

2017 Durango Songwriters Expo Industry Bios – Ventura, CA

- **Abbey Adams (Nashville) – Senior Creative Director, Sony/ATV Music Publishing.** Focused on Artist Development, Producer/Writers and Sync-friendly writers - mostly country, but not limited. She has placed numerous cuts and hits with such artists as Keith Urban, Billy Currington, Tim McGraw, Dierks Bentley, Jake Owen, Ronnie Dunn, Lady Antebellum, and Martina McBride. She has placed songs in “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Nashville” and “Country Strong.”
- **Kristen Agee (Los Angeles) - Founder & CEO at 411 Music Group.** 411 provides custom score and one-stop, artist-driven music licensing for artists, by artists with placements in “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend” (CW), “Grimm” (NBC), “Guild” (ABC), “Into The Badlands” (AMC), “Viceland” (MTV), “Keeping Up with the Kardashians” (E!) and much more. Ad Campaigns for Sherwin-Williams, Samsung, Beanpole, Rooms To Go, Trailers, Video games. Looking for Indie artists, underscore and sound design for use in Film & TV, advertising, radio, and interactive media services.
- **Walt Aldridge (Muscle Shoals) – Lorraine Parkway Music.** Songwriter, singer, musician, engineer and producer has exercised his musical skills in Muscle Shoals and Nashville for more than thirty years. During that time he has written more than 50 top 40 songs, 7 reaching the #1 spot. His work spans a wide spectrum of music, including Lou Reed, Peter Cetera and Blessid Union of Souls, Conway Twitty, Reba McEntire and more!
- **Al Anderson (Nashville) - Mega-hit songwriter and monster guitar player with #1 Hits...** such as "The Cowboy In Me," "Trip Around The Sun," "Unbelievable," and "Love's Gonna Make It Alright." Big Al is a very important part of The Expo and was a founding member of the legendary rock group NRBQ. We appreciate his EXPO commitment!
- **Rinat Arinos (Los Angeles) – Founder of Pink Shark Music.** Looking for placements for TV & Film and Artists. Recent placements: AFV (ABC), Are You the One (MTV), Once Upon a Time (ABC), The Briefcase (CBS), Awkward (MTV), Christina Grimmie’s new EP, Party in the Sun - E Girls #1 Album in Japan August 2016 and Jan 2017.
- **Bill Attebery (Kelseyville) – MC of the Expo and Founder of the Recovery Broadcast Network.**
- **Brad Beausir (Nashville) – Creative Manager, Liz Rose Music.** Finding songwriters that fit into the current landscape of both pop and country music. Interned at Peer Music Nashville.
- **Gary Bowen (Los Angeles) – Director of Creative Affairs, AWE Music Publishing.** His songwriters have written for Kelly Clarkson, Maroon 5, Miley Cyrus, Rob Thomas, Sugarland, and many more.
- **Chris Cole (Dallas) – President of Main Gate Music Group and Southbridge PA Systems.** Produced records for MCA, Starsongs Records, Inside Records, and has written for BMG Music Publishing. Chris has graciously provided wonderful PA systems for The Expo in the past.
- **Mike Daly (Los Angeles) - Executive Director, A&R and Music Publishing.** Hollywood Records, Buena Vista Records, Disney Music Publishing. Looking for great songs and great artists!
- **Jon Ernst (Los Angeles) – Owner of ShowRunner Music.** CURRENT PROJECTS – “Hit The Floor”- Vh1, “The Breaks”- Vh1, “Fearless”- Netflix, “Ultimate Beast Master”- Netflix, “The Prancing Elites”- Oxygen, “Strong”- NBC, “Laid In America”- Feature. Looking for music for Film & TV.
- **Sarah Feldman (Nashville) – Creative Director at Writer’s Den Music Group.** CURRENT PROJECTS – Writers include Sarah Clanton, Melissa Fuller, Robert Earl Keen, Drew Kennedy, Don Schlitz, and Thom Schuyler, etc. NOTABLE - The Writer’s Den catalog is home to the Grammy Nominated song “So You Don't Have to Love Me Anymore” - Alan Jackson; “The Way I’m Livin” - title track of Lee Ann Womack’s Grammy Nominated album; “Not Cause I Wanted To” - Bonnie Raitt; “Outlaw State of Mind” - Chris Stapleton; numerous placements on “Nashville”; and international cuts. Looking for Pop/Country music, an original!
