

Connecticut Songsmith

Newsletter of the Connecticut
Songwriters Association



May 2019
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Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979-2018: 39 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

CSA MAY EVENTS !

The CSA Meeting for May will be Tuesday May 8 in a **NEW location in MERIDEN: Midstate Chamber of Commerce - The Birchwood Office Building 546 So. Broad Street in Meriden - Unit 2C (Second Floor) (On Rte 5 at the Meriden / Wallingford Town Line)** Ample free parking is available in the back of the building.

We will have an in-depth song development/critique session, Bring a song on CD, mp3, or do it live, with multiple copies of types lyric sheets, and get valuable constructive feedback. CSA critique sessions are a great way to help make your songs be the best they can be. We'll also start the meeting with a look at some industry updates and crafting techniques. This program is FREE to members, \$5 for non-members. Bring a friend!

CSA SONGWRITER SHOWCASE/OPEN MIC:

Apr 24- The Monthly CSA Songwriter Showcase series has been a big success. Join us from 7pm-9pm at Groton Congregational Church, 162 Monument St in Groton. Here is a great opportunity to present your songs to an appreciative listening audience. Get new fans and followers! If you want a performing slot for the months ahead, email us NOW info@ctsongs.com.

Even if you're not performing on a particular night, come and hear some great music, support your fellow artists, so that they will come and support you when it is your turn. Music, Food and Fellowship is always a winning combination. IN ADDITION, proceeds from this series benefit local meal programs.

COMING May 22: Past CSA President Kayte Devlin is the featured performer at the CSA Songwriter Showcase/Open Mic. Let's all come to support our past President who is also an exceptional singer-songwriter.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A PERFORMING SLOT AT THE OPEN MIC, Email US IN ADVANCE AT info@ctsongs.com

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

Apr 24 - Open Mic
May 8 - CSA meeting, MERIDEN - New Location !
May 22 Open Mic with Kayte Devlin
Jun 19 - Open Mic with Craig Edwards
Jun CSA meeting - TBD
July - Summer House Party & Jam, Wethersfield (TBD)
Sept-Nov CSA Fall Events
Open Mics: 9/25, 10/30, 11/13, 12/18
Dec 1 - 22nd Annual Holiday Show

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2019 CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT JUMP-START YOUR SONGWRITING and FAST_TRACK YOUR CAREER!

Every CSA retreat has been an amazing weekend, again eliciting descriptions of "Life-Changing", "Transformative" and "Inspiring". April 5-7 2019
REGISTER AT WWW.CTSONGS.COM

LIMITED TO 12 SLOTS! THEY FILL QUICKLY!


CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT

One of the Best Values in the Industry!

**DON'T MISS OUT!
- SIGN UP NOW!**

Guiding Artists Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

CSA RHYTHM AND NEWS

<p>--- CSA Songwriter Showcase/Open Mic: Groton Congregational Church, 162 Monument ST, Groton, Plenty of free on-street parking.</p> <p>--CSA MAY 8 Meeting in MERIDEN: Midstate Chamber of Commerce, The Birchwood Office Building , 546 So. Broad Street in Meriden - Unit 2C (Second Floor) On Rte 5 at the Meriden / Wallingford Town Line) Ample free parking is available in the back of the building.</p>	
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THE 2019 CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT, APRIL 5-7 2019, WILL BE AN AMAZING WEEKEND OF MASTER CLASSES, IN THE BEAUTIFUL LAKESIDE SETTING OF CAMP WIGHTMAN. SIGN UP EARLY 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 years at www.ctsongs.com See photos & Reviews from last month's retreat on pages 3-4

MONTHLY CSA SONGWRITER SHOWCASE! A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO HONE YOUR PERFORMING TECHNIQUE AND SHARE YOUR SONGS. CSA presents a monthly Songwriter Showcase and Open Mic series . The showcase features original music in a great venue with an attentive listening audience. The event is hosted at Groton Congregational Church, 162 Monument St, in Groton. Sound system provided. Light snacks available. Plenty of free on-street parking. The donations at the door help support community outreach programs in Southeastern CT. We are now booking acts through the rest of the year. If you would like to perform, contact us NOW at info@ctsongs.com. We've had many great acts from CT/MA/RI, and we are open to all.

