

# 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.



September  
2004  
Volume XXV  
Number 9

Combining Arts,  
Education, and  
Community Outreach

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

## Sept 14 at East Hartford Community Center: CSA All-Critique Session and IMC Report



The CSA meeting for September will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 7:15pm at the East Hartford Community Center (directions on page 2) This month will be an All-Critique session. It has been more than a year since we have devoted an evening just to critiquing, and this allows us to spend more time on each song, and to do more songs.

Getting constructive critique from supportive, objective, songwriter-savvy listeners is an essential and extremely valuable part of a songs journey from creation to realization. It is one of the greatest benefits of being part of CSA, as it is available every month at no cost.

To get the most from a critique, please have 30 copies of types lyric sheets, and bring a song on CD, cassette, or do it live. On your lyric sheet, please note your intended goal and/or audience for this song (i.e. mainstream pop, country, indie artist, niche market, performed by you or someone else, etc.). It is fine for the song to be in very rough form -- that's what critiquing is for.

For those who are new to the critique process or who feel nervous about sharing their songs, see the article on critiquing written by Bill Pere called "Taking the Mystique Out of Critique" It is under the "Songwriters Tools" section at [www.billpere.com](http://www.billpere.com).

There will also be a brief report on the Independent Music Conference which will have been held the week before.

We hope to see you there, and please bring a friend.

### COMING UP

Oct 16 in Mystic: -- From New York JACK HARDY Workshop and Concert

Nov 09 in Middletown: -- From New York: MARCI GELLER presents the realities of life as an Indie Artist

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>)

- Aug 29 - The 2nd CSA Picnic/Showcase, Glastonbury 1-6pm
- Sept 14 - CSA meeting, East Hartford - all Critique
- Sept 18 - Connecticut History Concert
- Oct 16 - Songwriting Workshop with the legendary mentor to the stars, Jack Hardy from NYC (REGISTER NOW - Space is limited !)
- Nov 9 - Marci Geller, Wesleyan University Life as an Indie Artist
- Dec 11 - Mystic - The LUNCH Holiday Show
- Dec 14 - CSA Holiday Songshare, East Hartford

SEE YOU THERE, and BRING A FRIEND !

**Coming September 18** to Mystic River Folk:

The Connecticut History Concert with Tom Callinan, Bill Pere, Kay Pere, Geoff Kaufman, and the LUNCH Ensemble.

A great evening of music. Come help support CSA performance events.

COMBINING ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR 25 YEARS

Guiding Songs Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

## DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATIONS

How to  
Get There!

### Directions to the East Hartford Community Center:

**From I-84 :** Take Exit 56 (Governors St.) At the first traffic light go left on Prospect St. At the second stop sign go right on Richard St. to the end. Community Center and parking are on the left. Extra parking in the lot on the right.

**From I-91 :** heading north, take Exit 25 towards Glastonbury. Cross the CT River on Route 3 and bear left to Route 2 towards East Hartford. Take the East Hartford Exit off Route 2 which will put you on Governors St. Follow above directions.

**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.

## IMPRESARIOS WANTED!

**Don't limit your creativity to writing and performing.  
Become an IMPRESARIO- organize and promote a CSA entertainment event!**

CSA has had some exciting recent success with targeted events such as our 25th Anniversary Songwriting and Performance Conference and the Day of Praise songshare and dinner/concert. We know there is opportunity to do more, but we need your help. We want to create *involvement opportunities* for the membership and *performance opportunities* for as many folks as possible. Specifically, we want to sponsor a series of genre-specific events. The categories we have agreed upon are

**ROCK, R & B / JAZZ, FOLK / BLUEGRASS, COUNTRY,  
POP / INSTRUMENTAL, SPIRITUAL / INSPIRATIONAL, and ALTERNATIVE.**

Each event should be presented at a public venue and be self-funding (concert tickets and registration fees should cover all costs and hopefully generate a net profit) The event format would be along the lines of the recent Day of Praise program, which included a songshare /discussion session, supper, and concert. CSA will provide guidance, promotional support, and some general coordination of the schedule for the several events. But the creation and management of the event will be up to you.

