

# Connecticut Songsmith

Newsletter of the Connecticut Songwriters Association



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



January 2004  
Volume XXV  
Number 1  
Issue #290

Combining Arts,  
Education, and  
Community Outreach

1979 - 2004 :25 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

Report on NERFA, and a Discussion of Marketing and Self-Promotion  
--Register now for the Songwriting Conference -- rates go up soon --



## How Do You Get Others to Help You Get Your Projects Done? How Do You Create Opportunities For Yourself?

January 2004, begins our 25th Year! We want to do everything possible to make this an extraordinary celebration of the art and craft of songwriting. This will only be possible with the support and participation of all of our members. To those of you who have become familiar faces over the years, we say thank you, and we look forward to your continued involvement. For those of you who have been waiting on the sidelines, looking for a place to jump in, this is the time. We will welcome you with open arms.

The January CSA meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13 7:15 pm at the Hampton Inn, Milford (*directions on page 2*) The program will be a discussion of many aspects of an important topic: How do you get others to help you reach your goals? Networking, self-promotion, and marketing are all variations on this same question. Bill and Kay Pere, as well as some other CSA members were at the NERFA and IMC conferences. Bill will present a report on the value of attending events like this, and also, a specific 'how-to' presentation on getting individuals and organizations like CSA to work for YOU! Lots of valuable, actionable information to be shared at this meeting.

**Register now for the CSA Songwriting Conference Rate goes up soon.**

Following the program, as time permits, there will be a critique session. To participate in the critique session, members may bring a song 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 offers.

### CSA EVENT CALENDAR

(for complete listing see <http://www.ctsongwriters.com>)

- Jan 09 Pine Loft Showcase . Les Julian
- Jan 13 CSA Regular Meeting -- Milford  
Discussion of Music Conventions and Self-Promotion
- Jan 16 - Mystic River Folk Concert Series - Christine Cooney
- Feb 10 - Regular CSA Mtg: Vocal Workshop, Old Saybrook
- Feb 13 Mystic River Folk Concert Series with Geoff Kaufman
- Mar 09 CSA Mtg: East Hartford - Mike Hopkins from Nashville
- Mar 12 - Mystic River Folk Concert Series with Nancy Tucker
- Mar 19 Pine Loft Showcase -- Bill and Kay Pere

**APRIL 17, A CSA 25th Anniversary Event: The all-day Connecticut Songwriting and Performance Conference at Three Rivers College, Norwich. The biggest event of our 25 year history! PLAN ON BEING THERE! Register early.**

- May 22, 2004 - A Day of Celebrating Gospel, Inspirational, and Spiritual Music. Sign up NOW to perform!
- Sept 18 2004 - Connecticut History Concert
- Oct 16, 2004 - Songwriting Workshop with the legendary mentor to the stars, Jack Hardy from NYC
- Dec 11 2004 -- Mystic - The LUNCH Holiday Show

Guiding Songs Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

COMBINING ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR 25 YEARS

## DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATIONS

How to  
Get There!

**Directions to Hampton Inn, Milford:** Directly at Exit 36 off I-95, either direction.

**Directions to Mystic River Folk and events at Union Baptist Church** Coming North on I-95, take Exit 91. Go right off the Exit onto Allyn St. Go about 2 miles and come to a light and the intersection of Rt 1. Turn left onto Rt 1 and go a short way to the 5-way intersection. Church is on the left. Make a hairpin left to get to the parking lot.

**Directions to Songwriters Showcase at the Pine Loft in Berlin, CT.** Pine Loft is located at 1474 Berlin Turnpike, 1 mile south of the Rt 9 intersection, at the Rt 5 and 15 junction.

