



related moment of 2014 just got better and more memorable. Touring Texas hill country with the New Folk class of '14 was one of the most rewarding and fulfilling weeks of my music career. The fun we had and friendships we made continue on to this day. I'm so thankful New Folk and so proud to be a part of the tradition."

The 2016 Kerrville Folk Festival, the 45th annual, is May 26 - June 12. The submission period for Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk 2016 opens on December 1, 2015.

As I continue telling the history of Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk I am also telling the stories of the songwriters themselves. The ones that stepped up to join their peers at the Festival that is all about them. The Kerrville Folk Festival mission is support and encouragement, acknowledgment and affirmation for artists that can't not write songs, the ones that are 'Saving the World One Song at a Time' (as quoted from Rod Kennedy, our Founder).

The last few articles in this series have veered from the testimonial style, and so I am getting back to that with notes written by some of the 2014 Award Winners that were featured here two issues ago.



LINDSAY WHITE from THE LOVEBIRDS

"New Folk is so much more than receiving validation for your own songwriting. It's an entire community of people who share a love and a passion for the experience of connecting with others through music. Every Kerrville-



C. DANIEL BOLING

"I discovered the Kerrville Folk Festival in the late 70s and the folks on the Mainstage who captured my attention and became heroes of mine were songwriters like Tim Henderson, Tish Hinojosa, Butch Hancock, Nancy Griffith, Chuck Pyle ... all of whom I later learned, had a New Folk connection. I hadn't written much then, but in the 90s and on into this century as I developed as a songwriter, I started paying close attention to New Folk. I came to the Festival sporadically early on, moved far away for a decade, and then attended nearly every year since 1997 ... and sent songs a lot of those years."

In 2014 I got into the Finals for the first time, moving up from 3rd Alternate when a few folks pulled out, and had the tremendous thrill of being among the Winners too. I knew Kerrville was a very special family and had

felt a part of it for years. I did not know that New Folk was yet another family -- albeit with a fair amount of overlap. Experiencing New Folk from the inside was remarkable: the camaraderie; mutual support; respect for one another as artists and as people; the intensity and talent and generosity of everyone involved. In Veronica, Lindsay, Caroline, Matt, Connor & Frank I've found friends for life. We've been sharing shows around the country and plan to do lots more.

Being a New Folk Winner has opened new doors throughout the U.S. and in Europe. Venues, DJs and listeners who've never heard of me are more inclined to give me a chance now. And the validation from my peers that New Folk represents makes it so much easier to keep on writing songs and putting myself out there as a little-known, middle aged folksinger. Our 2014 Class ranged from early 20s to late 50s and I was telling a long-time Kerrvert what a fantastic career I thought the young songwriters had in front of them. He replied, "You do too, Dan'l ... yours is just a whole lot shorter!"



CONNOR GARVEY

"The New Folk Experience is a journey through community that is unmatched by any songwriters competition out there. Not only is it an honor and feather in the cap to be included in the showcase but it is a warm welcome into a community that reaches far beyond a performer audience relationship. For me, deep & lasting friendships were forged, musical inroads were paved, and enthusiasm for my life path was re-affirmed. I am beyond grateful for the experience and proud to be connected with so many fantastic songwriters, presenters, friends, and fans tied together by a love of song, putting

oneself out there, and Texas! A pretty wonderful experience for a boy from Maine!"



FRANK MARTIN GILLIGAN

"Kerrville New Folk was a major stepping off point for me. The tour in the Fall was a bucket list moment for me. I will never forget it and the great friends I made. Instead of looking back on a long ago life in music, I'm now looking forward in this new chapter, all thanks to The Kerrville Folk Festival. Many adventures to come! Thank you friends"

When you read this we will have completed another amazing tour with the 2015 Award Winners, TOM MENY, AMY KUCHARIK, WES COLLINS, BECKY WARREN, ANNA TIVEL and DAVID BERKELEY.

More to come about that tour and those stories in the next issue.....

Thanks for reading about the Kerrville Folk Festival in the Heart Beat of the Texas Hill Country!

