

**RISA history posts are in reverse chronicle order.  
Scroll to the bottom to see the historical posts from the beginning.**

Thursday, 03 May 2018

**There is change in the air...**      Written by Chuck Williams



There is change in the air, spring has sprung and it is time for the Rhode Island Songwriters Association's Annual Membership Meeting and Election.

Nine years ago come June, at the Annual Member meeting, John Fuzek, Co-Chair of RISA, acknowledged that the Association needed to be better organized in order to create programs to better serve members of the Rhode Island Songwriting Community and in turn the Region's music community as well.

One year later, at the June 2010 RISA Annual all member meeting, the thirteen member committee presented its work which included new by-laws, a new website and a new direction with plans for both educational and performance oriented initiatives. That team, as well as those that followed, worked towards and achieved the goals that revitalized RISA.

Just as slowly as spring has sprung many on the original board have moved on and changed their direction. We have but four of the original thirteen board officers, but as some left, new members stepped up and have filled the needs of the organization quite nicely.

It is now I who will 'turn and face the change' (Ch-ch-changes) and will step down from the role of president. Quite honestly it was three years ago that I gave the board a one year notice...but I hedged on that...and just finished my last term on 4/30/18. There are a few projects I am still involved in and I will always be here for questions or advice. I am staying on board through the Annual Meeting on 5/12 at the Mediator Stage where we will elect new members with new ideas, with new energy to carry on the RISA mission.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and for your support over the years. I am confident that the current board along with a few new additions will continue the strong tradition that the Rhode Island Songwriters Association has carried on since 1993!

In Harmony,  
Chuck Williams

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Friday, 16 February 2018

**RISA Songwriting Workshop with Susan Cattaneo**      Written by Chuck Williams

RISA will be holding a Songwriting Workshop by Berklee Professor Susan Cattaneo on March 11th, 2018. The workshop will cover a lot of ground in a 4 hour presentation that promises to be a great experience no matter what genre you write for.

Songwriting Workshop  
Sunday, March 11, 2018  
From 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Mediator Stage  
50 Rounds Ave.  
Providence, RI

RISA Members : FREE  
GUESTS : \$20

Susan Cattaneo is one of Boston's most respected singer-songwriters. A powerful singer and sophisticated writer, she combines vivid storytelling with a modern songwriter's spin. Respectful of tradition but not bound by it, she blends rock, folk, and blues with a healthy dose of country. Call it New England Americana with a twang.

Susan says, "I've been teaching at Berklee College of Music for almost 14 years, and what I teach can't make you famous or get you a record or publishing deal (if you even need one these days). What I teach IS going to make you a better songwriter. I believe in the craft behind the song. What are elements that one has at their fingertips that will help the song be all it can be? I think that when you develop craft as a songwriter, not only are you able to express yourself musically and lyrically in more effective ways, but you're able to work through some of the harder aspects of songwriting like the dreaded writer's block or second verse hell or losing inspiration, just to name a few. There are techniques that you can learn to perfect that will force your Muse to come to you, even if she's been avoiding you for days. You'll feel inspired by your environment, and it will speak to you in creative ways. Once inspired, these songwriting tools will help you harness these creative thoughts and wrangle them into song form".

Please Contact:

Otismusic@comcast.net to save a seat!

Pizza and Drinks will be provided for the break.

#### MISSION:

To encourage, foster and conduct the art and craft of original lyrical and musical composition; provide educational programs, critique sessions and performance opportunities for all artistic styles; and support open collaboration within the RISA community.

In Harmony,  
RISA Board of Directors

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Thursday, 08 February 2018

#### **NEW Songwriter in the Round Announcement.**

Written by Chuck Williams

RISA will be sponsoring a new Songwriters In the Round monthly show at the Hearing Room at 119 Chelmsford Street in Lowell, MA. The room has evolved into a creative cooperative with a mission of providing space for the production and consumption of all art forms of creative expression. Caelin and Mark have built a nice community of artists.

<https://www.hearingroom.net/>

The new Sitr will be hosted by RISA Member Aaron Tornberg. Aaron has over 30 years of experience as a performer and songwriter. His music is best described as eclectic folk. He plays acoustic music, ranging from Folk to Klezmer to country to acoustic interpretations of heavy metal music. He has a company, Mushroom Musicians, that helps other artists with their administrative tasks and booking and organizes shows. An Instructional Designer and Educational Technologist by training, his interests lie in music that has a story, folk, and sea chantys.

<http://www.aarontornberg.com/>

The RISA Songwriters in the Round at the Hearing Room will take place on the last Friday of the month beginning on March 30th. Aaron will be hosting and booking the series in the same manner as we have done at the AS200 in Providence.

Let's all welcome the Hearing Room and Aaron and wish them great success with this new RISA event!

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Thursday, 08 February 2018

RISA Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase

Written by Chuck Williams

The Spring Session of the RISA Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase will once again be held at the Sandywoods Music Center in Tiverton, RI. This event features Terry Kitchen from Boston, Lainey Dionne and John McDaid from Greater Providence area and Kim Moberg from Cape Cod! Come on down to this great venue and support your fellow members!

## Sandywoods Music presents The Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase



Lainey Dionne



Kim Moberg



Terry Kitchen



John McDaid



March 16th, 2018

Friday Night 7:30- 10:00 PM

\$12 advance, \$15 at the door



DOORS open at 7:00 pm. BYOB, BYOF...relax!

43 Muse Way, Tiverton, Rhode Island

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

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





# RISA Holiday MEET & GREET

Come gather to network and enjoy some food and drink with your fellow songwriters. Spontaneous music may occur!

**DECEMBER 6TH**

**7PM-10PM**

**THE BROOKLYN COFFEE & TEA ROOM**

**209 DOUGLAS AVE. Providence, RI 02978**

BRING A non-Perishable Food Item to donate to the Hunger Network for the Rhode Island Food Bank

Friday, 17 November 2017

## **RISA Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase**

Written by Chuck Williams

The Songwriter Showcase will be wrapping up its 4th season at the Sandywoods Music Center in Tiverton. The association has presented nearly 40 performers in this 'listening' room. This show will be a fun one with the 2015 Songwriter Contest winner Lisa Bastoni, the prolific Ray Cooke, RISA founding member Mary Ann Rossoni and finger style guitarist Craig Sonnenfeld.

### Sandywoods Music presents The Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase



Craig Sonnenfeld



Mary Ann Rossoni



Ray Cooke



Lisa Bastoni



**November 3rd, 2017**

Friday Night 7:30- 10:00 PM

Tickets \$12 advance, \$15 at the door



**DOORS open at 7:00 pm. BYOB, BYOF...relax!**

**43 Muse Way, Tiverton, Rhode Island**

**[www.sandywoodsmusic.com](http://www.sandywoodsmusic.com)**



Tuesday, 05 September 2017

RISA's 1st Dynamic Duo's Showcase Written by Chuck Williams

# SANDYWOODS PRESENTS Rhode Island Songwriters Association

## Dynamic Duo's Showcase



Dan & Faith



Johnstone & Walcott



Lori & Fred



Andy & Judy

SEPTEMBER 8TH, 7:30 PM

Tickets are \$12 advance, \$15 at the door

Doors Open at 7 PM BYOF, BYOB, relax and listen

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### Sandywoods Music Center

43 Muse Way, TIVERTON, RI

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



Tuesday, 30 May 2017

**RISA at PVD Fest!**

Written by Chuck Williams

Marking its third year, Providence's signature cultural celebration showcases the diversity and vibrancy of the Creative Capital through art installations, live music and dance, food, and much, much more.

Providence's world-renowned arts, cultural and culinary communities join forces with artists from across the country and globe to deliver a once in a lifetime experience. The four day PVD Fest culminates downtown on Saturday, June 3 with a free, multi-arts take-over of public spaces featuring aerial dancers, a parade, a global food village, world music stars, and the best in local talent.

This Saturday June 3rd RISA will have a stage from 12-4 PM at the PVD Fest. The RISA Stage is located on Washington St. and Clemence St. right near Lupo's. Come support the festival and see some fellow members play their music!

Noon ~ Ray Cooke

12:35 ~ Lisa Couto

1:10 ~ Ed McGuirl

1:45 ~ Lainey Dionne

2:20 ~ Grant Smith Maloy

2:55 ~ Lara Herscovitch

3:30 ~ Dark & Stormy (Rick Demers duo)

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Sunday, 21 May 2017

**4th Annual RISA Songwriting Finals**

Written by Chuck Williams



It was a wonderful night of music and community at RISA's 4th Annual Performing Songwriter Concert. Our finalists Carl Cacho, Judy Kass and Kayla Farnham all performed their songs extremely well...it was a difficult task to choose just one...

Kala Farnham's well-crafted songs 'The Wise Old Owl' and 'This is Why We Can't Have Nice Things' and her performance of them gave her the edge to win top honors at this year's finals! Congratulations Kala! Kala will get a compensated gig next year in the Stone Soup Coffeehouse.

Carl Cacho and Judy Kass also performed admirably in their two song set. Thanks so much for sharing your music and talent!

