



# The Australian Songwriter

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## Chairman's Message



Hi Everyone,

OK, we are off and running with our annual competition. It is such an exciting time when things start rolling, and 2016 is no exception.

One memorable aspect of our host of new and valued sponsors is the fact that, thanks to Hal Leonard, **every single entrant** will receive a three month subscription to the fabulous online Songwriters' tool 'Noteflight'. This is worth \$99, and it's the first time ever that we have been able to look after 100% of the Songwriters involved in our contest!

All here at the ASA are looking forward to our biggest year yet, so get writing and let's make it so.

In the meantime, here is the April 2016 e-Newsletter compiled, once again, by our amazing Vice Chairman and Editor, Alan Gilmour, to whet your appetite. So, as well as writing and singing, get reading too.

Our planned "Finalist Showcases" are also taking shape, and more information regarding these will soon be forthcoming.

See you at the Wax Lyricals. Remember all, if you are a songwriter, you should be a member of the ASA.

Regards  
Denny Burgess  
Chairman

## Editor's Message

Welcome to the April 2016 edition of The Australian Songwriter.

In this edition, we have interviews with 2015 Rudy Brandsma Award winner, George Begbie, and 2015 Contemporary Pop/Dance Category winner, Anirban Banerjee. There is also an article on ASA member, Galliano Somnavilla, who is about to complete his mammoth project of composing and recording a song a day, for a year.

The Australian Songwriter welcomes written contributions from ASA members and readers of the magazine. If you have anything that you would like to say about yourself, other songwriters/musicians/artists/new releases or upcoming events, simply send your contribution via email to the Editor at [alang@asai.org.au](mailto:alang@asai.org.au).

Cheers,

**Alan Gilmour**  
Editor and Vice Chairman  
The Australian Songwriters Association

## 2016 Australian Songwriting Contest Announcement

**The 2016 Australian Songwriting Contest is now underway!** To enter, please go to the ASA website at **[www.asai.org.au](http://www.asai.org.au)** and follow the links.

As in previous years, there are thirteen categories into which songs and lyrics can be entered:

- Australia
- Ballad
- Contemporary Pop/Dance
- Country
- Folk/Acoustic
- Instrumental
- International
- Lyrics
- Open
- Rock/Indie
- Songs for Children
- Spiritual
- Youth

The contest is open to both ASA members and non-members.

In 2016, every entrant is a winner. Thanks to valued sponsor, **Hal Leonard**, **every single entrant** will receive a three month subscription to the fabulous online Songwriters' tool, "Noteflight". This is worth \$99, and it's the first time ever that we have been able to look after 100% of the songwriters involved in our contest!

Judging will commence immediately after the close of the contest, and entrants will be advised, in stages, of their progress in the contest. The first round judging will provide a short list of songs for further judging. The second round judging will narrow the field down to the Top 30 songs in each Category. The third round of judging will provide the Top 10 songs in each category, which will be announced at the 2016 National Songwriting Awards, to be held later in the year.

The winners of each category will be asked to attend the 2016 National Songwriting Awards, to collect their prizes and trophies, and to perform their winning songs to the awards night audience.

The ASA Board of Directors will also select two important prizes from among the songs entered into the 2016 contest. The **APRA/ASA Songwriter of the Year** will be chosen from the winners of each of the thirteen categories. **The Rudy Brandsma Award** will be presented in recognition of songwriting excellence by an ASA member during the course of the contest. The winner will be chosen from among all ASA member song entrants attending on the night.

It's now time to get your original songs together in readiness for the contest launch. Best of luck in the contest!

## George Begbie: 2015 Winner of The Rudy Brandsma Award



**Photo: George Begbie performing at the 2015 National Songwriting Awards.**

The **Rudy Brandsma Award** is presented annually by the Board of Directors of the ASA, in recognition of songwriting excellence by an ASA member, during the course of that year's Australian Songwriting Contest.

The award honours the memory of the late co-founder of the ASA, Rudy Brandsma.

The 2015 winner of The Rudy Brandsma Award is Tasmanian singer/songwriter, **George Begbie**.

We thought that we would publish an article on George by Tasmanian writer, **Jenna Cesar**:

### **INSIDE THE ENIGMA: GEORGE BEGBIE**

"I meet George at an unpretentious coffee shop in Salamanca Place to ruminate on his recent success at the annual ASA Awards. He's on lunch break from the day job he still works, seemingly oblivious to the magnitude of his talent.

George didn't just win the Rudy Brandsma Award for Songwriting Excellence at the awards last year, although that in itself would be something to brag about. He also placed 7 songs in the Top 30 across 6 Categories, including snagging a number 10 spot for his song, "24 hours" - setting a record for the competition, which has been running since 1979.



**Photo: George Begbie at the microphone at the 2015 National Songwriting Awards.**

I ask him if he's even aware of his accomplishment.

**George:** "Somebody told me it was (a record). It is for me certainly."

**Jenna:** I tell him I already checked.

**Matt Sertori**, (the Regional Co-ordinator of the ASA for Tasmania since 2001), has already gone on record: "As an ASA Co-ordinator, I can confirm George Begbie holds the record number of Top 30 finishes in the history of the competition. No one else has even come close to this feat, let alone an unsigned artist from Hobart, Tasmania," he tells me earlier.

