



THE ISSA SUMMIT

Welcome To The
2026 ISSA Summit



ISSA
AWARDS

WELCOME TO THE 2026 ISSA SUMMIT & AWARDS WEEKEND

Welcome to the 2026 International Singer Songwriters Association Summit! We are absolutely thrilled to have you here for what promises to be our most inspiring and unforgettable weekend yet.

Over the next three days, you'll embark on a journey that spans the full spectrum of the music industry—from the creative spark of songwriting to the business savvy needed to build a sustainable career. Between **Tamanie Dove's** opening address Thursday morning and **Sam George's** powerful closing Keynote Friday afternoon, we've packed this Summit with sessions designed to fuel your passion and sharpen your skills:

Thursday delivers *The Music Business Blueprint*, *Nashville Studio Secrets*, *The Power of Mentorship*, *Sync Licensing 101*, *Audio Engineering*, and a *Troubleshooting Q&A Panel* to tackle your toughest questions.

Friday brings *Building an Identity in Music*, *Working Through the Highs and Lows of the Creative Process*, an exclusive look *Inside the ISSA Judges Panel*, and the centerpiece—Sam George's thought-provoking Keynote on why "*The Future Sounds Human*."



But the magic doesn't stop in the session rooms.

What truly makes the ISSA Summit so special happens in the **Courtyard of the host hotel (Courtyard by Marriott – Dunwoody)** —the beating heart of our community. It's where everyone gathers to network, relax, share stories, and forge connections that last long after the weekend ends. Expect impromptu jam sessions, spontaneous writing collaborations, photo ops in front of our brand-new Summit backdrop, and of course, **Karaoke Night with Chad Rivette on Thursday at 7:00 PM!**

And let's not forget the incredible **T-Mobile Swag Bags**—packed with koozies, pins, keychains, stickers, knick-knacks, notebooks, pens, drink tumblers, and more. We've also got some **amazing raffle items** waiting for you—turn to the back of this program to find out how you can win!

Consider this program your roadmap for the entire weekend.

In the following pages, we'll guide you through every session, every performance, and every celebration—from the Red Carpet to the Awards Show to the After Party and beyond.

So what does all of this mean? It means we are **so glad you're here**. We've poured our hearts into creating a weekend that's packed with knowledge, entertainment, and connection. Whether you're here to learn, to network, to perform, or simply to soak in the energy of a community that understands exactly what it means to be a songwriter—we hope you leave feeling more inspired, more empowered, and more connected than ever before.

Here's to a weekend of music, memories, and mayhem.

Welcome to the 8th Annual ISSA Awards Weekend. Let's make some magic.

With gratitude and excitement,

The ISSA Team



THURSDAY SUMMIT SESSIONS

9:00 AM – Tamanie Dove

Opening Remarks & Social Media Hacks

ISSA's CEO and Founder kicks off the Summit with her legendary annual welcome. Expect a blend of fiery inspiration and straight-talk practical advice—she'll share her latest social media strategies and song registration tips to protect your work.

10:00 AM – Angela Marie Eidenmiller

The Music Business Blueprint

You've written the song. Now what? Angela, ISSA's Associate Director of Artist Relations, delivers a no-fluff roadmap for building a *career* around your finished tracks. This session is for every artist who's ever asked, "What do I do *after* the recording is done?"

11:15 AM – John Pineiro

Nashville Studio Secrets

A veteran of Music City's top studios, John pulls back the curtain on getting the most from a recording session, working with elite session players, and sustaining a long-term career. If you've ever dreamed of tracking in Nashville, this insider knowledge is gold.

1:00 PM – Linda Marks

The Power of Mentorship

Join Linda Marks along with her panelists, Charu Suri, Dawn Rix and Emily Finke as we explore why mentoring matters, including stories of being mentored and mentoring, and invite you to share some of yours as well.

