

Connecticut Songsmith

Newsletter of the Connecticut
Songwriters Association



September 2015
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Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979-2015 : 36 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON...Welcome to Fall!

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**WEDNESDAY, Sept 9, 7:15pm at the
Buttonwood Tree in Middletown**

CSA presents a Song Development Workshop
In-depth, constructive feedback is invaluable for finding points in your song that can be tweaked for improvement. A true Level-3 critique can uncover strengths and weaknesses you might never have been aware of. Come and bring a song for in-depth critique and receive valuable constructive feedback from supportive folks.

Present your song live or on CD, and please bring multiple copies of typed lyric sheets. This program is free to members, \$5 for non-members.

See you there, and bring a friend!

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COMING IN OCTOBER:

The CSA October meeting will be held Wed, Oct 7 in Mystic at the Mystic Morgan House. CSA presents a Rhythm Workshop. Of all the many aspects of music and songwriting, rhythm mastery is the one thing that most writers and musicians find elusive, both for prosody and for recording.

What is the difference between 3/4 time and 6/8? What are the 5 primary ways to split 4/4 time? What is the relationship of musical syncopation to lyrical prosody? How can you make a drum machine sound "real"? What do swing and shuffle really mean? These are just a few of the key questions that can make or break a song or a recording.

COME AND LEARN!

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.

CSA CALENDAR

(for complete listing see www.ctsongs.com)

Sept 9 – Button wood Tree, Middletown: Song Development workshop

October 7 : Mystic Morgan House: Rhythm Workshop

November: CSA meeting To be announced

Dec 05 – 19th Annual LUNCH Holiday Show
Stonington Community Center

March 18-19, 2016 : SS Cape May Songwriter Conference

April 8-10, 2016 – CSA Songwriting Retreat

PLAN AHEAD FOR 2016!

Every CSA retreat has been an amazing weekend, again eliciting descriptions of "Life-Changing", "Transformative" and "Inspiring".

April 8-10 2016 REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.CTSONGS.COM

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

GET INVOLVED !

Guiding Artists Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

CSA RHYTHM AND NEWS

CSA Sept 9 Meeting: Buttonwood Tree, 605 Main St, Middletown, CT
(On-street parking. No meters after 6pm)

CSA Oct 7 Meeting: Mystic Morgan House, 121 High St, Mystic -- Directions 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!

REGISTER NOW:

COME JOIN US NEXT YEAR FOR THE CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT

APRIL 8-10, 2016. SIGN UP EARLY FOR THE LOWEST RATE AND TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS EXPERIENCE. GIVE YOUR CREATIVITY AND YOUR CAREER A JUMP-START

See all the photos and reviews from the past 6 years at www.ctsongs.com

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. THANKS !

Post your Happenings at the CSA Facebook Page!
Participate in the Community!

<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...

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

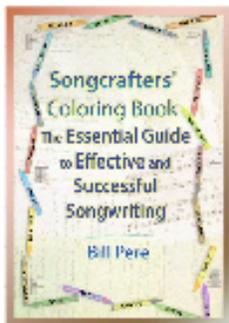
Slots are going - Reserve your spot now!

Take control of your creative process!

Take your songwriting to a new level!

Get several years worth of industry 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 08-10 2016, 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 as far as CA, FL, and Canada have come to this retreat, calling it "Transformative", "Life-Changing", and "Inspiring!"

Great food as well!

REGISTER NOW! DON'T BE LEFT OUT!

This program of Master Classes, performance and critique, is based on the concepts of Grammy-winner Bill Pere's internationally acclaimed songwriting book, "Songcrafters' Coloring Book", and is 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. Registration is non-refundable except as stated on the website: www.ctsongs.com)

Member rate is for active members of CSA, RISA, Songsalive, Folk Alliance, IMC

(Before Nov 1,2015)	Member Rate = \$189	Non-member = \$199
(Nov 1 - Feb 28, 2016)	Member Rate = \$199	Non-member = \$209
(After Mar 1,2016)	Member Rate = \$199	Non Member = \$219

**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 applicable))

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

HAPPENINGS



On August 1, we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Local United Network to Combat Hunger (LUNCH), at a banquet event at Groton Inn & Suites. LUNCH began as a CSA special program, and eventually became a standalone charitable organization, using the power of popular music to produce positive social action.

Founded by CSA President Bill Pere and co-chaired by Kay Pere, LUNCH has involved more than 100 CSA members and more than 3000 students in presenting hundreds of benefit concerts and stage plays across the state, raising support and awareness for issues of hunger and homelessness. (www.lunchensemble.com)

Present at the event were several CSA members including CSA founder Don Donegan, and regular LUNCH volunteer Larry Batter.

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For a week in August, Bill and Kay Pere were on a ship as part of a National Geographic Tour in Alaska. They, along with Kay's folk-singer/recording artist brother Mark Klopfenstein, were asked to give a performance as part of one of the evening programs. We also did some informal evening sing-along sessions.

It was a privilege to sing our original and traditional songs of the sea while on this voyage. The ship provided the guitar for us.

WORDS: THE LYRICISTS' TOOLS

When writing lyrics, it is crucial to consider how each word might be perceived by a listener who is a stranger to you and who knows nothing about what you might be trying to say. Words with multiple meanings need to be supported to make clear which meaning you intend. Words with sound-alike partners (homonyms, e.g., where/wear, hour/our symbol/cymbal) require context to avoid listener confusion. There is an entirely other group of words which we don't think about as much, called Contronyms. A contronym is a word with two equally common meanings, but which are total opposites of each other. This is a sure recipe for confusion in a song unless the context totally leads the listener to the desired meaning. Presented here below is an article on contronyms by Marv Rubenstein, author of [The Compendium Of American English](#).