The December 4 awards ceremony proved to be a "surreal" (George's word) experience for the 31 year old musician, who entered a number of songs across several categories - as he has done in previous years - but wasn't expecting these results:

- Rudy Brandsma Award for "Closing Time";
- #10 Placing for "24 Hours" - Folk/acoustic category
- Top 30 Placings:
  - "Something to Think About" - Ballad Category
  - "Weapon Words" - Contemporary Pop/Dance Category
  - "Sand" - Lyrics Category
  - "You, Me & Depravity" - Open Category
  - "In the Afterglow" - Rock/Indie Category





**George:** "It was a real buzz and it almost hasn't still sunk in."

When I was up there, I thought: "Yeah these people are pretty good here, I think I haven't won it", but I got nominated, and that was fine. But then, they called my name, and I went: "Oh holy cow, I can't believe it!"

**Jenna:** So what's it like being at the ceremony?

**George:** "It's an amazing experience. You're basically in a room with 400 songwriters and a few celebrities and

organizers and everyone. You have food. You have drinks. You get to hang out, and it's just wonderful. Receiving awards and watching people perform is fantastic.

Actually being part of it, and receiving something is amazing. What I really loved though was just hanging out with songwriters, just meeting them and making new connections, making new friends and being in contact with people afterwards.

And something they did which was really good this year, is they had sort of a chill out ASA Wax Lyrical on the Saturday night afterwards, and that was great because the awards nights - as good as they are - you get to talk to people for all of about 10 minutes and then you've gotta be somewhere else.

Whereas, we had a bit of an after party afterwards, and that was just really relaxed and fun - and I got to play again. I played some songs, and lots of other people played some songs."

**Jenna:** Winning awards across so many categories obviously says a lot about your diversity as an artist.

**George:** I grew up playing classical music, listening to jazz, but I'd already had an upbringing with a lot of different styles of music and I think that either it's my attention span or maybe it's just my eagerness to try other things. I don't want to be stuck just in one genre, and I guess I just want to challenge myself by writing in other genres, and particularly other genres I know nothing about.

**Jenna:** Tell us more about your musical training.

**George:** My parents got us to do piano lessons when we were 6 years old and I think we had to do it 'til we were 9 or 10, and then we could decide whether we would continue or not. That was a really big influence, and it gave us an opportunity to learn an instrument that a lot of people don't get - they don't get pushed by their parents to do it.

George also tells me he learnt a lot singing in choirs, but developed a real "love of music" in high school listening to rock bands. Naturally, this leads into a conversation about Leonard Cohen.

**Jenna:** What is your greatest inspiration?

**George:** I think watching real entertainers perform their own music. I went and saw Leonard Cohen a couple years ago and I was absolutely mesmerized by this guy on stage performing. In some of the quieter songs and poems everyone was just holding their breath waiting for the next line.

That in itself above any other - above notoriety/fame and all that kind of stuff - it's just so important to me to have people really engaging in what you're doing."

George and his band played their biggest show to date at the Falls Festival last year, and followed it up with a knock-out performance at the prestigious Taste of Tasmania.

**George:** That was one of the most fun (shows). We had so much room to move and just act up and be silly on stage.

Asked what advice he would give songwriters hoping to follow in his footsteps, George is reminded of Johnny Young's Hall of Fame induction speech - which also featured at the awards evening.

**George:** Something that really resonated with me, and I thought was just so humble and so wonderful, (is), he said "Even at my level (to paraphrase), don't do it for the money."

"Do it for the art. Keep doing what you're doing 'cause you love it and that's the most important thing. And that's the sort of thing I'd say to people too. That's the most important thing about songwriting."

George is planning to tour Melbourne and Sydney later this year. Details will be forthcoming on: <http://www.georgebegbie.com>.

You can follow George on:

FaceBook: <http://facebook.com/georgebegbie>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/georgebegbie>

Listen to some of his award winning songs at <http://GeorgeBegbie.bandcamp.com>.

**Jenna Cesar** is a guest writer for The Australian Songwriter.



## Wax Lyrical Roundup

**Central Coast NSW 14 March 2016, Settlers Tavern**





**Brisbane QLD 14 February 2016 and 13 March 2016**





**Lismore NSW 29 March 2016, Planet Music**



## Singer/Songwriter Showcase Coming Up For ASA Northern Rivers NSW



**Dream Weavers**  
Celebrating Hope and Inspiring Change  
**Singer Songwriter Showcase**  
*The Platinum Lounge, Lismore Workers Club*  
*Thursday 21 April, 7:30 pm*  
*Featuring 3 celebrated local songwriters acclaimed by the Australian Songwriters Association (ASA) Awards*

**Luke Vassella**, Winner 2013 & 2010 ASA Awards 'Australia' Category and Winner 2010 'Best Live Performance' award. 4-time NCEIA Dolphin award winner.

**Wendy Ford**,  
Three Top 30 nominations 2015 ASA Awards including 2<sup>nd</sup> in Australia Category and Top 40 in European Country Music Radio charts with 'Hippy Cowgirl' 2016

**Chris Fisher**,  
Six Top 30 nominations 2015 ASA Awards including 2 top 10's in Rock Indie and Spiritual Categories. 3-time NCEIA Dolphin award winner.

**Presented by: Australian Songwriters Association and ASA Wax Lyrical Northern Rivers**

Attention Songwriters! Join the Australian Songwriters Association for free monthly workshops, discounted entry to the prestigious song competition and more.

National website: [www.asai.org.au](http://www.asai.org.au)  
Local branch: [www.facebook.com/ASANorthernRiversWaxLyrical](https://www.facebook.com/ASANorthernRiversWaxLyrical)

Entry free, but dinner bookings highly recommended!