This panel is part of the ISSA Summit Mentoring Program, which also provides opportunities to sign up to be paired as mentors and/or mentees for individual 1-on-1 meetings arranged at a mutually convenient time by the mentor/mentee pair.

2:15 PM – Katherine Lynna Nemeth

Sync Licensing 101

Want your music in Film & TV? Katherine, a Recording Academy member with placements in *Project Runway* and *Music City Mistletoe*, breaks down the sync licensing process. Learn what it takes to get your songs placed—and how to start pitching like a pro.

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3:30 PM – Emily E. Finke

Audio Engineering as Creative Discovery

ISSA's 2025 Sound Engineer of the Year proves that the mixing board is not a barrier—it's an extension of your songwriting. She'll show you how experimentation in the studio can spark new creative ideas, regardless of your skill level.

5:15 – Emily E. Finke

Troubleshooting Your Music Business (Q&A Panel)

Emily hosts an open-forum panel with ISSA Award winners Candy Carpenter, Derrick Brandon, Angela Marie Eidenmiller, and Charu Suri. Bring your burning questions about distribution, promotion, royalties, or anything else—this is your no-judgment zone to get real answers.

7:00 PM – Karaoke & Live Jams with Chad Rivette

Host Hotel Courtyard

The formal sessions end, but the magic begins. Chad Rivette brings his karaoke setup for a night of unplugged (well, amped-up!) fun. Grab your beverage of choice, warm up those pipes, and bond with fellow songwriters over shared laughs and belted-out classics. It's the perfect way to close Day One!

FRIDAY SUMMIT SESSIONS

9:00 AM – Jeremy Edmond & Unlikely Places Radio

Building an Identity in Music While Managing Mental Illness

We are thrilled that Jeremy Edmond and his team from Unlikely Places Radio will lead off Friday's Summit with a powerful and necessary breakout presentation. In an era where artists are pressured to project polished perfection 24/7, this session offers a radical alternative: honesty.

10:15 AM – Randie O'Neil & Emo LeBlanc

Today I'm Great: Working Through the Highs and Lows of the Creative Process

The creative process is rarely a straight line—it's a winding road of brilliant highs and crushing lows. But what if those lows weren't a sign of failure, but simply your brain doing exactly what it's wired to do? That's the question at the heart of this powerful 45-minute session, led by Randie O'Neil, PhD and Emo LeBlanc.

11:30 AM – Alan Garmonsway

Inside the Judge's Panel

Alan Garmonsway—last year's International Album Gold Winner—leads a can't-miss session alongside fellow Gold winners Emily Judson (US Emerging Artist) and Caitlin Mae (US Single). Together, they offer a candid, behind-the-scenes look at what it truly takes to evaluate nearly 1,000 individual Finalists across 40 categories. This panel walks you through the entire journey— from locating the songs and artists to the fine margins that separate Gold from Silver.

1:00 PM – Sam George ★ KEYNOTE SPEECH

The Future Sounds Human

What if the greatest threat to your music isn't artificial intelligence... but sounding exactly like everyone else? That's the provocative question award-winning producer, songwriter, and Dolby Atmos engineer Sam George will pose when he takes the stage as the ISSA Summit's Keynote Speaker. As AI, algorithms, and automation rapidly reshape the music industry, artists everywhere are asking the same uneasy question: Where do I fit in? But Sam challenges us to consider that we've been asking the wrong question entirely. Rather than fixating on what AI is capable of, he turns the lens inward—exploring the qualities that remain uniquely and irreducibly human. His central argument is both bold and reassuring: technology doesn't diminish the need for artists; it raises the standard for what it means to be one. Trust us—his answer will reshape how you think about your art.

