

THE SONGWRITER'S BEAT

The Songwriter's Beat
c/o The Cornelia Street Cafe
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<http://songwritersbeat.com>
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SONGWRITER'S BEAT FESTIVAL 2008

ARTIST BIOS

(in alphabetical order)

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 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. In 2007 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. As executive producer for Razorhead Music in New York City, Allen's credits include *Pepsi, Bacardi, Mitsubishi, Cingular, Hyundai, M&M, Snickers, Mountain Dew, Lifesavers*, and many others. An active voice-over artist, Allen's voice can be 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.

MARC BLACK is a colorful singer/songwriter and an accomplished fingerstyle guitarist. Most of his writing is personal in nature...songs to family members, friends and town characters. Last Fall, he made international news (33,000 hits on youtube) with a song lambasting Martha Stewart for attempting to trademark his town's name; his ritual of visiting his local coffee shop just recently inspired a tune that's been getting lots of attention, 'Ooh, I Love My Coffee'. And last year, Marc completed a CD/film project with songs based on the poetry of a stroke survivor who woke up from a 21 day coma...only after his doctors had pulled life support! The 'Stroke of Genius' CD includes Art Garfunkel, John Sebastian, Steve Gadd, among others. He performed these songs at the Sundance Film Festival. Black's recording credits include collaborations with Richie Havens, the theme music for the New York Mets in 1988-90, and scoring for 'Sex & The City'. His albums have come out on the RCA, GRP, Jubilee, ESP, and the Suma labels. As Paul Winter put it, "*His songs are great and the singing is superb.*"

<http://marcblack.com>
<http://myspace.com/marcblack>

She's cool, with a frankness and roughness of a fiercely independent woman, quick with a self-deprecating joke, full of anecdotes to warm up her audience – by all appearances, normal like you and me. It's when she opens her mouth to sing that you fall back into your seat, with the sound of her honeyed, lush vocals wrapping around you...completely captivated. It's then you realize there's nothing normal about her— **SHELLY BHUSHAN** is exceptional. The Texas native has been belting her soulful heart out practically since birth. She's sung everything from choral to swing, funk to classical, but always wanted to do her own thing. She moved to New York City to front a soul-rock act, and when the band broke up that opportunity came. In this world of over-produced recycled pop singles it's rare to find an artist who combines great songwriting with vocal power and emotion. Enter Shelly Bhushan: she sings emotions her audience has felt before; you can see her transform them from mere listeners to kindred spirits. Shelly's first full length CD, "Picking Daisies," is a sweet mix of influences; you can hear the retro-funk of Stevie Wonder, the guilty pleasures of a pop riff, the grit of her Texas roots that make a sound all her own. Shelly Bhushan is a rare, exceptional flower, and we have the divine pleasure of watching her as she blossoms -- and becomes so beautifully undone.

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

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 has performed with Cyndi Lauper, REM, Sarah McLachlan, Warren Zevon, Robyn Hitchcock, 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*". Check out her fabulous new CD, "LAST GIRL ON EARTH".

<http://www.denibonet.com>

CLAYTON BRYANT is no stranger to the music scene. Clayton has been performing, recording and touring for over 16 years. He was a featured Vocalist for The British Rock Symphony Tour 1998 and returned in 2000 with his Legendary Mother "Darlene Love". Clayton has also performed for VH-1's Save The Music Foundation For Music Education. "*Clayton shows us things in his throat we didn't know he had*" says Valerie Simpson. Clayton can currently be seen recording and touring with *Darlene Love, Ashford & Simpson, NYCHA Youth Choir* and as a member of *Elder Harry Thompson's "Divine Favour"*. His work has led his multi-octave range to record with Ashford & Simpson on Multi-Grammy Winner *Ralph MacDonald's* new cd "*Mixty Motions*", *Ashford & Simpson's Live Concert Dvd, due in 2008*". Clayton is currently working on his Debut album "*HizStory*"

<http://myspace.com/claytonbryant>

SAL CASABIANCA just released his 4th CD called *Shell Games*. He has been playing guitar and writing songs for over 30 years. Over the years he has played with many bands but felt it was easier to go solo. Music is his passion and now only writes songs he can live with. He tries and does local gigs and is always writing and playing for the joy and process more than anything else. He enjoys recording and releases records every few years.

