



▲ N'KENGE'S MISSION FOR CHANGE

Creative, producer, and star of *That's Love! The Dorothy Dandridge Musical*, *Julius and Ethel*, five-actress N'Kenge is on a mission to redefine leadership and performance opportunities. The hardcore polyglot (L1) has collaborated with Wynton Marsalis, Ometha Coleman, blends opera, Broadway, jazz, pop, and soul.



▲ KOBALT'S SLEEP TOKEN

Leading independent publisher Kobalt signs multi-genre progressive band Sleep Token's drummer, IL, known for powerful drumming and songwriting. The dual folios "Caravan" (one of *IL*'s best songs of 2023). *Live At Brooklyn Museum*, U.S. & Canada, Australia, Germany, New Zealand, Austria, Netherlands, and Belgium.



▲ AYO ADDIS DIAMOND

Launching in 2024, copyright administrator AYO Music Group develops a new *Eightfold* tool, has new releases set for 2026, and adds to their roster—including artists Pete Rock, *Silkk the Shocker*, *Drumma Boy*, and *OSCAR Brown* through and JUNO Award-nominated ("See You When I See You") Kayla Diamond.

Landmark Rights' Ruling

In a U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that could forever shift the landscape of music, songwriters can now lean into U.S. copyright law to reclaim their songs worldwide. Upholding a lower court's decision, songwriter Cyril Vetter takes back full global control of 1963's *Double Shot (Of My Baby's Love)* from publisher Hearst Music Group. A three-judge panel affirmed an earlier ruling that Vetter/Vetter Communications Corporation are the sole owners worldwide. The decision centers around copyright law "termination rights," which permit songwriters to reclaim songs sold years earlier. The Copyright Act of 1976 allows original songwriters to reclaim their copyrights from publishers (or rightsholders) after a certain period of time (35 years for anything written 1978 or later). Further details at copyright.felity.com.

Tin Pan Returns

Tickets go on sale March 3, for the 34th annual Tin Pan South Songwriters Festival, taking place in Nashville, TN March 24-26, 2026.

As the world's largest songwriting festival with 100 showcases highlighting the best songs, an energetic intersection of fans and songwriters, and a community of supportive creatives in a city built to support music, this event is not to be missed. With all genres of music and industry professionals from across the country, Tin Pan presents a fabulous place for powerful networking. Details and registration at tinpanfestival.com.



▲ JACK WHITE COLLECTED

New Jack White *Collected Lyrics and Selected Writing Volume 1* anthology includes unreleased solo poems and writing with the *Lacoste*, *The Road*, *Brother*, and rare photos. *Live At Ford Field* and *Live At Home* out now. *Introducing 2025's White Stripes' Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Inductees*. More at jackwhite.com/tour-dates.

Altadena Musicians Fundraising

Launching in Los Angeles to help musicians replace instruments and albums lost to the Eaton Canyon and Palisades fires, Altadena Musicians has already replaced over 2,600 instruments for 1,200 artists. See video of 13-year-old getting a new bass from Duff McKagan through the organization, and another on YouTube featuring fire-impacted musicians recording compilation fundraiser album *Gimme Shelter*, with all proceeds going to fund Altadena Musicians. Find out more and lend support at altadenamusicians.org.

SESAC Congratulates Nominees

Extending heartfelt congratulations on their GRAMMY nominations, SESAC wishes to acknowledge all member nominees, including Ariana Grande, Guy Lawrence, Howard Lawrence, Emily Armstrong, Lalah Hathaway, Darlous Dixon, Keyron Dixon, Swift D, Robert Glasper, Margo Price, Jenee Fleenor, Randy Newman, Shirley Caesar, PJ Morton, Burns Boy, Zani Elendi, Lil' Heydy, Jeremy Ivey, and Alysa Vanderheyem. Full details at sesac.com.

SongWriterCamps Sync MasterCamp

Experienced independent artists are invited to apply to write and produce music for current sync briefs through the SongWriterCamps' Sync MasterCamp. Supported and mentored by top U.S. music supervisors actively looking for new music to place, the goal is for songs to be pitched and placed as a "one stop" for television, movies, trailers, and advertising. Previous participants have expanded catalogs, networks, and landed placements for *Boys n the Rain*, *The Sex Lives of College Girls*, *Riverdale*, *Kung Fu*, *Maggie*, etc. Details at songwritercamps.com/sync-mastercamp or email info@songwritercamps.com.

Sankofa Inaugural Fundraiser

Entertainment and activism join together for Sankofa's stand-still inaugural fundraiser on Sunday, March 1, with performances by Akela Black, DJ Ali Shaheed Muhammad of A Tribe Called Quest, and others. Committed to dismantling systemic violence, working towards restorative justice initiatives, and championing meaningful immigration reform and livable minimum wages, the event celebrates what would have been Harry Belafonte's 99th birthday. Launched in 2013 by Belafonte with daughter Gina and Raoul Roach, the evening also honors Dany

Glover, Dolores Huerta, Shepard Fairey, and Chuck D with awards for their tireless social justice work. Proceeds raised benefit sankofa.org.