An ASA singer/songwriter showcase will be held in Lismore NSW, on Thursday 21 April 2016, featuring local Top 30 winners in the 2015 Australian Songwriting Contest.

Performers will include the ASA Northern Rivers Regional Co-Ordinator, **Wendy J. Ford**, who was herself a major winner at the 2015 National Songwriting Awards.

Also featured will be local drawcard, singer/songwriter, **Luke Vassella**, who has been a major award winner in previous years.

**Chris Fisher**, who was a Top 10 place getter in 2015, will also perform.

The singer/ songwriter showcase is in addition to the monthly Wax Lyrical open mic. nights that Wendy puts on in Lismore.

For April 2016, the Wax Lyrical date has been changed from Monday 25 April (ANZAC Day) to Tuesday 26 April 2016 at Planet Music, 25 Molesworth Street Lismore.

The following Wax Lyrical dates after April 2016 will be:

May 23rd  
June 27th  
July 25th  
August 22nd  
September 26th  
October 24th  
November 28th

There will be a possible Christmas party in mid December.

## Sponsors Profiles

The ASA is a national not-for-profit organization, and relies on the generosity of its sponsors in order to undertake its activities.

The ASA would like to thank these new and continuing sponsors for 2016:

### **1. Q Music/BIGSOUND**



- **BIGSOUND EARLY BIRD PASSES ON SALE**

**BIGSOUND**, the southern hemisphere's biggest new music festival and music industry conference is back for its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

A limited number of specially discounted early bird tickets are now available to access conference, parties and industry networking opportunities right here in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley September 7 – 9. Get in quick and save \$200 off the full delegate pass price!

- **BIGSOUND SHOWCASE APPLICATIONS OPEN**

Taking place on the nights of the 7th and 8th of September in Brisbane, BIGSOUND Festival is the two-night music showcase that puts artists in front of the local, national and international music industry delegates attending the BIGSOUND industry conference.

Over 1000 acts have showcased at BIGSOUND and used the event to launch their careers including: Courtney Barnett, Flume, Rufus, Seth Sentry, Gang of Youths, DMA's, Kingswood, The Temper Trap, Megan Washington, DZ Deathrays, Ball Park Music, Boy & Bear, Kimbra, The Jezabels, Methyl Ethel and many more.

Artist applications are open now, and artists and managers are encouraged to visit [www.bigsound.org.au](http://www.bigsound.org.au) to apply.



## 2. Rhythms Magazine



Over 22 years, and more than 264 issues, **Rhythms Magazine** has established a reputation as The Bible of roots music in Australia.

Hungrily exploring almost anything to do with blues, jazz, country, folk and world music, **Rhythms** is totally unique. It is cherished by its readers for its authority, credibility and diversity.

The now bi-monthly glossy print magazine distributes over 120,000 copies a year nationally through newsagents, selected music stores, and an ever-growing tribe of devoted subscribers. Issues are January, March, May, July, September and November. They are bumper.

**Rhythms** is available in a digital version for iPads through Newsstand allowing us to fulfill international electronic subscriptions. Special issues have included the annual Official Program for the Byron Bluesfest as well as specials on WOMADelaide, Port Fairy Folk Festival, Sydney Blues & Roots Festival, Great Southern Blues Festival, Australasian World Music Expo, and more.

Online, **[www.rhythms.com.au](http://www.rhythms.com.au)** earns 400,000 hits and 8,000 unique visitors per month. A regular email newsletter sent to over 2,000 subscribers. Updated daily, **[www.rhythms.com.au](http://www.rhythms.com.au)** publishes breaking news, reviews and roots music Gig Guide, as well as a sample of longer features from the print magazine.

## 3. Band In A Box



**Band-in-a-Box** is a MIDI music arranger software package for Windows and Mac OS.

The software allows solo musicians to play along to a computer-generated accompaniment, with adjustable tempo, adjustable key, and a choice of musical styles. Original accompaniment with custom chord progressions and melody lines can also be created.

Band-in-a-Box basically provides a "back-up band" for a musician to play along with. It can also be used to simulate an entire band with or without soloists.

For more information, contact **[www.ausmidi.com](http://www.ausmidi.com)**.

#### 4. YOYO Management



**Yoyo Management** looks after some of Australia's best up and coming original artists.

If you'd like to talk about artist management, you can contact **Christine Collyer** on [management@yoyomusic.com.au](mailto:management@yoyomusic.com.au), or visit the Yoyo Management website at [www.yoyomusic.com.au](http://www.yoyomusic.com.au).

#### 5. James North Productions, Brisbane QLD



**James North** is an award winning Australian musician, producer, recording and mix engineer who works with local, national and international acts in his boutique studio environment in Brisbane.

Clients of JNP have had radio play on all Australian radio networks, as well as European and USA networks (including satellite) and much of Asia. Records that James has produced have been sold

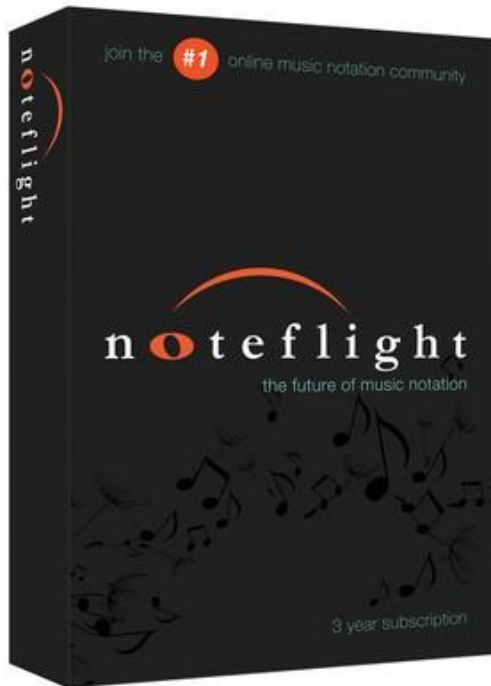
across all continents.

