

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 2008
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Number 2
Issue #337

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

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

February 12: The Axe-Man and the Tax Man

Tax and Record-Keeping Strategies for Songwriters and Performers to Maximize the Tax Benefits of Your Music & Publishing Activities

The CSA Meeting for February will be held on Tuesday, Feb 12, 7:15pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce, 14 Holmes ST (*directions on page 2*).

One of CSA's most useful programs is "The Axe-Man and the Tax-Man", a workshop on taxes and record keeping for songwriters and performers. This program, presented by Bill Pere, has helped many CSA members save significant amounts of money. Bill was a key figure in overturning the IRS decision which initially denied CSA its tax-exempt status, when he showed them that they were misreading their own regulations. Bill has worked with many CSA members over the years to help them set up simple and effective record keeping systems which facilitate making best use of all the available tax breaks for self-employed artists. If you have an accountant or use tax software, the results you get are only as good as the information you provide. This workshop shows you how to provide the information that will get you the best tax breaks. This program is free to members, \$5 to non-members.

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 INFO INSIDE!
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 guest 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 March 18: Kay Pere presents her nationally acclaimed vocal workshop featuring vocal tips and enunciation techniques for getting the most from your voice.

CSA EVENTS CALENDAR

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

- Feb 12 - The AxeMan and the Tax Man: Maximizing the tax benefits of your music activities
- Mar 18 - Glastonbury CSA Meeting -- Vocal Workshop
- Apr 19-20 - CSA Spring PRO WORKSHOP: A Master Class with top songwriting instructor Pat Pattison from the 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 17 CSA meeting Glastonbury
- Jun 22 CSA Showcase/Picnic - Glastonbury
- Jul 8 CSA meeting Wesleyan, Middletown

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 FEBRUARY 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for various CSA projects and roles.

CSA tries to bring you the best programs every month, with workshops, industry pros, performance opportunities, compilation recordings, and special events. The more people we have helping out, the better the programs we can provide. Our 30th anniversary is coming up. It will be as special as the level of participation we get can make it. Here are some of the things you can do to help CSA:

- Help set up at meetings. Take care of the sign-in table and name tags.
- Bring a snack to share with folks at meetings. Hospitality is always appreciated.
- Tell other musical folks you know about CSA. Put a membership form in their hands
(print it out from the website). We need every CSA member to try to get at least one new person to join.
- Volunteer set up a showcase or benefit event
- Make donation to our 30th anniversary fundraising campaign. Support CSA by purchasing the Compilation CDs and other CSA merchandise.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR RECENT CSA VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE STEPPED UP TO DO SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR US . Gale Gardiner coordinated the 2007 Day of Praise event in West Hartford. Linda Bonadies is coordinating the 2008 Day of Praise concert in Hamden. Bonnie Panda organized a benefit concert in Wallingford. Don Donegan hosts the CSA Summer Showcases in Glastonbury There is always room for folks who want to get involved. Success comes from opportunity, and opportunity comes from involvement. Be an active CSA volunteer !

Message From CSA President Bill Pere

More Important News For You

One of the important things we've taught over the years in CSA is that it takes at least three exposures to something (announcement, flyer, personal contact, news article, etc) before it begins to register, and seven exposures to get a person to act on it. Since 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, there are some important things we need to make sure everyone is aware of, so they are going to get repeated multiple times, in different flavors.

May 2008 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. 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 offering discounted tickets for CSA members. Go to www.capa.com/newhaven/events or call 800-228-6622 for tickets. Give the discount code LCS for 20% off the ticket price.

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 are presented in the newsletter, and the website. Of course we will be having our usual summer showcase/picnic in Glastonbury on June 22 and August 24. 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.

Last month, I announced that we needed someone to volunteer to find a venue for the 2008 Day of Praise event, and to coordinate it. I am pleased to say that we got a quick response from that request from CSA member Linda Bonadies in Hamden. Thanks, Linda, and you can be sure that your willingness to be involved will not be forgotten.