Stealing Isn't Innovation

In an ongoing battle against unauthorized copyright usage, The Human Identity Campaign has launched a new advocacy campaign to protest against Big Tech's illegal (and unpaid) harvesting of copyrighted creative content in their pursuit of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) platforms and a call for licensing and enforcement to help curb the unauthorized activity. Threatened jobs, declining creative sector growth, and content theft and unauthorized duplication continue to erode the industry and de-incentivize new content. More at stealingisntinnovation.com.

GCMP Lyrics Contest

Calling all young songwriters! Guitar Center Music Foundation (GCMP) renews its commitment to young artists, launching its first ever songwriting competition. Creatives ages 7-17 can enter for a chance to win, record, and bring their music to life in Nashville, by submitting a fully written song or strong lyrical or musical idea, with creativity valued over polish. Submissions accepted through March 31, 2026, with winners announced mid-April. Two winners will be chosen by a judging panel including GCMP Board and hitmaking songwriters Stephen Kiri, Jenna Andrews, Josh Phillips, and Brock Berryhill, with entries evaluated on creativity, originality, storytelling, and musical potential. Winners will write, record, and be featured in a mini documentary. Details at guitarcenterfoundation.org/finish-the-lyrics.

ASCAP Honors Nominees

Celebrating GRAMMY nominees and top songwriter and producer members, ASCAP's annual Brunch in the garden included appearances from Jon Batiste, Shaboozey, Bernie Taupin, Diane Warren, Amy Allen, Sierra Hull, Kamasi Washington, Angelique Kidjo, Tyler Spivey, Freya Ridgely, Ashley Gorley, LL, and more. Beautiful appetizers, delicious cocktails, and incredible vibes from DJ Beverly Bond were enjoyed by all. More at ascap.com.

Cutting Edge's Paezino

Film and television music investor Cutting Edge Group has purchased catalog royalty streams from composer John Paezino, including over 60 films, television, and gaming scores, the agreement includes

scores for *The Man From Nowhere* trilogy, work on *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes*, music from the *Daredevil* series, and Amazon's *Invincible*. Work in gaming includes Marvel's *Spider-Man for PlayStation*, *Mass Effect: Adromeda*, *Gran Turismo Sport*, *Detroit: Become Human*, and more. The catalog includes music from *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *DreamWorks Dragons*, and *Right at the Museum: Kahmunrah* *Abes Again*. Paezino's works have received a SAGTA Games Award (*Spider-Man: Miles Morales*), Emmy and GRAMMY nominations (*The Defenders*, *Spider-Man 2*).

MusicFlow's Rising Women

Now in its 13th year, MusicFlow celebrates the Rising Women on the Row Class of 2026, with this year's honorees including six executives making a significant impact on Nashville's Country music industry. In a celebration that now includes 60 women, congratulations go out to Courtney Allen, Jackie Augustus, Sara Knabbe, Victoria Mason, Sophia Sarason, and Elisa Vazzana. More at musicflow.com.

ANDREA BEENHAM (aka Drea Jo)

is a freelance writer and marketing consultant based in Southern California. The South-African born, Colorado-raised California transplant has a passion for music, people, and fun. She can be reached at drea@dreaajo.com.



▲ BATISTE SUPPORTS CLASSICAL

GRAMMY and Oscar-winner Jon Batiste co-hosts podcast *Classical California*, sharing his journey, stories, musical influences, inspirations, and spotlighting classical champions across the state. *Classical California* is America's largest listener-supported, independent classical network (KUSC 91.5fm LA/NSC 90.3fm SF). (Jon Batiste with Classical California host Dianna Nicotri)



▲ GIL GETS PRIMARY

Primary Wave Music/Nova Music Group acquires Brazilian composer-guitarist Gillette's catalog. Gil's 40+ year career and 40+ albums brought two GRAMMYs, nine Latin GRAMMYs, 2005's Polar Music Prize. Work included tours with Jimmy Cliff and recording with The Wailers. Tour continues through 2026.



▲ BIG LOUD'S RANKIN

Texas singer-songwriter Juliana Rankin has signed to Big Loud Texas, with label debut "Bad Habits and Good Horses" (with co-writers Garrett Bradford, Jon Bonjovi) to be featured in the Paramount+ season finale of *Landman*. Rankin started off at an Arlyn Studio party, connecting with mentor Miranda Lambert.

▲ SMP SIGNS BUSCEMA

Partnering with Daniel Negropoli's Aquascent, Sony Music Publishing signs SMP's Jon Buscema (*Glenn Frey*, *Donna Summer*, *Sofia & The Antelopes*, etc.) to global publishing. Co-write/production credits include "Wherever I Go," "The Pines" (Shah Nimer & Brad (Drew) Pines), "Caravan" (Cassidy Gray/Wildbone), *J-4* (Mike Perry (*Freddie*, *Good Problem*), *David Byrne*, *Jon Buscema*, *Rock Real* (SMP)).



For media and partnership opportunities, please contact mmueller@classicalcalifornia.org.