

# Connecticut

Newsletter of the Connecticut  
Songwriters Association

# Songsmith



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Issue # 400

Combining Arts,  
Education, and  
Community Outreach

1979-2014 : 54 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

**Tuesday February 11**  
**Glastonbury YMCA (Welles St)**

## "Tax Strategies For Songwriters and Artists to Maximize Your Benefits"

Being a singer-songwriter gives you a tremendous number of tax breaks that can slash your taxes and increase your refund. Many folks are just not aware of how to use these tax breaks. There are huge legitimate deductions you can take if you know how, even if you never make a penny of income from your music. You can't rely on an accountant to do it for you because any tax preparer can only work with the information you give them. If you don't know what they need and the format in which they need it, you could be leaving significant amounts of money on the table. Come and learn how to put some extra dollars in your pocket by learning some simple facts about what it means to be a songwriter or artist. This meeting is FREE for members, \$5 for non-members.

## CRITIQUE SESSION TO FOLLOW

**COMING MARCH 11**  
**Mystic Morgan House**

Jon Gammell of TuneSparker will be our special guest to present a topic and product of great interest to all songwriters!

**RATES GO UP AT THE END OF THIS  
MONTH FOR THE  
CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT  
LAST CHANCE TO GET ONE OF THE FEW  
SLOTS LEFT AT THE LOWEST COST**

## 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 15 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, \$10 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.

## EVENT CALENDAR

(for complete listing see [www.ctsongs.com](http://www.ctsongs.com))

February 11 – CSA Meeting, Glastonbury YMCA  
March 11 -- CSA Meeting, Mystic  
March 28-29–Singer Songwriter Conference, Cape May NJ  
April 4-6, 2014: -- CSA Songwriting Retreat  
May 13 – Annual Collaboration Workshop - Mystic

## CSA 2014 SONGWRITING RETREAT SLOTS ARE GOING! REGISTER NOW!

**Don't Miss Out. Register now for lowest rates!**  
**The last retreat was an amazing weekend, again eliciting descriptions of "Life-Changing" and "Inspiring". If you missed out last time, register now to get the lowest rates for**  
**April 4-6 2014**

**REGISTER NOW AT [WWW.CTSONGS.COM](http://WWW.CTSONGS.COM)**

## GIVE YOUR SONGWRITING A JUMP-START AND GET ON THE FAST-TRACK!

**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 Glastonbury YMCA (Welles St.) : 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 light 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 lights to New London Tpke. See above

How to  
Get There!

## GET A NICE 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, computers and electronics, 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). THANKS !

### REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2014 CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT!

Give yourself a jump-start and get your career on the fast-track! [www.ctsongs.com](http://www.ctsongs.com)

SLOTS ARE GOING – Don't Be Left Out!

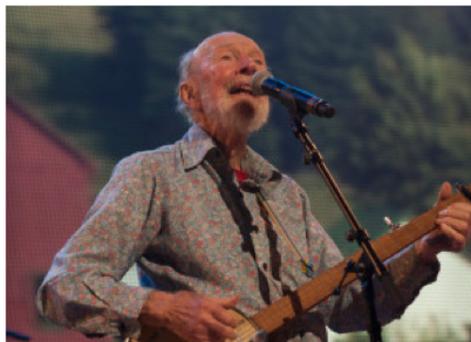
## -- COMING MARCH 11--

Jon Gammell returns to present the latest updates  
in the new TuneSparker program.

A great way to find new and unexpected ways to compose  
melodies and chord progressions.

Special offers for CSA members

## REMEMBERING PETE SEEGER

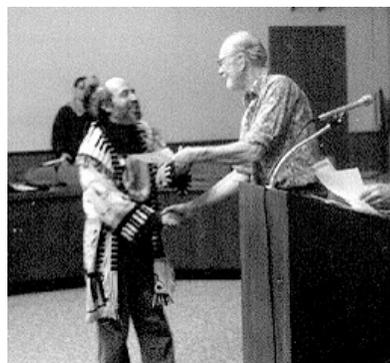


Pete Seeger is often called the father of modern folk music. His brand of music with a message, social activism, and overall inclusion made him a target of those who sought to silence his voice as well as a beacon for those who joined their voices with his. Pete passed away on January 27 at the age of 94, but his legacy, his songs, and his causes will live on.

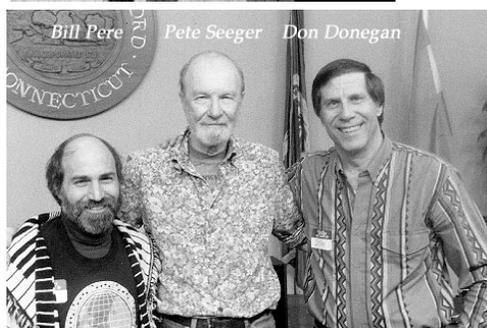
Pete was a friend to CSA, joining us in 1995 for our most highly attended meeting ever.