Thanks to Rick Wahlberg, Barbara Wahlberg, Joanne Lurgio, the whole Stone Soup Family of Volunteers and headliner David Roth for their support throughout the night.

The above photo was taken during the closing song of David's set where he asked the three finalists to come join him for a singalong song!

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Saturday, 22 April 2017

**Songwriting Finalists Announced!**      Written by Chuck Williams  
Finalists of the 4th Annual RISA Performing Songwriting Competition are:

(drum roll please)

Carl Cacho-Negrete of Amesbury, MA his songs 'Bordertown' and 'Slip It Into Drive' . <http://carl-cacho.com/>

Kayla Farnham of Pomfret, CT for her songs 'This is Why We Can't Have Nice Things' and 'The Wise Old Owl'.  
<http://www.kalafarnham.com/>

Judy Kass from Tarrytown, NY for her tunes 'Look At Us Marching Now' and 'One Sure Given'. <https://judykass.com/>

The Judges and the RISA Board Of Directors would like to congratulate everyone who entered their work. There were so many well-crafted songs. We also want to invite any and all RISA members to come to the Stone Soup Coffeehouse on Saturday, May 20th at the Slater Mill in Pawtucket, RI to support your favorite finalist and headliner David Roth.

See you in Pawtucket! Details are in the link below!

<http://stonesoupcoffeehouse.org/>

<http://www.davidrothmusic.com/>

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Monday, 17 April 2017

**Songwriting Competition Top Ten**      Written by Chuck Williams

The 4th Annual Rhode Island Songwriters Association Performing Songwriter Competition had 40 entries this year. We are proud to recognize the top ten semi-finalists in the contest.

They are:

Alison Giuliano - RI  
Austin MacRae - NY  
Carl Cacho-Negrete - MA  
Caroline Doctorow - NY



Chris LaVancher - MA  
Ed McGuirl - RI  
Jan Luby - RI  
Judy Kass - NY  
Kayla Farnham - CT  
Ric Allendorf - MA

Our three performing songwriting finalists will be announced on Saturday April 22nd. Those three finalists will perform at the Stone Soup Coffeehouse on Saturday May 20th. David Roth headlines the show. Congratulations to all who entered, there is a lot of talent within RISA and you are making great music!

<http://stonesoupcoffeehouse.org/>  
<http://www.davidrothmusic.com/>

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Friday, 06 January 2017

**2017 RISA Performing Songwriter Competition**      Written by Chuck Williams  
4th Annual Rhode Island Songwriters Association Performing Songwriters Competition

The Rhode Island Songwriters Association (RISA), in collaboration with the Stone Soup Folk Arts Foundation, is sponsoring the 2017 Performing Songwriter Contest to encourage the proficiency in the craft of songwriting and the art of performing. Entrants will submit two songs for consideration. Three finalists will be selected to perform their songs live on May 20, 2017 at Stone Soup Coffeehouse at Slater Mill in Pawtucket RI. (David Roth will be the headliner) The songs may be from any genre of music, performed by the original songwriter, showcased as a soloist. It's all about the song!

The winner will receive a compensated opening appearance at Stone Soup Coffeehouse during the 2017-2018 Season. Stone Soup Coffeehouse presents the finest up and coming and well known folk, Americana, Celtic, Bluegrass and traditional musicians touring today. This is a great opportunity to open for a name act and have your music heard in a well-respected venue, Stone Soup Coffeehouse.

#### The Rules

Entrants will submit two songs for consideration. Each song will be submitted via a MP3 format performance by the songwriter, along with a lyrics sheet in MS Word Document format for each song. The Lyrics sheets must include the authors name and address, daytime phone number, and email contact information. Because this is a Performing Songwriter Contest, it is strongly encouraged that the recording highlight the performer in a solo performance, without a lot of additional instrumentation.

The competition will be limited to solo performing songwriters, performing their own material. If more than one person is credited with the writing of the song only one of them may present the song, and only the entrant will be awarded the prize.

Songwriters who have been signed to a bona fide record label are not eligible for the competition. Performing Songwriters who have released a self-produced CD which is not affiliated with a bona fide record label are allowed.

Three independent music industry professionals will be the Judges to review the songs and select the top three entrants.

Finals – Finalist must be able to appear at the Stone Soup Coffeehouse for the finals competition on May 20, 2017. All contestants entering the finals will be judged on their performance skills, stage presence and songwriting ability based upon their performance of their two songs on the evening of the Finals preceding the Stone Soup Concert. Contestants will perform solo, without supporting musicians or vocalists.

The winner of the competition will be booked for a compensated opening slot in the Stone Soup Coffeehouse 2017-2018 season.

The contest is open to all members of RISA for free. Nonmembers of RISA may enter the contest with a \$25.00 entry fee, which includes an individual membership in RISA. Submission Deadline is March 31st.

Submission Deadline is March 31st. RISA members may submit their entry form along with mp3 and document attachments via email to [winniepesaukee@yahoo.com](mailto:winniepesaukee@yahoo.com). Non RISA members may submit a CD containing mp3s and documents along with their entry form and a check for \$25.00 for entry and a one year RISA membership made out to RISA via mail to:

RISA Performing Songwriter Contest  
C/O Joanne Lurgio  
PO Box 9246  
Warwick, RI 02889

The poster features a textured, stone-like background. On the right side, there is a vertical image of an acoustic guitar. The RISA logo, which includes the text 'RHODE ISLAND SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION', is positioned on the left. A dark banner at the top right contains the title 'Performing Songwriter Competition'. Below this, a dark box lists entry fees: 'FREE to RISA Members' and '\$25 to non-members (includes one year membership)'. The main body of the poster contains several paragraphs of text detailing the competition rules, including submission requirements, finalist obligations, and eligibility criteria. At the bottom, a dark box provides the website for rules and entry forms, and a small logo for the Stone Soup Folk Arts Foundation is located in the bottom right corner.

**RISA**  
RHODE ISLAND  
SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

**Performing Songwriter  
Competition**

**FREE to RISA Members**  
**\$25 to non-members (includes one year membership)**

**For solo performing songwriters, performing their own material.**

**Submit two songs via MP3 with lyric sheets and entry form. A panel of judges will choose the TOP 3 Finalists**

**Finalists MUST be available on May 20th to perform their two songs for the judges at the Stone Soup Coffee House in Pawtucket, RI.**

**Finalists will perform solo, without supporting musicians or vocalists and judged on performance skills, stage presence and songwriting ability on the evening of the Finals.**

**Songwriters signed to a bona fide record label are not eligible. Self-produced CDs not affiliated with a bona fide record label are eligible.**

**The winner will be booked for a compensated opening slot in the Stone Soup Coffeehouse 2017-2018 season.**

**Rules and entry forms available at:  
[www.RISongwriters.com](http://www.RISongwriters.com)**

**STONE SOUP**  
FOLK ARTS FOUNDATION



Thursday, 05 January 2017

## Collaboration Workshop

Written by Chuck Williams

Collaborate to Elevate your writing to the next level. Co-Writing, the art of playing well with others.

Have you ever wondered why today's big hit songs usually have two or more writers? There are so many benefits to creative collaboration!

This hands-on, collaborative workshop will delve into the world of Co-writing, it's many benefits, how to successfully navigate the etiquette of the writing room and avoid potential pitfalls. You will learn how co-writing will enable you to take your songs to places that you could not have reached on your own and come away with a new array of tools for your Songwriter Toolbox.

Dawn Kenney is an award winning singer/songwriter and has had much success with co-writing. In 2016 she had multiple songs on the charts, a #1 and 3 songs in the top 20 (all of them co-writes) on the Roots Music Report and Bluegrass Today Charts. Dawn spends a great deal of time writing with other songwriters & artists.. an important craft to learn and is eager to give us her insight on the subject .. the who, how, whys!

THIS IS A NOT TO BE MISSED EVENT...

CONFIRM YOUR SEAT, email Joanne Lurgio at [jmlurgio@verizon.net](mailto:jmlurgio@verizon.net)



**Co-CREATE TO ELEVATE!**

**SUCCESSFUL Co-WRITING  
& COLLABORATION**

PRESENTED BY DAWN KENNEY

Dawn Kenney is an award-winning singer/songwriter, who spends a great deal of time writing with other songwriters & artists. She'll give you some insight as to the who, the how, and the why!

This hands-on, collaborative workshop will delve into the world of Co-writing, its many benefits, how to successfully navigate the etiquette of the writing room and avoid potential pitfalls.

