

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.



April 2006
Vol. XXVII
Number 4
Issue #316

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

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

APRIL 1 -- COLLABORATION WORKSHOP including:

- Taking the LABOR out of Collaboration
- Hands-on collaboration
- CSA Success Stories

AND An evening concert with nationally known folk-indie artist
Mike Agranoff!

THE ANNUAL CSA COLLABORATION WORKSHOP

The CSA meeting for April will be held on Saturday, April 1 from 1pm-5pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce conference Room, 14 Holmes St, Mystic (directions on page 2)

CSA PRESENTS one of our most popular programs, the annual Collaboration Workshop.. We will do actual hands-on collaboration !

The music industry is first and foremost a people-driven business. In taking a song from creation to realization, there are many roles that must be filled, and skills which must be brought to bear. It is rare for one person to be able to do everything, thus, the need for collaboration, in many capacities.

Today's markets require that any writer or performer wear many hats. Knowing which hats you can wear successfully and those for which you may need help will keep your energy focused and keep you moving ahead. Most songs are written by more than one person. Writers collaborate with artists, arrangers, producers, managers, and so many others. How do you find the right collaborator to fill in the gaps in your wardrobe of hats ?

Come and learn -- and enjoy an evening concert with an amazing artist, Mike Agranoff. Registration required. Registration includes FREE concert admission. See registration info inside.

COMING UP !

APRIL 1 7:30pm at Union Baptist Church, High St, Mystic: **Mystic River Folk presents the amazing humor and artistry of nationally known Indie Folk Artist Mike Agranoff**

APRIL 29 7:00pm at Groton Bible Chapel, 66 Toll Gate Rd, Groton: **CSA Presents A Day of Praise -- the live CD release Concert for "Share the Journey". All CSA artists are invited to participate in this event. (details inside)**

CSA EVENTS CALENDAR

(for complete listing see <http://www.ctsongs.com>)

Mar 25 -	Hunger Awareness Concert, 7pm East Lyme High School, with the LUNCH Ensemble.
Apr 01	Collaboration Workshop - Mystic 1-5 pm
Apr 01 -	Mystic River Folk with Mike Agranoff
Apr 09	CSA SongShare
Apr 29	CD Release Concert for CSA Compilation "Share the Journey" Groton 7pm
May 13	CSA Monthly Meeting
June 11	CSA Picnic and Showcase, Glastonbury
June 13	CSA Monthly Meeting - The Creative Process
July 11	CSA Monthly Meeting -- Indie Marketing
Aug 27	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

FOR APRIL 1 :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" is a great collection of CSA work. We feature 19 artists with styles including folk, pop, country, symphonic, and classical. The CD is available for sale at \$10 each. You can order through the CSA website (www.ctsongs.com) or by mail (PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355) 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.

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 one name listed as the writer. Why is this ?

It takes multiple dimensions to write an effective song. Some folks can do it all 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 have been presented at by Bill Pere at several major music conferences, and have been published as a featured article in the Songwriters Market book.

To turn this into actual practice, Bill and Kay Pere will host an afternoon Collaboration Workshop preceding the evening Concert by national Indie-Folk artist Mike Agranoff (see below).

The workshop will include a presentation of "Taking the Labor Out of Collaboration"

- 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. We'll work in groups, write a song, and share it with the group. This process has yielded some very good results, and is a highlight of the national Independent Music Convention in Philadelphia.

Following the workshop, we'll break for supper and then we'll be joined by **Mike Agranoff** who will present an outstanding multi-dimensional performance. Mike is a nationally known writer-performer with a wonderful style of topical humor that makes his songs stay with you and make you think. The concert will be held at the Union Baptist Church, just a block away from the workshop venue.

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 \$10. You can register in advance by sending \$10 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.

Mystic River Folk Concerts



Featuring Performers of National and Regional Prominence to Benefit Local Social Services

Saturday, April 1, 7:30 PM

The Humor and Artistry of Mike Agranoff

Union Baptist Church, 119 High Street, Mystic, CT (the church on the hill)

DIRECTIONS: Hwy 95 to Exit 89, Allyn St. South to Downtown Mystic, Left on Rt 1, Church on Left, 2 Blocks



Mike Agranoff -- Tall, red beard, and always around where the music is. He's been on the scene for many many years, listening to the fine details of what makes Folk Music so special to the soul, so able to make us laugh and cry and think. And lucky for us all, he got serious about having fun at it. Equally at home in the contemporary and traditional camps of the Folk world, he is a fine musician and storyteller. His prime instrument is the guitar, upon which he shines with intricate finger style arrangements of anything from Tin Pan Alley tunes of the '20s to fiddletunes to his own music. He also plays concertina, piano, banjo, or sings acapella. He can be uproariously funny, contemplative, and powerfully emotional in the space of a few minutes. The man will capture your attention, and then your heart.

