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### ***The Stage is Set for the 3rd Annual 30A Songwriters Festival***

***The Bangles, Rodney Crowell, Amy Ray, Joan Osborne, Miles Zuniga of Fastball, Matthew Sweet, Sam Bush Band, David Wilcox, Jeffrey Steele, Shawn Mullins, Jim Lauderdale and Mary Gauthier to co-headline the three-day event along the white sand beaches of Florida's Gulf Coast in South Walton***

***Visit [30asongwritersfestival.com](http://30asongwritersfestival.com)***

**SANTA ROSA BEACH, Fla.—December 19, 2011**--The 30A Songwriters Festival announces headline acts for the January 13-15, 2012 event including Rodney Crowell, The Bangles, Amy Ray of Indigo Girls, Joan Osborne, Shawn Mullins, Sam Bush Band and Matthew Sweet.

The third annual festival is produced by the Cultural Arts Alliance of Walton County (CAA), presented by Visit South Walton and sponsored by Seaside and 30A.com. The event brings together talented songwriters and musicians from around the country to perform in unique venues amid a backdrop of brilliant white sand beaches, turquoise waters and stunning architecture. The three-day festival will feature more than 125 musicians and over 250 performances in venues ranging from intimate listening rooms to spacious outdoor amphitheaters.

Having quickly grown into one of the premier songwriters festivals in the country, the 30A Songwriters Festival attracts artists who represent many different genres. With styles ranging from folk, country, rock

and alternative, the 2012 line-up features nationally-acclaimed songwriters and musicians including Amy Ray of Indigo Girls, Rodney Crowell, The Bangles, Matthew Sweet, Mary Gauthier, Tania Elizabeth, Shawn Mullins, Jeffrey Steele, Miles Zuniga of Fastball and Joan Osborne as well as David Wilcox, Jim Lauderdale, Steve Forbert, Chely Wright, Sam Bush Band, John Driskell Hopkins of Zac Brown Band, David Ryan Harris, Corey Smith, Marti Jones & Don Dixon, Tommy Talton, Randall Bramblett, Susan Cowsill, Teddy Gentry, Lenny LeBlanc, Joseph Arthur, Lori McKenna, Michelle Malone, Eric Brace and Peter, Kevn Kinney, Chuck Cannon, Brigitte DeMeyer, The Shadowboxers, Jeff Black, David Olney, Over the Rhine (Karin Bergquist & Linford Detweiler), Tommy Womack, Tim Nichols, Matthew Mayfield, Parker & Parker, Emily Lynch, Larkin Poe, Callaghan, Joe Leathers, Greg Barnhill, Billy Montana, Ben Glover, Pete Sallis, Suzi Ragsdale, Bryan Kennedy, Donnie Sundal, Kevin Rowe, Augustine, Brian White, Karyn Williams, Kyle Jacobs, Davin McCoy, Nicole Witt, Meg Hutchinson, Daphne Willis, Shannon Whitworth, Reed Waddle, Kelsey Anna, A Fragile Tomorrow, Adron, Granville Automatic, Forrest Williams Band, Matthew Kahler, Chas Sandford, Garrison Starr, David Berkeley, Pearl Heart, Joanna Cotten, The Tall Pines, Max Gomez, John Singleton, Jillian Edwards, Erick Baker, Maggie Eckford, Dave Barnes, Lindsay Fuller, Roxie Watson, Sterling Fletcher, Michael Whitty, Frank Lindamood, Elisabeth Williamson, The Honey Dewdrops, Grant Peeples, Jeep Rosenberg, Jill Jack, Angel Snow, Bob Steeno, Ben Friedman, Bill Garrett, Chatham Street, Georgia, Deux Birds, Dannica Lowery, Kyle LaMonica, Zack Rosicka, Anna Garrott, Antigone Rising and over 75 more.

Located along Northwest Florida's Gulf Coast, Scenic Highway 30A in South Walton meanders along the Gulf of Mexico through charming beach neighborhoods (including Santa Rosa Beach, Grayton Beach, WaterColor, Seaside, Rosemary Beach, Alys Beach), state parks and a dozen rare coastal dune lakes. "The relaxed, laid back vibe of the beachside resorts along scenic Highway 30A creates the perfect atmosphere for this world-class event," said Jennifer Steele, event organizer and executive director of the CAA. "South Walton already celebrates a thriving arts community, which includes a vibrant music scene and an abundance of talented musicians. We are delighted to bring such high-caliber songwriters, performers and up-and-coming artists from around the country to 30A to play for music savvy audiences."

