

# LCA's LawSmarts

## Songwriting and Song Rights



Saturday, April 14th

12:30–2:30 p.m.

Old Town School of Folk Music  
4544 N. Lincoln Ave.

Please join [Lawyers for the Creative Arts](#) and the [Old Town School of Folk Music](#) for an exclusive workshop on songwriting, ownership, and publishing.

### Featuring

#### Steve Dawson

Leader, Dolly Varden  
Guitar and songwriting instructor, Old Town School

#### Peter J. Strand

Partner, Leavens Strand & Glover

Steve and Peter will lead a discussion on the creative process and legal and business steps to protect your song rights.



[Register Here](#)

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## Songwriting and Song Rights



Please join [Lawyers for the Creative Arts](#) and the [Old Town School of Folk Music](#) for an exclusive workshop on songwriting, ownership and publishing. Featuring Old Town School's own [Steve Dawson](#), and long-time entertainment lawyer and music advocate, [Peter Strand](#), you're sure to get on the right track in your songwriting sessions.

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Steve and Peter will lead a discussion on the creative process and legal and business steps to make money from your work.

What exactly makes up a song?

Is every musician in the band or the session room a songwriter?

What terms are essential between co-writers in a song-splits agreement?

Who administers a song catalog with multiple writers/publishers?

What are the options to self-distribute your songs?

Any advantages to setting up your own publishing company?

Do you need to register songs with the Copyright Office?

What about ASCAP, SESAC and BMI? SoundExchange? Harry Fox?

Do you need permission to play or record other artists' songs?

Don't miss this opportunity to hear directly what goes into discussions between writers on how to divide up ownership and publishing rights.

## About Our Speakers:

[Steve Dawson](#) has been a musician and songwriter for more than 30 years, most prominently as leader of the rock/folk band Dolly Varden, which has released six acclaimed studio albums, and has toured all across the US and Europe. As a solo artist, Steve has released the albums “Sweet Is The Anchor” (Undertow, 2006) and “I Will Miss The Trumpets And The Drums” (Undertow, 2010). He is also a guitarist and vocalist for the renowned jazz-flavored Funeral Bonsai Wedding group, featuring three of the most revered musicians in the improvisational jazz world: Jason Adasiewicz, Frank Rosaly, and Jason Roebke.

Since 2006, Steve has taught songwriting classes and guitar at Chicago’s legendary Old Town School of Folk Music. He also operates the recording studio Kernel Sound Emporium, where he has produced more than two dozen albums by up-and-coming songwriters. In 2016, Steve co-authored the book “Take it to the Bridge,” about unlocking the creative potential to write moving songs. He draws inspiration from the music of California, Idaho, and Chicago.

[Peter J. Strand](#) is a partner at the entertainment, media, and intellectual property law firm Leavens, Strand & Glover in Chicago. He is the Chair-Elect of the ABA Forum on the Entertainment and Sports Industries and a longstanding Member of the Board of Lawyers for the Creative Arts, and a previous recipient Thomas R. Leavens Award recipient for distinguished service to LCA.

Peter represents content creators and providers including authors, songwriters, composers, recording artists, musicians, television and film writers, independent record labels, music publishers, independent film producers, documentarians, and production companies in various transactional and litigation matters in the entertainment industry. Peter has served in several leadership positions for the Chicago Chapter of the Recording Academy, including National Trustee, President, Vice President, Chapter Governor. Before becoming an attorney, he played and recorded as a full time touring musician with several bands, including recording two albums for RCA/Millennium Records.

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## Questions? Please contact:

[Marci Rolnik Walker](#), Lawyers for the Creative Arts

[Kim Davis](#), The Old Town School of Folk Music