

The Texas Songwriters Association

Presents



15th Annual  
**SONGWRITER  
SYMPOSIUM**

JANUARY 9 – 13, 20

Holiday Inn Midtown

Austin, Texas

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

# **ASG SONGWRITER SYMPOSIUM 2019 SCHEDULE**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019**

**5:00 – 6:30 PM**

## **Symposium Registration (Magnolia Room)**

Walk Up Registration & Pre-Registration Check In:

1. Pick Up Schedule and Wrist Bands
2. Sign Up for the One-On-One with Publisher of Your Choice
3. Sign Up for the One-On-Ones with the music industry professionals ( writers, publicists, lawyers, producers, performance coach, etc. )
4. Sign up for showcases

**6:30 PM: Kick Off Party Meet and Greet!**

**7:00 – 8:00 PM: Open Mic In The Round**

**8:00 – 9:15 PM PUBLISHERS PANEL**

Music Publishers Bobby Rymer, Jimmy Metts, Sherrill Dean Blackman, Steve Bloch, and Antoinette Olesen kick off Symposium 2019 by leading this panel discussing current trends in music publishing.

**7:00 – 8:00 PM: Open Mic In The Round**

**10:00 PM - Midnight**

## **SONG PICKING CIRCLES**

After the Music Publishing Panel, grab your instruments and circle for the opening night song picking circles.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019**

**9:00 AM**

## **Symposium Registration (Magnolia Room)**

Walk Up Registration & Pre-Registration Check In:

1. Pick Up Schedule and Wrist Bands
2. Sign Up for the One-On-One with Publisher of Your Choice
3. Sign Up for the One-On-Ones with the music industry professionals ( writers, publicists, lawyers, producers, performance coach, etc. )
4. Sign up for showcases

## **PUBLISHERS PANEL (HILL COUNTRY BALL ROOM)**

This is an introduction to the publishers. They will tell you a little about themselves, and some of the things they are currently working on. This session will end with a Q & A. This will help you decide which of the publishers might be the best fit for you. There will be sign up sheets for the publishers available for you to sign up for your One-On-One Publisher Pitch in the registration office.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Anyone that is interested in having a song critiqued by this panel is welcome to bring a CD that will be played. We will draw CD's from the hat and will get to as many as we have time for.

**10:30 AM BREAK**

**10:45 AM – 4:30 PM**

## **PITCH TO PUBLISHER SESSIONS**

Bobby Rymer, Jimmy Metts, Steve Bloch, Antoinette Olesen, Sherrill Dean Blackman & Ted Lowe will be conducting One-on-One Pitch To Publisher Sessions every day throughout the Symposium. (By Appointment Only – Register In The Magnolia Room)

**10:45 am - 12:15 pm**

## **BILL & RUTH CARTER SONGWRITING WORKSHOP #1**

### **Stories In Song: It's In The Details**

Having successfully written for or collaborated with over 200 different artists, including Stevie Ray Vaughan, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Robert Palmer, Brian Setzer, and Counting Crows, among many others, Bill & Ruth Carter have learned a thing or two about songwriting. In this workshop, they lend their insights and experience in crafting the details that make for great story songs.

**12:15 - 1:30: Lunch On Your Own**

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019 CONTINUED

**1:30 – 3:00 PM**

### **GIULIA MILLANTA – PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP PART ONE**

Attendees will have a chance to perform a song (an original or a cover) in front of the class and we'll discuss the issues that may arise. The main points we will focus on will be:

*Lyrics:* we'll work on the lyrics in a "theatrical" way, finding a personal way to interpret the song.

*The Key and Vocal Issues:* make sure there are no vocal issues, which includes checking the key, explore different ones, address the parts that are vocally challenging

*Accompaniment:* making sure the guitar (or piano) part works well where the vocals and it's all flowing smoothly.

*Stage presence* (the most important one): we'll make sure the song is delivered at its full potential, we'll address all the little mistakes we make on stage and practice how to introduce the song in an engaging way.

### **BEN BAZZREA – INTRO TO MUSIC THEORY**

Want to energize your major scale chord progressions, learn a bit more about harmonizing to your melody, or go a little deeper inside the theory of major scales, join Ben Bazzrea for this intro music theory class where he will be walking through the major scale, and the chords built within the major scale, while highlighting the basics of harmonizing a melody, and much more! This talk is for all skill levels.

**3:00: BREAK**

**3:15-4:45 PM**

### **AMY LOMBARDI of TUNECORE**

Music distribution has changed so much in the last 10-15 years, it's hard to keep up. But, the good news is, there have never been so many tools for independent artists to market and distribute their music to a worldwide audience. Join Tunecore's Amy Lombardi for this insider's session on the worldwide distribution of your music.

### **ANTOINETTE OLESEN, PERFORMING SONGWRITER & PUBLISHER**

This **Power Songwriting Workshop** led by Antoinette Olesen will help you fill your songwriting toolbox with concrete ways to approach a new song and make your current songs even better!

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019 CONTINUED**

**5:00 PM - (Hill Country Ballroom)**

### **PUBLISHER'S DAILY PICK**

Each of the publishers will choose their favorite song from the day's Pitch to Publisher Sessions and the songwriter will have an opportunity to perform it if they wish.

