

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.



February 2005
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Issue #303

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979 - 2005 : 26 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

FEBRUARY 8 -- SONG SCREENING at Wesleyan University
FEBRUARY 11 -- CONCERT with Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters

CSA SONG SCREENING SESSION

The CSA meeting for February will be held on Tuesday February 8, 7:15 pm at Wesleyan University in Middletown. (*directions on page 2*)

This meeting will be a Song Screening Session to screen songs for the upcoming Compilation CD (#10 in the series). We need two more songs to complete the CD. (Interesting note: one of the songs that was going to be on the CD had to be withdrawn because the song was subsequently signed to a publisher, and the publisher did not want to allow the song to be used on the CD -- just another thing to keep in mind when negotiating publishing contracts).

Song screening sessions, unlike regular critique sessions which discuss works in progress, look at completed, fully produced songs which are scored by a panel according to specific industry-standard criteria of craft and production. The audience also has a vote on the song. Those which pass the screening process are eligible for inclusion on the CSA Compilation CD series, which the Association has been producing since 1989. The in-depth discussion by the panel of experienced CSA critiquers is always a valuable experience, whether you have submitted a song or not. **Note that in order to be screened, a song must have been previously submitted at a regular CSA critique session.**

It is important to remember that not all songs lend themselves well to being evaluated by mainstream songwriting guidelines. Thus if a song in an unusual genre does not pass the process, it doesn't necessarily mean that the song is not a "good" song -- it may simply be that the screening process is not particularly well suited for the song. Please try to bring a song that lends itself to critique through this type of process. **Bring a Friend! Brave the cold. You'll be glad you did.**

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>)

- Feb 08 - Song Screening -- Wesleyan University
- Feb 11 - Mystic River Folk with **Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters** !
- Mar 08 - CSA Monthly meeting - Glastonbury
"The 8 Keys to Success in the Music Business"
- Apr 16 - CSA Collaboration Workshop - Mystic (1-5pm)
- Apr 16 - Mystic River Folk with Concert with Nancy Tucker
- May 07 - CSA Special Event - "Day of Praise III", Wethersfield
- May 10 - CSA monthly meeting - Sacred Heart, Bridgeport
- May 14 - Mystic River Folk - CD Release Concert, "Kay Pere's
"Even Better than Chocolate", with guest CSA artists.
- Jun 14 - Indie Artist, Promotion with Noel Ramos, Glastonbury
- Jul 12 - CSA monthly meeting - Wesleyan Univ w/Leslie Berry
- 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 - Amy Gallatin
- Dec 03 - LUNCH Holiday Show - many CSA artists.
- Dec 12 - CSA Holiday Showcase and Potluck - Glastonbury

Coming February 11 to Mystic River Folk:
national recording artists **Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters**
present their high energy Bluegrass/Folk/Country music

Coming April 16 to Mystic River Folk:
The 2004 national Indie Artist of the Year and
Connecticut's #1 comedienne, **NANCY TUCKER** !

COMBINING ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR 26 YEARS

Guiding Songs Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATIONS

Directions to Wesleyan University:

The meeting room at Wesleyan is B2B, South College near the Chapel in the core of the campus.
-- **From New Haven** take I 91 north to Exit 18 which is Route 66 which becomes Washington St in Middletown. Go right onto High St. after Memorial Green. The chapel and South College are on High St. See Wesleyan Univ. sign at the corner of Washington and High St.
-- **From the Merritt / Wilbur Cross Parkway (Route 15)** to Route 66 east to Middletown.
-- **From Hartford or from New London**, take Route 9 to Exit 15 in Middletown. This is Route 66 which becomes Washington St. High St is a left just before the Green.
-- **From Waterbury**, take I 691 past Meriden. 691 becomes Route 66. See above.
-- For automated travel directions call 860-685-3390.

Directions to Mystic Union Baptist Church for Mystic River Folk: Coming North on I-95, take Exit 89. 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. Together, we can make great things happen and bring in new fans and supporters of original music.

The January Mystic River Folk Concert was a great success, with several CSA artists providing a diverse and entertaining evening for a good sized audience. Bruce McDermott, Nicole Sullivan, Marcia Reinhard, Kay Pere, and Bill Pere, joined also by Marvin Wong and Jin Williams, started off the second year of the Concert Series with an evening of original and traditional music that spanned a variety of styles and periods. The Mystic River Folk Concert series is a benefit for local social service agencies.

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). Exit 89 off I-95. 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 #44 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.***

February 11 7:30 pm - Country/Folk/Bluegrass music with national recording artists AMY GALLATIN and STILLWATERS \$10 - (860) 572-9285 www.ctsongwriters.com

March 12 7:30 pm Family Show \$10 - Featured artists to be announced. (860) 572-9285 www.ctsongwriters.com

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

May 14 7:30 pm "Even Better Than Chocolate" CD Release Concert - Kay Pere with full band. \$10 - (860) 572-9285 www.ctsongwriters.com Hear a live presentation of the songs from Kay's great new CD !

