

Connecticut Songsmith

Newsletter of the Connecticut
Songwriters Association



Sept 2014
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Number 9
Issue # 406

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979-2014 : 35 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

CSA PRO WORKSHOP with Multi-Hit songwriter ALEX FORBES



Saturday Sept 13, . 1pm-5pm, at the
Mystic Morgan House, 121 High St,
Mystic. (*directions page 2*).

Come learn from a top music industry
pro who has written for many major
artists. Get your song listened to by a hit
songwriter and get insightful constructive feedback.
The workshop is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-
members. Pre-registration is recommended
(www.ctsongs.com) **FULL DETAILS ON PAGE 4**

SEPT 6: CT Folk Festival

SEPT 9: CSA Song Development Workshop (in
preparation for the PRO Workshop)

COMING SEPT 13: CSA PRO WORKSHOP
with hit writer Alex Forbes (pre-register now!)

OCTOBER 23 -25
IMC CONFERENCE, Los Angeles, CA

GET INVOLVED !

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

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)

Sept 9 – CSA Meeting, Glastonbury
Sept 13 – PRO Workshop with one of the top industry
pros of all time! SAVE THIS DATE!
October 14 – TBD
October 23 – Annual IMC Conference, Los Angeles
November 11- CSA Meeting, Glastonbury
Dec 06 – 18th Annual LUNCH Holiday Show to benefit
local social services

PLAN AHEAD!

CSA 2015 SONGWRITING RETREAT

Don't Miss Out.

Every CSA retreat has been an amazing
weekend, again eliciting descriptions of "Life-
Changing" and "Inspiring". If you missed out
get on the list for April 10-12 2015

WWW.CTSONGS.COM

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

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 light 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!

CSA's community outreach through music, LUNCH, is now registered with the Amazon Smile program. When you enter Amazon through the link below, a portion of your purchase is automatically donated to LUNCH. It's exactly the same Amazon that you currently know, but you enter it through this special link. Bookmark it, and you're all set to support our community outreach efforts through music.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-1530307>



Support Local United Network To Combat Hunger by shopping at AmazonSmile.
smile.amazon.com

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Local United Network To Combat Hunger. Support us every time you...

CONGRATULATIONS to **Bill Last** as he rides the successful re-release of his original vinyl albums . re-forming his band TWILIGHT NUAGES, the band opened for the 5th Dimension on July 11th They also had a featured radio interview on station WFMU 91.1 New York and online at WFMU.org.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Roy O'Neil** who continues to have great success with his original musical "Eddie and the Palaccedes". The production had a 6-performance, fully-produced run in New York at the June Havoc Theater. While Roy was working on writing the musical, some of the songs were brought to CSA for feedback and demos produced with CSA help. We wish Roy ongoing success from the fruits of this exceptional creative effort.

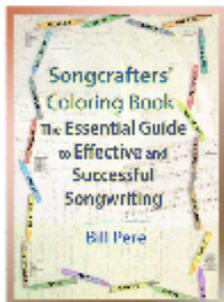
COLLABORATION: LES JULIAN and TOM HAZUKA wrote a song dedicated to the children lost in the Newtown tragedy. In July, they further collaborated with BIL PERE to get the song recorded with some children's voices. The ensuing recording and video session produced a wonderful track that will surely have a life of its own. CSA shows that collaboration works!

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE
2015 CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT.
DON'T MISS OUT!**

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 and experience in one weekend!
You'll see songwriting in a whole new way and
discover a level of creative control you never thought possible.