**6:00 – 7:30 PM Dinner on your own**

**8:00-PM (Hill Country Ballroom)**

### **TEXAS MUSIC LEGENDS HALL OF FAME AWARDS**

The Texas Songwriters Association presents the Music Legends Hall of Fame Awards ceremonies featuring 2019 inductees:

Robert Josef Cross  
Rosie Flores  
Denny Freeman  
Joe Gracey  
Champ Hood

Michael Martin Murphey  
Tim O'Connor  
Bobby Earl Smith  
Danny Roy Young

***Special Concert Performance by Lost Austin Band***

**10:00 PM – BEDTIME**

### **SONG PICKING CIRCLES**

After the Hall of Fame Awards Show, grab your instruments and circle up for the Thursday night song picking circles.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019**

**9:00 AM**

## **Symposium Registration (Magnolia Room)**

Walk Up Registration & Pre-Registration Check In:

1. Pick Up Schedule and Wrist Bands
2. Sign Up for the One-On-One with Publisher of Your Choice
3. Sign Up for the One-On-Ones with the music industry professionals ( writers, publicists, lawyers, producers, performance coach, etc. )
4. Sign up for showcases

**9:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

## **PITCH TO PUBLISHER SESSIONS**

Bobby Rymer, Jimmy Metts, Steve Bloch, Antoinette Olesen, Sherrill Dean Blackman & Ted Lowe will be conducting One-on-One Pitch To Publisher Sessions every day throughout the Symposium. (By Appointment Only – Register In The Magnolia Room)

**10:00 – 11:15 AM**

## **WRITERS & TEXAS MUSIC HISTORY**

Join Texas music writers Kathleen Hudson, Craig Hillis, and Harold Eggers as they share some of their personal stories as writers writing about Texas music.

## **STEPHEN DOSTER – IT ALL STARTS WITH A SONG**

Veteran musician, songwriter, recording artist and producer Stephen Doster leads this workshop exploring the process of bringing your songs to life from the initial inspiration through the writing and arranging all the way to a finished recorded production.

**11:30 AM – 12:15 PM**

## **INTERVIEW WITH TIM O'CONNOR**

**12:15 – 1:30 PM: Lunch On Your Own**

## **FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019 CONTINUED**

**1:30-3:00 PM**

### **BILL AND RUTH CARTER SONGWRITING WORKSHOP #2**

In their second workshop, songwriting legends Bill & Ruth Carter explore concepts that can make your songs uniquely you, and why that unique factor is important in distinguishing your songs.

### **KADY RAIN – SOCIAL MEDIA & YOUR MUSIC**

How many followers do you have? How many views do you get when you post a video on social media? How many plays do you have on your songs? It doesn't matter what your answer to these questions are, because it can always be MORE! Kady Rain shares tips and tricks to gain social media followers, get views and plays, and how to make money doing it!

**3:00 BREAK**

**3:15 - 4:45 PM**

### **GIULIA MILLANTA – PERFORMANCE WORKSHOP PART TWO**

Attendees will have a chance to perform a song (an original or a cover) in front of the class and we'll discuss the issues that may arise. The main points we will focus on will be:

*Lyrics:* we'll work on the lyrics in a "theatrical" way, finding a personal way to interpret the song.

*The Key and Vocal Issues:* make sure there are no vocal issues, which includes checking the key, explore different ones, address the parts that are vocally challenging

*Accompaniment:* making sure the guitar (or piano) part works well where the vocals and it's all flowing smoothly.

*Stage presence* (the most important one): we'll make sure the song is delivered at its full potential, we'll address all the little mistakes we make on stage and practice how to introduce the song in an engaging way.

### **BEN BAZZREA & KADY RAIN SECRETS OF POP SONG STRUCTURE**

In this songwriting class, performing and recording songwriters, Ben Bazzrea and Kady Rain will write a song live in front of the audience and discuss some of the strategies they regularly use to make their songs competitive in the pop genre.

## **FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019 CONTINUED**

**5:00 – 5:45 PM**

### **PUBLISHER'S DAILY PICK**

Each of the publishers will choose their favorite song from the day's Pitch to Publisher Sessions and the songwriter will have an opportunity to perform it if they wish.

**6:00 – 8:00 PM:**

**Join ASG for the complimentary dinner break, and be treated to a special interview performance event with Michael Martin Murphey and Craig Hillis**

**8:30:00 PM – BEDTIME**

### **SONG PICKING CIRCLES**

After the Special Concert Event, grab your instruments and circle up for the Friday night song picking circles.

# **SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019**

## **9:00 AM: Symposium Registration (Magnolia Room)**

Walk Up Registration & Pre-Registration Check In:

1. Pick Up Schedule and Wrist Bands
2. Sign Up for the One-On-One with Publisher of Your Choice
3. Sign Up for the One-On-Ones with the music industry professionals ( writers, publicists, lawyers, producers, performance coach, etc. )
4. Sign up for showcases

## **9:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

### **PITCH TO PUBLISHER SESSIONS**

Bobby Rymer, Jimmy Metts, Steve Bloch, Antoinette Olesen, Sherrill Dean Blackman & Ted Lowe will be conducting One-on-One Pitch To Publisher Sessions every day throughout the Symposium. (By Appointment Only – Register In The Magnolia Room)

## **9:00 – 10:30 AM**

### **MUSIC PUBLISHING WORKSHOP WITH STEVE BLOCH**

Music Publisher, Steve Bloch facilitates the “Before They Were Hits” workshop revealing the process of taking songs from original demos to hit songs.

