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**EMERGING ARTISTS GET SPOTLIGHT AT 3rd ANNUAL SEA LEVEL  
SINGER/SONGWRITER FESTIVAL CONTEST APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>**

NORFOLK, Va. – Tidewater Arts Outreach will shine the light on emerging singer/songwriters and showcase their work during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival hitting Ghent April 8-11. The festival kicks off with a concert at the Naro Cinema, 1507 Colley Avenue, by international recording artist Ben Taylor, son of James Taylor and Carly Simon. The full schedule of performers, locations and times will be available at TWartsoutreach.org.

The festival accepted more than 40 submissions of original work for the Emerging Artist Showcase that will feature the top 10 semifinalists for a live performance on April 10 at 37<sup>th</sup> & Zen in Norfolk. At the Emerging Artist Showcase, three finalists will be chosen by a panel of judges to perform a second song and based on these performances an overall winner will be announced. The winner will be invited to be interviewed by Hunter Hughes on *Hunter at Sunrise* (WHRV HD3) and/or Paul Shugrue on *Out of the Box* (WHRV FM 89.5).

To qualify, each singer/songwriter had to:

- Live within 100 miles of Norfolk, VA
- Not have released a full length album
- Upload two MP3 files and submit an entry fee
- Be able to appear live in Norfolk on April 10.

Proceeds from the event support Tidewater Arts Outreach. Event sponsors include WalMart, BOB FM, 96X, US106.1, WNIS and WTAR; Office Furniture Outlet; Old Point National Bank; TowneBank, Brydges, Geroe, Rosenblatt and O'Brien; and the Ghent Business Association.

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 2009, more than 5,300 people were reached through 230 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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**Tidewater Arts Outreach**

The instruments to heal are in our hands.