

# Grassy Hill Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk Songwriting Competition

New Folk! The 32 Finalists came to the 2014 Kerrville Folk Festival. The judging panel of 3 songwriters, this year Steve Seskin the current Director of our Songwriters School and Greg Greenway and Joe Jencks from the trio Brother Sun, had a tough time deciding the six Award Winners. They were **Frank Martin Gilligan** (Dickinson, TX), **Matt Nakoa** (Brooklyn, NY), **The Lovebirds** (San Diego, CA), **C. Daniel Boling** (Albuquerque, NM), **Caroline Spence** (Nashville, TN) and **Connor Garvey** (Portland, ME). They will be on tour in Texas in November with their final gig at the Fischer Fest on Friday November 7th.

Letters from Grassy Hill  
New Folk Award Winners from 2012.



Photo by Ira Hantz

## Nicolette Good

*“The Kerrville New Folk songwriting competition changed my life for the better both as a songwriter and as a member of the music community. The process of applying to the competition encouraged me to learn about the legacy of songwriters at Kerrville, but also to learn about new musicians and writers of my own generation. There is no place else in the world that does more*

*to bring generations of musicians and songwriters together than the Kerrville Folk Festival. I came to Kerrville first as a listener, then as a participant, and finally as an entrant into the songwriting competition. I can't wait to come back, now, as part of a bigger movement, family, and history. The Southwest Regional Folk Alliance has also done wonders for me professionally, creatively and socially. I was introduced to SWRFA just as I was getting started as a professional musician, and the conference gave me an instant and affordable resource for networking, educational resources, professional development and creative inspiration.”*



## Whit Hill

*“I was honored to be chosen as a winner of the 2012 Kerrville New Folk competition. It has been an absolutely life-changing experience, hugely gratifying and important to me on a variety of levels. I am not a young “troubadour” like my fellow winners this year, but, rather, a middle-aged mom with*



**by Dalis Allen**

*a day job – and a deep and abiding love of songwriting which I have nurtured for the past 20 years. Learning I was a finalist was thrilling and the trip to the festival for the competition taught me much about myself as an artist. The introvert side of me dived into the heady richness of the campfires, meeting strangers, opening up and hearing such great and inspiring music at every turn.*

*The finalists immediately forged a community that I will never forget. Likewise, the six winners quickly became close friends. As we stood onstage after the winners' concert, we were handed information about the New Folk tour – something I'd never expected. We also learned about our SWREA scholarships and other opportunities.*

*I decided to take advantage of everything I could. SWREA was thrilling and fun – and the New Folk tour, well, I'll never forget it. We traveled together and backed each other up and met (and stayed with) lovely, kind people and reveled in each other's music. Really – being onstage with such an amazing, diverse group of artists was such an honor. Thanks, New Folk. Thanks, Kerrville."*



**Edie Carey**

*"This was my second time in the New Folk Competition, and this time I was lucky enough to be among the winners. One of the lovely benefits is that so many people know and love the festival and the competition across the country, and so winning really*

*meant something to them. I have done many of these competitions, and never has a win elicited such a huge response from folks on my mailing list, on Facebook, and at my shows. That was such a wonderful surprise – and I am thrilled to be added to the list of past winners which includes so many of my songwriting heroes. However, the New Folk experience is so much bigger than the competition. The connections -- musical and otherwise -- and the sense of community that pervades the entire Kerrville Festival are what make the whole experience so extraordinary. When you are a solo touring songwriter, you spend an inordinate amount of time alone -- you are a one-man/woman enterprise most of the time -- but a festival like Kerrville feels like one enormous homecoming party where you get to see so many of the folks who you love -- and whose music you love -- along those dusty paths and around the campfires. And those are the connections and experiences that feed you and keep you inspired and moving along your normally solo path."*



Tom Prasada-Rao was an Award winner in 1993.

Jimmy LaFave in 1987

Tish Hinojosa in 1979

Stay tuned for interviews with these artists and more. I am so delighted to have the opportunity to tell the New Folk story in Texas Heart Beat!

*Dalis*