- **Marc Ferrari (Los Angeles) – Producer, MasterSource/FirstCom (Universal Music Publishing).** Looking for Production library composers. MasterSource is currently one of the fastest-growing libraries in the business, having placed nearly 2,500 songs in over 300 major motion pictures, 800 network television shows, movie trailers, network promos, commercials, corporate videos, theme parks, video games and other non-broadcast applications and works with only the industry’s top cutting edge composers, many of which have been signed to major labels or have scored major motion pictures.
- **Keith Follese (Franklin) – Writer/Producer, Bigger Dog Productions.** Looking for great artists and great songs. ASCAP/Billboard writer of the year, song of the year, Grammy nominated.

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- **Stephen Bond Garvan (Sandpoint, ID) – Manager / CEO / Expediter at Garvan Media, Management & Marketing, Inc.** Industry: Management & Strategic Marketing, National team building for Indie artists. Focus: Dynamic national artists/ songwriters. Managing a wide range of rock / AAA / Americana artists: Ryan Shupe, Perla Battala, Chuck McDermott, Chris Daniels, and more.
- **Chris Gelbuda (Nashville) - Producer and Writer for Big Yellow Dog Music.** Co-written with Meghan Trainer on her multi-platinum album. Penned songs for major artists including Billy Currington, Chris Young, and Sabrina Carpenter. Musician and producer on recordings with Lupe Fiasco, Meghan Trainor, John Legend, and Japanese Cartoon.
- **Richard Harris (Los Angeles) – Songwriter & Producer at Peer Music Publishing, Staff Writer.** Looking for new Artists and songwriters. New talent. Current project: Single with Australian band Lime Cordiale. NOTABLE PAST - # 1 Billboard single and top ten records in Germany, Australia, Canada and South Africa to name a few.
- **Jack Hayford (Nashville) – Marketer & Songwriter, Co-founder of Durangosong.com.** Jack has been here from the beginning. He is instrumental in The Expo's success. He runs the Durango Songwriter's Night in Nashville.
- **Buffy Hubelbank (Los Angeles) – Creative Director, Publishing, Red Bull Records.** Always looking for great songs and motivated people! Projects: AWOLNATION, Beartooth, John Feldmann, Nathan Barlowe, Baddluck. Managing Josh Gudwin - Mix Engineer & Vocal Producer (Justin Bieber's "Sorry", "Love Yourself", "What Do You Mean", "Cold Water"). NOTABLE - Pulse Music Group (worked with Bonnie McKee, JR Rotem, Raja Kumari); Warner Chappell, Interscope Records (worked with Ron Fair, Keyshia Cole, Mary J Blige, Pussycat Dolls).
- **Brad Irwin (Denver) – Artist Development at Elevation Entertainment.** FOCUS – Developing and promoting new and experienced artists. Putting together the best management teams in the industry.
- **Chris Jackson (Los Angeles)- Head of Music Supervision at NBC, Universal, E! Networks.**
- **Katie Jelen (Nashville) – Artist Relations/Publishing at Secret Road – FOCUS:** Diverse writers who can work in synch/country/pop/etc. Pitching to country and pop markets and looking for synch placements. NOTABLE – A “recovering singer-songwriter” and has a law degree in intellectual property. Looking for synchable artists/writers/producers; up and coming pop and/or country artists/writers/producers looking for development.
- **Les Kahn (Boulder) – Audio Production Engineer at See Hear Productions.** Concert Tours in China with Trio Globo and Rhonda Larson with Ventus. Live albums forthcoming shortly from both tours! NOTABLE – Multiple Grammy Award Winning Producer and Engineer who has worked with artists as diverse as Jimi Hendrix, The Paul Winter Consort, Arlo Guthrie, Ornette Coleman, Pete Seeger, The Guitar Trio, the Subdudes, and Toad the Wet Sprocket. We've been thrilled to have him at The Expo as our premiere Audio Engineer since 2004. Find him providing all that great sound behind the mixing board at our showcases and concert events! Always on the lookout for exciting new songwriters and performers.
