



EVENT: SONGWRITING WORKS' First Annual Community SongFest

DATE: Sunday, November 6th

TIME: 3:00 p.m to 6:00pm.

VENUE: Northwest Maritime Center, 431 Water St., Port Townsend, 98368

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Songwriting Works™ Educational Foundation Holds First Annual Community SongFest 11-6

The Songwriting Works team of professional songwriters and facilitators will showcase four years of community songwriting across the generations at the First Annual Community SongFest at 3:00 pm on Sunday, November 6th at the Northwest Maritime Center in Port Townsend.

The Maritime Center is wheelchair accessible. Tickets are offered on a self-determined sliding scale from \$12-\$25 (suggested donation). The group's policy is "No one turned away. Pay more if you can, less if you can't."

The three hour mini-festival will feature a concert by team members of the Port Townsend-based non-profit. Keeth Monta Apgar (vocals, guitar) and Matt Sircely (vocals, mandolin) will join founder and director Judith-Kate Friedman (vocals, guitar) and collaborators including SW board member Daniel Deardorff (voice, percussion), Aimée Ringle, Emily Sue Neumann, Renee Moe, Larry Browning and the Musical Instigators. Special guests, PT Songlines Choir, co-directed by composer Laurence Cole and Gretchen Sleicher, will lead interactive singing. A community potluck will follow.

The SongFest celebrates life on the peninsula through the voices of more than 200 local residents who have turned their sea-faring adventures, family recipes, and life stories into original, collectively composed songs. "We're excited to share the best songs from community workshops facilitated by local world-class musicians," said Friedman. "The songs are joyful, honest and inspiring. Yet writing songs is only part of our mission to restore health and community through song. The other part is performance: giving participants opportunities to share their songs with new audiences and raising awareness of the importance of music for healthy living for young and old."

Music for Wellness for Everyone – the "Healthy Living Through Music"

The SongFest marks the culmination of Songwriting Works' "Healthy Living Through Music," a Rural Health Initiative of the Washington Health Foundation in its campaign to "Make Washington State the Healthiest State in the Nation."

The 2010-11 project expanded SW programs to support the team of professional musicians, who are now trained workshop facilitators, to bring the collaborative songwriting experience to the broader community. The project spearheaded the development of “Music for Wellness for Everyone” tools and facilitation skills, including discussions of the health science behind why music is so beneficial for individuals and communities. More than 25 volunteers, ages 25 to 81, have been involved with the music teams, in turn, sharing their new skills and experience with family, friends and neighbors. Many participants will join in the SongFest as members of the Musical Instigators.

Lasting Local Impact

The songwriting project has had a powerful impact on the regional community — nearly two-dozen songs were collectively composed in SW workshops over the last four years. SW first launched on-going Clallam and Jefferson County programs with support of the National Endowment for the Arts in 2009.

Friedman describes a memorable moment from a workshop at Sequim’s Dungeness Courte Memory Care: "Four veterans began sharing stories about WWII homecoming. The women chimed in about being on the home front waiting for their men to return. None of these elders had ever written songs before. One man who, due to Alzheimer’s, could no longer finish a sentence was still able to contribute 70% of the melody for the haunting song.”

Kathy Burrer, Administrator of Dungeness Courte Alzheimer's Community spoke to the impacts of the experience: “Composing songs helps families deal with the disease process,” Burrer said. “[Elders] who were not verbal prior to this program continue to have a strong voice in this community.”

The Community SongFest is also supported by the Port Townsend Arts Commission and by The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, which awarded Songwriting Works its national “Innovations in Alzheimer’s Caregiving Legacy Award” last April. The Washington Health Foundation and the Gilbert Foundation are also supporting an evening concert by SW’s performers on Saturday Nov 5th at the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center.

SongFest Schedule

- 3pm - Community Songs Concert featuring Judith-Kate Friedman, Keeth Monta Apgar, Matt Sircely, Aimée Ringle, Emily Sue Neumann and Daniel Deardorff, with Renee Moe, Larry Browning, and the Musical Instigators a new group which has formed from SW’s summer Music Teams.
- 4:15 pm - PT Songlines choir interactive singing
- 5pm Community Potluck

Links:

Songwriting Works: www.songwritingworks.org

Judith-Kate Friedman: www.judithkate.com

Keeth Monte Apgar: www.harmonicapocket.com

Matt Sircely: www.mattsircely.com

Daniel Deardorff: www.mythsinger.com