How do you get started? You can be a committee of one or a larger working group. The first step is to say "yes" I want to be involved with this, and pick the genre you want to participate on. Contact either Program Coordinator Roy O'Neil (gotsongs@cs.com) or CSA President Bill Pere (info@ctsongs.com) and let us know your area of interest and how you would like to be involved, and we will assemble a list of aspiring impresarios for each genre. We will return a list of similarly interested folks, and we will provide you with the guidelines you need for organizing a successful event. This is a great way to promote your music, to the public, get experience in producing events, and benefit CSA as well.

The "Day of Praise" event was held in May, and was considered very beneficial to all who participated. It inspired CSA member Peg D'amato to want to organize a second such event, which is going to be held in November (see separate flyer for details). Together, we can make great things happen and bring in new fans and supporters of original music.

## And Even More CSA RHYTHM AND NEWS

# CSA PRO WORKSHOP

**COMING: OCTOBER 16 From New York City: JACK HARDY**

### OUR FEATURED PRO WORKSHOP and CONCERT FOR 2004

Everyone knows the great songwriters and stars like Suzanne Vega, John Gorka, Shawn Colvin, Richard Shindell and David Massengill. But where did they learn their craft? Who mentored them and critiqued their work to help them achieve their success? --Ask them and they'll tell you, JACK HARDY. From his weekly song workshops in New York's SoHo, to his global reputation as a great songwriter and balladeer, Jack Hardy has made a lasting impact on the contemporary music scene. CSA is pleased to give you the opportunity to learn directly from this great mentor to the stars. Having your song critiqued by Jack Hardy is an experience not to be missed! **CRITIQUE WILL BE DONE IN THE ORDER OF REGISTRATION RECEIVED**

**Workshop: SATURDAY, October 16, 1-5pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room.**

**Concert: (with Jack's Trio) SATURDAY, October 16, 7:30pm at Union Baptist Church, Mystic.**

**Registration (CSA members) \$30 for Workshop AND Concert - in advance. \$35 at the door. Slots are filling, so reserve your space now. Make checks payable to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355.**

**DIRECTIONS to Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 14 Holmes St.**

I-95 going North -- to Exit 89, Allyn St, turn right OR I-95 going South -- to Exit 89, Allyn St, turn left Go about 1-2 miles on Allyn St, past blinking light, to traffic light. This is the intersection with Rt 1. Turn Left. onto Rt 1. Down the hill for a very short way and you will be at a 5-way intersection (NOTE: For the evening concert will be in the large church right at your left.) Proceed straight through the 5-way, to main street of downtown Mystic. Cross the drawbridge to the flagpole. At the flagpole, turn left onto Holmes St After you pass some storefronts you'll see a large red brick building on the right. This is #14 Holmes St. To Park, turn right onto Church St (just before the brick building) and left into the parking lot. The Chamber Entrance is the far right door, all the way in the corner as you face the rear of the building. Go down the hall and the conference room is on the right.

**FOR FULL DETAILS ON JACK HARDY, Visit [www.jackhardy.com](http://www.jackhardy.com)**

**NOTE: We have been getting some calls from New York from folks who are interested in seeing Jack Hardy. Since slots are limited and critique priority is determined by order of registration, we would like CSA members to have preference, so please register early for this exceptional opportunity.**

# Jack Hardy Biography

Jack Hardy is "a more literate Celtic Townes Van Zandt, grave in his tone and generous in his ideals, as rooted in the present soil and sky of Ireland and America as he is fascinated by the legends of the past" (Roy Kasten, St. Louis *Riverfront Times*, February 3, 1999).

