

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.



January 2006
Vol. XXVII
Number 1
Issue #313

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979 - 2006 : 27 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

Tuesday January 10 in Mystic - The Axe-Man and the Tax-Man - a Tax and record keeping workshop for songwriters and performers. 7:15pm

Saturday February 18 in Mystic -- A PRO WORKSHOP with one of today's most successful Hollywood and Commercial songwriters. 1pm - 5pm

Welcome to Our 27th Year !

The CSA meeting for January will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 7:15 pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 14 Holmes St, Mystic. (*directions on page 2*)

Start off the New Year with the annual overview of the music business, and one of CSA's most useful programs, "The Axe-Man and the Tax-Man", a workshop on taxes and record keeping for songwriters and performers. This program, presented by Bill Pere, has helped many CSA members save significant amounts of money. Bill was a key figure in overturning the IRS decision which initially denied CSA its tax-exempt status. He showed them that they were misreading their own regulations. Bill has worked with many CSA members over the years to help them set up simple and effective record keeping systems which facilitate making best use of all the available tax breaks for self-employed artists.

If you have an accountant or use tax software, the results you get are only as good as the information you provide. This workshop shows you how to provide the information that will get you the best tax breaks.

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>)

(NOTE -- date are tentative until officially announced)

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Jan 10 | - CSA monthly meeting, Mystic
The Axe-Man and the Tax Man |
| Feb 18 - | - CSA PRO WORKSHOP - Mystic 1-5pm
Alan Roy Scott |
| Feb 18 - | Mystic River Folk "A Valentine's Day Tribute to Love"
Kay Pere and Georgette LaBreche |
| Mar 14 | CSA Monthly Meeting |
| Apr 04 | CSA Monthly Meeting |
| May 13 | CSA Monthly Meeting |
| June | CSA Picnic and Showcase |
| July 11 | CSA Monthly Meeting |
| August | CSA Picnic and Showcase |
| Sep 12 | CSA Monthly Meeting |
| Oct 14 | CSA Monthly Meeting |
| Nov 7 | CSA Monthly Meeting |
| Dec 02 | - LUNCH Holiday Show - many CSA artists. |
| Dec 12 | - CSA Holiday Showcase and Potluck - Glastonbury |

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 !

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 NEW CSA Spiritual/Inspirational Compilation CD , "Share the Journey" has received many high quality submissions and will be a great collection of CSA work. It will take us a little longer to get it finished, as we are featuring 19 CSA artists with styles including folk, pop, country, symphonic, and classical. It will be worth the wait. CSA Thanks Lani Peck for contributing the CD cover artwork.

WE PLAN TO DO ADDITIONAL THEMATIC COMPILATIONS IN 2006-2007 We will be doing a compilation of children's songs, novelty/humorous songs, another Holiday collection and another Inspirational CD, so get your songs ready and watch the newsletter and CSA website for submission information (don't send anything until we call for it).

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.

MEET OUR SPECIAL GUEST FOR THE NEXT CSA PRO WORKSHOP

Saturday February 18 1-5pm, Mystic Chamber of Commerce.

**A WORKSHOP AND CRITIQUE WITH one of today's most successful
Hollywood and commercial writers and international industry figures --**

Alan Roy Scott

The workshop will be held 1-5pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 14 Holmes St, Mystic . Spaces are limited. Critique will be done in the order that your registration is received.

Registration in advance is just \$20 for members of CSA, \$25 at the door.

CSA has been fortunate over the years to have great presenters from all across the country. We are pleased to bring you an opportunity to to learn from one of the most successful Hollywood and commercial songwriters today, Alan Roy Scott. Alan has written numerous contemporary hits, and has songs in many hit films. He is also an official TAXI screener, so you know his critiques will be incredibly valuable

Alan Roy Scott is a top Hollywood songwriter and music producer, who brings a 20-year career in the music business to enrich Greenstar's digital culture project. His career began with Screen Gems-EMI Music and with a division of Motown, where he was involved with Smokey Robinson, The Temptations and Stevie Wonder.

