

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.



Jan 2008
Vol. XXIX
Number 1
Issue #336

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979 - 2008 : 29 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

**January 15: The Answers to Your 10 Most Asked Questions
Including: How Do I Be My Own Publisher, and other topics related to
licensing, co-written copyrights, digital rights, and more.**

Take the Music Biz Quiz online at the website.

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR ! 2007 was an excellent year for CSA, and we expect this new year to be even more exciting. Beginning in May, CSA marks the start of its 30th Anniversary Celebration -- an amazing milestone by any standard. How many things in the music industry (other than the Rolling Stones) have been around for 30 years ? We start the year with the January CSA meeting, on Tuesday, January 15, 7:15 pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce (directions, page 2).

Over the past two years, several key questions have kept coming up from CSA members, so this meeting will take the Top Ten most asked questions and give you the answers, including the #1 question, How Do I Be My Own Publisher ? To see you you might benefit from this meeting, take the Music Biz Quiz, posted online at the CSA website. Bring your answers (and your specific questions) to the meeting. We'll discuss licensing, co-writers' agreements, copyright issues, royalty streams, digital rights, and much more.

COMING APRIL 19-20

CSA Pro Workshop with Pat Pattison from the Berklee School of Music. Pat, author of some of the industry- standard songwriting books, will present a master class on song structure and other key elements of the craft.

Pat will be available the following day for a special small-group session focusing on re-writing, using your own songs !

REGISTRATION BEGINS NEXT MONTH
Register early. Space is limited.

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. .

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COMING February 12: The AxeMan and the Tax Man: How to maximize the tax benefits of songwriting and performing.

CSA EVENTS CALENDAR

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

- Jan 15 - How to Be Your Own Publisher and Maximize your Music Income.
- Feb 12 - The AxeMan and the Tax Man: Maximizing the tax benefits of your music activities
- March - Glastonbury CSA Meeting
- Apr 19 - CSA Spring PRO WORKSHOP: A Master Class with top songwriting instructor Pat Pattison from Berklee School of Music
- May 09 Concert at the Shubert Theater, New Haven, with the original Chapin Band, joined by CSA
- May 17 CSA Annual Collaboration Workshop
- Jun 10 CSA meeting Glastonbury: Founder of Indiegate and publisher of InterMixx, Noel Ramos

COMBINING ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR 29 YEARS

Guiding Songs Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

How to Get There!

DIRECTIONS FOR JANUARY MEETING: 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 !

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. We'll provide a tax receipt that will give you the best possible tax-deduction.

If you have anything that you might like to donate, contact Bill Pere at bill@billpere.com

CSA COMPILATION UPDATE:

The deadline for submitting songs to the 2007 CSA compilations was October 31, 2007. Interestingly, exactly on that day, the CSA mailbox was stuffed with CDs. Musician's as a group tend to wait till the last minute for things -- one secret that has been reinforced over the years by many of the music industry pros that come and speak to us is the age-old saying, "the early bird catches the worm". One simple way to stand out from the crowd in the music game is to be early.

For the four categories that we have been collecting, here is the status:

1. Love Songs -- As you might expect, we are awash in love songs ! Everyone has love songs. This category is closed to further submissions. We will be reviewing the songs we have and looking for the more unusual love songs to include in the compilation. We expect an early 2008 release for this CD.
2. Holiday Songs -- we have enough for the CD but if you have a holiday song and want to get it in really quickly, we could take a couple more in this category, but it has to be soon, as we'd like to get this released within the next few weeks.
3. Patriotic/Americana -- We will still take submissions in this category until February 15 2008, and we hope to release the compilation in Spring 2008.
4. Humor/Novelty songs -- Surprisingly, this category had the fewest submissions, so we will hold it open through the 2008 cycle or until we get enough to fill all the slots, whichever comes first. If you have any kind of humorous, topical or off-beat song, send it along. This will be a very unusual and probably popular CD, as folks like songs that make them smile.

FOR THE NEW 2008 COMPILATION CATEGORIES, See the Announcement on page 4.

A MESSAGE FROM CSA PRESIDENT BILL PERE

Important News For You

As many of you know, I have been with CSA since it first began as a Songwriter Showcase in New London in 1979, led by Don Donegan. For all that time, I have served as a Director of the organization, and for the last 4 years, as President. CSA for me has been a tremendous source of inspiration, friends, career-building, and professional networking (not to mention I also met my lovely wife through CSA...).