5:00 PM – ISSA Awards Show "Pre-Party"

Wild Wing Cafe – Alpharetta, GA

The Wild Wing Cafe becomes the place to be for great chicken wings, great beverages, great camaraderie, and really great music from five incredible ISSA artists providing the high-energy entertainment:

- **Steve Coughlin**
- **Rachel Dee Lynn**
- **Jared Daws**
- **Lexi Blue**
- **The Hungry and Dangerous**

After the Pre-Party – Impromptu Fun & Mayhem

Host Hotel Courtyard (Courtyard by Marriott – Dunwoody)

The celebration continues back at the host hotel courtyard, where the fire pit becomes the gathering spot for impromptu jam sessions, spontaneous collaborations, and the kind of mayhem that has made ISSA evenings legendary. Bring your instrument, bring your voice, and bring your stories—the best moments of the weekend often happen after the official schedule ends.

SATURDAY EVENTS

12:00 PM – Red Carpet Experience

Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center – Byers Theater

The 8th Annual ISSA Awards Show takes place at the beautiful Byers Theater in the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center—home of The BMI Awards. The Red Carpet Experience kicks off at Noon with professional photographers and interviewers on hand to greet you and capture your moment in the spotlight. It's the perfect opportunity to meet and greet with your fellow artists, pose for photos, and soak in the glamour. And don't forget—the fan-favorite **360 video booth** will be available again this year, so strike your best pose and get ready to shine!

2:00 PM – The 8th Annual ISSA Awards Show

Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center – Byers Theater

The main event begins at 2:00 PM! In addition to presenting this year's awards across 40 categories to our incredible artists, we are honored to be graced with live performances from some of the best talent in the singer-songwriter community:

- **Angel Ocasio Jr.**
- **Birdy Young**
- **The Lowdown Dirty Heathens**
- **Brett Ryder**
- **Eleyet McConnell**

This prestigious, formal, recorded event is your time to shine. And don't forget—this year's Gold Winners, who will be sitting among you, are next year's judges. What better way to let them know who you are

5:00 PM – The After Party

Wild Wing Cafe – Alpharetta, GA

Immediately following the show, the celebration moves to Wild Wing Cafe in Alpharetta for the official ISSA After Party. This more intimate gathering will feature live performances from an incredible lineup of ISSA artists:

Randie O'Neil	Alan Garmonsway	Meghanne Storey
Cliff & Garret Wheeler	Tay Bronson	Jak Fidler
Chad Rivette	Jason Cole	J. Edmond
Linda Boles	Angela Easley	Andrew Dean
Marie Norris	Carol Stevens	Brad Thomas
Sherise D'Souza	Re Mattei	Jennifer Emard
Rylee Nicholson	Jaycee Lynn	Linda Purrs

The After Party could go on into the wee hours as we suspect many ISSA members will enjoy the laid-back atmosphere and fabulous food at this well-established and favorite hangout.

After the After Party – Fun & Mayhem

Host Hotel Courtyard (Courtyard by Marriott – Dunwoody)

And just when you think the big day is over... the celebration continues back at the host hotel courtyard! What's better than gathering around the fire pit with all your fellow artists, celebrating the day's earlier wins, and enjoying impromptu jam sessions, spontaneous collaborations, and the kind of mayhem that has made ISSA evenings legendary? Bring your instrument, bring your voice, and bring your energy—the magic of the weekend lives on long after the final trophy is handed out.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Without their generous support, the ISSA Summit would not be possible.

We are incredibly grateful to the sponsors who have stepped up to make this year's Summit an unforgettable experience. Their commitment to the songwriter community allows us to keep the ISSA Summit **FREE** for all attendees—and we couldn't do it without them.

Each year, our amazing sponsors provide incredible raffle items that give you the chance to win professional-grade gear, software, and goodies that can take your music career to the next level. By purchasing raffle tickets, you're not only supporting these wonderful sponsors—you're also helping us continue to offer this Summit at no cost to artists like you.

So thank you. Thank you to every sponsor who believed in our mission. And thank you to every attendee who participates in the raffle. Your support keeps the music playing.