**YOUR HELP IS REQUESTED !** In March, we will have Nashville producer Mike Hopkins as our guest speaker in East Hartford. In April, Jen Chapin and Alex Forbes will be joining us from New York. During the rest of the year and beyond, we will be having great programs every month as we have done for 25 years. In order to keep our meetings in high quality, accessible venues, we need sponsors for our meetings -- We would like to have some business or organization underwrite the cost of presenting our monthly meetings. This is something we need to do this in order to keep presenting programs in good quality locations. If you would be willing to approach a local business in your area (a bank, music store, a car dealership, a corporation, etc.) and ask them to underwrite a CSA meeting for \$150, this would enable us to keep presenting the best possible programs in the best possible venues. The sponsor would receive a year-long banner ad on our website, a listing in the newsletter, a featured presence at the meeting they sponsor, and mention at all other CSA meetings. It would be great exposure for any potential sponsors. Please help us by approaching a potential sponsor as a representative of CSA, and requesting their support. You'll be surprised at how often people will say yes when they know they are helping to support a non-profit cause. Be sure to emphasize that CSA is a non-profit organization that supports arts, education and community outreach. Sponsor checks may be sent to CSA PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355. Thanks for your help.

**MEMBER HAPPENINGS:** >>>> **Bonnie Panda** is on her way to Philadelphia to compete in the Nashville Star at the regional level. The Nashville Star is a Nation-wide competition similar to American idol, however the contestants sing country music and use original songs as well as cover songs. There were three rounds of local auditions, which were held at the Cadillac Ranch in Southington Connecticut. Bonnie was selected as one of two finalists, among the 115 people who competed through three rounds over several days. There are 5-6 regional competitions around the U.S, and Nashville Star producers will pick a total of 12 finalists from the regionals to compete on a television show airing in March 2004, hosted on USA network. These twelve singer/songwriters will live in a house for eight weeks and compete once a week on the televised program. One person will then be selected by the audience to win a Sony Music Nashville Recording contract. Starting in December, Bonnie and the other Connecticut finalist, Season Hankins will be working with WWYZ Country 92.5 in getting ready for the competition. >>>> **Rabbi Shaul Marshall Praver**, of Congregation Adath Israel in Newtown, CT, began rehearsals last week for his first CD with jazz pianist, Rachel Z. The twelve-song set will include classic cantorial selections ranging from traditional East European styles to contemporary Cantorial settings. According to producer, **Bob Williams**, of Against the Grain "Hearing Rabbi Praver sing, is like hearing the voice of heaven. I've worked with Rachel for years and knew immediately that she and Shaul would be a perfect match. The rehearsals took my breath away." Upon Rachel's return from South Africa, where she is playing with Peter Gabriel at the Nelson Mandela's AIDS benefit, she and Rabbi Praver will go into Avatar Studios (formerly known as the Power Station) to complete the CD. Avatar is one of New York's top recording studios. Yo Yo Ma recently finished a project there, as well as Bon Jovi, Sting, and Diana Krall. Rabbi Praver's CD entitled, "Give Peace to the World" (Sim Shalom Ba'Olam), is scheduled for release in late spring. >>> The 7th annual LUNCH Holiday Show, featuring **Bill Pere, Kay Pere, Scott Sivakoff**, and the LUNCH Ensemble, was a great success and raised more than \$4,000 to support social service agencies in Connecticut. there are 100,000 hungry children and 33,000 homeless people in Connecticut -- shelters turn away more than 27,000 people each year. your support of our community outreach efforts through music is greatly appreciated.

FOR ADDITIONAL MEMBER HAPPENINGS AND GIG SCHEDULES, SEE THE POSTINGS AT THE CTSONGSCAFE E-GROUP !  
(<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ctsongscafe>). All members may post notices of their accomplishments. Please share your experiences with the group. If you have not yet signed up for CTSongsCafe, please do so. There are so many great resources to help you along your creative journey.

## CSA IS YOUR ORGANIZATION.

The more you put into it, the more you will get out of it -- hundreds of songwriters have found that to be true over the last 25 years.

**We hope we can count on you to volunteer. the time is NOW !  
For the songwriting and performance conference, we need people to:**

- **Open Mic/Showcase coordinator to host and organize the slots**
- Guides and Hosts/Hostesses
- Help with staffing CSA info tables
- Video taping the event
- Reporter to interview participants and do an article for the newsletter
- A photographer to document the events of the day
- Help with media contacts and press releases for promotion
- Help with securing food
- Secretarial/Administrative assistance
- Media Liaisons

**Our sincere thanks to those folks who have stepped forward to help out -- we can always use additional help**

**If you're willing to help, call Bill Pere 860-572-9285 or e-mail [bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com)**

## We need people to:

- Donate items that might be useful for giving away as door prizes, for silent auctions, or other fundraising activities. If you have any used items that you'd like to donate, or if you find any interesting stuff at tag sales or flea markets, think of us. You'll get a tax deduction for the value of the item. We're willing to accept almost any kind of useful musical or office item, or just neat "stuff". Call Bill Pere, 860-572-9285 or e-mail [bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com) Thanks so much to those of you who have called to contribute some useful items.

