

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.



Feb 2007
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Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979 - 2007 : 28 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

CSA PRO WORKSHOP

FROM NEW YORK CITY: Marci Geller

Saturday Feb 17 1 - 5pm (concert at 7:30) Mystic

A Two-Sided Look at the Life of a Successful Singer-songwriter: the Mainstream and Indie Perspectives.

The CSA Meeting for February will be a PRO WORKSHOP held on Saturday, February 17, 1-5pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce (*directions on page 2*). CSA is pleased to present our special guest from the New York City music scene, Marci Geller.

Marci is a very successful Indie artist, with songs in film and TV placements, but she was also a successful mainstream artist, under contract and on track to be another Paula Abdul. Marci appeared on national TV "Live with Regis" and toured extensively.

This is a great opportunity to hear the realities of life as a writer and artist from someone who has lived on both sides of the big contracts.

Following the workshop, Marci will present a concert, teaming up with Kay Pere for a great "Keys For a Cause" double-header benefit show.

Space in the workshop is limited, pre-registration is recommended. Critiques will be done in the order that registration is received. Workshop registration includes FREE admission to the concert. Registration in advance is \$25, or \$28 at the door. CSA PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355.

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 !

- Feb 10 - Hunger Awareness Concert at pine Point School, Stonington, with the LUNCH Ensemble
- Feb 17 - PRO WORKSHOP with Marcie Geller from NYC
- Mar 06 CSA meeting, Glastonbury
- 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 in New Haven 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 CD "Along the Road" is now released as the 15th addition to our ever growing library. Our compilations have received airplay and made available online and at national conference events.

For this coming year, CSA will be accepting songs for FOUR 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!

3 -- PATRIOTIC/AMERICANA. If you have patriotic songs, 9/11 songs, historical ditties or American nostalgia, this is the place for them. NO OVERTLY POLITICAL SONGS.

4 -- HOLIDAY SONGS. There is still space on the 2006 Holiday Song collection., so we are holding open and still accepting songs for a Fall 07 release. Christmas, Hanukah, New Years, Thanksgiving. (All songs previously submitted for this collection in 2006 are already accepted and do not need to be resubmitted.)

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 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 tongue-in-cheek. Let's bring some laughter into the world!

3: PATRIOTIC/AMERICANA . If you have patriotic songs, 9/11 songs, historical ditties or American nostalgia, this is the place for them. **NO OVERTLY POLITICAL SONGS.**

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GUIDELINES:

- At least one writer must be a current CSA member
- All songs must be professionally produced, up to 'radio-ready' standards.
- 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. Preference will be given to songs which present a new and unusual perspective on love or which have a really great musical hook or melody.
- 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.
- Patriotic/Americana includes songs that reflect patriotism, commemorate 9/11 or any other historical event, or present a look at uniquely American nostalgia or a part of our culture. Purely political songs are not appropriate for this collection.
- Holiday songs may reflect a Christmas, Hanukah, New Years or Thanksgiving 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.
- At CSA discretion, songs from the compilations may be made available for digital downloads, with royalties paid to the writers.

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 .