RAFFLE PRIZES

Here's what you can win this year:

Sponsor	Prize	Value
Polyverse Music	3 Full Bundle Packages	\$694 each
Atomic Disc	2 - 200 CD Duplications in Jackets	\$338 each
Stogie Joe Guitars	1 Handmade Cigar Box Guitar	\$400 each
AlIAIAI Audio	1 TMA-2 Studio W+ Headphone w/ Hard Shell Case	\$349 each
PSP Audioware	3 Bundles of Plug-ins (15, 10, & 5 Plug-ins of winner's choice)	\$199 each
SkinSessed	5 Gift Baskets	\$50 each
Visage Skin Care	1 Gift Package of Skin Care & Designer Sunglasses	\$ 50 each
ISSA Summit Donor	5 Thermal Backpacks filled with miscellaneous goodies	\$50 each
ISSA Summit Donor	1 Guitar String Bracelet	\$25 each

Atomic Disc is also offering **10% discounts** to all ISSA Summit attendees—be sure to check out their coupon included in this program.

PSP Audioware is also offering a **coupon for 33% off** to all Summit attendees—don't miss their coupon in this program as well.

Raffle tickets are available at the registration desk. Don't miss your chance to win!

Thank you again to all of our sponsors for their generosity and support. We are honored to have you as partners in this mission.

Turn the page to learn more about each of our amazing sponsors!



Polyverse Music is a “by musicians, for musicians” company that creates uniquely powerful tools and instruments for artists on the cutting edge of creativity.

Founded in 2015, Polyverse has continually set the bar in terms of plugin innovation, vision, and user experience. Every person on the Polyverse team is a forward-thinking musician with extensive knowledge and experience with music, sound, synthesizers, and technology. In each new step, Polyverse continues to push the boundary of possibilities with digital musical instruments and effects.

In addition to the **three (3) Plug-in bundles** that will be raffled off during the Summit. **We are thrilled to announce that Polyverse Music** – is once again stepping up with incredible generosity. They are providing six (6) full software bundles to each 1st place Gold winner in the following six categories will receive the complete “All Polyverse Plugins” bundle – (each bundle is valued at \$694 each):

- **USA Female Vocalist of the Year**
- **USA Male Vocalist of the Year**
- **USA Sound Engineer of the Year**
- **International Female Vocalist of the Year**
- **International Male Vocalist of the Year**
- **International Sound Engineer of the Year**

We thank our friends at Polyverse so much again this year for their generosity!

www.polyversemusic.com



Smells like dessert, Feels like luxury.

Dessert-inspired body care made to feel rich, creamy, beautiful, and gift-worthy — from foaming body scrubs and Second Skin Moisturizers to Dessert Balm Glide Sticks, Lip Seals, handmade goat milk soaps, samples, and curated gift boxes.

SkinSessed was created for people who want body care to feel indulgent, comforting, beautiful, and unforgettable. From foaming body scrubs to rich Second Skin Moisturizers, Dessert Balm Glide Sticks, Lip

Seals, handmade goat milk soaps, samples, and curated gift boxes, every product is designed to turn ordinary self-care into a luxurious little ritual.

We would like to thank Tmanie Dove and SkinSessed for providing us with five (5) gift boxes.

www.skinsessed.com

Atomic Disc is a musician-run CD and vinyl manufacturer based near Portland, Oregon. Since 1993, we've helped independent artists create physical releases that look great, sound right, and hold up at the merch table.

We're a lot like you. Musicians, engineers, songwriters, and people who've spent time in studios, rehearsal spaces, and on the road. We know what goes into a release, and how much it matters when it's finally out in the world.

Because of that, we keep things straightforward, with **fast turnaround times** and **pricing that works for independent artists**.

Everything we offer is built around that. From CD duplication and replication and vinyl pressing to graphic design and audio mastering, it's all handled by a team that understands both the technical side and the creative side.

