

CT Songwriters Association & Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival
presents:

The 2nd Annual Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest

Entry Fee: \$25.00 per song

All accepted entries will receive an admission ticket to Podunk for Saturday, August 6, 2011

PRIZES:

First Prize \$300 cash, Lifetime membership to CSA (\$400 value)

Second Prize \$100 and a pair of 4-day tickets to the 2012 Podunk Bluegrass Festival (\$180Value)

Third Prize \$50 and a pair of Tickets to the 2012 Podunk Bluegrass Festival

Official Rules and Guidelines

1. ELIGIBILITY

The Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Competition (PBSC) is open to those whose primary source of income (50% or more) is not derived from songwriting or publishing. Income from performing gigs is not songwriting income. First place winners during the past five years may not re-enter in the specific category in which they won. **Co-writers are subject to the same eligibility requirements as the named entrant.**

2. CATEGORY

Bluegrass (see appendix for genre guidelines)

3. TWO WAYS TO ENTER

(a) SUBMISSIONS BY MAIL:

Send the following with each entry:

- a) One completed entry form per song (photocopy acceptable). Signature must be original.
- b) One song per CD (preferred medium). Entries may also be submitted on cassette, DVD, or mp3 file on CD or Mac-compatible USB flash.
- c) Release form (below) signed by all writers.
- d) Typed lyric sheet.
- e) Check or money order for \$25.00 (U.S currency) for each entry, payable to CSA. Do not send cash. CD or other entry medium, AND Lyric sheet, **MUST BE LABELED** with Entrant's Name, Address, Email, Telephone Numbers, Song Title & Co-Author's Name(s), if Applicable.

(b) SUBMISSIONS ON LINE:

You may enter the 2011 Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest online via Connecticut Songwriters Association. For more information: www.ctsongs.com. There is a \$3 additional online processing fee.

4. CDs, MP3, DVD or Tapes and Lyrics will not be returned. No one will receive personal notification of receipt of an entry.

5. MAIL ENTRIES TO:

CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic, CT 06355 Entries must be received by May 1, 2011. Overnight entries must be sent by the US Postal Service's Express Mail. The contest cannot provide confirmation of receipt of individual entries. Entries received after the deadline will not be considered.

6. SONGWRITING ENTRIES

All entries must be the original work of contestant. Contestant may enter as many songs as desired. Each song, however, constitutes a separate entry and must have its own entry form, lyric sheet, release, and recorded MP3, cassette, CD or DVD submission. Check or money order must reflect the total number of songs submitted. Multiple songs by the same writer or co-writers may not be selected as finalists in a single category, except for songs co-written with different writers or a solo composition and a co-written song. All applicable U.S. copyright laws apply, and all rights to submitted material remain entirely with the copyright holder. CSA and PBSC acquire no rights to any works submitted. CSA and Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival are not responsible for late, lost, damaged, misdirected, insufficient postage, stolen, or misappropriated entries. Entry fees are non-refundable.

7. JUDGING

Entries will be judged by professional songwriters, publishers, or other music industry professionals from the CSA and Podunk Music Festival music community. All entries will be judged on originality, lyrics, melody and the song's overall craft. Recording and performance quality are not considered. All decisions by judges are final and not subject to inquiry or appeal. Finalists will be determined and notified by the week of June 6. Only finalists will be personally notified. Entrants will not be provided with scores of their entries.

8. FINALISTS

Three finalists will be invited to perform on the Main Stage at Podunk in East Hartford, CT. Transportation to and from the festival and any other expenses are the responsibility of the finalist. Each finalist will receive up to two all access passes to the festival. Any additional band members must purchase a ticket to enter the festival. Co-writers will be treated as one writer for credentials and prizes. In the event of a tie among top-ranked entries, the one with the earliest postmarked registration date will be chosen. The winner song will be performed by all bands entered in the 2011 Podunk Band Competition as a required song for competition.

9. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. All prizes will be awarded to name on entry form. Division of prizes among co-authors is responsibility of winners. Taxes are the responsibility of winners. Void where prohibited. All Federal, State and Local laws and regulations apply.

10. INDEMNITY AND RELEASE

Signature on entry form constitutes each song submitted is an original work and releases The CSA and Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival Songwriting Contest, sponsors, Town of East Hartford, and Podunk from all liability. Entry also constitutes permission to use winner's name and likeness for future advertising and publicity without compensation. By entering, entrants agree that they have no right to

bring, and covenant not to bring any claim, action, or proceeding of any kind or nature whatsoever against CSA, PBMF, or any other sponsoring organization or judge in connection with this competition.

11. WINNERS

For a list of winners, after August 8, 2011 email: rmoss@easthartfordct.gov or send self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

**The Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest,
50 Chapman Place,
East Hartford, CT 06108.**

Information

ALL FINALISTS WILL RECEIVE

- All Access Podunk credentials for up to two
- Listing and link on the Podunk Bluegrass website
- One-year subscription to Bluegrass Music Profiles magazine

1st PLACE WINNERS WILL ALSO RECEIVE

- A 10 minute performance on the Main Stage at Podunk on either Thursday, August 4 or Friday August 5, 2011. Must include song chosen as one of the top three.
- A check for \$300 (Three hundred)
- Lifetime Membership to CT Songwriters Association (\$400 value)

2nd PLACE WINNERS WILL ALSO RECEIVE

- A check for \$150. (One hundred Fifty)
- A 10 minute performance on the Main Stage at Podunk on either Thursday, August 4 or Friday August 5, 2011. Must include song chosen as one of the top three.

