

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 - 2007 : 28 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR CSA "State of the Music Business" Seminar Strategies for Building a Successful Career in a Digital World Tuesday January 9, 7:15pm, Mystic

CSA wishes all our members and friends a
prosperous and fulfilling New Year.

The CSA Meeting for January will be held on
Tuesday, January 9, 7:15 pm at the Mystic Chamber of
Commerce (*directions on page 2*). CSA is pleased to
present our annual State of the Music Business
discussion, "Strategies for Building a Successful Career
in a Digital World".

CSA's Executive director Bill Pere has been traveling to
music conferences and events across the U.S. and has
lots of new information on the current state of our
industry. What are the trends in CD sales and Digital
sales? What new options are there for funding and
promoting independent projects? How do you decide
when to seek getting a contract vs staying Indie?. What
are the tax implications of songwriting and performing
activities?

Bill has presented coast-to-coast workshops on these
and many other topics, and is here to answer your
questions and give you the insights you need to make
the best decisions for reaching our own goals.

A critique session will follow. This program is **FREE**
to members. \$5 to non-members.

CSA WRITERS: Check out the special
LUNCH/CSA category in the International
UNISONG Songwriting Competition. Win
Valuable prizes and receive in-depth critiques in
in this great competition. www.unisong.com

COMING Feb 17 :Mystic River Folk presents Marci
Geller and Kay Pere in Concert
A Valentine's Day Tribute to Love

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>)

MUCH MORE TO COME !

- Jan 08 - CSA Kick off meeting, Songshare, and Critique
- Feb 17 - PRO WORKSHOP with Marci Geller from NYC
- Apr 14 Annual Collaboration Workshop
- May 04 Music For a Change at University of Hartford
- May 08 CSA Monthly Meeting
- Jun 01- Special Concert at the Schubert Theater
with the original Chapin Band
- Jun - CSA Summer Showcase/Picnic
- Aug - CSA Summer Showcase/Picnic
- Sep -- IMC Philadelphia
- Oct - CSA Pro Workshop
- Dec 01 LUNCH Holiday Show
- Dec CSA Holiday Songshare/Potluck

COMBINING ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR 28 YEARS

Guiding Songs Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATIONS

**How to
Get There!**

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.

CSA COMPILATIONS FOR 2007 -- The CSA 2006 Compilations are in production and will be ready in 4-6 weeks. We received some excellent submissions, and we will be proud to have these releases added to our growing library. Our compilations have received airplay and made available online and at national conference events. For the coming year CSA will be accepting songs for two completely new themed compilations.
1 -- LOVE SONGS -- Yes love songs, but not just any love songs. We want well crafted songs with a fresh approach to this often-overdone topic. Think out-of-the-box.
2 -- HUMOROUS/NOVELTY SONGS. If it doesn't fit anywhere else, this is probably the place. We want songs about off-beat topics, written with a twinkle in your eye and tongue-in-cheek. Let's bring some laughter into the world!

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 OCTOBER 31 2007.** After Oct 31, inquire info@ctsongs.com for status.

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

1: LOVE SONGS - but not just any love songs. We want well crafted songs with a fresh approach to this often-overdone topic. Think out-of-the-box.

2: HUMOROUS/NOVELTY SONGS - If it doesn't fit anywhere else, this is probably the place. We want songs about off-beat topics, written with a twinkle in your eye and a tongue-in-cheek. Let's bring some laughter into the world!

SUBMISSIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW UNTIL OCTOBER 31

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

GUIDELINES:

- At least one writer must be a current CSA member
- Songs for the Love Song collection must be well crafted and provide a fresh approach to some aspect of love and relationships. It is recommended that songs be critiqued before submitting, however this is not required.
- Songs for the Humorous/Novelty compilation must be appropriate for the theme of the collection. Songs should feature unusual topics, tongue-in-cheek lyrics designed to bring a smile to the listener, or to just present a totally whimsical idea or story.

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 per song 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.

The first 2007 CSA PRO WORKSHOP + concert **Saturday February 17 1-5pm, Mystic Chamber of Commerce.**

**A WORKSHOP AND CRITIQUE WITH one of today's most successful
Mainstream-turned-Indie artists from New York Music Scene**

Marci Geller

Returning for her third CSA appearance !

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 \$25 for members of CSA, \$28 at the door. Registration includes FREE admission to the evening concert at Union Baptist Church, just down the street from the workshop, across from Mystic Pizza

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 mainstream-turned-indie artists, Marci Geller, from the New York music scene.

Marci has toured the US, has appeared on network TV on "Live with Regis", and has had a successful career as a dance artist, being groomed as the successor to Paula Abdul.

Now as an Indie artist, Marci is extremely successful at getting film and TV placements for her songs, and can provide real insight into life as a big-label artist vs life as an Independent.

Learn strategies for getting your How to set up tours, and how to tap great opportunities in the growing market for house concerts.

FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOP

There will be an evening concert at Mystic River Folk (just down the street from the workshop) featuring Marci along with Kay Pere, as these two fine singer-songwriter keyboard artists combine for a "Keys For a Cause" event. The concert is FREE with your workshop registration, or \$10 for just the concert. This event benefits local social services through LUNCH.

SIGN UP NOW FOR THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH ONE OF TODAY'S SUCCESSFUL ARTISTS WHO HAS SEEN THE BUSINESS FROM BOTH SIDES.

SPACE IS LIMITED AND SONGS WILL BE CRITIQUED IN THE ORDER OF REGISTRATION.

**Advance Registration: \$25 (\$28 at the door) to CSA PO BOX 511 Mystic CT 06355
Registration includes FREE admission tot he concert**

For more information: info@ctsongs.com In the event of Snow, check www.ctsongs.com for status



Food For Thought



An Event to Support Hunger Awareness and Relief Efforts in Southeastern Connecticut through LUNCH and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Food Pantry



Sat, Feb. 10, 2007

5:00pm

Pine Point School
89 Barnes Rd
Stonington CT

The Legacy of

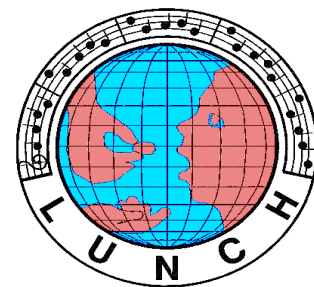
Harry Chapin

Lives on



The Chapin Legacy Remembered

Featuring the LUNCH Ensemble with CSA artists including Bill Pere, Kay Pere and Larry Batter



Founded 1989 by Bill Pere

TICKETS:

In advance:

\$8 (adult) \$6 (under 12)

At the Door:

\$10 (adult) \$8 (under 12)

Call 860-572-9285 to reserve with your credit card

www.lunchensemble.com

Visit us on the Web



COME SUPPORT CSA COMMUNITY OUTREACH THROUGH LUNCH

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.



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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Connecticut Songwriters Association
 PO Box 511., Mystic, CT 06355
 Serving Music's Artisans
 and Craftsmen Since 1979