Among the many artists who have recorded his songs are Celine Dion, Luther Vandross, Cyndi Lauper, Gloria Estefan, Roberta Flack, The Allman Brothers, Sheena Easton, The Neville Brothers, Pat Benatar, Patti LaBelle, The Pointer Sisters, Rick Springfield and Johnny Mathis. His TV/Film credits include songs used in First Wives Club, Top Gun, Coming To America, Karate Kid II, Fame (TV show), Rags To Riches, Santa Barbara, As The World Turns and Beverly Hills 90210, among others.

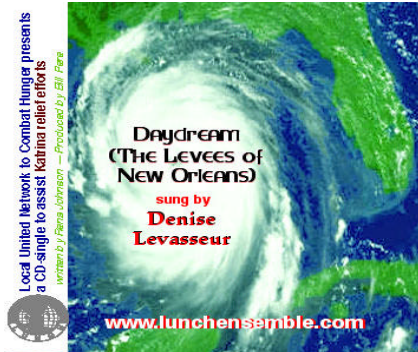
But Alan is more than a commercially-successful musician and songwriter. He has has a powerful vision: to unite a world community bonded by the creation of music. With his "Music Bridges A.T.W." events, he has created original events around the world. In the late 80s he initiated "Music Speaks Louder Than Words," the historic summit of US and Soviet songwriters which included artists Diane Warren, Brenda Russell, Cyndi Lauper and Michael Bolton. Then, "Country and Eastern" featured a collaboration of American, Romanian, Czech and Slovakian songwriters. "Pacific Harmony" was a musical excursion to south Asia, with artists from Indonesia, China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Australia, where Alan was joined by The Scorpions, jazzman Dave Koz and hitsmith Allan Rich. Then came "Celtic Harmony" in 1997, which took place in Dublin, Ireland -- bringing together US and Irish songwriters. Recently, Alan produced "Music Bridges...Over Troubled Waters," in Havana in March 1999. This event brought together Cuba's Instituto Cubano de la Musica and Ministerio de Cultura, and the U.S. Treasury Department, in the first large-scale cultural exchange between the two countries in over 35 years. Artists included Burt Bacharach, Peter Dinklage (REM), Bonnie Raitt, actor Woody Harrelson, Jimmy Buffett, Stewart Copeland, Andy Summers, Mick Fleetwood, Lisa Loeb and Don Was. On the Cuban side were such luminaries as Chuco Valdez, Alberto Tosca, Carlos Varela and members of the bands Los Van Van, Sintesis and Columna B. One of Alan's recent commercial tracks is "[See You When I Get There](#)". Alan serves Greenstar as the Creative Director of its World Music production, and travels to most of the company's installation sites to develop original music content, assisted by engineer Rick Cowling. More details are at <http://www.unisong.com>

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

Advance Registration: \$20 to CSA PO BOX 511 Mystic CT 06355 -- Registration includes a \$5 discount coupon toward the evening Mystic River Folk concert, at which Alan will perform a few of his songs

CSA NEWS UPDATES

DAYDREAM - The Levees of New Orleans



Produced in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, this was a collaboration between 3 CSA members: Writer Rena Johnson, Producer Bill Pere, and Vocalist Denise Levasseur. the CD has been available online for a donation of \$5 or more. The result -- A donation of \$1,000 was recently sent to the Salvation Army Katrina Relief efforts.

COLLABORATION WORKS! CSA will be doing a collaboration workshop later in the Spring.