You will learn how co-writing will enable you to take your songs to places that you could not have reached on your own, and come away with a new array of tools for your Songwriter Toolbox!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup> // 12:30PM - 4:30PM**

**The Mediator Fellowship**  
50 Rounds Avenue, Providence, RI

**Workshops are FREE for RISA members, \$15 for non-members.**

To register, please contact:  
[WorkshopsCritiques@risongwriters.com](mailto:WorkshopsCritiques@risongwriters.com)

**RISA**  
ESTABLISHED 1985

[www.dawnkenney.com](http://www.dawnkenney.com) [www.risongwriters.com](http://www.risongwriters.com)



Thursday, 06 October 2016

**RISA Semi Annual Songwriter Showcase**

Written by Chuck Williams

Sandywoods Music presents  
The Rhode Island Songwriters Association



## Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase



Dawn Kenney



Lisa Couto



Grant Maloy Smith



Tom Smith

## November 4, 2016

Friday Night 7:30-10 PM

Tickets \$12 advance, \$15 at the door



**DOORS** open at 7 pm BYOB, BYOF...relax!

**43 Muse Way, Tiverton, Rhode Island**

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

Thursday, 01 September 2016

**Marjorie Thompson Workshop Series**

Written by Chuck Williams



Thompson, a Rhode Island Songwriter Association member who passed away in 2014, was an accomplished fingerstyle guitarist and singer-songwriter, releasing four albums, playing with Jorma Kaukonen at his Fur Piece Ranch, and appearing on The Oprah Winfrey Show. In addition, Marjorie was a member of the Brown University community for over four decades and served as Associate Dean of Biological Sciences since 1983.

*"Marjorie Thompson was revered by the music community and shared the rare gift of one who could take the hardest things to learn, be they in science or in music, simplify them so one would understand, and make it fun in the process. It is in this spirit and her memory that RISA acknowledges our longtime friend by dedicating our educational workshops in her name."*

*-Chuck Williams, President of RISA*

**Workshop Two:**  
**MIXING & MASTERING**  
Presented by John Mailloux

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup> // 11AM - 1PM**

**Brooklyn Coffee & Tea House**  
209 Douglas Avenue, Providence, RI

John Mailloux of Bongo Beach Productions is a two time Grammy nominee for his work with Duke Robillard. John will discuss the use of "Mixing & Mastering" to get the most out of your recording project. He will delve into such topics as EQ, multi-band compression, and level maximizing. This workshop is designed for artists who have wondered why their recordings do not have the same sound and clarity as other CD's they have heard.

Bongo Beach Productions is a digital recording and mastering studio in Westport, MA

Workshops are FREE for RISA members, and \$20 for non-members.  
To register, please contact: [WorkshopsCritiques@risongwriters.com](mailto:WorkshopsCritiques@risongwriters.com)





Tuesday, 17 May 2016

3rd Annual Performing Songwriter Contest Results

Written by Chuck Williams

**Congratulations to Lisa Bastoni!!**



## 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL PERFORMING SONGWRITER CONTEST FINALS!

**AFTER A RECORD NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS, THREE FINALISTS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN!**

**THOSE PERFORMING IN THE FINALS INCLUDE:**

**ROBINSON TREACHER**  
Oceanside, NY



**LISA BASTONI**  
Watertown, MA



**SEAMUS GALLIGAN**  
Fairhaven, MA



**JUDGES AND AUDIENCE WILL SELECT A WINNER AT THE CONCERT WHO WILL BE AWARDED AN OPENING SLOT AT A 2016 STONE SOUP SHOW TO BE ANNOUNCED!**

**FINALISTS WILL TAKE THE STAGE PRIOR TO TRET FURE'S FEATURED PERFORMANCE.**



**"ONE OF THE MOST PROLIFIC ARTISTS IN THE CONTEMPORARY SINGER-SONGWRITER ARENA, TRET FURE HAS RELEASED 15 ALBUMS AND CDs OVER THE COURSE OF HER 46 YEAR CAREER. IN ADDITION TO BEING A GIFTED SONGWRITER, FURE HAS ENGINEERED AND PRODUCED COUNTLESS RECORDINGS BY A VARIETY OF ARTISTS, INCLUDING HER OWN WORK."**

**WWW.TRETFURE.COM**

**SATURDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00PM**  
**STONE SOUP COFFEE HOUSE**  
**SLATER MILL, 67 ROOSEVELT AVENUE, PAWTUCKET, RI**  
**\$18 AT THE DOOR • DOORS AT 6:30**



This evening started with a palpable level of excitement in the air! As the house began to fill our three finalists were in the green room swapping stories of their musical travels. Robinson Treacher, Lisa Bastoni and Seamus Galligan were on deck for the finals of the RISA Performing Songwriter as they were to open for headliner Tret Furey.

Each of the finalists performed the 2 songs that were submitted and had the opportunity to show how their instrument, vocals and stage presence paired up with their songwriting skills to move a roomful of attentive listeners. I can tell you that they did just that with some wonderful songs.

All of the finalists did their very best, but one had to be chosen! Congratulations to Lisa Bastoni! Lisa's award is an 'opening' spot on next seasons Stone Soup Coffee House schedule. Tret said, "You all performed beautifully. It was really hard to pick just one!"

We would like to thank Stone Soup Coffee House for their partnership on this event the past three years. We'd also like to thank Rick Wahlberg as the host of the evening and Chuck Williams as the MC for the performing songwriter contest. Additionally we'd like to thank our judging committee members as well as Tret Furey for being the finals judge! Overall this event involved 60 RISA members and Stone Soup volunteers. It truly does take a village...

More of Lisa's work can be accessed at <http://lisabastoni.com/>

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Monday, 18 April 2016

**3rd Annual RISA Performing Songwriter Contest Finals**

Written by Chuck Williams

Doors at 6:30 PM, Show at 7 pm

Tickets are \$18 at the door!

Stone Soup Coffeehouse, Slater Mill, Pawtucket, RI

Headliner: Tret Fure

Contacts: Ellen Fingeret at: [ellen.fingeret@verizon.net](mailto:ellen.fingeret@verizon.net) (401-353-4168) Chuck Williams at: [otismusic@comcast.net](mailto:otismusic@comcast.net) (508-335-0055)

The Rhode Island Songwriters Association (RISA) is holding its 3rd annual Performing Songwriter Contest Finalist Concert on May 14th at Stone Soup Coffee House within the historic Slater Mill, Pawtucket, RI. RISA members submitted original songs in the competition which were judged based on vocal performance, instrument performance, melody and lyrics. Stone Soup Coffeehouse has been partnering with RISA (Rhode Island Songwriters' Association) in sponsoring the songwriting contest. Finalists will take the stage prior to Tret Fure's performance.

"Tret Fure opens both heart and mind and gives herself over to the music,... addressing where we have come to in life, and where we are going--gathering our loved ones around us all along the route...." (written for the Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange by Roberta B. Schwartz)

Three songwriters were selected to perform at the Finalist concert:

Robinson Treacher, Oceanside, NY, Seamus Galligan, Fairhaven, MA, Lisa Bastoni, Watertown, MA

Honorable Mention: Rupert Wates, New York, NY, Erika Kulnys, Lower Cornwall, Nova Scotia

Judges and audience will select a winner at the concert. The winner will be awarded an opening slot at a 2016 Stone Soup Show to be announced.

Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and pastries are available for purchase before each show and during intermission.

Please note the Stone Soup Coffeehouse venue is in Slater Mill, 67 Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI

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Tuesday, 16 February 2016

## 2016 RISA Performing Songwriter Competition

Written by Chuck Williams

**RISA**  
RHODE ISLAND  
SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

# Performing Songwriter Competition

**FREE to RISA Members**  
**\$25 to non-members (includes one year membership)**

**For solo performing songwriters, performing their own material.**

**Submit two songs via MP3 with lyric sheets and entry form. A panel of judges will choose the TOP 3 Finalists**

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**Songwriters signed to a bona fide record label are not eligible. Self-produced CDs not affiliated with a bona fide record label are eligible.**

**The winner will be booked for a compensated opening slot in the Stone Soup Coffeehouse 2016-2017 season.**

**Rules and entry forms available at:**  
**[www.RISongwriters.com](http://www.RISongwriters.com)**

**STONE SOUP**  
FOLK ARTS FOUNDATION

### Rhode Island Songwriters Association Performing Songwriters Contest

The Rhode Island Songwriters Association (RISA), in collaboration with the Stone Soup Folk Arts Foundation, is sponsoring the 2016 Performing Songwriter Contest to encourage the proficiency in the craft of songwriting and the art of performing. Entrants will submit two songs for consideration. Three finalists will be selected to perform their songs live on May 14, 2016 at Stone Soup Coffeehouse in Pawtucket RI. (Tret Fure will be the headliner) The songs may be from any genre of music, and will be performed by the original songwriter, performing the songs in a solo manner.

The winner will receive a compensated opening appearance at Stone Soup Coffeehouse during the 2016-2017 Season. Stone Soup Coffeehouse presents the finest up and coming and well known folk, Americana, Celtic, Bluegrass and traditional musicians touring today. This is a great opportunity to open for a name act and have your music heard in a well-respected venue, Stone Soup Coffeehouse.

### The Rules

Entrants will submit two songs for consideration. Each song will be submitted via a MP3 format performance by the songwriter, along with a lyrics sheet in MS Word Document format for each song. The Lyrics sheets must include the authors name and address, daytime phone number, and email contact information. Because this is a Performing Songwriter Contest, it is strongly encouraged that the recording highlight the performer in a solo performance, without a lot of additional instrumentation.