It is a strange mix of themes ranging from the American West to the ballads and jigs of Celtic ancestors that somehow seems to make sense in the musical world Jack Hardy has created. And it is a separate world to which the listener is transported; a timeless place inhabited by tinkers and cowboys, saints and sinners, elves, virgins and crones. From his extensive travels and reading he has forged an endearing non-academic approach to literature, one that is more at home in the pub than in the classroom. "He clearly seems to enjoy making his listeners think. He may dare his audience to figure out what he is saying, but he also credits them with the intelligence to do so" (Tom Nelligan, *Dirty Linen*, 1998).

In Europe, where Hardy has toured extensively for over 20 years, he is accepted as an ambassador for American music. In an Italian encyclopedia of rock Jack has a larger entry than many prominent rock stars. "Nothing adventuresome is created in a vacuum," Jack says, "you get people together and the creative sparks fly." The weekly songwriters workshop which he has hosted for many years taught and nurtured countless songwriters, not the least of which are Suzanne Vega, John Gorka, Shawn Colvin, Richard Shindell and David Massengill. The Fast Folk Musical Magazine which he founded and edited, released the first recordings of most of the artists currently headlining folk festivals. This collection of over 100 compilation albums has now been taken over by the Smithsonian.

Gregarious and outgoing when talking about his songs and songwriting in general, Jack fiercely guards the privacy of his personal life. Jack Hardy was born in Indiana, his father a musician, his mother a painter. He grew up in New York, Colorado, and Connecticut, studied opera and literature in college. In 1998, Prime CD reissued his first ten albums in a box set as well as his eleventh album *The Passing*. In 1996, BCN Records released a tribute album The Songs of Jack Hardy: Of the White Goddess a collection of his Celtic ballads (all sung by women). In 1997, Jack was the recipient of The Kate Wolf Memorial Award given yearly to "an artist who makes a difference through his music" by the World Folk Music Association. In 2000, Prime CD has released Jack's twelfth album *Omens*.

*Omens* was recorded live to 24 track analog in two days, using the vintage recording equipment of Prime CD's Theater 99 recording studio in New York City, with no overdubs. The fourteen songs range from the uptempo Celtic "Sile na gCioch" where a tinker finds a dress on the side of the road and gives it to a young lass, to the majestic "West of Dingle" where a woman faces a choice between her lover and her fiddle; from the biting barrage of juxtaposed media images of "I Ought to Know" to the romantic ballad "Only One Sky" and back to the uptempo humorous Clancy Brother-ish "The Boney Bailiff." This album takes you on quite a musical voyage with some of Jack's best poetic imagery, but it is the sweeping beautiful melodies that carry these songs directly into your memory. The players include Jack's current touring band: Tom Duval on electric guitar and harmony (also heard on Jack's albums *The Hunter* and *Civil Wars*), Mike Laureanno on Hofner bass and harmony, Dave Anthony on Drums (also heard on Jack's album *The Passing*), and Kate MacLeod on fiddle. The album also features a buried bonus track containing 19 minutes of Suzanne Vega interviewing Jack on the subject of songwriting

**WORKSHOP AND CONCERT WITH THE JACK HARDY TRIO -- Saturday October 16**

**Register now -- \$30 for CSA members.**

**Have your song critiqued by one of today's music legends.**

# Mystic River Folk Concerts



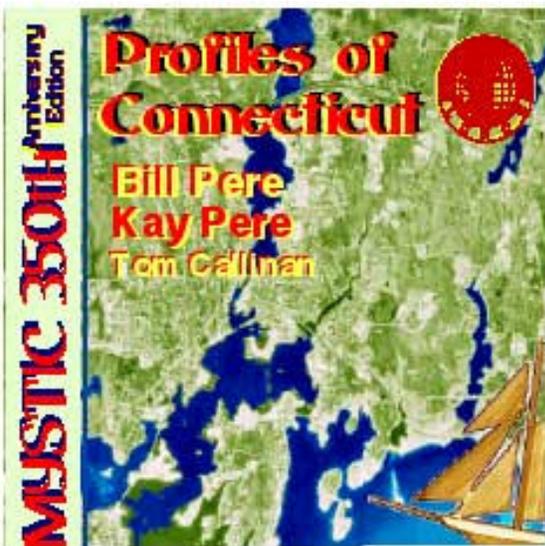
**2004 Monthly Benefit Concert Series**  
**Honoring Mystic's 350th Anniversary**  
Featuring Performers of National and Regional Prominence



