

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.



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Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

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

Tuesday July 12 - Wesleyan University, Middletown
From South Carolina: Leslie Berry, discussing
Promoting Yourself as an Indie Songwriter and Performer

Thursday July 14, 8pm, The Buttonwood Tree in Middletown
Leslie in Concert

The CSA meeting for July will be held on **Tuesday, July 12, 7:15 pm, at Wesleyan University** (directions on page 2 and at www.ctsongs.com)

Our special guest, joining us from South Carolina, is accomplished pianist, singer-songwriter, and Indie Artist Leslie Berry.

Leslie is a full time touring writer and artist who is right at the heart of the fast-growing Indie music scene. Leslie has three CD's released, and she amazes people with her keyboard acrobatics and has made quite a name for herself in the Southeast. To learn more about Leslie, see her bio on page 6, and visit her website at www.leslieberry.com.

There is no better way to learn than from those who are successfully doing. We hope to see you there, and bring a friend.

In addition to her presentation to CSA, Leslie will be presenting a concert at the Buttonwood Tree in Middletown (where we have had many CSA programs) at 8pm on Thursday, July 14. She will be joined by CSA's Kay Pere in a "Keys for a Cause" concert as part of CSA's LUNCH outreach, to benefit The Oddfellows Playhouse youth program, in which CSA's Grady Faulkner is heavily involved. Showtime: 8pm, Suggested Donation, \$10. **Come support CSA Music and Programs.**

Following the presentation, 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.ctsongs.com>)

- Jul 12 - "Promoting Yourself as an Indie Artist"
Wesleyan Univ w/Leslie Berry
- Jul 14 - Leslie Berry and Kay Pere in Concert at the
Buttonwood Tree, Middletown, 8pm
- Aug 09 - CSA all-critique Session - Sacred Heart
- Aug 28 - CSA SongShare/Picnic - CSA Songshare/Picnic -
Noon - 7pm, J.B. Williams
Park, Glastonbury
- Sept 13 - CSA monthly meeting - SongShare and Discussion
Glastonbury
- Sept 17-18 - The New England Music Expo,
Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford.
- Sept 17 - Mystic River Folk - The Connecticut History Concert
- Oct 15 - CSA PRO Workshop w/ Steve Gillette - Mystic
- Oct 22 - CSA Day of Praise Workshop/Concert
- 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 Sept 17 to Mystic River Folk:
The Connecticut History Concert

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 the Buttonwood Tree 605 Main Street Middletown

- Coming North on Route 9, turn left onto Rt 66 in Middletown, and Main St is the first intersection., Go right, to corner of Liberty St. Buttonwood is on the left.
Coming South on Route 66, go past Wesleyan University, and the next major intersection is Main Street.

WWW.CTSONGS.COM -- Have you visited the CSA website lately and really looked around? we are always adding new stuff. The website has come a long way in the last year. Come visit and check it out.

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.

GET A TAX DEDUCTION FOR YOUR OLD STUFF !

If you have any old music or office equipment lying around or just old "stuff" that you don't need, consider donating it to CSA and you'll get a generous tax deduction !

CSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all items donated to us can be deducted at their maximum fair market value. We have helped many folks get nice deductions for their old items, which certainly can be useful to us either in our regular CSA programs or our community outreach programs through LUNCH.

We can use any office equipment and supplies, old computers, any type of music and studio equipment, and any type of item that could be used for auction or raffle. If you're thinking of putting things on consignment or e-bay, consider that after the commissions and fees are taken, what you actually receive might not be as much as you might get from a tax deduction at maximum market value.

If you have anything that you might like to donate, contact Bill Pere at bill@billpere.com, or call 860-572-9285.

Mystic River Folk Concerts

LUNCH 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.

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 -- from New York, it's A TRIBUTE TO WOODY GUTHRIE with the Hope Machine, \$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

CONGRATULATIONS to KAY PERE and her Band for their highly successful CD Release Concert at the May 14 Mystic River Folk



Hot Fun in the Summertime

RAIN OR SHINE!