<http://www.salcasabianca.com>

TINA CERNERO "Return", this word is described in the English dictionary as: "to go and then come back". Thus describing the epitome of Tina Cernero's journey-filled venture in the field of music. The road has been circular, leading her back to the first love, singing in the church. "*I started off singing in the church and now here I am again*", states Tina. As a soloist, she has honored this call and has accepted residence on the Middle Church Jerriese Johnson Gospel Choir, recently appearing with them on the Today Show and for a taping of Sunday Night Project, a British television comedy show which featured Mark Ronson as guest host. Tina brings a broad based talent to the platform. Her music has been described as "*soul, with a modern edge*", as unique as her sound, as simple as her passion. Tina was excited to be nominated in the category of INSPIRATIONAL Artist of the Year, in the 3rd annual "Momentum Awards" given by IndieHeaven.com this past March. As an accomplished singer/songwriter, Tina Cernero has published many elements of music, some of which can be heard on Integrity Music's, Garment of Praise, Kathy Shooster. She has worked alongside world-renowned artists. "*I first knew Tina was a world-class artist when she did some production work for me a few years back. Intelligent, thoughtful and diverse—her music has always been forward thinking and emotional*", exclaims acclaimed singer/songwriter, Margaret Becker. With this all in place, Tina lives expecting a miracle – Whether you see her in person or listen on CD, the lyrical and musical expression of Tina Cernero's music will lead you to expect the same!

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

Legendary nyc producer/singer-songwriter/guitarist **TOMAS DONCKER** and percussionist **DANIEL SADOWNICK** will be premiering selections from their upcoming release (August 2008) "Small world". It is a collection of sultry and socially concious songs with a world/groovysexmusic vibe. Featuring the single "Children of Darfur". Camilia Qabazard will also be performing on vocals.

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

DUSTY - RECIPE FOR DUSTY: Start with three veteran songstresses blending close harmonies and vocal styles to classic popular songs. Add their country-swing backing band and mix in a touch of Island reggae, and you have the recipe for DUSTY. DUSTY'S voices are: Deborah Berg, Sherryl Marshall, and Lesley Miller.

Deborah Berg and her musical partner Julian Marshall recorded three albums as "Eye to Eye," a sophisticated pop duo with strong contemporary influences. Solo, Deborah self-produced the album "*Places Where I Dream*" in 1999. Deborah Berg has worked with such talented musicians as Jeff Porcaro, Rick Derringer, Elliott Randall, Jim Keltner, Timothy B. Schmit, Donald Fagen, Walter Becker, Larry Carlton, The Uptown Horns, Catherine Russell, and Soozie Tyrell.

Sherryl Marshall is a New York singer who has worn many musical hats in her career. She has worked with Gloria Gaynor, Leslie Gore, Darlene Love, Chubby Checker, Peter Wolf, Southside Johnny, Johnny Rivers, Lou Gramm of Foreigner, Black 47, Rupaul, Joni Mitchell, and a host of others. She was a regular member of the Buster Poindexter show for ten years and is a member of the New York Singers Collective.

Lesley Miller has been a studio singer in New York City recording studios for 30+ years. She was also in a trio with Valerie Simpson and Toni Wine, singing on hundreds of albums, including Burt Bacharach, Blood Sweat and Tears, and James Brown. She's voiced thousands of jingles, most notably "*State Farm is There*" and "*Luvs.*" Lesley also created a children's CD with music partner Denis Martin, named, "*Nanna Unplugged*".