As we enter the year 2008, we at CSA hope that you had a most enjoyable holiday season, and we wish you a very fruitful and creative New Year. This is a very special year for the Association, as the month of May marks the 30th Anniversary of the official creation of the organization. This then marks the start of our 30th Anniversary celebration, which will continue through 2009, with many special events. In order to make this milestone as meaningful and memorable as possible for all of you who have been faithful members of the Association, we need your participation – a celebration is only as good as the enthusiasm of those doing the celebrating. We will kick off our 30th year of CSA on May 9 with an event at the Shubert Theater in New Haven. This will be an encore performance with the original Harry Chapin Band, joined by CSA performers. Harry's brother Steve was a speaker for CSA many years ago, and has been a friend ever since. The event is a benefit for Liberty Community Services, providing assistance for the homeless in the New Haven area. Last year's event was truly a night to remember, and this one will be even better. We will be offering a significant ticket discount for CSA members. More information will be forthcoming in the time ahead, but keep the date open to come and see what the collaborative power of a small but dedicated group of songwriters can do when working together. We gave a workshop in 2007 on "Doing Successful Benefit Shows". Here is an opportunity to see that process in action.

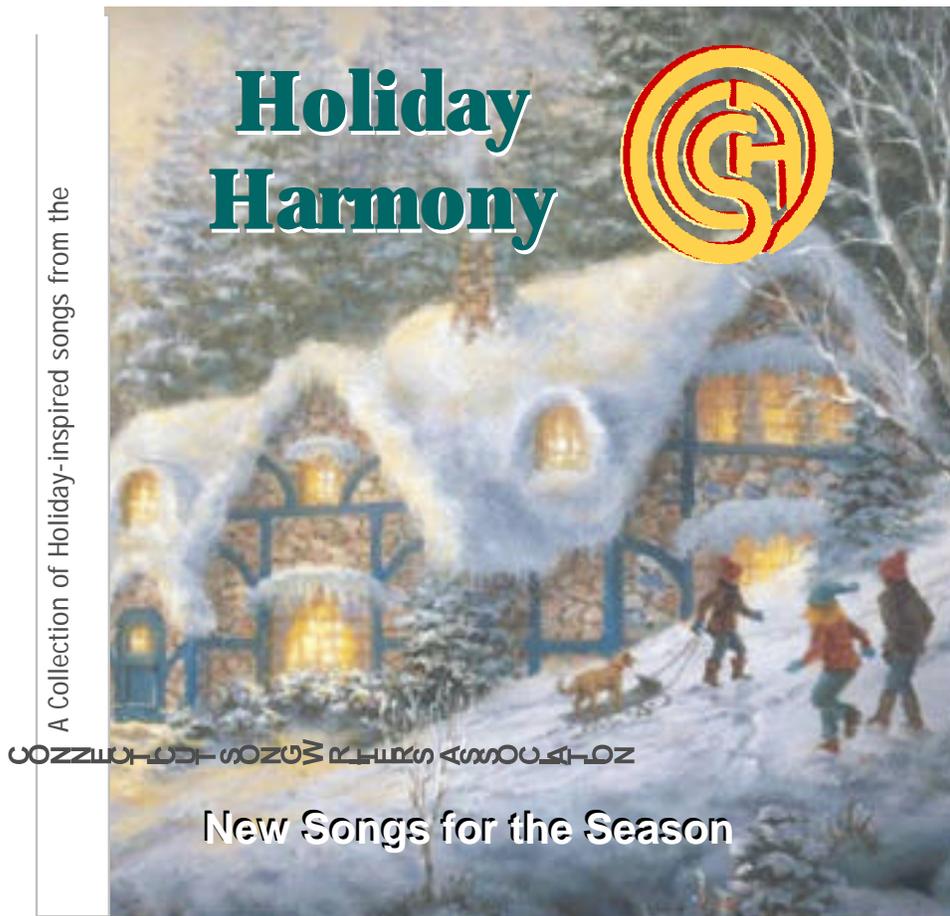
We will be having some great Pro Workshops in the time ahead, beginning in April with Pat Pattison, professor of songwriting from the Berklee School of Music, making himself available to CSA for 2 days, April 19 and 20. All the details will be presented in the newsletter. Of course we will be having our usual summer showcase/picnic in Glastonbury, and we encourage you to come and present your songs in this supportive performance venue. Also ongoing will be the CSA compilation CD series - we encourage you to submit a song for consideration in 2008-09. The CSA compilations have been selling well, have been taken to national conferences, gotten airplay, and have yielded two successful live CD release concerts, and have a royalty-paying digital distribution deal. CSA will also continue to be a major sponsor of the national Independent Music Conferences, in Philadelphia, L.A., and West Virginia.