Sunday, June 12 from 12 noon to 7pm at J.B. Williams Memorial Park, on Neipsic Rd, Glastonbury. **RAIN OR SHINE!** CSA returns to this gorgeous facility for our popular annual event. There is a large covered pavilion with electricity, picnic tables, grills, volleyball, playground, hiking trails, pond, and convenient parking. We will host an all-day showcase, from noon to 7pm with sound systems provided. CSA members and friends may reserve up to a 1/2 hour slot to showcase original songs. Don Donegan is booking the slots on a first call basis. If you'd like to perform, call Don at 860-659-8992 or e-mail at DDCSA@aol.com.

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

Directions:

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

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

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

For the last 2 years, this event has received good press coverage with performers photos appearing in the newspaper

BIG STUFF COMING THIS FALL!

THE NEW ENGLAND MUSIC EXPO

Saturday Sept 17 through Sunday, Sept 18 CSA is a proud co-sponsor (joining East Coast Music Mall and Taylor guitars) of one of the biggest music events ever held in our state. The New England Music Expo will bring hundreds of artists, music vendors, equipment makers, industry pros, and other service providers together at the great **Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford**. CSA will be a featured presence at this 2-day smorgasbord of workshops, showcases, and networking. There will be something of interest for all, and many opportunities to make great contacts. CSA will have a large booth and will be providing free critiques, consultation, and vocal coaching during the event. CSA members will be on hand to present some of the Expo's featured workshops. If you missed Bill Pere's presentation of "The 8 Keys to Success in the Music Business", it will be presented on Sunday, Sept 18, 1:30 pm in the auditorium. The MARSHALL TUCKER BAND will be on hand along with hundreds of music service providers.

We will be needing members who attend the Expo to help out at the booth for a block of time if possible. If you have literature about services you offer, we can put them out for you.

If you would like to have a song critiqued or a **FREE** vocal coaching session, or a **FREE** music business consultation, get there early to sign up -- Never before has there been such an opportunity to see so much of the music industry brought right to your door. **Info and Directions:** Visit www.nemexpo.com Admission to the entire event is just \$15 at the door. This is an incredible opportunity which you would usually have to travel far and pay a lot to experience. It's right here in your back yard.

CSA FALL PRO WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, October 15 1pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room
(evening concert to follow, 7:30pm)

YOU KNOW THE SONGS -- YOU MAY NOT KNOW THE NAME BEHIND THEM...

Hit songwriter and nationally known songwriting coach **STEVE GILLETTE**, accompanied by Cindy Mangsen, will be on hand to present a half day workshop on the craft and business of music. Steve has presented at many songwriting camps and conventions around the country, and his advice and critiques are much sought-after. Steve's songs have been recorded by a long list of today's top artists (see page 7 for full bio)

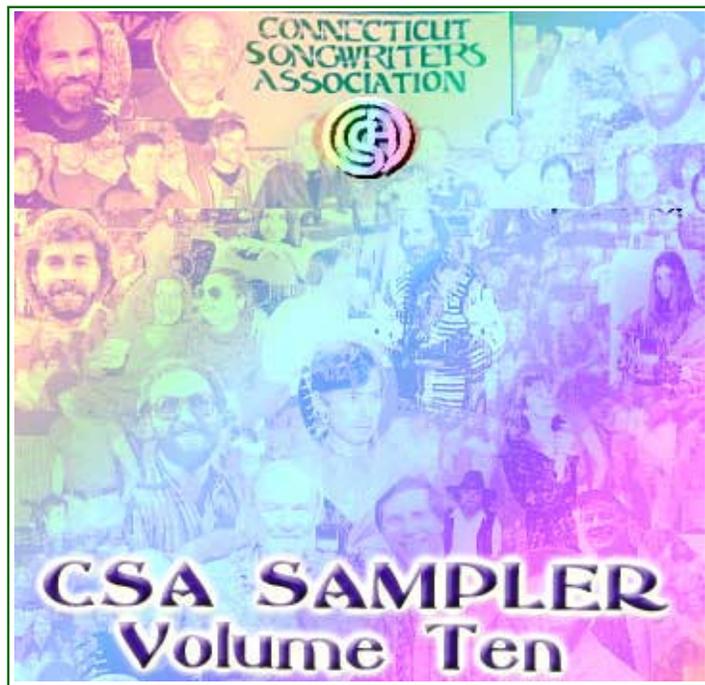
The workshop will include critiques from Steve, and critiques will be done in the order that we receive registrations. Early registration will guarantee a critique slot.