THE 9th Annual LUNCH Holiday Show was a great success, with 8 CSA members and members' kids joining a cast of 40 to present an original stage play written by Bill Pere, "A Mall and the Night Visitors" (Bill's 23rd produced stage play). The event played to a packed house of more than 300, and raised \$4,000 for local social services. Involved CSA members included Larry Batter, Scott Sivakoff, Kat Wyand, Nicole Sullivan, Marcia Reinhard, Joe Ferrara, Kay Pere and Bill Pere. The event received large photo spreads and articles in the local press. Complementary tickets were given to families at shelters who otherwise would not have been able to attend. Full story and photos at www.lunchensemble.com



In 1989, LUNCH (Local United Network to Combat Hunger) was established as an ongoing special project of CSA, and spun off independently in 1999. On Saturday, December 11, 15 members of the LUNCH Ensemble were transported by limo to the Hard Rock Cafe in Times Square, to be special guests at a concert presented by the Chapin family and members of Harry Chapin's original band. the occasion was the 30th Anniversary of World Hunger Year, founded by Harry. LUNCH received one of WHY's national recognition awards as an innovative grassroots solution to fighting hunger and poverty. Bill Pere and Kay Pere accepted the award from WHY Co-Founder Bill Ayres, and for the 16th consecutive year, LUNCH presented WHY with a \$1,000 donation (photo at left)

Full story and photos at www.lunchensemble.com

CSA HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2005

Mystic River Folk presented a year of outstanding shows. Pictured at the right is Amy Gallatin, who performed in February with her band Stillwater. Amy was our November CSA speaker.

April featured a performance by CSA's Nancy Tucker, the 2004 Indie Artist of the Year.

May saw a CD release concert for Kay Pere's CD "Even Better Than Chocolate". recorded in Nashville with Grammy Award winner and CSA member Michael Hopkins producing. The concert featured Kay, Michael, Bill Pere and Melody Pere.

October featured a great performance by hit writer Steve Gillette, who also presented a CSA Pro Workshop.

November brought The Hope Machine from New York, presenting a Tribute to Woody Guthrie.



MORE HIGHLIGHTS

- CSA held two summer picnic/showcase events at J.B.Williams Park in Glastonbury.
- CSA held a Midi workshop in January and a collaboration workshop in April.
- CSA was a major sponsor of the very upscale New England Music Expo, held in September at the new Hartford Convention Center
- CSA's Bill Pere was a guest speaker in Los Angeles for a meeting of Songsalive, the organization founded by Gilli Moon, and Gilli was the speaker here in Glastonbury for our September CSA meeting.
- CSA was represented at the Independent Music Conference in Philadelphia, with Bill and Kay Pere presenting workshops and performing, and members Gary Breton and Bonnie Foster in attendance.
- CSA Board member Peg D'amato completed recording her first CD "Your Voice", produced by Bill Pere, to be released January 2006
- CSA released the 10th in its series of member compilation CD's, with this edition including 11 bonus tracks, which were the songs released on the very first cassette-only compilation in 1989.
- CSA held two genre-specific performance events, the Day of Praise #3 and #4, in Wethersfield, featuring many CSA artists performing original spiritual and inspirational songs. The first CSA spiritual/inspirational compilation CD "Share the Journey" was launched, with a January 2006 release planned.

**A VERY SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR CSA
STAY WITH US -- THERE ARE MANY MORE TO
COME**

**Success comes from opportunity and opportunity comes from involvement.
Be involved. An investment in CSA is an investment in yourself.**

SONG CRITIQUES Members may bring a song or lyric on cassette to the monthly meeting for critiquing by fellow members. Please bring 30 copies of typed lyric sheet. Out-of-State members may have their songs or lyrics critiqued by sending one submission with 30 typed copies of lyrics to: CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355. Include a stamped return envelope. Comments by the group will be summarized in writing and sent back to the writer.

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 periodically at meetings or by mail. Selected songs are eligible for inclusion on compilation CD's which may be given to industry pros. and used as a promotion vehicle by the writers. 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 or through on-line sales vehicles.

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 e-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

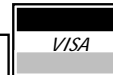
E-Mail: info@ctsongs.com

Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number : Visa Mastercard Expiration

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