- **Kourtney Kirkpatric (Los Angeles) – Head of Film/TV at Razor and Tie Music Publishing.**
- **Scott Krippayne – Hit Songwriter.** Penned over 150 songs cut by recording artists including Point of Grace, John Tesh, Avalon, Jaci Velasquez, FFH, True Vibe, and Sandi Patty. Wrote “This Is My Now” for the final of American Idol Season Six. Emmy nominated and author of two books “Hugs for Teens” and “More Than a Story.”
- **Michael Lembo (Los Angeles) – President, Mike's Artist Management, Fonzalo Records. He is a Publisher, Producer, Manager, film/TV synch licensor and talent executive.** He makes artist's dreams come true and has the Gold and Platinum records to prove it! His eclectic management resume includes a 3+ decade professional relationship with tunesmith Jules Shear, working together on the influential *Unplugged* series on MTV. The list goes on...
- **Kendall Lettow (Nashville) – Creative Director, MV2 Entertainment.** Publishing, artist development, and TV/Film Focus is commercial country music. Currently working with Nora Collins, Terry McBride, David Fanning artist development, writer development, pitching to artists.
- **Peter Lloyd (Los Angeles) - Director - Creative/A&R, Disney Music Group.** Looking for songs for Forever In Your Mind band and New Hope Club band from the UK.
- **Jon Mabe (Los Angeles / Nashville) - Hit Songwriter with huge #1 “The Climb” for Miley Cyrus.** Jon signed his first publishing deal in 2006. Since then he has had cuts with Ronnie Milsap, Little Big Town, and many more.
- **Kayla Masnek (Los Angeles) – Creative Manager, Film & TV, Secret Road.** Music Licensing focus with recent

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placements in TV Shows including Nashville, Pretty Little Liars, Vampire Diaries, Notorious, The Catch and The Royals. Trailers and TV Promos for ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, The CW, Showtime, Netflix, Amazon and HBO.

- **Jeff Mattoon (Denver) – Artist Development at Elevation Entertainment.** FOCUS: Developing and promoting new and experienced artists. Putting together the best management teams in the industry.
- **Alissa Moreno (Nashville) – Songwriter/Recording Artist with KASL.** Recent placement with John Oates/Time Jumpers single "Santa Be Good To Me." Writer/Performer theme song ABC hit Hope and Faith and LifeTime hit Army Wives (Show I.D.), vocal coach to Ben Affleck for his award winning performance in Hollywoodland, songs on early album and new Concord album The Voice winner Javier Colon, South African Idol and Grammy winner Elvis Blue, new song coming with Grammy winner Morgan Heritage.
- **Jimmy "Muffin" Yessian – Passionate live performer. Appointed VP of Creative Development for Ash Street Music Publishing.** Signs and developing writers. Currently working on a 3rd studio album with Tall Men Group, a band that Jimmy formed in 2012. In 2014 Yessian was invited and performed in Venice, Italy for the World Global Party. The world's largest party in aid of hundreds of local children's charities. His song "Stand Tall America," co-written with Gary Baker ("I Swear" and "I'm Already There") was the featured song in the PBS aired documentary film "One Voice/ The Healing Pole" and is the lead song on the "Inspiration New York" CD.
- **Brian Naguit (LA) - Music Manager at CBS Television Studios.** Looking for more music for TV. Recent placements: "Crazy Ex Girlfriend," "American Gothic," "Zoo," "NCIS: New Orleans." Coordinated key musical placements on shows such as "CSI," "CSI: NY," "Hawaii Five-0," and "The Goodwife"; and managed musical guest appearances on the CW show "90210." Brian's background includes working as a sound engineer and has worked on projects that included Mark Batson, Raheem Devaughn, Glen Ballard, Josh Groban, Fantasia, Nas, and the Backstreet Boys.
