

Connecticut Songsmith

Newsletter of the Connecticut Songwriters Association



CSA is an educational, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the art and craft of original musical and lyrical composition. Serving music's artisans and craftsmen since 1979.



March 2003
Volume XXIV
Number 3
Issue #279

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979 ---- Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach for 24 Years ---- 2003

MARCH 9 - CSA PRO WORKSHOP with Pat Pattison -- Waterbury
MARCH 10 - Songwriters Night at the Buttonwood Tree -- Middletown

The CSA meeting for March will be an all-day Pro Workshop, to be held on Sunday, March 9, 11am-5pm at the Waterbury Courtyard Marriott (directions and registration details inside). Our featured presenter will be **Pat Pattison**, who is a professor at the Berklee College of Music, where he teaches lyric writing and poetry. Pat is the author of two well known books, *Managing Lyric Structure*, and *Rhyming Techniques and Strategies*.

Pat teaches songwriting clinics across the country, including the Los Angeles Songwriters Expo, and the Songwriters Guild of America. He writes articles for *Home and Studio Recording* magazine.

Pat has years of experience working with major names in the industry, and teaching aspiring writers how to become masters of the craft.

The workshop requires registration, which may be done in advance (\$30 for members) or at the door (\$35 for non-members). the cost for non-members is \$5 additional, applicable toward membership if you join within 30 days. Please arrive at 10:30 to register.

Pat will share his insights and experience in the art and craft of lyric writing, and of the music business in general.

If time permits and depending on Pat's schedule, there will be song critiquing

Pat's two previous CSA workshops have been well attended and received very positive feedback from the members attending.

Following the program, if time permits, there will be a song critique session. Members may bring a song or lyric, on cassette or CD (or do it live), with 40 copies of typed lyric sheets, and receive constructive feedback. Critique sessions are a good forum for works in progress or rough demos. For best feedback, note on your lyric sheets the intended genre and audience for your song, and what your goals are (i.e. picked up by a commercial artist, self-produce, etc.). The programs at CSA monthly meetings are **free to members, \$5 to non-members**, applicable toward membership if you join within 30 days. Members are encouraged to bring a friend who might be interested in what CSA has to offer.

CSA EVENT CALENDAR

Mar 09	SPECIAL WORKSHOP with Pat Pattison Waterbury Courtyard Marriott
Mar 10	Songwriters Night at the Buttonwood
Apr 08	TBD
May 05	East Hartford Community Center with David Roth
May 16	University of Hartford, Music for a Change Series. Chapin Tribute with LUNCH featuring Bill Pere, Kay Pere, and Scott Sivakoff
June 01	J. B. Williams Park, Glastonbury CSA annual Summer Picnic
June 10	TBD
July 08	Waterbury Quality Inn
December	CSA Annual Holiday Songshare
Dec 06	Mystic - The LUNCH Holiday Show

COME SUPPORT CSA ARTISTS and PROGRAMS

Guiding Songs Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

COMBINING ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR 24 YEARS

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATIONS

How to
Get There!

Directions to Waterbury Courtyard Marriott (see page 4).

Directions to the Buttonwood Tree 605 Main Street Middletown

Coming North on Route 9, turn left onto Rt 66 in Middletown, and Main St is the first intersection., Go right, to corner of Liberty St. Buttonwood is on the left.

Coming South on Route 66, go past Wesleyan University, and the next major intersection is Main Street.

• **SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE OPPORTUNITIES:** CSA hosts Songwriters nights at the Acoustic Cafe, Bridgeport, (Rob Williams 203-256-8974) and at the Buttonwood Tree in Middletown. (Grady Faulkner, 860-344-9395). Liz Reed hosts regular open mikes and invites CSA performers to come sign up -- First Friday each month at the Vanilla Bean Cafe (860) 928-1562. Sign up at 6:30, for a 7:45 start \$5 cover charge. 2 songs per open mike slot. Piano and sound system available. Good food, good venue, and a good listening audience. For directions from your area, call the venues at the listed numbers. We are always seeking new venues and new people to step forward and coordinate the performing or program activity. Any CSA member who would like to start a regular showcase series in an appropriate venue is encouraged to do so. For information and tips on how to proceed call Don Donegan (Glastonbury area, 860-659-8992), Bill Pere (Southeastern Connecticut, 860-5762-9285), or Paul Chapin (Western Connecticut, 860-945-1272)

• **MEMBER HAPPENINGS** >>>> Sandy Frederickson has a publishing deal with Sony. Her song "Ain't It Just Like Me" will appear in Jenny McCarthy's film "A Perfect You", and her song "I'm Over It" recorded by Suzanne Smith, will be released as a single by Next Plateau/Universal Records. >>>> Beth Delavigne is Executive Director of ENZM.COM, Entertainment News Zone Magazine. This is an E-magazine dedicated to featuring professionals in the Arts and Entertainment Industry. If any members would like to be considered to be featured on our Songbird Page, at ENZM.COM, please contact Beth at the above email or at prexec@enzm.com. We offer a head shot, bio, and link to their site, if featured. In some cases, we will do an interview. (Note -- expression of interest does not guarantee inclusion). >>>> Tony Susi received some good news from BMI in the form of a royalty check. His song "The Search" aired on the popular CBS daytime show "As The World Turns" back in April. >>>> Leila, with her band, was the opening act at Mohegun Sun on Feb 16 for a concert by Latin grammy winner/nominees Gilberto Santa Rosa, Gisselle, and Charlie Zaa. Leila performed songs from her CD "Of Life".

• **COMING IN MAY** -- Special Program with David Roth! Stay Tuned for details.

