Welcome NSAI MEMBER!

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE
Established in 1967, the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) is the world’s largest not-for-profit songwriters trade association. NSAI is dedicated to protecting the rights of and serving aspiring and professional songwriters in all genres of music. The NSAI community consists of a body of creative minds, including songwriters – both professional and amateur – who are committed to protecting the rights and future of the profession of songwriting and to advocate, educate, elevate, and celebrate the songwriter and to act as a unifying force within the music community.
SERVICES

Your membership includes a bank of credits to be used on Online Services.

SONG EVALUATIONS
- 12 credits
- Receive thorough song critiques from experienced Pro Writers.

MENTORING SESSIONS
- 2 credits
- One-on-One virtual meetings to seek guidance from industry professionals.

ONLINE PITCH
- 2 credits
- Opportunities to have your songs heard by Publishers on Music Row.

ONLINE SONG FEEDBACK
- 1 credit
- Receive on-the-spot feedback and overall first impression of your song.

MY CREDITS

Song Evaluation: 12
Online Pitch: 2
Online Song Feedback: 1
One on One mentoring: 2
Buy individual credits

*ADDITIONAL CREDITS MAY BE PURCHASED AT ANY TIME*
**CREDITS EXPIRE AT THE END OF EACH MEMBERSHIP YEAR AND DO NOT ROLL OVER**
The Song Evaluation service is designed to challenge you and strengthen your skills as a songwriter. Through this service, you are able to submit a song (Full Song or Lyric Only) to have it evaluated by an experienced Pro Writer. An evaluation will consist of thorough feedback in the following areas:

- Form/Structure
- Title/Hook
- Lyric
- Melody/Meter
- Overall Theme/Idea

Pictured: NSAI Members after a cowriting session.
STEP 1 | Go to the *Membership* tab on the main menu. You will find "Song Evaluations" on the drop-down list.

STEP 2 | The *NSAI Song Evaluations* page will give you more details about the service. Click on the green button labeled "*Members Can Submit Now*" to view the submission form.
STEP 3 | The next page tells you that your evaluation may take up to 15 business days to be returned -- *this could take longer if you have requested an evaluator (optional). Click on "Submit New Song".

*The list of active evaluators - and the genres in which they have experience - can be found here if you choose to request a specific evaluator to listen to your song.

“Please keep in mind that evaluations may take up to 10-15 business day to be returned. Submissions with a requested evaluator may take up to 20-30 business days to be returned”
STEP 4 | Once inside the submission form, complete the following fields:

- Song Evaluation Type
- Title
- Song File (optional)
- Genre
- Lyrics File or Type Lyrics

Your song evaluation type can be:

- **Full Song**: there's a melody attached to the lyric
- **Lyric Only**: the song does not have a melody (words only)
Only upload a Song File if your evaluation is for a Full Song. This will help your evaluator give feedback on the melody of the song. Audio files are not required for Lyric-only submissions.
When uploading your lyric sheet, or typing the lyrics in the text box, it is important that:

- Your lyrics match the audio file/recording (if applicable). This should be the most up-to-date version of your song.

- Your verses and choruses are clearly labeled - Sometimes it is not obvious, and this will help your evaluator follow along.

Save your submission!
**Song Evaluations**

**How to Submit**

**STEP 5** | Fill in final details about your song submission. Save your Submission, and you're done!

**Reason I am getting this song evaluated** *
- I have no interest in pitching it to anyone else.
- I want this to be a commercial song.
- I would be interested in other artists recording this.
- This song is for personal use only.

**How would you like to be evaluated?** *
- Go easy on me, I'm a beginner!
- Just the facts, please!
- I would like to hear suggestions on improvements.
- Lay it on me. I can take it!
Your evaluator will only comment on the lyric/melody of your song. **Production quality is not the primary focus of this service, so do not feel pressured to submit a fully produced studio demo (Worktapes are perfectly fine!).**

- **1 credit = 1 song evaluation.** You can submit the same song 12 times (to the same evaluator or multiple evaluators), or 12 different songs - it’s completely up to you!
Once you receive your completed evaluation, that is the end of the service. You will not be able to continue the conversation with the Pro Writer. If you’d like to take their notes/feedback and rewrite your song, you may send the song back in and request the same evaluator for further guidance.