April 10-12 2015, 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 12 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, 2014) Member Rate = \$149 Non-member = \$169
(Nov 1 - Feb 28, 2015) Member Rate = \$169 Non-member = \$189
(After Mar 1, 2015) Member Rate = \$179 Non Member = \$199

**MEALS AND
LODGING
INCLUDED !**

- Two ways to Register, for your maximum convenience and security:
1. PAYPAL SECURE REGISTRATION ONLINE (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 www.ctsongs.com for FAQ Info, photos, and reviews
If you don't find what you need, e-mail us at retreat@ctsongwriting.com

**NEXT YEAR -- APRIL 10-12, 2015 -- THE CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT --
IF YOU THINK YOU'D LIKE TO BE PART OF THIS AMAZING EXPERIENCE, REGISTER NOW SO
YOU'LL GET A GUARANTTED SPOT AND THE LOWEST RATE.**

SEPT 13: CSA PRO WORKSHOP with ALEX FORBES

Get your songs ready and prepare to learn from one of the today's top industry pros. Saturday, Sept 13, 1pm-5pm, Mystic Morgan House, 121 High St, Mystic. Pre-registration is recommended, as space is limited. The workshop is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members. Register online (www.ctsongs.com) or by mail: CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355.



Hit songwriter Alex Forbes has been coaching groups and individuals in the art and craft of songwriting since 1990. She exudes a contagious passion on the subject of songwriting, and her mission is to nurture the next generation of great songwriters. With numerous *Billboard*-charting singles, over 100 releases, and millions of album sales under her belt, Alex's songs range from Rock to Dance to straight-ahead Pop. Her specialty is writing instantly catchy melodies and lyrics that capture the essence of life in strikingly vivid ways.

Alex's first hit, the now-classic dance song "Too Turned On," performed by **Alisha**, still receives abundant airplay 25 years later. This initial success led to a series of hit singles including **Taylor Dayne's** massive hit "Don't Rush Me" (#2 Pop, #3 AC, #6 Dance, multi-platinum album, ASCAP Pop Award), **Rockell's** classic freestyle version of "In A Dream," and **Joey Lawrence's** Top 20 Pop hit "Nothin' My Love Can't Fix," the latter of which Alex also co-produced.

High points also included collaborating with **Cyndi Lauper** on a tune for her film, "Off and Running," and co-producing **Martha Wash**, whose powerhouse voice was featured in the Weather Girls and C+C Music Factory, and who recorded Alex's "Leave a Light On." Alex's songs have been placed in many feature films, while others have appeared in TV shows and an Off-Broadway show. Overseas, Alex's songs have been hit singles for **Fan Club** (New Zealand), **Indra** (France), **Patti Day** (U.K.), **Papa Dee** (Sweden) and **Marie Frank** (Denmark, Gold Album).

Recent successes include "Bodies Electric" on **Dance Moms**, "Turn It Around," on **Make It or Break It**, and "Melt Away," in the Denzel Washington film **Déjà Vu**. New Zealand superstar **Hayley Westenra's** recording of "You Are Water" appeared on her Classical/Pop album, **Odyssey**, which spent over a year on the *Billboard* charts. Many of Alex's newest songs are recorded and awaiting release dates with artists including Australian club DJ **Royal**, Venezuelan-American artist **Andres Quintero**, Austrian rocker **Tasha**, Dutch singer-songwriter **Andrea Maria**, Israeli-American singer-songwriter **Loren Benjamin**, and local artists **Ashley Jana**, **Kristine Bogan**, **Kellam Glover**, **Amy Lynn** and **the Gunshow**, and **Bloom**.

Over the years Alex has worked with some of the music world's most renowned writers and producers, including **Tony Visconti** (David Bowie, T. Rex, Morrissey), longtime collaborator **Jeff Franzel** (Shawn Colvin, Josh Groban), **Steve Addabbo** (Shawn Colvin, Suzanne Vega), and **DJ Gomi** (Mariah Carey, Madonna).

For the past 10 years, Alex has been contributing her talents to [Songs Of Love](#), a nonprofit organization that creates personalized songs for kids with chronic or terminal illnesses. Alex received a Creative Writing degree from **Stanford University**, and was mentored in the art and craft of pop songwriting by the legendary **Doc Pomus** ("This Magic Moment," "Save The Last Dance For Me"). She currently coaches clients privately, and co-leads The Songwriters' Forum in the Masters songwriting program at NYU's **Steinhardt School** along with **Glenn Frey**, **Jonatha Brooke**, **Barry Eastmond** and **Phil Galdston**. Alex is the author of "Write Songs Right Now," and "SongLab," both published by AudioGo, the home of BBC Audiobooks. Alex also teaches courses at the **Gotham Writers Workshop** and has spoken on panels at **ASCAP**, **The Recording Academy**, **The Connecticut Songwriters Association** and **The Austin Songwriters Group**. She has led workshops for many school groups, and has received ASCAP Foundation grants to teach both adults and teens.