As we enter this time of celebration, there are two areas where we need your assistance. First, as you probably know, we have been doing a "Day of Praise" concert series since 2004, producing five collaborative concert with more than 20 CSA performers, highlighting our Spiritual/Inspirational compilation CDs, and raising more than \$2,000 for social service agencies. Four CSA members to date have stepped up since 2004 to arrange for a local church to host this CSA event, which we've held in Mystic, Wethersfield, Groton, and West Hartford. In order to continue this effort and be able to present a 30th Anniversary Day of Praise event, we need a volunteer who is willing to arrange for a church where we can hold the next concert. We need a date and a place, and someone willing to work within the church and local area to promote the event. If you have not done something like this before, we will provide guidance, and it's a great way to learn how to produce your own events. If you have done it before, we'd love to have the benefit of your experience. Check out the photos online at the CSA website of past concerts. If you'd be interested in setting up a Day of Praise event (for Fall '08 or Spring '09) contact Bill Pere (bill @ billpere . com)

The second area where we need your assistance is in spreading the word about CSA to the many new (or not-so-new) writers and performers across Connecticut and RI/MA who have never heard of us or who simply don't realize how much we can offer. The extent of the events we can present to celebrate this 30-year milestone is directly proportional to the budget we have available to make the events happen. Don't worry - we are not going to ask you to make a donation – we know you get asked enough from many sources. Of course donations would always be gladly accepted and appreciated. If every CSA member contributed just \$10, we'd be off to a great start. However, we'd rather have you do something which is simple and costs you nothing. **We'd like to have every existing CSA member make a special effort to get at least one new person to join in 2008.** Surely you know others who write songs or perform, or wish they could -- or perhaps just like to support the arts or community outreach through music. Invite them to a meeting. Direct them to our website. Have them contact us directly (info @ ctsongs . com). Most importantly, print out a membership form from the website and put it in their hand. There is simply nothing more persuasive or effective in any kind of business than direct personal appeal. The more new members we get, the more events we can put on, and the more people there will be to benefit from them. It's a great way for you to help us present the best possible programs for you. Please help spread the word.

We thank you for being a part of the CSA community. Your support has enabled us to be around for 30 years. There are not many things in this business of music (other than the Rolling Stones) that can endure for 30 years ! We look forward to many more years of helping you achieve your goals in the craft and business of music.

JUST RELEASED: CSA's 16th Compilation and 4th Holiday CD



1. **The Hope 3:06** (Bob Smith) ©2007 Bob Smith. www.message-songs.com
2. **Christmas Eve, Silent Night 6:17** (Bill Pere) ©2007 Bill Pere www.billpere.com
3. **Eight Candles Burning 3:08** (Thomasina Levy) ©2001 Back Seat Boys Music www.thomasina.net
4. **Another Year 4:28** (Lara Herscovitch) ©2003 Lara Herscovitch www.laraherscovitvh.com
5. **Dear Santa 2:40** (Joe Manning/Steve Vozzolo) © 2002 Vozz-Mann Music
performed by The LUNCH Ensemble www.stevevozzolo.com www..sevensteeples.com
6. **A Cold Rain in Providence (4:25)** (Roy Schryver) ©2007 Roy Schryver
7. **The Way of the Waif 5:30** (Bill Pere) ©2007 Bill Pere/KidThink Music www.billpere.com
8. **Ornament 2:38** (Bill Pere and the LUNCH Ensemble)
©2007 Bill Pere/KidThink Music www.lunchensemble.com
9. **Christmas Every Day 2:10** (John V. Tranghese) ©1990 John V. Tranghese vocal : Marji Elzey
10. **What if Christ Were Born Today 3:27** (Bruce Kaechele) ©2007 Bruce Kaechele
11. **Your Happy Birth 3:28** (Gale Gardiner) ©2007 Gale Gardiner Vocal: Sarah Petersen and George Luther
12. **A Very Merry Christmas 2:34** (Joseph Muscatello) ©2007 Joseph Muscatello
13. **Winter 4:20** (Vann Reynolds) ©2005 Vann Reynolds performed by Michael Reynolds

**Now on Sale - \$15, includes free shipping.
Available from the CSA website or From CSA PO Box 511 Mystic CT**



CALLING ALL WRITERS

ANNOUNCING THE CSA 2008 COMPILATIONS



Get your songs in by October 31, 2008 to insure eligibility! *(after 10/31, contact us for status)*

CSA Compilation CDs have received radio airplay and are displayed at national conferences, and the digital downloads pay artist royalties.