- **Chen Neeman (Los Angeles) - Songwriter/Producer at Chen Neeman Music, Red House Productions.** Recent projects: Disney's "The Lodge" (working on Season 2), "The Descendants" Soundtrack, "Hannah Montana," "Shake It Up," "Camp Rock," "Teen Beach," and "The Muppets," Demi Lovato, Selena Gomez. Multi-Platinum selling and award winning songwriter/producer/musician/coach. Looking for primarily Pop and Film and TV. Always looking for new collaborations and new exciting artists to work with and develop.
- **Gary Nicholson - Hit songwriter, Grammy winning producer, recording artist, session guitarist.** Inducted into the Texas Songwriter's Hall of Fame in 2011. He has over 600 cuts of his songs in various genres from country to blues to pop, with Garth Brooks, Reba, Alabama, The Judds, Tanya Tucker, Ringo Starr, Fleetwood Mac, BB King, Neil Diamond, Los Lonely Boys, and the list goes on. His songs have been included in major films and he travels the world where his music takes him.
- **Nancy Peacock (Nashville) – CEO / Founder, Washington Street Publishing.** Focus: Sync licensing for Film / TV / Advertising / Games. Looking for: Indie bands and artists for sync and contemporary country for artists. Currently writing and producing with the Voice Finalist Audra McLaughlin Development of a business reality show with top 'Turnaround Man' Patrick Rettig. Notable: US and Canadian sync placements such as trailers for Russell Crowe's "Fathers and Daughters, Colin Hanks' Tower Records documentary, Ed Harris Cymbaline (aka 'Anarchy'), the new HULU original series 'Shut Eye' and the Renee Zellweger movie 'New In Town'.
- **Shelly Peiken (Los Angeles) – Songwriter, Publisher, Author. Publisher with Kobalt Music, Blogger for Huffington Post.** Grammy nomination for "Bitch"/Meredith Brooks. First #1 song of the millennium: "What A Girl Wants" (Christina Aguilera) and another #1, "Come On Over, Baby." Wrote "Almost Doesn't Count" recorded by Brandy. Worked with The Pretenders, Keith Urban, Demi, Selena, Reba, Miley, Celine, Natasha, Plain White Ts, Michelle Branch, Mandy Moore, David Archuleta, Jesse J. Shelly's book, "Confessions Of A Serial Songwriter" is a humorous pop culture memoir about her journey.
- **Randi Razzano (Los Angeles) – Director of A&R at Capitol Records.** Currently managing the producer Jussi Imari and writer/artist Nate Cyphert as well as developing new writers and producers. NOTABLE - A&R Director at Epic Records; Creative Director at Mighty Seven Songs, Songs Publishing, and Crush Management; and Publisher at Pulse Recordings. A&R for artists Avril Lavigne, Tori Kelly, Troye Sivan, Hey Violet, Allen Stone, Afrojack & X Factor US. In Publishing, worked with Bebe Rexha and signed Peter Thomas, Nate Cyphert & Voli. Looking for great artists. Great songs.
- **Sophie Rose (Los Angeles) - Artist/Songwriter/Producer with Prescription Songs & Ester Dean.** Co-wrote and co-produced "Aces High" by Serayah, airing on Fox's Empire. Wrote, produced, and performed "Friends Forever,"

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licensed by MasterCard for national commercials that aired during Major League Baseball season 2015 and 2016. Wrote, produced, and performed "Attention," theme song for AwesomenessTV original series 'Guidance,' streaming on Hulu.

- **Joey Russ (Nashville) – Creative Director, Tree Vibe Music.** Looking for commercial country music and talented songwriters. Past tour manager and touring musician before working in music publishing.
- **Josh Saxe (Nashville) – Director, A&R, Round Hill Music.** Looking for commercial country music for US and Canada radio. Young Entertainment Professionals Co-Chair, SOLID Member, CMA Voting member, and Proud Member of "I Like Big Cuts."
- **Warren Sellers (Los Angeles / Nashville) – Songwriter, First Chair Music.** NOTABLE – Focus: Songwriting for other artists, also Teaching and mentoring other songwriters. Warren has been a professional staff writer for McJames Music, Windswept Pacific, 3 Ring Circus, and Songscape Music. He's had dozens of songs recorded by other artists. Canadian artist Dawson Reigns who took one to #22 in Canada.