### **A Remembrance from Bill Pere:**

I first met Pete in 1995, the year I had been named as Connecticut State Troubadour. He was the special guest at our Connecticut Songwriters meeting, the highest-ever attended meeting to this day. He shared stories, and led songs, as was his joy to do whenever he was with a group of people. His voice was faded, but his ability to connect with people remained undimmed. It was awards night at CSA, and the award I received that evening, the Connecticut Renaissance Award, with Pete as the presenter, was one of my proudest moments as a musician. Later that evening, he sold more than a thousand dollars in merchandise and songbooks, and then without any prompt or second thought, he turned to us and told us to keep it all to carry on the work of our organization. He believed in what we were doing.



One of the greatest influences on me as a songwriter and artist was the work of Harry Chapin, who always said, "Do one show for yourself and one for the other guy". Harry's sense of social justice and using music to address issues like hunger and poverty was heavily influenced by Pete Seeger. There are few words that can better say anything about Pete than the words that Harry Chapin wrote about him in the song "Old Folkie"



*He's the man with the banjo and the 12-string guitar.  
He's singing us the songs that tell us who we are.  
When you look in his eyes you know that somebody's in there.  
He knows where we're going and where we been  
How the fog is gettin' thicker where the future should begin.  
When you look at his life you know that he's really been there.  
What is the name that they're calling that man?  
You know, it's always an "old folkie"  
They say he's always bleedin'  
But whenever somebody's needing him,  
He's the one who cares.  
It's always an "old folkie"  
Whenever somethin's burning,  
Or a lesson needs some learning,  
Or a tide that needs some turning,  
To a better world somewhere,  
Yeah, the "old folkie's" there.  
For forty years now he's been pushin' on.  
Carrying the dream 'cause Woody's long gone.  
He's the last voice singing that "bound for glory" song.  
And if you never seen him you might take a look  
He's the man who put the meaning in the music book.  
Yeah, the world may be tired but Pete's still going strong.*



That night I presented Pete with one of the newly designed T-shirts for my Harry-Chapin inspired organization , LUNCH – Local United Network to Combat Hunger. He congratulated us for carrying on Harry's legacy and for using music to create positive social change.

Though his voice is gone, the rest of us can certainly turn up the volume on the songs and the messages that he has forever engrained into the fabric of Americana.

### **A Remembrance from Kay Pere:**

I had an opportunity a few years ago to sing with Pete Seeger, for whom no superlatives seem sufficient. My heart has an empty place today knowing that he is gone. His music and the message of speaking out in the face of injustice have been with me, as for so many of us, from my earliest childhood.

A friend of mine worked with him a few years ago to write a new verse and create a new arrangement for "Lion Sleeps Tonight". He came to our festival that summer to lead the singing, with a dozen or so of us providing harmonies and the usual folky instruments to play along. Before we went on, we all gathered with him in an upstairs room of a centuries-old farmhouse that served as headquarters for the festival. As I remember, Pete perched his lanky frame on the arm of a sofa with his banjo in one hand, ran through the new arrangement of the song with us one more time, then began to tell stories. And we listened, feeling the importance of his words, though I remember the man more than the tales he told. He was just as you would imagine, warm, kind, down to earth, incredibly giving of himself, filled to overflowing with joyful fascination about all of life and wanting to pass this along.

When the time arrived to go on, someone timidly interrupted the story in progress to let him know. That day, the story won out. The audience could wait another moment outside on the grassy hillside until he finished the yarn he'd been spinning for us.

On stage, he let us and the audience do most of the singing. His voice was more spoken than sung at this point in his life. Still, his energy and presence out-shined all the rest of us combined. It always will.

May we have half his strength and courage to carry on the work and continue the stories that he began.

# **PETE SEEGER**

## **1919 – 2014**

**E-mail us your own remembrances and we'll add them on the CSA Facebook group**

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT! A FEW SLOTS LEFT!**

## **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**

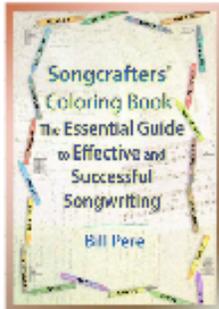
**Slots are going - Reserve your spot now!**

**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.



**April 4-6, 2014, at Camp Wightman, North Stonington, CT**

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.

Artists from 10 states and 3000 miles have come to this retreat. It has been called "Transformative", "Life-Changing", and "Inspiring!"

Folks have even come from Canada!