1: SONGS of SOCIAL RELEVANCE - Songs that address an issue of social importance -- hunger, homelessness, the environment, substance abuse, global warming..... This is your chance to speak out and be heard. TIP: Don't just write a song that preaches -- Make your point by showing it, not telling it.

2: SPIRITUAL/INSPIRATIONAL SONGS - Our 3rd collection in this very popular series. See our previous Spiritual/Inspirational collections "Share the Journey" and "Along the Road" for examples of songs that fit this category.

3: HUMOROUS/NOVELTY SONGS - We started this category in 2007 but we're continuing to collect songs in this group, as we still have space -- If your song 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!

GUIDELINES:

- At least one writer must be a current CSA member
- All songs must be professionally produced, up to 'radio-ready' standards.
- Social Relevance songs must address a specific topic and social issue, such as hunger, homelessness, substance abuse, the environment, global warming, etc...
- Spiritual Inspirational songs must be appropriate to the category. See examples on the previous CSA Compilations "Share the Journey" and "Along the Road".
- 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 Collection 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 CD 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)
 - Clearly indicate the TIME of the track, in minutes: seconds
 - 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.
- If you want your complementary copy to be mailed to you, please include \$2 for postage. (there are no additional costs, whether a song is accepted for inclusion or not)

Send your recording, lyric sheet, release form, and \$10 (+ \$2 postage) 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

WHAT'S AHEAD for CSA ?

—COMING JANUARY 15—

In response to the most frequently asked questions over the last year, we will be presenting a session devoted to addressing those questions.

HOW TO BE YOUR OWN PUBLISHER AND MAXIMIZE YOUR MUSIC INCOME

We'll discuss all the myths, facts, and misconceptions about things like copyrights, royalties, publishing, distribution, collaboration agreements, derivative works, compulsory license, sync license, ASCAP/BMI, and lots of other stuff. Details in next month's newsletter.

—COMING in FEBRUARY—

The return of one of CSA's most popular presentations,
The AXE-MAN and the TAX-MAN

Everything you need to know to about how to keep the right records and handle the tax issues and get the biggest deductions related to your music endeavors. A little knowledge can save you significant amounts of money. Details in next month's newsletter.

—COMING in MARCH—

VOCAL WORKSHOP WITH NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED VOCAL COACH, KAY PERE

Kay has given vocal workshops across the U.S., They have been attended by many well known professionals (Jen Chapin, Marci Geller, Cassie Ventura) and students who have gone on to professional stage careers. Kay's students have a very high passing rate in adjudicated performances and auditions. Learn some simple techniques which can make a huge difference in the way you sound and the way you feel when singing. Details coming soon

—COMING APRIL 19—

CSA SPRING PRO WORKSHOP

A Master Class with one of the nation's top songwriting instructors, Pat Pattison from Boston's Berklee School of Music. Pat is the author of several widely used books on songwriting, and will be presenting a nuts and bolts workshop on songcrafting, and re-writing. Also, Pat's critiques are among the most direct in the business, and present an incredible opportunity to get insight which can bring your songs to the next level.

Registration details will be forthcoming -- stay tuned, and plan to register early.

—COMING MAY 17—

THE ANNUAL CSA COLLABORATION WORKSHOP

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, CSA will host an afternoon Collaboration Workshop preceding 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. One of the songs resulting from this process has been professionally recorded and is currently being shopped in Nashville. Other CSA collaborations have yielded many deals including cuts by well known artists. These songs would never have been written if not for the coming together of folks who otherwise might never have met.



Local United Network to Combat Hunger
and
Liberty Community Services



present

New Haven's Tribute to Harry Chapin

to Benefit Social Services in the Greater New Haven Area

Friday, May 9, 2008 7:30pm at the Shubert Theater
247 College St, New Haven

Tickets: \$18 - \$25 203-562-5666 or 888-736-2663
or online at www.capa.com/newhaven

Big John Wallace

Steve Chapin

Howard Fields



The

STEVE CHAPIN BAND

with Bill Pere and the LUNCH Ensemble

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 \$ _____.



Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number : Visa Mastercard

Expiration

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Mail to:
CSA Membership
PO Box 511
Mystic CT 06355

E-Mail: info@ctsongs.com

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

An Educational, Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Improving the Art and Craft of Original Music