Thank you to Atomic Disc for generously donating two (2), 200 CD Duplication in jackets for our raffle and a 10% Discount coupon - See Below

www.atomicdisc.com



VINYL • CD • MERCH

10% OFF YOUR FIRST CD ORDER

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www.atomicdisc.com

offer valid until: 09/01/27

Stogie Joe

Cigar Box Guitars

Handcrafted by David Plekkenpol

stogiejoeguitars.com

Handcrafted for the Rebel Spirit

Every musician remembers the first time they picked up an instrument that felt *alive*. Full of soul. Something nobody else in the world owns. That is the magic of a Stogie Joe Cigar Box Guitar. Born in the workshop and built for the stage, each Stogie Joe guitar is a completely unique, handcrafted instrument. It starts with a classic cigar box—rich with history—and marry it to a hard maple neck, hand-carved with a classic "C" profile and a traditional headstock.

Sealed tuners keep you locked in, while fretboards of walnut, Bolivian rosewood, padauk, wenge, or purpleheart provide a silky, fast feel.

Built for Tone, Not Gimmicks.

Stogie Joe Guitars are traditional 3 and 4-string boxes tuned to open G, open E, or open D. Fitted with medium/medium nickel-silver frets and a jumbo zero fret for effortless action. But the secret is in the electronics. They prefer humbucker pickups (dual blade or traditional) because a pickup sounds its best with as few items between the output jack and the amp. That is why their guitars have just one thing: **A volume knob.** Pure. Raw. Unfiltered.

Easy to Learn. Impossible to Put Down.

Whether you are a beginner looking for a fun entry point or a seasoned pro wanting a new voice, cigar box guitars are surprisingly easy to play. They force you to stop overthinking and start feeling.

We thank Stogie Joe Cigar Box Guitars and Dave Plekkenpol for this truly one of a kind donation!

www.stogiejoeguitars.com

Since 2002, PSPaudioware has released [a plethora well-regarded of audio processors](#). PSPaudioware's mastering grade plug-ins, dynamics processors, and lauded creative effects have become must-haves in project and professional studios across the world.

From their earliest days, PSPaudioware has been focused on quality and musicality. Their mission statement, core value, and motto has always been simple:

"It's the sound that counts!"

PSPaudioware's dedication to delivering high quality processors at affordable prices suitable for the both the professional and the enthusiast continues to win them accolades and grow their user base through word of mouth, stellar reviews, personal appearances at trade shows, and participation in community forums - and they're just getting started!

Thank you to PSP Audioware for your gift of 3 bundles to our raffle. www.pspaudioware.com





RAFFLE TICKETS – GET YOURS TODAY!

Now that you've learned about all of our incredible sponsors and the amazing prizes they've generously donated, it's time for you to get in on the action! By purchasing raffle tickets, you're not only supporting these fantastic sponsors—you're also helping to keep the ISSA Summit **FREE** for artists year after year.

If you haven't purchased tickets yet, **here's your chance**. And if you've already grabbed some, here's your chance to **up your odds** and buy even more! Every ticket brings you closer to winning professional-grade gear, software, and goodies that can elevate your music career.

All you have to do is **visit the Summit Registration Table inside the Conference Room** and let our team know you want to purchase raffle tickets. It's that simple!

- **\$1 for 1 ticket** – It's a no-brainer!
- **\$5 for 7 tickets** – Great value!
- **\$10 for 15 tickets** – Double your fun!
- **\$20 for 40 tickets** – This is the sweet spot!
- **\$50 for 125 tickets** – Go big or go home!

Don't wait—tickets are limited and going fast!

Visit the Registration Table today and take your shot at winning these incredible prizes. Every purchase directly supports the ISSA Summit and helps us continue providing this amazing experience to songwriters everywhere.

Good luck, and may the odds be ever in your favor!

Thank you for supporting the ISSA Summit and our wonderful sponsors. We couldn't do this without you! 🎸