

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

CSA PRO-WORKSHOP from the Nashville music Scene **Grammy Award-Winner Michael Hopkins** Saturday Oct 14, Mystic Chamber of Commerce

The CSA Fall Pro Workshop will be held on Saturday, October 14, 1-4pm at the Mystic chamber of Commerce Conference Room , #14 Holmes St, Mystic. (directions on page 2).

CSA is pleased to present our special guest, Michael Hopkins, who won a Grammy for his work with Sheryl Crow, as her audio engineer.. Michael has worked in Nashville for many years, with world class musicians and recording artists. As an audio engineer and producer, he knows what it takes to get a professional sound that can compete in today's marketplace. Michael knows the Nashville music culture and has insight as to what it takes to be successful in that scene. Michael has produced CD's for several CSA members, and now has a studio in Connecticut.

The Workshop will focus on how to get the most from studio recording, the ins and outs of Nashville , and he will lend his experienced ear to song critiquing

Space is limited, and pre-registration is recommended. Critiques will be done in the order that registration is received. Registration for CSA members is \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. To register, send check to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355. For non-members, registration is \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door.

MYSTIC RIVER FOLK

Sept 23 - **Mystic River Folk featuring Les Julian**
(page 4)

CSA CRITIQUE SESSIONS: At regular monthly meetings, 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 20 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.. Do NOT state what the song is "about").** 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>)

Sep 23	Mystic River Folk with Les Julian
Oct 14	CSA PRO WORKSHOP with Grammy Award winner Michael Hopkins
Oct 20	LUNCH Concert - Wheeler HS, North Stonington
Nov 7	CSA Monthly Meeting - Middletown With Dick Gabriel from "Gary Puckett and the Union Gap"
Nov 11	Veterans Day Tribute Concert, Mystic
Dec 02	- LUNCH Holiday Show - many CSA artists.
Dec 04	- CSA Holiday Showcase and Potluck - Glastonbury
Feb 17 '07	PRO WORKSHOP with Marcie Geller from NYC

Guiding Songs Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

COMBINING ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR 26 YEARS

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATIONS

How to
Get There!

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.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT ! NEW COMPILATIONS FOR 2006 -- CSA is now accepting songs for TWO new compilations ! The 4th **Holiday Compilation.** is seeking songs relating to the Christmas/Chanukah holiday season . The second "Share the Journey" CD is looking for spiritual/inspirational songs. The submission guidelines are posted at the CSA website, and can also be found elsewhere in this issue. Check the guidelines and get your songs in as soon as possible ! The last compilation was a tremendous success. Be part of this great CSA outreach.

NEW -- Songs from the compilations will be available for worldwide digital download with royalties being paid to the writers. Get in and ride the digital distribution wave .

GET YOUR SONGS IN BY NOVEMBER 15

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.



CALLING ALL WRITERS

SONGS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE NEXT CSA COMPILATIONS

The next 2 CSA compilations will be a Holiday CD, and another Spiritual/Inspirational to be released around December 2006. This will be CSA's 4th Holiday CD, and 2nd Spiritual/Inspirational CD

GET THOSE HOLIDAY SONGS READY TO SUBMIT. SUBMISSIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW UNTIL NOVEMBER 15



SONGS FROM THE COMPILATIONS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR WORLDWIDE DIGITAL DOWNLOADS WITH ROYALTIES BEING PAID TO THE WRITERS! SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS!

GUIDELINES:

- At least one writer must be a current CSA member
- Songs for the Holiday collection must be appropriate for the December Holiday Season (Christmas, Chanukah, Thanksgiving, New Year, etc), and for the Spiritual/Inspirational collection, songs must fit the theme. please specify for which CD you are submitting.
- Any musical style is okay
- Submission is NOT a guarantee of acceptance. Songs will be selected based on :
 - Appropriateness to the theme
 - Song Crafting
 - Production Quality (must be professionally recorded and radio-ready)
 - Available space on the CD (if there are more acceptable submissions than can fit on the CD, those submitted earlier and those of shorter length will be given greater consideration.
- Songs must not violate the terms of any third-party agreement (e.g. with a publisher). Unsigned songs are preferred. If a song is under contract to a publisher, a signed release from the publisher must be provided.
- Songs may not have been included on any previous CSA Compilation
- Submissions will not be returned.

TO SUBMIT, PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING:

- A recording of the song on CD, suitable for duplication (put your name and contact info on the CD)
- A lyric sheet (put your name and contact info on the lyric sheet)
- A signed release form, printed out from the CSA web site (www.ctsongs.com)
- A non-refundable one-time \$10 processing fee payable to CSA
(there are no additional costs, whether a song is accepted for inclusion or not)

Send your recording, lyric sheet, release form, and \$10 to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355.

