

And We're Back!

So here we are again, frantically typing just in advance of GAFilk, because we promised to try to get four issues of this newsletter out in 2011 and it simply **will not happen** unless we manage to get one out **now**.

Sleep is, after all, for the weak and sickly.

I'm Having a Brainstorm!

The 2011 Pegasus Brainstorming poll will soon be open. That means that it will be time to think about generating ideas for Pegasus-worthy songs, writers, and performers in the various categories.

And we **encourage** you to think with a minimal level of self-censorship, because – after all – isn't that what brainstorming is all about? That said, here are some things you might like to have in the back of your mind while doing so.

Our hardworking webmaster has made an effort to list every song that has ever been nominated for a Pegasus Award on our website. **Some** of those songs have not yet won a Pegasus Award, nor have they been on the ballot in the previous two years, so they're eligible to be nominated again. Take a look – you may find a golden oldie that's just waiting to be brainstormed for a new generation.

You may be sitting in a filk circle and hear something brand new that blows your socks off. If you're one of those fortunate souls with a smartphone or an iPod Touch or the like that can connect to the Internet from the filk room, then you can submit a brainstorming poll **right then**. You can



The Occasional Newsletter of the Pegasus Awards
Volume 4, Number 2
wingwords@ovff.org

submit as many brainstorming polls as you want, so sending one in that has just one song on it isn't an **evil** thing – it just means more mail for our hardworking webmaster.

And the same applies to performers and songwriters. If you hear something that you like and that you think is Pegasus-worthy, then you can brainstorm them. If they're a filker, they're eligible unless they've been on the ballot in the category for the last two years or have won it in the last five years. If that's too much trouble to sort out, brainstorm them anyway, because cleaning that up is **our** job.

So where does the self-censorship come in? If twenty different people brainstorm twenty different songs, that says something interesting. If **you** dump twenty songs by Filker X into the brainstorming poll, you're more likely to **hurt** their chances of getting a song nominated than to help them, because the nominating votes of the folks who like their songs get split up. It's better to brainstorm the songs that you think are the strongest. Simple, no?

Me? Yeah, I'm Bad-Ass!

If we understand correctly, the first floating Pegasus category for this year is "Best Bad-Ass Song". We looked at this and **immediately** asked the OVFF committee for an exemplar, because we were a bit confused. They suggested Jim Croce's "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown". Ok, despite the fact that Leroy is in pieces on the floor at the end of the song, we can work with that.

Digging through the list of past winners, we see that "Signy Mallory" is bad ass. "Arthur Curry" wishes that he was. And while "March of Cambreadth" feels like a bad-ass song, we find ourselves looking for an individual bad ass in it.

We'll be watching the brainstorming poll on this one with great interest.

I'm a Lover, Not a Fighter

The second floating Pegasus category for this year is "Best Romantic Song". Ok, this one we got the idea on right away.

And then we went looking for examples among past Pegasus winners. Hmm. "Mary O'Meara", yes, tragically so. "My Jalapeno Man", well, sort of in a humorous way. "Superman's Sex Life Boogie", no, we're sorry, no. Not romantic. Nor, we think, is "PQR". Unless you're into that sort of thing, we suppose. Sexy, maybe. Romantic, not so much.

Despite – or perhaps because of – the thin pickings for songs that fit this category among past Pegasus winners, we think there are a lot of romantic filk songs that will do nicely here. How about you?

Ask Peggy!

We dive into our burgeoning mailbag and emerge with a letter from I.M. Baffled in Des Plaines IL who asks: "How are the floating Pegasus categories selected?"

That's a good question, I.M. The short answer is that they're picked by the OVFF committee, but there's a bit more to it than that.

The OVFF committee takes suggestions from the Pegasus committee. They also take suggestions from members of the filk community, so **you** might be the one to suggest the next great floating category.

When devising a floating category, one test for whether or not it's a good one is to see if you can quickly name five or more songs **by different composers** that you think fit in the category and are potentially Pegasus-worthy. If you can't think of that many songs, then the category may be too narrowly drawn to be a good choice.

The OVFF committee frequently selects mirror categories for the floaters in any given year. Thus, we have this year's "Best Bad-Ass Song" and "Best Romantic Song", or 2009's "A Little Bit Country" and "A Little Bit Rock and Roll". That's not a hard and fast rule, but being able to pair your suggested category off doesn't hurt any.

Next Issue

We'll be leaping forward into nominating season. In the meantime, you can always write us at:

wingwords@ovff.org