The competition will be limited to solo performing songwriters, performing their own material. If more than one person is credited with the writing of the song only one of them may present the song, and only the entrant will be awarded the prize.



Songwriters who have been signed to a bona fide record label are not eligible for the competition. Performing Songwriters who have released a self-produced CD which is not affiliated with a bona fide record label are allowed. Three independent music industry professionals will be the Judges to review the songs and select the top three entrants. Finals – Finalist must be able to appear at the Stone Soup Coffeehouse for the finals competition on May 14, 2016. All contestants entering the finals will be judged on their performance skills, stage presence and songwriting ability based upon their performance of their two songs on the evening of the Finals at Stone Soup Coffeehouse, preceding the Stone Soup Concert. Contestants will perform solo, without supporting musicians or vocalists. The winner of the competition will be booked for a compensated opening slot in the Stone Soup Coffeehouse 2016-2017 season.

The contest is open to all members of RISA for free. Non members of RISA may enter the contest with a \$25.00 entry fee, which includes an individual membership in RISA. SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2016 RISA members may submit their entry form along with mp3 and document attachments via email to winniepesaukee@yahoo.com. Non RISA members may submit a CD containing mp3s and documents along with their entry form and a check for \$25.00 for entry and a one year RISA membership made out to RISA via mail to:

RISA Performing Songwriter Contest  
C/O Joanne Lurgio  
PO Box 9246  
Warwick, RI 02889

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Wednesday, 10 February 2016

### **RISA Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase**

Written by Chuck Williams

The Rhode Island Songwriters Semi-Annual Showcase has been featuring some of our finest artists over the past few years at Sandywoods Center for the Arts in Tiverton. On this occasion we have booked P.J. Rogue a 2015 RISA Songwriting Contest Finalist, Betsy Listenfelt, a songwriter who has for 25 years played throughout New England, Diane Battistello an acoustic folk songwriter that leans toward social issues and Jason Valcourt, a brilliant guitarist that brings life experience to his songs.





Saturday, 21 November 2015

**Rhode Trip to NERFA** - Written by Chuck Williams

RISA goes to NERFA (Northeast Folk Alliance) in Kerhonkesn, NY.



**RHODE TRIP**

**RISA**  
RHODE ISLAND  
SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

**ROOM 1411**

**FRIDAY EVENING**

**11:45 - 12:15**  
Marc Douglas Berardo, P.J. Rogue,  
Robin O'Herin

**12:20 - 12:50**  
Terry Kitchen & Mara Levine,  
Joanne Lurgio

**12:55 - 1:25**  
Steve Allain & Tracie Potochnik (Cardboard Ox),  
Kirsten Manville, Mark Stepakoff

**01:30 - 2:00**  
Jacob Haller, Bruce McDermott, Beth DeSombre

**2:05 - 2:35**  
Penny Hart & Anthony Trites (Folkapotomus),  
John Ferullo, Lou Dominguez

**2:40 - 3:10**  
Rick Drost, Dave Dersham, Davey O



Saturday, 21 November 2015

**RISA Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase**

Written by Chuck Williams

Sandywoods Music presents  
The Rhode Island Songwriters Association



## Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase



Dave Bosworth



Jim Tata



Allison Giuliano



Lara Herscovitch

## November 20, 2015

Friday Night 7:30- 10 PM

Tickets \$10 advance, \$12 at the door



**DOORS open at 7 pm BYOB, BYOF...relax!**

**243 Muse Way, Tiverton, Rhode Island**

**[www.sandywoodsmusic.com](http://www.sandywoodsmusic.com)**



Tuesday, 26 May 2015

## PSC Final Results

Written by Chuck Williams

### 2nd Annual RISA Performing Songwriter Finals - Congratulations to Kirsten Maxwell!

A great night of music occurred at the former Stone Soup Coffeehouse location in Pawtucket.

The EVENING started out with our Special Guest, Mark Cutler, showing why he has been the front man of many groups over the years and a recent inductee to the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame. Mark set the bar for our four performing songwriter contest finalists - Lenny Solomon, Allison Giuliano, Kirsten Maxwell and PJ Rogue. Each of the finalists performed the 2 songs that were submitted and had the opportunity to show how their instrument and vocals, when paired with songwriting skills, can move a roomful of attentive listeners.

All of the finalists did their very best, but one had to be chosen! Congratulations to Kirsten Maxwell! Kirsten's award is an 'opening' spot on next seasons Stone Soup Coffee House schedule.

We'd like to thank Stone Soup Coffee House for their partnership on this event the past two years and into the future! We'd like to thank Rick Wahlberg as the host of the evening and Mary Anne Rossoni as the MC for the performing songwriter contest. Additionally we'd like to thank Nick Noble (WICN), John Mailloux (Bongo Beach Productions) and David Correia (Celebrations Sound) for the judging. Overall this event involved 50+ RISA members and our Stone Soup volunteers. It truly does take a village...



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL PERFORMING SONGWRITER CONTEST FINALS!

AFTER 30 SONG SUBMISSIONS, FOUR FINALISTS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN!  
THOSE PERFORMING IN THE FINALS INCLUDE:

LENNY SOLOMON - CAMBRIDGE, MA  
KIRSTEN MAXWELL - HUNTINGTON, NY  
PJ ROGUE - HUDSON, MA  
ALLISON GIULIANO - NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI



LOCAL ARTIST AND RECENT RHODE ISLAND HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE, MARK CUTLER, WILL PERFORM A SOLO SET, FOLLOWED BY EACH FINALIST PERFORMING THEIR 2 SUBMITTED SONGS. MARK CUTLER IS A RECORDING ARTIST AND SINGER-SONGWRITER FROM PROVIDENCE. HE HAS BEEN THE LEAD SINGER AND SONGWRITER FOR THE SCHEMERS, THE RAINDOGS AND DINO CLUB.

JUDGES AND AUDIENCE WILL SELECT A WINNER AT THE CONCERT WHO WILL BE AWARDED AN OPENING SLOT AT A 2016 STONE SOUP SHOW TO BE ANNOUNCED!



**FRIDAY, MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> @ 7:00PM**  
**STONE SOUP COFFEE HOUSE**  
**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PAWTUCKET, RI**  
**\$10 AT THE DOOR • DOORS AT 6:30**



Friday, May 22, 2015

**2nd Annual RISA Performing Songwriter Contest Finals - Special Guest Mark Cutler** Written by Chuck Williams

Doors at 6:30 PM, Show at 7 pm

Tickets are \$10 at the door!

Stone Soup Coffeehouse, St. John's Episcopal Church, 50 Park Place, Pawtucket, RI.

Contacts: Ellen Fingeret at: [ellen.fingeret@verizon.net](mailto:ellen.fingeret@verizon.net) (401-353-4168), Chuck Williams at: [otismusic@comcast.net](mailto:otismusic@comcast.net) (508-335-0055)

The Rhode Island Songwriters Association (RISA) is holding its 2nd annual Performing Songwriter Contest Finalist Concert on May 22nd at Stone Soup Coffee House, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pawtucket.

30 RISA members submitted original songs in the competition which were judged by a panel of professionals: David Correia of Celebration Sound in Greater Providence, John Mailloux of Bongo Beach Productions of Westport, MA and Nick Noble of WICN in Worcester, MA.

Four songwriters were selected to perform at the Finalist concert:

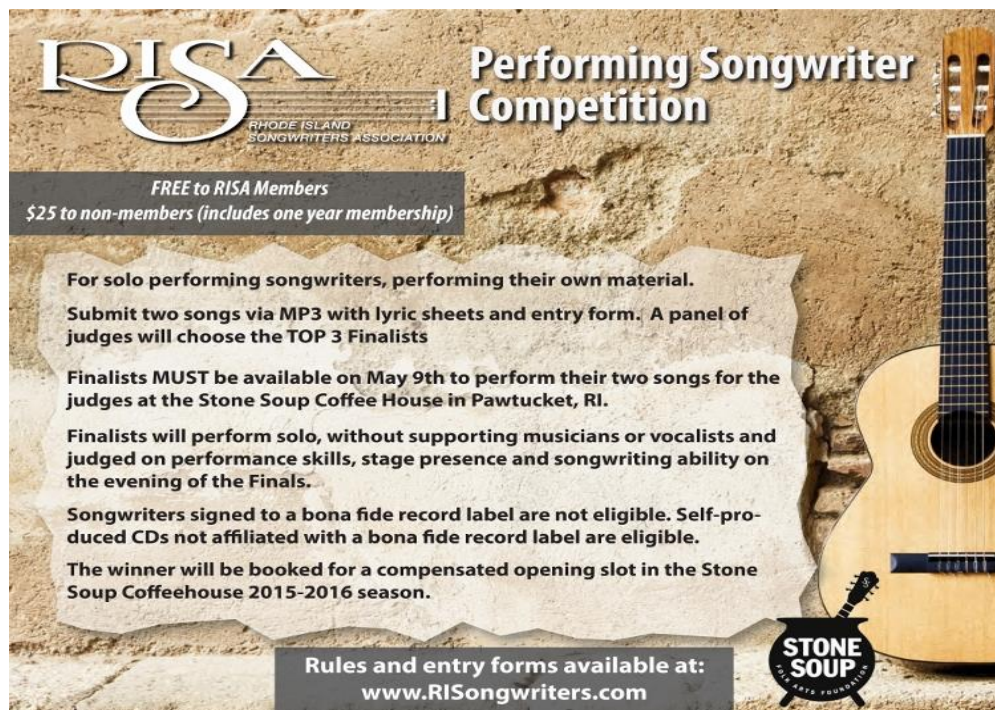
Allison Guiliano, North Smithfield, RI  
Lenny Solomon, Cambridge, MA,  
Kristen Maxwell, Huntington, NY  
Paul Rogeshewski (PJ Rogue), Hudson, MA.