James also contributes to recordings when required as a session grade guitarist, bass player, piano/keyboard player and drummer. He is also a professional songwriter, arranger and composer and these skills are used daily in the production process.

For further information, visit [www.jamesnorthproductions.com.au](http://www.jamesnorthproductions.com.au).



## 6. Noteflight



**Noteflight** is an online music writing application that lets you create, view, print and hear music notation with professional quality, right in your web browser. Join the world's most vibrant music composition community through these exclusive retail edition offers.

Features include:

- Write music on any computer, tablet or smartphone.
- Shred scores in the cloud with other users.
- You are always using the latest version. No expensive upgrades.
- Get a 3 year subscription for the

price of a 2 year subscription (retail edition exclusive offer).

For the 2016 Australian Songwriting Contest, **Noteflight** is providing every contest entrant with a 3 month subscription, valued at \$99.95, for FREE. For the category winners, **Noteflight** will provide a package valued at \$185.00, for FREE.

For more information on **Noteflight**, simply go to [www.noteflight.com](http://www.noteflight.com).

## 7. Black Pearl Studios (Melbourne, VIC)



Tucked away in quiet and unassuming suburban Moorabbin is Melbourne's best-kept secret, **Black Pearl Studios**. This hidden treasure is Melbourne's newest premiere recording studio; housing one of the world's largest collections of modern, vintage and boutique instruments.

Black Pearl Studios offers its clients a truly unique recording experience in a state of the art environment. The studio was designed with the help of world-class theoretical acousticians and environmental sound specialists, and constructed in Melbourne by qualified Victorian builders. The project was completed in January 2012, and since

has steadily carved a reputation as a studio of the highest calibre, with a gear list that would attract the envy of the famous Abby Road.

The fully equipped turnkey recording studio boasts two large acoustically designed studio rooms, providing clients with an exceptional creative space and a chance to record with an unrivalled collection of top quality gear. The services available include live recording, mixing and production, with access to on-site services including the legendary Black Pearl mobile studio van.

The backbone of the Black Pearl complex is two large studios, Studio A and Studio B. Studio A's live room, which measures a generous 120m<sup>2</sup>, boasts an SSL 4000 E series console and comes complete with a Yamaha C7 grand piano. Monitoring in Studio A provides a combination of Focal, Dangerous Audio and Avantone Mixcubes. Studio B's 110m<sup>2</sup> space has made a name for itself as "the best drum room in the world." To take advantage of its strong acoustics, the studio is home to two sets of Adams, Avantone Mixcubes and the ubiquitous Yamaha NS10Ms.

Both studios allow for recording to ProTools, Radar or even 24 track analogue tape on the studios pristine Studer A827 2 inch tape machine. Outboard and external preamps in both studios are a who's who of desired gear; Teletronix, Drawmer, TC, Lexicon, Universal Audio, dbx, Cranesong, Neve, Telefunken, Urei and Manley all make an appearance, with clocking and synch done via Antelope Isochrone.

Website: **[www.blackpearlstudios.com.au](http://www.blackpearlstudios.com.au)**.

## **8. MAXXDBXX-Sonic Management, Sydney NSW.**



The core of **MAXXDBXX** is made up of 3 engineers: Allan Fresco, Mark de Berard & Maxx Vada, with years of enthusiasm as musicians, engineers, writers, photographers, editors, telecine, videographers etc.

Founded in 1999 as SHS Engineering in Summer Hill NSW, the team always looking at trends in music and production and found itself craving new and emerging technologies.

# MAXXDBXX-Sonic Management

The facility is a boutique mixing and mastering studio that caters for medium budget projects. It can do tracking over dubs if what they hear could be better with some nice class A Valve pre amps and some creamy mics. If you agree on it, they might as well get it to sound its best! "What we want to do is put technology and experience in the hands of artists that simply cannot afford the big budget studios but without sacrificing quality."

The "Sound Lab" at MAXXDBXX is nestled in city park land, quiet, peaceful and central. They have all the tech gear, and comfy seating arrangements, with lighting and mood just right and if you get bored we have a dedicated nintendo wii and x box set up or a really nice garden to get lost in for a while.

Kitchen and shower facilities are also available, if needed, and plenty of spaces to feel inspired or just relax while we diligently process your track.

Using mostly modified and hand built monitoring, they are sound tested and flat as a pancake. MAXXDBXX has a hybrid Digital/Analogue interface that allows us to colour mixes with tube or transistor outboard gear and a myriad of carefully selected plug ins that work like a charm.

MAXXDBXX says "We have more than 25 years in the industry in absolutely every facet of its existence, but what we want is to *make* history, but we need your help!

"We were all musicians ourselves once upon a time, and know exactly where you are, how it feels, what you yearn for. The heart of MAXXDBXX survives on always looking to the next thing that will capture our attention and provide inspiration.

"We are proud that our evolution has moved with the times and are ahead of the curve only because we do not define what art is, art is its own definition by virtue of it breathing life into those who indulge ... It exists because YOU gave it life... Let us help you present it to the rest of the world.

