

Celebrating Songwriters
**KERRVILLE
FOLK
FESTIVAL**
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NEWS

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STAKES ARE HIGH FOR THE 2009 GRASSY HILL, KERRVILLE NEW FOLK COMPETITION

KERRVILLE, TEXAS---Serious songwriters across America have been holding their collective breath for the announcement of the 32 Grassy Hill, Kerrville New Folk Finalists for 2009. Eight Hundred entries were accepted this year for this prestigious contest and of those, 32 writer-performers will travel from locations throughout the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom to be named one of the six award winners.

Each contestant will perform two original songs in a live competition that's divided into two afternoon lineups, running from 12:00pm to 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24, 2009. Established at the suggestion of Peter Yarrow in 1972, the Kerrville New Folk Competition will take place in the newly renovated Threadgill Theater on the Quiet Valley Ranch, nine miles south of the Texas Hill Country resort community of Kerrville.

In the intensely competitive music business, New Folk contestants know that winning or standing out in this contest can help move their careers to a higher level, in addition to giving them serious bragging rights. Many major-label artists such as Lyle Lovett, Steve Earle, Nanci Griffith and Shawn Colvin experienced a surge in their early careers after participating in the Kerrville New Folk competition. At the 2009 Kerrville Folk Festival alone, 20 of the scheduled stage performers are former New Folk finalists or winners. With so much at stake, sweaty palms, backstage pacing and tears of joy and disappointment are common among the finalists.

New Folk contestants consistently deliver the performance of a lifetime. It's no wonder audiences and music presenters are devoted to these popular New Folk concerts, held each year on Memorial Day Weekend as one of the highlights of the annual 18-day Kerrville Folk Festival celebration.

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Six NEW FOLK AWARD WINNERS will be selected by judges TR Ritchie, Amilia Spicer, and Jon Vezner from the thirty-two finalists and they will return on Sunday, May 31 to perform 20 minutes of their original songs. Prizes for the six Award Winners will include a total of \$450 from the **Texas Folk Music Foundation, Vic and Reba Heyman** and the **Jim Ross Memorial Fund**, as well as a year's subscription or renewal to Performing Songwriter Magazine, an InTellitouch Tuner from On-Board Research, a Kyser capo, and a set of Elixir Strings.

This year's contest is sponsored in part by Grassy Hill Radio, streaming the best in folk/acoustic music over the Internet. The two-day line-up for the 2009 New Folk Competition for Emerging Songwriters is as follows:

12 Noon – 3 PM SATURDAY, MAY 23 (in order of appearance) AT THREADGILL THEATER

Saturday, set 1

Lynne Hanson (Ottawa, ON, Canada)
Craig Bickhardt (Media PA)
Sarah Donner (Princeton NJ)
Ben Mallott (Austin TX)
Marc Black (Katonah NY)
Angela Easterling (Taylors SC)
Larry Murante (Seattle WA)
Donna Beckham (West TX)

Saturday, set 2

Louise Mosrie (Nashville TN)
Rebecca Loebe (Atlanta GA)
Tommy Byrd (Austin TX)
Matthew Fockler (South Padre Island TX)
Valorie Miller (Asheville NC)
Colin McGrath (Brooklyn NY)
Liz Longley (Downington PA)
Bob Sima (Woodbine MD)

12 Noon – 3 PM, SUNDAY, MAY 25 (in order of appearance) AT THREADGILL THEATER

Sunday, set 1

Sarah Sample (Seattle WA)
Greg Alexander (New York NY)
Jason David Hiatt (Austin TX)
Carrie Catherine (Saskatoon, SK, Can.)
Ernest Troost (Los Angeles CA)
Gretchen Witt (Brooklyn NY)
Laura Zucker (Lafayette CA)
Larry Zarella (Massachusetts AK)

Sunday, set 2

Tom Neilson (Greenfield MA)
Joe Crookston (Ithaca NY)
Shannon Wurst (Alma AR)
Roy Schneider (Fort Meyers FL)
Kim Miller (Wimberley TX)
Jeff Martin (Portland OR)
Lucy Wainwright Roche (Brooklyn NY)
Kate Mann (Portland OR)

The Grassy Hill, Kerrville New Folk Concerts are included in the admission tickets for Saturday and Sunday, May 23 and 24. For the complete lineup, schedule of events, tickets, camping and other information, check out the festival website at www.kerrvillefolkfestival.com or call (830) 257-3600. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$35 depending on the particular day, although you can save from 20% to 30% by purchasing your tickets in advance. Parking fees are \$3 per day per vehicle at the gate.

Hi res. photos of selected festival performers, along with press credential request form, and copies of all press releases are available www.kerrvillefolkfestival.com/kff08_media.htm.