### **SONGWRITING WORKSHOP WITH CRAIG MARSHALL**

Former ASG Songwriter of the Year, Craig Marshall leads this workshop exploring strategies for creating masterful chord progressions and dynamic musical arrangements.

## **10:30 BREAK**

## **10:45 AM -12:15 PM**

### **"Update, Update, Update: Keeping The Media Informed"**

Austin music and media professionals Cash Edwards, Roger Allen, Doug Freeman, and Ted Branson discuss the ins and outs of publicity, music journalism and radio in the Austin Market. The Panel will facilitate a discussion exploring strategies for keeping the media professionally informed on your musical projects, focusing on your specific promotional needs and the importance of timing.

# **SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019 CONTINUED**

**12:15-3:00 PM (Hill Country Ballroom)**

## **LUNCH & KEYNOTE PROGRAM**

Canadian Songwriters' Showcase, ASG Songwriters Of The Year In The Round & Roger Allen interviews Austin hit songwriter, Miles Zuniga.

**3:15-4:45 PM**

**MIKE TOLESON - SCHEDULE FOR ONE ON ONE WITH A LAWYER**  
**GWEN SEALE - SCHEDULE FOR ONE ON ONE WITH A LAWYER**

## **MUSIC THEORY PART TWO: MODES AND MORE**

Ben Bazzrea continues where his previous "Intro to Music Theory" workshop left off, discussing the modes, songs within the modes, and more advanced topics of music theory. This talk is going to assume you already know the basics of the major scale and are ready for a deeper dive.

**4:45 – 6:00 PM**

## **BRYAN CALHOUN – TEAM BUILDING MASTER CLASS**

For artists it is vital to have the right team members representing you to further your career. But, who are they? When do you need them? How much do they charge? What should you expect from them? And, what do they expect from you? In this session, we will discuss the key team members for any artist including when you can go it alone and when you need to bring in help.

**6:15 – 7:30 PM: Dinner On Your Own**

**8:00 PM: (Hill Country Ballroom)**

## **PUBLISHER'S DAILY PICKS**

**SPECIAL CONCERT EVENT TBA, FOLLOWED BY SONG CIRCLES**

# **SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019**

**9:00 – 10:30 AM**

## **Gospel Music Jam (Hill Country Ballroom)**

SHORT SURPRISE ACOUSTIC CONCERT followed by the annual Sunday Morning Gospel Music Jam. Bring your instruments and favorite gospel songs to share in this Sunday morning gospel music breakfast jam that has become an annual final day tradition at the ASG Symposiums.

**10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

## **PITCH TO PUBLISHER SESSIONS**

Bobby Rymer, Jimmy Metts, Steve Bloch, Antoinette Olesen, Sherrill Dean Blackman & Ted Lowe will be conducting One-on-One Pitch To Publisher Sessions every day throughout the Symposium. (By Appointment Only – Register In The Magnolia Room)

**10:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

## **DAVID LEE, MASTER'S SONGWRITING CLASS**

## **ONE ON ONE PROFESSIONAL MENTOR SESIONS**

(By Appointment Only – Register In The Magnolia Room)

GABE RHODES – PRODUCER, ARRANGER, SONGWRITER, AND MULTI INSTRUMENTALIST

GIULIA MILLANTA – VOCAL/PERFORMANCE COACH

MIKE TOLLESON – ENTERTAINMENT LAWYER

GWEN SEALE - ENTERTAINMENT LAWYER

DOUG FREEMAN – ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

ROGER ALLEN – AUTHOR / RADIO

CASH EDWARDS - PUBLICIST

AMY LOMBARDI – TUNECORE

BRYAN CALHOUN – PANDORA AND MUSIC BUSINESS TOOL BOX

# Symposium 2019 Faculty

Roger Allen  
Ben Bazzrea  
Sherrill Dean Blackman  
Steve Bloch  
Ted Branson  
Rick Busby  
Ruth Ellsworth Carter  
Bill Carter  
Bryan Calhoun  
Stephen Doster  
Lee Duffy  
Cash Edwards  
Harold Eggers  
Doug Freeman

Craig Hillis  
Kathleen Hudson  
David Lee  
Amy Lombardi  
Craig Marshall  
Giulia Millanta  
Michael Martin Murphey  
Tim O'Connor  
Antoinette Olesen  
Kady Rain  
Gabe Rhodes  
Gwen Seale  
Mike Tolleson  
Miles Zuniga

## Publishing and Performing Rights

**Bobby Rymer**

**Ted Lowe**

**Sherrill Dean Blackman**

**Jimmy Metts**

**Steve Bloch**

**Antoinette Olesen**

## Instructor & Panelist Bios

**Roger Allen**  
*KGSR Radio*



Roger Allen is a long time Austin radio personality. He has been active in Austin radio since 1974 and has been in radio broadcasting in some fashion for over 45 years. He currently sends music through the airwaves on Sun Radio, and is well known for his award-winning “Lone Star State of Mind” program, which originated during his tenure on the legendary, KGSR Radio. Roger has been a music director, record producer, booking agent and has served the Texas Book Festival as the music coordinator. He is a Grammy member, an award-winning radio producer, and a published author for *Miles and Miles of Texas*, which he co-wrote with Carol Dawson, under his real name, Roger Polson.