- **Shari Shanker (Los Angeles) – Sr. Director of A&R, ImaGem Music.**
- **Ciara Shortridge (Nashville) – A&R Representative at Disney Music Group Nashville.** Recent Projects: Nashville-based songwriters Melissa Peirce, Bobby Huff, Angaleena Presley, Steph Jones, Andy Dodd, and Chris Lindsey. NOTABLE - Disney chart toppers like "A Guy Walks Into A Bar" (Tyler Farr), "Mine Would Be You" (Blake Shelton), "I Drive Your Truck" (Lee Brice), "Drink On It" (Blake Shelton), "Let Me Down Easy" (Billy Currington), "You Look Good In My Shirt" (Keith Urban), and "The Climb" (Miley Cyrus). For hit songs, country pitches, looking for up-tempo positive because there is always a shortage of them, bridging the gap between Nashville and LA.
- **Jake Simon (Los Angeles) – Director, Creative at Universal Music Publishing Group.** Recent projects - Lee Daniels series Star, Halsey, Demi Lovato, and "50 Shades." NOTABLE - Emily Warren (Chainsmokers/Daya), Chloe Angelides (Selena Gomez, Arianna Grande, Jessie J), Toby Gad ("All Of Me" John Legend), Best Kept Secret (Dr Dre, Tinashe, Mike Posner). Looking for Songwriters, producers, artists; setting up strong collaborations for our roster; pitching songs for placement with artists and synch.
- **Eric Tingstad (Seattle) - Composer/Recording Artist/Producer, Cheshire Records. Best known as a fingerstyle guitarist.** Focus: Music production, lecturer and advisor, TV & Film placements. Current projects: In production of an instrumental Americana follow up to "Mississippi." A new holiday release for 2017 and a "Best of" collection of Native Americana. Grammy Award winner. Coyote Award. Coupeville Hall of Fame. 2015 ZMR Album of the Year nomination.
- **Ralph Torrefranca (Los Angeles) – Director of A&R, Angry Mob Music.** Looking for quality songwriters, producers and artists not necessarily tethered down to genre with a unique approach to songwriting. Current projects: Bus (Ty Dolla \$ign, Kendrick Lamar), dePresno (Sony/Columbia), Knox Hamilton (Virgin/Prospect Park), Kid Wave (Heavenly Records, on tour with The Shins), Ben Browning (of Cut Copy), Pepper
- **Tracie Verlinde (Los Angeles) – VP Creative Director Writer/Publisher Relations at BMI.**
- **Katy Wolaver (Los Angeles) – Senior Director, A&R at Warner Chappell Publishing.** NOTABLE - Experience in both the label and publishing worlds; skilled at connecting artists and songwriters for collaborations in pop, rock and country; and finds talent and exploits copyrights. Cuts with artists such as Flo Rida, Cobra Starship, The Band Perry, Darius Rucker, Carrie Underwood, One Direction, Bruno Mars and many others. Looking for Pop writers, producers, and artists.
- **Josh Young (Pasadena) – Owner/CEO, Atrium Music.** Currently looking for high quality music from Artist and Composers. Searching for fresh new music and pop tracks for placement opportunities in upcoming commercials, TV shows, reality shows, films, as well as pitch for various TV series main titles. Notable placements: ABC's The Bachelor, The Bachelorette, The Great Christmas Light Fight, DirectTV's Rogue, Full Circle, Undeniable w/ Joe Buck, AMC's Halt & Catch Fire, Freakshow, TLC's My Giant Life, OMG! EMT!, CNBC's The Profit and Treasure Detectives, among many others.
- **Adam Zelkind (Los Angeles) – Songwriter/Composer.** NOTABLE - Mega award winner has created cutting edge music for hit television and feature films. Five ASCAP Awards including Most Performed Music on Television for two consecutive years. Three BMI Awards for *The Surreal Life*, *Outback Jack*, *Hogan Knows Best*. His over 650 placement credits include: *Heart of Dixie*, *Rock of Love*, *Flavor of Love*, *I Love Money*, *Real Chance of Love*, *From G's to Gents*, *I*

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Love New York, Charm School, My Fair Brady and many more.