Advance Registration is \$30 (\$35 at the door) and **includes free admission** to the evening concert. Registration may be sent to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355.

SPACE IS LIMITED. For more info on Steve, visit www.compassrosemusic.com

SUCCESS COMES FROM OPPORTUNITY AND OPPORTUNITY COMES FROM INVOLVEMENT

NEW RELEASE !



The 10th CSA compilation recording. Since 1989, CSA has made 10 compilation albums of songs that have passed the CSA screening process, plus 3 special holiday recordings.

This new CD is very special in that it is really TWO CD's in one !. It contains nine new songs from the last year of screening, PLUS, for the first time ever on CD, the original 11 songs that were on the very first CSA compilation in 1989. Of the 16 writers on that first collection, 11 are still members of CSA.

This is a great side-by-side look at two snapshots in time. The recording and production technology had changed dramatically over the years, but a good song remains timeless.

NOW (2005) -----AND-----THEN (1989)

1. The Widow Mrs. West 4:01 (Roy O'Neil) ©2005 Roy O'Neil.
2. Renegade 3:11 (Tony Susi) ©2005 Tony Susi
3. Tornado Love 3:15 (Patricia Reynolds) ©2005 Patricia Reynolds
4. Mars to Earth 5:05 (Chris Cole) ©2005 Chris Cole
5. Let's Go Cruisin' Tonight 2:44 (W. Gamache/P. Chapin) ©2005 Gamache/Chapin.
6. I Am Not My Job 3:48 (Robert Steven Williams) © 2005 Robert Steven Williams
7. Stand Tall America 5:17 (Jane Russell Bate/Kim Yannon-Stock) ©2005 Bate/Stock
8. Bittersweet 2:13 (John Hutchinson) ©2005 John Hutchinson.
9. Little Nicky 4:41 (Brian Booth /Paul Chapin) ©2005 Booth/Chapin.

10. Down on Easy Street 4:00 (Les Julian) ©1988 L.G. Julian
11. Wrought Iron Ring (5:34) (Bill Pere) © 1989 Mystic Music/KidThink Music
12. Only the Wind 3:10 (Nancy Tucker) ©1986 Franeva Music
13. Night Time Music 3:00 (Bob Smith) ©1984 Smith-Patton Music
14. Once We Were One 4:01 (C. Henry/G. Gidman) ©1988 C. Henry/G. Gidman
15. So Long Main Street 3:05 (Joe Manning/Steve Vozzolo) ©1987 Vozz-Mann Music .
16. Trash on Tour 5:15 (Tom Callinan) ©1987 Canna Yusic Ltd
17. You're a Dance Away (Larry Batter) ©1984 Batter Bits Music
18. Clean Break 2:30 (D. Salling/M. Stacie) ©1988 Salling/Stacie
19. Learnin' To Sing the Blues 3:00 (Bruce Prescott) ©1982 Bruce Prescott
20. You Don't Have to Be Everything 2:25 (D. Donegan, W. Ewing, B. Pere) ©1988 Mystic Music/Rainbow Music

**The new CD is only \$10, and will be available at CSA meetings,
or you can order yours right here.
FREE SHIPPING !**

PLEASE SEND _____ copies of CSA SAMPLER #10, at \$10 each to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E_MAIL _____

SEND CHECK or MONEY ORDER to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355

MEET OUR GUEST SPEAKER

Singer-songwriter Leslie Berry is often described as "progressive pop." But upon closer listen, you hear many influences in her music.

Atlanta's *Creative Loafing* describes her music as "modern songwriting with elements of classical and folk that simmers with an understated unrest."

Greenville's *Metrobeat* says, "It's refreshing to hear an artist capable of creating accessible music without sacrificing integrity and inventiveness. Leslie Berry is such an artist."

Southeast Performer described her self titled debut CD as "Paula Cole in a polite catfight with Tori Amos," calling the project as a whole "a well produced adult contemporary showcase."

The Hickory News says that Leslie "drives a mean piano."

All of these ingredients are what have made Leslie Berry a rising artist on the Southeast music scene.