JUST LAUNCHED! --- Bill Pere, Executive Director of LUNCH, and Associate Director Kay Pere proudly announce the official launch of the NEW website, www.lunchensemble.com! In 1989, CSA adopted Bill's proposal for an ongoing community-outreach-through-music program, which has since grown into an independent non-profit corporation raising more than \$250,000 through concerts and recordings to help fight hunger and poverty in Connecticut.



Visit the new website and see photo galleries of all the events, with rare shots of the more than 50 CSA artists who have participated in shows, special CSA award presentations, an online store for CD's and merchandise, and other great features. Add your comments to the guest book. We hope to add a similar photo gallery on the CSA web site for all the 25 years of other CSA events. We would like to thank MysticNet Marketing for donating all the web services, and all the CSA members who have supported, and continue to support, this program over the years (CSA members who would like to be involved in the program should contact Bill through the website.)

• **MUSIC FOR A CHANGE** Great Concert Series to benefit different charitable organizations -- All shows are at 7:30pm in Wilde Auditorium, unless otherwise noted. **CONCERT SCHEDULE:** -- Wed, Mar 5 Wynton Marsalis (Lincoln Theater); -- Fri, Mar 7 Tribute to Phil Ochs; -- Fri, Mar 14 Jonathan Edwards (Millard Auditorium); -- Fri, Mar 21 Christine Lavin (Millard Auditorium); -- Fri, Apr 4 Vance Gilbert; -- Fri, Apr 11 Billie and the Boys; -- Fri, Apr 25 Mark Riley -- Fri, May 9 Amy Guillotine & Hot Flashes; -- Fri, May tribute to Harry Chapin with Bill Pere and the LUNCH Ensemble -- Ticket Box Office: 860/768-4228 or 800/274-8587 Website: www.musicforachange.com or Tickets On line: www.hartford.edu/tickets Please come out and support these great shows, and our participating CSA artists.

Songwriters Night *every 2nd Monday at The Buttonwood Tree in Middletown*

Contact: Grady Faulkner Phone: 860-344-9395 (eve) 860-829-1920 (day)

Monday March 10th is Songwriters Night at the Buttonwood Tree in Middletown's north end. Doors will open at 7pm and begin with Open Mic at 7:30 for singers, poets, writers and musicians.

Every second Monday, anyone interested in the art and business of music is welcomed to come learn and share knowledge in all areas of creating music for commercial or artistic purposes. Bring your songs and at least 10 lyric copies for the critique session following our featured guest. The Buttonwood Tree, a non-profit arts space, is located at 605 Main Street Middletown 860-347-4957

A new program and new topic for discussion every month, along with an open mic showcase. Come participate and share your music.

The program is free for CSA members.

COME SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR CSA PROGRAMS

The Buttonwood Tree is located at 605 Main Street Middletown (just off Route 66). For information call 860-347-4957. If you have an idea for a program or presentation that you think would be of general interest, call 344-9395. This series is coordinated by CSA's Grady Faulkner.

CSA PRO WORKSHOP !

SUNDAY, MARCH 9 from 11:00am to 5:00pm
at the Courtyard Marriott, Waterbury

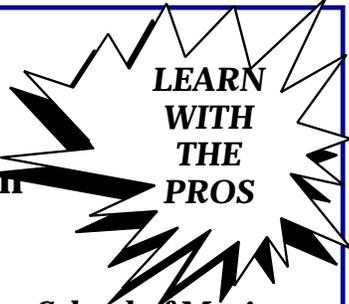
An all day workshop and with

PAT PATTISON, from the *Songwriting Department at the Berkeley School of Music*, and Author of Managing Lyric Structure and Rhyming Techniques and Strategies. Pat is a well known figure in the music industry and will have lots of valuable information to share on how to make your songs the best they can be.

Complete Directions to Courtyard Marriott in Waterbury will appear next month. The contact information is:

Courtyard Marriott Waterbury
63 Grand Street
Waterbury, CT 06702

203-596-1000



**LEARN
WITH
THE
PROS**

Advance Registration for the entire day is \$30 in advance, for CSA members, \$40 for non-members or \$60 for non-members who wish to join CSA right then. Mail checks, payable to CSA to : CSA Workshop, 40 Bruggeman Place, Mystic CT 06355. If you wish to register by phone, you can use VISA or Mastercard and call 860-572-9285. For further information contact Paul Chapin at 860-945-1CSA, Attendees should arrive by 10:30 to get registered and signed in, so that we can start right at 11:00

And Even More CSA RHYTHM AND NEWS

DIRECTIONS TO WATERBURY COURTYARD MARRIOTT

Courtyard Marriott Waterbury
63 Grand Street
Waterbury, CT 06702

203-596-1000

From I-84 East:

Take I-84 East to Exit 22 (Downtown Waterbury)
At the bottom of the exit, go to the 2nd traffic light and take a left onto South Main St.
Go under the overpass and the hotel entrance is on the left.

From I-84 West:

Take I-84 West to Exit 22 (Downtown Waterbury)
Take a left at the bottom of the ramp, then turn left at the fourth light onto South Main Street
The hotel entrance will be immediately on the right.

From Central Mass:

Take I-91 South to I-691 West
I-691 merges into 84 West
Take I-84 West to Exit 22 (Downtown Waterbury)
Take a left at the bottom of the ramp, then turn left at the fourth light onto South Main Street
The hotel entrance will be immediately on the right.

From New Haven:

Take 91 North to 691 West
691 West merges with 84 West
I-84 West to Exit 22 (Downtown Waterbury)
Take a left at the bottom of the ramp, then turn left at the fourth light onto South Main Street
The hotel entrance will be immediately on the right.

