

Connecticut Songsmith

Newsletter of the Connecticut
Songwriters Association



October 2018
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Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

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

SONGWRITING WORKSHOPS, ACOUSTIC FESTIVAL AND SONGWRITING CONTEST!

The Farmington Valley Acoustic Festival will be held on Saturday, Oct 20. There will be a full day of music, networking, learning, food and fun. CSA will present two workshops: the Craft & Business of Songwriting and a Vocal Performance Workshop. We will also judge the live performance songwriting competition. There will be featured act performances later in the day. All activities are included for free with the \$10 Festival admission. Participation in the song contest requires pre-registration. See inside for full details for tickets and registration.

This is a fantastic value and a great opportunity for all. We hope to see you there.

CSA SONGWRITER SHOWCASE/OPEN MIC:

Sept 25- This popular Monthly CSA Songwriter Showcase series continues. 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.

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

COMING NOVEMBER 6: CSA presents in in-depth workshop: MUSIC BUSINESS 101. Hosted by the Meriden Chamber of Commerce. Details in next Newsletter

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 15 House Party & Jam, West Hartford
Sept 25 – Songwriter Showcase / Open Mic
Oct 20 – Farmington Valley Acoustic Festival
Oct 30 Songwriter Showcase / Open Mic
Nov 6 – Music Business 101 - Meriden
Nov 13 - Songwriter Showcase / Open Mic
Dec 1 – 22nd Annual Holiday Show
Dec 18 Songwriter Showcase / Open Mic
Mar 22-23 SS Cape May Songwriter Conference
Apr 5-7 CSA Songwriting Retreat Weekend
Apr 27 Voices For Hope annual event

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

--- CSA Songwriter Showcase/Open Mic: Groton Congregational Church,
162 Monument ST, Groton, Plenty of free on-street parking.

-- Acoustic Festival: 50 Winding Trails Drive, Farmington, CT 06032 ...
<https://www.windingtrails.org>

How to
Get There!

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 previous years at the website.

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.

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 !

GROTON SONGWRITER SHOWCASE & OPEN MIC

MONTHLY MUSIC WITH MEANING AT GROTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

162 MONUMENT STREET, GROTON CT

COME JOIN US:

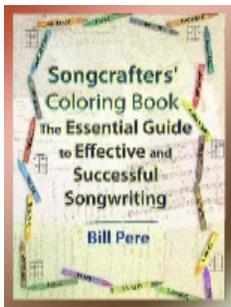
Sept 25 Welcome Back! Oct 30 (Halloween themed)
Nov 13 (Veteran's Day Themed) Dec 18 (Holiday Themed)

Contact us at info@ctsongs.com if you'd like a performance slot

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 5-7 2019, 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, NSAI**

(Before Nov 1, 2018) Member Rate = \$169 Non-member = \$189
(Before Dec 31 2018) Member Rate = \$179 Non-member = \$199
(After Jan 01, 2019) 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 FAQ Info, photos, and reviews
If you don't find what you need, e-mail us at retreat@ctsongwriting.com

JUMP-START YOUR SONGWRITING AND FAST-TRACK YOUR CAREER!

CONTACT US NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SLOT !

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, Sept 25, 7pm-9pm

Music with Meaning

with

Colette O'Connor

Music from the Heart and Soul

Suggested Donation: \$5.

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

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

COMING OCTOBER 20 CSA WORKSHOPS AND SONG CONTEST AT



COME FOR A FANTASTIC DAY OF MUSIC,
LEARNING, NETWORKING, FOOD and FUN

Enjoy a day of great music for all ages in the beautiful 380 acres of pristine woods and clear waterways at Winding Trails. The festival will feature local and nationally touring acts from acoustic-based genres including bluegrass, indie folk, a cappella, singer-songwriter, blues, and more. There will also be a song contest.

LOCATION: [Winding Trails Campgrounds, 50 Winding Trails Drive, Farmington, CT](https://www.windingtrails.org)
<https://www.windingtrails.org>

Gates open at 10am. Food and refreshments will be available for sale or bring your own. Local breweries will be on hand with free samples.

Musical acts on two stages include: [The Hot Flashes](#), Belle of the Fall, [The Wool Hats String Band](#), [Krista Johnson](#), Brian Dolzani, Pat Stone and The Dirty Boots, [Peter Lehndorff's Music](#), [The Coffee Grinders](#), Auburn Mode, Sweetest Key, Eric Paradine, The Bombay Oysters, [Horizon Blue](#), and Blackberry Jam.

CSA will be judging the Songwriting Contest and will present a songwriting workshop and vocal coaching workshop. THE SONGWRITING CONTEST AND WORKSHOPS ARE INCLUDED IN THE FESTIVAL ADMISSION TICKET

Advance discount tickets purchased online at the below link or by calling (860) 677-8458 are \$10 adults, \$5 children ages 3-15. Tickets purchased at the gate will be \$15 adults and \$8 children.

TICKETS: <https://acousticfest.brownpapertickets.com/>

FACEBOOK INFO: <https://www.facebook.com/events/205806263463874/>

SONG CONTEST SIGNUP: kim@windingtrails.org.

This is a rain or shine event. In the event of rain, the outdoor amphitheater stage moves to the indoor Garmony Hall.