Originally from the metro Atlanta area, Leslie has been playing and singing in ensembles for over twenty years. She holds degrees in music performance and computer science and has appeared with symphony orchestras, the Spartanburg Repertory Company, Theatre Converse, and at the Brevard Music Center. Training to be a concert pianist, it wasn't until after graduating college that Leslie's love for pop music convinced her to change her direction and begin writing her own songs. Leslie's original songs and those of producer and songwriting partner, David Berry, are characterized by "layers and textures in both the music and the meaning of the songs," according to *The Spartanburg Herald-Journal*. David has received national recognition and his music was described by *Billboard* as "well crafted" and "solid."

Leslie Berry has appeared at such notable venues as The Handlebar, Coffee Underground, The Cotton Club, Red Light Cafe and Eddie's Attic, and was a featured artist on Oprah Winfrey's Oxygen Network Tank Tour. She has performed at many festivals and conferences across the Southeast as well, such as Cape Fear Folk Fest, First Night Asheville, Spring Fling in Spartanburg, MumFest in New Bern, Riverplace Festival in Greenville, Folk Alliance in Nashville and Jacksonville, 2NMC in Nashville, and Brown Bag Lunch in downtown Marietta, GA. She is a performing member of Indiegrrrl, GoGirls Elite, and Just Plain Folks, organizations founded to promote independent artists. Leslie is also a member of DryRidge Productions, a non-profit organization promoting acoustic music in Upstate S.C. Her third CD, *Was It Blue?*, was released in 2004.

www.leslieberry.com

MEET OUR SPECIAL GUEST FOR OUR FALL PRO WORKSHOP

STEVE GILLETTE

with Cindy Mangsen

Saturday October 15 1-5pm, Mystic Chamber of Commerce. Concert at 7:30pm

In a musical age created by the singer-songwriter, Steve Gillette has long been considered to be one of the finest. His music has inspired glowing reviews from the critics and the deep loyalty of his fans. Since Ian and Sylvia first recorded Darcy Farrow in 1966, Steve's songs have been sung by dozens of major artists including **Garth Brooks, John Denver, Nanci Griffith, Waylon Jennings, Anne Murray, Tony Rice, Kenny Rogers, Linda Ronstadt, Spanky and Our Gang, Jerry Jeff Walker, Jennifer Warnes, Don Williams, and Tammy Wynette.** Steve's first album, Steve Gillette, originally released in the Spring of 1968, has been reissued by Vanguard on compact disc. The album includes guest performances by Buffy Saint Marie, Bruce Langhorne and Dick Rosmini.

In addition to performing in 31 countries, Steve has performed on over 100 college campuses and has taught numerous workshops and seminars on songwriting, guitar theory, and record production. Steve is the author of the book **Songwriting and the Creative Process**, published by The Sing Out Press in 1995. Steve's film credits include writing and singing the main title theme for M.G.M.'s *The Outfit*, Walt Disney's *The Pond*, *The Grass Is Greener*, *Summer Run*, and *Door To Door*. Steve has also written songs for the Walt Disney characters Jiminy Cricket, Dumbo, Rainbow Brite, and Winnie-the-Pooh.

Steve traveled to Japan with the "Day Of The Dolphin" concert series in Tokyo in 1976, and has been active in the anti-nuclear movement and other social causes. He has received ASCAP and BMI performance awards, and was honored by the World Folk Music Association as a 1988 nominee for the Kate Wolf Award. Steve has been a featured performer at many festivals, including Clearwater's Hudson River Revival, Fox Hollow, The International Songwriters Festival at Frutigen (Switzerland), The Mariposa Folk Festival, The Old Songs Festival, Owen Sound Summerfolk Festival, The Philadelphia Folk Music Festival, The Vancouver Folk Festival, The Walnut Valley Festival, The Winnipeg Folk Festival, and is a director and long time participant in The Kerrville Folk Festival.

Steve's second album, Back On the Street Again, was produced by John Ware for Outpost Records, with help from Spanky McFarland and Emmy Lou Harris' Hot Band. Steve's third album alone...direct (solo voice and guitar) was recorded by the direct-to-disc process and produced by John DelGatto on Sierra Records.

Graham Nash produced Steve's fourth album, A Little Warmth, which was released on Flying Fish Records in 1979. Appearing on this album were Johnny Barbatta and Pete Sears from The Jefferson Starship, Graham Nash, David Lindley, and Jennifer Warnes. The CD was reissued by Compass Rose Music in 2002.

