

# 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.



Mar 2008  
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Issue #338

Combining Arts,  
Education, and  
Community Outreach

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

**March 18: Vocal Workshop: Getting the Most from Your Voice (Glastonbury YMCA)**

**March 3: 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 (Mystic Chamber of Commerce)**

The CSA February Tax workshop, rescheduled rescheduled due to snow, will take place Monday, March 3 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.

The CSA March meeting is a vocal Workshop, lead by nationally recognized voice coach Kay Pere, who has presented at music conference coast-to-coast. Kay has a degree in Vocal Music Education, and has had several well known artists attend her presentations. She has sung with a select choir at Avery Fisher Hall in New York, and has recorded in Nashville with Grammy-Winner Michael Hopkins. Kay presents several techniques and strategies for getting the best range, projection, control and enunciation from your vocal performances. (visit [www.kaypere.com](http://www.kaypere.com) and [www.soundkrayons.com](http://www.soundkrayons.com))

These 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. .

**HAVE YOU GOTTEN A FRIEND TO JOIN CSA YET ?**  
Make it a goal for 2008 to get at least one new person to become part of the CSA community ! We need your help !

## CSA EVENTS CALENDAR

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

- Mar 03 - 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 - Mystic
- Jun 17 CSA meeting Glastonbury- DiscCourse Session with special guest Noel Ramos
- 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 MARCH 3 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!

**Directions to Glastonbury YMCA:** **From I-91 going north or south:** Take Exit 25 over the CT River onto Route 3 to Glastonbury. Bear right onto Route 2 towards Norwich. Take Exit 8 (Hebron Av.) off Route 2 and go right at the late onto Hebron Av. Go right at the next late which is New London Turnpike. Take first left (Welles St.) and a quick right into the Fox Run Mall. Go straight, park anywhere and look for CSA signs near People's Bank. **From I-84 east or west:** Take Exit 55 onto Route 2 towards Glastonbury to Exit 8. See above. **From Norwich / New London area:** Take Route 2 to Exit 8 in Glastonbury and go right and a quick left onto Hebron Av. Go 2 miles to New London Tpke. See above

*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](http://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](mailto: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 !

# **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](http://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](http://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 MARCH 3

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 members 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](mailto: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.**

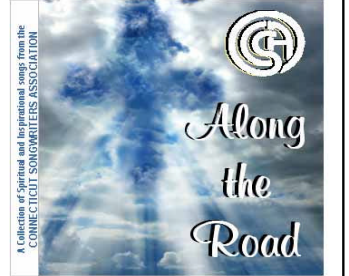
**.We welcome other performers to do backup parts on the songs.  
Contact Bill Pere at [bill@ctsongwriting.com](mailto:bill@ctsongwriting.com)**

**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](http://www.dunbarchurch.com)  
767 Benham St, Hamden, CT  
**NOVEMBER 15, 2008**



**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](http://www.ctsongs.com) E-mail: [info@ctsongs.com](mailto:info@ctsongs.com)

**Change of Address, Newsletter, Membership, Special Projects:**  
**CSA membership PO Box 511 Mystic CT 06355**  
**E-Mail:** [info@ctsongwriters.com](mailto:info@ctsongwriters.com)

**CSA on the Web:** [www.ctsongs.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

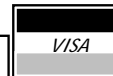


**Mail to:**  
**CSA Membership**  
**PO Box 511**  
**Mystic CT 06355**

**E-Mail:** [info@ctsongs.com](mailto:info@ctsongs.com)

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number :  Visa  Mastercard Expiration \_\_\_\_\_



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