**Saturday, September 18, 7:30 PM**

*Union Baptist Church, 119 High Street, Mystic, CT (the church on the hill)*

*DIRECTIONS: Hwy 95 to Exit 89, Alyn St. South to Downtown Mystic, Left on Rt 1, Church on Left, 2 Blocks*



**The Official Mystic  
350th Birthday Concert**

## **Mystic and Connecticut History in Song**

Presented by Official Connecticut State  
Troubadours **Bill Pere**, and **Tom  
Callinan**, joined by award-winning  
artist **Kay Pere**

The official debut of the song "**The Tides  
that Bind**", written specifically for Mystic's  
350th Anniversary and Official release of the

CD "**Profiles of Connecticut -Mystic Edition**" Featuring "The Tides That Bind",  
"1654", and new songs from Kay Pere's "Dolphin's Daughters" collection

## **The Mystic History Concert**

Please bring non-perishible food for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Food Pantry



**TICKETS \$10**  
Proceeds benefit LUNCH and support the efforts of MASH to  
provide a permanent facility for housing families in need of shelter.  
Available at the door or in advance by calling **860-572-9285**  
See the full 2004 Concert Schedule at [www.mysticriverfolk.com](http://www.mysticriverfolk.com)



Celebrating: 15 Years of LUNCH - - - - 25 Years of CSA - - - - 350 Years of Mystic

*Produced with the assistance of the Connecticut Songwriters Association and Heart & Spiral Music*

# Mystic River Folk Concerts



**2004 Monthly Benefit Concert Series**  
**Honoring Mystic's 350th Anniversary**  
Featuring Performers of National and Regional Prominence



**Saturday, October 16, 7:30 PM**

*Union Baptist Church, 119 High Street, Mystic, CT (the church on the hill)*

*DIRECTIONS: Hwy 95 to Exit 89, Allyn St. South to Downtown Mystic, Left on Rt 1, Church on Left, 2 Blocks*



**From the Heart of the New  
York City Music Scene**

**A genuine songwriting legend,  
known around the world**

**JACK  
HARDY**

**With His Trio !**

**Mentor to great stars such as Suzanne  
Vega and Sean Colvin**

JACK HARDY: Known around the world for his thoughtful songs with the flavor of Celtic Ballads

**In addition to the concert, Jack will be presenting a songwriting workshop from 1-5pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. Admission to the workshop is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Tickets for Concert only: \$10**

**Please bring non-perishable food for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Food Pantry**



Proceeds benefit LUNCH and support the efforts of MASH to provide a permanent facility for housing families in need of shelter.  
**Available at the door or in advance by calling 860-572-9285**

*See the full 2004 Concert Schedule at [www.mysticriverfolk.com](http://www.mysticriverfolk.com)*



**Celebrating: 15 Years of LUNCH - - - - 25 Years of CSA - - - - 350 Years of Mystic**

*Produced with the assistance of the Connecticut Songwriters Association and Heart & Spiral Music*



LOCAL  
UNITED  
NETWORK to  
COMBAT  
HUNGER



presents  
FAMILY  
ENTERTAINMENT AT  
ITS BEST

Harry Chapin  
Favorites, Songs of  
the Season, and an  
original play to benefit  
Local Family Service  
Agencies



FEATURING **Bill Pere, Kay Pere,  
Scott Sivakoff, and the LUNCH Ensemble**

with **Elves, Reindeer, Santa, a bunch of crazy characters, and professional artists from the Connecticut Songwriters Association carrying on the legacy of HARRY CHAPIN**

(SNOW DATE: Sunday Dec 12, 3pm)

**TICKETS:** Adults: \$ 8 in advance, \$10 at the door  
Kids (Under 12) \$ 6 in advance, \$ 8 at the door

Seating is limited so Reserve in Advance with Visa or Mastercard Call 860-572-9285 to reserve.