"The process is we go over your notes to make sure we understood what you want, if its *our* mis understanding we change it with no extra charge to make sure its how you like it , if you are still indecisive after that we wont charge you for the work ! you just forfeit the transfer fee of \$89 per track, mind you, we have never had a bad result, only awesome ones !

For more information, go to **[www.maxxdbxxx.com](http://www.maxxdbxxx.com)**.

Anirban Banerjee: 2015 Winner of the Contemporary Pop/Dance Category



**Photo: Anirban Banerjee (Centre) with presenters, Hazel Savage and Ray Burgess.**

**Anirban Banerjee** was the winner of the Contemporary Pop/Dance category in the 2015 song competition, that's where we caught up with him for a chat.

**ASA:** Welcome Anirban. Your winning song is called Undecided. What's so "undecided" about it?

**Anirban:** That's a great question! This song is quite a personal song for me. It was written during a very challenging time for me, I had made some decisions in complicated circumstances; and are ones I still regret making to this day. That song refers to the time just before making that decision, when I was undecided, so yes it is a very personal song.

**ASA:** You also had a number of other good songs in the contest, but it was "Undecided" that came out on top, can you tell us a little bit about the other songs in the contest?

**Anirban:** I think I had a total of about 11 nominations in varied categories. Aside from "Undecided", the song I like the most is "Rolling Over". It's a mid-tempo sort of pop song and there is another one that's a bit higher tempo.

I am a non-performing songwriter, so I can cater to a few genres. That's the reason I entered in a few genres; Pop, R & B and Dance. I was also lucky enough to be able

to feature exceptionally talented artists on my songs. I have a variety of songs that give off different vibrations for different songs, I really enjoy writing for other artists and catering to different genres.

**ASA:** Do you have a favourite genre to write in?

**Anirban:** I think the primary genre I write in is pop/dance, but I am also into R & B.

**ASA:** What are you hoping to achieve with your songwriting? Obviously you are putting down some very impressive songs, are you after radio play or to have a well-known artist record your songs, what are your aims in songwriting?

**Anirban:** I have been getting some airplay since 2013, when I released my first song, "A E I O U", featuring the very talented Melbourne singer "Celeste Newman" aka "Blue". That song went to the top ten in the category of pop/dance and has received air play over five Australian states. Also, this song "Undecided", has gotten a fair bit of air play through commercial and community radio, and is up on "Amrap Air It project". In the long term scheme of things, I would definitely like more songs getting air play, and would like to get a publishing deal or have contact with a record label, also have recording artists who would like to collaborate with me, all those things would be great.

**ASA:** What is your regime for writing? Do you set aside time each day or do you just work off inspiration?

**Anirban:** It really is more of an organic sort of thing, some days I feel really dry and nothing comes out and I don't even look at my keyboard, but other days I feel as if something has just downloaded from the universe and it flows, and I know something is going to happen. Those special days, I sit down at the keyboard and put my lights off and wait for some really beautiful melody to come in. It's as if someone is inserting the lyrics and melody into my brain. I am sort of getting used to that happening now. It's as if it's not me writing the song, but rather it's the song happening to me. I think to some extent it's a spiritual experience.

**ASA:** Do you record them at home and then add vocals?

**Anirban:** I am basically a keyboard player. I have a couple of different keyboards at home, so I play the original melody with inbuilt beats and then write the lyrics. I go through a couple of revisions and rewrites. Once I am happy, I then get in touch with the producer and try to market to different artists, and if some artist is interested and happy with me, then we record the track, then try and get it to the radio and media.

**ASA:** I guess your ultimate aim is to make a living out of your songwriting?

**Anirban:** I would love to do that! Everyone wants to move out of their nine to five jobs. I come from a musical family, so music is in my heart. If I can really do that on a full time basis I will be very, very blessed.

**ASA:** Thank you so much Anirban! It has been lovely having a chat with you, all the best for the future.

## Galliano Somnavilla: Song A Day For A Year



ASA member, **Galliano Somnavilla**, is about to complete his epic journey of composing a new song, every day, for a year!

The 365 original songs were created in the period between 6 May 2013 and 5 May 2014. In the last two years, Galliano has transferred the songs that he wrote, recorded and uploaded, into individual albums.

He re-mastered them, rearranged some, made them more pristine added instruments, did the artwork, as well as producing, in iMovie, 171 Youtube videos. Whatever he earned from his gigs, he put back into the project. It has taken the last two years.

Galliano ended up with 32 albums in total, the last of which he is now completing, Vol. 32, The Final 14.

We are re-printing below, with Galliano's permission, a review of Galliano's project by **Matthew Forss**:

Artist: Galliano Somnavilla

Album: 365 Vol. 16 Chill, World and Downtempo

Review by Matthew Forss

"Australia's contemporary pianist, instrumentalist, composer, and author, has been in the throes of a unique musical project that encompassed an entire year of writing, producing, and playing a different song each day of the year.

The personal goal has resulted in several volumes of original music on thematic volumes. Vol. 16 Chill, World and Downtempo includes more chilled tunes than other volumes, but most of Somnavilla's songs revolve around ambient, electronic, and spacious soundscapes. This album contains twelve songs culled from the year-long project in no particular order.

**"Song/Day 291 I Love You Guys!"** begins with a blurry electronic drone, jazzy percussion, and synth-pad-like notes to add a layer of smoothness rarely observed in contemporary music. The twinkling piano notes, jazzy percussion, and dreamy, almost avant-garde intonations, cement the track onto a top hit list in jazz, new age, and electronica. The synth-horn sound is subtle, yet reveals a hidden intensity behind the music as something greater than another jazz or downtempo track. The





atmospheric washes near the end of the song shine through with nothing but great results. The added acoustic guitar notes at the end of the song create a lighter mood without compromising quality.