Local artist and recent Rhode Island Hall of Fame Inductee, Mark Cutler, will perform a solo set followed by each finalist who will perform their 2 submitted songs. Mark Cutler is a recording artist and singer- songwriter from Providence, RI. He has been the lead singer and songwriter for The Schemers, The Raindogs and Dino Club.

Judges and audience will select a winner at the concert who will be awarded an opening slot at a 2016 Stone Soup Show to be announced.

Doors open at 6:30pm, the show will start at 7:00pm.

Please note the venue is St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 50 Park Place, Pawtucket, RI 02860



**RISA**  
RHODE ISLAND  
SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

**Performing Songwriter  
Competition**

**FREE to RISA Members**  
**\$25 to non-members (includes one year membership)**

**For solo performing songwriters, performing their own material.**

**Submit two songs via MP3 with lyric sheets and entry form. A panel of judges will choose the TOP 3 Finalists**

**Finalists MUST be available on May 9th to perform their two songs for the judges at the Stone Soup Coffee House in Pawtucket, RI.**

**Finalists will perform solo, without supporting musicians or vocalists and judged on performance skills, stage presence and songwriting ability on the evening of the Finals.**

**Songwriters signed to a bona fide record label are not eligible. Self-produced CDs not affiliated with a bona fide record label are eligible.**

**The winner will be booked for a compensated opening slot in the Stone Soup Coffeehouse 2015-2016 season.**

**Rules and entry forms available at:**  
**[www.RISongwriters.com](http://www.RISongwriters.com)**

**STONE SOUP**  
COFFEE HOUSE

## **Rhode Island Songwriters Association Performing Songwriters Contest**

The Rhode Island Songwriters Association (RISA), in collaboration with the Stone Soup Folk Arts Foundation, is sponsoring the 2015 Performing Songwriter Contest to encourage the proficiency in the craft of songwriting and the art of performing. Entrants will submit two songs for consideration by industry professional judges. Three finalists will be selected to perform their songs live on May 9, 2015 at Stone Soup Coffeehouse in Pawtucket RI. The songs may be from any genre of music, and will be performed by the original songwriter, performing the songs in a solo manner.

The winner will receive a compensated opening appearance at Stone Soup Coffeehouse during the 2015-2016 Season. Stone Soup Coffeehouse presents the finest up and coming and well known folk, Americana, Celtic, Bluegrass and traditional musicians touring today. This is a great opportunity to open for a name act and have your music heard in a well-respected venue, Stone Soup Coffeehouse.

### **The Rules**

Entrants will submit two songs for consideration. Each song will be submitted via a MP3 format performance by the songwriter, along with a lyrics sheet in MS Word Document format for each song. The Lyrics sheets must include the authors name and address, daytime phone number, and email contact information. Because this is a Performing Songwriter Contest, it is strongly encouraged that the recording highlight the performer in a solo performance, without a lot of additional instrumentation.

The competition will be limited to solo performing songwriters, performing their own material. If more than one person is credited with the writing of the song only one of them may present the song, and only the entrant will be awarded the prize.

Songwriters who have been signed to a bona fide record label are not eligible for the competition. Performing Songwriters who have released of a self-produced CD which is not affiliated with a bona fide record label is allowed.

Three independent music industry professionals will be the Judges to review the songs and select the top three entrants.

Finals – Finalist must be able to appear at the Stone Soup Coffeehouse for the finals competition on May 9, 2015. All contestants entering the finals will be judged on their performance skills, stage presence and songwriting ability based upon their performance of their two songs on the evening of the Finals at Stone Soup Coffeehouse, preceding the Stone Soup Concert. Contestants will perform solo, without supporting musicians or vocalists.

The winner of the competition will be booked for a compensated opening slot in the Stone Soup Coffeehouse 2015-2016 season.

The contest is open to all members of RISA for free. Non members of RISA may enter the contest with a \$25.00 entry fee, which includes an individual membership in RISA.

RISA members may submit their entry form along with mp3 and document attachments via email to [RISAPSC2014@yahoo.com](mailto:RISAPSC2014@yahoo.com). Non RISA members may submit a CD containing mp3s and documents along with their entry form and a check for \$25.00 for entry and a one year RISA membership made out to RISA via mail no later than 12:00 Midnight March 15, 2015 to:

RISA Performing Songwriter Contest

C/O Joanne Lurgio

PO Box 9246

Warwick, RI 02889

Friday, 13 February 2015

**RISA Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase**

Written by Chuck Williams

Sandywoods Music presents  
The Rhode Island Songwriters Association



## Semi-Annual Songwriter Showcase



Mike Couto



Kayla Ringelheim



Beth DeSombre



Steve Allain

**March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Sunday Afternoon 2:00 - 4:30 PM

Tickets \$10 advance, \$12 at the door



**DOORS** open at 1:30 pm BYOB, BYOF...relax!

**243 Muse Way, Tiverton, Rhode Island**

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



Thursday, 11 December 2014

## RISA Holiday Show

Written by Joanne Lurgio



Monday, 24 November 2014

**'Getting The Gig' Workshop with Dave Tamulevich was a big success!**      Written by Chuck Williams

This past Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, a few board members started showing up at the Mediator Stage at 12:30 for the 2 PM workshop. The room took shape quickly setting up about 20 chairs, reception table, snacks and RISA materials. Then we waited...and waited! We thought for sure 'if we build it, they will come'...and they did! We had to break out more chairs and wound up with 27 RISA members in attendance from RI, MA & CT.

Dave Tamulevich fed us information about gigging and touring all the while interjecting stories of some of the folk artists he has represented over the years. It was great to hear the info from one of the best and I am sure everyone was taking notes! Not only was it a great workshop but it was FREE to our members!

Photo below is of Board Members in attendance with Dave. (L to R Jan Luby, Greg Klabon, Rick Gottlieb, Dave Tamulevich, Joanne Lurgio, Chuck Williams, Rich Eilbert, Wyatt & Barbara Lema.





# **"GETTING THE GIG"**

Workshop with David Tamulevich

Whether you are an 'open mic' performer that is ready to spread your wings, or a seasoned performer who wants to hear whether you need an agent yet...

**THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR YOU!!**

David operates his own agency (Tamulevich Artist Management) that represents the likes of Brother Sun, John Gorka, Peter Yarrow, Christine Lavin/Don White and more. As David is both a Booking Agent and Artist Manager (not to mention half of the folk duo Mustard's Retreat) he will have insight to the inside workings of 'getting the gig'.

David is considered one of the preeminent agents in the field by artists, managers, and venues alike. Known for his honesty and integrity, he is not only credited with helping to establish the current folk circuit, but also for redefining the traditional artist/agent/venue relationship as more of a cooperative partnership based on mutual long-term objectives.

He has presented many workshops on a variety of topics related to touring/management/recording, and has written articles such as "Working With An Agent and "Finding An Agent" which are widely considered touchstones of the field, and widely used by artists, managers, record companies, educators, and others.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**2:00PM – 4:00PM**

**The Mediator Stage**  
50 Rounds Avenue, Providence, RI

*FREE to all RISA Members. Open to the Public for \$10 pre-register, \$15 day of the Workshop. Contact [otismusic@comcast.net](mailto:otismusic@comcast.net) for non-member pre-registration to get the \$10 rate.*

Friday, 09 May 2014

## **RISA Performing Songwriter Winner Announced!**

Written by Billy Mitchell

The Rhode Island Songwriters Association (RISA) Board would like to congratulate all the contestants of the 1st Annual RISA Performing Songwriter Contest. The finals were held at the Stone Soup Coffeehouse in Pawtucket, RI on Saturday May 4th.

Mike Laureanno, of Fall River, Mass (currently living in Providence) took top honors! Mike will have the opportunity to be an 'opening' act at the Stone Soup Coffeehouse in their 2014 Fall/Winter schedule.

Our finalists were RISA members Lenny Solomon, Jane Fallon and Mike Laureanno who each performed their 2 songs as the lead off to the Catie Curtis Concert this past weekend. Catie had the final task of judging each song for lyrics and the songwriting craft as well as their overall performance. She said it was a very difficult job.

All members who had submitted to the contest were listened to by our music industry professionals, John Maillioux of Bongo Beach Productions, Dave Corriea of Celebration Sounds Studio and Patrick Norton of the Narrows Center for the Arts.

