

Connecticut Songsmith

Newsletter of the Connecticut
Songwriters Association



September 2016
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Issue # 424

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979-2016 : 38 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

WELCOME TO THE FALL
CSA HAS LOTS OF BIG EVENTS COMING UP

The **CSA meeting for September** will be
Tuesday Sept 13, 7:15 pm at the Buttonwood
Tree in Middletown (605 Main St)

Each year there seem to be more and more
music contests and conferences. How do you
decide which ones are right for you? How you
most effectively use your limited time and
resources to enter contests or attend conferences.
How do you optimize your chance of actually
getting some real benefit from a contest or
conference?

The answers to these and many other related
questions will be presented at we look at the
Pros and Cons of PROfessional CONtests and
CONferences. Critique session to follow. This
program is FREE to members, \$5 for non-
members.

See the CSA calendar for the many other
events coming up!

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SATURDAY SEPT 10 3-5pm: CSA presents the
Environmental Awareness Concert, featuring the
Top 10 winners from our incredibly successful
Environmental Song Contest. Come see some
amazing artists who will be coming a great
distance to lend their talent to the cause of
raising environmental awareness through music.
Full Info on page 5.

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**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE 2017
SONGWRITING RETREAT
JOIN US APRIL 7-9, 2017
FOR THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO
TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR SONGWRITING
AND YOUR CAREER**

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

Sept 10 – Environmental Awareness Concert
Sept 13 – CSA Meeting, Middletown
Sept 29 – Oct 2 IMC Conference, Los Angeles
Oct 22 – CSA Songwriting & Vocal Performance
workshops at the Farmington Valley Acoustic Music
Festival
Nov 13 - LUNCH Hunger Awareness Concert. at
First Church, Middletown
Nov 19 - CSA & SPARK present a full day
Collaboration Workshop and the Spark MakerSpace
in New London
Dec 03 – The 20th Annual Holiday Show !
Mar 11 CSA Day of Praise event, Hamden
Mar 14 – CSA PRO WORKSHOP – special guest
Mar 24-25 SS Cape May Conference
Apr 07-09 CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT !

**PLAN AHEAD FOR NEXT YEAR!
JUMP-START YOUR SONGWRITING!
Every CSA retreat has been an amazing
weekend, again eliciting descriptions of "Life-
Changing", "Transformative" and "Inspiring".
April 7-9 2017
REGISTER NOW AT WWW.CTSONGS.COM**

LIMITED TO 12 SLOTS!

Guiding Artists Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

CSA RHYTHM AND NEWS

CSA Tuesday, Sept 13 Meeting: Buttonwood Tree,
605 Main St, Middletown, CT
(On-street parking. No meters after 6pm)

How to
Get There!

COME JOIN US NEXT YEAR FOR THE CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT APRIL 7-9, 2017. SIGN UP NOW TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS EXPERIENCE. GIVE YOUR CREATIVITY AND YOUR CAREER A JUMP-START. It's limited to 12 people, and the slots are already getting filled. See all the photos and reviews from the past 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 !

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOME NATIONAL ARTISTS – **Saturday Sept 10** -- The Winners in the CSA Environmental Song Contest will be performing in concert at the historic Coogan Farm Restoration in Mystic CT. This is a great opportunity to see top-notch artists at an amazing venue. See page 5.

COMING UP IN THE TIME AHEAD: CSA DAY OF PRAISE CONCERT EVENT. Do you have songs of a spiritual nature? Get them submitted ASAP for the CSA Spiritual Compilation CD. The Day of Praise Events are exceptional collaborative performance events for CSA members who write spiritual songs.

**JOIN THE CSA FACEBOOK GROUP
(CT Songwriters Association on Facebook)**

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

**Get your songs in for the next CSA compilations –
Deadline Oct 31. See page 6**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE CSA ENVIRONMENTAL SONGWRITING CONTEST

And a Tremendous THANK YOU to all these wonderful and talented songwriters who submitted entries to help raise environmental awareness through music!

