

By: Senator(s) Tate, McCaughn, Barnett,  
Horhn, Thomas

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 71

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING CULTURAL  
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI SONGWRITERS ALLIANCE OVER THE  
3 LAST 15 YEARS AND WELCOMING REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS ASSOCIATION TO  
4 THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE.

5 WHEREAS, Mississippi is the birthplace of many forms of music  
6 performed in the United States and internationally and we join the  
7 organizations in support of Mississippi's music heritage in  
8 honoring the outstanding accomplishments of the Mississippi  
9 Songwriters Alliance over the last 15 years:

10 • Fifteen festivals with over 200 songwriters performing in  
11 10 venues;

12 • Workshops during each festival so that local talent can  
13 learn from accomplished writers;

14 • Four showcase events throughout the year featuring  
15 professional writers, in local venues, along with local talent;

16 • The monthly Songs and Stories live show at the Mary C.  
17 O'Keefe Cultural Center which draws around 100 people each month.  
18 The show is free to the public, and the Alliance has 108 shows;



- 19 • Documentary by Mississippi Public Broadcast which aired in  
20 2015;
- 21 • Over 125 hours of footage to use for the documentary;
- 22 • The 2014 festival expanded to include two venues in  
23 Pascagoula as well as the venues in Ocean Springs;
- 24 • The 2017 festival expanded to include two venues in  
25 Gautier as well as the venues in Ocean Springs;
- 26 • In 2019, the Alliance created the Mississippi Songwriters  
27 Hall of Fame. Since then, the Alliance has inducted Paul  
28 Overstreet, Jimmy Buffett, Mac McAnally, Tommy Barnes, B.B. King,  
29 Craig Wiseman, Robert Johnson, Tammy Wynette, Glen Ballard, and  
30 others;
- 31 • In 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024, through partnership with  
32 the City of Gautier, the Alliance received legislative funding to  
33 build the Mississippi Songwriters Performing Arts Center building  
34 in Gautier, Mississippi. The building will house the Mississippi  
35 Songwriters Hall of Fame as well as a state-of-the-art recording  
36 studio which will be open to the public;
- 37 • MSA for Veterans is a program where the Alliance partners  
38 with the VA provide songwriting as a form of therapy to veterans.  
39 We go to the VA in Biloxi once a month to provide entertainment  
40 for veterans;
- 41 • Ambassador Program that provides live music for events in  
42 Jackson County throughout the year free of charge. This program  
43 allows the Alliance to give back to communities. The Alliance



Ambassador Program provides live music for the Jackson County Fair annually;

- MSA's education program, Mississippi Music Arts Therapy (MMAT), allows the organization to go into local schools and share the craft of songwriting. MSA has plans to take this program statewide. MSA donates musical instruments to schools so that students can further their learning of songwriting. MSA's songwriting education program has been implemented in Ocean Springs Middle School, East Central Upper Elementary, East Central Middle School, Vancleave Upper Elementary, St. Martin Middle School, Resurrection Catholic School, Long Beach High School, Lighthouse School for Dyslexia, and St. Martin Upper Elementary. MSA also partners with the Mississippi Library Commission to bring MMAT into libraries across the state. This year, MSA gave the third annual Reggie Bates scholarship to a MGCCC student pursuing a degree in music or broadcasting;

- In 2022, MSA partnered with the country of Sweden to have a songwriter exchange program. MSA sent three songwriters to a festival in Sweden, and they sent four songwriters to perform at the MSA festival;

- In 2024, MSA partnered with Norway to have a songwriter exchange program. MSA sent three songwriters to the MSA 2024 festival. MSA is planning on sending three songwriters to Norway in 2025;



68           • MSA has expanded across the state to host regional  
69 festivals. MSA had its festival in Oxford in March of 2024 (Hills  
70 Edition), and MSA will have its third festival in May of 2025 in  
71 Cleveland (Delta Edition). In July, MSA will have its third  
72 festival in Meridian (Pines Edition), and in January 2026, MSA  
73 will have its first festival in Natchez (Capital River Edition).  
74 In September, MSA will host its 16th festival in Ocean Springs and  
75 Gautier (Coastal Edition); and

76           WHEREAS, in March 2024, House Bill No. 365 was signed into  
77 law, officially designating March as Mississippi Musicians Month.  
78 This month-long celebration invites all Mississippians to honor  
79 the musicians who have called this state home and to reflect on  
80 the enduring impact of their contributions to the music world.  
81 Mississippi's musical legacy is unparalleled, and Mississippi  
82 Musicians Month provides an opportunity for al of us to come  
83 together to celebrate the artists who have defined and continue to  
84 shape the world's musical landscape, including the musical  
85 heritage activities of the Mississippi Songwriters Alliance:

86           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
87 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the outstanding cultural  
88 accomplishments of the Mississippi Songwriters Alliance over the  
89 last 15 years and welcoming representatives of this association to  
90 the floor of the Senate.



91           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
92 the Mississippi Songwriters Alliance, forwarded to the Mississippi  
93 Arts Commission, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

