



NEW FOLK 2017

by Dalis Allen

The Kerrville Folk Festival is an event that supports songwriters as its mission; songwriters from all genres of music, original and excellent. So discovering new songwriters from around the world is our constant goal which is largely accomplished through the Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk Competition which is held the first weekend of the Festival, in 2017 May 27 and 28.

The six Award Winners that are chosen during that weekend continue to be honored long after the festival has ended. We plan a series of concerts all across Texas in November of the year they won. The 2016 Award Winners were Rachel Laven, San Antonio TX; Ben De La Cour, Nashville TN; Addie Brownlee, Brooklyn NY; Joe Shields, Alto MI; Emily Scott Robinson, Chattanooga, TN; Justin Farren, Sacramento CA.

This year in particular there were 8 straight nights of concerts which culminated on the Friday night of Fischer Fest. Included in the tour were Uncle Calvin's Coffeehouse, Dallas, Texas; Sycamore Creek House Concerts, Dripping Springs, Texas; New Braunfels House Concerts, New Braunfels, Texas; Milagro Springs House Concerts, Wimberley, Texas; Blue Rock Studios (and Concert Window), Wimberley, Texas; Sam's Burger Joint and Music Hall, San Antonio, Texas; Open Ears Concerts, Austin, Texas and Fischer Fest, Fischer, Texas.

This concept has now grown and includes other folks planning additional tours for the groups across the Northeast and in the Nashville area, just so far.

Submissions for 2017 open on December 1st.

Additional opportunities to discover songwriters happen at conferences all around the world. I recently attended the Folk Music Ontario event as an international delegate in Ottawa Canada. We will be attending the Folk Alliance International in February 2017 in Kansas City. There will be 2500 people in a hotel with music going 24 hours a day. I have

discovered numerous artists that have played the festival while in attendance at these conferences. John Fullbright and Seth Glier, both nominated for Grammy's within a couple of years of my first hearing them, are just a couple of great examples.



The year round far reaching spirit of the festival is something that most people don't really think about. Even when we are not literally presenting an event we are working on the coordination of our events and participating in the ongoing music that happens everywhere around us. There are many opportunities throughout the year to hear these musicians in Kerrville and all around the Hill Country.

During the Folk Festival May 25 - June 11, 2017 we plan to highlight the careers of Townes VanZandt through a film project being created by David Broza from Israel and Guy Clark through his autobiography, 'Without Getting Killed or Caught', written by Tamara Saviano. She is also working on a film about Guy's life, which we hope will be finished in time for fest. We are so greatly affected by the losses of the artists that we have come to know and love because of the Festival. Honoring their memories and amazing songs is one way to carry them with us always.

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

Dalis