The Annual Voices For Hope & Harry Chapin Tribute Concert to benefit local social services was another great success. Some amazingly talented students from from CT & RI joined CSA artists to present a memorable evening of original music and Harry Chapin favorites, raising \$1300 for our community outreach programs. Congratulations to the VFH scholarship winners and new CSA members: Virginal Grabovsky, Jillian Iredale, Emmi Bowen, Abigail Bowen. It was great to see some folks in the audience who were there 30 years ago for the very first Chapin Legacy Show we presented, which was the very first LUNCH event. SEE PHOTOS on Page 5.

<p>GET A NICE TAX DEDUCTION FOR YOUR OLD STUFF !</p>
<p>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 !</p>

CSA MEMBER HAPPENINGS: Congratulations to Jane Bate who having one of her original ensemble compositions performed in two different venues. The Plainville Wind Ensemble is performing "A Hymn to the beauty That Was," the band piece Jane wrote in memory of the Petit family, to be performed in Buffalo on May 5 as part of the Association of Concert Bands Convention – then again in Plainville CT at Plainville High School on May 20 at 2 PM. The Plainville concert will be enhanced by a fundraiser – flowers and seeds for sale – for Michaela's Garden, a Petit Foundation charity.

Congratulations to Kay Pere who will be the featured performer at the Fundraiser Tea for restoration of the historic Anna Warner Bailey House in New London. May 13, 2pm. Kay's historically accurate song "Mother Bailey" will be a featured part of the program.

The 2018 CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT

Songwriters came hundreds of miles from four states to spend a lakeside weekend of intense Master Classes in the craft and business of songwriting, presented by Grammy winning songwriter Bill Pere, author of "Songcrafters' Coloring Book," and Nashville Recording Artist and nationally recognized voice and creativity coach Kay Pere



They said it was
"EYE-OPENING!"
"INSPIRING!"
"EXTREMELY INFORMATIVE!"
"VERY DIFFERENT!"

And they said:
--- "I've never thought about songwriting this way before..."
--- "It flipped a switch in me and changed my whole direction"
--- "And the home-cooked food was fantastic!"



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SONG CRAFT



VOCAL TECHNIQUE



CREATIVE PROCESS



COLLABORATION

2018 VOICES FOR HOPE & Harry Chapin Tribute Concert April 21, 2018



2018 VOICES FOR HOPE WINNERS



Virginia Grabovsky

Jillian Iredale

Emmi Bowen

Abigail Bowen

GROTON SONGWRITER SHOWCASE & OPEN MIC

MONTHLY MUSIC WITH MEANING AT GROTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

162 MONUMENT STREET, GROTON CT

A FEATURED ACT AND OPEN MIC EACH MONTH TO BENEFIT LOCAL FOOD PROGRAMS



TUESDAY, May 22, 7pm-9pm

Music with Meaning
with

KAYTE DEVLIN

Original Songs with Heart & Soul

Come and enjoy the company of good people,
good music, and good finger-food, for a good cause

Suggested Donation: \$5.

With appearances by other talented artists from CT/MA/RI

Hosted by **National Award-Winning Artists Bill Pere and Kay Pere**



The Groton Songwriter Showcase is presented by
the Connecticut Songwriters Association and
Groton Congregational Church



We are open to all who have a song in their heart. If you would like to share a song at an open mic session, please contact us in advance at info@ctsongs.com

GROTON SONGWRITER SHOWCASE & OPEN MIC

MONTHLY MUSIC WITH MEANING AT GROTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
162 MONUMENT STREET, GROTON CT

A FEATURED ACT AND OPEN MIC EACH MONTH TO BENEFIT LOCAL FOOD PROGRAMS



TUESDAY, June 19 7pm-9pm

Music with Meaning
with

CRAIG EDWARDS

Original & Traditional Folk and Roots

Come and enjoy the company of good people,
good music, and good finger-food, for a good cause

Suggested Donation: \$5.

