

# 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.



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Combining Arts,  
Education, and  
Community Outreach

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

## DisCourse Session --- June 17 CSA Summer Showcase & Picnic #1 --- June 22

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

### DisCourse

The CSA meeting for June will be held Tuesday, June 17 7:15pm at the Glastonbury YMCA (directions pg 2)

Our Special Guest will be the originator of the DisCourse Sessions at the Independent Music Conferences around the U.S. Noel Ramos. Noel is also the publisher of Intermixx Magazine, and the Owner of IndieGate, an online Digital Distribution channel for Indie Artists.

No matter how good your songs are, what does it take to get an industry person to listen, to write a press article, to review your CD, and to offer you a gig? Not only is your song important but so is the total presentation -- your packaging, your press kit, your photos, your bio, and how it's all presented.

DisCourse offers critique not only on your song but on your complete package, from the envelope to the the font you use. It all matters.

After Five years of doing DisCourse sessions around the U.S., come and get feedback from Noel, an industry pro who is also a graphic designer and a champion of the Indie Artist. This program is free to members, \$5 for non-members.

**COMING July 8**

**Visiting us from Delaware: The creative performance and marketing of Ange and Ris, one of today's fast-rising Indie Duos**

Wesleyan University, Middletown

**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>)

- Jun 17 CSA meeting Glastonbury- DisCourse Session with special guest Noel Ramos
- Jun 22 CSA Showcase/Picnic - Glastonbury
- July 12 Special House Party Songshare/Performance - see page 3
- Jul 8 CSA meeting Wesleyan , Middletown with special guests Ange and Ris
- 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 4 - CSA Meeting, Wesleyan, Middletown, with special guest from Boston, Producer Jordan Tishler of Digital Bear Music
- Nov 15 - CSA Collaboration Concert: The 2008 Day of Praise, Hamden
- Dec 2 - CSA meeting Glastonbury
- Dec 6 - 12th Annual LUNCH Holiday Show, Stonington

**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 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 lites to New London Tpke. See above

## 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)



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.ctsongs.com))**

# SPECIAL INVITATION FOR CSA MEMBERS !

**A House Party Performance and Songshare and Jam Session on a Great Outdoor Stage -- Hosted by CSA's John Pytel.  
Saturday, July 12 2008 --- 1:00pm Until ??  
(rain date July 13th)**

**WHO:** EVERYONE WHO LOVES TO LISTEN TO OR PLAY -  
ALL GENRES OF MUSIC!

**WHAT:** OPEN MIC' FORMAT FOR MUSIC  
FAMILY STYLE DIGGING'S FOR EATING

**WHERE:** 809 MAPLE ST. (RT. 3) - WETHERSFIELD CT

## LOOK AT WHAT'S PROVIDED FOR YOU

- Hamburgers – Hot Dogs – Condiments – Watermelon – Soda/Water
- Tented Stage
- Complete Sound System
- 5 piece trap set w/ some percussion instruments
- Bass amp w/ Electric bass guitar
- Stage piano
- Acoustic or Electric guitars to borrow.

**Feel free to bring an instrument or just hum-along! Talent has been incredible over the years. Come enjoy and bring a friend!**

- **RSVP Gary at 860-239-8339**

**WHAT CAN YOU BRING:** SIDE DISH, SALAD OR DESSERT. DEFINITELY  
YOUR OWN FOLDING CHAIR(S)

**Note:** We setup around 10 p.m. Jul. 11. Come help - free coffee!

## IT WAS ANOTHER AMAZING CSA COMMUNITY OUTREACH SEASON



CSA's Bill Pere, Larry Batter, Scott Sivakoff, and Kay Pere joined with the platinum recording artists of the original Harry Chapin Band and the LUNCH Ensemble to raise more than \$20,000 at the Shubert Theater in New Haven.



The Harvest Home Shelter of Westerly, RI receives a \$500 donation at the May 18 LUNCH benefit concert.



Bill Pere presents a \$1,000 donation for World Hunger Year to Steve and Jonathan Chapin.



# COMING UP at CSA in JULY

## How Do You Pitch Your Music When it Doesn't Fit in Any Box ?

Tuesday, July 8, 7:15 pm at Wesleyan University, Middletown.

This important topic will be discussed by the up-and-coming Indie duo, Ange and Ris, from the Philly-Delaware music scene. These are exceptionally creative artists whose originality keeps their music outside the proverbial "box". Along with the discussion, you'll get to hear them perform some of their music.

In the words of [www.artistovation.com](http://www.artistovation.com), "Ange&Ris are a 2-girl team. Influenced by the keys of Tori Amos, haunting melodies of Sarah McLachlan and fresh grooves of Dido, they produce a melded, feminine, captivating sound. Poetic lyrics pour from their fascination with Jesus, Tozer, C.S. Lewis, and T.S. Elliot, as well as the faces of people in their daily lives. Imagine intense keyboarding and vocal harmonies coming together with creative beats and aesthetic, subtle electronica."

Angela Sheik and Larisa Forest are two musicians who didn't listen to much popular music growing up. It is no use mentioning names of mainstream musicians from 1900 - 1990 to them. However, their sheltered beginnings have helped them to discover their own unique sound; creative and beautifully uncanned. Ange&Ris have been working together since 2003. They recently finished their first full-length, professionally recorded album, entitled "...Not Me," in July 2007. They are regular performers in the Philadelphia area, and tour throughout the East Coast.

You'll hear Ange on vocals, keyboard, flute, computer loops and effect pedals, and percussion. You'll hear Ris on vocals, keyboard, computer loops and effect pedals and percussion.





# 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](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



**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**