When we launched the Environmental Song Contest, we did not expect it to have such a broad reach and move so many people to participate. We received entries from almost 200 artists across the US, from Alaska to Maine, and across Canada. Every song clearly exhibited a sincere passion for the topic being presented and an appreciation for the opportunity to speak to others through the incredible power of song.

There was a far greater number of excellent songs than the number of prizes we have available, and we truly wish we could have given out more awards. We encourage everyone to visit the websites of all the artists listed below, and support their work.

COME TO THE LIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CONCERT ON SEPT 10 (See Below)

				
Jane Fallon Brookline, NH <i>"Northern White"</i> 1st PLACE - \$2500	Susan Shann Ashland City, TN <i>"Price on Heaven (Song For Bristol Bay)"</i> 2nd PLACE - \$1000	David Morris/Jodie Morris Gaithersburg, MD <i>"Kingdom Come"</i> 3rd PLACE - \$500	Jan Gillies Baker, WV <i>"Change Is Coming"</i> 4th PLACE - \$250	Tom Hazuka Berlin, CT <i>"The Farm (Fifteen Minutes)"</i> 4th PLACE - \$250

6th Place	7th Place	8th Place	9th Place	10th Place (tie)	10th Place (tie)
					
Dan Schatz , West Chester, PA <i>"The Promise of the Sowing"</i>	David Roth Orleans, MA <i>"I Do Not Need a Bag"</i>	Becky Bridges** Torrington, CT <i>"Climate Change Blue"</i>	Bonnie Nichols Soldotna, AK <i>"Little Pebble"</i>	Katie Oates Charlotte, NC <i>"Saving the Whales"</i>	Douglas Hendren Harrisonburg, VA <i>"Solar Spill"</i>

SPECIAL SHOUT-OUTS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS:

A special Honorable Mention to Paul Reiser and his 2nd-Grade students at Venable Elementary and Turner Elementary School in Virginia. Paul got kids involved in writing the songs he submitted. That's a great way to raise awareness in our upcoming generation. See www.KidPanAlley.org Our deepest thanks to music legend Si Kahn, who did an amazing job of spreading the word and getting folks to participate in this event. Our thanks to him and all the talented folks in his network who lent their voice to this event. (<http://www.sikahn.com>)

We were also so pleased to hear from our friend and Grammy winner Tom Chapin, who shared several songs with us as well in support of our efforts. Our sister organization L.U.N.C.H. (Local United Network to Combat Hunger) carries on the work of the great Harry Chapin. (<http://www.lunchensemble.com>)

We appreciate what so many of you had to say to us::

"Thanks so much for sponsoring this Environmental Song Competition, a real contribution to the preservation of our world" – Si Kahn, Charlotte, NC

"Thanks for helping awareness of our environment" -- Jane Fallon, Brookline, NH

"Thanks for thinking of this contest. Seems to me to be a good thing all around" -- Bob Bossin, BC, Canada

"Thanks for supporting environmental education through music!"-- Jan Gillies, Baker, WV

"Thank you for focusing on our environmental issues. We must do all we can and right now" -- Jim Pennell, Indianapolis, IN

"Thanks for sharing my view that music can be used to promote a healthier environment" -- Bill Sidenstick, Burke, VA

"Thanks, and thanks for sponsoring this most interesting contest!" -- Doug Hendren, Harrisoburg, VA

"Thanks for your efforts" -- Steve Eulberg, San Mateo, CA

"Thanks for the opportunity!" -- Mike Turner, Fairhope, AL

"Thanks for doing this contest!" -- Rob Veale, Fairfax, VA

Support our fellow singer-songwriters who have participated in this event, lending their talent and creativity to the cause of raising environmental awareness through music. Visit their websites, and listen to their work.

COME TO THE LIVE PERFORMANCE!

with Grand Prize Winner Jane Fallon, and other winners and guests including: Jan Gillies, Tom Hazuka, Becky Bridges, Bill Pere, Kay Pere, Mandy Sullivan, and other artists.

