



"It's about the words and music"

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BETHESDA SONGWRITING CONTEST FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Finalists to perform live show and compete for \$10,000 Grand Prize

January 18, 2018 (Bethesda, MD) – The fourth annual **Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards**, produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District, will feature a live concert performed by the competition's finalists on **Friday, March 2 at 7:30pm** at **Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club**, 7719 Wisconsin Avenue in downtown Bethesda. **Tickets will be \$15 and \$20 and available at www.bethesda.org.**

Six songwriters have been chosen as finalists and one will win the \$10,000 Grand Prize and 25 hours of complimentary recording studio time at Innovation Station Music.

- **AZTEC SUN** (Funk & Soul), Washington, D.C.
 - Songs written by: Ryan Banning and Stephane Detchou
- **Catherine Backus** (Folk/Acoustic), Bedford, VA
- **DuPont Brass** (Soul), D.C. Metro Area
 - Songs written by: Anthony Daniel Jr, Jared Bailey, Isaac Bell IV, Brent Gossett and DeAnte Haggerty-Willis
- **Jarrett Nicolay** (Rock/Alternative), Alexandria, VA
- **Jonathan Plevyak** (Folk/Acoustic & Pop), Finksburg, MD
- **Rochelle Rice** (Vocal Jazz & Pop), Washington, D.C.

Three songwriters from the Young Songwriter category (applicants who are under 18 years of age) will also perform live and compete for \$2,500.

- **Eliza Costello & Charlotte Corcoran** (Rock/Alternative), Bethesda, MD
- **Skyler Foley** (Folk/Acoustic), Burke, VA
- **Thomas & Isabel LaRosa** (Pop), Annapolis, MD

The winners will be announced at the close of the show.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the fourth annual Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards with a concert that will once again showcase phenomenal regional songwriters," said Bethesda resident and Awards' founder, Cathy Bernard. "The Greater Washington, D.C. area is a vibrant and culturally diverse community to which music and art are essential. I am proud to produce this competition that highlights inspiring artists and that culminates with a fun night of live music in Bethesda for all to enjoy."

To honor her late uncle, Fred Ebb, who was a renowned American songwriter, Cathy Bernard founded the competition in 2015. Ebb is known for Broadway hits such as *Cabaret* and *Chicago* and for iconic songs, including *New York, New York*.

The 2018 Grand Prize Jurors who will provide feedback to the songwriters during the concert are:

- **Sarah Brindell**, Associate Professor of Songwriting at Berklee College of Music and a songwriter, arranger, producer, pianist and vocalist. Sarah has shared the stage and recorded with renowned artists including Norah Jones, Carole King and Raul Midon.
- **Roger Brown**, Nashville-based songwriter whose credits include Kenny Chesney's "She Gets That Way," Randy Travis' "That's Where I Draw The Line," Barbara Streisand's "We Must Be Loving Right," Patty Loveless' "Born Again Fool," among others.
- **Nathan Tysen**, Musical Theatre Lyricist and winner of the 2014 Fred Ebb Award for musical theatre songwriting and 2014 Edward Kleban Prize for most promising lyricist. Nathan is the lyricist of the critically acclaimed and Tony-nominated musical *Tuck Everlasting*. Current projects include an adaptation of Jean-Pierre Jeunet's film *Amélie*, and commissions from Lincoln Center Theater and Playwrights Horizons.

Remaining tickets will be sold at the door. Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club will feature a dinner menu. Audience members can arrive beginning at 5:30pm to enjoy dinner and drinks at the theater before the 7:30pm concert. Food and drink is not included in the ticket price.

The finalists were selected from a competitive pool of more than 200 entries from songwriters across Maryland, D.C. and Virginia. The Grand Prize Jury will attend the concert on Friday, March 2 to select the award winners.

Please visit www.bethesda.org or call 301/215-6660 for more information.

From award-winning theatre to independent films, downtown Bethesda's Arts & Entertainment District is filled with inspiring artists and art venues. The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District is managed by the Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc., and is the producer of The Trawick Prize: Bethesda Contemporary Art Awards, Bethesda Painting Awards, Bethesda Fine Arts Festival, Play In A Day and Bethesda Film Fest.

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