

# 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.



Dec 2004  
Volume XXV  
Number 12  
Issue #301

Combining Arts,  
Education, and  
Community Outreach

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



## DECEMBER 14 -- The Annual Holiday Performance Showcase and Potluck -- East Hartford

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS from CSA

The CSA meeting for December will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 7:15pm at the East Hartford Community Center (*directions and details on page 2*)

CSA presents our popular annual **Showcase and Potluck** event. Come bring a potluck dish to share and a holiday song (original or traditional) to perform at the showcase, from 7:15pm to 10pm with sound system provided. CSA members and friends may reserve a slot to showcase 1-2 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 dish to share, a non-alcoholic beverage, and some serving items like plates, cups, utensils and napkins. The event is free so bring family and friends.

The key to success in music and songwriting is taking advantage of opportunities when they arise. This is a great opportunity for networking and sharing what you do. We hope to see you there, and please bring a friend.

**COMING DECEMBER 11**  
**The 8th Annual LUNCH Holiday Show**  
**Union Baptist Church, Mystic. Show starts at 7pm, with live pre-show music at 6:15pm**

Following the program there will be a critique session. To participate, bring a song on cassette or CD, or do it live, with 30 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 regular 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>)

- Nov 26 - CSA Songshare - Muddy Waters Cafe, New London
- Dec 11 - Mystic - The LUNCH Holiday Show
- Dec 14 - CSA Holiday Showcase, , East Hartford
- Jan 11 - CSA Midi Workshop/Overview - Mystic
- Feb 08 - Song Screening
- Mar 08 - CSA Monthly meeting - Glastonbury
- Apr 16 - CSA Workshop - Mystic
- May 10 - CSA monthly meeting - Sacred Heart , Bridgeport
- Jun 14 - CSA monthly meeting - Glastonbury
- Jul 12 - CSA monthly meeting - Wesleyan Univ.
- Aug 09 - CSA monthly meeting - Sacred Heart
- Sept 13 - CSA monthly meeting - Glastonbury
- Oct 15 - CSA PRO Workshop w/ Steve Gillette - Mystic
- Nov 08 - CSA monthly meeting, Wesleyan Univ.
- Dec 03 - LUNCH Holiday Show
- Dec 13 - CSA Holiday Showcase and Potluck - Glastonbury

SEE YOU THERE, and BRING A FRIEND !

**Coming November 26:** CSA Songshare at Muddy Water Cafe, New London - Details inside.

**Coming January 15** to Mystic River Folk:  
A great evening of music, with artists from the SE CT area. 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

How to  
Get There!

## DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATIONS

### 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 Union Baptist Church for Mystic River Folk:** 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.

Special  
Event

## The Annual CSA Winter Holiday Showcase !



Tuesday December 14 at East Hartford Community Center. CSA presents our popular annual **Showcase and Potluck** event. Come bring a potluck dish to share and a holiday song (original or traditional) to perform at the showcase, showcase, from 7:15pm to 10pm with sound systems provided. CSA members and friends may reserve a slot to showcase 1-2 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 dish to share, a non-alcoholic beverage, and some serving items like plates, cups, utensils and napkins. The event is free so bring family and friends.

### 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.

## 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. Together, we can make great things happen and bring in new fans and supporters of original music.

# And Even More CSA RHYTHM AND NEWS

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

**OPPORTUNITY** -- There is a **Song Share** Opportunity, which, if it goes well, can be the first of many. There will be a CSA Song Circle at Muddy Waters Cafe in New London on Friday, November 26 7-9pm (can go until 10pm if enough people show up). Muddy Waters is a nice venue with piano, sound system and a comfortable listening room with chairs and couches and such. There is an excellent food and dessert selection too. It's located at 42 Bank Street in New London, just a few doors up from where CSA originally started, 25 years ago. (For exact directions, you can MapQuest 42 Bank Street. If interested in performing contact Kay Pere ([kay@kaypere.com](mailto:kay@kaypere.com)) to let us know of your interest, however, performing slots will not be reserved in advance -- they will be given as you sign up on arrival. The format will be round-robin, i.e. each artist does 1-2 songs until everyone has had a chance, and then we go around again. The total number of songs and times around depends on how many folks have come to participate. Songs are simply shared, not critiqued. There will be a direct in for guitar, a mic, and an acoustic grand piano. Fancy setups are not necessary or appropriate for this venue. It's a small space and it's just about sharing the songs. We hope to have enough folks come to enable us to do this regularly and to help it grow. Since CSA no longer has the Pine Loft as a performing space, this is a nice alternative. Even if you don't perform, come listen. We'll hope to see you there, and bring a friend. There is no cover charge.

**HAVE YOUR SONGS PLAYED ON INTERNET RADIO!** -- While at the Boston NEMO Convention CSA President Bill Pere met the folks from Evolving Artist, a group who promotes artists through internet radio and video streaming. They agreed to accept CSA CD's for airplay consideration. All you have to do is send them a copy of your CD along with the release form allowing them to play it. Go to their website at [www.evolvingartist.com](http://www.evolvingartist.com) to get the release form and other details. Please note on your package that you are a CSA member. Internet Radio is a fast growing medium.

The diverse education and experience that comes to you through your CSA membership could not be purchased anywhere else at any affordable cost.

## In 2004 we had

A Songwriting Conference (CSA's biggest event ever!), Pro Workshop, Showcases and Concerts, Summer Picnics, Presentations from great industry pros, two genre-specific concerts, and lots of networking and learning opportunities.