**Ben Bazzrea**  
*Songwriter, Guitarist*



Ben Bazzrea is a songwriter with over 15 years of experience and literally hundreds, if not thousands, of songs under his belt. He and his primary co-writer, Kady Rain, have authored songs that have garnered millions of plays worldwide and have received recognition from outlets like NPR, who chose Kady Rain's song, "R.A.D. Moves" as their song of the summer for 2018, beating out artists like Beyonce, Drake, and Zedd.

**Sherrill Dean Blackman**  
*Music Publisher*



Blackman, a Dudley, North Carolina native, arrived in Nashville in 1980 and graduated from Belmont University with a Music Business degree in 1982. He served on the staff of The Nashville Songwriters Association International for six years and was General Manager of Buckhorn Music for four years until 1994, when he founded his sdb music group, a publishing and song-plugging company. Since that time, he has secured recordings in Country, Pop, Rock, Gospel, Bluegrass, Blues, Jazz, and Polka, resulting in various radio hits, as well as Gold, Platinum, and Multi-Platinum certifications, several Grammy and IBMA nominations and one Dove award winner. Blackman is co-founder of The Independent Pluggers Association; a three term past president of The Nashville Publishers' Network; and was named Music Row Magazine's “Song Pluggers of The Year” in 2004, 2005, and 2006.

## **Steve Bloch**

*Director of Publisher Relations, A&R, LLC*



Steve is the sole proprietor of Southern Cow Music and co-founder of Writer Zone Music. He also listens for Doug Johnson, creative head of Black River Entertainment, whose artists include Kellie Pickler, Craig Morgan, and Sarah Darling, among others. Steve is a frequent guest of many songwriter festivals, workshops, and publisher nights.

## **Ted Branson**

*KOOP Radio, Austin FM 91.7*



Ted Branson has been in Austin Texas since 1974 and has been involved in volunteer radio for over 15 years. He programs and hosts three music radio programs every week on KOOP 91.7 FM Community non-profit radio here in Austin. Ted is an avid, lifelong record collector. Using his vast record collection, Ted programs and hosts the KOOP programs "A Blues Groove," "Under the X in Texas" and "Strictly Bluegrass," which keeps him busy programming music and booking in studio guests. In 2013, Ted received a Texas Music Award nomination for "Radio DJ of the Year".

## **Rick Busby**

*Singer-Songwriter, Recording Artist & ASG Director*



In 1998, after spending the first half of his professional career on the business side of the entertainment business, Rick Busby returned to his first loves of songwriting and performing. In 2003, he released his debut CD, *Soul Diving*, which went on to garner two nominations in the Academy of Texas Music's 2004 Texas Music Awards, including a Song of the Year nod for the song "Pray." He has served on the ASG Board of Directors since 2004, and as ASG President since 2007. During that time, he also served on NSAI's Legislative Committee and made two trips to Washington, D.C. to lobby for songwriter's rights. He regularly serves ASG members as the "Song Doctor" and teaches songwriting classes throughout the year in Texas. In late 2012, he released his second full-length record, *Strawberry Moon*, which was produced by Stephen Doster. The new record includes a cover of Gordon Lightfoot's "Carefree Highway," which received a nomination at the 2013 Texas Music Awards. In 2014, he co-founded Atticus Records with Austin recording artist & producer, Stephen Doster, which will release his third album, *The Soul Of Everything*, in March 2019.

## **Bill Carter**

*Singer-Songwriter, Musician & Recording Artist*



Austin-based singer-songwriter Bill Carter's list of bona fides is so long, it's hard to decide which credits to note first. We could start with his first big songwriting score, "Why Get Up?," heard on the Fabulous Thunderbirds' breakout album, *Tuff Enuff*. There's a breakfast cereal commercial that earned the about-to-be-evicted Carter and his co-writer wife, Ruth Ellsworth, a then-huge \$25,000 payday. Then there's "Crossfire," the No. 1 hit they wrote with Chris Layton, Tommy Shannon and Reese Wynans, a.k.a. Double Trouble, the band who backed T-Bird Jimmie Vaughan's little brother, Stevie Ray. Or there's "Anything Made of Paper," penned for the West Memphis 3's Damien Echols, which Carter recorded with pal Johnny Depp and performed on the *Late Show With David Letterman*. Featured in the West of Memphis documentary and on the accompanying soundtrack, it's also an award-winning animated video. Carter's songs have been covered by scores of major

artists, from John Mayall and Ruth Brown to Robert Palmer and Waylon Jennings; among his accolades is a BMI Million Air award for more than three million "Crossfire" spins. Carter has also released several albums of his own, including *Innocent Victims* and *Evil Companions*, which was released in 2016 on Forty Below Records.

## **Ruth Carter**

*Songwriter, Lyricist, Poet, Creative Teacher*



Besides being Bill Carter's life partner for more than 40 years, Ruth Ellsworth Carter is an established songwriter and collaborator in her own right with a special knack for lyrics. As a steady lyrical companion and collaborator to Bill, they have had more than 200 songs recorded by dozens of other artists, including The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Brian Setzer, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Gary Nicholson, Counting Crows, Trace Adkins, Waylon Jennings, Robert Palmer, John Mayall, The Stray Cats, P (with Johnny Depp), John Anderson, McBride & The Ride, Don Williams, The Derailers, Omar and the Howlers, Ruth Brown, Tony Price, Will Sexton, Vanessa Paradis, and many more. They have been recognized with BMI's "Million Airs" award for writing "Crossfire," Stevie Ray Vaughan's only #1 hit,

which also won the "Song of the Decade" at the Austin Chronicle Awards. Their movie and television songwriting credits, include *Once Upon A Time in Mexico*, *8 Seconds*, *Run*, *King of the Hill*, *Leaving Normal*, *Life of David Gale*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *The Photographer*, *Denise Calls Up*, *Beverly Hills 90210*, along with everything from daytime dramas to the baseball playoffs. Besides her lyrical talents, Ruth is also a poet, writer, and an outstanding teacher of creativity.