REGISTER NOW !

US music copyright: 'It's basically just a bunch of people fighting over money'

House discussion of music licensing pits industry's powerful lobbying arm against online streaming service by [Amanda Holpuch](#) in New York Originally at theguardian.com, Tuesday 24 June 2014

When a House of Representatives judiciary subcommittee convenes on Wednesday for its second meeting of the year on [music licensing](#), it will be playing audience to a band of industry honchos clashing over copyright law to ensure they get the biggest piece of the industry's financial pie.

The players: the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) – the industry's powerful lobbying arm; online streaming services such as Spotify, who are largely set to defend standing copyright law; and music licensing groups, who say major revisions are needed. At the center of it all, both sides are seeking to protect their precarious financial interests in an industry rapidly being reinvented.

“Everyone's opinion is predictable,” said [Christopher Sprigman](#), who teaches copyright law at NYU. **“Everyone's opinion is really just about getting more money and the public interest doesn't appear. Principles don't appear. There is no real principle that drives this. It's basically just a bunch of people fighting over money.”**

Sprigman participated in one of a trio of two-day discussions organized by the US Copyright Office this month for stakeholders to share their inharmonious opinions on how licensing rights should be changed. These stakeholders, such as performing rights organizations which collect and distribute royalties to their clients, have been pushing for the same reforms for years and their platforms are known well before they take the stand.

“Copyright is not a right, it's a social welfare tool,” said Sprigman. “The reason we have copyright is to promote progress in science and useful arts, not to enrich anybody in particular. We need only as much copyright as is necessary to call forth investment in the creation of new works and no more.”

The US government last reformed copyright law in 1976. And the last time the laws were amended was with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 – ten years before Spotify launched.

Some of the people testifying on Wednesday include representatives of online streaming services like Pandora. The streaming service is just [about to become profitable](#) since going public in 2011, but being forced to pay higher royalty rates could threaten these numbers. Its competitor [Spotify has failed to make a profit](#), with a considerable portion of its income and investments going towards deals with record labels to ensure the service can continue streaming music.

That's why these services are expected to [reiterate](#) their support for the standing consent decrees, which limit how high performing rights organizations such as ASCAP and BMI can set royalty rates. The [groups](#) have been to court over the decrees before and the agreements are now the subject of [a Department of Justice investigation](#) supported by songwriters, publishers and the PROs.

“I was at a conference a couple years ago where they said: ‘the music industry is the only industry where they circle the wagons and shoot inwards,’” said Allen Bargfrede, executive director of Rethink Music and associate professor at Berklee College of Music in Boston. “So there's a lot of fighting over this piece of pie, and people aren't necessarily interested in figuring out how to make the pie bigger, but they'd prefer to fight over who gets a bigger share of the pie.”

Another point of contention are the mechanical statutory rates, which give record labels the right to reproduce and distribute compositions at an agreed upon price. The rate is set at [9.1 cents](#), compared to [the 2 cent rate it held in 1909](#). It's another situation where the record labels have more market power than the other stakeholders, and can negotiate for higher rates, while publishers must stick to the government-set rates.

“In all of this turmoil that's going on, the labels are kind of silent in the matter of licensing to interactive services,” said Don Gorder, an attorney and the chair of music business management at Berklee College of Music. “They're kind of silent on these issues so it leads you to think that they don't really have anything to complain about, but the artists of course are complaining because they have so little of the pie.”

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

PO Box 511

Mystic CT 06355

Go to:

www.ctsongs.com and

you may join online using

PayPal

E-Mail: info@ctsongs.com

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