

CINDY MORGAN

Songwriting Master Class

From gospel to pop to Americana, Cindy Morgan is an insightful voice across musical genres as she has grown to become one of Nashville's acclaimed songwriters. An East Tennessee native, Morgan's evocative melodies and brilliant songwriting have poetically and prolifically mined the depths of life and love both in her own recording and through songwriting for noteworthy artists around the globe.

Coming off her her 2015 release, *Bows & Arrows* (Folk Album of the Year at the Canadian Covenant Awards), Morgan has moved through a significant season of loss and change which has proved to be rich soil for the soul and has led to the release of the 2019 EP *Autumn & Eve: Old Testament Volume I*. The first in a three-part series, listeners will find a familiarity and a freshness in the moody, Americana nature of Morgan's latest EP, as she explores the places where her own story meets the ancient stories. The songs infuse Old Testament struggles with modern day heartache. "Weight," the first single from the forthcoming EP, combines Morgan's signature vocals with a modern folk earnestness, and is available November 2018.

Nashville singer/songwriter Cindy Morgan is a two-time GRAMMY® nominee, a thirteen-time Dove winner, and a recipient of the prestigious Songwriter of the Year trophy. Morgan has 21 number one radio hits to her credit, and has penned songs for notable artists including David Archuleta, Vince Gill, India.Arie, TJ Shepherd, Rascal Flatts, Ricky Skaggs, Amy Grant, Glen Campbell, Mandisa, Natalie Grant, Michael W. Smith, Point of Grace, Brandon Heath, Britt Nicole, and Kris Allen, among many others. In 2017, Morgan's song "Bird in a Cage" was performed by Robert Redford and Sasha Lazard in the movie *Blind* starring Alec Baldwin and Demi Moore. Cindy has authored three books, *Barefoot on Barbed Wire* (Harvest House Publishers, 2001), *Dance Me Daddy* (HarperCollins, 2009), and her memoir, *How Could I Ask for More* (Worthy Inspired, 2015) in addition to being a co-creator of the charitable Hymns for Hunger Tour, which has raised awareness and resources for hunger relief organizations across the globe. For information visit cindymorganmusic.com



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SUMMARY FROM CINDY:

The experience of working with Songwriting majors at both Belmont University and Lipscomb University has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life as a writer. I have also had the opportunity to participate in leading writing retreats at universities and professional writing retreats across the country (Indianan Wesleyan University, Mercyland Writing Retreat, Gaither Writing Intensive, etc.) as workshops and retreats for Veterans with PTSD (Operation Song, Challenge America, Music for Military Sexual Trauma Victims, Music Therapy in the Rockies).

There is something powerful about being in a creative community, surrounded by other writers who are all reaching to be the very best writer they can be. It has challenged my own writing and taught me so much more about writing.

The process of leading a group of songwriters in a discovery process of their own is to me, a very sacred thing. In these sessions we explore finding your natural strengths as a writer, pushing the boundaries of your comfort zone. Challenging yourself with the use of language, creating co-writing community. Opportunities that exist for writers who are interested in pursuing it more seriously or even at a professional level.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE:

(PLEASE NOTE: We are able to customize Cindy's time to best fit the needs of your program.)

Morning Session (Topics for discussion)

- Your Creative Genius
- Emotional and Creative Intelligence
- Your Writing Voice

Breakout Session (Breakouts will consist of individual and group writing challenges)

Lunch

Afternoon Session 1 (Topics for discussion)

- Seeing Like a Writer
- Listening Like a Writer
- Instinctive Writing and Craftsmanship

Breakout Session

Afternoon Session 2 (Topics for discussion)

- Demos
- The Importance of Language Choice
- Metaphors are Money
- Mastering the Rewrite

Breakout Sessions (Rehearsal for Writers' Round)

Dinner

Soundcheck and Writers' Round (Each writer will participate in this performance)

(If there is an opportunity to perform at a school chapel service, one writer from this performance will be selected to perform with Cindy at the chapel service.)

NOTE: Cindy's cellist, Cara Fox, is also willing to offer a master class on commercial cello. Her qualifications are below.

Cara Fox is a cellist, multi-instrumentalist, and arranger in Nashville, TN. She has worked as a session musician and touring cellist since 2008. She has played on records for Michael W. Smith, Little Big Town, Ingrid Michelson, and Russell Dickerson. She has toured with GRAMMY-winning artist Sara Bareilles, and GRAMMY-nominated bands Gungor, Jars of Clay, All Sons & Daughters and more. She loves to help bring the sound and dreams of the artists she works with to life.

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ENDORSEMENTS:

“Cindy Morgan has been a valued member of the Songwriting faculty for many years teaching our core classes in Commercial Songwriting. She has also shared her keen insight by mentoring our senior level students. Cindy has a unique gift of bringing her wealth of experience as a songwriter and recording artist into the classroom. Students give Cindy excellent reviews on her teaching and we are fortunate to have her at Belmont.”

- James I. Elliott, Chair, Songwriting, Belmont University, Mike Curb School of Music

“Cindy was one of the first people that I thought of to help build and expand the program at Belmont University’s Songwriting Department. Her abilities to understand the artists perspective, write songs for artists other than herself, write songs for film and television, as well as her mastery of the craft itself, had her at the top of my list. Our students have thrived under her tutelage. She knows so many of the pitfalls and potential distractions that can get in the way of the creative process that she’s been able to train young songwriters to side-step those and they have no idea (yet) what a life-long gift that will turn out to be. Above and beyond Cindy Morgan the songwriter is the person. Her deep and diligent faith in God was an inspiration to me early on. Through the many turns and curveballs that life will present to all of us, I’ve seen her faith deepen and change. I cannot give a strong enough endorsement of my friend Cindy Morgan.”

- Drew Ramsey, Instructor of Songwriting, Belmont University, Mike Curb College of Entertainment and Music Business; Grammy Award winning songwriter and producer Emmy Award winning songwriter and producer; American Federation of Musicians 25-yr member National Academy of Arts and Sciences voting member Broadcast Music Incorporated member

“Cindy Morgan represents the best the world of music can offer in songwriting instruction. Besides being an award-winning songwriter, performer, and author, she’s a highly skilled and thoughtful educator, dedicated to passing on the craft of songwriting to those looking to enter into the field of music as writers and/or artists. As a workshop leader, she’s committed to ensuring her participants walk away from the session with a number of practical tools that will immediately allow them to increase their skill and success in songwriting. Anyone taking Cindy’s workshop will ultimately leave more knowledgeable, motivated, and dedicated, but they will also leave having had a fun, exciting experience with an amazingly talented artist who is willing to, in a moment, share insight that she gained through years of writing and performing.”

- Rod C. Taylor, Ph.D., CEO, Performance Learning Concepts, and Artist in Residence, Lipscomb University

“I had the great joy of signing Cindy Morgan to her first artist/writer agreement with Word Records in 1989. By common acclimation, she has gone on to become one of the most respected songwriters of her generation. Cindy is one of the rare creatives that understand both the art and craft of the discipline, and has a unique way of teaching those principles in a personal, warm and effective way. Any institution that associates itself with Cindy is fortunate, and will be better for it. I could not recommend her more highly.”

- John Mays, President, Centricity Music

“Cindy is a gem and anyone would be lucky to have you on their campus!”

- Dr. Todd Syswerda - Professor of Music Composition, Songwriting, and Theory, Indiana Wesleyan University