**A constant lesson learned from CSA is that opportunities come to those who get involved and get involved EARLY! Don't sit on the sidelines. If your music matters to you, don't say you're "too busy"**

**! An Investment in CSA is an Investment in Yourself!**

• **CREATE PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES** 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).

• **SPECIAL MONTHLY CONCERT SERIES FOR 2004:** **The Mystic River Folk Concert Series.** A monthly show, to be heavily publicized as part of Mystic's Semiseptennial Celebration (that's 350 years). If you might be interested in an opening or feature spot, send a press/promo kit to Sound Krayons Music, PO Box 145, Mystic CT 06355. Kay Pere is coordinating, and slots are being booked now for the months ahead. This will be a high-profile, upscale event. For current schedule, check the CSA calendar at the CSA website (CTsongs.com) or at <http://www.ctsongwriters.com>. This will be a significant and heavily promoted, Concert Series -- get involved!

• **MONTHLY CSA SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE:** CSA presents a monthly showcase at the Pine Loft in Berlin, CT, from 7:30-10:00pm. (full details elsewhere in this issue). The evening will be hosted by **Brian Booth**. Pine Loft is a smoke-free environment with a dinner menu, and sound system is provided. For booking, contact either Don Donegan (860)-659-8992 or Brian Booth (860)-667-2248.

**NOTE: REGISTRATION RATES FOR THE CSA SONGWRITING CONFERENCE IN APRIL GO UP AFTER FEBRUARY 29. REGISTER NOW FOR MAXIMUM DISCOUNT! REGISTRATION FORM IS IN THIS ISSUE.**

## And Even More CSA RHYTHM AND NEWS



# WHO'S COMING to The Connecticut Songwriting and Performance Conference ?



### Jen Chapin

NYC-based singer-songwriter, educator, Chairperson of WHY, and a third-generation member of one of America's most influential musical families see [www.jenchapin.com](http://www.jenchapin.com)



### Alex Forbes

Hit songwriter (Taylor Dayne's #2 hit, "Don't Rush Me"; recording artist ("Leap"); and well known presenter of songwriting workshops see [www.alexforbes.com](http://www.alexforbes.com)



There will be many more featured presenters, critiquers, vendors, and performers as well.

For all details, schedule, and presenters, go to <http://www.ctsongwriters.com> and click the Conference link

**SPECIAL: Some of the Artists from IndieGrrl ("Audacity on a Shoestring") will be there, and there will be a special IndieGrrl concert the evening before the conference as part of the Mystic River Folk series.**

Other topics in the works: Guitar Clinic, Voice Clinic, Lyric Clinic, Creativity Workshop, Technology, Critique Panel and more. An exceptional networking and learning opportunity

Register NOW for Maximum Discount ! (see below for exhibitor table registration)



### The Connecticut Songwriting And Performance Conference Offers You A Great Opportunity To Present Your Goods And Services To Writers, Artists, And Educators From Across The State.

If you have a product, service, or information that you would like to share with other musically oriented people, consider getting a vendor /exhibitor table at the Conference. This will allow you to display or demonstrate any product, service, CD, and literature all day, while interacting with the Conference attendees., which should include many potential buyers.

The cost of a table (6-8 ft) is only \$65 for CSA members, and that will include your full conference registration fee as well, allowing you to attend any other concert workshop or performance (Meals not included). You may also bring an assistant to help staff your table.

If you know what it usually costs for something like this, you know what an incredible bargain this is for an opportunity of this kind. CSA members will have first choice for vendor tables -- the tables are limited and we expect them to go quickly, so we will accept your reservation **now**, for a vendor table -- Remember, this includes your full registration to all other conference events. (Meals are separate -- please add \$12 per person, which covers lunch and supper) To reserve your vendor table now, contact Bill Pere (860-572-9285) or send your Vendor registration fee to CSA Song Conference, 40 Bruggeman Place, Mystic CT 06355.