Congratulations to all who participated in this event!

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Sunday, 27 April 2014

## **Finalists for RISA Performing Songwriter Contest Selected**

Written by Paul Pasch

More than two dozen RISA members submitted two songs each in the first RISA Performing Songwriter Contest. It is clear from the entries submitted that there is a lot of songwriting and performance talent in the membership, and that the support and opportunities offered by RISA through education, critiques, collaboration and networking opportunities are working for our members.

The competition was quite close, but our team of music industry professionals selected the following RISA members to compete in the Finals Competition to be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014 at Stone Soup Coffeehouse, located at St, Paul's Church, 50 Park Place in Pawtucket, RI at 8:00 PM.

Jane Fallon ([www.janefallon.com](http://www.janefallon.com))

Michael Laureanno ([www.michael.laureanno.com](http://www.michael.laureanno.com))

Lenny Solomon ([www.reverbnation.com/lennysolomon](http://www.reverbnation.com/lennysolomon))

The Finalists will each perform their two songs prior to the Catie Curtis concert, and the winner will be announced during the Catie Curtis performance. RISA members are encouraged to attend the concert and support our three finalists.

The winner of the competition will be booked for an Opening Performance at a Stone Soup Coffeehouse Concert during the 2014 - 2015 Season.

RISA would like to thank the following music industry professionals for their work in selecting our finalists:

David Correia - Celebration Sound, Seekonk, MA

Patrick Norton - Narrows Center For The Arts, Fall River, MA

John Maillioux - Bongo Beach Productions, Westport, MA

RISA would also like to thank all of the contest participants for all of the great music that was entered for consideration.

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Tuesday, 04 March 2014

**RISA Performing Songwriter Contest**    Written by Billy Mitchell

Do you write great songs? Do you enjoy performing your songs in a great listening venue? If you answered 'yes' to both of these questions, this contest is for you. Click [here](#) to download the contest Flyer.

The Rhode Island Songwriters Association, in collaboration with Stone Soup Coffeehouse, is presenting a Performing Songwriter Contest. Contestants will submit two original songs for consideration by music industry professionals, who will select the top three contest finalists. Finalist will perform both of their songs at the Catie Curtis concert at Stone Soup Coffeehouse on May 3, 2014 at 8:00 PM. What's the top prize? An opening spot at a Stone Soup concert on the 2014-2015 season! Stone Soup is currently in its 33rd year of providing great acoustic music for appreciative audiences who are there to listen to great music performed live and have an opportunity to meet the artists and bring home CDs of that music.

How do you enter? Check out the Rules [here](#), and then download the Contest Registration Form [here](#), and follow the instructions to enter. This contest is FREE for RISA members, and is open to non-RISA members for a fee of \$25.00, which pays for your entry and a one year membership to RISA is included.

DEADLINE: 12:00 Midnight March 31, 2014.

Good Luck and we might see you on the Stone Soup stage on May 3rd.

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Tuesday, 07 May 2013

**June 1st RISA NERFA Conference at URI**    Written by Jenn Armstrong

The Rhode Island Songwriters Association (RISA) hosted a one day convention of the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance (NERFA) at the University of Rhode Island (URI) on Saturday, June 1, 2013.

The convention brought together regional performers, radio DJs, venue operators, music presenters and producers, festival organizers, agents and others in the regions folk music scene with the objective of showcasing new talent, conducting workshops, panel discussions and providing networking opportunities.

A partnership between RISA, who planned the programming, NERFA, who provided administrative support and the URI Music Department who provided facilities and facility support, the event is part of NERFA's regional Mini Conference program designed to augment and target select local music communities.

Over 100 attendees from the Northeast U.S. participated in the day's activities which included:

**Performance showcases:** Ten performers were selected from a field of 75 applicants by judges Barbara Wahlberg (former Stone Soup, Booking), Jane Falvey (WRIU DJ) and Russ Gusetti (Blackstone River Theatre Music Director). The Showcase performers were: Sarah Blacker, the Boxcar Lilies, Digging Roots, Josh Joffen, Chrise LaVancher, Joanne Lurgio, Heather Pierson, Heather Styka, Robin O'Herin, and Stefilia's Stone.

**In- Depth workshops:** Building your Audience, Using a Producer, How to Get Radio Air Play, Before you Record, "On the Griddle" instant critique session, Mixing and Mastering. Presenters, Panelists and Judges were: Susan Cattaneo, David Correia, Diane Crowe, Barbara & Graham Dean, Tracey Delfino, Jane Falvey, Loretta Hagen, Michael Kornfeld, John Mailloux, Nick Noble, and Bob Weiser.

**Product Demonstrations-** Toys for the Acoustic Musician:

What's new in Acoustic instruments – Wakefield Music

What's new in performance technology for the acoustic performer – Guitar Center



Wednesday, 27 March 2013

**Annual Meeting & Silly Song Fest**

Written by Jenn Armstrong

April 22nd @ 7 p.m.

Brooklyn Coffee & Tea House

You are cordially invited to the annual RISA members' meeting on Monday, April 22nd at 7 p.m. at the Brooklyn Coffee and Tea House, 209 Douglas Avenue in Providence.

This year's "business" part of the meeting will be short - a quick overview of exciting RISA News, a review of last year's activities, and the election of next year's RISA Board.

Then we'll have an open mic Silly Song Festival - come share your Silliest Song (two, time permitting).

It will be a great time to meet other RISA members and network! (And snacks will be served.)

Looking forward to seeing you on April 22nd!

Your RISA Board Members,

Chuck Williams/President, Jan Luby/Vice President, Joanne Lurgio/Treasurer and Membership Officer, Barbara Lema/ Secretary, Rick Demers, Daniel Durand, Wyatt Lema, Billy Mitchell, Paul Pasch, Mary Ann Rossoni and Rick Wahlberg.

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Tuesday, 26 March 2013

**Songwriters in the Round at Sandywoods**

Written by Jenn Armstron

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2013

7:00 PM (Doors open at 6:30)

\$10 Advance / \$12 at Door

BYOB & Food Allowed

Six veteran songwriters and performers, all RISA members, gather together for a glorious evening of topflight original music at the region's most exciting new intimate concert venue.

FEATURING:

Mary Ann Rossoni, Louis Leeman,

Tracie Potochnik, Paul Pasch,

Johnny Bothelo & host, Jan Luby

43 Muse Way, Tiverton, Rhode Island

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

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Tuesday, 26 February 2013

**RISA\_NEWS Group Listserve, new and improved!**

Written by Billy Mitchell

We have some exciting things happening in the upcoming months such as the new Songwriter Sessions at the Harvest Cafe in Hudson, MA, and the RISA Songwriters Showcase at Sandywoods, both in March, the Jon Vezner Songwriters Workshop in April and the NERFA 1 Day Conference in June that RISA is coordinating! And....there is so much more to come!

It is for those reasons (and all the NEWS that will follow) that we will be creating a new Listserve on Yahoo called RISA\_News. This new listserve will be the official RISA communication vehicle so that the Board and all the Committee Chairs can get the word out to you of what is happening within the association. There will be invites to the new listserve being sent out in the upcoming week to ten days. Once everyone has been sent an invite we will transition to the RISA\_News for all posts.

When you receive the invite, please follow the simple directions to keep in the loop with RISA\_News!

The existing listserve known as RISONGWRITERS will still be out there and may change its name to reflect the Hear in Rhode Island organizations activities as well as general music information.

Thanks for being a member of the Rhode Island Songwriters Association!

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Wednesday, 20 February 2013

**RISA Rising Teen Songwriters Show set for March 24**      Written by Billy Mitchell

Don't miss our next RISA Rising, Teenage Songwriters Show!

It will be a Song Writers Challenge. Three RISA Rising Teen Songwriters and two adult RISA member Songwriters will have Four weeks to write a song to a common theme.

Each will play 3 original Songs before playing the Challenge Round on Sunday March 24th, 5pm. at Second Stage Studio, 1 Angel Road, Cumberland RI. Admission is \$5.00

RISA Rising Teens are Jason Durand, Emeline Herried and Hope Columbo

Special RISA adult member guests are Wyatt Lema and Mary Anne Rossoni

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Wednesday, 20 February 2013

**Special Workshop, April 16 & April 19 Concert in the Works**      Written by Billy Mitchell

Be sure to save Tuesday April 16 & Friday April 19th in your calendar!

RISA will host Grammy Award Winning Nashville songwriter, Jon Vezner for a songwriting workshop (which will include audience song critiques) and concert to follow on Friday.

For more information on this great songwriter check his webpage: [www.jonvezner.com](http://www.jonvezner.com)

This is a fantastic opportunity to listen & learn from Jon's success!! HOLD THE DATES~ COMPLETE DETAILS COMING SOON!

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Monday, 07 January 2013

**RISA Showcase & Booking Opportunity Process**

Written by Jenn Armstrong

We're always looking for opportunities to provide members to perform their original music. The best opportunity is a songwriter showcase, but it takes two ingredients: a venue and a host.