From New York City/Stamford:

Take 95 North
Take Route 8 North (Exit 27A)
Take I-84 East Exit (Exit 31)
Take I-84 East to Exit 22 (Downtown Waterbury)
At the bottom of the exit, go to the 2nd traffic light and take a left onto South Main Street
Go under the overpass and the hotel entrance is on the left

From Providence RI:

Take 95 South to Route 9 North (Exit 69)
Proceed on Rt. 9 to I-91 South
Take I-691 West until 691 merges into I-84 West
I-84 West to Exit 22 (Downtown Waterbury)
Take a left at the bottom of the ramp, then turn left at the fourth light onto South Main Street
The hotel entrance will be immediately on the right.

CSA MEMBERS ! Would you like to be able to share your performing schedule with everyone? Get your newsletter online? Make announcements about your accomplishments and special events? Publish photos? -- The CTSONGSCAFE, our on-line e-group, lets you publish your performing schedule and any other announcements that you want to share. No more worrying about trying to make the newsletter deadline! Publish what you want when you want. The CTSONGSCAFE has an easy to use calendar and message board, and is automatically available to all CSA members. You can also post photos, share lyrics, and run ads. **You can also access your monthly newsletter online and in color !**

1 OUT OF EVERY 5 CSA MEMBERS IS NOW PART OF CTSONGSCAFE

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE THINGS YOU CAN DO AT CTSONGSCAFE

SHARABLE CALENDAR

- Post your performing schedule
- Post news of your own happenings and accomplishments
- Check the CSA event Schedule

MESSAGE and DISCUSSION BOARDS

- Post lyrics to get feedback and discussion
- Ask a question about contracts, copyrights, or other business and technical issues
- Share useful information and other on-line resources
- Post ads for services or items for sale

PHOTO ALBUMS

- Post your Photos

LIVE-On-Line CHAT

- Collaborate interactively

Complete instructions on how to register and how to use CTSONGSCAFE can be sent to you by e-mail. Send your request to Kay Pere at kajoules@aol.com or Bill Pere at wdpsons@aol.com or you can pick up an instruction sheet at any CSA meeting

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR OWN NETWORKING -- COMMUNICATE WITH THE REST OF THE CSA COMMUNITY

CSA PROFILE

PIANO MAN

An Interview with Larry Batter (CSA #076)

by Juli Ann Weber

Larry Batter joined CSA in 1980, roughly a year after the organization's start-up. Larry was a student at Connecticut College in New London at the time, and says, "I don't really remember exactly how I first heard about CSA. I do remember that I went to a CSA showcase at Rudy's."

Rudy's Pier One was the New London club where Don Donegan and Will Ewing first launched the showcase concept that led to the creation of CSA. At the time Larry attended the early showcases at Rudy's, he says, "I was doing a lot of songwriting, both lyrics and music. I had also worked with some people at school. In college, I was very creative, writing music for ballet classes, and for flute & cello. I've always been stronger at composing the music than writing the lyrics.

"My dream back then was to be another Billy Joel, to make it as a singer-songwriter, a piano man. I'm so far removed now from way back then..." Life has a way of taking its own twists and turns. That conflict between dreams and reality has its own dynamic.

After Larry graduated from Connecticut College, he went to Europe and traveled a while. "When I got back, I got a job. I played piano and sang – my own material and pop hits – four nights a week at Poor Richard's Restaurant in Waterbury. I worked for minimum wage and sandwiches, and it was a great job. I developed a good following. Sort of like "Cheers," the same people came almost every night." But after a year there, he headed for the West Coast. "Singing at the same place every night became too draining, it wasn't fun any more. One loses some creativity in the daily grind. I got tired of the bar scene.

"I couldn't seem to make it on the Coast. Then a woman asked me to play for a group of seniors, and that's how I got started playing for seniors."

Playing the piano and singing, "That's pretty much what I still do, but my audience has changed from those days of bar gigs. I'm performing now mostly for seniors at nursing homes.

"Opportunities to play my own stuff are pretty limited. I play mostly stuff that seniors are familiar with – and I'm partial to great songwriters like Jerome Kern and Richard Rodgers.

"The part of me that loves bluegrass has bought a mandolin and plans to learn how to play it."

Larry had lunch recently with an old friend. "I had made a record back in 1984, and this friend recorded it onto a CD and gave it to me. I hadn't heard my songs in a long time, and receiving this CD has rekindled my interest in songwriting.

"I've always made my living through music, mostly performing." He describes himself as a "pretty good" at singing and accompanying himself on the piano. But now that old dream of creating his own material and performing it is resurfacing.

Larry says his hectic performance schedule keeps him from being more involved in CSA activities these days. For example, the day of CSA's annual Holiday Song-Share and party, he began with performing in Derby at 10:30 a.m. After performances in Greenwich and Milford, he hoped he might make it back to East Hartford by 10 p.m. to put in a last-minute appearance at the CSA party to catch up with old friends.

"One of the nicest parts of CSA is the people that I've met and still have contacts with after twenty years. I was Vice President of the organization once, but even though I'm not as active in CSA these days, the relationships continue.

"I went to a CSA showcase at the Vanilla Bean Café last November and saw Nancy Tucker. I ran into Grady Faulkner and Bill Pere. It's amazing how the relationships continue despite everybody getting so very busy with their careers, families."

While relationships have proved lasting, the music scene has changed dramatically over the past twenty years. "There are really slick production values now. My forte is more Barry Manilow and pop music of the 80's, or Michael Bolton. There's some really awesome music these days. Celine Dion with that amazing voice..."

"Musicianship was always my strength – and I'm looking forward to composing again in this environment.

"I have made a commitment that next year I will take more time to write instead of chasing all over the state. Tomorrow I have to go to Derby, Greenwich and Milford – it's crazy. But it's good at Christmastime. People are in a holiday mood, and the shows make these seniors so very happy."

