

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **7th ANNUAL SEA LEVEL SINGER/SONGWRITER FESTIVAL SLATED FOR APRIL 10-12**

Grammy award winning artist Shawn Colvin opens Fest April 10 at NARO Expanded Cinema

**NORFOLK, Va. – (January 20, 2014)** – Tidewater Arts Outreach (TAO) will present the 7th Annual [Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival](#) April 10-12. Grammy award-winning artist Shawn Colvin will headline the kick-off concert at NARO Expanded Cinema, 1507 Colley Avenue, Norfolk, Thursday, April 10. Doors open at 6 p.m. for general admission seating, and the show will start at 7 p.m.

Shawn Colvin is a three-time Grammy winning and 10-time Grammy-nominated American singer/ songwriter with eight albums to her credit. As one of the leading lights of the so-called “new folk movement” that began in the late ‘80s with female contemporaries Tracy Chapman, Suzanne Vega, and the Indigo Girls, Colvin set herself apart with a diverse musical approach and a personal, pop-influenced style. Her debut record, *Steady On*, released in 1989, won the Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Folk Recording. Colvin’s 1992 sophomore effort, the more pop-oriented *Fat City*, earned her two more nominations, as well as considerable critical praise and a growing crossover audience.

It was her 1997 single, “Sunny Came Home,” that earned her two Grammy Awards for Record and Song of the Year and firmly catapulted her into the mainstream, with *A Few Small Repairs* becoming her first album to reach platinum status. During the new millennium, Colvin has

released three solid albums of original material and a live retrospective recording, as well as collaborating on projects with musical icons the likes of James Taylor, Sting, and Bela Fleck.

This same evening, TAO welcomes veteran Austin-based singer/songwriter Darden Smith as a special guest for the April 10 kick-off concert. Smith is co-founder of the national organization, [Songwriting With:Soldiers](#). Smith will headline his own Sea Level Festival concert to honor our military at Nauticus, One Waterside Dr. on Friday, April 11 at 8 p.m., where he will share his own music and songs written with and for soldiers.

Opening this special evening at the NARO, is local musician Logan Vath, a Nebraska native who has lived in Norfolk since 2007 and has recently released his debut album, “Better Man or Ghost.”

Tickets for the Shawn Colvin concert are \$37.50 in advance and \$42.50 the day of the show. General admission tickets can be purchased at [TidewaterArtOutreach.org](http://TidewaterArtOutreach.org) beginning February 10 at 10 a.m. A limited number of reserved seats will be available to “friend-of-the-festival” sponsors beginning January 20. The Sea Level Festival weekend of events includes other local venue concerts, open stages, street musicians, Instruments of Art Celebration and the Emerging Artist Showcase. For updates and detailed information as it’s released, please visit <http://www.tidewaterartsoutreach.org/>.

### **EMERGING ARTIST SHOWCASE**

The Emerging Artist Showcase features the top 10 winners of the Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival songwriting competition. The Showcase is a popular event that has played to capacity crowds each year and this year’s event will be held at the historic Attucks Theatre, 1010 Church St., Norfolk on Saturday, April 12. Area songwriters will perform their songs live, with the winner receiving local radio and TV airtime, recording session time and more. Musicians must upload two songs and lyrics by March 15. Entry details can be found at [TidewaterArtsOutreach.org](http://TidewaterArtsOutreach.org).

### **INSTRUMENTS OF ART CELEBRATION**

Regional visual artists will create works of art on musical instruments that will be for sale during the Celebration and auction at Selden Arcade, 208 E. Main St. Norfolk, on Saturday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 in advance and include creative light fare, regional and national libations, and live music. Tables are also available for advanced purchase. Most artwork will be \$250 or less, but a range of work is available for purchase. The Instruments of Art will be on display at various locations in Norfolk for two weeks prior to the Celebration. For a list of locations, please visit <http://www.tidewaterartsoutreach.org/>.

### **MERRILL GUITAR GIVEAWAY**

Merrill & Company, known worldwide for fine handmade vintage-quality guitars, is creating a work of art especially for the Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival. This custom-built guitar is Merrill’s highly sought-after C-28 model (pre-WWII D-28 Martin replica) made of old-growth Brazilian rosewood on the back and sides, premium Adirondack spruce top, Sitka spruce braces, and custom hand carved South American mahogany neck with “diamond” Brazilian rosewood headplate with pearl logo inlay. This one-of-a-kind instrument retails for \$12,000, but

one lucky \$10 ticket holder will win this guitar. Only 2,000 opportunities will be sold. Tickets are available at [TidewaterArtsOutreach.org](http://TidewaterArtsOutreach.org), and the winner will be announced at the Attucks Theatre on April 12.

***About Tidewater Arts Outreach:***

Tidewater Arts Outreach is a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 to share the joy and healing power of the arts with people who have special needs and who are isolated from society. TAO presents educational workshops and dozens of programs each month in hospitals, retirement homes, rehabilitation centers, homeless shelters and other facilities throughout Hampton Roads. These performances and programs promote human interaction, intellectual stimulation, happiness and healing for people who have limited access to the arts due to health, economic or social circumstances. Last year, nearly 8,000 people were reached through 306 Tidewater Arts Outreach programs and workshops at 67 locations. Tidewater Arts Outreach supports the spirit of empathy and caring in the music and arts community, and hundreds of artists participate in its programs. For more information, visit [TidewaterArtsOutreach.org](http://TidewaterArtsOutreach.org) or find us on Facebook.

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