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**BEN TAYLOR OPENS 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SEA LEVEL SINGER/SONGWRITER FESTIVAL  
APRIL 8 AT NARO EXPANDED CINEMA**

NORFOLK, Va. – (March 2010) – Tidewater Arts Outreach announces the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Annual Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival** in Ghent April 8-10. The festival kicks off with a concert at the Naro Expanded Cinema, 1507 Colley Avenue, by international recording artist Ben Taylor, son of James Taylor and Carly Simon.

Ben Taylor is known for memorable melodies, immaculate acoustic guitar playing and insightful, honest lyrics. He has created his own genre of music described as Kung Folk, which balances his incredible music legacy with humor and of course skill. Taylor has produced four CDs – *Famous Among the Barns*, *Another Run Around the Sun*, *Deeper Than Gravity* and his latest, *The Legend of Kung Folk Part I (The Killing Bite)*.

Tickets for the kick off concert are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at the Naro Cinema, Naro Video and online at TWartsoutreach.org. Doors open at 6:30, and the concert starts at 7:30 pm.

Local favorite singer/songwriter Julie Clark opens the show. Clark has stepped into the national spotlight and is the winner of the National Equality March Song Contest, winner of the Kerrville New Folk Competition, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in the Great American Song Contest and winner of Best Audience Response at the Cornucopia Music Festival. Her newest CD is titled *Change Your Mind*.

The Sea Level Singer/Songwriter Festival features happy hour and dinner performances by regional musicians in Ghent restaurants and establishments throughout the weekend. Other activities include **Instruments of Art**, an exhibit and silent auction featuring embellished guitars and other musical instruments, **street musicians** and the **Emerging Artist Showcase** featuring regional singer/songwriters on April 10 at 37<sup>th</sup> & Zen in Norfolk. A complete schedule of concerts and events will be posted on TWartsoutreach.org.

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; 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.