Next year may be Larry Batter's turn to strike a new balance between creating and performing. But he'll still be a "piano man," singing and playing songs. ###

PORTRAITS OF ORIGINAL CSA CREATIONS -- 1989-2002

A Decade of Song Crafting

CONNECTICUT SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

1989

The Best of CSA Volume II

1992

THE BEST OF CSA IV

Connecticut Songwriters Association

1995

Side A

- 1 The Invisible ...
- 2 I'm Home
- 3 Love Me ...
- 4 Ones' That ...
- 5 Children Are ...
- 6 Dance Between ...
- 7 When I Let Go
- 8 Diamond in a ...

Side B

- 1 If You Went Away
- 2 Color Outside ...
- 3 You Push & I'll ...
- 4 First Thing I ...
- 5 When the ...
- 6 She's in the Wind
- 7 Blow Out the ...

THE BEST OF CSA

1997

THE BEST OF CSA 5

Side A

- 1 GOOD WAY OF GETTING EVEN 2:41
- 2 CAN I PLEASE HAVE 3:46
- 3 SPOON CHILI BREAD 4:47
- 4 COUNTRY MUSIC 4:47
- 5 ENCHANTED ROSE 3:34
- 6 CARVE A NICHIE IN TIME 3:36
- 8 SEASONS 4:10

Side B

- 1 CHORONIA 4:16
- 3 COMEY ANGLE 3:38
- 4 ROAD HEART 5:14 IN THE ROAD PLACE 3:50
- 5 SOMEONE FOR ME 2:20
- 6 ROAD A BONDIE 2:49
- 7 MARY CHRISTINE 3:34
- 8 SUNDAY LUNCH 3:38

THE BEST OF CSA

1998

Volume 6

Connecticut Songwriters Association

THE BEST OF CSA 6

Side A

- 1 LOVE 4:11
- 2 LOVE LOVE LOVE 4:11
- 3 THERE'S SOMEBODY WILL BE PROSECUTED 2:48
- 4 THIS RED SKIN - BIG ENOUGH 3:12
- 5 ENJOY THE SPECIAL 0:47:18
- 6 THE TRIP 2:28
- 7 I CAN FEEL IT 0:52
- 8 THERE YOU AFTER YOU 4:21
- 9 OLIVER WALT 1:48

Side B

- 1 FIRST LOVE 3:15
- 2 HITCHHIKING TO ROME 3:15
- 3 I CAN FEEL IT 0:52
- 4 I CAN FEEL IT 0:52
- 5 I CAN FEEL IT 0:52
- 6 I CAN FEEL IT 0:52
- 7 I CAN FEEL IT 0:52
- 8 I CAN FEEL IT 0:52
- 9 I CAN FEEL IT 0:52

CSA SAMPLER VOLUME 7

1999

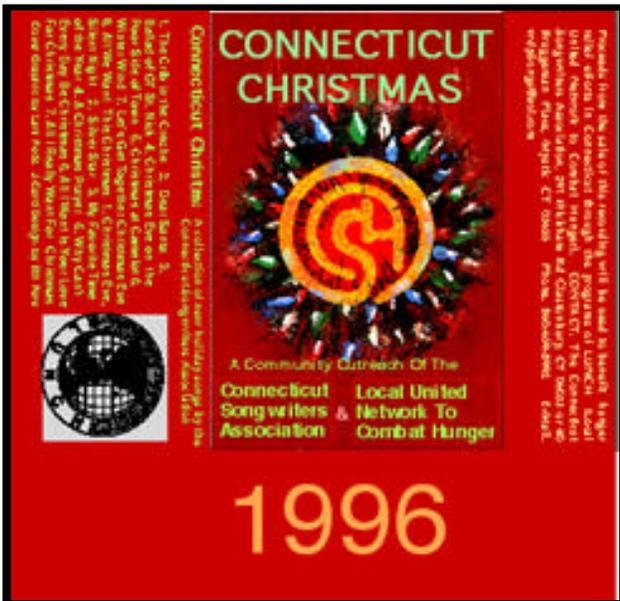
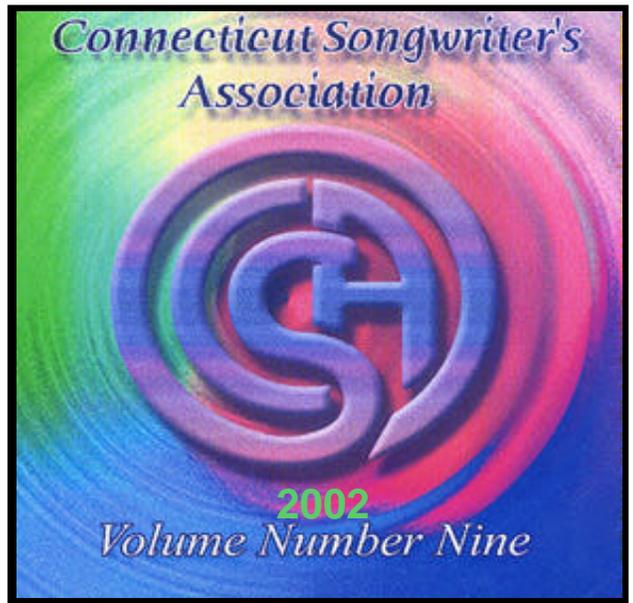
Connecticut Songwriters Association

Side A

1. Medicine Man
2. So Right For Me
3. She Remembers
4. Another Night In Paradise
5. Space Available
6. It Be What It Be
7. Somewhere Once Before
8. The Stalker
9. Your Cup
10. Demos In The Night