## **Bryan Calhoun**

*Pandora Media, Creator of Music Business Toolbox*



Bryan has more than 25 years of experience at the nexus of technology, music and business. As a member of the Industry Relations team at music streaming giant Pandora Media, he helps artists, labels and managers maximize their opportunities on the platform. Always the artist advocate, he created the Music Business Toolbox, a book and set of tools, to empower musicians with actionable advice. He works with management powerhouse Maverick/Blueprint Group providing digital strategy for the roster of superstar artists including Lil Wayne, Nicki Minaj, G-Eazy, The Roots and more. In 2015, he co-founded Freeform to allow artists to capitalize on the successful monetization strategy popularized by the free-to-play mobile gaming revolution. Freeform was acquired by

Zedge, the world's largest phone personalization app to continue the vision with the expansion of a premium marketplace for artists to promote and sell their work to Zedge's 35 million monthly active users. He's worked with labels Relativity/Sony, RED, and Warlock and ran industry relations for Sound Exchange, which collects and distributes non-interactive streaming royalties to artists and labels. He is a frequent speaker at music industry conferences and voting member of the Recording Academy.

## **Lee Duffy**

*Singer/Songwriter, ASG Executive Director*



Lee Duffy has been Executive Director for ASG and the Texas Songwriters Association since 2003 and has organized every single one of the group's annual songwriters symposiums. A singer-songwriter herself, Lee has performed on some of the most popular stages in Texas from the legendary Armadillo World Headquarters to the Willie Nelson's Fourth of July picnics. She has shared the stage with Townes Van Zandt, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Kimmie Rhodes, Austin Cunningham, Gabe Rhodes, Will Sexton, Joe Manuel, Floyd Domino, Stephen Doster, Bill Carter, and many more. She sang and performed in two plays written by singer/songwriter Kimmie Rhodes and actor/playwright Joe Sears. These productions, "Small Town Girl" and "Hillbilly Heaven," had impressive

casts of local and national talent including Joe Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Alvin Crow, Mary Ann Price and many others. She co-wrote the song "Can't Touch Her Anymore" with Steven Doster and sang back up vocals with Will Sexton for the song, which was chosen to be included on the "Texas Guitar Slingers" CD, a fundraiser for The Texas Council on Family Violence. As executive director of the Austin Songwriters Group, Lee founded the ASG Songwriter Symposium in 2003, produces the Annual Merle Haggard Birthday Bash and has organized countless workshops and performance opportunities for songwriters from around the world.

## **Stephen Doster**

*Singer/Songwriter, Recording Artist & Producer*



In 2016 Stephen Doster was inducted into the Texas Music Legends Hall of Fame. He has produced over sixty records for artists including Maren Morris, George Enslie, Carolyn Wonderland, and Uncle Lucius. His song "Baby There's No One Like You" was recorded by Dr. John, Willie Nelson, and Double Trouble. Other artists that have recorded Doster's songs include Storyville, Maren Morris, Jonny Lang, and Rick Busby. He has release two nationally-acclaimed, self-produced albums in the last few years, *Arizona (2014)* and *New Black Suit (2017)*, both of where released on Atticus Records, a label he co-founded with Rick Busby.

## **Cash Edwards**

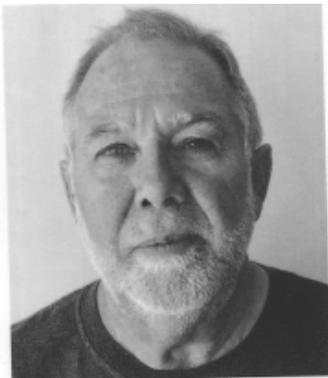
*Music Publicist & Consultant*



Cash Edwards is a publicist, writer and career consultant. She has been working internationally with independent American music artists since 1984, including the legendary Hot Tuna, and a long list of Texas-based artists. Cash has the knowledge, experience and contacts to help artists focus their immediate message and promote it. Through her company Cash Edwards Music Services, she creates opportunities for artists, making and sustaining a visible presence through positive marketing.

## **Harold Eggers**

*Music Industry Executive*



Harold Eggers is a Music Industry Executive with over 40 years experience as a road manager, business partner, and co-producer for Texas songwriter laureate, Townes Van Zandt, helping to bring his unforgettable music to live audiences across Europe and North America for more than two decades. He currently lives in Austin, Texas.

## **Doug Freeman**

*Music Journalist, Austin Chronicle*



Doug Freeman is a music critic for the Austin Chronicle, regularly contributing reviews and feature articles to Austin's alternately weekly newspaper. In 2006, Doug founded Austin Sound, the first website dedicated to specifically covering the Austin music scene. The site was inspired from his DJing on KVRX and writing for the Daily Texan while a graduate student at the University of Texas. He is also co-editor of the Austin Chronicle Music Anthology, published by University of Texas Press in 2011. The book collects the Austin Chronicle's best music writing and photography over its 30 year history, much of which is unavailable except in archived print form. As an Assistant Instructor at UT, Doug taught courses in literature, digital literacy and rhetoric and composition. He also served as a developer in the University's Digital Writing and Research Lab. He earned his Master's in English in 2006, studying rhetoric and technology, with a specific focus on theories of noise, static and silence within musical and rhetorical theory.

