg*. "Between The One And The Nine" sold over 250,000 domestically and over 200,000 in Europe and Japan. The single "Inside" reached #32 on the Billboard Pop Charts. Just as Patti's career was rising, EMI America shut down, leaving Patti as an independent artist. In September 1997, Patti met producer Freddie Katz with whom she connected instantly. They've since produced many recordings resulting in her best album to date, entitled **Double Standards**. Patti is currently looking forward to touring in support "Double Standards" which will be released in February 2008
<http://pattirothberg.com>

THERESA SAREO is a popular NY singer/songwriter who has written and released three original CDs, and has collaborated with diverse celebrities such as *Kelly Ripa*, *Blood Sweat and Tears* and *Dr. M. Scott Peck*. She has appeared in national publications and on world-wide television programs including New York Magazine and Larry King Live. She is also a sought-after motivational and public speaker who recently returned from singing a political song for change she wrote for Hillary Clinton in Washington, D.C.
www.theresasareo.com
www.myspace.com/theresasareo

BAR SCOTT - "Bar Scott creates Beauty". That's how one presenter introduced Bar at a recent concert, and it pretty much sums up Bar's intention as an artist as well as the outcome of her musical expression. An independent artist who "sings because she cannot NOT sing", Bar has recorded 6 full-length CDs of original material and 3 of cover songs. She has performed live with many musicians including *Ian Anderson*, *Donald Fagen*, *Phoebe Snow*, *Beth Nielsen-Chapman*, *Mindy Jostyn* and *Peter Schickele*. She's also recorded with *Howard Shore*, *Tony Levin*, *Jerry Marotta*, *David Sancious*, *Clifford Carter* and the string quartet known as *Ethel*. She's captivated audiences in clubs, coffeehouses and house concerts as well as in Cathedrals, 3000-seat theatres and music festivals around the northeast. She has been an ASCAP Special Awards winner for 9 consecutive years.
www.barscott.com

JODI SHAW - Poet/performer **Jodi Shaw** is possessed by a distinctive voice, characterized by a certain "delicate toughness" one finds in such performers as Suzanne Vega or Dar Williams. Influenced heavily by language, feeling, and myth, Jodi's heroes include such artists as Elliott Smith and Tori Amos. She is one of this year's recipients of the Abe Olman Scholarship, awarded annually by the Songwriters Hall of Fame for excellence in songwriting. She is a regular performer on the platforms of the New York City subway, where she sings for "the best audience in the world." She lives in Brooklyn.
<http://jodishaw.com>

SPARLHA SWA is a velvetine clash of impeccable vocals and haunting modal chords. You will find her performing mostly solo on guitar, and sometimes accompanied by Shree Shyam Das, master of bass and percussion. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, she has lived in 8 states and 3 countries. Her music will call to mind Sade, Billie Holiday, Joni Mitchell, Astrud Gilberto, Ravi Shankar, and Miriam Makeba. Notable musical exploits include having signed a record deal in Japan with the label "Village Again" for In The Distance, 2 songs licensed (Love Addiction, Too Late) to the TV show Girlfriends, and having her music video aired on BETJ globally for 6 months in 2006. She has written score music for several Indie films, including the award winning short "Pariah". Sparlha has opened for or/shared the stage with *Bilal*, *Fertile Ground (Jazz Cafe)*, *DJ Giles Petersen*, *Wumni*, *Malcolm Jamal Warner*, *Zion I*, *Tamar Kali*, *N'Dea*

Davenport, Anthony David, Imani Uzuri, Angela Johnson, Maya Azucena, Martin Luther, Junior Kelly, Slim Kid (Pharcyde).

<http://www.sparlhaswa.com>

<http://www.myspace.com/sparlhaswa>

DAVE TUTIN (with Craig Snyder, guitar; Mark Egan, bass) - There was a time in the life of this quiet, British-born lyricist, singer and guitarist when all he could imagine doing was making music. Then he turned his back on it all for almost 25 years. A rapidly growing group of fans is glad he finally came back to his first love. Listen to his double CD, *Raised In Vain/Afterthought*, and you hear the lyrical depth and deceptively simple music that prompted one reviewer to write "These are the kind of songs that really sneak up on you. At first you're impressed by the craftsmanship of the songwriting and the poetry of the thoughtful, sometimes poignant lyrics. But before you know it, you're hooked. The melodies stick in your head and you find you're singing them to yourself all day long."

<http://daveutin.com>

BILL WASHER grew up in Rochester, N.Y. where he began studying guitar at the age of 13 with Donald Ames. After attending the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Bill worked in the Boston stage production of "Hair", and went on the road with tenor saxophonist Joe Henderson. In 1973 Bill moved to New York to play guitar with the Joffrey Ballet Company and began free-lance work recording on record albums, movies, jingles, etc. as well as live performances, both in New York and on the road. In 1982 his first record album, on which he composed and arranged all of the selections was released on the Japanese "Arista" label. Bill has recorded and/or performed with: *Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston, Liza Minnelli, Stan Getz, Elvin Jones, Gato Barbieri, Ray Barreto, Teruo Nakamura, Barry Miles, Curtis Fuller, Manu Dibango, Bob Mintzer, Bernard Purdie, Jimmy Cliff, Richie Havens, Angie Bofill, Frank Sinatra, Michael Urbaniak, Marlena Shaw, Lenny White, Stanley Clarke, Ivan Lins*, and others. He has done numerous Broadway shows including *West Side Story, Grease, Bring Back Birdie, Leader of the Pack, Starlight Express, Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat, Dreamgirls, Bloodbrothers, 42nd Street, The Life, Footloose, The Lion King, Avenue Q*, and is currently working with *Liza Minnelli* and singers/songwriters *Ashford and Simpson*. Bill also teaches Jazz Guitar at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

<http://billwasher.com>

EMILY ZUZIK - Granddaughter of a trucker and a coal miner, Emily Zuzik hails from the Southwestern Pennsylvania town of Greensburg. Releasing her second album, *You Had Me At Goodbye*, in September 2006, Emily received rave reviews in the *Village Voice* and *San Francisco Chronicle*. Additionally, Emily is a proud Epiphone Guitars endorsed artist and appears in its internationally distributed 2005 calendar along side such other great women artists as Joan Osborn and Gretchen Wilson. She has shared the shows with such performers as Norah Jones, The Silos, Jolie Holland and 80s teen pop icon Tiffany. In the past year, Emily has toured the UK in fall 2006 and April 2007. She returns to the road this August with Benji Rogers of Marwood, her cowrite collaborator, for a 20-day tour. You can also see Emily, nationally, as the Bond girl on the cover of the Penguin Paperback Reissue of James Bond's *Thunderball*. "*Emily Zuzik's voice ranges from a sweet and alluring croon to a low growl that would charm even the most world-weary.*" --*Time Out New York*

www.emilyzuzik.com

www.myspace.com/emilyzuzik