

Connecticut

Newsletter of the Connecticut
Songwriters Association

Songsmith



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Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979-2012 : 33 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

One of CSA's Most Requested Topics

Tuesday Jan 10, 7:15pm at the Morgan House, 119 High St, Mystic, (The large white house across the parking lot from Union Baptist Church, corner Rt 1 and High St., right next to the playground. Park in the parking lot and enter from the wooden walkway in the parking lot.). This is a new location for CSA, and a very nice meeting space. (*directions on page 2*)

Partnering With the Nonprofit Sector: How to Do Successful Benefit Concerts and Be Paid Fairly. Nonprofit does not mean no-profit! This is one of the surest ways to give your career as a songwriter and/or artist a rapid acceleration to a new level in both compensation and recognition. These techniques have been used successfully by many CSA artists. You can join their ranks. This program is \$5 to members, \$10 for non-members.

The presentation has been given at many national music conferences by **Bill Pere**, recently named "*Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year*" by the Association For Fundraising Professionals. Bill's events have raised more than \$1,000,000 and he has worked with many artists and groups to teach them how to maximize the amazing synergy of music and a worthwhile cause. Come and give your career a boost.

CRITIQUE SESSIONS

Following regular CSA programs, as time permits, there will be a critique session. To participate in the critique session, members may 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.). The programs at most CSA monthly meetings, except for special workshops, are free to members, \$5 to non-members, 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 EVENT CALENDAR

(for complete listing see www.ctsongs.com)

Jan 10 - "How to Do Successful Benefit Events"
Feb 07 - The Secrets of successful Song Structure
March - TBD
Apr 13-15 - CSA Songwriting Retreat
Apr 28 2012 - Voices For Hope Finals
May 1 - Podunk Songwriting Contest Submission deadline
May 12 - Colloaboration Workshop
July 20-22 - Summer Songwriting Workshop
Fall 2012 - IMC Conference
Dec 8 - LUNCH Holiday Show

**Success comes from opportunity.
Opportunity comes from
involvement. Get involved!**

Guiding Artists Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

CSA RHYTHM AND NEWS

Directions to the Morgan House, 119 High St, Mystic: I-95 going North, Exit 89, turn right on to Allyn St. I-95 going South, Exit 89, turn left onto Allyn St. Go to the intersection of Rt 1 (2nd light), turn Left, heading toward downtown Mystic. You'll quickly come to a 5-way intersection. On your left is Union Baptist Church. Take a left and enter the church parking lot. The Morgan House is the large white house on your right. Enter from the wooden walkway near the playground around back.

How to
Get There!

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any used printer ink cartridges, please bring them with you to the meeting. CSA can recycle them and receive a donation.

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



There were 3 past CSA PResidents at the December meeting in Glastonbury: Joe Manning, Kayte Devlin, and Don Donegan. Other past CSA Presidents include Les Julian and Paul Chapin. The Current CSA President is Bill Pere.



Major CSA News coming up soon about initiatives for the new decade!
Stay Tuned!

CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT

FAST-TRACK
YOUR
CAREER!

What others have said:

"Life-Changing! "A Transformative Experience!"
"You've given me a whole new way to approach songwriting"

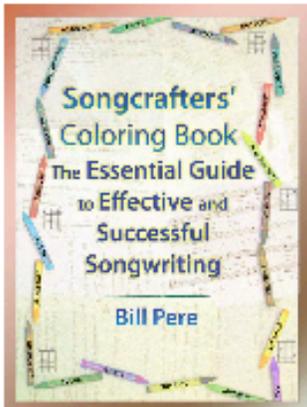
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN- LIMITED TO JUST 12 SLOTS

Slots are going - Reserve your spot now!

**Take control of your creative process!
Take your songwriting to a new level!**

**Get several years worth of CSA knowledge in one weekend!
You'll see songwriting in a whole new way and experience a level of
creative control you never thought possible.**

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.



**April 13-15, 2012, 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>
See what others have said -- There are photos and reviews of the last retreat at the CSA website/

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

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

Register by: Member rate is for active **members of CSA, RISA, Songsalive, IndieGrrl**
(Before Dec 1) Member Rate = \$170 Non-member = \$185
(Dec 1 – Feb 29) Member Rate = \$188 Non-member = \$198
(Mar 1 – Mar 25) Member Rate = \$198 Non Member = \$208

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

1. PAYPAL SECURE REGISTRATION ONLINE (www.ctsongs.com)
2. VISA/MASTERCARD SECURE REGISTRATION ONLINE

3. BY MAIL: Send check or Money Order payable to CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355 (Include your e-mail address, phone number, street address, and member ID # (if a member of CSA, RISA, IndieGrrl, IMC, or Songsalive).

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

SLOTS ARE GOING – DON'T BE LEFT OUT!



