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# Songwriting and Composing™

The magazine for International Songwriters and Composers



**The Guild of International Songwriters and Composers**

# Julie Ludgate

## Member profile

Guild member **Julie Ludgate** (front cover photos and below) is an independent singer/songwriter from Basingstoke, England, who has reached the final twelve in a songwriting competition and is to be featured in an eight week TV series, the **Tin Pan Alley** TV series, founded by **Mike Read**, established DJ, writer, journalist and TV presenter, which started on 2nd October 2016 on *Showbiz TV*, Sky Channel 266.

As a child, Julie found a love of singing and represented her junior school in a choir showcased at the Royal Albert Hall, London. She then took to stage as a teenager performing songs from shows such as **Jesus Christ Superstar**, **Kiss Me**, **Kate** and **Hello Dolly**. Although enjoying the musical theatre side, her love for more popular styles of music took her in a different direction and she went on to front local bands covering songs from various genres including pop, rock, blues and country, performing at various pubs, clubs and functions.



With immense passion and creativity songwriting and crafting her own music was destined so she took to learning piano to further enhance this. Julie says "I didn't get into songwriting at an early age because I never believed in myself enough to become a songwriter but with so many ideas building up inside and my love of music I wanted to channel these thoughts and ideas in a positive way and also progress as an artiste." On her path to progression she has also achieved an *LCM Certificate of Proficiency* in popular music vocals along with ABRSM grades in piano.

At the end of 2015 Julie decided to leave her accounting office job and focus on her music. On entering her first songwriting competition at the beginning of this year she was surprised to get an email from Mike Read confirming

she had reached the final thirty. Mike advised that he would like to bring a film crew for an interview with Julie, which was undertaken at her friend's home studio, **Beat 'n' Trak**, in Highclere. During the interview Julie was surprised to find out that she had been shortlisted to the final twelve and would be appearing in the **Tin Pan Alley** TV Series. She was subsequently asked to go to the famous **RAK Studios** in London where they would do further filming and she would get the chance to work on her song with an established producer.



**Julie working with the legendary producer, Stuart Epps, at RAK Studios, London**

It was at this point, she discovered that the producer she would be working with was **Stuart Epps**, producer to stars such as **Elton John**, **Led Zeppelin**, **Robbie Williams** and **Oasis**. "I'm thrilled to have reached the final twelve, the whole experience has been amazing and I'm so excited to be part of such a fantastic series." said Julie.

Julie is now in the running to receive a **Tin Pan Alley** publishing deal administered by the world's biggest independent music publishing company, **Peer Music**.

### **Tin Pan Alley Songwriting Competition**

Tin Pan Alley is an innovative series, designed to promote and inspire UK songwriters. Earlier this year, unpublished UK songwriters were invited to submit their compositions to the **Tin Pan Alley** website. There were no age restrictions and no style restrictions. It was all about finding great original songs. Presenter, Mike Read, and the Tin Pan Alley team could not have been prepared for what followed. Over 600 entries of the highest quality, leaving PRS Chairman, Guy Fletcher, to

announce the competition as ‘the strongest I have ever been involved with’. Some sixty industry professionals were chosen as judges and given the difficult task of voting for each individual song, with only twelve making it through to the final stages, which is where the TV show began.

Over eight weeks, the final twelve songs were transformed into the ‘finished product’ by six of the UK’s best music producers; **Stuart Epps, Mike Stock, Nigel Wright, Warren Bennett, Andy Whitmore and Steve Etherington**. These songs were then judged, commented on and whittled down to a final winner by their Record Executives; **Lamont Dozier, David Grant, Cathy Dennis, Christopher Neil, Judd Lander**.

The overall winner will be flown to the legendary **GeeJam Studios** in Port Antonio, Jamaica, where they will record for a week, whilst also experiencing the great atmosphere of a country rich in musical heritage.

“British songwriters have given us many of the world’s greatest songs. They are the engine room of the industry. They boost our economy. They give us songs that inspire, comfort, influence, entertain and are part of the fabric of our lives.” Mike Read (Presenter).

As well as the competition element, there will be many tales from Tin Pan Alley including the Beatles, The Rolling Stones, David Bowie, The Sex Pistols and Elton John, as well as stories behind major hits told by the songwriters themselves. The original British Tin Pan Alley was in London’s Denmark Street, the home of our songwriters and publishers for almost a century. The new ‘virtual’ Tin Pan Alley is now on TV and online. The songwriter once again has somewhere for their songs to be heard. The final twelve songs that made it to the TV series can be heard in their submitted form on the web site [www.tinpanalley.biz](http://www.tinpanalley.biz) and are available to download from **Angel Air Records** via iTunes.



Being in touch with both her emotional and playful sides, Julie has the ability to write catchy up-tempo songs along with emotional ballads. The inspiration for her own songs comes from the depth and consciousness of her own experiences along with the experiences of others around her. Julie is able to cleverly incorporate her stories and connect through her lyrics with songs like *Nothing Gained*, about taking a chance on love, and *Fighter*, about believing in yourself. Julie is now looking forward to continuing her path of progression and honing her skills as a singer/songwriter.

Julie says “The Tin Pan Alley series started on 2nd October 2016 so will already be running at the time the magazine comes out. I don’t know any results from the series so at the moment I only know I’m down to the final twelve. I will therefore be anxiously watching the TV series to see how far my song gets in the competition.”

Photos courtesy of Julie Ludgate

For more information on Julie Ludgate go to her website at [www.julieludgate.com](http://www.julieludgate.com)

Julie can also be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/julieludgatemusic/>



**Julie being interviewed by Mike Read**

The winner will also be awarded the coveted **Tin Pan Alley** PRS winner’s trophy! They, along with the first runner-up, will also be filmed and the footage turned into holograms at **Abbey Road Studios**. The final six writers will receive a publishing deal for their song from **Peer Music** and a Tin Pan Alley PRS trophy.

Apart from the TV series, Julie is also working on her debut self-penned album. Julie’s music is an exciting mix of classic pop and singer/songwriter and she has a voice that is both expressive and compelling, with a clean texture that allows the listener to relate to every song that she writes.