

NEWS RELEASE
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EveningsWithSongwriter.com

Ninth Season for Lockhart Library Songwriter Series

(Lockhart) Historic Dr. Eugene Clark Library kicks off the ninth season of its *Evenings with the Songwriter*, featuring John Baumann on Tuesday, January 29, 7:00pm. Hosted by Lockhart songwriter Fletcher Clark, the series occurs on this last Tuesday of the month and is free to the public.

Like a handful of his similarly compelling peers, John Baumann has the gift of writing smart songs about folks making dumb decisions. He tempers his youthful gusto with a well-traveled eye for detail, dignity, and world-weariness. His voice isn't huge in range or volume, but there's a lend-me-your-ears earnestness in it that makes it easy to enjoy provocative numbers about stormy-skulled loners who aren't sure if they got sucker-punched in the parking lot or just hit the ground due to their own bad habits. He can wax pessimistic about an ex's marital prospects, poke fun at the small-town fundamentalists, or even lampoon his own wish for good luck to fall in his lap, without sounding vindictive, smug, or even pessimistic.

Hailed as a 'Texas Troubadour on the Rise', John Baumann released his fourth studio album PROVING GROUNDS to an eager fanbase in June 2017. The project included the buzz-worthy track 'Old Stone Church' in which Baumann digs deep into his experience of losing his father to cancer, rightfully earning its spot onto Saving Country Music's "Best Songs of 2017" list. Lonestar Magazine raved, "Too soon for accolades? Nah. More like right on time. And so long as he keeps gunning for the horizon... there oughta be a lot more of 'em coming down the line!"

John has a decidedly local connection – his grandmother Jodie King is one of Lockhart's leading citizens. "On a last Tuesday in 2017 when Bill Oliver was my guest, Jodie was there to support her old friend (I was delighted to find out)," said host Fletcher Clark. "She told me about John's

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career taking off, so I gave his songs a listen. I have had plenty of friends and colleagues as guests who are seasoned veterans, but I always enjoy sitting down with someone younger in the earlier part of his or her career.”

Evenings with the Songwriter was born in 2010, after songwriter Fletcher Clark attended a lecture at Lockhart’s historic library by a local author where he was inspired by the idea of following the path of creative works. “I asked Library Director Bertha Martinez if I could make a similar presentation focusing on songwriting as a literary form,” said Clark. “After my first evening solo, I began inviting colleagues to join me in ‘exploring the art and craft of songwriting’.” *Friends of the Song* supporters made it possible to reach out to a wider range of artists - not just Texas singer-songwriters, but European artists touring Texas and the United States, Nashville songwriters seeking relief from the humdrum professional routine there, upcoming new artists, and returning previous guests updating their continuing careers.

In its first eight years, *Evenings with the Songwriter* has featured scores of celebrated artists, including such luminaries as Shake Russell, Tish Hinojosa, Vince Bell, Butch Hancock, Christine Albert, Dana Cooper, Susan Gibson, Rex Foster, Eric Taylor, Shelley King, and Walt Wilkins. This Ninth Season will continue with Purly Gates, Danny Santos, John Ims, Emily Gimble, Scooter Pearce, Eric Gerber, Caroline Aiken, Hogan & Moss, Susan Lindfors Taylor, and Jack Pledge. “*Evenings with the Songwriter* is not really a performance nor an interview nor a song swap nor a lecture, but elements of all. ‘Exploring ‘the art and craft of songwriting’ in this way and in this special place is a very different experience for these songwriters,” says Clark.

The Dr. Eugene Clark Library Lyceum is the oldest continually operating library building in Texas. Its ambiance offers a special intimacy for *Evenings with the Songwriter*, appreciated by audience and guests alike. The series is presented to the public free of charge on the last Tuesday of the month (except December), thanks to City of Lockhart Library Director Bertha Martinez and her staff. Support comes from local *Friends of the Song* sponsors Todd Blomerth & Patti Payne, Donaly & Clare Brice, and Robert & Esther Wilson.

Additional information available at EveningsWithSongwriter.com and on Facebook.