If your evaluation comes back with the accolade "One to Watch" that means your song impressed your evaluator, and they want NSAI to keep an eye on you. Way to go, and keep up the good work!

Pictured: NSAI Pro Members Lance Carpenter (L) and Danny Wells (R) performing in the NSAI Lobby.
ONE-ON-ONE Mentoring Sessions

Mentoring Sessions are your opportunities to get 45 minutes of uninterrupted one-on-one time with a professional in the Music Industry. Each mentor specializes in a different area of the business, and they can all help you along in your songwriting journey in some way by offering valuable advice and guidance. It is up to you to choose who you speak to and how you spend your time.

*1 Credit = 1 Mentor Session
ONE-ON-ONE Mentoring Sessions

Our current Mentors* are:

- Jim Reilley
- Rebekah Powell
- Greggory Smith
- Craig Monday
- Benita Hill

*Active Mentors (and their availability) are subject to change.

Each mentor’s bio is included on the Mentoring Sessions page to give you an idea of their professional background and areas of expertise. We encourage you to read the bios before booking your meeting with a Mentor.
Mentoring Sessions book up quickly, so try to schedule your session as soon as you know who you’d like to meet with. Mentoring Sessions must be booked within your membership year. CREDITS DO NOT ROLL OVER.

Mentoring Sessions are all virtual – you can meet online via Zoom, or over the phone.

Your mentor will listen to up to three songs and provide song feedback during your meeting. The rest of the time spent is up to you - Come prepared with questions!

HOW TO BOOK

To schedule a Mentoring Session, call our main phone 615-256-3354.

The Wednesday before your scheduled meeting, you will receive an email with more details and a consent form that requires your signature. This will be the opportunity to submit up to three songs for song feedback.
Once a month, NSAI will give you the opportunity to pitch your song to a representative from a reputable publishing company. In these sessions, the Publisher listens to the first verse and first chorus of each submission, then chooses to "pass" or "take a copy" of the song.

**Pass** = The Publisher will not move forward with the song.

**Take a Copy** = The Publisher may want to hear the rest of the song and/or have a second listen on their own time.
Online Pitch

How it works

There is a submission process that you must follow to successfully register your song for each monthly Pitch.

- There are limited spots – only the **first 50 members’ songs will be accepted** for each Pitch.

- If you are able to secure a spot, you will receive a confirmation message AND email giving you further instructions to complete your submission. Please note the deadline to email your song and lyric sheet.

- NSAI Staff will have a list of registered songs. Any songs received that are not on the list will not be accepted.

**Important:**
Pay close attention to, and make note of, the **Registration date and time***. This will be the exact time in which song submissions are accepted.

*All times listed anywhere on our website are in Central Time.

Online Pitch with Publisher (Publishing Company)

Publisher

Fri, 06/23/2023 - 5:00pm

Registration Opens:

Mon, 06/05/2023 - 12:00pm
**Online Pitch**

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

**STEP 1** | Log into your NSAI account.

**STEP 2** | At the registration time, click into the *Online Pitch* event page. You will see the Event Description, along with the Publisher's bio and headshot/more information about the Publishing Company. The submission deadline will also be noted.

---

**EXAMPLE:**
For this Online Pitch event, registration opens on **June 5, 2023 at 12pm CST.** (All times listed on NSAI's website are in Central Standard Time.)

---

**Event Description:**
**You must be logged in on our website before trying to submit your song.** This event will open for registration on **Monday, June 5, 2023 at 12pm (CST).** The registration form will not appear if you are not logged in on our website, as this event is solely for the Members of NSAI.***

For registration you will only need your name, email and song title. Once confirmed please email MP3 and Lyric sheet in a word document to staff@nashvillesongwriters.com by end of the day **Friday, June 9, 2023.**
STEP 3 | Below the Publisher’s bio, you will see the live Online Pitch webform. Complete the form with the following information:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Email Address
- Song Title

*Reminder: You will not have access to the form if you are not logged into your NSAI Account.

