

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 - 2009 : 30 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

**CSA FALL PRO WORKSHOP with
Eric de Fontanay from NYC, founder of Music Dish Network.
Sat, Oct 17 1pm-4pm, Mystic Chamber of Commerce**

CSA PRO WORKSHOP: Don't Let the Digital Revolution Leave You Behind!

Saturday, October 17, 1pm-4pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce, 14 Holmes St, Mystic.

Our special guest from New York City is Eric de Fontanay. Eric has spent his career steeped in what has been called the "digital revolution," starting in the 90's as a telecom consultant operating across international markets. In 1997, Eric founded MusicDish just as the "new" music industry began to emerge on the scene. Its industry portals became leading voices in the debates that characterized the transition to a networked, digital music sector. Starting in 2001, MusicDish pioneered internet marketing with the launch of Artist Express. Combining brand development, saturated marketing, social media, viral distribution and online street teaming, the service has helped hundreds of artists and labels developing their digital business. Eric now runs a full-management service called MusicDish Network. MusicDish has since successfully launched Music PR and MusicDishTV service. Eric is a regular speaker at conferences worldwide ranging from MIDEM to the CES as well as in print with his last paper featured in "Peer-to-Peer Video" published by Springer. (more: <http://www.musicdish.net>)

REGISTER NOW -- SPACE IS LIMITED (pg 7)

This program is \$10 for CSA members, \$15 for non-members. Eric will be critiquing songs in the order that registration is received. See you there, and bring a friend!

CRITIQUE SESSION

The workshop will include a critique session, which Eric will participate in. Bring a song on 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.).

If you have a finished song and are looking for marketing advice, present it so that Eric can offer his professional guidance.

REGISTER IN ADVANCE - SEE PAGE 7

CSA EVENT CALENDAR

(for complete listing see www.ctsongs.com)

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Oct 17 | CSA Workshop. Mystic Chamber of Commerce |
| Nov 06 | CSA and the LUNCH Ensemble present "A Tribute to Harry Chapin" at the University of Hartford |
| Nov 09 | CSA Meeting - Wesleyan Univ. |
| Nov 19-23 | IMC, Northampton, MA |
| Dec 5 | 13th Annual LUNCH Holiday Show - Stonington |
| Dec | TBA |
| Mar 19-21 | CSA Songwriting Retreat - Take it to a new level! |

Support CSA Community Outreach !November 6, at the University of Hartford "Music For a Change" Concert Series. CSA and the LUNCH Ensemble present a "Tribute to Harry Chapin"

**NOV 19-23: The 7th Independent Music Conference, Northampton, MA
Special CSA performance opportunity**

Mar 19-21, 2010: CSA Weekend Songwriting Retreat, North Stonington, CT

Guiding Songs Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

COMBINING ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR 30 YEARS

CSA RHYTHM AND NEWS

**How to
Get There!**

Directions to 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. FREE Coffee and snacks. Workshop space is limited, so advance registration is recommended. (see above)

TAX SEASON! 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 TO HELP PLAN AND EXECUTE CSA SPECIAL PROJECTS

If you are willing to give some of your time and energy to helping organize and execute some special events, please let us know.

We are always in need of volunteers.

Success comes from opportunity, and
opportunity comes from involvement.

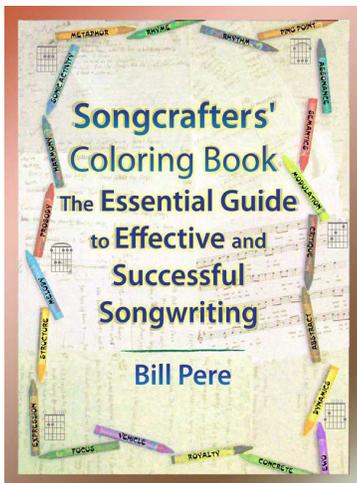
GET INVOLVED !

Contact Bill Pere, President, CSA
info@ctsongwriting.com

CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT

Take control of your creative process!
You'll see songwriting in a whole new way and experience a level of creative control you never thought possible.

In recognition of CSA's 30th Anniversary, we are presenting our first (and hopefully not last) weekend songwriting retreat. A time away from the distractions of everyday life, where all you have to think about is your music. A beautiful setting in the woods, with meals and lodging provided, and a group size limited to 12. You'll get personalized attention guaranteed to give you new ways to improve the effectiveness of your writing, and bring it to a new level.



**March 19-21, 2010, at Camp Wightman,
North Stonington, CT**

The program of Master Classes, performance and critique, will be based on the concepts of Bill Pere's internationally acclaimed songwriting book, "Songcrafters' Coloring Book", and led by Bill and Kay. This content, presented nationally at major conference events, is not available anywhere else at this affordable cost. All the details about the program, the facilities, schedule and registration are online at: <http://www.ctsongs.com/Retreat/SongwritingRetreat.htm>

The program is limited to 12 participants. The earlier you register, the lower the cost, and it guarantees your spot. The cost includes lodging for 2 nights, 4 meals, all workshops.