**VENDOR TABLES ARE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE, AND WHEN THEY'RE GONE, THEY'RE GONE!**



# Connecticut Songwriting And Performance Conference

In partnership with LUNCH and  
Three Rivers Community College

# A CSA 25th Anniversary Event



(For Latest news, visit <http://www.ctsongwriters.com> - click the Conference link )

CSA brings you our biggest event ever, in celebration of 25 years of serving the songwriting community. A full day of workshops, performances, and vendors, with an evening concert..

- Guest presenters from New York and Connecticut, including Jen Chapin and Alex Forbes
- Vendor/Exhibitor tables to display and demonstrate products and services
- All day open mic and showcase venues (advance signup required - Contact Bill Pere Now! )
- Evening concert in the auditorium
- Critique panel with CSA's best critiquers
- Opportunity to interact with presenters, educators, and artists from a wide geographic area
- Exceptional opportunities to learn from and network with successful writers and performers!
- Marketing and Promotion ideas and resources for independent artists

**In order for this event to be successful we need many volunteers. If you are willing to help out in any way, please contact Bill Pere ([bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com)) or 860-572-9285 now.**

**We extend our thanks to the volunteers who have stepped up to provide the necessary sound systems and services to support the event. Other volunteers are still needed for additional support.**

Registration is underway and early registration is recommended as the space is limited -- discounts for early registration. Showcase and open mic slots will be allocated on an **advance** sign-up basis at the discretion of the event producers. If you want to have a spot, you need to contact Bill Pere now. There are also a limited number of vendor tables. The event will be heavily promoted outside of CSA, but preference will be given to CSA members whenever possible. CEU Credits have been approved for professional teachers.

Details for event registration are presented in this newsletter, at the CSA website ([www.ctsongs.com](http://www.ctsongs.com)), and at [www.ctsongwriters.com](http://www.ctsongwriters.com). If you are interested in participating or if you have questions, or would like to help out, contact event coordinator Bill Pere at [bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com).

**Success comes from opportunity, and opportunity comes from involvement -- be involved !**

**REGISTER or RESERVE YOUR VENDOR TABLE NOW for Maximum Discount !**

The cost of a table includes all other activities and allows you to bring an assistant.

You have plenty of advance notice to set the time aside and arrange your busy schedule so that you can be a part of this great opportunity !

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING

- Open Mic/Showcase coordinator to host and organize the slots
- Guides and Hosts/Hostesses
- Help with staffing CSA info tables
- Video taping the event
- Reporter to interview participants and do an article for the newsletter
- A photographer to document the events of the day
- Help with media contacts and press releases for promotion
- Help with securing food
- Help with Critique panels

To volunteer, call Bill Pere at 860-572-9285 or e-mail [bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com)

Approved for  
Teacher CEU  
credits!

Become a  
conference  
participant !  
Success Comes  
to those who get  
involved!

**Contributing your time and effort will make this a great success.**





# A MESSAGE to CSA FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

**Bill Pere**



By any measure, 25 years is a great milestone for an organization, especially one which is devoted to improving the art and craft of original music. I am overjoyed to be President during this exciting time for CSA and I hope to make it a great time for you all to be part of the CSA community. On behalf of all CSA members, I thank outgoing President Paul Chapin for his four years of dedicated service to the Association.

I first joined CSA six months after it began activities in 1979, just having arrived in Connecticut from the suburbs of New York City. That was the single best move I ever made in my music career. One thing I learned early from CSA is that getting involved leads to opportunities. It's no different than the music business as a whole. People have to know who you are and what you do in order for opportunities to be offered to you. Next to CSA's founder, Don Donegan, I have been the most active CSA member out of the more than 1600 folks who have joined, serving as Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Director of Special Projects, Founder of the LUNCH program, Database administrator, etc. I have performed at more CSA showcases and events than anyone else and have regularly donated time and money to the organization. For the first three years, I used to drive back and forth from New York to CSA meetings, and never missed a meeting. CSA has been an important part of helping me achieve national recognition and learning about how to organize and produce large scale projects under a non-profit umbrella.

