

## **“Songwriting Process for the Practical” with Tom Smith**

Everyone can write a song, and everyone who has written a song can write a better one. This hands-on workshop will explore principles commonly practiced by experienced songwriters. The goal of this workshop is not necessarily to help you write commercially successful songs. Instead, we will focus on techniques for helping you define what you'd like to communicate to your listeners and tools that add power and emotion to your songs. I will encourage you to find your own voice, and to express it honestly in ways that will resonate with the experiences of your listeners.

We will discuss practical things that you can do to improve your songwriting, and processes you can employ to replicate your success on multiple songwriting projects. Examples will be used to illustrate key points along the way along with several short writing exercises. If you play an instrument, please bring it if you think it would be useful for you to use as part of our short exercises or possibly for you to contribute examples for discussion.

*Date:* Sunday July 13, 2014, 3:00-6:00 PM (optional jam session after)

*Place:* Amy Conley Music studio, 102 Elm St, Milford NH 03055

*Audience:* Beginning and intermediate songwriters (adults or teens)

*Duration:* 3 Hours

*Materials:* Please consider bringing

Writing materials (e.g., pencil, paper, laptop),

Reference materials (e.g. thesaurus, dictionary, rhyming dictionary),

An instrument (optional)

*Fee:* \$25/person. Limited to 16 people. Call Amy Conley, 603-249-9560 to register.

### **About Tom Smith TomSmithMusic.com**



”Tom Smith” is not a famous name among performing songwriters. Music is my passionate avocation. I have spent a lot of time singing songs, studying songwriters, writing songs and thinking about and enjoying the process of writing and sharing songs. I believe that a regular person without extraordinary musical gifts can write extraordinary songs.

Although I am not professionally trained, I have been a performing folk artist since the 1970's. After thirty years of performing and studying traditional and modern folk songs composed by others, I became serious about writing my own songs. I won first place in the *Pennsylvania Heritage Song Contest*, was a double finalist in the *Great American Song Contest*, and have been invited to numerous New England songwriting exhibitions. Seven years ago, to inspire myself to improve my craft, I started a monthly blog called *The Kitchen Musician*. Each issue includes an informally recorded music video, often with a recently composed song. You can find *The Kitchen Musician* at TomSmithMusic.com.

I have four recordings. My most recent effort is *Journey Home* (2011) - an album of twelve original songs. I perform throughout the Northeast United States for audiences large and small, young and old.

## Testimonials:

“Tom Smith will make you laugh and cry (maybe even in the same song.) A very captivating songwriter and performer.” – Barbara Kessler

“Tom is simply one of the region’s finest songwriters. His material runs from the extremely humorous to the incredibly poignant, delivered in a folk style you can’t help wanting to sing along with.” Mark Stepakoff – Singer, Songwriter, Venue Host

“Tom speaks his mind about today’s world through his peaceful music. This technique and style solidly places him in what we know and expect from the real folk tradition. What a breath of fresh air!”

- Willie Nelson Peace Research Institute

“Tom Smith’s music is by turns playful and poignant, and always grounded in the American folk tradition. Tom’s mastery as a singer, his instrumental skill, and his apparently effortless presentation style, are hallmarks of a man who knows and loves his music. We are fortunate to have him in our midst.” - Lorraine Lee Hammond, musician, songwriter, professor of ethnomusicology

“Tom Smith’s CD *Journey Home* offers emotional joy and solid craftsmanship. Smith has certainly come up with one of the strongest singer-songwriter CDs of 2011. Every word and feeling is a treasure and the song craft shows true mastery.” – Bill Copeland Music News

“Listening to *Journey Home*, not only made me want to aspire to be a better songwriter, it also made me want to be a better person. When it comes to the power of music, you can’t do any better than that.” - John Fern, performing songwriter

“Tom Smith is a well-traveled singer/songwriter veteran who brings a rich and deep portfolio of well-crafted songs delivered in fine, tastefully understated fashion and with a dry wit guaranteed to put a smile on any face.” – Nate Smith, Boulder Coffeehouse

“[Tom Smith] is among the most artful lyricists performing in the Northeast today. His performance style draws listeners in and keeps them there with stories wrapped in gorgeous melodies. He’s also clever and wickedly witty. And a darn good guitar player as well!” – Jon McAuliffe, performing songwriter

“Tom Smith is among the finest there is in New England Today.” – The Nameless Coffeehouse, Cambridge, MA

“Tom is by far one of the most talented songwriters in our area. He is as genuine as he is insightful, and his music makes you feel great about looking at life around you. I assure you, his lyrics will remain with you long after the evening is done!” – Tom Irving, Rick’s Music World

“Tom is right up there with the best of the best songwriters. His songs are genuine, honest, human, connecting.” – Deb O’Hanlon and Peter Fischman, Performing songwriters

“Tom Smith is an American Folk Original. His timeless stories are told with a voice that is as honest and sincere as they come with melodies that you will remember forever.” – Marc Bridge, Performing songwriter