

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

COMING OCTOBER 15: CSA Pro Workshop and Concert with Hit Writer Steve Gillette, with Cindy Mangsen

The CSA meeting for October will be a Pro Workshop on Saturday, October 15 1pm-5pm Room, 14 Holmes St, Mystic. followed by a 7:30pm concert down the street at Union Baptist Church, Mystic. (directions on page 2 and at www.ctsongs.com)

One of today's best known songwriting coaches is hit songwriter Steve Gillette. Steve, who has written for Garth Brooks, Kenny Rogers, John Denver, Tammy Wynette, Anne Murray, and several Disney characters, is also the author of "Songwriting and the Creative Process".

Steve presents workshops around the U.S. He will discuss the craft and business of songwriting, and then will give his professional critique of attendees songs (please bring 30 copies of typed lyric sheet). Due to limited space and time, songs will be critiqued in the order that your registration is received. Registration is \$30 in advance (\$35 at the door) to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355. Your registration includes FREE admission to the evening concert, where Steve will perform as a duo with his partner Cindy Mangsen. Steve and Cindy have released many award winning recordings and are regarded as one of today's top folk duos.

More on Steve is inside this issue, and visit his website at www.stevegillette.com

See you there, and bring a friend !

Following the presentation, as time permits, there will be a song 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.).** For non-members, \$5 of your registration fee is 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 EVENTS CALENDAR (for complete listing see <http://www.ctsongs.com>)

- 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
- Nov 19 - Mystic River Folk - A Tribute to Woody Guthrie with the Hope Machine.
- Dec 03 - LUNCH Holiday Show - many CSA artists.
- Dec 12 - CSA Holiday Showcase and Potluck - Glastonbury

Coming in 2006

Midi Workshop --
Vocal Workshop --
Collaboration Workshop
CD Duplication Workshop and more.....

Coming November 19 to Mystic River Folk:
A Tribute to Woody Guthrie with The Hope Machine

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 Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room (14 Holmes St) : 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. Coffee and Snacks available !

The evening concert is just down the street from the Workshop. There are many eating places to be found on the Main St of Mystic, including Mystic Pizza, right next to Union Baptist Church.

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.

CSA notes the passing of former CSA member, Bill Kearns, 82 of Towson, MD. Bill was a member of CSA from 1994 to 2001 and co-wrote "Christmas Village" with CSA Founder, Don Donegan. Bill was a WW II navy vet serving in the signal corp in the Pacific theater on the aircraft carrier, Bon Homme Richard. He later created a Hagerstown, MD sailor's museum called the Savvy Waver. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, three sons, their wives and four grandchildren. Don adds, "Bill was a creative guy and a pleasure to collaborate with. I perform our song every holiday season." CSA extend condolences to the family.

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

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 caps 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. Slots are limited and disappearing !

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

SEPTEMBER WAS CONFERENCE MONTH

NEME , the New England Music Expo was a very successful event for CSA. It was great to see so many long time CSA members in attendance, and we had great volunteers at our booth, and our members provided excellent workshops. Special thanks to Peg D'amato for taking care of hospitality and for hand-crafting a great stuffed bear which we raffled off.

We gained 10 new members from the Expo and we certainly plan to be involved again next year. Put it on your calendars now (Sept 16-17) as a part of your musical development.

The other great September event is the Independent Music Conference in Philadelphia. The movers and shakers of the Independent Music Scene converge over Labor Day weekend to present an incredible opportunity for networking, performing, critiques, and workshops. Bill and Kay Pere, who have been presenters at this event for three years, have many stories of successful contacts that have led to further opportunities. This past year, CSA members Gary Breton and Bonnie Foster attended the event and came away feeling highly energized, with very positive things to say.

Noel Ramos, the founder of the Conference, has been a popular CSA speaker.

