

## And Now We Are Five

It was five years ago now that the first issue of *Wing Words* appeared at OVFF. We've covered an array of topics related to the Pegasus Awards and we hope that those of you who have been reading have enjoyed the experience.

If there's anything that **you'd** like to hear about, please let us know. You can always contact us at our mailing address, conveniently located just under our logo (by the lovely and talented Debbie Ridpath Ohi) one column to your right.

If you're interested in reading **any** of our back issues, we expect to have them all up on the Pegasus website some time soon. (Or perhaps that should be Real Soon Now. We'll see.)

## Another Opening, Another Show

If you've picked this up early on Friday at OVFF, then there's still time for you to catch the Pegasus Nominees Concert tonight. This is your best chance to hear all of the nominated songs in a single setting and it's always entertaining to see how someone is going to approach a particular song, especially when it's someone who isn't the person best known for performing it.

Yes, at the Pegasus Nominees Concert, you may know **what** you're going to hear. **Who** you're going to hear is another problem altogether, but we're always confident that it's going to be something that you'll enjoy listening to – and so far, we haven't been disappointed!

Once you've heard all of the songs, you've still got time to fill out your ballot and submit it in the handy ballot box for the Pegasus committee to count. (And count, and count, late into the night. But sleep is for the weak and sickly...)

So come on by the concert and then vote.

And isn't it nice not to have to vote for the lesser of two evils?



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## Floating Into View

Meanwhile, the OVFF committee has let us know what the floating categories are for the Pegasus Awards in 2013, information that we are now happy to pass along to you.

The first of the floating categories is "Best Fairytale Song". This seems to be remarkably self-explanatory, although we suspect that the boundaries of "fairytale" may become stretched somewhere during the brainstorming process. On the other hand, it can't be any worse than the suggestion of *Beacon Men of Gondor* in the "Best Torch Song Category".

The second floating category is "Best Alien Song". Since – to the best of our knowledge! – there are no actual aliens **writing** filk songs, our best guess is that this category calls for the best song **about** aliens.

The happy news is that there should be plenty of songs that fit these categories and are eligible to win a Pegasus Award. We're not sure exactly when the Brainstorming Poll will be opening up on the Pegasus website, but we're looking forward to your suggestions.

You wouldn't want to disappoint us now, would you?

## Ask Peggy!

Once again, it's time to dip into our burgeoning mailbag to answer another burning question about the Pegasus Awards. Today's question comes from A. Filker in Minneapolis who asks:

"Why don't any of the songs that I really like get nominated for a Pegasus Award?"

Well, that's a good question. And the answer is complex, so let's start at the beginning.

The Pegasus Awards are given out by the filk community to **members** of the filk community. As community awards, there isn't a panel of judges sitting to decide which songs are worthy and which ones aren't. Instead, it's the aggregate opinions of a bunch of like-minded individuals that eventually get a song onto the Pegasus ballot.

It all starts with the Brainstorming Poll on the Pegasus website. Most of the songs that end up being nominated for a Pegasus Award appear first in the Brainstorming Poll. (Songwriters can also suggest their own songs in the Composers Picks section of the website.)

Anyone can suggest as many songs as they want to in the Brainstorming Poll, sending as many submissions to our webmaster as they need to cover all of the songs that they think deserve to be nominated.

Now, if you are a big fan of J. Random Filksinger, you may be tempted to suggest all of his or her songs. This is **probably** counterproductive. By listing a great many songs in a relatively indiscriminate way, you make it harder for other people to locate the songs that you really think are the **best**. And if there are a great many songs by J. Random in the Brainstorming Poll and people are looking there for ideas, it may tend to spread out J. Random's votes on the Nominating Ballot. And having fifty songs come in on the Nominating Ballot with two votes each doesn't exactly make it easy

for one of J. Random's songs to land on the Final Ballot – which is, we presume, what you'd like to see happen.

So while discrimination may be bad, **being** discriminating is a good thing in this case.

Let's talk about the Nominating Ballot. Here, you only get to vote for five songs per category and you only get to vote once. **Your** vote isn't going to get a song onto the ballot by itself. Somebody else – **many** somebody elses – are going to need to nominate it too.

Now, one way to encourage this may be to sit down with a bunch of your friends, talk through what songs you think ought to be on the ballot, and then you all end up sending in a lot of similar ballots. If your group is large enough, that may well be enough to get a song onto the ballot.

We'd like to suggest a slightly different approach, one that's made easier by the fairly ubiquitous presence of "Social Media" in modern society.

Blog about it. Or post about it on Facebook. You can even Tweet about it, although it may be hard to say anything more substantial than "Vote for X" in a Tweet, which really isn't very informative.

Yes, we know that electioneering for yourself is gauche. But we think that it's a different situation when you're posting a thoughtful critique of someone **else's** song and why it should be nominated for a Pegasus Award. There are a lot of songs out there that are eligible for a Pegasus and **nobody** knows all of them.

So why don't you tell us about them? Tell us what it is that's special about this song that means that it should win a Pegasus Award.

We'd like to know more.

And maybe your favorite song gets nominated.