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EMERGING ARTISTS SHOWCASE LOOKING FOR UNSIGNED TALENT FOR 5TH ANNUAL SEA LEVEL SINGER/SONGWRITER FESTIVAL CONTEST ON APRIL 7

NORFOLK, Va. – (January 2012) – Tidewater Arts Outreach invites unsigned singer/songwriters to showcase their work during the 5th Annual Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival hitting Ghent April 5-7. The festival kicks off with a concert by Grammy Award-winning artist Shelby Lynne at the Naro Cinema, 1507 Colley Avenue on April 5. The Festival includes a weekend of performances, street busking, guitar raffle, Instruments of Art and the Emerging Artist Showcase.

The festival is accepting submissions of original music by unsigned artists of all ages who live within 100 miles of Norfolk. Anyone interested in participating can review entry rules, pay the \$25 entry fee and upload their music at TWartsoutreach.org. Entries must be submitted by March 1, 2012.

The top ten semifinalists will perform one song each at the Emerging Artist Showcase, a live concert on April 7 at the Chrysler Museum Kaufman Theatre. 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 of \$25 by March 1, 2012
- Be able to appear live in Norfolk on April 7.

Proceeds from the event support Tidewater Arts Outreach. Event sponsors include Sinclair Communications, Norfolk Economic Development Authority, Office Furniture Outlet, River Notes House Concerts of Norfolk, Kaufman & Canoles and Old Point National Bank.

Tidewater Arts Outreach is a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 to bring music and arts to hospitals, retirement homes, rehabilitation centers, homeless shelters and other facilities throughout Hampton Roads. These performances and programs promote human interaction, happiness and healing for people who have limited access to the arts due to health, economic or social circumstances. In 2011, more than 7,000 people were reached through Tidewater Arts Outreach programs. Tidewater Arts Outreach supports the spirit of empathy and caring in the music and arts community, and more than 237 artists have participated in its programs. For more info, visit TWartsoutreach.org.

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