As President, I have one constant and overriding message for everyone who hopes to get the greatest benefit out of CSA -- quite simply, it is to BE INVOLVED! Become a familiar face! Let us know who you are and what you do -- not just musically, but in any way that can be of help to the organization. Be there, at meetings and events, and volunteer to pitch in as needed. That is what helps people get to the next level in the music business, and CSA is a great, safe place to test things out to see how you can best become a familiar face. Everyone has different skills to offer and sometimes, the only way to see how your skills can fit a situation is to step up and offer.

It is human nature that when someone has an opportunity to offer, they first turn to the people they know and trust. When booking performers, or needing a studio vocalist, or looking for a recording facility, the people who first get the call are those who are known. CSA makes it easy for you to become well known to the rest of the members. We meet frequently, share music, have an online e-group, and are always interested in what our fellow members are doing. Also, you get to interact with our guest speakers -- over the years CSA has had more than 200 music industry pros, including some of the biggest names in the business. You get to hear these people speak and interact with them all for just the cost of your membership. How much would someone have to pay to spend a few hours with Pete Seeger, George David Weiss, John Braheny, Sheila Davis, Gene Pitney, and so many more? How much could you learn having dinner with many of these folks, as CSA's leaders have had the opportunity to do before and after meetings? These incredible opportunities are available to you. All you have to do is BE THERE..

We often hear that "there's not enough time", or that "it's too far to drive". In truth, it is usually about a 60-90 minute drive to most CSA events. If you take the driving time and the time of the meeting, it's about a 6-7 hour commitment. If you attended two functions each month, that about 1-2 workdays. Ask yourself, is your music important enough to you to spend 1-2 days a month to help move it forward?

I hope the answer is yes, and that we'll be seeing you frequently throughout this year and beyond. As President, I will do everything possible to make sure that your time with CSA is well spent. I would ask that you make every effort to attend two CSA functions each month. There are the regular meetings, and then we have several showcase and special events happening throughout the year. These special events really need your support to be successful and to continue. As you begin to establish yourself as a familiar face, you will see more opportunities start to come your way. With time, patience, persistence, and a reliable consistency, you will find yourself moving forward on whatever path you define as right for you. By investing your time and energy into CSA, you help the association be in a better position to help you. An investment in CSA is an investment in yourself. If you were to pick one key event during the year that you couldn't miss, it would have to be the April 17 Songwriting Conference at Three Rivers College. It will be the biggest thing we've ever done, and the benefits to you can be significant. Your participation is what will make the event a success and determine if we ever do it again.

But you don't have to wait until April -- you can start right now with the January meeting. Milford is not that far, and this meeting will definitely be a mutually beneficial experience for those who attend and for CSA. When an organization and its members work together, we can achieve so much more than trying to go it alone. I hope to see you again and again during our 25th Anniversary and I look forward to watching you move steadily toward your chosen goals. Thanks for being a vital part of the CSA community.

Sincerely,

**Bill Pere**  
President, CSA  
Founder and Chair, LUNCH  
2003 Indie Artist of the Year  
Official CT State Troubadour '95



# MARKETPLACE



**CT SONGWRITING ACADEMY** - Find your individual path to success. Career consultation from the national 2003 Indie Artist of the Year. Songwriting and Music Theory mentoring. Instruction in MIDI and computer-related music skills, and setting up your own business. Complete state of the art Digital and MIDI recording, arranging, and production services. Completely affordable. CD duplication/packaging. Very successful track record at marketing products, concepts, events, and generating income for independent artists. Private consultation or lessons in any aspect of music craft, business, or production. Call **Bill Pere**, 860-572-9285. E-mail: [Bill@billpere.com](mailto:Bill@billpere.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.dondonegan.com](http://www.dondonegan.com) E-mail is [ddoneman@aol.com](mailto: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.funkeeboy.com](http://www.funkeeboy.com) and hear our work. Call Bobbi Tammaro (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 [rocknovel@snet.net](mailto:rocknovel@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

**SUITE AUDIO** : New mastering/recording facility in Clinton, CT created by Bob Nary of DocRock Digital. Amazing new ProTools HD and WAVES based mastering, recording, remastering, and restoration. CD and tape copies too. Great sound, great rates. Visit: [SuiteAudio.com](http://SuiteAudio.com), or call toll free 1-866-664-9174

