

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 NOVEMBER 8 - From Alabama: International performer and
recording artist Amy Gallatin. Wesleyan University, Middletown**

**Monday December 12: The Annual CSA Holiday Songshare.
Glastonbury YMCA**

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

We are pleased to have as our guest Amy Gallatin, from the internationally acclaimed band, Stillwater. Amy is one of today's most successful independent artists, with a global reputation in Country and Bluegrass music circles. She has recorded in Nashville with top producer Rich Adler. Amy has been successful performing her own original material and traditional favorites of the genre.

Amy will share her experience as a globally touring independent artist and songwriter. What does it take to develop a recognizable identity in today's market? What does it take to book successful engagements locally, nationally, and internationally? What does it take to work successfully with a band? What is it like to record in Nashville?

Bring your questions and bring your friends for this exceptional opportunity to learn from someone who is out there "doing it".

See inside for Amy's full bio

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>)

- 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 --
Internet Resources 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 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.

THE CSA DAY OF PRAISE event on October 22 was a great time, with a collaboration session in the afternoon and a concert for the community in the evening, which raised money for hurricane relief efforts. CSA Thanks Peg D'amato for her efforts in organizing and hosting the event. There will be another Day of Praise event in the Spring. If you would like to participate, contact Peg now at pegdamato@sbcglobal.net

THE NEW CSA Spiritual/Inspirational Compilation CD has received many high quality submissions and will be a great collection of CSA work. We hope to have it ready around the end of the year. CSA Thanks Lani Peck for contributing the CD cover artwork.

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.***

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

The 2006 Mystic River Folk Schedule will be available soon

CSA HOLIDAY SONGSHARE - PERFORMING OPPORTUNITY

MONDAY December 12, at the Glastonbury YMCA

The CSA meeting for December will be held on MONDAY December 12, 7:15pm at the Glastonbury YMCA (directions at the CSA website Calendar)

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 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.

SUCCESS COMES FROM OPPORTUNITY AND OPPORTUNITY COMES FROM INVOLVEMENT

CSA Elections: The Board of Directors has nominated the following slate to serve as CSA officers and directors for the coming year: President - Bill Pere; Secretary -Pat Reynolds; Treasurer - Kay Pere; Directors: Don Donegan, Peg D'amato, Roy O'Neill. Any CSA member not on the slate who would like to run for office may do so by submitting a petition signed by at least 10 active CSA members by November 30 to: CSA PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355. Candidates must have been CSA members for at least 12 months and must be currently active.

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

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



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

Using the power of
popular music to
produce positive
social action

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, Larry Batter,
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: \$ 10 in advance, \$12 at the door
Kids (Under 12) \$ 8 in advance, \$10 at the door

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

An Annual
Family
Favorite!

to benefit local Social Services

The 2005
L.U.N.C.H.
Holiday Show

A Mall
and the
Night
Visitors

Coming Down your
Chimney on
Saturday,
December 3,
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 4, 3pm)

FOLLOW THE
YELLOW BRICK
ROAD to the
EMERALD CITY
MALL !

FOOD FOR THOUGHT -- YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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

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 November 15, 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 !

MEET AMY GALLATIN

Amy Gallatin, born in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, lived in several states before settling in the West, where she was raised. During her ten years in Idaho and Montana, she had had the good fortune of being able to work at two of her loves in life: horses and music; Amy helped to organize the horseback riding programs and was the featured entertainer at various guest ranches. Her performing background had been as a solo artist out West prior to her meeting some Connecticut musicians while wintering in New England in 1992.

With that Connecticut connection came the opportunity to tour as a working unit, so Amy packed her guitar and moved east in the fall of 1993 to pursue her music. Four albums later (including a live album and a project recorded in Nashville with ace producer Rich Adler), Amy Gallatin and her band Stillwaters have taken the stage at some of the most prestigious venues in the U.S., Mexico, and Europe. They were invited in 1996, '98, and 2003 to tour several European countries. Their most recent performances in The Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Denmark drew extremely enthusiastic crowds at house concerts, music clubs, theaters, country & bluegrass festivals, and National Radio. Amy & Stillwaters represented the United States as the featured performers at the European World of Bluegrass convention in The Netherlands in May '98.

Amy is at home singing various musical styles -- country, folk, bluegrass or western swing--branding each song with soulful sincerity. Her influences are diverse, ranging from old and contemporary cowboy tunes learned out West, to great country artists like Emmylou Harris, Merle Haggard, Loretta Lynn, and the Everly Brothers, with even a dash of blues influence thrown in--Koko Taylor, Katie Wilson, BB King, and Shemekiah Copeland.

AN ALL-CSA EVENT



LOCAL
UNITED
NETWORK TO
COMBAT
HUNGER

&



Keys for a Cause

Present a Benefit the for New London Winter Shelter

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 - 7:30 PM

ALL SOULS UU, 60 HUNTINGTON STREET, NEW LONDON, CT



MELODY
GUITAR &
PERCUSSION

KAY
VOCALS &
KEYBOARDS

MICHAEL
BASS &
ELECTRIC SITAR

BILL
12-STRING
GUITAR

WWW.KAYPERE.COM

Kay Pere

WITH

HEART & SPIRAL

PIANO PROPELLED FOLK/POP

"Like a child with a secret, she belts out a tune, playful, thoughtful, body expressive. Her voice is now soulful, now emotional. Her work is, introspective, spiritual."

~ *The Hartford Courant*

"Ninety minutes of vocal magic. Pere sings with restraint, confidence, and sincerity. She never tries to overpower a song and is always in control of her material."

~ *The Resident*

"Songs of hope, healing and humanity with the comforting power of a steamy cup of cocoa and cream - minus the calories."

~ *Mystic River Press*

TICKETS \$10 Available at the door or in advance by calling 860-572-9285
Net proceeds benefit the New London Winter Shelter through LUNCH.

www.lunchensemble.com