With appearances by other talented artists from CT/MA/RI

Hosted by National Award-Winning Artists Bill Pere and Kay Pere



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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 Song |
| <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

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET A SONG FROM ITS INITIAL CONCEPTION TO BEING SUCCESSFULLY RECORDED AND RELEASED WITH MINIMAL HEADACHES, BEST USE OF RESOURCES, AND OPTIMAL RESULTS ?

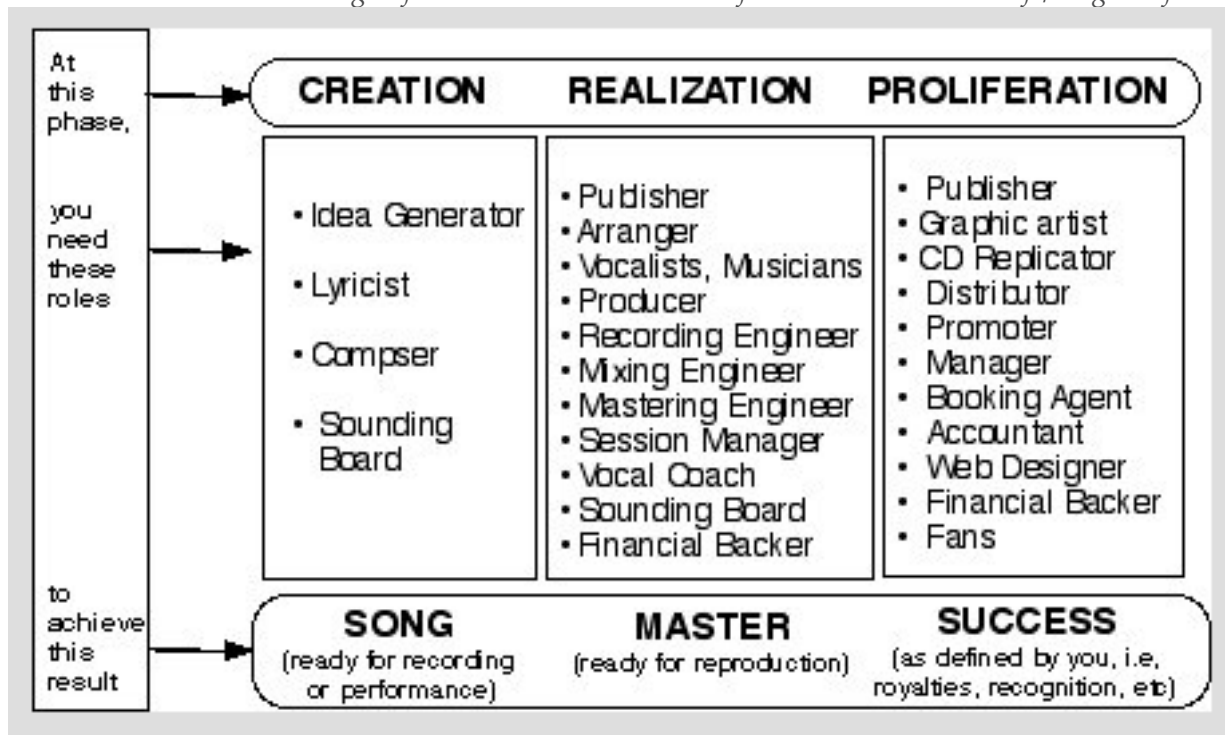
There are many roles that must be filled, each responsible for executing specific tasks. If any one role is not filled, something will go astray.

Typically, independent singer-songwriters either fill these roles themselves or hire someone to do the tasks. How do you know how to best utilize your limited time, energy and resource to get the best people in the right roles?

CSA can help you identify the roles that you can fulfill yourself, where you need help, and how to find the right people.

GET INVOLVED in CSA workshops, meetings, retreats, etc and you'll be on the right path.

SongcraftStudioCraft.....SellCraft/StageCraft



© 2017 Songcrafters' Coloring Book, Bill Pere

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 10 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 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 OF BY MAIL: www.ctsongs.com/csajoin.htm