COME HEAR THE SONGS THAT GIVE VOICE TO SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT US ALL. PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

**Environmental Awareness Concert
September 10, 3-5pm at the historic
Coogan Farm Nature & Heritage Center, Mystic, CT
(162 GreemanvilleAve)**

GET ADVANCE DISCOUNT TICKETS at www.ctsongs.com FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CONCERT. COME HEAR OUR CONTEST WINNERS AND SOME GREAT ARTISTS WITH SONGS TO RAISE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS. Bring a lawn chair, picnic blanket, and enjoy the afternoon in a beautiful natural setting. Rain or Shine.

A BIG THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



And some anonymous concerned individuals.



&



present:

An Environmental Awareness Concert

Saturday, Sept 10, 3pm-5pm

**Coogan Farm Nature & Heritage Center
(162 Greenmanville Ave, Mystic)**

**featuring winners from the
National Environmental Song Contest
and other guest artists**

featuring



**Grand Prize Winner:
JANE FALLON**

Winner of many national song competitions

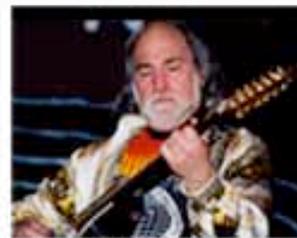
**plus:
folk legends
Susan Shann
David Morris,
Jan Gillies,
and
Many
Other
Guest
Artists**



**Amanda Sullivan
Classical Guitarist**



**Tom Hazuka
Author, Songwriter**



**Bill Pere
Grammy Winner &
CT State Troubadour '95**



**Kay Pere
Immie Award Winner
Nashville Recording Artist**

**BRING A PICNIC BLANKET, CHAIRS, & BRING THE FAMILY !
SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS!**

**Tickets: \$8/adult and \$6/child in advance at www.ctsongs.com
\$10/adult and \$8/child at the door.**

Proceeds support Environmental Awareness Programs through DPNC and CSA

Rain or Shine

CALLING ALL WRITERS

ANNOUNCING THE NEXT CSA COMPILATIONS

Get your songs in by October 31, to insure eligibility !

(after 10/31, contact us for status)

CSA Compilation CDs have received radio airplay and are displayed at national conferences, and any digital downloads pay artist royalties. 21 Compilations Released so far!

ALL CATEGORIES (you may submit to any of these categories) :

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Songs of social relevance | <input type="checkbox"/> Country songs | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Songs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual/Inspirational | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday songs | <input type="checkbox"/> Novelty/Humorous Songs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Country Songs | <input type="checkbox"/> Unusual Love Songs | <input type="checkbox"/> Story Songs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PatrioticAmericana | <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative Songs | <input type="checkbox"/> Instrumentals |

GUIDELINES

- At least one writer must be a current CSA member
- All songs must be professionally produced, up to 'radio-ready' standards.
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; Available space on the CD
- 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 submission fee (\$18) payable to CSA,
If you want your complementary copy to be mailed to you, please include \$3 for postage. (there are no additional costs, whether a song is accepted for inclusion or not)
Send your recording, lyric sheet, release form, and submission fee 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 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

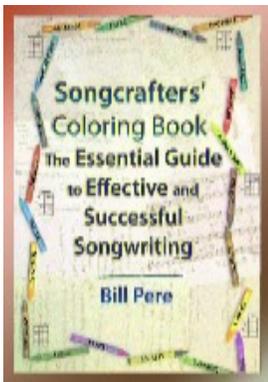
Slots are going - Reserve your spot now!

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 7-9 2017, 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 1,2016)	Member Rate = \$159	Non-member = \$179
(Nov 1 – Nov 31 2016)	Member Rate = \$169	Non-member = \$189
(Dec 1 – Dec 31 2016)	Member Rate = \$179	Non-member = \$199
(After Jan 01,2017)	Member Rate = \$189	Non Member = \$209

**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 FAO Info. photos. and reviews

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 \$ _____
 Mail to: CSA Membership OR Go to: www.ctsongs.com and
 PO Box 511 OR you may join online using
 Mystic CT 06355 PayPal

E-Mail: 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

JOIN CSA ONLINE OR BY MAIL: www.ctsongs.com/csajoin.htm