## Coming in 2005, we will have

- More CSA PRO Workshops
- Meetings on Midi, Digital Recording, Internet Resources and Marketing, and Indie Resources
- CSA Showcases, Concerts, and SongShares
- CSA Summer and Winter Picnic/Potluck Showcase
- Genre-Specific Events
- Genre-Specific CD Compilation
- Critiques and Song Screening





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**

**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**

(SNOW DATE: Sunday Dec 12, 3pm)

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

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

# Mystic River Folk Concerts

CSA brings you a great series of National and Regional acts

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 (Local United Network to Combat Hunger) Snacks and beverages available .

*Did you know that Connecticut ranks #1 in per capita income, but #47 in charitable giving? Did you know that at any given time, there are 33,000 people sleeping on the streets 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. Music can make a difference in the lives of others! Your support of these events make that possible. **Please post this schedule by your calendar.***

**January 15 7:30 pm -- Homegrown Music from the Groton Area Featured artists to be announced (check website)\$10 - (860) 572-9285 [www.ctsongwriters.com](http://www.ctsongwriters.com)**

**February 11 7:30 pm "A TRIBUTE TO LOVE" Featured artists to be announced (check website)\$10 - (860) 572-9285 [www.ctsongwriters.com](http://www.ctsongwriters.com)**

**March 12 7:30 pm Folk/Bluegrass Family Show\$10 - (860) 572-9285 [www.ctsongwriters.com](http://www.ctsongwriters.com)**

**April 16 7:30 pm Family Music and Comedy with a nationally known artist with a #3 hit and Connecticut's #1 Comedienne, CSA's own NANCY TUCKER\$10 - (860) 572-9285 [www.ctsongwriters.com](http://www.ctsongwriters.com)**

**May 14 7:30 pm "Better Than Chocolate" CD Release Concert - Kay Pere and Friends\$10 - (860) 572-9285 [www.ctsongwriters.com](http://www.ctsongwriters.com)**

**September 17 7:30 pm The CONNECTICUT HISTORY CONCERT Bill Pere, Kay Pere, and Guest Artists (check website)\$10 -(860) 572-9285 [www.ctsongwriters.com](http://www.ctsongwriters.com)**

**October 15 7:30 From Vermont, Songwriting Legend Steve Gillette w/ Cindy Mangsen\$10 - (860) 572-9285 [www.ctsongwriters.com](http://www.ctsongwriters.com)**

**November 19 7:30 pm FAMILY SHOW Featured artists to be announced (check website)\$10 - (860) 572-9285 [www.ctsongwriters.com](http://www.ctsongwriters.com)**

**Saturday, December 11 -- The 9th Annual LUNCH Holiday Show Featuring Bill Pere , Kay Pere Scott Sivakoff, more CSA guests, and the LUNCH Ensemble with songs of the season, new original songs, and an original stage play. This year's show is "A Mall and the Night Visitors". Show starts at 7pm with live pre-show music beginning at 6:15. Tickets in advance: \$10 (adults) \$8 (kids under 12); At the door: \$12 (adults) , \$10 (kids under 12) \$10 (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)**

**JOIN US on January 11 for the kickoff meeting of CSA's 26th Year with  
A Midi Workshop and Overview --**

**What's the difference between Midi and digital recording? How can you use Midi to help you get your songs developed and to save you lots of money on production? What are the choices for setting up equipment and what will work best for your needs? What do you really need for your music and what are just bells and whistles that pick your pocket? Tuesday, January 11, 7:15pm, at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, snacks and hot drinks provided -- Brave the cold. You'll be glad you did.**



**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). Please note that since critiquing is designed to give constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement, songs which are meant only to be shared for self expression (as opposed to critiqued for improvement) should not be submitted. These can be presented in song-sharing opportunities.

**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 Info:** [www.ctsongs.com](http://www.ctsongs.com) E-mail: [info@ctsongs.com](mailto:info@ctsongs.com)

**Change of Address, Newsletter, Membership, Special Projects:**  
 CSA membership PO Box 511 Mystic CT 06355  
 E-Mail: [info@ctsongwriters.com](mailto:info@ctsongwriters.com)

**CSA on the Web:** [www.ctsongs.com](http://www.ctsongs.com)

• **COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES AND NETWORKING** CSA provides opportunities to meet collaborators, industry pros, and providers of various music services. Come to CSA events!

• **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 compilation CD's 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)

• **PARTICIPATION IN CSA RETAIL OUTLETS AND DISTRIBUTION** : Recordings by CSA members may be made available to retail outlets like The Connecticut Store and Borders Books.

**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, [bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com) for details.

**PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES:** CSA often has showcase, concert, and songshare events with preference for performance slots given to CSA members.

[www.ctsongs.com](http://www.ctsongs.com)

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E\_MAIL (required for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK WHERE APPROPRIATE  Songwriter  Lyricist  Vocalist  
 Composer  Musician  Patron Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Membership Categories**

(outside the U.S., please add \$10 to all categories)  
 (All memberships include free electronic Newsletter Subscription. For a paper copy by mail, add \$7 per year)

- 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
- e-Newsletter Subscription only (\$25/yr. 12 issues)

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



Mail to:  
 CSA Membership  
 PO Box 511  
 Mystic CT 06355

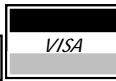
E-Mail: [info@ctsongs.com](mailto:info@ctsongs.com)

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number :  Visa  Mastercard Expiration  /

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	---	--------------------------	--------------------------



*Connecticut Songwriters Association*  
 PO Box 511., Mystic, CT 06355  
 Serving Music's Artisans  
 and Craftsmen Since 1979