Side B

1. Two Men In Love
2. Lady In Distress
3. Break Up Blues
4. Where Eagles Fly
5. Shain Waters
6. My Street
7. The Writing On The Wall
8. A House Divided
9. Amore Mio
10. Beane Bazaar
11. I'm Too Tied Up To Be Tied Down



CSA: SPECIAL FOCUS ON SONGSHARKS and MUSIC BUSINESS SCAMS

Many CSA members are not aware that CSA was founded as a result of Don Donegan's 1978 encounter with song sharks, who tried to take advantage of his inexperience and desire for "success". Although it is now 25 years later, the sharks are still there, some with even slicker, more alluring packaging. How can a writer or performer tell the difference between a genuine opportunity and a blackhole for your wallet? Aside from organizations like CSA which try to help you make informed decisions, there are internet resources like

<http://geocities.com/songshark>

which is a site devoted showing "opportunities" for what they really are -- or aren't. The material presented here is reprinted from the SongShark website and is used with permission. In the next couple of months, we will highlight additional music "opportunities" which you may want to think twice about. Note that none of it is illegal, and the final decision is always yours to make, but you need to know how to weed through the smokescreens to see clearly what you're deciding on. Remember, in most cases, a writer or artist is not the one who should be bearing the expenses of being given a genuine "opportunity"

...Bill Pere, Director of Special Projects, CSA.

VOCAL CONTESTS

This is very similar to the "in the business" scam. "So and So Agency" is holding a contest in the local Holiday Inn. It cost the contestant a few bucks to enter. No big deal, but winners are chosen by audience poll/response. Each audience member is charged \$5-10 to attend. Of course, each contestant gets as many family members and friends to show up and support them so he can win and move on to the next tier/contest.

The most basic and common prizes seems to be some free studio time and/or a "record contract." The studio time is usually just enough to get hooked into buying more studio time (getting a small amount of studio time is really not enough to finish a song -- so of course you need to pay for more).

One of the more impressive opportunities includes the chance to play the Grand Ole Opry. Amazingly enough, the winner actually does do this. When these winners come off stage, there is a "producer" who gives out the "I see something special in you darlin' " pitch.

The producer is affiliated with a studio just like the "in the business" scam. He makes a big deal out of picking songs for you, some of which were actually written by noted writers...of which there's no shortage of in Nashville.

You're hooked up with an expensive studio as well as players, an engineering staff, and a producer...all of which cost you money. \$10,000 or so later, it's over. You're paying for a recording and nothing more. (A real publishing deal will pay for all the costs of demos -- If you're paying, do it with you eyes open and don't believe that someone is giving you an 'opportunity'. Let them be honest enough to say that they want you to buy studio time.)

"YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN THE MUSIC BUSINESS"

Some people just scream for attention. They think if they play music, they need to dress a certain way and hang out at certain places. The people who buy into this are just waiting to get ripped off and it happens all the time with a few choice words and a little ego stroking.

This problem is especially bad in industry cities such as New York, Nashville, or Los Angeles, but it can happen (and does happen) anywhere. There is no such thing as an overnight success, but some people still believe it and those people are great targets.

The scene is Nashville at the Shoney's off of Music Row. Billy Bob Conroy has just hopped off the Greyhound from BF, Kentucky. Guitar in hand, Billy Bob is just stopping in for lunch before a busy day of getting turned away from record and publishing companies. He's determined to make it and has brought along his life savings to make sure it happens.

A nicely dressed businessman walks up to Billy and tells him, "You look like you're a musician." This especially works well in Nashville as everybody from the garbageman to the major industry lawyers play guitar and wants to be a superstar.

After a few more minutes and a little fact finding, the businessman says something to the effect of, "You're here to be a country star? You know, I've got a friend in the business with a studio on Music Row. Let me give him a call and see if I can schedule you a meeting." Let's hear it for that Southern Hospitality!

What luck! Billy's only been in Nashville 90 minutes and he's already making powerful friends in the business without even playing a note. As it turns out, the "friend in the business" happens to have 15 minutes available RIGHT NOW! "If we hurry, you might be able to get a couple of songs in for him," says the businessman.

They arrive at a posh studio, play the songs, it's the best thing the "friend in the business" has ever heard, and the deal starts going down to make Billy the next Garth Brooks.

The "friend," often the studio manager, will sometimes will act like he owns the studio. The guy from in Shoney's is off again to find another sucker and Billy's head keeps getting bigger and bigger. Billy doesn't know a thing about the business side of music, so he doesn't think anything is wrong when he has to fork over all the money he saved and ends up with 300 copies of his demo on a vanity label.

Depending on the skill of the people involved, this scam often ends up costing the musician thousands. A lot more valuable than that is the loss of dignity. A vanity press like this is a sure sign of a non-professional and nobody is going to take it seriously. Welcome to Music City, USA!

Two weeks later, Billy is back on the Greyhound for Kentucky. Hopefully he'll be able to sell those 300 CD's to his buddy's at the local bar where he used to be the big fish.

POEMS AND MUSIC

You've seen the ads in magazines. Can these companies really take your poems and turn them into hit songs? If you're a lyricist, you're better off finding people in your area who will co-write songs with you for a percentage of the royalties. Do not use "work for hire" companies. Look at this real example letter from a well known operation that has been in business for years.

Dear Songwriter,

We have been receiving letters from songwriters such as yourself from all over the country asking for our assistance in helping them pursue their song writing career. We know very well how difficult it has been for the unknown songwriter to achieve success and recognition. We are also aware in view of today's economy how very difficult it is for most songwriters to spend their hard-earned money in pursuit of their song writing ambitions.

We know how very costly it is to produce a recording comparable to today's and yesterday's great hit songs, and worthy of presenting to record companies and recording artists in hopes of achieving success.

