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**EMERGING ARTIST CONTEST LOOKING FOR UNSIGNED TALENT FOR
7TH ANNUAL SEA LEVEL SINGER/SONGWRITER FESTIVAL
SHOWCASE ON APRIL 12**

NORFOLK, Va. – (January 2014) – Tidewater Arts Outreach invites unsigned singer/songwriters to showcase their work at the Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival's Emerging Artist Competition on April 12, 2014 at the Attucks Theater in Norfolk. The festival is accepting submissions of original music by unsigned solo artists of all ages who live within 100 miles of Norfolk. Anyone interested in participating must review entry rules, pay the appropriate entry fee, and upload their music at <http://www.tidewaterartsoutreach.org>. Entries must be submitted by March 1, 2014.

The top ten semifinalists will perform one song each at the Emerging Artist Contest, a live concert on Saturday, April 12 at the Attucks Theater at 1010 Church Street in Norfolk. Three finalists will then be chosen by a panel of judges to perform a second song, and based on these performances, a winner will be selected. The winner will be invited to be a guest on Hunter at Sunrise (WHRV HD3), The Hampton Roads Show on WAVY TV, and Out of the Box (WHRV FM 89.5).

Entries can be a professional recording or a demo made in the kitchen. Entries will be judged on content, rather than recording quality to determine who makes the final cut. To qualify each singer/songwriter needs to:

- Live within 100 miles of Norfolk, VA.
- Not have a released a full-length album
- Upload two MP3 files and submit an entry fee no later than March 1, 2014
- Be able to perform live in Norfolk on April 12, 2014.

About the Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival:

The Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival, now in its 7th year, is a multi-day celebration of live, original music and features local and national singer/songwriters at venues including the Naro Expanded Cinema, Attucks Theater, and Nauticus; an instrument-themed art auction, the Emerging Artist Contest, indoor and outdoor live performance showcases by local musicians, and a custom Merrill Guitar raffle. The festival is the largest annual fundraiser for Tidewater Arts Outreach; it is created and run by volunteers.

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 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.