## **Craig Hillis**

*Writer, Songwriter, Guitarist, Co-Founder Lost Gonzo Band*



Like Bob Livingston, Hillis was a founding member of the Lost Gonzo Band and Michael Martin Murphey's Cosmic Cowboy Orchestra. He played lead guitar on the early Austin recordings of both artists. He has also played and written various songs with Steven Fromholz since initially meeting Fromholz in 1970. When the Lost Gonzo Band struck out on their own, Hillis stayed with Murphey and recorded another album with him, the self-titled Michael Murphey on Epic records. Hillis had had a number of songs recorded by Murphey, Fromholz, Rusty Wier and other singer-songwriters and has done extensive management and production work with the artists commonly associated with the progressive country scene in Austin. In addition to his career as a guitar player, he has written various books and articles on the Austin songwriting community of the 1970s and continues his research in that field.

## **Kathleen Hudson**

*Music Writer, Instructor*



Kathleen Hudson, Ph.D, teaches in the English Department at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas, and has authored two books on Texas music, one on the storytelling aspect of the Texas music tradition, and one on women in Texas music history. She founded the Texas Heritage Music Foundation in 1987 out of a commitment that stories and songs make a difference in the world. Kathleen will be facilitating several new workshops at Symposium 2016 that are certain to stimulate your creativity.

## **David Lee**

*Singer-Songwriter, Recording Artist*



In an ever changing music world fraught with people trying to be something they're not, David Lee is nothing but himself, a Wichita Falls born Texas native and a third generation musician. The Grammy-nominated, multiple award-winning songwriter cut his teeth in the Texas honky tonks, playing a mix of blues and country music which ultimately formed the foundation of his own songwriting. In 1993, David moved to Nashville and began to seriously pursue songwriting as a career. In 1996, after three years of working part-time jobs to make ends meet, he signed an exclusive publishing deal, and began life as a staff writer, ultimately landing his first cuts with

Terri Clark and John Michael Montgomery. His first Top 10 cut came with Leann Womack's 1999 hit, "Now You See Me, Now You Don't" which was followed three years later by Brad Martin's "Before I Knew Better" in 2002. In 2003 David moved with BMG Music Publishing and co-wrote his first #1 song "19 Somethin'" for Mark Wills, "Letters From Home" for John Michael Montgomery and received a "Song of the Year" Grammy nomination for Tim McGraw and Faith Hill's riveting love song "I Need You." That success was soon followed by his second #1 hit, "Lucky Man," performed by Montgomery Gentry. After the sale of BMG, David found a new home at Universal Music Publishing and wrote for six years having a string of chart successes with Easton Corbin's "Roll With It", Alan Jackson's "You Go Your Way", Lady Antebellum's "Hello World", two Trace Adkins releases "I Wanna Feel Something" and "This Ain't No Love Song," while continuing to score cuts by major country artist such as George Strait, Kix Brooks, Clay Davidson, Billy Currington and others. In 2012, David signed with Ten-Ten Music Group (Barry Coburn), and a few years later found #1 hits at the top of the Texas Music Charts with Cody Johnson's take on his songs, "Me and My Kind" and "Cowboy Like Me". In October 2015, the legendary band, Alabama cut two of his songs, "Come Find Me" and "I Wasn't Through Lovin' You Yet," the latter of which became their first radio single in over 14 years. Most recently, he relocated to Texas in 2015, and finally got around to recording his own album, "The Wichita Kid," which came out in 2016.

## **Amy Lombardi**

*Director of Entertainment Relations, TuneCore*



Amy Lombardi is an entertainment professional with decades of combined experience in talent management, PR/publicity and brand building. As Director, Entertainment Relations for TuneCore, Amy leads TuneCore's office in Austin where she works closely with artists and records labels to support and develop their growth, while increasing TuneCore's presence in the local community. Amy also books speaking engagements by Meredith Walker, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Amy's Poehler's Smart Girls. Previously, Amy was the owner and founder of Beekeeper Corp., a talent management firm home to three-time Grammy-nominated singer Neko Case, performer Kelly Hogan, and artists Cass McCombs, Escondido, and My Gold Mask. Prior to talent management, Amy was a music publicist for both Grammy-winning and developing acts at Warner Bros. Records, Nasty Little Man PR, and her own firm, Call Girl PR.

**Ted Lowe**  
*Choice Tracks*



Ted Lowe began his business career at the age of 18, securing a summer internship in Warner Bros. Records A&R Department after his first year at Berklee College of Music. After proving that he could identify a hit song (landing cuts on albums for Chaka Khan, Ray Charles, and others), Ted was awarded a second internship, and after graduating Berklee with a B.A. in Professional Music in 1991, landed a full-time job in the A&R department under legendary music business figure Benny Medina, working on projects for artists such as Prince, Ray Charles, Take 6, Tevin Campbell, Biz Markie, Big Daddy Kane, and Queen Latifah. In 1995, Ted Lowe left Warner Bros., doing an A&R stint with Sony Music's Epic Records Group, working with Babyface on his double-platinum, Grammy-nominated album "The Day." After leaving Epic in 1998, Ted began supervising music in indie films. In

2000, Ted formally opened the doors of Choicetracks, Inc., a music publisher and indie label focused on Film and TV licensing.