We have taken it upon ourselves at this time to make available the following at our own expense:

A. A beautiful musical setting created by our professional writers worthy of your lyric.

B. A magnificent recording utilizing up to a 30-piece pre-recorded background orchestra that will truly give greatness to your words.

C. Upon approval of your recording we will order *100 EP commercially pressed cassettes of your song.

Each author will receive for their own personal use 10 cassette recordings of their song to be used for promotion and all remaining copies will be sent to record companies, publishers, and recording artists in the hopes of securing a release of your song.

You will receive the names and addresses of those record companies, publishers, and recording artists who have received a copy of your recording.

A letter will be enclosed with each cassette requesting that the record company, publisher, or recording artist contact you personally if they are interested in the release of your song.

All the above will be done at no cost to the authors whose lyrics have been considered worthy of our time and expenditure.

Authors will be limited to one lyric only, so please send in that lyric which you believe is most commercial. Please enclose a fee of \$3.00 to cover the cost of handling, mailing, and reviewing your lyric. All lyrics not accepted will be returned to their respective authors.

A contract will be entered into between the author and the [...] Publishing Company whereas all royalties that may be derived shall be divided as follows: 90% to author -- 10% to the [...] Publishing Company.

Each author will be required to absorb the cost of \$1.90 for each cassette to be mailed on their behalf or the total cost of \$190.00 to cover our cost of mailing out the 100 cassette copies of your song.

Personal checks will delay the production of your song for 2-3 weeks in order for your check to clear. It would be therefore advisable to send in your mailing fee by money order or cash. Payments may be made in full or a deposit of \$40.00 will get your song on it's way, 3 additional monthly payments of \$50.00 will be acceptable.

Please complete the enclosed general information letter and return with your lyric and \$3.00 reviewing fee for each lyric.

Sincerely yours,

[...], President

[...] Publishing Company

If you see something similar to this, use caution.

How about all of those "satisfied customers" they have? Don't those mean anything? No.

These companies will often try to stroke your ego by sending an application that is designed to get your mind working about how nice it would be to make a living in music, (and which may require a fee-based membership). Don't buy in.

Visit one of the links at <http://geocities.com/songshark/> to learn more about the legitimate music business. Yes, it's very sweet when you get here, but don't think you can shortcut hard work. The best thing you can do to succeed in this business and not get taken is to get educated!

To Be Continued Next Month....

Special
Event

The Annual CSA Summer Picnic & SongShare !

Hot Fun in the Summertime



Sunday, June 1, from noon to 7pm at J.B. Williams Memorial Park on Neipsic Rd, Glastonbury. RAIN OR SHINE ! CSA returns to this gorgeous facility for our popular annual event. There is a large covered pavilion with electricity, picnic tables, grills, volleyball, playground, hiking trails, pond, and convenient parking. We will host an all-day showcase, from noon to 7pm with two sound systems provided. CSA members and friends may reserve a 1/2 hour slot to showcase original songs. Don Donegan is booking the slots on a first call basis. If you'd like to perform, call Don at 860-659-8992 or e-mail at DDCSA@aol.com.

Please bring your own food for the grill, a non-alcoholic beverage, a dish to share and some picnic items like plates, cups, and napkins. The event is free, so bring family and friends.

Directions:

From New London/Norwich : Take Rt 12 west to Exit 8 in Glastonbury. Go right, and right again onto Hebron Ave. Go 2 miles and turn right onto Wickham Rd. Go to end of Wickham and turn left on Neipsic. The park is one block on the left.

>>> From New Haven: Take I-91 North to Exit 25, Glastonbury. Cross CT River on Rt 3 and bear right on Rt 2 towards Norwich. Take Exit 9 off Rt 2 and go left on Neipsic Rd under Rt 2. Go 3/4 mile to park on the left. From Hartford: Take I-91 South to Exit 25 (Glastonbury) and proceed as above. From I-84 East or West: Take Rt 2 to Glastonbury to Exit 9 (Neipsic Rd) and proceed as above.

EACH YEAR DOZENS OF SONGWRITERS AND FRIENDS COME AND GO THROUGHOUT THE DAY.
COME RELAX, SCHMOOZE, AND ENJOY THE COMPANY OF CREATIVE PEOPLE



MARKETPLACE



MYSTIC MUSIC - Find your individual path to success. Complete state of the art Digital and MIDI recording, arranging, and production services, including packaging and graphics, from Bill Pere, Award-Winning Connecticut State Troubadour. Completely affordable. We can master to CD, DAT, Mini-disk, tape, or MP3 files for the Internet. CD duplication/packaging. Instruction in MIDI and computer-related music skills. Very successful track record at packaging and marketing concepts and events., and generating income. Private consultation or lessons in any aspect of music craft, business, or production. Call **Bill Pere**, 860-572-9285. E-mail: wdpsongs@aol.com

RAINBOW MUSIC Studio in Glastonbury offers vocal and guitar instruction. Vocal includes breathing techniques, expanding range, harmony, music theory. Guitar - beginner thru advanced. Also basic demo service available. Don Donegan is CSA's founder and past president and a full-time performer. Web site is www.dononegan.com E-mail is ddoneman@aol.com or phone 860-659-8992"

FUNKEE BOY MUSIC - Professional Music Production and Demo Services that gets results! Over 80% of the songs we've produced have been signed to publishing or record deals. Our credits include Tenderoni (signed to LaFace Records), Lori Salvatera (MCA records development deal), TV shows "Beverly Hills 90210", "The New Love Boat", "Sunset Beach", etc. Visit us online at www.funkeebuy.com and hear our work. Call Bobbi Tammara (203)573-9972.