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

Artist and singer-songwriter **VALERIE GHENT** chose an apt title for her first CD: *Unstoppable*. This extraordinary native NYC musician regularly wows audiences with her emotive, evocative voice, soulful piano style and writes "*soul-stirring, uplifting songs full of vitality and joy*". She has received multiple awards, grants and commissions including the Betances Award for Service to the Arts, released 3 CD's on her own label, is a premiere keyboardist/vocalist/engineer (performing/recording with legends Ashford & Simpson since 1989), founded and directs the nonprofit World Foundation for Music and Healing and its *Feel the Music!* program, toured the world with Debbie Harry (Blondie), wrote and performed music for two acclaimed off-off Broadway musicals, photographed martial arts master Gao Ji Wu for a book on Ba Gua Zhang, has been interviewed for 3 films including 'The Ballad of Greenwich Village' and has supported the creative process of performing songwriters since 2000 when she founded one of NYC's most popular songwriters' nights, **THE SONGWRITER'S BEAT**. Since its founding, Val has encouraged over 250 songwriters to try out new material and organized a wide variety of music events, including *Political Songs of Change*, *Only Love Songs*, and the *Songwriter's Beat Festival* each July. Valerie can be seen in the upcoming "*Ashford & Simpson Live at Feinstein's*" DVD, is currently in preproduction for her next CD and is delighted to be producing the 4th annual Songwriter's Beat Festival.

<http://valghent.com>

<http://songwritersbeat.com>

DAVID GOLDMAN is a world-traveled multilingual singer, songwriter and producer who has performed extensively in the New York area. His diverse repertoire and highly acclaimed CD "*Summer With Juliet*" encompasses Blues, Folk, Country, Celtic-influenced, Latin, Italian and Hindustani music and has received airplay on over 140 radio stations. His songs have garnered awards from Billboard Magazine, ASCAP, Great American Song Contest, John Lennon Songwriting Contest and the New Song Festival. He has signed three publishing deals to promote his music to film and television, and performed at The Bitter End, Pleasantville Music Festival, Rockwood Music Hall, Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill, amongst other New York-area venues. He recently had a singing role in the NY International Fringe Festival new musical "*John Goldfarb Please Come Home*," book by William Blatty (The Exorcist) and music by the composers of "*Song of Singapore*." A clip of one of David's songs was placed on E-TV's Live countdown to the Academy Awards; he is currently in pre-production for his next CD.

<http://www.davidgoldman.com>

<http://myspace.com/davidgoldmanworldwavemusic>

BILL GRADY - His songs are scenes sung as if in conversation, or within a candle lit room, or the drunken party after everyone who is getting laid has taken off for escapades both real and imagined, holding you, the listener, personally responsible for how the song unfolds; (*I'd say I'm sorry to go but I've been taken for granted and I just can't abide by this treatment no more / Cuz I feel my life is much more than just a function of fashion and I'm tired of paradin' this way 'cross your runway floor...*).

www.billgrady.net

Acclaimed Boston singer-songwriter **THEA HOPKINS** calls her music American Short Story Folk: concise, striking narratives, they tell of American romance and tragedy in modern terms. She is as inspired by great short story writers as she is by songwriters. Her new Americana/Folk

CD, "Chickasaw", released in late 2007, has reached the U.S. Folk- DJ list of Top Albums, and is also being played on Americana and folk radio programs in Europe. Folk icons Peter, Paul & Mary, (who recorded her song "Jesus Is On The Wire" in 2004) described Hopkins as "one of the most literate, poetic and emotionally moving of the new singer-songwriters to arrive on the scene in the last few years".

<http://theahopkins.com>

GRAYSON HUGH is a critically-acclaimed singer/songwriter who has been called "one of the most exciting newcomers in the last decade" by Leonard Pitts, Jr. (Miami Herald Tribune, Nov. 18, 1992). His first CD, 1988's "Blind To Reason" (RCA) went gold in the U.S. and Australia. His 1992 MCA release "Road To Freedom", was hailed as one of that year's top-ten releases by Billboard Magazine. His songs (from both records) have appeared in the films "Thelma & Louise", "Fried Green Tomatoes" and "True Love". Since then, he has taught songwriting at Berklee College Of Music in Boston, written a book of poetry and was commissioned to compose several modern dance scores, notably for Prometheus Dance and Bennett Dance Company, both of Cambridge, Mass. This Fall, Grayson will be releasing "An American Record" on his own Waccamaw Label, his first record in fifteen years. He is also getting married to his long-time back-up singer and soul-mate Polly Messer, who will be performing with him Monday night, July 21st.

