

3 BACKTHIRDAUDIO

Songwriters' Showcase Q & A

Our first-ever season of Songwriters' Showcases kicks off at **7pm Friday, May 8**. The Showcases are designed to promote creative development and artistic excellence – all within the context of a musical community.

What is a Songwriters' Showcase?

Our Showcase is a live concert, a demo recording session and a songwriting workshop – combined. You perform your music in our recording studio, in front of an audience of other songwriters and music lovers. We record your performance and compile feedback from the other participants. You leave with your songs on CD and a written evaluation to help you improve your writing.



I'm a songwriter. What's in it for me?

A quality recording of your music. An attentive music-centered audience – no chit-chat, no hecklers, no espresso machines. Real, honest feedback from other songwriters that allows you to improve your craft. A chance to connect with other artists. And a shot at an hour consultation with a [major song buyer](#) at EMI Publishing.

I'm an arts patron. What's in it for me?

A night of new songs, intimate performances and genuine community with local songwriters who are passionate about their craft.

How does it work?

All Showcases begin promptly at 7pm. **Songwriters** perform two songs each for a studio audience of typically 30-40 listeners, and every writer agrees to respond briefly to all fellow artists' songs using an anonymous feedback form. A maximum of 9 songwriters may perform at each showcase.

After a short break, the evening ends with a half-hour **Featured Performance** from the previous month's favorite songwriter. All artists are invited to stay for refreshments in our studio lounge, where CDs of each performance will be available for immediate pickup. **Guests** – those attending the showcase as listeners only – may also purchase CDs at this time.

After the showcase, we compile feedback on each song and e-mail it to the songwriter only. Feedback remains private and anonymous, with one exception: **the songwriter with the best feedback is invited to be next month's Featured Songwriter.**

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What if my music's ready for the next level?

In September, Backthird Audio is planning a songwriting conference with [John J. Thompson](#), creative director of EMI-CMG. John pitches music for films, video games and recording artists. He works with artists as diverse as Switchfoot, Underoath and Chris Tomlin. He's also served on the Grammy Awards screening committee for a decade. He's agreed to join us in Aurora after Labor Day to lead some seminars and workshops on writing and publishing.



John will also spend an hour **one-on-one with the favorite Featured Songwriter** from our showcases, listening to their songs and offering professional feedback. Featured Songwriters will vote as a group to determine which of them is most deserving of this opportunity.

What are the Showcase rules?

Songwriters may perform a maximum of two songs in a set that should last no more than ten minutes. Since the focus of these showcases is the song itself, performances must be simple – one voice and one instrument, either a guitar or the studio's grand piano, may be used. We ask that you don't introduce or explain your songs at these showcases – let the music speak for itself.

Songwriters agree to listen to every song and provide feedback for other writers. Songwriters must register in advance and must arrive by 6:45pm or risk losing their performance spot.

Featured Songwriters perform one half-hour set and may incorporate up to four musicians if desired. The idea is to provide a more fleshed-out performance of songs, but still remain "acoustic" – no drum kits, no amps cranked to "10." Featured Songwriters should arrive at 6pm for a brief setup and sound-check before the Showcase begins. Featured Songwriters register for free, leave with a rough mix of their set on CD, and are paid a share of Guests' admissions.

All songwriters grant permission for Backthird Audio to record and sell their performances on the night of the Showcase only. After the Showcase, your recording is yours to use as you like. You retain all rights to your music.

Guests – those attending to listen only, not to perform – agree to listen respectfully, keep movement and chatter to a minimum, and have a great time. Our goal is to provide an environment that honors songwriters and their craft. For about two hours, we focus on music and lyrics – and put everything else aside.

Where do I register?

Registration is \$25 for Songwriters and \$10 for Guests. Call the studio at 630-264-2366, or register online by visiting www.backthirdsongwriters.com.