(Note: If you have to arrive late or leave early, we cannot make cost adjustments).

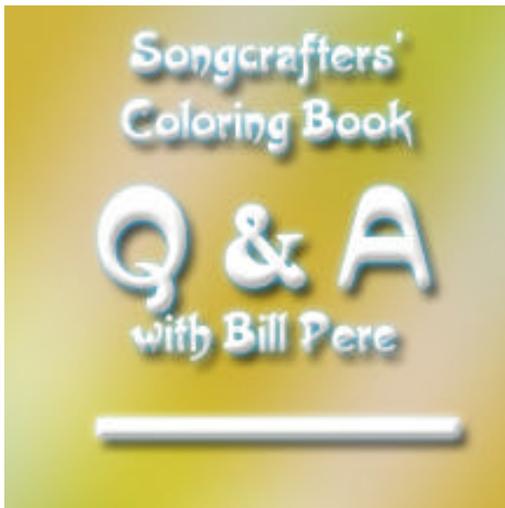
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|-------------------|---|
| Register by: | Member rate is for active members of CSA, Songalive, Indiegrrl |
| (Sept 1 – Nov 31) | Member Rate = \$129 Non-member = \$142 |
| (Dec 1 – Feb 28) | Member Rate = \$135 Non-member = \$149 |
| (Mar 1 – Mar 15) | Member Rate = \$142 Non Member = \$155 |

Three ways to Register, for your maximum convenience and security:

1. PAYPAL SECURE REGISTRATION ONLINE
2. VISA/MASTERCARD SECURE REGISTRATION ONLINE
3. BY MAIL: Send check or Money Order payable to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355

You must include your e-mail address, phone number, street address, and member ID # (if you are a member of CSA, Indiegrrl, or Songalive).

QUESTIONS ? Check the Website for FAQ Info. If you don't find what you need, e-mail us at retreat@ctsongwriting.com



Real Questions that I Receive from Across the U.S. and Abroad.

QUESTION:

I am learning jazz piano and i wanted about know about chord voicing for my solos. Basic 7th chords and other add-on's too. Can u help me with this ?

ANSWER:

Chord voicing refers to the particular order (low-to-high) in which the notes of a chord are arranged. For example, if you have a C7 chord, the 4 notes in the chord are C,E,G,Bb. Thus, the chord can have at least 8 different voicings, depending on which note sits on the bottom and top of the chord, and how tightly or spread out the notes are (open or closed voicing). Each stacking arrangement of a chord starting on different notes in the chord is called an inversion.

C E G Bb (closed voicing) or C G Bb E (open voicing)
E G Bb C or E Bb G C (1st inversion, closed and open voicing)
G Bb C E or G C E Bb (2nd inversion, closed and open voicing)
Bb C E G or Bb E G C (3rd inversion, closed and open voicing)

Although these are all the same C7 chord, they each have different character depending on the overall context of the song. Putting the Bb (the 7th of the chord) on top makes it prominent and creates bluesy tension. Putting the 7th right next to the root (Bb and C) in a closed voicing creates a very dissonant sound, while putting the 7th inside the chord in an open spacing is a more subtle tension often used in V7 - I chord progressions or cadences. The best thing to do is to decide on your melody and underlying chord progression, and then try out different chord inversions and voicings to see what your ear tells you is right for the song. Some other aspects of chords to be aware of:

When you see "m" or minor in a chord name it refers only to the third. When you see "7", it means the minor 7 interval. Since 'minor' in a chord name refers to the 3rd, you can't say "minor" to refer to the minor 7 interval, so we just use the number 7. The major 7 interval is referred to as M7 or maj7. Thus a "m7" chord has a minor 3 and a minor 7 interval. A "7" chord has a major third and a minor 7 interval. A "maj7" chord has a major 3rd and a major 7 interval. A mM7 chord has a minor third and a major 7 interval.

You may sometimes hear mention of a 7th chord being called a "Dominant 7th" - this is WRONG! There is no chord TYPE called a Dominant 7th - it's just plain 7th. "Dominant 7th" refers to making the V (fifth) chord of a particular key a 7th. In a key, each chord has a name: *tonic, supertonic, mediant, subdominant, dominant, submediant, and leading tone*). In the key of C, the V chord, that is, the fifth one in the scale, is G - (see diagram, next page). That is the Dominant. Thus a G7 chord is a dominant chord which is a 7th, in the key of C. If you are in the key of E, the fifth is B, thus a B7 is the 7th of the dominant chord. But there is no chord type called a 'dominant 7th', the way you would say 'suspended 4th' or 'diminished 5th', which are correct chord types.

Understanding inversions and voicings is not a matter of right/wrong. It's just a useful tool that enables you to make informed choices about how you want your music to sound.

