

Pictures of Recent Performers at Songwriters Open Mic – and Some History



Jim Novak, Host and Producer of Songwriters Open Mic

The first “Songwriters Open Mic” (SOM) was held in February, 1996, at Oz’s Music Store in Ann Arbor. From the start, I videotaped the performances because I wanted to critique how I looked as well as how I sounded on stage, and I figured that some other songwriters would want to do the same. It wasn’t long before I had a collection of very watch-able videos of songs from some wonderful performers and, having dabbled in community-access TV before, I thought that the tapes from SOM could be edited into a very watch-able TV show. “Songwriters Open Mic,” made from clips from the open mic’s at Oz’s store, went on the air in November, 1996, as a weekly show, and now it’s been on the cable broadcast for over 600 weekly episodes.

The open mic for songwriters still takes place monthly at Oz’s Music Store, on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30. The TV version is shown at least twice each week, including 8pm on Fridays on the Community Television Network, CTN, channel 17 in Ann Arbor (www.a2gov.org/ctn). (The show is also seen on GRTV in Grand Rapids, since 1999; other local access stations have broadcast the show at various times, in various places around the State.) The live open mic has occasionally gone “on the road;” for example, there were a number of episodes taped up North and showcasing northern Michigan songwriters. But “Oz’s Music” in Ann Arbor is home base.

Below are photos taken at the open mic. There are about 25 or 30 pictures, and that would represent only about 10% of the performers who have appeared at Songwriters Open Mic over the years. Most of these photo’s were taken in the last year or two, and some recent performers have not yet been added, and for that I apologize. These were the pictures that were close at hand and, well, I used everything that was close at hand, and I’ll fix what needs fixing when I can (Hey that could be a line in a song...)

Local community-access tv stations like CTN and GRTV are members of the Alliance for Community Media, and their goals include building community through media and sharing our creative endeavors (www.alliancecm.org).

To comment on the photos or make suggestions or whatever, write me at the address below or come to the open mic at Oz's.

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Photos of recent performers at Songwriters Open Mic, at Oz's Music Store:



Paul Epstein



Beth Kerwin



Alan Smith



Anne Itsuno



Jack Richards



Laurel Federbush



Steve Osburn of Oz's Music



The Hummingbirds



JettaRae



Ish



Will and Amy Bennett



Fiona Chamness



Lee Haselschwerdt



Brandie Nicole



Dave Hoffman



Darwin Mamassian



Sheila Loveley



Larry Pless



Hunter Wade



Scott Goodhart



Dave Morse



Kurt Ringquist



Taya Lee



Mike Moffatt



Dan Cooper



Laura Love



Kissing Cousins

MORE TO COME – STAY TUNED.