Since their marriage in April of 1989, Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen have been traveling, performing and recording together. Their first album, Live In Concert recorded at *The Ark* in Ann Arbor, is available from their own company, Compass Rose Music, and was on many "10 Best" lists when it was released in 1991. A second duet album called The Light of the Day was named Top Folk Album of 1996 by Rich Warren (WFMT, Chicago) and Matt Watroba (WDET, Detroit). The couple's newest album, released in February of 2001, is called A Sense of Place (Redwing 5409), and is a portrait of New England in songs and tunes. Steve's latest collaboration is a quartet album with Cindy, Anne Hills, and Michael Smith, entitled Fourtol (Appleseed Records, 2003). The album is a collection of story-songs, new and old, sung in full four-part harmony, and has become a favorite of folk-radio programmers.

A collection of twelve of Steve's original songs was produced in Nashville by Jim Rooney in 1992. The album, called The Ways of the World (Compass Rose), features studio performances by Stuart Duncan, Mark Howard, Roy Huskey Jr., Kenny Malone, and Mark Schatz. Steve's latest solo recording is entitled Texas & Tennessee (Redwing Music, 1998), with back-up from Charles Cochran, Mark Graham, Mark Schatz, Pete Sutherland, Pete Wasner, Mike Williams and others. The album was named one of 1998's Top Ten Folk Albums by Tower Records' *Pulse Magazine*.

SIGN UP NOW FOR THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH ONE OF TODAY'S GREAT SONGWRITERS AND PRESENTERS. SPACE IS LIMITED AND SONGS WILL BE CRITIQUED IN THE ORDER OF REGISTRATION.

Advance Registration: \$30 to CSA PO BOX 511 Mystic CT 06355 -- Registration includes FREE concert admission.

ANNOUNCING: A NEW CSA COMPILATION CD

CSA is now accepting submissions for one of our special THEMED compilation CD's

In addition to the 10 general compilation albums we have released over the years, we have also produced three Holiday CD's which have been very popular. Now, we are pleased to announce **the first CSA compilation CD for Spiritual/Inspiration songs**. Based on our successful "Day of Praise" programs, it is clear that there is a lot of excellent material among our members in the area of gospel/spiritual and inspirational music.

Between now and October 1, we will be accepting songs for consideration for inclusion on this new project. Here are the specifics:

- Songs must be of a Spiritual, Gospel or Inspirational nature, in any musical style.
- Songs must be final versions which have undergone any appropriate re-writing, and which are produced to CD master standards with clear vocals.
- In the case of multiple writers, at least one writer must be a current CSA member.
- The Writer(s) agree to give CSA royalty-free use of the song for the purpose of producing this compilation CD. Writer(s) retain full ownership and control of their copyrights and publishing rights.
- The songs cannot currently be under contract to any third party (e.g. a publisher) and the writer(s) must own the song or have permission to use it.
- **BY OCTOBER 1 2005**, Submit up to two songs, of studio-produced CD quality, with lyric sheets to: CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355. Provide all your contact information -- including e-mail -- on the CD and on the lyric sheets
- Submission of a song does NOT guarantee acceptance. It is CSA's sole discretion as to which songs to include in the compilation, based on number of available tracks, production values, thematic content, and overall fit with other songs.
- Songs submitted but which are not included in this compilation may be kept on file to be considered for a future compilation
- Writer(s) of songs that are accepted for inclusion will be asked to sign a release form and pay a \$10 fee toward the production costs.

IF YOU HAVE A SONG AND ARE NOT SURE IF THE PRODUCTION IS UP TO STANDARDS, or IF YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS regarding this project, contact Bill Pere (info@ctsongs.com)

SHARE THE JOURNEY !

We would like to have this compilation done before the next CSA Day of Praise on October 22.

SEND YOUR SONGS IN NOW !

An evening of keyboard and vocal magic presented by



**NEAR, INC.
THE BUTTONWOOD TREE &**



KEYS FOR A CAUSE

LESLIE BERRY



KAY PERE



To Benefit the Oddfellows Theater Youth Programs

THURSDAY, JULY 14 – 8:00 PM

THE BUTTONWOOD TREE, MIDDLETOWN, CT

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10

