

# 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.



Sept 2008  
Vol. XXIX  
Number 10  
Issue #344

Combining Arts,  
Education, and  
Community Outreach

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

## CSA FALL PRO WORKSHOP ---Bad Company is Good Company--- An Evening with Paul Cullen, from Bad Company, Oct 14.

The CSA meeting for October will be held Tuesday, October 14, 7:15 pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce, 14 Holmes St, Mystic. (directions page 2) .

The super-group Bad Company was founded by the legendary Mott the Hoople, and over the years has had many incarnations with various personnel. For one of the band's world tours in the 1990's the group's bassist was Paul Cullen, who will be our special guest.

Paul will give his insight into the world of mainstream rock music and talk about why he has now made the switch to being an independent singer-songwriter. As a consummate musician and excellent producer, Paul will critique your songs with an emphasis on the music and (if applicable) the production.

This is a great opportunity to benefit from the experience of someone who has been on world stages with world-class artists.

Space is limited, and pre-registration is recommended. Songs will be critiqued in the order that registrations are received. The program is \$10 for CSA members, \$15 for non-members. Send your check to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355.

### COMING NOVEMBER 4

At Wesleyan University: CSA presents an evening with publisher/producer Jordan Tishler, of Digital Bear Entertainment.

**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>)

- 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

NOVEMBER 15: Dunbar United Church of Christ, in Hamden, 7:30pm

CSA presents the annual "Day of Praise" a collaborative concert of spiritual/inspirational songs to benefit local social services

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 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!

**REMINDER -- Deadline Approaching for the current CSA Compilations --  
Get your submissions in. See page 5**

## **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 !

**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 !**



# 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.

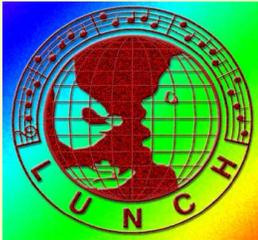
IF YOU HAVE A SONG which is not yet fully produced and you want to know if it acceptable for consideration before doing the production, you may bring it to a CSA critique session



**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.

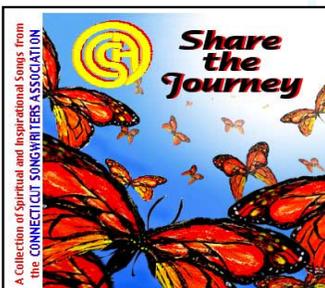
**If you do not have a song on the CD but would like to perform at the concert you are certainly welcome to participate in the group.**

**.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**

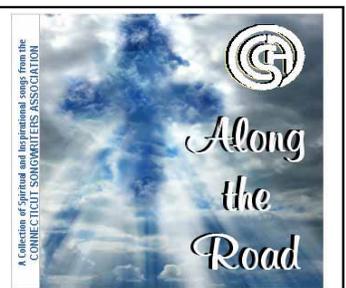


**Dunbar United Church of Christ**

[www.dunbarchurch.com](http://www.dunbarchurch.com)

**767 Benham St, Hamden, CT**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2008**



**Announcing:**  
**THE VOICES FOR HOPE  
MUSIC AND SERVICE-LEARNING  
SCHOLARSHIP**

**Vocalists, ages 11-19, are invited to participate in  
the 2008-09 Voices for Hope  
Music and Service-Learning Scholarship Vocal Competition**

**AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG VOCALISTS**

Finalists audition live and perform at a concert event.

The winner receives

- a \$500 scholarship
- featured performance opportunity at a major event
- audition for music industry professionals
- professional recording opportunity with worldwide distribution
- professional vocal and performance coaching in recording technique

**ENTRY  
DEADLINE:  
Feb 28, 2009**

All participants become part of a service learning outreach through LUNCH (Local United Network to Combat Hunger) which supports social service agencies providing food, shelter and services to those in need.

**EVENT DETAILS AND ENTRY FORMS are available  
online at [www.lunchensemble.com](http://www.lunchensemble.com)**

VOICES FOR HOPE is a community service outreach of  
L.U.N.C.H. (Local United Network to Combat Hunger),  
Mystic CT - [www.lunchensemble.com](http://www.lunchensemble.com)

**TO SEE AND HEAR PREVIOUS VOICES FOR HOPE EVENTS AND  
WINNERS, Visit [www.lunchensemble.com](http://www.lunchensemble.com)**



For further information, visit the  
websites or contact

Bill Pere [bill@billpere.com](mailto:bill@billpere.com)

This year's Voices For Hope  
Events will benefit Special Voices,  
which offers programs for kids  
with special challenges, and The  
Foundation for Autism Training  
and Education





LOCAL  
UNITED  
NETWORK to  
COMBAT  
HUNGER

Songs of the Season,  
Harry Chapin  
Favorites, and an  
original play to benefit  
Local Family Service  
Agencies

*Using the power of popular music to produce positive social action*

**Where do you think the Elves learn to use their Christmas Magic ?**

When the students of Hogwarts go on Christmas break, Santa takes over....

with appearances by your favorite characters :

Harry Shopper, the Evil Wizard WeideMart, Headmaster Double-Door, Mr Fudge, Weasel, and many more... and also, the long awaited return of -- DoNut the Barbarian !