September 17 7:30 pm The CONNECTICUT HISTORY CONCERT Bill Pere, Kay Pere, Guest Artists , and the LUNCH Ensemble. Songs about important people, places, and events in our local history . (check website)\$10 -(860) 572-9285 www.ctsongwriters.com

October 15 7:30 From Vermont, Songwriting Legend Steve Gillette w/ Cindy Mangsen \$10 - (860) 572-9285 www.ctsongwriters.com . You'll know the songs -- you just didn't know who wrote them !

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

Saturday, December 3 -- 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

COMING FEBRUARY 11

A great opportunity to see nationally known recording artists Amy Gallatin and her band Stillwaters. Amy will be performing her brand of country/folk/bluegrass music for us at Mystic River Folk, 7:30 pm at Union Baptist Church in Mystic. (Tickets are \$10) Not only is this a great chance to see a performer of national renown, but it also will enhance for you the value of the CSA November meeting, where Amy Gallatin will be our special guest presenter! Come and support this CSA community outreach event (proceeds benefit social services in Connecticut), and give yourself the opportunity to learn from a successful artist

COMING APRIL 16

CSA COLLABORATION WORKSHOP

**1:00pm - 5:00pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce
Conference Room. 14 Holmes St, Mystic.**

When you look at the credits for a song on almost any CD you often see more than name listed as the writer. Why is this ?

It takes multiple dimensions to write an effective song. Some folks can do it by themselves, but for many, working with a collaborator is a great way to create songs that are better than either could produce alone. These multiple dimensions, and techniques for collaboration will be discussed in the March 8 CSA meeting on "The 8 Keys to Success in the Music Business", which is a presentation of the workshop given by Bill Pere at the national Indie Music Conference in Philadelphia.

To turn this into actual practice, Bill and Kay Pere will host an afternoon Collaboration Workshop in April, preceding the evening Concert by CSA's Nancy Tucker (see below). the workshop will look at:

- Determining if you would benefit from collaboration
- Considerations for finding and working with collaborators
- The differences between creative and performance collaboration
- Examples of successful results from collaborations within and outside of CSA

And then will actually do some hands-on collaborative writing

Following the workshop, we'll break for supper and then there will be a concert featuring Nancy Tucker who is the 2004 National Indie Artist of the Year, Connecticut's #1 Comedienne, and one of the top guitarists in the Northeast. Nancy has also had a #3 hit, toured nationally, written a full stage show, and she holds a music device patent. Nancy is a rare example of a self-contained artist who is a panorama of diverse creativity and technical excellence.

Your participation in the workshop includes FREE concert admission.

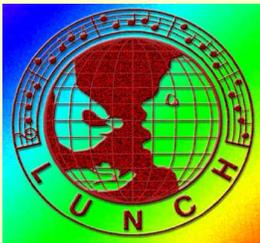
Workshop space is limited, so advance registration is recommended. The workshop registration, which includes free concert admission, is \$12. You can register in advance by sending \$12 payable to CSA to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355.

Directions to Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room (14 Holmes St) for the COLLABORATION WORKSHOP: Coming North on I-95, take Exit 89. 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 overlooking Main St, Mystic. Proceed down the Main Street of Mystic, across the drawbridge, to the flagpole (Holmes St). Turn left at the flagpole onto Holmes. Pass a few storefronts and you'll see a red brick building, #14 Holmes St. To park, turn right just before the brick building onto Church St, and park in the lot behind the brick building. The entrance for the Chamber of Commerce is at the far right as you face the rear of the building. Go down the corridor. The room is on the right. FREE Coffee and snacks.

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 May 7
Griswoldville Chapel, Wethersfield CT

A DAY OF PRAISE #3

An encore program of Spiritual and Inspirational Music

- 2pm - 2:30pm: Gathering and greeting
- 2:30 - 3:00pm Open discussion time
- 3 - 5pm: Songwriting techniques for getting your message across, and songwriting exercises
- 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

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.

CONCERT PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT SOCIAL SERVICES in CONNECTICUT
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

Directions to Griswoldville Chapel in Wethersfield, CT for "Day of Praise II "

From 91 South: Take the Route 3, Wethersfield, exit. At 4th stop light, take a right onto Prospect. At 2nd stop light take a left onto Griswold. Chapel is less than a mile on the left (just before the fire station).

From 91 North: Take the Rte. 99 (Silas Deane Highway) exit, Rocky Hill. Bear right at the end of the exit. At the 6th stop light take a left onto Route 3. At the first stop light, take a right onto Prospect. At 2nd stop light take a left onto Griswold. Chapel is less than a mile on the left (just before the fire station).

A CSA Genre-Specific Event

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 E-mail: info@ctsongs.com

Change of Address, Newsletter, Membership, Special Projects:
 CSA membership PO Box 511 Mystic CT 06355

E-Mail: info@ctsongwriters.com

CSA on the Web: 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 for details.

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

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 \$ _____.



Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number : Visa Mastercard

Expiration

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Mail to:
 CSA Membership
 PO Box 511
 Mystic CT 06355

E-Mail: info@ctsongs.com

Connecticut Songwriters Association
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 Serving Music's Artisans
 and Craftsmen Since 1979