We hope to have enough CSA members attending the event so that we can have a CSA showcase venue. there. For more information visit the website at www.imc2006.com

A CSA STORY DAYDREAM - The Levees of New Orleans -- Bill Pere, President, CSA

When I moved to Connecticut from New York City in 1979, I saw an ad in the paper for a "Songwriter Showcase". I showed up and found myself standing in line behind an energetic woman named Rena Johnson, who made her way to New England from New Orleans, where she was born and raised. We both joined CSA that night and became founding members of CSA. Rena did not sing or play an instrument, but she wrote many well-crafted songs which she asked me to arrange and produce. One was a song about fond memories of her childhood in New Orleans and the delta country. We performed it in 1980 in a CSA New London, showcase, where I played guitar, and a vocalist from Westerly, RI, CSA member Gail Armstrong, did the singing. I recall that night, as it was well attended (as most showcases were back then) by all the early CSA members

Fast forward, September 2005: Life being as it is, I lost touch with Rena in the 1990's and hadn't had any contact with her for more than 15 years, but I always remembered that song. In September 2005, I was at the Independent Music Conference in Philadelphia watching images of the tragedy in post-Katrina New Orleans unfold on CNN. Seeing the faces of the affected people and the destruction of their homes and homeland, I thought of Rena's song and how touching it would be if they could hear it, but I had no idea how to reach Rena or if she was even still with us, as I knew she was in ill health and would be in her golden years by now. I arrived home from Philadelphia the Tuesday following the hurricane, and that evening, my phone rang, with a call from a local senior citizen residential facility. It was a voice from the past saying "Remember that song I wrote?" As she saw the events unfold, Rena thought of me as I had thought of her, and we were both connected by the same song. I thought it would be a great opportunity to use the song to raise money to help the relief efforts and Rena said to me "Take the song and run with it". In a 4-day period, I created new tracks for the song from 25-year old memory. I thought it needed to be sung by a capable female vocalist who would be able to come up with a memorable delivery, and I called on CSA member Denise Levasseur, an accomplished artist who was willing to contribute her talent to the effort on short notice. Denise had just been named a finalist in the Connecticut Idol competition.

We recorded the song, and had the CD-singles ready in time for a concert that weekend. Denise and I did the song live, just as it was done at that original CSA showcase 25 years ago. It got a great audience reception, and that night alone generated \$200 in proceeds for Katrina Relief efforts. (We're now more than \$300). Rena attended the show and it was a highlight of her life. CSA is a great long-term investment in your music and in yourself. CSA works.

To get a copy of the CD - Send a donation of \$5 or more for to LUNCH, PO Box 511 Mystic CT 06355
To listen to an mp3, visit the CSA website at www.ctsongs.com

SIDE NOTE:

Before leaving the music conference, folks had asked me if I was going to write a song about what happened in New Orleans. Besides Rena's song, there was another written about 25 years ago by none other than Harry Chapin, that said it so perfectly. He wrote:

"I know when a child is hurting, that silence can be wrong; I know when there's old folks helpless, I can't just pass along; I know when someone's hungry, I can't just sing this song; When I hear somebody crying, I can't just wonder 'who could it be?' I hear somebody crying now, and it sure sounds like America to me...."

Local United Network to Combat Hunger presents
a CD-single to assist Katrina relief efforts
written by Rena Johnson — Produced by Bill Pere



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 end of the year, but we are waiting for some excellent songs which we know are currently in production.

We'll keep you posted...

SEND YOUR SONGS IN NOW !



**Connecticut
Songwriters
Association**

(www.ctsongs.com)

and



**Local
United
Network to
Combat
Hunger**

(www.lunchensemble.com)

**26 YEARS of
Using the Power
of Popular Music
to Produce
Positive Social
Action**

**SATURDAY October 22, 2005
Griswoldville Chapel, Wethersfield CT**

A DAY OF PRAISE

**An encore program of Spiritual and Inspirational Music
to Benefit Katrina Relief Efforts**

(see www.lunchensemble.com)

- 2:00pm - 2:30pm: Gathering and greeting
- 2:30 - 4:30pm: Discussion of Music topics
(publishing, performance licensing, internet distribution,
networking, collaborating, performance opportunities, etc)
- 4:30 - 5pm: Sound checks for concert
- 5 - 6:00 pm: Fellowship dinner
(bring a dish to share - kitchen facilities available)
- 6 - 6:30pm: Kitchen cleanup, set up post-show reception for audience
- 6:30pm: Doors open for concert
- 7 - 9 pm: Concert, open to the public. (Tickets: \$10)

Registration in advance is only \$10 for the entire program (\$12 for non-CSA members).

If you would like to perform at the concert: Contact Peg D'amato at pegdamato@earthlink.net. Submit a sample CD or other recording of 1-2 original 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.

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 LUNCH

**On Behalf of the 100,000 hungry children
in Connecticut, and the folks affected by
Katrina, Thanks for Caring**

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).