**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](http://www.exit4music.com)

**SONG-A-DAY MUSIC CENTER** in Coventry offers instruction for all ages and levels in piano, guitar, bass guitar and violin. Private and small group. Four qualified instructors on staff. Workshops, guitar repair, instruments and supplies available. Young People's Summer Violin Camp. CSA member Ruth O'Neil, Director. 860-742-6878 or e-mail at [raonei@aol.com](mailto:raonei@aol.com)

**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.

**GUITAR Instruction** -- Jazz Guitar Improvisation volumes I & II. Complete method books/CDs -- \$24.95 each. Charlie Parker Transcriptions for Guitar Volumes I & II -- \$16.95 each. All orders \$3.50 s/h. Check/money order: Phunquie Pholk Music, PO Box 290752, Wethersfield, CT 06129-0752. web: [www.ericelias.net](http://www.ericelias.net) or e-mail: [ericejazz@aol.com](mailto:ericejazz@aol.com)

**DO I HAVE A SONG FOR YOU** -- Shoreline-based musician/songwriter with hit hooks and lyrics. country/ Rock/ Ballads/ Showtunes/ TV Themes. Tell me what you need. Ralph Onofrio, Songs, PO Box 554 N. Branford CT 06471; 203-483-7127.

**CREATIVE GROUP LLC** CD duplication and direct to CD printing with low minimums all done in-house; fast turn around time; Can do larger runs silk-screening to CD's with minimums of 1,000. We can also help design your next label and jacket inserts with in-house graphic designers available. See our web site at [www.thecreativegrp.com](http://www.thecreativegrp.com) or call Jon Landers at 203-438-6310

### 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 contact Bill Pere at [bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com)

### ATTENTION ALL CSA MEMBERS:

To insure that you get your newsletter and other important time-sensitive information, we need your current e-mail address. If you change your address or if you have not given it to us, please send your current e-mail address to us at: [info@ctsongs.com](mailto:info@ctsongs.com)

**Participate!  
Get Involved!**  
**Investing your  
time in CSA is  
investing in  
yourself!**



CSA makes no endorsement as to the quality of any of the 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, are subject to editing, and are published solely at the discretion of CSA)

CSA on the web at <http://www.ctsongs.com>  
-- Phone and E-Mail --

Special Projects, Newsletter, and Membership: [info@ctsongs.com](mailto:info@ctsongs.com) ; 860-572-9285  
Executive Director : **Bill Pere**, [bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com)

... OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ...

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Treasurer :	Kay Pere, Mystic CT	<a href="mailto:Kay@kaypere.com">Kay@kaypere.com</a>
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	Roy O'Neil, Waterbury, CT	<a href="mailto:gotsongs@cs.com">gotsongs@cs.com</a>
	John Gregory, Marlborough CT	<a href="mailto:jgregory@portone.com">jgregory@portone.com</a>
	Paul Chapin, Watertown, CT	<a href="mailto:paul4csa@aol.com">paul4csa@aol.com</a>

### 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 Electronic or 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  
WEB BANNER -- \$75/yr

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).

# WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT IN 2004 ?

It has never been a better time to be a part of the CSA community.

This year, we expect to be able to bring you:

- Our regular monthly meetings, with guest speakers networking opportunities, and critique sessions
- Two outdoor picnic/showcase events, instead of just one
- The all-day Connecticut Songwriting and Performance Conference (**register now and save \$\$**)
- The monthly Mystic River Folk Concert Series (**want to perform? Send promo now**)
- A monthly Songwriter Showcase at Pine Loft
- A day devoted to discussion and performance of Gospel, Inspirational, and Spiritual music (**want to perform? Contact Bill Pere NOW!**)
- Continued partnership with LUNCH to bring you the Harry Chapin Legacy Show and the annual Holiday Show
- Additions to our series of compilation CD's
- New web-based services
- ....and more !

Success comes from opportunity, and opportunity comes from involvement!

How can we do all this ? The answer is simple -- we can only do it with your support -- your continued membership, attendance at events, participation in workshops, volunteering when you can, and telling your friends and contacts about CSA. By supporting the organization and helping us grow, we can bring you better programs and services. The one thing that's on our wish list that we can't guarantee without your help is that we'd like 2004 to be a year of record membership. But that will only happen with you helping to get others to be part of the CSA community. Our last record membership year was our 20th anniversary. We have the chance to surpass that in 2004. As songwriters and performers, we're all in this together. Let's make our 25th year the best ever.