For over two decades, Mike has been chairman of the Minstrel Coffeehouse, one of the longest lived and most respected folk venues in the country

Hosted by Bill Pere and Kay Pere. Concert Proceeds to Benefit Groton Social Services, MASH, and other local Social Services.

Please bring non-perishable food for our local Food Pantry



TICKETS \$10

Proceeds benefit LUNCH and support the efforts of MASH, The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, and other local agencies
Available at the door or in advance by calling 860-572-9285
See the full Concert Schedule at www.mysticriverfolk.com



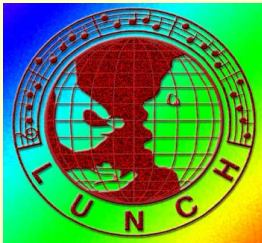
Produced with the assistance of the Connecticut Songwriters Association and Heart & Spiral Music



**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 APRIL 29, 2006

Groton Bible Chapel, Groton, CT

A DAY OF PRAISE

CD RELEASE CONCERT FOR "SHARE THE JOURNEY"

Spiritual and Inspirational Music to Benefit Local Social Services

(see www.lunchensemble.com)

- 1:00pm - 5:00pm: Gather to learn each other's songs to play and sing backup as needed. Sound Check.
- 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

All artists who have songs on the "Share the Journey" CD are invited to present the song at the concert, and to teach the other artists any back-up parts you may want. It is your responsibility to provide written chord sheets, music, and lyrics as needed. We will have approximately 20 minutes to work on each song., so keep it simple.

If you do not have a song on the CD but would like to perform at the concert: Contact Bill Pere at bill@ctsongwriting.com . We welcome other performers to do backup parts on the songs.

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, Thanks for Caring**



Directions to Groton Bible Chapel: 66 Toll Gate Rd, Groton, CT

Exit 86 off I-95, onto Rt 12 (a left exit if you are coming across the Gold Star Bridge from I-95 going North, then Rgt onto Rt 12) From Rt 12, Toll Gate Rd is the a right at the 3rd light, and the church is just up on the left.

From I-95 going South, Exit 86 to Rt 12, go right at the 4th light onto Toll Gate Rd. the church is just up on the left.

ANNOUNCING THE NEWEST CSA COMPILATION -- SHARE THE JOURNEY --

A Collection of Spiritual and Inspirational Songs from CSA Members



Now Available to
order !
The first printing
has already sold
out !

CSA is proud to announce our 14th Compilation album and our first on the specific theme of Spiritual and Inspirational music. This collection represents several different musical styles, united by a common theme..

"Share the Journey" is the result of the CSA "Day of Praise" events that began in 2004.

To order your copy, you may print out an order form from the CSA website or you can send a check for \$10 per copy to CSA PO Box 511, Mystic CT.

**The initial response has been overwhelming. We are already into our second printing.
This has quickly become CSA's best-selling CD ever !**

TRACK LIST

- *1. If Jesus Had a Credit Card 4:20 (Brian Booth) ©2005 Brian Booth.
- *2. New Day Coming Tomorrow 4:08 (Bill Pere) ©2005 Bill Pere - www.billpere.com
- *3. Blessings 3:15 (Kay Pere) ©2005 Kay Pere - www.kaypere.com
- *4. Tale of the Trail 3:01 (Peg D'Amato) ©2005 PeggyD Music - www.pegdamato.com
5. Through His Eyes 3:20 (Jack Kavanaugh/Lisa Maloney) ©2005 Kavanaugh/Maloney
- *6. Lord Give Me Strength 4:20 (Nicole Sullivan) © 2005 Nicole Sullivan
- *7. Of Words, Thoughts and Deeds 4:26 (Joe Frawley) © 2005 Joe Frawley Music (vocal by Kay Pere)
- *8. Gather 'Round the Baby Grand 3:45 (Paul McCarron/Joyce Josephson) ©2005 McCarron/Josephson
9. Somewhere Beyond the Stars 3:27 (Wendell Radke/George LaFlame) ©2005 Radke/LaFlame
- .10. Lullaby For Peace 3:15 (Bob Smith) ©2005 Bob Smith
11. Fruits of the Spirit 4:16 (Laura Principato) ©2005 Laura Principato
12. Let Go 3:35 (Lani Peck) ©2000 Lani Peck
13. Shhh...Listen 4:05 (Marcia Reinhard/Terri Goldsmith) ©2005 Reinhard/Goldsmith
14. Texas Night 4:00 (George Tift) ©2005 George Tift
15. One Day 3:20 (Gale Gardiner) ©2005 Gale Gardiner
16. Symphony No. 1 "Remembrance" 3rd Movement 15:06 (Albert Hurwit)
Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra Conducted by Michael Lankester
©2005 Albert Hurwit

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 (under 18) \$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

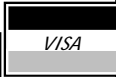
Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number : Visa Mastercard _____ Expiration

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 Serving Music's Artisans
 and Craftsmen Since 1979