**"Song/Day 209"** begins with light, swishy percussion, atmospheric washes, and background, indiscriminate female vocal sounds. The vocals are repetitive throughout the first half of the song, but they become more dynamic during the latter half of the song. Still, the vocals are not the main attraction here. There are smooth, bell-like keyboard sounds with cinematic elements that create an awe-inspiring journey. The song brings out new age, jazz, and even bluesy effects perfect for any occasion.

**"Song/Day 342 Luci D'Albe"** opens with bass, light percussion, breathy

electronica, flowing piano sounds, and an atmospheric foundation that will soothe anyone's soul. The instrumental medley contains bright tones, entrancing melodies, and a moderate beat in the vein of smooth jazz and cinematic masterpieces. The song is ripe with chilled elements, downtempo bliss, and a new age presence that does not disappoint. The upbeat notes and sporadic metallic percussion and varied noises near the end of the song only make the song stand out more.

**"Song/Day 358"** begins with a flowing piano melody, scattered percussion, and a jazzy beat backed by an atmospheric layering of electronic beauty. The pensive piano sounds are very cinematic, groovy, and melancholic. The spacious, breathy flute stylings and minor shaker sounds contrast perfectly for a truly diverse and upbeat result. The song contains elements of others on the album, but it still stands out as a very characteristic song from Galliano Sommovilla. "Song/Day 232" opens with a light percussive beat, piano notes, swishy sounds, and atmospheric washes set in a dreamy soundscape. The new age-influenced song is rather jazz-oriented, but easy-listening is a better moniker for the song. There are sporadic hum sounds throughout the song, which are magnified by electronic washes. There are no vocals in the song. Galliano Sommovilla excels again with another fascinating, intriguing, and solid song creation.

Overall, Galliano Sommovilla succeeds in showcasing the chilled side of his year-long musical endeavor. The instrumental gems bring out the downtempo and jazz sides of his being. The piano makes a popular appearance on several tracks, but the percussion, electronic assortments, and upbeat percussion keep the album going in a very compelling direction. Anyone seeking a calmer side to downtempo, jazz, chill, and lounge music will love the final results. Galliano Sommovilla is an ambient king and everyone should bow down and enjoy his music.

Review by Matthew Forss Rating: 5 Stars (out of 5).



## Members News and Information

### 1. Songwriters Meeting Point



Perth WA lyricist, **Patrick McMurray**, is looking to pursue musical collaboration with like minded composers [Patrick@patrickmcmurray.com](mailto:Patrick@patrickmcmurray.com).

ASA member, **Henry Hamad**, is a lyricist who is looking for someone who would like to add music to his lyrics. If you can help Henry, please contact him on [henry.hamad@gmail.com](mailto:henry.hamad@gmail.com).

ASA member, **Donna Hotz**, is a lyricist who is seeking a composer to help create songs from her lyrics. If you can

help, please contact Donna on [donna\\_hotz@hotmail.com](mailto:donna_hotz@hotmail.com).

Sydney songwriter, **Bob Brown** is looking for a co-writer. His musical likes are "ballads/ country/ country rock/ guitar instrumental, but I'm open to whatever project."

"I've been in the Top 30 of ASA but never cracked it further in." Bob has sent us some recordings which we are happy to pass on to anyone who is interested.

Bob can be contacted on [hbmarvin@gmail.com](mailto:hbmarvin@gmail.com).

Looking for somebody? Contact us on [alang@asai.org.au](mailto:alang@asai.org.au).

### 2. ASA Member, Catherine Duc



In the February edition of the magazine, we let readers know that ASA member, **Catherine Duc**, had received a 2016 nomination for a Grammy Award, for her album, *Voyager*, in the "Best New Age Album" category.

The Grammy Awards were held in Los Angeles on 15 February 2016, but unfortunately, Catherine was not a winner.

Catherine writes: "I didn't win my category at the Grammys, but had a wonderful time, and saw so many amazing artists, like Adele, perform.

The Nominees Dinner and after-party were also fantastic.

Kind regards,  
Catherine."

### 3. Would You Like to Record Your Next Song in Damien Leith's Studio?



**Damien Leith** has a very special offer for ASA members who would like to use his studio in Sydney.

Damien writes:

"I just thought I'd email you to let you know that I have a production/writing studio in Sydney which may be of interest to fellow writers on your database.

When I'm not touring, I use the studio to record my own material and have also produced and co-written with quite a number of prominent artists. Check me out here [www.studio4music.com.au](http://www.studio4music.com.au)

For members of the Australian Songwriters Association, I am happy to come up with a very special day rate.

Please let me know if you think this will be of interest to anyone and we can talk further. All the best, Damien."

If you are interested, please contact us at [asanationaloffice@asai.org.au](mailto:asanationaloffice@asai.org.au) and we'll put you in touch with Damien.

