

Judges for NJ Idol 2012

Mark D. Conklin Songwriter/Producer/Manager

Mark D. Conklin is an award winning songwriter/producer/manager and the founder of Music City East, LLC, a full service entertainment and marketing company encompassing music production, publishing, artist development, management and consulting. (www.musiccityeast.com). Music City East's artist roster includes Singer/Songwriter and YouTube star, **Mree**. As well as emerging country recording artist and CMT's "Sweet Home Alabama" star, **Mike Short, Jr.** As a songwriter, Mark has had songs reach the Top Ten on the Billboard Blues Chart and Top 40 on the Billboard Indicator and Country Breakout Chart. He has won the Independent Music Award (IMA) for "Country Song of the Year" as well as a nomination for Producer of the "Country Album of the Year." Mark is the host/co-producer of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's "Nashville Hitmakers" series and the host of "The Stories Behind the Songs" on NJPAC Radio

Lou Takacs, Esq. Entertainment Attorney

Lou Takacs is an entertainment attorney/music industry executive with over 15 years of music industry experience. Lou has worked in the Sony Music Business Affairs Department, providing business affairs/legal services for Columbia & Epic Records, among other Sony Music divisions. Lou continued his career securing a position with one of the country's preeminent music law firms, representing, counseling and working with numerous platinum selling recording artists, producers, songwriters, indie & major record labels and publishers. After spending a few years in private practice, Lou returned to the recorded music industry and secured a position heading up the Business & Legal Affairs department at one of the Warner Music Group's independent distribution companies. Currently, Lou is Vice President, Business & Legal Affairs at the Warner Music Group, an adjunct professor at Rider University, teaching The Business/Art of Music Publishing, and also provides consulting/management services for various artists and songwriters.

Lisa Drew

Hit Songwriter

New Jersey native and hit songwriter **Lisa Drew** has written for some of Nashville's biggest artists. Her first #1 song, Jamie O'Neal's "There Is No Arizona", earned her a Grammy nomination for song of the year as well as ASCAP and NSAI best song awards. Her song "I Should Be Sleeping", Emerson Drive's debut single, reached #2 on Billboard's country chart. Since then she has been on the radio and the charts with songs recorded by Reba McEntire, Faith Hill, Martina McBride and numerous others. Her latest single, "If You Ever Get Lonely", currently an AC chart single for John Waite, was recently recorded by "Love and Theft" for their upcoming album on Lyric Street. She currently divides her time between Lake Mohawk in Sussex County and Nashville.

Lisa Coppola

Recording Artist

LISA has sung backing vocals with major label artists Billy Joel (with whom she appeared on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" and in his "All About Soul" video), Pat Dinizio of the Smithereens, Marshall Crenshaw, John Eddie, Glen Burtnik, and Mitch Malloy. In addition to this background singing, she has also done numerous jingles. Let's not forget she has been a member of New Jersey sweethearts "The Party Dolls" since she was first out of high school; sometimes full-time, sometimes filling in. Recently LISA has been a fill-in co-host on The Late Night With Johnny P Show, a rock and roll music variety show on New York Time Warner Cable and Verizon Fios.

LISA originally set out on her own as a solo artist, but LISA's and John Zonars' band BROAD and their album BROAD: HUMAN CONFLICT enjoyed a string of successes. They landed record distribution deals in the territories of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland through Hamburg, Germany's ArtBeat Records label through BMG/ARIS. The album was also distributed in Portugal through Fabrica/Movieplay Records. LISA and her band BROAD went on and did a wonderfully successful media/concert tour of Germany in support the record and were received with open arms by extremely enthusiastic German audiences. BROAD laid the groundwork for these successes by becoming one of New York's hottest live acts, playing regularly at such Manhattan staples as Brownies, A/k/a, Spiral, The Bitter End and also appearing at the World Cup Tournament at Giant's Stadium.