**Craig Marshall**  
*Singer-Songwriter, Recording Artist & Former ASG Songwriter Of The Year*



In 2016, Craig Marshall was named "Songwriter of the Year" by the Austin Songwriters Group, a recognition that was a long time coming. His lengthy musical resume stretches back to his teen years performing in his hometown of Syracuse, New York. After moving to Austin in the early 1990s, he founded The Lucky Strikes, a Sinatra leaning, jazz-swing group that began building his profile in Austin. Since then, he has quietly built a remarkably accomplished body of work, with his songs being picked up along the way for a variety of film and TV soundtracks, and covered by a variety of artists. His most recent album release, *After All*, is his second outing produced by Cotton Mather leader, Robert Harrison.

**Giullia Millanta**  
*Singer-Songwriter, Recording Artist & Performance Coach*



Singer-songwriter, Giulia Millanta, is a native-born Italian from Florence who now calls Austin, Texas home. To date, she has released six albums, touring internationally, and extensively across the USA. Giulia has been described as a "clairvoyant soul" who delivers the "musical mojo". Besides guitar, she also plays ukulele, and sings in four languages. In 2010, she garnered the "New Sounds Of Acoustic Music" award at the "Acoustic Guitar Meeting" in Sarzana. In 2012, she moved to Austin and was quickly embraced by the music community as a writer, collaborator and performer. This is her second Symposium as a faculty member, and she has also facilitated

performance workshops for ASG at Threadgill's this past fall, which was perhaps the workshop highlight of 2017 for ASG. If you are looking to hone your performance craft, Giulia's workshop is not to be missed.

## **Michael Martin Murphey**

*Legendary Singer-Songwriter, Recording Artists & Texas Music Legends Hall of Fame 2019*



To those who remember Austin's progressive country, cosmic cowboy golden years, Michael Martin Murphey needs no introduction. Likewise, if you remember his massive radio hit, "Wildfire," gracing the 70's radio airwaves. Even *Rolling Stone's*, Chet Flippo once declared Murphey the "best new songwriter in America." Along with Willie Nelson, Jerry Jeff Walker and other key 70's Austin players, Murphey helped forge the progressive, country-rock hybrid that eventually gave birth to the progressive folk music genre now known as 'Americana'. After more than 50 years after as a world renowned songwriter and recording artist, Murphey's newest musical project, "Austinology: Alleys of Austin," pays tribute to that seminal period in music history that turned Austin into one of

the music capitals of the world. A native Texan, Murphey has traveled extensively and engaged in ranching throughout the West, even while remaining a Texas resident through it all. His songs have reached the top of the music charts around the world in the Pop, Country, Bluegrass and Western Music genres, and includes huge crossover hits including "Wildfire," "Carolina In The Pines," "What's Forever For," "Long Line of Love," "Geronimo's Cadillac" and "Cowboy Logic." He is a true AMERICAN songwriter, and besides all of his own personal success as a recording artist, his songs have been recorded by a long list of performers, including Lyle Lovett, John Denver, Kenny Rogers, Hoyt Axton, Cher, Manfred Mann, Michael Nesmith of the Monkees, and many more. He is attending the ASG Songwriters Symposium for the first time, and will be inducted into this year's class of the Texas Music Legends Hall of Fame on Thursday evening, performing with many of his old musical compatriots in the Lost Austin Band.

## **Tim O'Connor**

*Music Promoter, Concert Venue Impresario &*



Tim O'Connor is a serial entrepreneur extraordinaire. From The Austin Opera House, to Castle Creek, to the Backstage Bar, or Farm Aid, The Backyard, Austin Music Hall, and La Zona Rosa he has been a perpetual force in creating special places for the Austin music community to perform. His venues have showcased the talents of International, National, and local artists alike. Where most would see a vacant lot or a run down shop, Tim has had the vision of an Opry House or a multi-story venue. Creating a place for the most famous artists, as well as the aspiring local artist, and the fourth grade art class. He has supported numerous Austin area non-profits over the years, hosting multiple fundraisers, and continues to be a prominent force in the Texas music community. Beyond his support of Texas music, O'Connor has also performed similar services across America at venues like Madison Square Garden and The Greek Theater, working with some of the major artists of our time like Paul McCartney and Bruce

Springsteen just to mention two. He also produced the nation Earth Day concerts for a number of years, and has worked to promote awareness of several American Indian causes.

## **Jimmy Metts**

*Starstruck Writers Group*



Jimmy Metts moved from Mississippi to Nashville to attend Belmont University where he graduated in 1985 with a BBA in Music Business. He immediately went to work at Famous music where he stayed until 1992 working with Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks, Patty Loveless and Willie Nelson among others. Metts left Famous to pursue an independent company, but before long Curb Music came calling and persuaded Metts to take over as Creative Director. He left Curb in 1997 to take an opportunity with Malaco Records and the company encountered great success during his tenure scoring big hits for George Strait, Lee Ann Womack, Tim McGraw, John Michael Montgomery, Reba McEntire and Rascal Flatts among others. Most recently, in January of 2014, Jimmy moved over to Reba McEntire's Starstruck Writers Group as General Manager.