"What sets the 30A Songwriters Festival apart from others in the country is, one: we create listening rooms in truly unique beach resort venues and two: we book musically diverse artists," said Russell Carter, event organizer and chair and president of Russell Carter Artist Management. "Rodney Crowell and the Bangles have both scored numerous number one hits, but I am willing to say that only at the 30A Songwriters Festival are you able to hear Rodney sing 'She's Crazy For Leaving' and 'I Couldn't Leave

You If I Tried,' and then run across the street and hear the Bangles belt out 'Eternal Flame,' 'Walk Like an Egyptian' and 'Manic Monday.' Rodney will perform with a full band as will the Indigo Girls and Sam Bush. Matthew Sweet will perform "Girlfriend" in its entirety to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of the platinum certified album. Audiences who truly enjoy music will not want to miss this event."

Festival venues span fifteen miles of gulf front highway and include Vue, Fire, The Naked Grape and the Gulf Place Amphitheatre in Santa Rosa Beach; First Note Music Hall in Blue Mountain Beach; Hibiscus, Pandora's and Shorty's in Grayton Beach; Fish Out of Water, The Gathering Spot and The Boathouse in WaterColor; The Lyceum, Bud & Alley's, Pizza Bar, Central Square Records and the Seaside Meeting Hall Theatre in Seaside; La Botana in Seagrove; Caliza in Alys Beach; the amphitheater in Seacrest Beach; and Amavida, The Summer Kitchen and the Town Hall in Rosemary Beach.

The 30A Songwriters Festival is produced by the Cultural Arts Alliance of Walton County and presented by Visit South Walton. Presenting sponsors are Seaside and 30A.com. Additional sponsors include ASCAP, Emerald Coast Wine & Spirits, Sowl.com, Gibson Guitars, Sweetwater Brewing Company, Nashville Lifestyles Magazine, Grayton Beer Company, Thirty-A Review, Atlanta's Finest, JPB Commercial Real Estate Advisors, Birmingham Magazine, Atlanta Magazine and The Beachcomber.

Premier lodging partners include WaterColor Inn & Resort, Cottage Rental Agency Seaside and Sunburst Beach Vacations, in addition to Beach Rentals of South Walton, Beach Seekers Vacation Rentals, Rosemary Beach Cottage Rental Company, 360 Blue Properties, Hibiscus Guest House, Dune Allen Realty Vacation Rentals, Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals and Rivard of South Walton.

Proceeds from the 30A Songwriters Festival benefit the CAA and help fulfill its mission to support the arts in Walton County. For more information on the 2012 festival, including a full list of artists, venues, accommodations packages and how to purchase tickets, visit [30asongwritersfestival.com](http://30asongwritersfestival.com). To learn more about South Walton and Scenic Highway 30A, log on to [visitsouthwalton.com](http://visitsouthwalton.com), [30a.com](http://30a.com) or [sowl.com](http://sowl.com).

#### **Quotes from some artists who have performed in the past:**

*"A series of magical moments unfolding over the course of the long weekend – old friends reuniting, new friendships being born...Large audiences and performers enjoying days and nights of music, storytelling both poignant and humorous, spontaneous jams, Southern hospitality, delicious food and wine – the experience of 30A is guaranteed to make you feel exhilarated and alive." Susanna Hoffs*

*“The 30A Songwriters Festival is one of the most diverse songwriter’s festival I’ve ever been to. The wide range of songwriters performing, the great crowds, the unique venues and the beautiful location all make for an incredible experience.” Shawn Mullins*

*“I can’t think of a better way to spend a long weekend – great songs, great songwriters, beautiful beaches, good food and the best hospitality I’ve ever experienced at any music festival. Bar none. The locals were a highlight for me!” Chely Wright*

*“The uniqueness of being able to see and hear so much great music in funky bars, intimate theaters and amazing restaurants really gives this festival a down home personality all its own. It was well organized, the people were friendly, the food was great and there was cool music everywhere...what more could you want?” John Oates*

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### **About the Cultural Arts Alliance of Walton County**

The Cultural Arts Alliance of Walton County, Inc. is the officially designated local arts agency that serves as an umbrella organization and supports the arts through leadership, advocacy, funding, programs and education. The vision of the CAA is to be the catalyst for Walton County’s growth as a center for artistic and cultural excellence through which lives are enriched, economy is stimulated and community is strengthened. [www.culturalartsalliance.com](http://www.culturalartsalliance.com)

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