MAESTRO PRODUCTIONS It's your song, your demo. Low overhead allows us to produce a high quality demo your way for less in our complete MIDI/Digital studio. Sing it yourself or use our vocalists. We're not done until you're satisfied. We also offer lead sheets and other songwriter services. Call Ed Rosenblatt, 860-426-0723.

STUDIO VOCALIST AVAILABLE - For demos; Most styles and harmonies including rock, pop, jazz, gospel, and country. Professional Voice Instruction. Transcription and Lead Sheets, too. Call Kay Pere, Sound Krayons Music, 860-572-0629.

HI-TOP PRODUCTIONS Attention Singers and Songwriters without bands. - Producer in Stamford CT with pro 32 track digital studio will add full instrumentation (guitar, bass, keyboard, drums) and make a radio-ready CD. You benefit from top quality musicianship and a great sounding end product. Call Steve Hansen 203-967-2200 for free consultation.

AGAINST THE GRAIN PRODUCTIONS -- Former EMI Records executive now offers recording, production services and song consultations. Pro Tools based recording utilizing state of the art digital tracking -- apogee converters/john hardy preamps/british supersonic compressors and great mics. Contact Bob Williams at 203-256-8974 or rocknove@snet.net.

FEMALE VOCALIST AVAILABLE Beautiful & incredible vocals for your next demo! Female Singer w/ mid to high range voice available for leads/ or background. Most styles (pop, rock, blues, country, jazz, Broadway, etc.) Meet me at next CSA meeting or call Lani at 860-738-2888

SUPER IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY, is available for musicians'/bands photos & video. On location shoots are our specialty. Professional results with a personal touch. Discount for CSA members. Contact Ric Speck at 203-753-5933 or e-mail superimagephoto@hotmail.com for info.

DOC ROCK DIGITAL AUDIO manipulator Bob Nary - Providing personal, professional and prompt audio services since 1989. Digital recording, mastering, editing; CD & cassette duplication. Mastering can make a BIG difference. We'll do a free CD sample for you. For details, E-mail docrock@snet.net. Watch for our new studio grand opening soon! 860-664-9499

EXIT4MUSIC DESIGN SERVICES FOR MUSICIANS - CD design, Band and Artist Logos, Promotional Art, Digital Photography, Web Media, Murals and Scenic Painting for Video. PC and Mac Support, Adobe Photoshop Help. Fast Turn Around. Results. Douglas Branson 860.927.5338 www.exit4music.com

LYRICIST seeks composer-collaborator with solid musical training. Serious seeker of commercial success in Pop-rock, New Age, ballads, with goal of selling songs to publishers, et al. E-mail Juli Ann at wstport00@yahoo.com.

SINGER-SONGWRITER looking for arranger/pianist interested in developing a Christian music ministry. Peg D'Amato, pegdamato@earthlink.net

GUIARIST/vocalist and bassist/vocalist seek drummer interested in original writing/recording in the pop rock genre. Lou Hiller 203-259-2713

VOCALIST -- Experienced and talented female singer available to **sing on your demo CD** to promote your song! Do you love to write songs but don't like to sing?? Do you have a song you'd like to record but you wrote it for a woman?? **Let me help!** Fair rates! Contact Bonnie Lee Panda at (203) 272-0045.

Do you Have some old Equipment to donate?

Like many non-profit groups, CSA and LUNCH welcome donations of items for our programs. (tax-deductible for the contributor). Some items we need include: office equipment and supplies, photocopy machine, sound equipment, musical instruments or supplies, computer related items, etc. If you would like to help out by donating some of your old items, it would be greatly appreciated and would be a tax deduction for you. Call Bill Pere 860-572-9285.

COMMISSIONS AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS

COMMISSIONS FOR NEW MEMBER REFERRALS: Any member who refers a new member to CSA receives a \$10 commission when the person joins. The person you refer must join CSA at the regular membership rates, and must put your name on the application form as the source of the referral. For more information call Bill Pere (860-572-9285)

CSA is accepting Banner Ads for our web site -- let songwriters and performers from a wide geographic area know what you have to offer. A great way to market CD's, demo services, or other products.

Any business or service provider may place a banner ad on the CSA web site for only \$50-\$75 a year -- Definitely a bargain in today's advertising market.

Any member who gets a business or service provider (other than themself) to place an ad may receive a 25% commission on the sale. For more information call Bobbi Tammara (203-573-9972) or Paul Chapin (860-945-1CSA)

ATTENTION ALL CSA MEMBERS:

To insure that you get up-to-date information on meetings and other important time-sensitive information, we are compiling a CSA e-mail directory. To make sure our records are correct, please send your current e-mail address to us at :

WDPSONGS@AOL.COM

Thanks for helping us provide the best possible service

CSA makes no endorsement as to the quality of the individual services advertised.

Connecticut Songsmith is published monthly by the Connecticut Songwriters Association, founded in 1979 by Don Donegan. **Editor:** Bill Pere. Letters, comments, and articles are welcome. Send to CSA Editor, 40 Bruggeman Pl, Mystic, CT 06355. (submissions should be electronic or camera ready, are subject to editing, and are published solely at the discretion of CSA)

CSA Office: 51 Hillcrest Ave Watertown, CT 06795 --- Web: www.ctsongs.com
-- Phone and E-Mail --

Special Projects, Newsletter, and Membership: WDpsongs@aol.com; 860-572-9285
Executive Director : Paul4CSA@aol.com; 860-945-1CSA

... OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ...