**The submission form opens at the exact registration/date time, and closes as soon as the maximum number of entries are received.

***You will be able to see how many spots are remaining in real time.
Online Pitch

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

**STEP 4** | Email your song submission to staff@nashvillesongwriters.com. A complete song submission includes:
- Audio File (mp3 or m4a)
- Lyric Sheet (PDF or Word doc)

You’re done! No further action is required. We will take it from there!

*If you do not email your song by the deadline, we will move on without you.*

---

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

- NSAI Staff will compile all submitted songs into a playlist for the Publisher.
- A member of our team will meet with the Publisher on a private Zoom (you do not participate in this) to listen through the songs (first verse/first chorus of each song).
- The private Pitch Session will be recorded on Zoom, then a link to the video will be emailed to all participating members on/before the listed Event Date.
Online Pitch

KEEP IN MIND

- **A Publisher passing on your song is not indicative of the quality/potential of your song.** There could be many reasons why a Publisher cannot take a copy - maybe they already have something similar, or they don’t have a place for it... whatever the reason - do not be discouraged to try again!

- **A Publisher taking a copy of your song does not mean that they will get your song cut,** or will offer you a publishing deal, etc. - It simply means that you’ve caught their attention upon first listen, and they may want to listen to the song again. Anything (or nothing) can happen from there. You should be proud of yourself either way!

REALITY CHECK

It is uncommon for a song that gets "taken" in a Pitch to get cut by a major artist. **Think of this opportunity as not just pitching the song, but it is a chance to pitch yourself as the songwriter to the Publisher.** This is an important networking opportunity and learning experience, and a chance for you to make a connection with the publisher, and develop your relationship with them.

**THE MUSIC BUSINESS IS ALL ABOUT GENUINE CONNECTIONS AND STRONG RELATIONSHIPS.**
Once a month, NSAI will give you the opportunity to submit a song for Song Feedback with a Pro Writer or Industry Professional. In these sessions, the Pro guest listens to the first verse and first chorus of each submission, then gives any notes, advice, and overall first impression of the song.
The submission process for Online Song Feedback is the same as Online Pitch.

- There are limited spots - only the **first 25 members’ songs will be accepted** for each Online Song Feedback session.

- If you are able to secure a spot, you will receive a confirmation message AND email giving you further instructions to complete your submission. Please note the deadline to email your song and lyric sheet.

- NSAI Staff will have a list of registered songs. Any songs received that are not on the list will not be accepted.

**IMPORTANT:**
Pay close attention to, and make note of, the **REGISTRATION DATE AND TIME***. This will be the exact time in which song submissions are accepted.

*All times listed anywhere on our website are in Central Time.*
Online Song Feedback

HOW TO SUBMIT

**STEP 1 |** Log into your NSAI account.

**STEP 2 |** At the registration time, click into the *Online Song Feedback* event page. You will see the Event Description, along with the Pro Guest’s bio and headshot. The submission deadline will also be noted.

---

**EXAMPLE:**
For this Online Song Feedback event, registration opens on **June 1, 2023 at 12pm CST.**
(All times listed on NSAI’s website are in Central Standard Time.)
**Online Song Feedback**

**HOW TO SUBMIT**

**STEP 3** Below the Guest’s bio, you will see the live Online Song Feedback webform. Complete the form with the following information:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Email Address
- Song Title

*Reminder: You will not have access to the form if you are not logged into your NSAI Account.*

**The submission form opens at the exact registration/date time, and closes as soon as the maximum number of entries are received.**

***You will be able to see how many spots are remaining in real time.***
STEP 4 | Email your song submission to staff@nashvillesongwriters.com. A complete song submission includes:

- Audio File (mp3 or m4a)
- Lyric Sheet (PDF or Word doc)

You’re done! No further action is required. We will take it from there!

*If you do not email your song by the deadline, we will move on without you.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- NSAI Staff will compile all submitted songs into a playlist for the Guest.
- A member of our team will meet with the Guest on a private Zoom (you do not participate in this) to listen through the songs (first verse/first chorus of each song).
- The Online Song Feedback session will be recorded on Zoom, then a link to the video will be emailed to all participating members on/before the listed Event Date.
Similar to Song Evaluations, the Online Song Feedback sessions are designed to help strengthen your skills as a songwriter, and make you think about different ways you can improve/elevate your song. Any comments/notes the Guest provides are meant to be constructive.