The Annual **VOICES FOR HOPE** Scholarship and Vocal Competition

Service-Learning Through Music for students ages 11-19

Finalists audition live at the East Hartford Community Cultural Center
and participate in a Harry Chapin Legacy Concert

AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG VOCALISTS

The winner receives prizes valued at more than \$1500, including:

- a \$500 scholarship
- professional recording and performing opportunities, with worldwide distribution
- professional vocal and performance coaching
- a lifetime membership to the Connecticut Songwriters Association

All participants are part of a service-learning outreach to support agencies which provide services for kids with special needs, and basic human services for those in need.

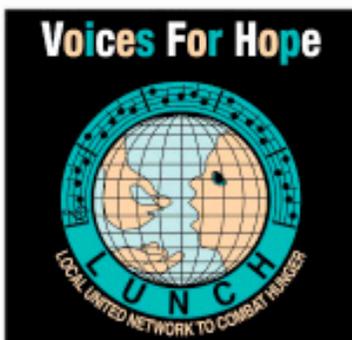
Previous winners have had opportunities to meet and perform with artists like Melba Moore, Diana Degarmo, The Harry Chapin Band, Patti Austin, and the LUNCH Ensemble at venues like the Bushnell, The Shubert Theater, University of Hartford, the Granite Theater, and many more. Their recordings have been released worldwide. Participants have come from many states, and our winners range in age from 11 to 19.

EVENT DETAILS AND ENTRY FORMS are at www.lunchensemble.com

ENTRY DEADLINE: APRIL 2, 2012

FINAL LIVE AUDITIONS AND CONCERT: April 28, 2012

East Hartford Cultural Center, 50 Chapman Place, E. Hartford



VOICES FOR HOPE is an outreach of L.U.N.C.H (Local United Network to Combat Hunger), using the Power of Popular Music to Produce Positive Social Action

For additional information and inquiries, contact
Bill Pere, Founder and Executive Director, LUNCH
bill@billpere.com
860-572-9285
www.lunchensemble.com



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

**If you like Bluegrass music, this is for you -
If you have never gotten into Bluegrass
music, this is still for You!**

THIRD ANNUAL COMPETITION

CSA has partners with the well known Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival to present a songwriting competition opportunity., with some great prizes and a chance to be heard by thousands of people. If you've written any bluegrass songs, here's a chance to put them to work for you. Most importantly, if you've never written in the Bluegrass style, here's a great reason to give it a try! Bluegrass, by it's very nature, is meant to be accessible to all, an easy style to write in. One of the great things about the style is that you don't need a percussion set or really fancy lyrics. Listen to some examples and give it a try. All the details and entry forms are online at <http://www.ctsongs.com>. Click the Podunk logo.

ALL FINALISTS WILL RECEIVE

- All Access Podunk credentials for up to two
- Listing and link on the Podunk Bluegrass website
- One-year subscription to Bluegrass Music Profiles magazine

1st PLACE WINNERS WILL ALSO RECEIVE

- A 10 minute performance on the Main Stage at Podunk on either Thursday, August 4 or Friday August 5, 2011. Must include song chosen as one of the top three.
- A check for \$300 (Three hundred)
- Lifetime Membership to CT Songwriters Association (\$400 value)

2nd PLACE WINNERS WILL ALSO RECEIVE

- A check for \$150. (One hundred Fifty)
- A 10 minute performance on the Main Stage at Podunk on either Thursday, August 4 or Friday August 5, 2011. Must include song chosen as one of the top three.

3rd PLACE WINNERS WILL ALSO RECEIVE

- A check for \$50.00 (Fifty)
- A 10 minute performance on the Main Stage at Podunk on either Thursday, August 4 or Friday August 5, 2011. Must include song chosen as one of the top three.

Contestants must enter by May 1, 2012 by completing the [Official Entry Form](#) and mailing it to:

CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic, CT 06355 USA OR by entering online at www.ctsongs.com

WHAT IS BLUEGRASS MUSIC? *a discussion by C. Roger Moss, Podunk Bluegrass Music Festival*