**FEATURING Bill Pere, Kay Pere, Larry Batter, Scott Sivakoff, and the LUNCH Ensemble**

with **Elves, Reindeer, Santa, a bunch of crazy characters, and professional artists from the Connecticut Songwriters Association carrying on the legacy of HARRY CHAPIN**

**TICKETS:** Adults: \$ 10 in advance, \$12 at the door  
Kids (Under 12) \$ 8 in advance, \$10 at the door

On sale November 1, 2008. Seating is limited so Reserve in Advance with Visa or Mastercard Call 860-572-9285 to reserve.

You too can learn the powerful "Retailus Exorbitum" spell !

**An Annual Family Favorite!**

to benefit local Social Services

**The 2008 L.U.N.C.H. Holiday Show**

featuring

**Harry Shopper and the Order FRom Phoenix**

**Coming Down your Chimney on Saturday, December 6, 7:00pm**

**with special folk, holiday and sing-along music beginning at 6:15pm**

**Stonington Community Center  
28 Cutler St.  
Stonington CT**

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT -- YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**On behalf of Connecticut's 100,000 hungry children, Thanks for Caring.**

*One of the biggest hurdles faced by today's songwriter or performer is the fear of having to tread the complex and unfamiliar waters of the business side of music. Or the murky shadows of music technology, recording, and MIDI. Or the mists and fog of producing your own concerts. Unfamiliarity begets fear, and fear begets inaction -- thus a promising career is stalled. In these articles written by Author and Columnist Robert Wilson, we look at the essence of motivation and how to venture into -- the Un-Comfort Zone.*

## THE UN-COMFORT ZONE with Robert Wilson

### Will You Freak-Out or Hunker Down?

Sometimes motivation is forced upon us. We are thrust into the Un-comfort Zone. And, whether we sink or swim depends on how we respond to the situation. How do you react during a crisis? Here are the stories of two men who faced a crisis late in life and how they dealt with it.

Here are the stories of two men who faced a crisis late in life and how they dealt with it. One was a restaurant owner; the other a janitor. The former went into bankruptcy at an age when most people retire, and the latter was fired from a job he'd had for nearly 20 years. The restaurant owner enjoyed a successful business in a small town at the edge of the Appalachian Mountains. It was a great location along busy U.S. Route 25. And, because he offered the best food and service around, his eatery was jammed from sunup to sundown. But it wasn't to last.

The janitor started his job at St. Peter's Church in London as a teenager. Over the years he married and raised a family and enjoyed a perfectly predictable profession with solid job security. That is until the new vicar came along.

Over the course of 26 years, the restaurant owner was honored by the state governor for his recipes; and was praised by famous restaurant critic, Duncan Hines, in his column *Adventures in Good Eating*. Then in 1956, the new super-highway by-passed the little town. It's amazing the difference just a few miles can make. Two years later the restaurant was closed and the property auctioned off to pay creditors. At 64 years old, the restaurant owner was broke.

Unable to afford the cost of opening another restaurant closer to the highway, he reviewed his assets. All he had left was his knowledge and the delicious recipes that made his food so popular. So, he got into his car. Town by town, he drove, stopping at every restaurant along the way. He told the owners they would be more successful if they served his secret recipes under his brand name and paid him a royalty. Two years later, in 1960, he had 400 restaurants serving his food. By 1963 he was making a profit of \$300,000 per year. And, in 1964, Colonel Harlan Sanders sold Kentucky Fried Chicken to investors for \$2 million, plus a lifetime salary of \$75,000 per year.

It was around the turn of the twentieth century when the new vicar, a stickler for decorum, took over St. Peter's Church. When he learned that the janitor could not read, he gave him three months in which to learn. Quite depressed by the news, the man thought it might make him feel better if he smoked a cigarette.

As he walked home, the janitor searched for a tobacco shop. There was usually one on every block, but there were none near the church. He walked block after block without finding one. By the time he reached his house he knew exactly what he was going to do.

With his meager savings, he opened a tobacco shop near the church. It was an immediate success. His profits went to open a second, then a third and before long he had thriving tobacco shops all over London. Ten years later, he met with his banker about investing his earnings. The banker gave him some papers to sign. The man asked the banker to read the papers to him, explaining that he didn't know how. Shocked, the banker exclaimed, "You are so successful, just think where you'd be today if you could read!" Albert Edward Foreman smiled and sighed, "I'd be the janitor at St. Peter's Church." *(Based on a true story by Somerset Maugham)*

Did you know that in Chinese, the symbol for the word "crisis" is the same symbol used for the word "opportunity?" Two sides of the same coin. In other words, it's all in our perspective. Will you find the opportunity in your next crisis?

*Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit [www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com](http://www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com).*

**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*

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