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

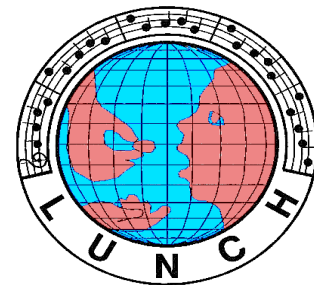
Harry Chapin

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

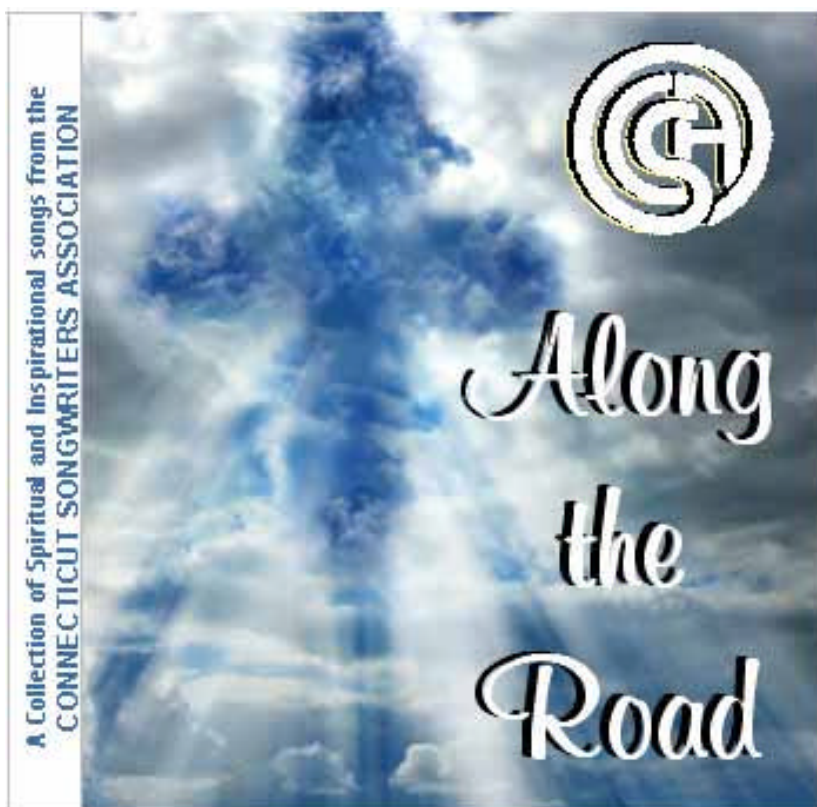
www.lunchensemble.com

Visit us on the Web



COME SUPPORT CSA COMMUNITY OUTREACH THROUGH LUNCH

CSA's 15th Compilation Release !



CSA is proud to announce our 15th Compilation album and our second on the specific theme of Spiritual and Inspirational music. This collection represents several different musical styles, united by a common theme..

"Along the Road" is a sequel to "Share the Journey", which was CSA's best-selling compilation to date. These collections are 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. FREE shipping.

We've had a great initial response to this CD. We hope you'll support our CD compilation series. Order your copy now.

TRACK LIST

1. Live For the Coming Day 4:09 (Paul Chapin) ©2007 Paul Chapin.
2. doG 4:20 (Bill Pere) ©2006 Bill Pere/KidThink Music - www.billpere.com
3. How Can I Keep From Singing 3:08 (Trad. adapted by Thomasina Levy)
©2006 Back Seat Boys Music - www.thomasina.net
4. Noah Smiling Down 3:01 (Sean Moore) ©2007 Sean W. Moore
5. Break Away 4:08 (Robert E. Jones) ©2006 Eye On Creation
6. Footsteps 4:39 (Bill Pere & The LUNCH Ensemble) © 2006 KidThink Music
7. In Hope of...(The Family of Man) 5:59 (Stephen Hayes) © 2006 Stephen C. Hayes
8. I'm On My Way 3:29 (Thomasina Levy) ©2006 Back Seat Boys Music - www.thomasina.net
9. I Got It All 2:13 (Dolores A. Hudson/George LaFlame) ©2002 Hudson/LaFlame
10. We See His Face 3:14 (Laura Principato) ©2005 Laura Principato
11. More Than Horses and Men 3:47 (Gale Gardiner) ©2006 Gale Gardiner
12. I Am Grateful 3:41 (Thomasina Levy) ©2000 Back Seat Boys Music www.thomasina.net
13. This Gift 4:42 (Robert E. Jones) ©2006 Eye On Creation
14. The Wheat Bows Down 3:30 (Gale Gardiner) ©2005 Gale Gardiner
15. Three Crosses 3:20 (Karen Cunningham) ©1991 Karen Cunningham