While all Guests are professionals are in the Music Industry, their feedback is still opinion-based, so don’t feel any pressure to change any part of your song if you do not agree.

**HERE’S A TIP:**

Song Feedback, as well as Pitch, sessions can be beneficial in more ways than you think! Not only should you pay close attention to what the Pro has to say about your song, **we encourage you to listen to all of your peers’ songs and their feedback as well.** All of the comments can teach you more about songwriting and the commercial market as a whole. As an added bonus, you should make note of all the songs/writers that stand out to you—who knows, maybe you can make some new connections and cowriters!
BUT WAIT...

there's more!

Pictured: NSAI Members at a NSAI Premium Event (RISE Reunion 2022).
All members get to fill out a Member Profile that includes:

- Profile Picture
- Bio
- Up to two songs
- Links to music-related sites/social media accounts

MEMBER PROFILE

In your bio, tell us a little about you - the kind of music you create, your songwriting strengths and goals, musical influences and interests, etc. This is what other members will see when they come across your profile, so make sure you include all the details that will entice them to reach out to you! If you are open to cowriting and collaboration, invite members to connect with you!
As an active NSAI Member, you get access to our full database of members from all over the world! Here, you are able to view other members' profiles, search for potential co-writers, and send direct messages. The Member Directory is a great tool to use to make connections with anyone, anywhere.
While NSAI is headquartered out of Nashville, TN, we have over 100 active chapters all over the country, and some internationally! You can affiliate with as many chapters as you want - giving you even more opportunities to attend chapter meetings (in person and/or virtually), and connect with your fellow members.
When affiliating with different NSAI Chapters, you are not limited to your geographical location. You may become a member of multiple chapters all over the country (and even the world!) -- we encourage you to branch out! Once you're affiliated, you will start receiving information about the chapter meetings and how to join. This is a great way to be more active in the NSAI community and meet/connect with more writers.

Chapters

HOW TO AFFILIATE

NSAI PHOENIX, AZ CHAPTER

Meetings consist of reviewing a lesson on the craft of songwriting or a music business-related subject. We then host a feedback session where participants share a song with the group. Members should bring a song to share and lyric sheets for the group.

Date: June 20, 2023 (monthly on the third Tuesday of the month)
Time: 6pm-8:30pm
Location: Hybrid: Online and In Person
Paradise Valley Community College: 18401 N 32nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85032, Bldg M West, 2nd floor, Room M-231
Phoenix, AZ 85001
United States
Details: Meeting Location Map: https://tinyurl.com/pvccmapnsai
To join and share a song, please complete the 2 forms linked below.
Links: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7crsQ0y11C2_x...
https://www.nashvillesongwriters.com/phoenix-az-song-submi...
The Content Library & Video Archive will be where you can find the bulk of our educational content, including:

- Monthly Blog Posts
- Interviews with Pro Writers & Industry Professionals
- Videos of past Guest Speakers & Pro Teachers from our Nashville Weekly Workshops
- so much more!
Each week, the NSAI Membership team hosts a Workshop at the NSAI Office (aka The Music Mill). Our events include:

- **Guest Speaker Nights**
  - available for Livestream, and uploaded to the Video Archive in the Content Library

- **Pitch Events**
  - In-Person only; out-of-town members get priority when visiting Nashville

- **Song Feedback**
  - In-Person only; out-of-town members get priority when visiting Nashville

- **Other Events**
  - Cowriting Exercises, Networking & Mingling, Speed Dating for Cowriters, Open Mic Nights, etc.

**Non-Members are welcome to attend/observe up to two (2) workshops.**

**LOCATION:** NSAI Office  
1710 Roy Acuff Place  
Nashville, TN 37203

**DAY:** Every Tuesday Evening, unless otherwise specified

**TIME:** 5:45pm CST

*held at our office in Nashville, TN -- All local and visiting members are welcome to attend!