A venue can be a:

- Restaurant
- Bar
- Coffee House
- Theater
- Fraternal Organization
- Church Group
- Library
- Municipal Arts Council
- Schools/Universities

A good venue for RISA generally has:

- Adequate performance space
- Decent acoustics & lighting
- Recognized, established venue
- Workable layout



- A listening audience looking for something more than a cover song bar band
- Music is an important part of the customer experience
- Enthusiastic owner participates in Series Promotion
- Sound system

If you have performed at or are aware of a venue that meets these criteria, please let us know. Recommend the venue to the RISA board, and we'll evaluate the suggestion and get back to you. Or even accompany you to the venue for a more detailed discussion

Next, and equally important, is the host. Being a Songwriter series host is fun, but it's work too.

Here's a list of Host duties and requirements:

- RISA Member,
- Approved as Host by RISA Board
- Experienced performer
- Knowledge of venues/area
- Manage Series Promo (external & to RISA Membership)
- Post shows on RISA website
- Prime communicator with players/venue - easy access/response
- Book Performers
- Provide directions and gig details to players
- Occasional value-added Guest at Host's discretion is OK
- Set-up/Break down
- Sound savvy - Run sound check
- Master of Ceremonies - Intro/bio players
- Promote RISA onstage - Membership materials on hand
- Provide/Promote CD Sales Area
- Co-hosts permitted
- Host may perform each session

Once again, if you want to be a host and know of an appropriate venue, let us know.

Now for the tough part, who do you book? Here the requirements of the venue and the fit and qualifications of performers come into play. Because performers are representing RISA, qualifications are important. Many times venue management plays a role in performer selection. This criterion is used for a RISA Showcase series or an individual RISA show.

The optimum criteria for RISA performer selection are:

- Current membership
- Up to date and complete RISA profile including Photo
- Credible online presence. Full website with Bio, Press photo, music samples, YouTube Videos, schedule is the best.

Minimum requirement: Reverb Nation page. Just a Facebook page is not acceptable.

- Ability to draw audience
- Venue Fit/Venue request
- Performance Experience
- Credentials
- Promotional skills
- Repertoire
- Attendance at RISA events
- Support other RISA members
- Contribution to organization

- Accessibility
- Attitude
- Rotation
- One off or series

Some performers meet all or most of the criteria. Anyone can improve their chances by meeting more criteria categories.

The key is to communicate with us. Be on the lookout for an opportunity & tell us. Contact any of us on the Contact page with details.

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Monday, 26 November 2012

**You're Invited - December 18th Meet and Greet**

Written by Barbara Lema

It's the time of year when calendars start filling up. We're writing to you early to be sure and get the RISA Holiday Meet and Greet on your calendar.

Tuesday, December 18th  
The Brooklyn Coffee and Tea House  
209 Douglas Ave., Providence  
7 - 10 p.m.

Stop by to catch up with old RISA friends and meet new ones! There will be food, drink, and music (and you're welcome to take the stage to lead the gathering in a holiday song or two - it's a casual event).

Admission is free. Bring a friend if you'd like, and if you're so inclined bring a snack, dessert and/or beverage (welcomed, but not required - the main thing is we want you there!).

Hoping to see you there!

Questions? Send them to us at: [GeneralInformation@risongwriters.com](mailto:GeneralInformation@risongwriters.com)

With our Best Wishes of the Season,

Your RISA Board

Chuck Williams, President  
Jan Luby, Vice President  
Joanne Lurgio, Treasurer/Membership Officer  
Barbara Lema, Secretary  
Rick Demers  
Daniel James Durand  
Wyatt Lema  
Billy Mitchell  
Paul Pasch  
Mary Ann Rossoni  
Rick Wahlberg

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Wednesday, 26 September 2012

**October 14 - Promotion 101 Workshop**

Written by Billy Mitchell

Here it is RISA members! The workshop many of you asked for! Sunday, October 14th from 1 to 5pm in the Providence area (details to come). Get your music into the high speed lane with the Promotion 101 Workshop sponsored by RISA.

Put together the talents of Billy Mitchell, a marketing expert, along with Ginny Shea, long time, successful Publicist, and professional photographer, Denise Bass, and you have one hell of a great workshop!

Here's some information about the offerings:

Promo 101 Workshop

It's All About You - Billy Mitchell

Your Goals - Where do you want your music to be?

Your Identity - You & your music defined.

Your Audience - Your Niche

Your Brand - How to stand out

Your Gateway to legitimacy - A Real CD & other tools

RISA bookings and other gigs

Your Tools - Ginny Shea, Publicist, with Greg Lato

Critical ingredients of an impressive publicity campaign

Advertising vs. Publicity

Media List

Planning: local/national/online campaign

Press releases, radio

Social Media/online publicity

EPKs, web sites

Key components of a press kit

DIY vs. hire a publicist

Your Headshot - Denise Bass

Get a PRO head shot at a discount at the Workshop!

The workshop will be held Sunday, October 14th from 1 to 5pm in the Providence area (details to come).

TO REGISTER: First email [jmlurgio@verizon.net](mailto:jmlurgio@verizon.net) to pre-register. Then send a check for \$20 made out to RISA to confirm to:

Rhode Island Songwriters Association (RISA)

c/o Joanne Lurgio, Treasurer

Post Office Box 9246

Warwick, Rhode Island 02889

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Tuesday, 25 September 2012

**Thanks!**

Written by Billy Mitchell

The Officers and Board of Directors of RISA wish to thank all of our Past Presidents and Co-chairs for their dedication to the craft of songwriting and promotion of live original music.

Marie Wheelan, founder

John Fuzek, Co-chair 1994

Jeff Olson, Co-chair 1994

John Fuzek, Co-chair 1995

Jeff Olson, Co-chair 1995

Peter Hale, Co-chair, 1996

Steve Valentine, Co-chair, 1996

Jeff Olson, Co-chair, 1997

Steve Valentine, Co-chair, 1997

Mary Ann Rossoni, Co-chair, 1998

Chris Myers, Co-Chair 1998

Deb Dovale, Co-chair 1999

Dave Fontaine, Co-chair 1999

Deb Dovale, Co-chair 2000

Dave Fontaine, Co-chair 2000

Mary Ann Rossoni, Co-chair 2002

John Fuzek, Co-chair 2002

Bill Furney, Co-chair 2003

John Fuzek, Co-chair 2003

John Fuzek, President 2004

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Monday, 10 September 2012

**RISA Looking Forward to NERFA**

Written by Billy Mitchell

Time is getting short for the annual NERFA Conference being held November 8-11 at the Hudson Valley Resort & Spa in Kerhonkson, New York.

As usual, the event promises to be a great time and valuable educational and networking opportunity. For a complete



explanation on what NERFA is about check the article on NERFA in the "More Articles" section at the bottom of this page.

While most people go for the entire conference, partial attendance is also possible. Check the NERFA website at [www.nerfa.org](http://www.nerfa.org)

RISA will have an exhibit at the conference and will host a RISA Guerilla Showcase on Saturday Night.

RISA members attending to date are : Joanne Lurgio, Dan & Faith Senie, Carolyn Waters, Rick Drost, Chuck Williams, Beth DeSombre, Lara Herscovitch, Jan Luby, Paul Pasch, Marc Douglas Berardo, Bethel Steele, Rick Demers, Terry Kitchen, and Billy Mitchell

If you're going, get in touch with Billy Mitchell @ [Billy0615@cox.net](mailto:Billy0615@cox.net).

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Wednesday, 05 September 2012

### **Leadership Changes at Rhode Island Songwriters Association**    Written by Billy Mitchell

John Fuzek, founding member of the Rhode Island Songwriters Association (RISA), has decided to step down from his role as President after nearly 20 years of involvement and establishing a presence for RISA in the Rhode Island music scene.

In 2009, John helped transform RISA by strengthening it with a board of directors, key committees and delegating responsibilities to a slate of officers to allow for a responsive, self-sustaining organization. We wish John well in his future endeavors and thank him for his dedication to the organization

Succeeding John as President is Chuck Williams. Other officers are: Vice President, Jan Luby, Treasurer, Joanne Lurgio, and Secretary Barbara Lema.

Committee Chairs are: Performance/Booking - Billy Mitchell, Membership - Joanne Lurgio, Workshops/Critiques - Jan Luby, Mentoring - Daniel James Durand, Grants - Mary Ann Rossoni , Communications/website - Billy Mitchell

Matters pertaining to the organization or specific functions should be directed to Officers and committee chairs or through the contact page on [www.risongwriters.com](http://www.risongwriters.com)

We look forward to continuing to support the songwriting craft and live original music for our 140 + members throughout Southeastern New England with new initiatives and opportunities in the future

Thank you,  
RISA Board of Directors



RISA Officers and Board Members - Front Left to right: Barbara Lema, Secretary;  
Joanne Lurgio, Treasurer; Jan Luby, Vice President; Chuck Williams, President  
2nd row, Left to right: Daniel James Durand, Rick Demers, Mary Ann Rossoni,  
Billy Mitchell, Ray Wyatt Lema, Paul Pasch, Rick Wahlberg. Absent, Tony Demmings

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Monday, 03 September 2012

**RISA Makes Changes to Membership Options**    Written by Billy Mitchell

We have made some changes & additions to the membership options that take affect July 1st, 2012. We have added a Business Associate and Student category. Details of these and other categories are below.