As we enter this time of celebration, the one important area where we need everyone's assistance all year long 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.

Sincerely,

Bill Pere
President, CSA
Founder and Chair, LUNCH
Official CT State Troubadour
IMC Indie Artist of the Year
Director, CT Songwriting Academy

SPRING CSA PRO WORKSHOP

CSA is proud to present a 2-day workshop with one of the all-time greats

Pat Pattison

April 19-20 Mystic Chamber of Commerce, 14 Holmes St, Mystic

(directions on page 2)

**REGISTRATIONS ARE ALREADY COMING IN.
DON'T GET LEFT OUT**

**Saturday April 19, 1pm-5pm -- Pat will present a Master Class on songwriting,
and a critique session**

**Sunday, beginning at 12:00 noon - A small group session on re-writing, using your
own songs. Get some individual attention from a master of the craft.**

REGISTRATION:

The cost for the Saturday session is \$30 for CSA members, \$35 for non-members

The cost for the Sunday session is \$70 for CSA members, \$75 for non-members.

Priority for the limited slots on Sunday will go to those who also attend the Saturday session.

Send your check to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355

CRITIQUE GUIDELINES: For the Saturday session, bring one song on CD or cassette, or do it live, along with 20 copies of typed lyric sheet. Songs will be critiqued in the order that your registration is received. The earlier the better. For the Sunday session, bring a song that you feel needs some re-writing. You could bring the song from the previous day if you wish.

Pat Pattison is a Professor at Berklee College of Music, where he teaches Lyric Writing and Poetry.

In addition to his three books, *Writing Better Lyrics*, *The Essential Guide to Lyric Form and Structure*, and *The Essential Guide to Rhyming*, Pat has developed three online lyric writing courses for Berklee's online school, available through patpattison.com. He has written over 30 articles for *Home & Studio Recording Magazine*, and *Performing Songwriter*.

Pat continues to present songwriting clinics across the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Several of his students have won Grammys, including John Mayer and Gillian Welch.





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 a 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 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 MARCH 18

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 19-20

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.

COMING June 22

The Annual CSA Summer Showcase/Picnic (First of 2)

Under the Pavilion in beautiful J.B. Williams Park in Glastonbury, this is a great opportunity to share songs for an appreciative audience in a great setting. Sound system is provided. Share one song or several. To book a slot, contact Don Donegan, ddcsa@aol.com or call 860-659-8992



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

When calling the Box Office for Tickets, use the discount code LCS for a 20% savings.



**Connecticut
Songwriters
Association**

(www.ctsongs.com)

and



**Local
United
Network to
Combat
Hunger**

(www.lunchensemble.com)

**Three Decades
of Using the
Power of
Popular Music
to Produce
Positive Social
Action**

SATURDAY NOV 15, 2008

**Dunbar United Church of Christ
767 Benham St., Hamden CT**

A DAY OF PRAISE

**CSA Performance Collaboration and Release Concert
for the CSA Spiritual/Inspirational Compilations.**

**Spiritual and Inspirational Music to Benefit
Local Social Services through LUNCH**
(see www.lunchensemble.com)

- 1:00pm - 5:00pm:** Gather to learn each other's songs to play and sing backup as needed. Setup and Sound Check.
- 5:00pm - 6:00 pm:** Fellowship dinner (bring a dish to share - kitchen facilities available)
- 6:00pm - 6:30pm:** Kitchen cleanup, set up post-show reception for audience
Doors open for concert
- 7:00pm - 9:00 pm:** Concert, open to the public. (Tickets: \$10)

Registration in advance for CSA membes is only \$10 for the entire program
Make checks payable to CSA PO Box 511 Mystic CT 06355
For questions, Contact Bill Pere at info@ctsongwriting.com.

