

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.



May 2008
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Issue #340

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

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

CSA Collaboration Workshop --- May 17 Benefit Concert at the Shubert --- May 09

Sign Up Now to Perform at the JUNE 22 CSA Showcase/Picnic at J.B. Williams Park (page 7)

Annual Collaboration Workshop

The CSA meeting for May will be held Sat. May 17
1pm-5pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce
conference Room, 14 Holmes St, Mystic (directions pg 2)

CSA PRESENTS one of our most popular programs,
the annual Collaboration Workshop..We will do actual
hands-on collaboration !

The music industry is first and foremost a people-
driven business. In taking a song from creation to
realization, there are many roles that must be filled, and
skills which must be brought to bear. It is rare for one
person to be able to do everything, thus, the need for
collaboration, in many capacities.

Today's markets require that any writer or performer
wear many hats. Knowing which hats you can wear
successfully and those for which you may need help
will keep your energy focused and keep you moving
ahead. Most songs are written by more than one
person. Writers collaborate with artists, arrangers,
producers, managers, and so many others. How do you
find the right collaborator to fill in the gaps in your
wardrobe of hats? (See the related article by Bill Pere
at http://www.billpere.com/PDF/Role_Call.pdf).

Come and do some actual hands-on collaborative
writing -- you'll see some amazing results !
Space is limited, Register Early. Registration is \$8 to
CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355

COMING June 7

**A DisCourse session, just as it is
presented at the national IMC in
Philadelphia, with
the publisher of InterMixx magazine
and the originator of the DisCourse
event, Noel Ramos**

Glastonbury YMCA, Free to Members

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. .**

CSA EVENTS CALENDAR

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

- 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
- Aug 13-17 6th Annual IMC Conference, Philadelphia
- Aug 24 CSA Showcase/Picnic - Glastonbury
- Sep 16 CSA meeting, Glastonbury
- Oct 18 - CSA Fall PRO Workshop, Mystic with
Paul Cullen of Bad Company
- Nov 15 - CSA Collaboration Concert: The 2008 Day of Praise,
Hamden

COMBINING ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR 29 YEARS

Guiding Songs Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

DIRECTIONS FOR 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!

How to Get There!

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.

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 !**

NEW ARTICLE from Bill Pere's "Songcrafters Coloring Book: The Essential Guide to Effective and Successful Songwriting". Read about the many roles that must be filled in the life of an Indie Artist, and the considerations for how to fill them. This 12-page excerpt from Bill's upcoming book is posted here: http://www.billpere.com/PDF/Role_Call.pdf

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 !



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.

Saturday May 17

CSA 6th Annual SONGWRITING COLLABORATION WORKSHOP

**1:00pm - 5:00pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce
Conference Room. 14 Holmes St, Mystic**

When you look at the credits for a song on almost any CD you often see more than one name listed as the writer. Why is this ?

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.

**Registration: \$8 for CSA members. \$10 for non-members.
Send to CSA PO BOX 511 Mystic CT 06355**

Workshop space is limited, so advance registration is recommended.

Directions to Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room (14 Holmes St) for the COLLABORATION WORKSHOP : 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. Complementary coffee and snacks provided.

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 April 20, beginning at 12:00 noon - A smaller group session on re-writing, using
your own songs as examples. 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.

IF YOU NEED OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS : Mystic has virtually one of every motel chain, from Econo-Lodge to the Hilton. You can sometimes find printable coupons for special deals through www.roomsaver.com. (RoomSaver coupon books are also usually available at McDonalds or at your local Chambe of Comemrce)

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 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 MAY 9—

CSA Kicks off the 30-year Anniversary Celebration with a concert at the Shubert Theater in New Haven with the platinum recording artists of the original Harry Chapin Band, joined by CSA artists. The show is a benefit for social service agencies in the New Haven area, through CSA community outreach with L.U.N.C.H. (Go to www.lunchensemble.com for ticket info. Discount for CSA members, use code "CSA" .)

—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"

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RAIN OR SHINE

Hot Fun in the Summertime

Would You Like to Perform ? **RAIN OR SHINE!**

Sunday, June 22 from 1pm to 6pm at J.B. Williams Memorial Park, on Neipsic Rd, Glastonbury. **RAIN OR SHINE!** CSA returns to this gorgeous facility for our popular annual event. There is a large covered pavilion with electricity, picnic tables, grills, volleyball, playground, hiking trails, pond, and convenient parking. We will host an all-day showcase, from 1pm to 6pm with sound systems provided. CSA members and friends may reserve up to a 1/2 hour slot to showcase original songs. Don Donegan is booking the slots on a first call basis. If you'd like to perform, call Don at 860-659-8992 or e-mail at DDCSA@aol.com.

Please bring your own food for the grill, a non-alcoholic beverage, a dish to share and some picnic items like plates, cups, and napkins. The event is free, so bring family and friends.

Directions:

From New London/Norwich : Take Rt 12 west to Exit 8 in Glastonbury. Go right, and right again onto Hebron Ave. Go 2 miles and turn right onto Wickham Rd. Go to end of Wickham and turn left on Neipsic. The park is one block on the left.
>>> **From New Haven:** Take I-91 North to Exit 25, Glastonbury. Cross CT River on Rt 3 and bear right on Rt 2 towards Norwich. Take Exit 9 off Rt 2 and go left on Neipsic Rd under Rt 2. Go 3/4 mile to park on the left. **From Hartford:** Take I-91 South to Exit 25 (Glastonbury) and proceed as above. **From I-84 East or West:** Take Rt 2 to Glastonbury to Exit 9 (Neipsic Rd) and proceed as above.

EACH YEAR DOZENS OF SONGWRITERS AND FRIENDS COME AND GO THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

COME RELAX, SCHMOOZE, SHARE A SONG, AND ENJOY THE COMPANY OF CREATIVE PEOPLE

It's a Picnic, so please bring food for yourself and stuff to share, including paper goods, napkins, utensils, etc.

Previous editions of this event have received good press coverage with performers photos appearing in the newspaper

FOR PHOTOS OF PRIOR SHOWCASES, visit the Photo Albums at the CSA Website (www.ctsongs.com)



**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 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.

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