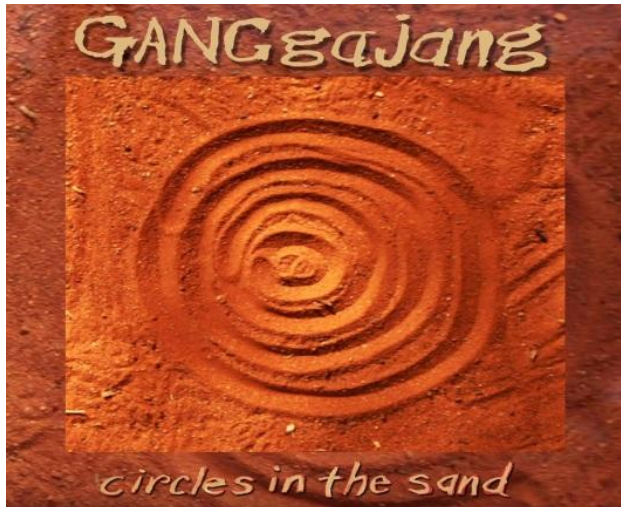
### 4. More on GANGgajang, by Carole Beck



In the March magazine, we brought you an exciting news story about the iconic Aussie band, GANGgajang, being honoured, with a street being named after them in Bundaberg Qld.

Since then, another exciting good news story has surfaced with regards to the band, and it would be remiss of us not to inform our readers "call it a post script".

But this time, it's the fans of the band that will reap the reward, because the band has released a new single, the first new music from the band in over a decade and the first since the death of their friend and original band member Chris Bailey.



The song title is "Circles In the Sand", written by Buzz Bidstrup and Geoff Stapleton, and was inspired by the "Pintubi 9" "thought to be the last nomadic Aboriginal tribe" and the painters of the Western Desert who drew sand paintings that eventually became the modern "dot painting" revolution.

The song is performed by the remaining four original members Mark 'Cal' Callaghan, Graham 'Buzz' Bidstrup, Geoff Stapleton and Robbie James, along with bassist Peter Willersdorf and features singers,

Dani Young and Indigenous icon Warren H Williams, singing in "Arrernte language"

Circles In The Sand will be added to a totally remastered release of the album "GANGgajang" confirmed for April 8. The album will include a second new track; "Not Waiting Around" GANGgajang will then hit the road through April, May and June.

Not only is it a great song, it is also a ground breaking song, due to the fact it is the first time permission was granted by the traditional landowners, to shoot a music performance video at the sacred site in front of majestic Uluru.

The band's connection with Jimmy Little Foundation and Uncle Jimmy Thumbs Up!, along with their work in the Mutitjulu community near Uluru, ultimately led to the shoot being approved, explains Buzz Bidstrup.

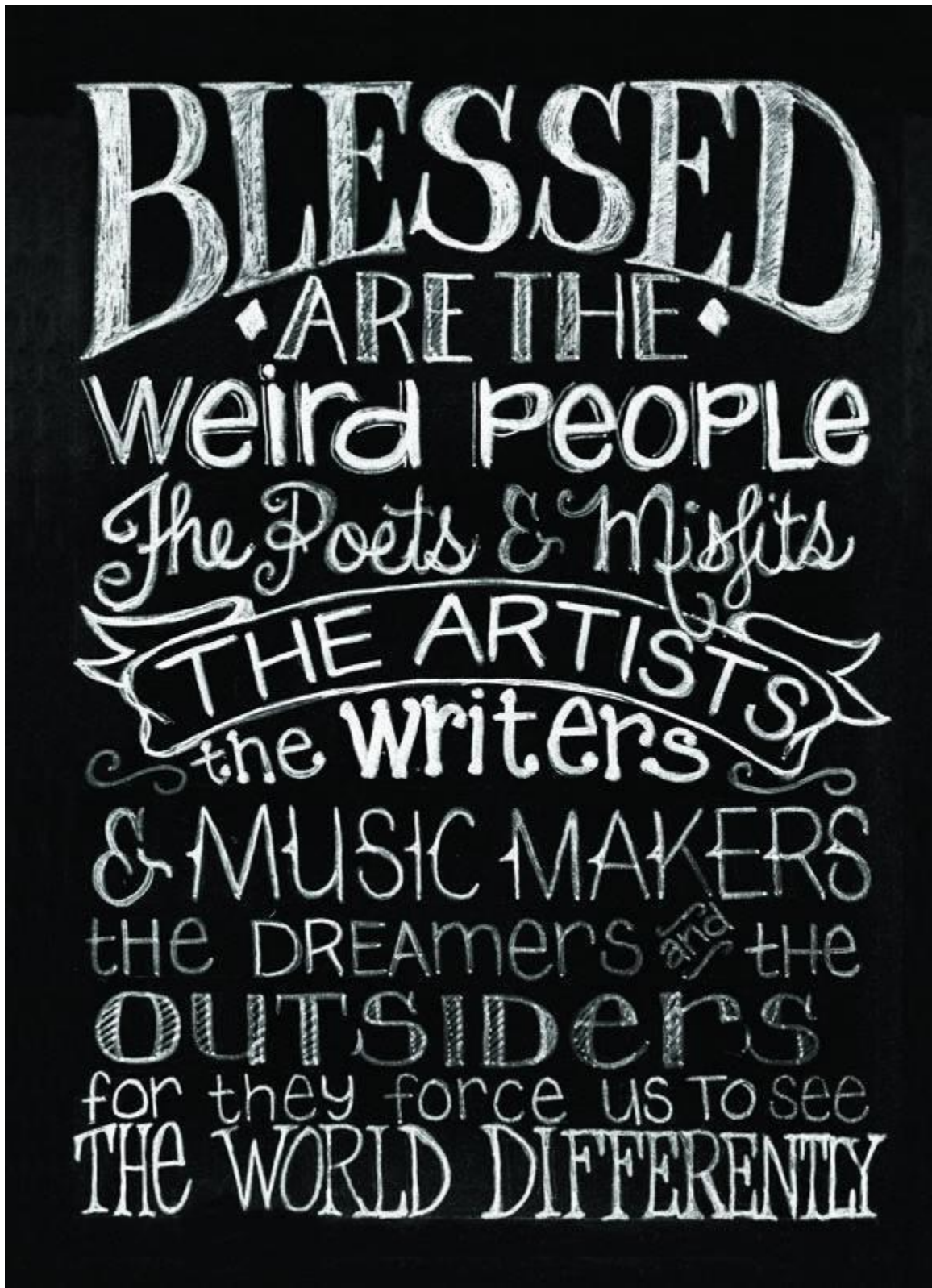
Buzz had been travelling to and working in the community of Mutitjulu, next to Uluru for over 15 years, so they have a lot of friends there. When they wanted to make the clip the traditional owners were the first to give their permission. The Band is very grateful to them and to the administrators of the community and also to the media officer from Parks Australia who also had to give their permission for them to shoot the clip. The clip was shot by filmmaker Chris Tangey and edited by Phil Evans and the effects are visually stunning; and well worth the effort put in by the band to enable the shoot.

