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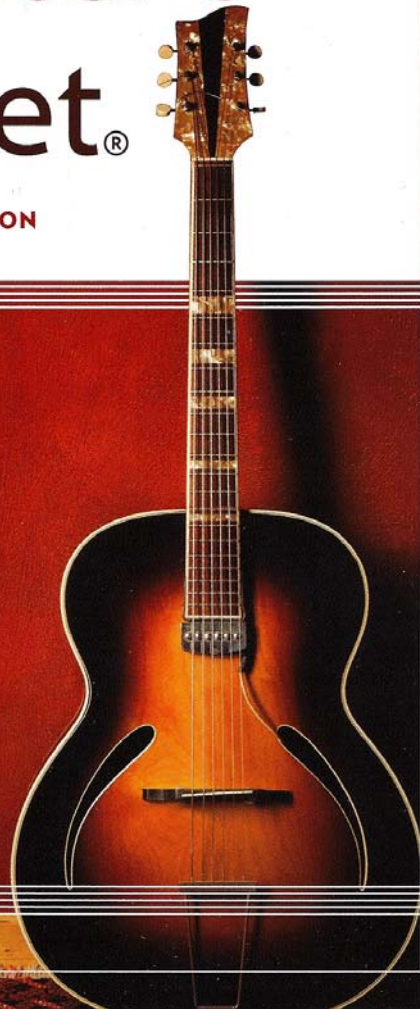
34TH ANNUAL EDITION

**MORE THAN 500
UPDATED LISTINGS TO HELP
YOU SELL YOUR SONGS**

Exclusive interviews with legendary songwriters and songwriting professionals, in addition to articles on how to find success and make a career out of writing songs.

Listings for music publishers, record companies, record producers, managers & booking agents, music firms, play producers, contests & awards, and more.

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ARTICLES & INTERVIEWS

No Rules

Crafting Opportunities as a Songwriter



by Lauren Jonik

One of the most challenging and potentially rewarding opportunities any songwriter will encounter is how to unite one's creative craft with the art of commerce. This is especially true for artists who are performers as well and who endeavor to make both a living and a life from their work. While many elements working in concert with each other form a career, there are two in any songwriter's life that are key: writing quality songs and ensuring that they are heard. The beauty and the burden is that there are no rules, no guarantees that lead to success, but by observing and learning from what others have done and listening to the ever-present inner guidance, it is possible to find one's unique path to not only bring forth songs into the world, but to create a life that feels authentic.

Pursue the crazy road

Most artists find it easy to sit in one room alone and create, to revel in the process and the journey of blending music and lyrics together into a song. But, there are distinct rewards that only come when one pushes to emerge outside of the cocoon of creation and to allow the fruits of what is often solitary labor to be heard.

As New York City-based singer/songwriter Hugh Colocott explains, "You could be the best unknown writer, the best unknown songwriter in the world, but it is much more satisfying if people can hear your work." Colocott, whose career in music has spanned over 20 years and whose songs have been featured in numerous television shows and movies, embraces a strong work ethic and finds both joy and solace in being dedicated and focused.

It is an approach echoed by Modern Vintage recording artist Misty Boyce. "I can't lie, pursuing music is hard. But I would say that the most beneficial thing is that this path makes me face myself every day. Whatever else I chose to do in my life, I'll come to it with an assurance and awareness that I've developed by first pursuing this crazy road."

LAUREN JONIK is a freelance music journalist and photographer with more than 10 years experience.



Photo credit: Deborah Lopez.

Hugh Colocott says, "Collaborating is the greatest thing in the world. It brings out the best in you."

Articles & Interviews

Indeed, creating a solid body of work and being willing to devote time, energy and effort to a career in songwriting is only part of the equation. It becomes imperative that the songs are heard, but there are many different avenues that can lead to how that happens, including performing locally, touring regionally, nationally or internationally at music venues, playing at house concerts, utilizing the internet and collaborating with other musicians. Though it may not always appear to be so, the business of being a songwriter offers as wide a spectrum of ways to be creative as the act of songwriting itself—and can be equally as important.

Singer/songwriter Amber Rubarth explains that for independent artists being open to navigating one's own journey is crucial. "So many things in music are changing; I don't think anyone knows what the 'path' is. The business exists just in order to get your songs across. The ultimate result is that you want to be writing more or you want to be creating more and you want people to hear it. I don't usually find too much trouble in enjoying the business part of things, especially as an independent musician in this time period. There are so many creative things you can do." Rubarth, who tours regularly throughout the United States and Europe, has released several albums including her latest, *Good Mystery*, and makes her living full-time as a musician.

attention not only of future fans, but of people in the industry. “We were able to work our way up to getting booked at Mercury Lounge and Bowery Ballroom and I feel like a lot of people respected our work ethic,” says Mosseri about two of the city’s well-known rock venues. “The promoters and people who worked for Bowery Presents were very helpful and good to us and they knew that if they booked us, we would bust our ass to get people to the show.”

Every step forward builds on itself. Mosseri continues, “Now, we’re going all over the country and we’re selling ourselves to different audiences every night.”

Collaborate to find success

Whether it is about promotion or finding unique opportunities for touring and performing, the benefits of hard work are compounded by joining forces to varying degrees and in different ways with others who are on a similar path. Of songwriting itself, Colocott enthuses, “Collaborating is the greatest thing in the world. It brings out the best in you.”

He continues, “Not to mention, on a business level it helps too. If two people are shopping a song, it’s much better than one person shopping the song because they’ve got their sources and the things they’ve done with their career. They can bring to the table what they’ve got, which is one thing to be aware of when you co-write with people.”

Though some people are at their best when writing alone, for others finding a compatible songwriting partner is worth its weight in gold. Colocott, who most frequently co-writes with pop/country singer/songwriter Amber Rhodes and with songwriter Jimmy Santis, with whom he has begun Vortex Music, a writing and production company, most recently has placed songs in “All My Children,” and in an animated Disney movie.

Similarly, Rubarth has discovered the good that can come with collaboration. In addition to having written with well-established artists like Adam Levy, Rubarth is part of the duo The Paper Raincoat with Alex Wong and she recently joined forces with composer Paul Brill for the documentary *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*, which received acclaim at the Sundance and Tribeca Film Festivals.

Make your passion the path

Rubarth has witnessed the steady evolution of her career after adhering to a piece of advice she received several years ago while working as a wood sculptor right



Amber Rubarth follows her passion and advises others to do the same.

Photo credit: Deborah Lopez.