Bluegrass is a style of acoustic music that originated in the 1940s when Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs combined elements of country/western, gospel and blues music with the British, Irish, and Scottish music of their Appalachian mountain heritage. It is played most commonly on the mandolin, fiddle, five-string banjo, six-string guitar, and upright bass, but the resonator guitar ("Dobro"), harmonica, and electric bass are also found in bluegrass. Percussion is not generally used, with the insistent rhythm being a result of the interplay of the stringed instruments. Bluegrass music is often called "that high lonesome sound" but it includes a wide range of lively instrumentals, sweet ballads in threepart harmony, soulful a cappella gospel quartets and up-tempo love songs. The unique, driving sound of the original Blue Grass Boys was built upon by many musicians, including the Stanley Brothers, Reno & Smiley, Jim & Jesse, and Jimmy Martin. Bluegrass blossomed with artists like the Osborne Brothers, the Dillards, the Seldom Scene, the New Grass Revival, and Hot Rize. Today bluegrass is popular worldwide, and its stars include Ricky Skaggs, Alison Krauss & Union Station, the Del McCoury Band, Laurie Lewis, the Lonesome River Band, Blue Highway, and the Nashville Bluegrass Band. Bluegrass is a very inclusive music, with friendly and informal jam sessions springing up around almost every event. It's a great way to learn to play an instrument and sing, for kids and adults alike. Almost all bluegrass events have a family atmosphere, and performers and listeners are equally welcome. We hope to see you soon at a bluegrass event!

CSA RECENT HONORS AND AWARDS

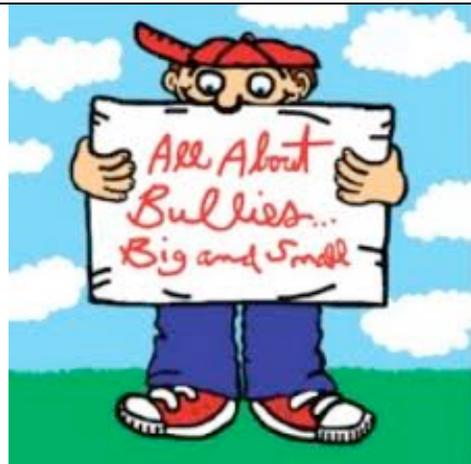
On November 17, National Philanthropy Day, **Bill Pere** and **Kay Pere** were named as "*Outstanding Volunteer Fundraisers*" for 2011, by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Bill and Kay were honored at the annual AFP banquet in Waterbury.



GRAMMY NOMINATION!

In 1996, CSA members **Bill Pere** and **Les Julian** wrote "Donkey in a Ditch", which Parents Magazine called "*Perhaps the best children's song about a basic dilemma ever written...*"

The song was chosen for inclusion on a new anti-bullying CD called "All About Bullies Big and Small", which has just been nominated for a Grammy Award, beating out more than 125 other submissions. All proceeds from the CD benefit Pacer Kids Against Bullying.



SONG CRITIQUES Members may bring a song or lyric on CD (or do it live) to the monthly meeting for critiquing by fellow members. Please bring 20 copies of typed lyric sheet. Out-of-State members may have their songs or lyrics critiqued by sending one submission with 20 typed copies of lyrics to: CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355. Include an e-mail address or a double stamped return envelope. 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 songsharing opportunities.

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 E-mail: info@ctsongs.com

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

CSA on the Web: www.ctsongs.com

• **COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES AND NETWORKING :** CSA provides opportunities to meet collaborators and providers of various music services. Make sure you're listed on our web site.

• **SONG SCREENING :** CSA helps its members get well-crafted songs targeted to their best potential market. Songs may be screened at meetings or by mail. Selected songs are eligible for inclusion on CSA compilation albums which are often given to industry pros. Songs submitted for screening must have been presented at a prior critique session. (exceptions on a case-by-case basis)

• **PARTICIPATION IN CSA MARKETING OUTLETS AND DISTRIBUTION :** Recordings by CSA members may be made available to retail outlets, radio stations, or Internet Distribution channels.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES: The [LUNCH](#) Program offers opportunities to be involved in the production and performance of benefit shows to address hunger and poverty . For details, contact info@ctsongwriting.com

CSA REGISTRATION FORM FOR NEW MEMBERS

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

E_MAIL (required for newsletter) _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____ BIRTH DATE _____

PHONE: (_____) _____ OCCUPATION: _____

CHECK WHERE APPROPRIATE __ Songwriter __ Lyricist
 __ Vocalist
 __ Composer __ Musician __ Patron Other: _____

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 \$10 per year)

- 1 year New Membership \$45
- 2 year New Membership \$80 (save \$10)
- 3 year New Membership \$109 (save \$26)
- Full Time Student (under 19) \$40/yr
- Senior Citizen (60+) \$40/yr
- Lifetime \$400 one time total
- e-Newsletter Subscription only (\$25/yr. 12 issues)

Members receive a free 1 year subscription to the monthly newsletter *Connecticut Songsmith*, free or discounted admission to monthly meetings and critique sessions, participation in the Song Share Sessions, Song Screening Services, eligibility for inclusion on Compilation CDs, free classified ads , and discounts on goods and services.

Enclosed is my check or money order to CSA for \$ _____
 Mail to: CSA Membership OR Go to: www.ctsongs.com and
 PO Box 511 you may join online using
 Mystic CT 06355 PayPal

E-Mail: info@ctsongs.com

**An investment in CSA is
 an investment in yourself!**