3rd PLACE WINNERS WILL ALSO RECEIVE

- A check for \$50.00 (Fifty)
- A 10 minute performance on the Main Stage at Podunk on either Thursday, August 4 or Friday August 5, 2011. Must include song chosen as one of the top three.

Contest Category

- BLUEGRASS

Contest Deadline

Contestants must enter by May 1, 2011 by completing the Official Entry Form and mailing it to:
CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic, CT 06355 USA
OR by entering online at www.ctsongs.com

Questions? Email: info@ctsongs.com

Please Note:

- Only entries submitted according to the rules will be considered.
- We do not provide personal notification of receipt of entries.
- Mail entries accepted only at the PO Box in Mystic via US Postal Service.
- No deadline extensions. No exceptions.
- One MP3, DVD, CD or cassette per entry.
- Song must be performed live at Podunk on Friday, August 5th, 2011

Podunk and the Connecticut Songwriters Association **are non-profit organizations** dedicated to furthering the craft and appreciation of original and traditional music.

BLUEGRASS GUIDELINES

Bluegrass is a style of acoustic music that originated in the 1940s when Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs combined elements of country/western, gospel and blues music with the British, Irish, and Scottish music of their Appalachian mountain heritage. It is played most commonly on the mandolin, fiddle, five-string banjo, six-string guitar, and upright bass, but the resonator guitar ("Dobro"), harmonica, and electric bass are also found in bluegrass. Percussion is not generally used, with the insistent rhythm being a result of the interplay of the stringed instruments. Bluegrass music is often called "that high lonesome sound" but it includes a wide range of lively instrumentals, sweet ballads in three-part harmony, soulful a cappella gospel quartets and up-tempo love songs.

The unique, driving sound of the original Blue Grass Boys was built upon by many musicians, including the Stanley Brothers, Reno & Smiley, Jim & Jesse, and Jimmy Martin. Bluegrass blossomed with artists like the Osborne Brothers, the Dillards, the Seldom Scene, the New Grass Revival, and Hot Rize. Today bluegrass is popular worldwide, and its stars include Ricky Skaggs, Alison Krauss & Union Station, the Del McCoury Band, Laurie Lewis, the Lonesome River Band, Blue Highway, and the Nashville Bluegrass Band.

Bluegrass is a very inclusive music, with friendly and informal jam sessions springing up around almost every event. It's a great way to learn to play an instrument and sing, for kids and adults alike. Almost all bluegrass events have a family atmosphere, and performers and listeners are equally welcome. We hope to see you soon at a bluegrass event!

Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest Entry Form

This form and a \$25 check must accompany each song entered.

NAME: _____

PHONE: (_____) _____ Age _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

COUNTRY: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SONG TITLE: _____ TIME _____

CO-WRITER(S) _____

Print, complete, and mail your entry to: CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic, CT 06355. Entry must be received by May 1, 2011.

I certify that I have read and understand the Official Rules of THE PODUNK BLUEGRASS SONGWRITING CONTEST, and I accept the terms and conditions of participation in this contest as stated in the official rules.

Signature: _____ Date _____

Note: If entrant is under 18 years of age, the signature of a parent or guardian is required

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date _____

- Only entries submitted according to the rules will be considered. No deadline extensions. No exceptions.
- Two Ways to Enter: By mail or online at www.ctsongs.com
- For mailed entries, one tape or CD per entry. One song per cassette tape or CD
- Domestic mail entries accepted only at the PO Box 511 in Mystic via US Postal Service
- The Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Contest does not acknowledge receipt of entries submitted by mail. Only finalists will be notified personally of the results of first round judging. The contest will not release judges' scores nor provide personal evaluations.
- Writers of songs selected for the finals will perform them live at Podunk
- For more information: www.ctsongs.com podunkbluegrass.net
E-mail: info@ctsongs.com

Release Form for the Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Competition

Song Title: _____

The undersigned writer(s) hereby give permission to the Connecticut Songwriters Association (CSA) and Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival (PBMF) to use this song in connection with the Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Competition and the PBMF as described in the Official Contest Rules of the Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Competition.

Writers retain complete copyright ownership and give permission to for CSA and PBMF to use the composition as needed within the guidelines of the Podunk Bluegrass Songwriting Competition. The writers waive any current and future payments from for this use of the composition. Authorization of this use is non-exclusive. Writers retain all rights and may freely license use of the song to any other parties for any other uses at any time.

Writer(s) warrant that they have the right to authorize this use, and in so doing are not infringing on the copyrights or publishing rights of any person or entity not named in this release, and agree to be responsible for any restitution that may be due a third party as a result of knowingly or unknowingly misrepresenting the authority to grant this use.

Writer(s) agree to submit a non-refundable \$25 entry fee with their submission with the understanding that this does not guarantee receipt of any future tangible or intangible benefit. The final selection of winning songs for the competition is at the sole discretion of CSA and PBMF.

Primary e-mail address for contact regarding this submission: _____

Your name and e-mail (please print clearly)

Length of the track in minutes: seconds _____

WRITER DATE

WRITER DATE

WRITER DATE

Signed release, along with all other required entry materials should be sent to: CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355 or via e-mail to info@ctsongs.com.