DB LEONARD is a Singer and Parlor Guitar Player and Writer of Tall Tales. After a long stint in New York City, he ditched his Vantage Electric for Jezebel, a 1932 Parlor Guitar handed over in a strange twist, by one of his childhood heroes, Kurt Smith, (Tears for Fears) (for three hundred dollars). Like all bewitched guitars of her standing, Jezebel opened up some doors (and burned some others). "Local light Db Leonard creates a spare, minimalist world of few notes and words but many meanings. The production has a Daniel Lanois-esque dreamy, transparent tone, and Leonard's capable voice has an uncanny ability to sing as if he was singing just to you in a soothing, breathy whisper." -David Malachowski.
Appearing Solo with Jezebel.

<http://www.dbleonard.com>

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

NYC Singer-songwriter **KATI MAC** has released 4 of her own CD's, performed with Meat Loaf, Sting, Nona Hendryx, and sung on many commercials. She is really looking forward to performing at The Songwriter's Beat Festival. She will have a few surprise guests that night. They don't even know about it yet!

<http://katimac.com>

With a soulful blend of R&B and pop, New York based singer/songwriter **KHALIL MADYUN** delivers music that has a smooth warm sound, the integrity of old school R & B and the freshness of today. Performing on piano and guitar, Khalil will weave you into his world with catchy lyrics and melodies that stay in your head. John Book from okayplayer.com says in his review of Khalil's self-titled debut EP, "...think of the best elements of Babyface, Me'Shell Ndge Ocello, and Christopher Cross... he's a songwriter whose songs could become this generation's Stevie Wonder or Bernie Taupin. Originally from Boston, Khalil's songwriting awards began in high school while attending Berklee's 5 - week summer program, with the song, "I Do". More recently, his song, "How Many Ways", is featured on the 2005 compilation CD, The Best of The Songwriter's Hall of Fame New Writer's Showcase Vol.3, and the song "Where Did Our Love Go"

was showcased during the Pop Rock Listening Session at the 2006 "I Create Music" ASCAP EXPO.

<http://khalilmadyun.com>

Last at the songwriter's beat during a blizzard without her partner Tomas, **KYRA GAUNT** is delighted to return to a "warmer" audience. A recent reviewer wrote of music: "*A flawless and ingenious combining of lyrics and composition... just the right mix of vulnerability and guts. It is just a matter of time before Kyra Gaunt's [debut CD] "Be the True Revolution" enters the hearts and ears of folks awaiting a gloriously innovative sound.*" (Sanviki Chapman/Another Way Enterprises™). As you'll hear her cognac voice of three-and-a-half octaves reveals a percussive sensibility, improvisational chops, and classical training. Along with her co-producer, songwriting partner, and guitarist Tomás Doncker, she has performed at The Supper Club, Rose in Williamsburg, the Nuyorican Poets Café, Crash Mansion since moving to NY in 2002 and last August she had her debut at Joe's Pub. Featuring the remarkable Gregoire Maret on harmonica, her debut CD was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream before a 12 year detour studying classical voice. Kyra always dreamt of singing R&B, living in NY, and becoming a recording artist. Her CD, now available on iTunes and CDBaby, includes the single "*Black Can Be Me*" written after Kyra met her birth father for the first time back in 2002. The poetry and lyrics allude to another facet of Kyra's career - her scholarship on black girls' musical games. She is a professor of cultural anthropology and black music studies at Baruch College and her book *The Games Black Girls Play: Learning the Ropes from Double-Dutch to Hip-Hop* (2006), co-won the 2007 Merriam Prize for most outstanding book in ethnomusicology. Tonight, Kyra shares an acoustic set of voice and guitar and a few new songs.

<http://myspace.com/kyraocity>
<http://kyraocity.com>.

STEVE NORTHEAST

<http://stevenortheast.com>

KATHLEEN PEMBLE is a relative new-comer to the singer-songwriter field, but since she made up her mind to start playing professionally six years ago, a noteworthy amount has been achieved:

- Winner of the New York City Song Slam
- "*Ms. Pemble started singing, and the ambient noise in the cafe disappeared as if by magic.*" – The New York Times
- "*Winning melodies in the folk-pop vein delivered with strong, supple vocals made Ms. Pemble's music compelling.*" -The New York Times
- ...featured artist on WFUV's 'New Music Mondays'.
- ..."*superbly crafted compositions.*" John Platt WFUV

<http://kathleenpemble.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 Poveda's 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 was released in February 2008.