Category	Dues	Votes	Comments
Individual	\$25	one	
Family	\$35	two	Must reside in same household
Band	\$30	one	One profile with band name, multiple ID cards
Business Associate	\$50	one	Introductory offer this year (07/12 - 07/13
Student	\$15	none	High school or college student, performance possibilities, no profile

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Wednesday, 16 May 2012

**RISA Annual Meeting Held**    Written by Billy Mitchell

Our annual meeting was held at the Brooklyn on April 18th. The event was well attended. it was great getting together with our musical friends. Reports were filed by each committee and a slate of Board members was elected. Board members are: Jan Luby, Tony Demmings, Chuck Williams, John Fuzek, Dan Durand, Rick Wahlberg, Paul Pasch, Joanne Lurgio, Ray Wyatt, Barbara Lema, Billy Mitchell, Mary Ann Rossoni and Rick Demers.

Amended Bylaws were also passed.

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Tuesday, 15 May 2012

**RISA Rising Teen Songwriting Class Holds Concerts**    Written by Billy Mitchell

Two shows coming up that we're quite proud of.

Dan Durand's RISA Rising Teen Songwriting Class 1 is presenting a concert of the original songs written during the class. The concert will be held at Second Stage studio, One Angell Road in Cumberland Sunday, May 20th at 3:30. Telephone 401-334-4800. Also visit [www.secondstagestudio.com](http://www.secondstagestudio.com)

AND...on Friday night, May 25th at 6:30pm at The Jessie M. Smith Memorial Library, 100 Tinkham lane, Harrisville, RI. Telephone 401-710-7800 or visit [www.jmslibrary.org](http://www.jmslibrary.org)

Come out and support some remarkable young songwriters. Dan's next RISA Rising Class is in the works.

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Tuesday, 15 May 2012

**RISA presence at the June 2nd - One Day NERFA Conference.** Written by Billy Mitchell

The Northeast Regional Folk Alliance will be holding its second Boston area 1 Day Mini Conference on Saturday, June 2nd. We are proud to announce that RISA member Beth DeSombre has been selected to perform one of the 15 minute artist showcases! Beth was selected from over 70 showcase applicants. This makes the second year in a row that RISA member has had the opportunity to showcase their talents. Beth follows RISA member Michelle Cruz who received that honor in 2011!

In addition to the showcases our RISA President, John Fuzek, a member of the NERFA Board of Directors, will be on a Workshop panel discussing Building Community. A strong sense of community is among the reasons that people often cite for attending NERFA's annual conference each fall. A diverse group of people who have been engaged in building communities will share their perspective.

There is still time to register for NERFA and support OUR community in the process.

Go to <http://www.nerfa.org/baod/boston-one-day-conference-registration> for details.

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Thursday, 27 January 2011

**NERFA. Another RISA Membership Bennie.** Written by Billy Mitchell

NERFA. What the heck is that? I had no clue. Sure, there were photos on the RISA website and stories about playing music all night. And there was the incredibly "robust", yet confusing NERFA website.

Fellow RISA folks said "you should go". So I went. Hung out with RISA pals (Chuck Williams, Chris Moon, Joanne Lurgio, Rick Demers). I was absolutely blown away by what lie ahead.

First, a definition: NERFA stands for North East Regional Chapter of Folk Alliance International.

The event in question is NERFA's annual conference, usually held in the beautiful Hudson Valley (aka, the Catskills) where the following types congregate for a weekend:

- Performers
- Agents
- Booking agents
- Venue and festival promoters,
- Recording industry professionals,
- Graphic artists,
- Folk DJs,
- Journalists,
- Photographers,
- Publicists
- Production professionals

PLEASE READ THIS LIST AGAIN. Roughly translated, if you're a performer, anyone who can book you in a venue, festival, or house concert; anyone who can play your music on the radio; anyone who can manage you, sign you to a record deal, or record you, is THERE under one roof...and the reason they come is to find new performers for their audiences. Freakin' Nirvana.

This year there were 800 attendees: 350 performers and 450 people looking for performers. Nice odds.

Now how does all this work?



Well first off there are all kinds of great workshops each day that cover all the ins and outs of performing, recording, publishing, marketing, booking, pitching. Hoo boy. Tons of knowledge. But wait, there's more.

Lots of "Networking time": happy hour in the lobby (with two free drinks!), downtime lobby schmoozing (amidst some jam sessions).

And there's the "Exhibit Hall" Lots of booths from instrument makers, record producers, festival organizers, performers, etc. time to schmooze again.

But the real mind blower is the "Showcases". This is where performers get to play a short set for the movers and shakers who can get you & your music out there. The selection process varies, and in some cases it's juried, in other cases, you have to watch the NERFA listserv to apply (schmoozing helps a lot too), but in all cases, there's something here for everyone.

Three different Showcase flavors each night:

The Formal Showcase - 7 to 9pm; In the Big Room. 2 hours, 4 performers per hour. Looks like you have to be nationally recognized to qualify though, but as a member of the audience, it's two hours of fantastic music.

TriCentric Showcases. 9 to 11pm. Three Venues – Three performers each venue. Hop around to catch the ones you want to see. These performers are regionally strong and on the brink of national recognition. 800 applicants this year, so it's cream of the upwardly mobile crop. Applying is a long shot for most, but for some, worth a shot.

Guerilla Showcases – 11pm till ????. This is the mother lode. Two floors of the hotel are designated for Guerilla showcases. That means there are about 30 different showcases going on all night. Basically the Showcase host turns their room into a venue. 4 songwriters in the round. Change line-ups every hour. (RISA had a showcase this year & will do so again next year). Many of these showcases are sponsored by House Concert promoters, and Venue managers. Instant audition. What's more, promoters, presenters, DJs, cruise the Guerilla showcases looking for the next big thing. Apply for a spot on ahead of time via the NERFA listserv. Many folks were able to play at a dozen or so showcases throughout the weekend. Lots of exposure, lots of networking. Lots of showcase promotion as well...flyers everywhere, ads in program book. Gotta get those movers & shakers to go to your showcase!(RISA will have a few promo tricks up its sleeve next year)

And yes there's even an open mike during the day (sign up way early, though).

But wait, there's more. The lobby of the hotel is jam session central. Spontaneous stuff going on all the time.

AND the food (quite surprisingly) is terrific.

To wrap-up

- Two Solid days of top flight Music
- Workshops
- Networking
- An opportunity to perform for movers & shakers
- Nightly Happy Hour with 2 free drinks.
- A weekend at a resort in the Poconos – all meals included

All for around \$300 a head. As I'm sure someone once said in the Catskills, "Such a Deal"! And if you're an old flower chile, you can even stop by Yasgurs Farm...not far at all.

So now that you know, next year, RISA will be planning a strong presence. More info to follow as we get closer to it. Join us.

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Thursday, 22 July 2010

**Re-vitalized Rhode Island Songwriter's Association rolls out new structure and initiatives: Elects new slate of Officers and Board.** - Written by Billy Mitchell

In an effort reminiscent of "A Little Help from My Friends", the Rhode Island Songwriter's Association (RISA) has been undergoing an ambitious re-organization of its structure and services.

Last June, at the annual all-member meeting, John Fuzek, Co-Chair of RISA, acknowledged that the Association needed to be better organized in order to create programs to better serve members of the Rhode Island Songwriting Community and in turn the Region's music community as well.

A volunteer Steering Committee was formed to study various issues and create a new organizational structure... in fact a new RISA...to address the future.

One year later, at this June's 2010 RISA Annual all member meeting, the thirteen member committee presented its work which included:

1. Updated by-laws
2. Streamlined membership and financial processes
3. New state-of-the-art website/community portal featuring member profiles, benefits, articles, community accomplishments, learning topics, and event updates.
4. New workshops & critiques based on membership surveys.
5. Performance Initiatives - new guidelines and packages for creating RISA songwriting showcases throughout the region and performance opportunities for members.
6. Mentoring program for new & growing members
7. Marketing - new objectives, and organization.

Committees were formed and staffed. Active committees are: Development & Education, Performance, Mentoring, Marketing, Website, and Membership.

Nominations for officers, and Board of Directors were held and the following officers were elected at a RISA Meeting on July 12:

President-John Fuzek, Vice President-Chuck Williams, Treasurer-Joanne Lurgio, Interim Secretary-Barbara Lema.

Board Members and Members at Large: Paul Pasch, Mary Ann Rossoni, Billy Mitchell, Jan Luby, Rick Demers, Anthony Demmings, Rick Wahlberg, Wyatt Lema, Greg Lato.

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The Rhode Island Songwriters Association, founded in 1993, is a recognized 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Its mission is to encourage, foster and conduct the art and craft of original lyrical and musical composition; provide educational programs, critique sessions and performance opportunities for all musical styles; and support open collaboration within the Songwriting community of Southeastern New England.