THE UN-COMFORT ZONE with Robert Wilson

Be a Copy Cat

Last month I wrote about *Self-Efficacy* which is our belief in our ability to achieve what we set out to accomplish. I wrote about how it is the biggest part of achievement, and that we acquire a sense of self-efficacy in four ways: personal experience, observation of others, a positive mental attitude, and from the encouragement of others. This month I'd like to expand on how observing other people achieve motivates us to accomplish more.

Some of our goals require us to reach a mental threshold; some are more physical; while others are a combination of the two. One of my favorite forms of exercise and recreation is mountain biking. I get out once a week and hit the trails. Some of the trails have obstacle course-like obstructions called technical features; they are basically log and rock piles you ride over for an additional skill challenge. One trail has several advanced features including a *seesaw*. I rode past this particular challenge for weeks; wanting to do it, but frankly too scared to try.

Then one day I encountered another rider who rode across it. He went up to the center; it tipped and he rode down the other side. It looked easy enough, and so I asked him about it. He told me there was one trick to it. You needed to brake slightly when you hit the center, so that your weight would cause the 'up' end to tip down. If you didn't; it would function like a big ramp and you would fly off the end five feet off the ground. Hmm, good advice, because that was definitely what I didn't want to do.

Having seen someone do it; I was ready to tackle it. I rode across perfectly on the very first try. All I needed was to see it done.

We do this all the time -- sometimes consciously and sometimes unconsciously.

Last summer I was shopping at Dick's Sporting Goods in Atlanta where they have a three-story in-door climbing wall. My nine year old son was with me and asked to climb it. I bought him a ticket and the rock wall staff strapped him into the safety ropes. He went up about 12 feet and said he couldn't go any further. I was surprised because he is very athletic and picks up most sports immediately and effortlessly. I tried all sorts of encouragement, but he had made up his mind. The staff lowered him to the ground.

Then he asked me to climb it. I looked up and grimaced... it was not what I wanted to do that day, but I had done it once before with my older son, so I paid my way and started to climb. I climbed to the top and rang the bell, then enjoyed the real fun of repelling back down. Once I was down, my son wanted to try it again. I was skeptical and didn't want to waste another two bucks. But, I gave in, and this time he scrambled like a lizard all the way to the top and rang the bell. Just like me and the bicycle seesaw, all he needed was to see that it could be done. Then he was on his way. Of course I'm totally refusing to acknowledge the unstated thought in his mind... "Hey, if my wimpy Daddy can do it -- it's gotta be easy!"

Think of the occasions where you found a role model to show you "how it's done."

I remember the night I decided to become a professional speaker. I was serving as a counselor to a group of teenagers attending a Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation leadership seminar. Patty Kitching was the dinner keynote speaker. She was warm and funny and told wonderful stories to illustrate her points. Most of all she looked like she was having the time of her life. I turned to my wife and said, "I could do that. I want to do that!" Three years later, I was.

Go out and find someone who is already doing what you want to do. Watch them, talk to them, then get started!

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.

ANNOUNCING THE CSA 2009 COMPILATIONS

CALLING ALL WRITERS

Get your songs in by October 31, 2009 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** - We're continuing to collect 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: HOLIDAY SONGS** - One of the favorite categories -- CSA has released four great holiday collections. The holidays keep coming, and so do the songs!
- 4: GOOD OL' COUNTRY SONGS!** - Always popular, and there is no lack of good quality country songs in CSA. NOTE: Because of the many great CSA country songs, submission is not a guarantee of inclusion.

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

CSA FALL PRO-WORKSHOP

DON'T LET THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION LEAVE YOU BEHIND !

Saturday October 17 1-4pm, Mystic Chamber of Commerce.

A WORKSHOP AND CRITIQUE WITH artist management consultant from New York Music Scene

Eric de Fontenay

Eric de Fontenay has spent his career steeped in what has been called the "digital revolution," starting in the 90's as a telecom consultant operating across international markets. In 1997, Eric founded MusicDish just as the "new" music industry began to emerge on the scene. Its industry portals became leading voices in the debates that characterized the transition to a networked, digital music sector. Starting in 2001, MusicDish pioneered internet marketing with the launch of Artist Express. Combining brand development, saturated marketing, social media, viral distribution and online street teaming, the service has helped hundreds of artists and labels developing their digital business and evolved into a full-management service called MusicDish Network. MusicDish has since successfully launched Music PR and MusicDishTV service. Eric is a regular speaker at conferences worldwide ranging from MIDEM to the CES as well as in print with his last paper featured in "Peer-to-Peer Video" published by Springer.



**SIGN UP NOW FOR THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH ONE OF TODAY'S SUCCESSFUL MUSIC BUSINESS AND ARTIST MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
SPACE IS LIMITED AND SONGS WILL BE CRITIQUED IN THE ORDER OF REGISTRATION.**

The workshop will be held 1-4pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 14 Holmes St, Mystic . Space is limited. Critique will be done in the order that your registration is received.

REGISTER NOW - SPACE IS LIMITED! Registration in advance is just \$10 for members of CSA, \$15 non-members. To register: Send check or money order to: CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355 or sign up securely online (www.ctsongs.com) via PayPal

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