IF YOU HAVE A SONG which is not yet fully produced and you want to know if it acceptable for consideration before doing the production, you may bring it to a CSA critique session, OR send the rough recording to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355. Include your e-mail address.

COMING UP

The September 23 Mystic River Folk Concert at Union Baptist Church will feature CSA's own Les Julian. If you've never seen Les perform before (or even if you have), this is a great opportunity to see a very successful, accomplished, and nationally recognized artist. Concert proceeds benefit community outreach through LUNCH

CSA PRO WORKSHOP -- SATURDAY OCTOBER 14, 1-4pm, Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room.

Grammy Award Winner Michael Hopkins, who has worked in Nashville for many years, will present a session on how to prepare for going into the studio, how to get the most from your time in the studio, and how to make your way in the Nashville scene. Also, as an award winning audio engineer for Sheryl Crow, Michael will lend his keen ear and knowledge of the Nashville scene to critique your songs with valuable feedback.

Space is limited, and advance registration is recommended. This CSA pro Workshop is \$12 in advance for CSA members (\$15 at the door). Checks may be sent to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355.

COMING: Oct 20, Wheeler High School, North Stonington. Bill Pere, Kay Pere. Larry Batter, and the LUNCH Ensemble in a Hunger Benefit Concert Event. Visit www.lunchensemble.com

CSA MAJOR EVENT !

COMING: NOVEMBER 7 , 7:15pm at Wesleyan University in Middletown: CSA's special Guest for the November meeting will be one of the industry's leading figures, Dick Gabriel, formerly of the hit 60's band "Gary Puckett and the Union Gap". Dick is now one of today's top artist advocates through the American Federation of Musicians, and he works with artists to develop deals and business practices that keep artists from being taken advantage of.

Learn about the many special advantages of belonging to AFM, hear stories of the road from someone who has been in a major "Top Ten" band , and learn about what you need to do to insure that you protect your rights as an artist.

COMING: December 04, Glastonbury YMCA - 7:15pm The annual CSA Holiday Songshare. Bring a song to share, a dish to pass, and enjoy the holiday season in the company of creative, supportive people

BIG NEWS

YOUR CSA MEMBERSHIP JUST BECAME MORE VALUABLE !

Since 1989, CSA has produced 14 compilation CD's of member's songs. Now, in partnership with IndieGate digital distribution, CSA compilations released since 2005 are being made available online for DIGITAL DOWNLOAD, and the CSA writers will receive the standard royalty (currently 10 cents for writer plus publisher share.) for each download.

This is a great opportunity to get your songs in front of a worldwide audience and to help CSA and yourself as well.

So far, "CSA Sampler Volume 10" , and "Share the Journey" are all available through this new IndieGate partnership. IndieGate will be the exclusive distributor for CSA compilation digital downloads . This way, if for any reason you decided to not have your song in distribution, it can be removed.

A link to the Indiegate store is now available from the CSA website.

Keep in mind that the quality of a digitally downloaded song is typically slightly less than that of the song on a physical CD. Of course you can still purchase complete regular CD's from CSA. We are simply adding a new option for individual digital downloads.

These are not free giveaway downloads -- they are paid digital downloads, with royalties going to the writers.

Since 1979, we've worked hard to be the best songwriters association around and to give our members as many benefits as possible. We value your membership and participation, and we hope to be able to bring even more value to you in the time ahead.

To check out the new digital store, you can visit the CSA website (www.ctsongs.com) and click the link.

You can also add a link to the storefront from your own website as well.

And while we were at it, we've made it possible new to join CSA right online through the IndieGate storefront.

CHECK IT OUT !

Mystic River Folk Concerts



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

Saturday, Sept 23, 7:30 PM

LES JULIAN

brings his amazing voice, guitar-playing and songwriting for a great **Family Evening** of fun and song

6 National Awards for his Family Music

Come find out why !

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



Les Julian -- Voted New Haven's #1 Folk Artist by the Advocate, and winner of 6 national awards for his trio of family CD's, Les is an engaging performer with an amazing voice, fabulous guitar work, and exceptional ability to tell stories through the songs he writes. His music is memorable and his songs have take-home messages for all ages. Songs about learning, fitting in, accepting others, being proud of who you are, and more.

Les has co-written with Bill Pere, and the duo's song "Donkey in a Ditch" was called by **Parents Magazine** "the best song about a moral dilemma ever written..."

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





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 Tiff) ©2005 George Tiff
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