All CSA members are welcome to participate in performing the songs. Artists who have songs on any of the CSA Spiritual/Inspirational or Holiday Compilations 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. Each artist gets to have one of their songs done by the ensemble, and everyone can participate in everyone else's song.

If you do not have a song on the CD but would like to perform at the concert you are certainly welcome to participate in the group.

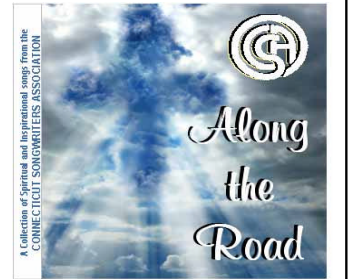
**.We welcome other performers to do backup parts on the songs.
Contact Bill Pere at bill@ctsongwriting.com**

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

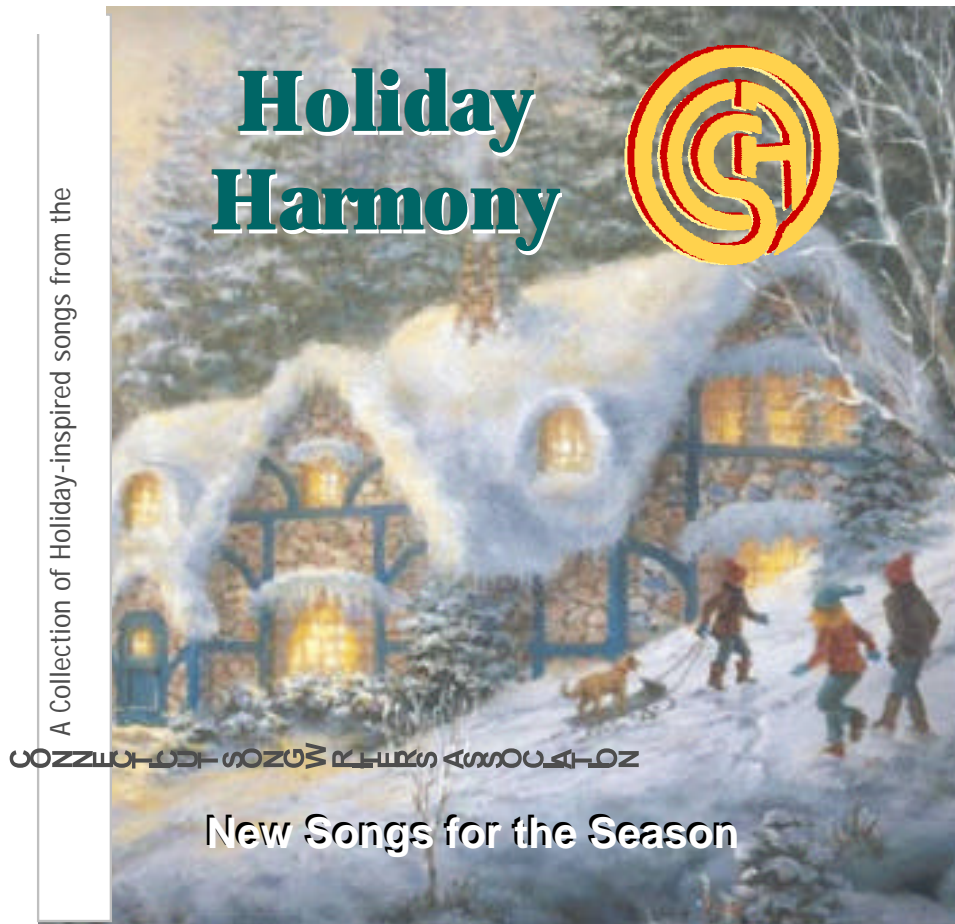
**On Behalf of the 100,000 hungry children
in Connecticut, Thanks for Caring**



Dunbar United Church of Christ
www.dunbarchurch.com
767 Benham St, Hamden, CT
NOVEMBER 15, 2008



NEW for 2008: 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..sevensteeple.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**