It takes us back to where it all began. It reminds us once again who we are, where we live – and in doing so offers a glimpse of a different, more inclusive future, and is doing what cultural music always endeavours to achieve – to keep the land and its stories alive. To quote Bruce Chatwin, 'An unsung land is a dead land'

The proceeds from sale of the single will go to the Jimmy Little Foundation which will aid in ensuring the Foundation continues its good work in an attempt to improve the health of our Indigenous People. Surely that makes it a double incentive to buy the CD; you get a great song and enjoy it with the knowledge that it is helping those people who desperately need it. Well Done GANGgajang!

**Carole Beck** is a guest writer for The Australian Songwriter.





## Official Sponsors of the Australian Songwriting Contest





## About Us

The Australian Songwriters Association Inc. is a national, not-for-profit, member organization, dedicated to the support of songwriters and their art, by providing avenues for encouragement and education of developing Australian songwriters, and recognition and promotion of our accomplished members.

## Aims of the Association

- To celebrate the art of songwriting;
- To assist and encourage developing Australian songwriters;
- To provide information and general advice to members;
- To create performance opportunities for members;
- To aid the professional development of members;
- To enable members to meet and/or exchange ideas and information
- To facilitate member transition into the established music industry;
- To facilitate delivery of member services at a National, State and Regional level;
- To salute our best songwriters at major industry events such as our National Songwriting Awards Night.

## History of the ASA

The Association was founded in Melbourne VIC in August 1979 by the late Tom Louch (1932-2009) and the late Rudy Brandsma (1944-1983), who saw the need for an organisation that would bring Australian songwriters together.

Today the Association has a vibrant membership Australia-wide and enjoys an established and respected role within the music industry.

The ASA's membership is diverse and embraces and explores all genres of music.

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Youtube: [www.youtube.com/austsongwriters](http://www.youtube.com/austsongwriters)

Patron: Glenn A Baker

**Life Members:** Tom Louch, Rudy Brandsma, Russell Zimmer, Dominic Crea, Marie Murphy, Colleen Zulian, Alex Bialocki, Brian Henderson Ward and Kieran Roberts.

**Directors:**

Denny Burgess	Chairman
Alan Gilmour	Vice Chairman, Public Officer, Financial Officer, Online Content Editor and Editor of The Australian Songwriter Magazine
Clare Burgess	Director and Secretary
Ben Patis	Director and Manager of Regional Co-Ordinators

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**APRA/ASA Australian Songwriter of the Year 2015:**

Karen Guymer (VIC)

**Rudy Brandsma Award Winner 2015:**

George Begbie (TAS)

**PPCA Live Performance Award Winners 2015:**

Terry Bennetts (WA) and Imogen Clark (NSW)



### Australian Songwriters Hall of Fame:

2015: Johnny Young  
2014: Kate Ceberano  
2013: Garth Porter (Sherbet)  
2012: Don Walker (Cold Chisel)  
2011: Steve Kilbey (The Church)  
2010: Richard Clapton  
2009: Ross Wilson (Daddy Cool, Mondo Rock)  
2008: Doc Neeson, John Brewster & Rick Brewster (The Angels)  
2007: Brian Cadd  
2006: Glenn Shorrock, Beeb Birtles & Graeham Goble (LRB)  
2005: Russell Morris  
2004: Harry Vanda, George Young & Stevie Wright (The Easybeats)

### Australian Songwriting Contest Award Winners 2015:

John Walsh and Imogen Clark (NSW) (Australia Category)  
Robert McIntosh (NSW) (Ballad Category)  
Anirban Banerjee (ACT) (Contemporary Pop/Dance Category)  
Loren Steenkamp (SA) (Country Category- Joint)  
John Greenwood (VIC) (Country Category- Joint)  
Julia Michaels and Sven Tydeman (NSW) (Folk/Acoustic Category)  
Terry Bennetts (WA) (Instrumental Category)  
Coa Lopez (USA) (International Category)  
Denise Silk (NSW) (Lyrics Category- Joint)  
Charlie Cacciola (QLD) (Lyrics Category- Joint)  
Karen Guymer (VIC) (Open Category)  
Quentin Clark (QLD) (Rock/Indie Category)  
Jason Greenwood (VIC) (Spiritual Category)  
Stan Lenz (QLD) (Songs For Children Category)  
Kayla Borg (VIC) (Youth Category)

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