## CSA SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE

**CSA presents a monthly Songwriters Showcase each month at the Pine Loft in Berlin, CT.**  
(Pine Loft is located at 1474 Berlin Turnpike, 1 mile south of the Rt 9 intersection, at the Rt 5 and 15 junction.)

CSA has a 25 year history of running quality Songwriter Showcases all around the state. We are pleased to present a monthly showcase at the Pine Loft, in Berlin 7:30-10:00pm. The series is hosted by Brian Booth and features various performers each month. For information or to inquire about booking, call Don Donegan at 860-659-8992, or Brian Booth at 860-667-2248.

**Friday, January 9 : The featured act for the evening is winner of multiple national awards, and a past CSA president**  
**Les Julian**

with opening songs from Eric Elias, Dave Fry, Ron Anthony, and Alison Wittenberg

**COMING ON February 13 : TBA**

**COMING ON March 19 Bill Pere and Kay Pere**

Good listening environment, Sound System provided. Dinner Menu available.

**COME SUPPORT CSA ARTISTS AND EVENTS. BE INVOLVED !**



# Mystic River Folk Concerts

CSA brings you a great series of National and Regional acts

**Celebrating 25 years of CSA, 15 Years of LUNCH and 350 Years of Mystic. All shows at Union Baptist Church, corner of Route 1 and High Street, Mystic. (just up the hill from Mystic Pizza). All proceeds benefit social service agencies in Connecticut through LUNCH. Snacks and beverages available** (If you would like to be considered for an opening slot, contact Kay@kaypere.com)

*Did you know that at any given time, there are 33,000 homeless people in Connecticut and 40% of them are children? In our state, more than 16,000 people are turned away from homeless shelters every year. There are 100,000 children under the age of 12 in Connecticut who do not have enough food to eat. Your support of these events makes a difference in the lives of others ! **Please post this schedule by your calendar.***

**Friday, January 16-- 7:30pm . Tickets: \$10. For more info, contact Kay Pere Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH. . Featured Guest: The Heart and Soul Music of Christine Cooney**  
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**Friday, February 13 --7:30pm . Tickets: \$10. For more info, contact kay@kaypere.com Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH Celebrate Valentine's Day (and Friday the 13th) as one of Connecticut's best known traditional artists, Geoff Kauffman , with guest Jim McNeish presents "A Tribute to Love"**  
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**Friday, March 12 -- 7:30pm Tickets: \$10. For more info, contact <kay@kaypere.com>. Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH Featuring nationally known artist and comedienne Nancy Tucker. If you enjoyed Nanacy at the PoineLoft, come see this full length show !**  
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**Friday, April 16 -- 7:30pm. Tickets: \$10. For more info, contact <kay@kaypere.com>. Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH <www.lunchensemble.com> **SPECIAL INDIE GRRL NIGHT !!** Female artists from the Indie Grrl group from different parts of the country. Learn how to become part of the IndieGrrl network.**  
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**Friday, May 14 -- 7:30pm., Tickets: \$10. For more info, contact <kay@kaypere.com>. Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH This is a Special Concert featuring the incredible harmonies, songwriting, and musicianship of **Mad Agnes** <www.madagnes.com> . This well-known trio of Margo Hennebach, Adrian Jones and Mark Saunders is an audio-visual delight. This concert is a must-see for appreciators of good songcraft and quality artists.**  
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**Saturday, May 22 --Lift your Spirits in "A Day of Praise" A round robin concert with accomplished artists performing spiritual and inspirational music. 7:00pm., Tickets: \$10. For more info contact <bill@billpere.com>. Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH <www.lunchensemble.com>**  
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**Saturday, June 19 --7:30pm Tickets: \$10. For more info, contact <kay@kaypere.com>. Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH. Special guest from Ohio -- The Wisdom and Wit of Patti Witten ("*Thoughtful folk-pop with subtle poetic beauty*" -- Performing Songwriter Magazine)**  
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**Saturday, August 14 -7:30pm Tickets: \$10 For more info contact <kay@kaypere.com> .Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH In conjunction with the annual **Mystic Outdoor Arts Festival**, come hear two of Connecticut's Official State Troubadours, Mike Kachuba, with Jeff McQuillan, in a show that celebrates the visual arts through music. as they present songs based on paintings of "The American Artist in Connecticut". With opening songs by Kay Pere and Bill Pere**  
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**Saturday, September 18 -- The Mystic History Concert** in honor of Mystic's 350th Anniversary. 7:00pm., Tickets: \$10. For more info, contact <bill@billpere.com>. Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH A concert featuring CSA artists presenting songs about Connecticut and Mystic history. Official Connecticut State Troubadours BILL PERE and TOM CALLINAN , joined by Kay Pere and other guests a present songs from their original individual and collaborative repertoires, and well as some traditional favorites. Bill will perform selections from his CD "Profiles of Connecticut"  
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**Saturday, October 16 -7:30pm** Tickets \$10 For more info contact <kay@kaypere.com> .Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH .Legendary singer-songwriter **JACK HARDY** from the heart of the New York music scene . Visit Jack's website at [www.jackhardy.com](http://www.jackhardy.com) to learn all about this icon of contemporary folk and folk-rock. Jack will perform with his trio. Reserve early.