Song Contest at Winding Trails:

Come and perform your original song from 12 AM -2 PM at the Farmington Valley Acoustic Festival. Space is limited. To reserve a spot for the judged competition, contact kim@windingtrails.org.

Contest entry is included in the price of admission to the festival (adults \$10/\$15, children \$5/\$8 advance/gate). Judging is based on the merit of the **song**, not the performance.

Rules:

1. No amplification except for bass guitars
2. One song which must be original material
3. Bring 4 copies of the lyric sheet for the song, no exceptions
4. No drum kits; hand percussion is allowed
5. Contest entry cost is included in the price of admission to the festival

Available equipment:

1. PA with 8 channel mixer
2. 2 radial active DI for acoustic instruments
3. Microphones
4. 1/4" and mic cables

Songs will be judged by a panel for a chance to win:

- A 3-year membership to the Connecticut Songwriters Association;
- A music business consultation at the Connecticut Songwriting Academy;
- A spot as a featured act performance at the Groton Songwriters Showcase
- A spot at next year's festival at the Nature's Porch stage

After the contest, there will be two one hour workshops presented by the judges –

The Craft and Business of Songwriting with Grammy Award winning Songwriter Bill Pere (2:30-3:30PM). Bill Pere is a Grammy-winning songwriter, named one of the "Top 50 Innovators, Groundbreakers, and Guiding Lights of the Music Industry" by Music Connection Magazine. He is the author of the industry-standard songwriting guide "Songcrafters' Coloring Book" and is one of the most sought-after songwriting coaches today, working with clients around the world. His presentations at national conferences and analytical critiques have revolutionized the way we craft and evaluate songs. Bill is Executive Director of the Connecticut Songwriters Association, the 2003 National Independent Artist of the Year, and an Official Connecticut State Troubadour. He is Founder of the LUNCH Ensemble, and Director of the Connecticut Songwriting Academy. Bill has released 16 CD's and has written and produced 23 stage plays. He has twice been named Connecticut Songwriter of the Year, and has appeared on a special edition Cheerios box as a hunger-fighting hero. The New York Times calls him "The Link Between Music and Science". More at www.billpere.com

Vocal Coaching Workshop

with Nashville Recording Artist Kay Pere (3:45-4:45). Kay Pere is a Nashville recording artist, a multi-national award winning singer-songwriter, and a nationally known vocal and creativity coach. Her piano-propelled folk-rock, with finely crafted lyrics, has been performed in such noted CT venues as the Shubert Theater, Garde Arts Center, Cheney Hall, Seven Angels Theater, University of Hartford, Sacred Heart University, and the Vanilla Bean Cafe. Beyond New England, she has performed internationally with the LUNCH Ensemble, with the Steve Chapin Band, as part of a select choir at New York's Avery Fischer Hall, and on stages in New York, Nashville, Dallas and L.A.. Kay has recorded in Nashville with a Grammy winning producer and world class musicians. One of her songs has been recorded by the great Melba Moore. Kay has been a Director for the Connecticut Songwriters Association since 1997, and she presents regularly at national music conferences. More at www.kaypere.com

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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, Oct 30, 7pm-9pm

(Halloween Costumes are Encouraged!)

Music with Meaning
with

JANE FALLON

— **Multiple National Awards
In Songwriting and Performing**
— **An Amazing Talent!**

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,
L.U.N.C.H., 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

LEARNING FROM THE MASTERS -- by Bill Pere

We continually emphasize the importance of consistent semantic field when writing a lyric.

All the references need to be related one overarching idea that unifies the song. If it is a song about hot dogs, you can mention buns and mustard a sauerkraut, but not broccoli or chocolate. If you're writing about "Food" then you can mention all of those things, but not rocks or sawdust. Also, you want to try to keep verbs, and adjectives in the semantic field as well. One of the best ways to learn how to do this well is to look at how the masters do it. Billy Joel's song "Only the Good Die Young" is an amazing example of a tone-constant semantic field.

There are also many lesser known songs by great songwriters, often used as album cuts, that show off their songwriting skill. Below is a wonderful piece from Rupert Holmes ("Pina Colada Song", and many more hits). Look at the use of semantic field. It is so clear that anyone seeing this knows it was written by someone who understands what makes a song effective. Learn from the masters.

Nearsighted -- Rupert Holmes

If you take these glasses from my face
Think that you would find
I'm undeniably, certifiably just a shade of blind

I don't envy those of you with 20/20 vision
Who've seen the world for all its worth
With crystal clear precision

There's more to see than can be seen
Or said than what is heard
The day is brighter, softer, lighter when it's slightly blurred

Nearsighted, it's another lovely day
Nearsighted, so I stumble on my way

I don't judge a friend or lover
By a first or second look
Nor a book just by its cover, I can't even see the book

Nearsighted, loving life is such a breeze
Nearsighted 'cause I see just what I please

And it pleases me to see you
I won't change my point of view
Nearsighted, nearsighted, all I need to see is you

Though I'm slightly out of focus
I can see my dreams come true
Clear sighted, I'm nearsighted, all I need to see is you

© Rupert Holmes, Holmes Line Of Music Inc., WB Music Corp.

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 produces, 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

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.

JOIN CSA ONLINE (www.ctsongs.com) or BY MAIL Below:

1 yr -- \$45
 2 yr -- \$80 (save \$10)
 3 yr -- \$108 (save \$27)

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!

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