**REGISTER NOW! DON'T BE LEFT OUT!**

This program of Master Classes, performance and critique, is 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 -- Check photos /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, IMC

(Before Nov 1, 2013) Member Rate = \$ 169 Non-member = \$179

(Nov 1 - Feb 28, 2014) Member Rate = \$179 Non-member = \$189

(After Mar 1, 2014) Member Rate = \$189 Non Member = \$199

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

1. PAYPAL SECURE REGISTRATION ONLINE ([www.ctsongs.com](http://www.ctsongs.com))

2. 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, Songsalive, IMC)

**QUESTIONS ? Check the Website for FAQ Info.**

If you don't find what you need, e-mail us at [retreat@ctsongwriting.com](mailto:retreat@ctsongwriting.com)



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

**Service-Learning Through Music**  
for students ages 11-19

Finalists audition live and participate in the annual 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 with Grammy and Immie Award Winners
- a lifetime membership to the Connecticut Songwriters Association

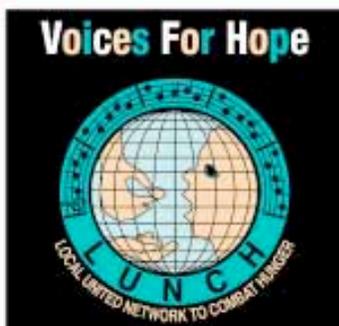
All participants are part of a service-learning outreach to support agencies which provide services for kids with special needs, and basic human services for those in need.

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](http://www.lunchensemble.com)

ENTRY DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2014 (early entry) / APRIL 12 2014 (final deadline)

FINAL LIVE AUDITIONS AND CONCERT: April 26, 2014 , in Mystic CT



25 years!

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](mailto:bill@billpere.com)

860-572-9285

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

## The Magic of Commitment is no Mystery

"Who wants to be chairperson of the Fundraising Committee?" asked the President. The room became very quiet, and as I glanced around the table, I saw a dozen perfect poker faces. No one wanted this responsibility. No one was going to commit. After a moment the President continued, "This is our most important committee, without funding we cannot put on our program to teach leadership skills to high school students."

It was my first year on the executive committee of the Georgia chapter of the Hugh O'Brian Youth Foundation (HOBY). I had no idea how they had previously raised the \$50,000 a year that was necessary to operate. As an advertising consultant, I'd helped raise millions of dollars for several national non-profits with direct mail advertising. So, I thought, "How hard can this be?" I raised my hand and said, "I'll do it." A collective sigh issued from the group and several congratulated me on accepting such a big responsibility. I basked in the accolades and beamed an appreciative smile back to everyone. It didn't take but a few days before I was lamenting, "What the heck was I thinking?"

I learned that my predecessors had solicited most of the money in a handful of big donations from a small group of donors. Unfortunately, those donors were feeling tapped out, and were no longer willing give. I couldn't back out of the job - I'd made a commitment! All I needed was a Plan B. I quickly got on the phone and starting telling everyone I knew what I was trying to accomplish. Someone suggested that I apply for grants from the charitable foundations of large corporations. Three dozen applications later, I had nothing to show for my hours of work. I now needed a Plan C.

When I volunteered, I had a vague notion that I would simply raise all that money with a direct mail campaign. The campaigns I'd worked on in the past had mega-budgets in the hundreds of thousands of dollars and major advertising agencies involved. I had no budget and only five or six volunteers to help out. Even if I had a budget, I didn't know to whom I should send my direct mail solicitations. I knew from experience that retirees are among the best donors, but purchasing a list of generous givers was expensive! About that time a fellow in the concession business who I worked with when I was president of my neighborhood association, called me to see if I knew any groups that could operate a beer stand at an annual weekend-long outdoor rock concert. I said, "Do I ever!"

We raised \$10,000 in three days. We did such a good job, we were asked to come back every year. It was a big job that required more people than we had, so we recruited help from outside of the organization. That turned out to be easy because the people who volunteered got into the concert free for that day. Many of them had so much fun, they volunteered to help put on the youth leadership seminars for which HOBY is known. As an unexpected side benefit, it became our best vehicle for recruiting volunteers for the next several years.

I still had \$40,000 to raise. I learned from one old-timer that in years past HOBY received donations from the Kiwanis clubs. I called a friend who was a member. He told me that HOBY was on the Kiwanis International approved list of charities. This was huge! It meant we already had a foot in the door. He then helped me acquire a mailing list of all the clubs in the state. I now had what I needed for a direct mail campaign. I wrote to every club and asked them to sponsor one child from each high school in their area. I then set up a phone bank of volunteers to call the clubs and ask them directly for a donation. We raised more than we needed! Best of all, we now had two programs in place for raising funds year after year.

I have found over the years that when you commit to a project whether it is starting a business, a new relationship or learning a new skill, opportunities arise that you ordinarily would not have noticed. William Hutchinson Murray, from his 1951 book entitled *The Scottish Himalayan Expedition* says it best, "Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back. Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way."

I've always called this Initiating the Discovery Process because when you combine your commitment - your powerful desire - to solve a problem or satisfy a particular need, your subconscious mind will work on it 24/7. To understand how this works, think of the last time you were in the market for a new car. After shopping the market, you selected a particular make and model. Up until that time you hardly ever noticed that car on the road, but now that you have committed to it - suddenly you see them everywhere! Opportunities present themselves in the same way. Commitment has a way of creating its own motivation. Go for it - and see what comes your way!

**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](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 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](mailto: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](http://www.ctsongs.com) and  
 PO Box 511 Mystic CT 06355 you may join online using  
 PayPal

**E-Mail: [info@ctsongs.com](mailto:info@ctsongs.com)**

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

*An Educational, Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Improving the Art and Craft of Original Music since 1979*