<http://pattirothberg.com>

NIKKI SHANNON began playing piano at the age of 5 and hasn't looked back since. Whether it's formal training at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC, performing in the Brevard Symphony Orchestra (piano & trombone), or playing in the confines of a smoke-filled nightclub, Nikki has devoted her life to music. She began writing original music at age 15 and finally landed in New York on a whim in December 2002. Having nowhere else to go, she'd wander the streets in search of piano bars that would let her play until closing, sleeping in their basements, the backs of cabs or the couches of random strangers. She's been mugged, homeless, jobless and hungry...and those were the good days. But it's those extremes that Nikki taps into while writing her songs and channels while performing. In early 2008, Nikki will release her debut CD, "*She Is Me*". The song "*She Is Me*" was already featured in an episode of *Six Degrees* on ABC. Her future is much brighter than her past, but Nikki wouldn't change a thing. It's all she knows - Lightning in and out of the bottle.

<http://myspace.com/nikkishannon>

SPARLHA SWA is an internationally touring singer-songwriter (Canada, UK, Paris, Netherlands, Caribbean, Japan, and Hawaii). Her debut album "*In The Distance*" ('04) was distributed in Japan, her music video aired on BETJ for 6 months in '06, and her songs have

been placed on TV (Girlfriends) and in several indie films. Sparlha has headlined packed shows at major venues including the Blue Note (NYC), The Cotton Club (Tokyo), and the Jazz Café (London). Her music is a velvet clash of impeccable vocals and haunting modal chords. Stunning, tender, and wise, her songs speak directly to the human spirit. She is currently working on her second album in NYC.

<http://www.sparlhaswa.com>

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

Growing up in New York to parents with diverse cultural backgrounds, **CHLOE TEMTCHINE** ventured out on her own at the ripe age of 13 to explore all the world had to offer her. From her escapades on the streets of Spanish Harlem to singing in cafes on the stepping stones of Barcelona, Chloe found her path in life writing about real life issues she has lived through and that resonate with all of us. Her connection to music deepened as she gained an appreciation of 70s soul, R&B, hip-hop and world music at the Berklee School of music. By the time she was in her late teens, Chloe had come full circle and was ready to hone her musical career.

Chloe has worked with a diverse group of writers and producers including Guy Roche (Christina Aguilera), Marc Nelkin (Corinne Bailey Rae), David Gamson (Meshell Ndegeocello), Oliver Leiber (Aretha Franklin), Toby Gad (Fergie), Andy Marvel (Jessica Simpson), Cliff Goldmacher, David Choi, Duncan Sheik, Brian Lapin (Black Eyed Peas), Dave Wilder and Jeremy Ruzumna (Macy Gray). Chloe's song "Daydream" was featured in an episode of NBC Universals Kojak which airs on the USA Network. She has also written and recorded with hot mew producer Devo Springsteen whose talents were on display on John Legends debut album and on Kanye West's Grammy winning song "Diamonds from Sierra Leone".

[www.http://myspace.com/chloetemtchine](http://myspace.com/chloetemtchine)

[www.http://youtube.com/chloetemtchine](http://youtube.com/chloetemtchine)

DAVE TUTIN - 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://davetutin.com>

ROY ZIMMERMAN

Roy Zimmerman has been writing satirical songs for twenty years. He's shared the stage with George Carlin, Ellen Degeneres, Arlo Guthrie, Bill Maher, Peter and Paul (but not Mary), Kate Clinton, Bill Clinton and Paul Krassner. He's played a series of shows swapping songs with The Pixies' Frank Black. Zimmerman founded and wrote all the material for the satirical folk quartet The Foremen, who recorded for Warner Reprise throughout the Nineties. As a solo artist, he's released five albums. His songs are heard regularly on NPR, PRI, Air America and Sirius Radio. A video of Roy's performance of his song "Creation Science 101" made the front page of YouTube recently and garnered over 780,000 views, and 13,000 comments, many of them coherent.

<http://royzimmerman.com>