



September 2019 Songwriter News "It All Starts With The Songwriter"

Howdy friends and fellow songwriters, welcome to the September edition of our IBMA Songwriter News. This will be our last e-blast before the 2019 World Of Bluegrass in Raleigh NC, and will share all the updated info we can muster about our WOB Songwriter Track. Also, in this issue, we are including one of our Songwriter Mentor Program Success Stories we hope you will enjoy reading.

This year we are offering a total of twelve separate songwriter-related seminars, workshops, showcases etc. A big THANK YOU to our fellow Songwriter Committee members, IBMA staff, and all the moderators, panelists, speakers, performers, for their contribution and help with all the planning and arrangements. We have a lot to offer this year and hope you will take advantage of this one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn from, and be entertained by, some of the foremost songwriters in Bluegrass Music today.

Hope to see you there!

Rick Lang

IBMA Songwriter Committee Chair

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at:

rick@ricklangmusic.com

Songwriter Mentor Program Success Stories

Thanks to our good friend Tony Rackley, director of the IBMA Songwriter Mentor Program, here is our first "Success Story" post from songwriter Jessie Lang who has participated in, and benefited from, our IBMA Songwriter Mentor Program. Tony has done a fantastic job overseeing the program since its inception. If you have a story/experience from the program you would like to share please let Tony know.

You can reach him at:

jtrackley@aol.com



The IBMA Songwriter Mentor Program by Jessie Lang August 22, 2019

The songwriter mentor program is a wonderful way to dive deep into the world of songwriting, with a professional who can help you achieve your composition goals in a one-on-one setting. I highly recommend this innovative program, as co-writing is such a great way to bring out the best work of two artists.

I discovered the IBMA Songwriter Mentor Program when I attended the business conference for the first time in 2016. I enjoyed several seminars that year and learned a great deal about the music industry from a wide range of musicians and guest speakers. At the end of one of these sessions, I introduced myself to Rick Lang and told him of my interest in growing as a songwriter. He graciously listened to my background and accepted a copy of my first CD (Coming Home by The Lang Sisters). The CD had a few original songs on it and several folk and bluegrass standards.

In the following months, Rick and I connected primarily through email and Skype. I was fairly new to songwriting but had a lot of passion for music and an appreciation for meaningful lyrics. Rick is a very positive person, and his love of songwriting and music is contagious. Despite his busy schedule, we stayed in touch and worked on materials together for the next couple of years. Rick helped me develop and refine lyrics, always being open in the process while encouraging first rate work. As a songwriter, getting feedback on your work during the writing process is so important in developing your craft! The first full length song we completed together was "Tell Me a Story" which I recorded with The Carolina PineCones band. This song has touched many audience members who have shared their appreciation for it; and there is really no better feeling than knowing your song has connected with someone.

A year later, Rick and I finished another very special song called "Broken", which we will have the honor of performing at the IBMA songwriter showcase event this year. We've never performed together so this is really exciting! I never would have dreamed three years ago that I would have the honor and privilege of performing an original song in such a prestigious showcase, but thanks to the support and encouragement of Rick Lang and this innovative IBMA Songwriter Mentor Program directed by Tony Rackley, we were able to write a very special song that I look forward to sharing. In 2020, I hope to move to Nashville to attend college and continue studying music and songwriting, and I am incredibly grateful to IBMA for this program

Songwriter Jessie Lang

www.jessielangmusic.com

[Learn More](#)

If you haven't registered for the business conference yet, don't wait! You don't want to miss these amazing songwriter opportunities in Raleigh. See you there!

[Register Now](#)



The graphic features a yellow background with a distressed, paint-like texture. On the left, the text for the International Bluegrass Music Association is listed. On the right, the IBMA Songwriter Committee members are listed. In the center, there are faint, stylized illustrations of a mandolin and a guitar.

International Bluegrass Music Association
4206 Gallatin Pike
Nashville, TN 37216 USA
Phone: 615-256-3222
Fax: 615-256-0450
Toll Free: 1-888-438-4262
E-mail: info@ibma.org

IBMA Songwriter Committee
Rick Lang, chair
Dawn Kenney
Thomm Jutz
Kim Robins
Sherrill Blackman
David Morris
Mike Mitchell
Eddie Huffman (*staff liaison*)