

Music Panels and Performances Highlight Hudson Valley Songfest7 at Helsinki

Club Helsinki is the home once again for Hudson Valley Songfest7, an annual music conference and showcase produced by Columbia Arts Team. The all-day event, held May 12th 9am-5pm, consists of panels and seminars with music industry pros discussing the nature of the business, as well as creative issues. Also featured are showcase performances by new and up-and-coming songwriters and performers, booths with music-related information and products, and a lunchtime performance by established hit songwriters. This year's special guests include hit songwriter/performers Robbie Dupree (Steal Away/Hot Rod Hearts) and Donna Lewis (I Love You Always Forever).

Subjects covered by the panelists include the basics of publishing and copyrights, music licensing, lyric writing, live performance skills, recording options and strategies, and many others. There will also be song critiques, where attendees can get feedback from the pros on songs they've written. In addition, music lawyers, publishers, producers and other pros active in the business offer their insights and expertise. Previous guests at the festival have included such notables as Marshall Crenshaw, Jonathan Edwards, Julie Gold and Peter Tork, in addition to area residents Lincoln Mayorga, Jacob Brackman and Paul Rapp.

Also planned is a lunchtime pro showcase, with performances by veteran hit songwriters on the main stage, along with lunch served in the club. The lunchtime showcase and meal has a separate admission of \$10.

Sponsors of Hudson Valley Songfest7 include The Ungar Foundation, SESAC, Exit 97.7, Helsinki Hudson, and other area businesses. This event is made possible (in part) with public funds from the Decentralization Program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered through the Community Arts Grants Program by the Greene County Council on the Arts in partnership with the Columbia County Council on the Arts.

Columbia Arts Team is a 501c3 not-for-profit performing arts company that presents original, live music, theater, comedy, and variety shows all season, showcasing new work by the best local talent, in addition to youth programming. .

Tickets for the all-day Hudson Valley Songfest are \$75, with discounts available. For tickets or information on all CAT events, go to www.columbiaartsteam.org .