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CONTRONYMS and OTHER MUSINGS

Words. Words. Words. Millions of them. Delightful little toys for wordsmiths like me. I particularly enjoy special categories of words which have something in common, e. g. Contronyms. Every schoolboy and schoolgirl knows synonyms and antonyms, but what are contronyms?

Contronyms are words (or sometimes short expressions) which have two more or less opposite meanings. No, "bridegroom" is not a contronym, though it includes two contradictory words but not opposite meanings. It is a synonym for "groom." The word strike is a contronym; It can mean hit, as in hitting someone, or it can mean miss, as used in baseball.

Contronyms (sometimes spelled contranymy) can also be called self-antonyms, auto-antonyms, antagonymy or Janus words (two-faced), though the word contronyms is most widely used. They have existed as long as most languages, with the possible exception of those using Chinese characters or pictograms. For example, the Spanish word *huésped* means both host and guest. In Hebrew and Yiddish, shalom means both hello and good by, as Aloah does in Hawaiian. *Shalom* means peace and *aloah* means love, which possibly explains both these uses. The word "contronym" itself, however, probably did not appear until 1962 in the works of Jack Herring.

If you like to play with words, the English language gives you many opportunities. For example, Palindromes are words or expressions spelled the same backwards and forwards, e.g. words such as deed, noon and level, or the names Hannah and Otto, or a longer word such as redivider. If you include expressions, you can find much longer palindromes such as Madam, I'm Adam or a Toyota, race car. [Ignore the punctuation.] Lots of fun; Try to see how long an expression you can put together. Retronyms are old words, which need an additional amplifier to bring them up-to-date, due to social, political or technological changes. Examples are acoustic guitar, analogue clock, fresh air and unsafe sex. (Figure it out yourself.)

In addition, there are language categories which bring a smile to the face or a loud guffaw -- Spoonerisms, Wellerisms, Malapropisms, Tom Swifty's and Paraprosdokia. Spoonerisms are tongue-twisters such as "tips of the slongue." Malapropisms involve words which sound alike but, when misused, embarrass the speaker. Example: Going way back to Gracie Allen, "You could have knocked me over with a fender!" Users of Wellerisms quote a common saying, and follow it with a ridiculous example. "I see," said the blind carpenter, as he picked up his hammer and saw." Tom Swifty's (based on a children's book) start by stating an action and following it with an amusingly descriptive adverb, e.g. "We must hurry," said Tom swiftly. {Get it?} Paraprosdokia means starting a sentence with one thought and then abruptly shifting to a totally different (and usually contrary) one. Quoting Groucho Marx, "I've had a wonderful evening, but this wasn't it." Comedians love paraprosdokia.

Add twisted, double-meaning newspaper headline bloopers (New Bridge Held Up by Red Tape) and words spelled the same but pronounced differently (An immigrant coming into a bookstore, asking for a book to "Polish my English.") and you have a cocktail of amusing and fascinating examples of things which make our language exciting.

Add to these words which combine letter and number sounds to cut down on verbiage. e.g. 4C for foresee, K9P for canine pee and LEV8 for alleviate, and you have additional material for playing language games.

But, let's get back to contronyms. I have nearly 100 of them in my knapsack. Let's provide the reader with a few prime ones:

Bolt To hold together (as in mechanical bolting) or to separate by fleeing.

Clip To connect (as with a paper clip) or to detach (as in clipping your hedge).

Fix To repair (as in putting together) or to castrate (as in cutting apart).

Garnish To add to (as with food preparation) or to take away (as with wages).

Handicap An advantage (to insure equality, as in golf) or a disadvantage (that prevents or minimizes equal achievement).

Hold up To support (as in Liberty holding up the torch) or to impede (as in holding up legislation).

Lease To rent property, or to offer property for rent.

Out Visible (as with the moon) or invisible (as with an electric light).

Sanction To approve, or to boycott.

Screen To present, or to conceal.

Skin To remove (as in skinning an animal for its fur). or to cover.

Trim To decorate (as with a Christmas tree) or to remove excess (as with a mustache).

Wear To endure, or to deteriorate.

Wind up To start (as with a clock) or to end (as with a business).

How do these contradictory meanings come about? We don't always know, but they do originate in different ways. For example, cleave (to adhere or to separate) come from Old English roots, the first from clifian and the second from cleofan. Oversight probably resulted from confusion of the verbs overlook and oversee when people started to use them in nouns. Other contronyms such as seed and dust probably had similar origins when verbs were appended to describe how they were to be moved. Dusting involves either adding dust or removing dust. Seeds are scattered during planting, but removed from the resulting fruit. A number of others arise from different usage in the United States and England. For example, to table a bill in the English Parliament is to put it on the table for consideration. In Congress, it means to set it aside. When an American Judge enjoins someone, he forbids him or her from carrying out a certain action. When a British Judge enjoins, he is directing the party to act. If a West End play in London is a bomb, it is a huge success. In America, a bomb is a failure. There are undoubtedly other reasons for the rise of these words, but origin of these contradictions is often obscure.

I hope you enjoyed this awesome article on Contronyms, even though, in Old English, it would have been considered "awful."

Marv Rubinstein is the author of [The Compendium Of American English](#).

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

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 \$ _____
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 PO Box 511 OR you may join online using
 Mystic CT 06355 PayPal

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