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**5th ANNUAL SEA LEVEL SINGER/SONGWRITER FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5-7  
*Shelby Lynne opens with concert at the Naro on April 5***

NORFOLK, Va. – (January 2012) – Tidewater Arts Outreach will present the 5th Annual [Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival](#) April 5 – 7, 2012. Grammy award-winning artist Shelby Lynne will headline the kick-off concert at Naro Expanded Cinema, 1507 Colley Avenue, Norfolk on April 5. The doors open at 6 p.m. for general admission seating, and the show will start at 7:30 p.m.

Shelby Lynne is a genre-defying American singer/ songwriter with 13 albums to her credit. With the critical success and recognition of her 1999 album *I Am Shelby Lynne*, she was awarded the Best New Artist Grammy Award in 2000. Her high-charting 2008 album *Just a Little Lovin'* paid tribute to Dusty Springfield and established Lynne's talents as a song interpreter as well as a writer. She has since started her own independent record label, Everso Records, and has released three albums: *Tears, Lies and Alibis*, *Merry Christmas* and *Revelation Road*.

Her appearance at the Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival is part of her first-ever international solo acoustic tour that will mirror the intimacy of her latest release, ***Revelation Road***, which has appeared on numerous top 10 lists of 2011. *MOJO*, *Uncut* and *AmericanSongwriter.com* each awarded ***Revelation Road*** four stars.

Seth Stainback will open the show. He was a 2010 Emerging Artist Showcase finalist and an International Blue Challenge finalist chosen to compete in Memphis Jan 31-Feb 4, 2012. Additional information is available at [SethStainback.com](http://SethStainback.com)

Tickets for the kick-off concert are \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the show. Tickets can be purchased at [TWartsOutreach.org](http://TWartsOutreach.org). The weekend of events includes other local venue concerts, street musicians, arts and music workshops, and more in Ghent and beyond.

**EMERGING ARTIST SHOWCASE**

The Emerging Artist Showcase features the top 10 winners of the Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival songwriting competition. The Showcase is a popular event that has played to capacity crowds each year and this year's event will be held at the Kaufman Theatre in the Chrysler Museum of Art on Saturday, April 7. Area songwriters will perform their songs live, and the winners receive local radio and TV airtime, recording session time and more. Musicians must upload two songs and lyrics by March 1. Entry details can be found at [TWartsOutreach.org](http://TWartsOutreach.org).

**INSTRUMENTS OF ART SILENT AUCTION**

Regional visual artists will create works of art on musical instruments that will be for sale during a silent auction. Most artwork will be \$250 or less, but a range of work is available for purchase. The silent

auction kicks off with a reception on March 22, and the Instruments of Art will be on display at NYFO Boutique in Norfolk for several weeks prior to the Festival. Final bids will be accepted on April 7.

### **MERRILL GUITAR GIVEAWAY**

Merrill & Company, known worldwide for fine handmade vintage-quality guitars, is creating a work of art for the Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival. This custom-built guitar is made of rare curly spalted mango from Hawaii on the back and sides, ancient redwood top, Adirondack spruce braces, custom hand-carved mahogany neck and ebony fingerboard. This one-of-a-kind instrument would retail for \$9,995, but a lucky \$10 ticket holder will win the guitar. Only 1,500 opportunities will be sold. Tickets are available at [TWartsoutreach.org](http://TWartsoutreach.org), and the winner will be announced during the festival in April.

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 and Kaufman & Canoles.

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](http://TWartsOutreach.org).

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