What happens when  
aliens try to kidnap  
Santa and discover the  
secret of his toy  
technology ?

An Annual  
Family  
Favorite!

to benefit local Social Services

**The 2004  
L.U.N.C.H.  
Holiday Show**

**THE Gift  
of the  
MadGuy !**

Coming Down your  
Chimney on  
Saturday,  
December 11,  
7:00pm  
with special folk,  
holiday and sing-  
along music  
beginning at 6:15pm

**Union Baptist  
Church, corner  
of High St and  
Rt 1, Mystic**

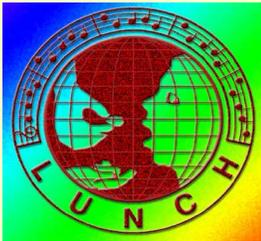
**FOOD FOR THOUGHT -- YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

On behalf of Connecticut's 100,000 hungry children, Thanks for Caring.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO PERFORM AT HIS EVENT ?**  
**Do you know a friend who might like to perform ? Do NOT delay --**  
**Contact us NOW !**



**Connecticut  
Songwriters  
Association**



**Local  
United  
Network to  
Combat  
Hunger**



**SATURDAY November 6**  
**Griswoldville Chapel, Wethersfield CT**

# **A DAY OF PRAISE II**

**An encore program of Spiritual and Inspirational Music**

- 2pm - 2:30pm: Gathering and greeting
- 2:30 - 3:00pm: Open discussion time
- 3 - 4:30pm: Small group writing session
- 4:30 - 5pm: Sharing results
- 5 - 6 pm: Fellowship dinner (bring a dish to share - kitchen facilities available)
- 6 - 6:30pm: Prep and sound check for concert
- 6:30pm: Doors open for concert
- 7 - 9 pm: Concert, open to the public. (Will be locally advertised)

Registration in advance is only \$10 for the entire program (\$15 for non-CSA members).

**If you would like to perform at the concert:** Contact Peg D'Amato at [pegdamato@earthlink.net](mailto:pegdamato@earthlink.net)

Submit a recording of 1-2 songs that you would perform. Songs must be inspirational, spiritual or gospel related and appropriate for being performed for a family audience in a church setting. Only original songs, please.

This event will be announced to area coffeehouses encouraging a representative to attend the concert to hear and meet with performing artists.

**All registrants may have a spot on the merchandise table to display and sell CD's. It is requested that \$1 of each item sold be donated to CSA**

**A CSA 25th Anniversary Event**



# 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.***

=====  
**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's "Crest of a Wave" and "Profiles of Connecticut" . Kay will debut some songs from her "Dolphin's Daughter's " collection  
 =====

=====  
**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.  
 =====

=====  
**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.  
 =====

=====  
**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  
 =====

**NOW BOOKING FOR 2005 -- SUBMIT YOUR PRESS KIT NOW TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A SPOT. SEND TO: Mystic River Folk, PO Box 145, Mystic CT 06355**

**MEMBER HAPPENINGS: !** >>> Congratulations to Bob Levy and Jerry Lundy, on signing a publishing contract. Bob has had more than 20 songs placed this year ! >>>> Bill Pere is a featured presenter at the national Independent Music Conference in Philadelphia on Sept 2-6. Both Bill and Kay will be performing at the Immie awards. Bill has also been accepted as a regular songwriting columnist for the MusesMuse ([www.musesmuse.com](http://www.musesmuse.com)) >>>> If you go to Artist Launch.com, you'll find CSA's November speaker Marci Geller on the charts, as well as 4 songs by Bill Pere. Artist Launch is an internet radio station and music resource for Independent Artists. >>>> the November Mystic River Folk will feature CSA's Jack Kavanaugh,with his band, Second Circle.

NOTE: CSA Marketplace/Classified Ads are now online 24/7 at the CSA website. You can go there any time at [www.ctsongs.com](http://www.ctsongs.com).