## **Antoinette Olesen**

*Singer-Songwriter, Creative Director & Publishing Consultant*



Antoinette Olesen is an award winning songwriter who has toured internationally and shared the bill with numerous world class artists such as Sheryl Crow, Paula Abdul, Gloria Estefan and many more. On occasion she has lent backing vocals to various artists and bands including Martha Reeves, Ronnie Spector, The Doobie Brothers and Bonnie Raitt. As a Creative Director she has represented the catalogs of numerous hit songwriters and successful Nashville music publishers. Working independently out of her Music Row office Antoinette is currently writing, developing artists and providing Creative Direction to songwriters. She is working with writer's and their songs worldwide on skype as well. A frequent Nashville host to out-of-town songwriters, Antoinette has introduced numerous writers and artists to Music City living and included

them in Writers Nights, Industry Events and Showcases. She is always keeping an eye out for exceptional artists to work with.

## **Kady Rain**

*Singer-Songwriter, Recording Artist*



Kady Rain, an Austin, TX native songwriter and pop artist, has garnered thousands of followers, millions of views, and hundreds of thousands of plays through her music. She is a stylish artist with a keen sense of modern fashion and visual appeal, which also helps drive her growing audience. This past summer, her song "R.A.D. Moves" gained notoriety by being named NPR's "Song Of The Summer" for 2018, beating out more established artists like Beyonce, Drake and Zedd. Along with her musical collaborator, Ben Bazzrea, they are proving themselves to be savvy songwriters with a keen sense and flair for music promotion that gets noticed.

## **Gabe Rhodes**

*Producer, Songwriter & Guitarist*



As a producer and supporting musician, Gabe Rhodes is one of Austin's best kept musical secrets. He is a noted guitarist, but is also an adept multi-instrumentalist versed in piano, bass, dobro, percussion, and uniquely, the theremin. The Austin Chronicle noted his contribution to Willie Nelson's, *The Rainbow Connection*, by calling him the "Most Valuable Prodigy". In addition to Nelson, he has produced and recorded projects for Billy Joe Shaver, Kimmie Rhodes, Waylon Jennings, Ray Price, Emmylou Harris, James Burton, Jimmy LaFave, Calvin Russell, and many others, contributing to more than 20 nationally-distributed albums, including *Beautiful Dreamer: The Songs of Stephen Foster*, which won a Grammy Award for Best Traditional Folk Album in 2005.

## **Bobby Rymer**

*Music Publisher*



Bobby Rymer is a hands on music publisher with an incredible ear and vast knowledge of music from all genres. He inspires long-term relationships with his writers by encouraging their creativity, while providing multi-dimensional support in all facets of the music business. While encouraging creativity in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Over the past several years, he steered the Writer's Den Music Group, while earning many prominent cuts, many of which were featured in movies and hit TV shows. Bobby has been a long-time ASG supporter for over ten years, often making 2-3 trips to Austin each year, including the annual Symposium, to work with ASG songwriters. Over the years, many ASG members have developed relationships with Bobby that afford them a professional publishing contact to pitch their songs to, while

giving Bobby access to potential hit songs outside the traditional Music Row channels.

## **Mike Tolleson, Entertainment Attorney**

**Gwen Seale, Entertainment Attorney**

*Mike Tolleson & Associates*



Mike Tolleson has been involved in much of the development of the music and film industries in Texas since 1969 as an entertainment attorney, producer, consultant, and founder of various organizations and businesses. He is a co-founder and past chair of the State Bar of Texas Entertainment and Sports Law Section and has been the founder and director of the Entertainment Law Institute since 1990. He was a co-founder of the Armadillo World Headquarters in 1970, Co-Producer of the 1st Annual Willie Nelson Picnic, Consultant on the Pilot and 1st series of *Austin City Limits*, Co-Founder of Austin's Publicist Access Television Channel, ACTV, President of the Texas Music Association, Commissioner on the Texas Music Commission, and a former Governor of the Texas Chapter of the Recording

Academy. His clients have included many well-known musicians, songwriters and authors, as well as record companies, music publishers, talent managers, performance venues and producers of all forms of entertainment, including film, records, concerts, video games and theatre. Along with his associate, Gwen Seale, they sponsor the Arts & Entertainment Legal Clinic, which is held every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00-6:00 pm, offering free, private consultations for those who sign up for it. You can contact Mike & Gwen through the firm's website: [www.miketolleson.com](http://www.miketolleson.com).

## **Miles Zuniga**

*Singer-Songwriter, Musician, Grammy-Nominated Recording Artist*



Miles Zuniga is a Grammy nominated recording artist and songwriter. He started Fastball in 1994 with Tony Scalzo and Joey Shuffield. The trio's second album for Hollywood Records spawned the smash hit singles "The Way" and "Out Of My Head" in 1998. After four albums, Fastball went on hiatus, and Zuniga began collaborating with other artists, including Spoon and The Dandy Warhols. Miles has written several songs with other artists including Spoon and the Dandy Warhols. During the hiatus, he also co-founded and fronted the tongue-in-cheek lounge rock outfit, The Small Stars, which he describe as a "cross between Mott The Hoople and Frank Sinatra. The outfit which started as a joke, went on to record two albums, before Zuniga reformed Fastball in 2008, releasing a fifth album in 2009. He also helped launch the long-running Austin band, The Resentments, whose Sunday night shows at The Saxon Pub have become somewhat of a local legend. In 2011, he finally released his first solo album, "These Ghosts Have Bones," raising the recording budget through a Kickstarter campaign, while members of The Resentments provided backing support in the studio.

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