

Here We Go Again!

Welcome back to Wing Words as we enter our second year. As you look to the right, you'll see our snazzy new logo, gifted to us by the talented Debbie Ridpath Ohi. Thanks, Debbie!

We'll be covering some of the same material that we did last year, simply because there's the usual cycle of the Pegasus Awards year that needs to be honored. But there will be new material too, as we look at some more of the history of the Pegasus Awards, so keep an eye out for us!

Wrapping Up the Year

As we write this, we're looking forward to OVFF. On-line voting for the Pegasus Awards will be wrapping up in advance of the convention, made easier by the on-line lyrics and MP3s on the Pegasus website. Friday, we'll be listening to the Pegasus Concert at OVFF and casting our own ballots. After that, the Pegasus committee will head off to count the ballots late into the night so that they can get the names of the winners to the engravers the next morning.

On Saturday evening, there's the Pegasus Awards banquet where all of the results will be revealed. It's always entertaining to see the reactions of the winners – more than one of whom has been known to look completely gobsmacked by the whole thing.

And then we start it all over again with two new floating categories and the four fixed categories, as we collect your suggestions in the Pegasus Brainstorming Poll and the Composers' Picks, followed by the nominating ballot, and then the final ballot.

That was fast! I would have sworn that we hadn't yet given out the awards for **this** year.

Oh, wait! We haven't.

Off to the banquet then!



The Occasional Newsletter of the Pegasus Awards
Volume 2, Number 1
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Doing a Little Brainstorming

Later this year, the Pegasus Brainstorming Poll will be back up on the Pegasus website. It turns out that this is a **very** important part of the whole process, because a lot of folks give the brainstorming results a good long look when they're getting ready to fill out their nominating ballots. A song, composer, or performer that's been mentioned on the Brainstorming Poll has a better chance of getting nominated than one that hasn't.

You can submit as many Brainstorming Polls as you want. If you hear someone or something that you like at OVFF, or another convention, or at a house sing, let everyone know about it. It's nice if you know the proper title of the song, but even **that's** not strictly necessary if we can figure out what you meant from what you entered in the poll.

By the way, much as you may like "Filker X", please don't brainstorm his whole catalog. We'd like to know what you think his **best** work is.

There are a **lot** of fine songs out there – certainly more songs than any one of us knows. By putting our heads together, we increase the sum of our collective knowledge. And that's what the Brainstorming Poll is all about.

A Little Bit Country

Unless we're thrown a last minute curve ball by the OVFF committee, one of the floating categories for next year is "A Little Bit Country". Unlike some of the floating categories in the past, we think this one's pretty transparent. What we're looking for is a filk song that's in the country style and that may – or may not – be country themed.

To pick an example from found filk, look at "Benson, Arizona", the theme from the movie **Dark Star**. It's definitely in the country style, it definitely plays to country themes (with an outer space bent), and it's certainly been popular. We wouldn't recommend nominating it, as it's a commercial song, but – if it weren't for that – we'd think it was a fine choice.

It's always interesting to look back through past Pegasus winners and see what might fit the current floating categories. In the case of **this** category, it seems a little thin, with the most "country" song we can find being Michael Longcor's "Shooting Star". There have been a **lot** of country-style songs nominated from time to time – but we'll let **you** prowl the older Pegasus nominees to find them.

And A Little Bit Rock and Roll

And here's the second of the floating categories for 2009. As happens frequently with the floating categories, they're linked together – in this case, through a song performed by Donny and Marie Osmond. Don't hold that against the poor categories – it's not **their** fault.

There are a **lot** of filk songs that could be given a full rock and roll treatment and sound just right. And, of course, some have. For our example here, let's pick Ookla the Mok's "Arthur Curry" from the list of past winners – although it would certainly be interesting to hear some of the other past winners if they were "rocked up". Which ones do **you** think it would be fun to hear given that sort of treatment?

Ask Peggy!

And now we begin our occasional feature where our readers write in with their questions about the Pegasus Awards and Peggy A. Ward, our expert on the subject, lets you know what's what.

Our first question comes from A. Filker in Wapakoneta, Ohio who writes:

"How do I get nominated for a Pegasus Award?"

First, A – do you mind if I call you "A"? – you need to be writing and performing filk. We understand that there's some confusion around this area, so let us try to address it here.

If you **tell us** that you're not a filker, then we're going to take you at your word. So Weird Al Yankovic doesn't self-identify as a filker and he – and his work – aren't eligible for a Pegasus Award. We're pretty sure that Weird Al doesn't feel deprived by this.

There are other forms of fannish music that clearly overlap with filk, such as dementia (named after the sort of novelty music that appears on the Dr. Demento Show). There is nothing to prevent someone from nominating dementia songs for the Pegasus Award and if a song is popular enough in the filk community, it may get enough votes to make the ballot. Unless the nominated composer makes it clear that he's **not** a filker, that nomination is likely to stand.

If you've got songs that you think are worthy of a Pegasus Award, you can always submit them to the Composers' Picks section of the Pegasus website. And if enough people are familiar with them and think they're deserving, they may just get nominated.

But in the end, the answer to the question is the same as to that other old question, "How do I get to Carnegie Hall?" Practice, practice, practice. And we'll see what happens.