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**Friday, Nov 12 - 7:30pm.** Tickets \$10. For more info contact <kay@kaypere.com>. Proceeds to benefit social services through LUNCH . Featuring the uplifting music of Second Circle, with CSA's Jack Kavanaugh.

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**Saturday, December 11 -- The 8th Annual LUNCH Holiday Show** .Featuring Bill Pere , Kay Pere Scott Sivakoff, and the LUNCH Ensemble with songs of the season, new original songs, and an original stage play. . This year's show is "The Gift of the Madguy" .Show starts at 7pm with live pre-show music beginning at 6:15. Tickets in advance: \$8 (adults) \$6 (kids under 12); At the door: \$10 (adults) , \$8 (kids under 12) \$8 (CSA members). Proceeds benefit social service agencies and provide holiday food baskets for those in need. . **Come support this important community outreach effort.** Tickets and Info: 860-572-9285 or e-mail [bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com)

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## New Service from CSA



### NEED A BARCODE UPC symbol for your CD ?

If you want to sell your CD's through retail outlets or through online stores like Amazon, a barcoded UPC is required. CSA can provide a unique number for your product that meets CD retailing requirements. No one else would have your UPC number (you need a different number for each different product you have). For a one time cost of \$25 per UPC, CSA will give you a number and a barcode (or you can use the number to make your own barcode). To obtain a barcode, send \$25 per UPC and your e-mail address to CSA, 40 Bruggeman Place, Mystic CT 06355. You will receive your UPC via e-mail, or by regular mail if you prefer.

### CSA MEMBERS --

### TO HELP MAKE OUR 2004 MEETINGS RUN SMOOTHLY AND BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE, WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THREE THINGS:

1. At each meeting we need a volunteer to sit at the table near the door to greet people when they arrive, make sure they are signed in, give them a nametag, and collect the \$5 guest fee from non-members.
2. At each meeting, we need someone who would be willing to moderate the critique sessions - this means
  - set a random order for the critique entries
  - put the tapes/CD's in the player and play the song
  - let people know whose turn it is and who's up next
  - call on people after the song for their constructive comments and moderate the discussion.
  - make sure that participants are current CSA members.
  - log each song played in the log book and keep a file copy of the lyric sheet.
3. Check your part of the state for potential places to hold CSA meetings. We are looking for appropriate venues that we might be able to get for free or at minimal cost. They need to be large enough, quiet enough (no bars or clubs), easy to get to (with parking) and let us stay until at least 11:00pm. Finding low cost meeting places will save us money, as paying for meeting rooms is one of our largest expenses.
4. We need business or corporate sponsors to underwrite the cost of meeting locations. You can approach possible sponsors in your area as a representative of CSA, for a sponsorship of \$150. Banks, car dealers, music stores, record shops, etc are all potential sponsors. Meeting sponsors will receive a banner ad on our website and mention at all the meetings throughout the year.

To help out in any capacity, contact Bill Pere ([bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com))

**YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP OUT IN ANY OF THESE AREAS WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED -- CSA IS YOUR ORGANIZATION -- GET INVOLVED AND BE A FAMILIAR FACE !**

