

## Song Contest for Military Personnel



<http://www.songssoulservice.org>

Original song has a long tradition in the military. Every military conflict from the American Revolution, to the Civil War, to the first Gulf War has spawned music that reflected the moods, emotions and sentiments of the nations fighting men and women. These songs provided respite, unit bonding, and an expressive outlet during trying times. In some cases, the songs transcended their times and became permanent fixtures in the nation's patriotic songbook. One such song, "The Caisson Song" originated in 1907 with a lieutenant leading a detachment across the Sambales Mountains in the Philippines, and latter became the official U.S. Army song, The Army Goes Rolling Along (see "A Soldier's Song" in Background). Too often however, these important pieces of history evaporate into the ether unnoticed and unacknowledged

Songs from the Soul of Service will serve to capture some of this history while providing recognition to talented songwriters and diversion and entertainment to participants and non-participants alike.

The contest will be open free of charge to amateur songwriters who are US military personnel. Such military personnel may also submit songs on behalf of an immediate family member, and they may make posthumous submissions on behalf of a fallen comrade or surviving immediate family member.

There are seven categories: Folk/Bluegrass/Country, Hip Hop/Rap/Urban, Instrumental, Jazz/World/Cultural-Centric, Novelty/ Children's Patriotic/Worship/Inspirational, & Pop/Rock/Alt/R&B

Music industry professionals will judge the finalists in each category. Simple cassette or other simple recordings are acceptable as song production quality will not be a factor in the judging. Prizes will be awarded for the top three songs in each surviving category, the top songs from personnel stationed in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the top three overall songs. Additional prizes may be awarded for other noteworthy songs.

The Grand Prize Winner will receive a luxury weekend at Gaylord Texan, two roundtrip Flights from continental US city to Dallas, One Year Premium Broadjam Membership (PRIMO MoB) and the winning song performed by noted Texas artist. Runners up receive one year Pro Broadjam Membership (PRO MoB).

Winners in each category will get a professionally produced version of winning song, Included on and receive CD compilation of winning songs and a long distance phone card from Sprint. All entrants will be eligible for drawings for assorted prizes (e.g., Maverick's merchandise, Pat Pattison Books, Writer's Digest, etc). Please tell your song writing friends. Dallas Songwriters wish to recognize and support our military service personnel for the great job they are doing at home and abroad. Send CDs or tapes to :

**Songs from the Soul of Service  
Dallas Songwriters Association,  
Sammons Center For The Arts,  
3630 Harry Hines Blvd Box 20,  
Dallas, Tx 75219.**

**Deadline February 15th.**

Visit website for entry form, rules and our sponsors.

*Songwriter Notes*

## FROM THE PREZ

I joined DSA just three years ago. During the meeting where we elect new board members, there was the usual plea for volunteers due to several vacancies still on the board. I thought - well, maybe I could help... just a little... Who knew that three years later I'd be the president? Totally amazing! It was certainly not something I aspired to, but I welcome the challenge and opportunity to help guide this great organization in the coming year.

Over the last few years, I have seen DSA change and grow a lot. The Wildflower Festival, the twice monthly Songwriter Showcases, the Military Contest, Live Mix, the Song Swap Workshops, the Lyric Contest, and many other things didn't when I joined. The opportunities to participate, to learn, and to network with other songwriters has increased dramatically.

But I think we can do even more to reach out to songwriters and the broader community. We can also provide additional opportunities for learning our "craft" and more opportunities to network with each other and the community.

But, we need YOUR help to make things happen. So, take a look at all the activities going on during the month and pick one (or two), then participate, volunteer, and get involved. The more you give, the more you will get in return.

Are we doing what you want us to do as an organization?

At our annual planning session in December, the board discussed many possibilities of great things to come for DSA. We need your input too. So, in the not to distant future, we'll be sending out a survey to get your thoughts and ideas. But why wait for the survey... Come present your ideas to the board now. Then stick around and help us turn your ideas into reality.

Let's have a great 2006!  
Alex Townes

**songlist.com**

*Mark Hughey was re-elected DSA President but due to his new job with lots of travel, he resigned and Alex Townes has stepped up to shoulder the responsibility for 2006.*

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