President/Exec Dir :	Paul Chapin , Watertown, CT	860-945-1CSA
Vice Pres :	Bob Williams, Westport CT	203-256-8974
Secretary :	Pat Reynolds, Willington, CT	860-684-4867
Treasurer :	Bill Pere, Mystic, CT	860-572-9285
Directors :	Don Donegan, Glastonbury, CT	860-659-8992
	Kay Pere, Mystic CT	860-572-0629
	Roy O' Neill, Waterbury, CT	203-754-5411
	John Gregory , Marlborough CT	860-295-8484

CSA ADVERTISING RATES and DISCOUNTS

CLASSIFIED: Free to members, run at the discretion of CSA; \$10 per issue for non-members, ~50 word max. All ads subject to editing. Ads must include full name . CSA reserves the right to refuse any ad.

DISPLAY: (Rates are for **Camera-Ready Copy**. If you want us to do typeset and layout for you, add one-time \$15 set up charge).

1/8 page: \$30 per issue
1/4 page: \$40 per issue
1/2 page: \$50 per issue
full page: \$80 per issue

30% Discount for 8-12 consecutive issues; 20% for 5-7 consecutive issues; 15% for 3-4 consecutive issues; 10% 2 consecutive issues

Full Payment must accompany all ads. Make checks payable to: CSA Newsletter, 40 Bruggeman Place, Mystic, CT 06355. Deadline for ads is the 15th of the preceding month. (Commissions available for CSA members who sell ads).

SONG CRITIQUES Members may bring a song or lyric on cassette to the monthly meeting for critiquing by fellow members. Please bring 30-40 copies of typed lyric sheet. Out-of-State members may have their songs or lyrics critiqued by sending one submission with 40 typed copies of lyrics to: CSA, 51 Hillcrest Ave, Watertown, CT 06795. Include a double stamped return envelope. Members are encouraged to write their comments on the sheets which can provide valuable feedback to the writer(s). Comments by the group will be recorded at the end of your song (do not remove the record-protect tabs from the cassette).

FREE WEB PAGE -- The CSA web site (www.ctsongs.com) offers a free web page for members. Check our site at www.ctsongs.com Also, members who sell banner advertising on the web site to local businesses may receive a 25% commission of CSA's portion of the ad price.

FREE ACCESS to CT SONGS CAFE -- The CSA online area for posting notices, getting your electronic newsletter, and other features.

Questions about CSA Programs? Need To check your Membership status? Have a news item to submit? Want to volunteer for a project? Seeking a collaborator? Change of Address? It's easy to contact CSA.

General Office: 51 Hillcrest Ave, Watertown, CT 06795.
Phone: 860-945-1CSA **E-mail:** Paul4CSA@aol.com

Change of Address, Newsletter, Membership, Special Projects:

Bill Pere, 40 Bruggeman Place Mystic CT 06355

Phone: 860-572-9285 **Fax:** 860-572-0629

E-Mail WDPsongs@aol.com

CSA on the Web: www.ctsongs.com

• COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES AND NETWORKING CSA provides opportunities to meet collaborators and providers of various music services. Make sure you're listed on our web site.

• SONG SCREENING : CSA helps its members get well-crafted songs targeted to their best potential market. Songs are screened at meetings 2-3 times a year, or by mail. Selected songs are eligible for inclusion on CSA cassette albums which are often given to industry pros. Songs submitted for screening must have been presented at a prior critique session. (exceptions on a case-by-case basis) For details, contact Wayne Gamache, 203-265-6518 in Wallingford

• PARTICIPATION IN CSA RETAIL OUTLETS AND CATALOGS :

Recordings by CSA members may be made available to retail outlets like The Connecticut Store and Borders Books. CSA may on occasion publish and distribute a catalog of CSA recordings or do Internet marketing

• ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING GRANTS FOR YOUR PROJECTS: As a non-profit organization, CSA can help you apply for funding for projects like concerts, recordings, videos, etc.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES: The LUNCH Program offers opportunities to be involved in the production and performance of benefit shows to address hunger and poverty in Connecticut. Contact Bill Pere, 860-572-9285 for details.

AVAILABLE FROM CSA: 51 Hillcrest Ave Watertown CT 06795:

• CSA Compilation Albums and T-Shirts (\$8 - \$12)

• FREE Contract Agreement Forms - Send stamped envelope

• BOOKS for songwriters: Available at discount. Call 860-945-1CSA

CSA REGISTRATION FORM FOR NEW MEMBERS (This form not valid for membership renewals)

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

E_MAIL _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____ BIRTH DATE _____

PHONE: (____) _____ OCCUPATION: _____

CHECK WHERE APPROPRIATE Songwriter Lyricist Vocalist
 Composer Musician Patron Other: _____

Membership Categories

(outside the U.S., please add \$10 to all categories)

(All memberships include free Newsletter Subscription)

- 1 year New Membership \$40
- 2 year New Membership \$70 (save \$10)
- 3 year New Membership \$99 (save \$21)
- Full Time Student \$30/yr
- Senior Citizen \$30/yr
- Lifetime \$400 one time total
- Newsletter Subscription only (\$25/yr. 12 issues)

Members receive a free 1 year subscription to the monthly newsletter *Connecticut Songsmith*, free admission to monthly meetings and critique sessions, participation in the Song Share Sessions, Song Screening Services, eligibility for inclusion on Cassette albums, free classified ads in the Newsletter, and discounts on goods and services.

Enclosed is my check or money order to CSA for \$ _____.



Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number : Visa Mastercard Expiration _____



Mail to:

CSA Membership, c/o Bill Pere
 40 Bruggeman Place Mystic CT 06355
 For Faster Service, Join by Phone: 860-572-9285. Select menu option #2 and have your Credit Card ready.

E-Mail: wdpSongs@aol.com

Connecticut Songwriters Association
 40 Bruggeman Pl., Mystic, CT 06355
 Serving Music's Artisans
 and Craftsmen Since 1979

An Educational, Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Improving the Art and Craft of Original Music