

Connecticut Songsmith

Newsletter of the Connecticut
Songwriters Association



March 2019
Vol XL
Number 3
Issue # 447

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

1979-2019: 40 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

MARCH MARCHES ON WITH LOTS OF ACTIVITIES.

Wednesday, MARCH 13, 7:15pm CSA presents a **SONG DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP** to get your songs ready for pitching to industry pros. At the end of March, CSA will be at the annual **Sinbger-Songwriter Conference** in Cape May NJ and we will present members' songs to any industry pro where there is a potential opportunity. CSA's pitching over the years has yielded many successes.

Songs must be well-performed on CD with a lyric sheet, and must have been presented at a CSA critique session. Songs presented at the March 13 workshop that are considered ready for presentation will be taken for pitching. Bring your song on CD, or with a Bluetooth speaker, or do it live and receive detailed constructive feedback.

The workshop is FREE for members, \$5 for non-members.

CSA SONGWRITER SHOWCASE/OPEN MIC:

Mar 5 and Mar 26 - 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

SONGWRITING RETREAT WEEKEND! REGISTER NOW FOR THIS INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE AND JUMP-START YOUR SONGWRITING! April 5-7. --->

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

Mar 05 CSA Songwriter Showcase / Open Mic
Mar 13 - Song Development Workshop
Mar 22-23 SS Cape May Songwriter Conference
Mar 26 CSA Songwriter Showcase / Open Mic
Apr 5-7 CSA Songwriting Retreat Weekend
Apr 23 - CSA Songwriter Showcase / Open Mic
Apr 27 Voices For Hope annual event
May 21-CSA Songwriter Showcase / Open Mic

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--
SLOTS 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.

MAR 13 – Mystic Morgan House 121 High St Mystic CT; (Large white historic house across the parking lot from Union Baptist Church). Plenty of parking in the church parking lot

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 NOW 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

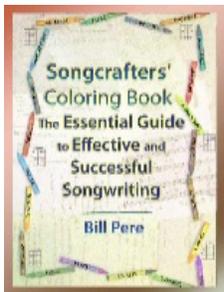
COME JOIN US; Mar 5, Mar 26, Apr 23, May 21, Jun 25
Contact us at info@ctsongs.com if you'd like a performance slot

NOW IS THE TIME – SLOTS ARE FILLING – LAST CHANCE FOR ONE OF THE “BEST VALUES IN THE INDUSTRY!”

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, Mar 5, 7pm-9pm

Music with Meaning

with

Rick Drost

**Masterful Storyteller with
well-crafted songs and intricate
guitar work**

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

Suggested Donation: \$5.

UPCOMING DATES: 3/5, 3/29, 4/23, 5/21, 6/25, 9/24, 10/29, 11/12, 12/17

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 OUT OF RETIREMENT FOR THIS SPECIAL SHOW – DON'T MISS IT!
GREAT SONGWRITING, MASTERFULLY PRESENTED!

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



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good music, and good finger-food, for a good cause

Suggested Donation: \$5.

2019 Open Mic Dates: 3/26, 4/23, 5/21, 6/25, 9/24, 10/29, 11/12, 12/17

With appearances by other talented artists from CT/MA/RI
Hosted by National Award-Winning Artists Bill Pere and Kav Pere



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open mic session, please contact us in advance at info@ctsongs.com

TUESDAY, Mar 26, 7pm-9pm

Music with Meaning

with

A SPECIAL REUNION PERFORMANCE
BY THE ONE AND ONLY

Mad Agnes

Incredible harmonies and old
favorites from the legendary trio

(Margo Hennebach, Mark Saunders, Adrienne Jones
coming out of retirement for this special appearance!)

The first man, Bennett Cerf, was the founder of the publishing firm, Random House. The second man was named Theo Geisel, but you probably know him as Dr. Seuss. Cerf proposed the bet and challenged that Dr. Seuss would not be able to write an entertaining children's book using only 50 different words.

Dr. Seuss took the bet and won. The result was a little book called [Green Eggs and Ham](#). Since publication, *Green Eggs and Ham* has sold more than 200 million copies, making it the most popular of Seuss's works and one of the best-selling children's books in history.¹

At first glance, you might think this was a lucky fluke. A talented author plays a fun game with 50 words and ends up producing a hit. But there is actually more to this story and the lessons in it can help us become more creative and stick to better habits over the long-run.

Here's what we can learn from Dr. Seuss...

What Dr. Seuss discovered through this little bet was the power of [setting constraints](#).

Setting limits for yourself — whether that involves the time you have to work out, the money you have to start a business, or the number of words you can use in a book — often delivers better results than “keeping your options open.”

In fact, Dr. Seuss found that setting some limits to work within was so useful that he employed this strategy for other books as well. For example, *The Cat in the Hat* was written using only a first-grade vocabulary list.

In my experience, I've seen that constraints can also provide benefits in health, business, and life in general. I've noticed two reasons why this occurs.

1. Constraints inspire your creativity.

If you're five foot five inches tall and you're playing basketball, you figure out more creative ways to score than the six foot five inch guy.

If you have a one-year-old child that takes up almost every minute of your day, you figure out more creative ways to get some exercise.

If you're a photographer and you show up to a shoot with just one lens, then you figure out more creative ways to capture the beauty of your subject than you would with all of your gear available.

Limitations drive you to figure out solutions. Your [constraints inspire your creativity](#).

2. Constraints force you to get something done.

Time constraints have forced me to produce some of my best work. This is especially true with my writing. Every Monday and Thursday, I write a new article — even if it's inconvenient.

This constraint has led me to produce some of my most popular work in unlikely places. When I was sitting in the passenger seat on a road trip through West Virginia, [I wrote an article](#). When I was visiting family for the 4th of July, [I wrote an article](#). When I spent all day flying in and out of airports, [I wrote an article](#).

Without my schedule (the constraint), I would have pushed those articles to a different day. Or never got around to them at all. Constraints force you to get something done and don't allow you to procrastinate. This is why I believe that [professionals set a schedule](#) for their production while [amateurs wait until they feel motivated](#).

What constraints are you setting for yourself? What type of schedule do you have for your goals?

Related note: Sticking to your schedule doesn't have to be grand or impressive. Just [commit to a process you can sustain](#). And if you have to, [reduce the scope](#).

Constraints are Not the Enemy

So often we spend time complaining about the things that are withheld from us.

- “I don’t have enough time to work out.”
- “I don’t have enough money to start a business.”
- “I can’t eat this food on my diet.”

But constraints are not the enemy. Every artist has a limited set of tools to work with. Every athlete has a limited set of skills to train with. Every entrepreneur has a limited amount of resources to build with. Once you know your constraints, you can start figuring out how to work with them.

The Size of Your Canvas

Dr. Seuss was given 50 words. That was the size of his canvas. His job was to see what kind of picture he could paint with those words. You and I are given similar constraints in our lives.

You only have 30 minutes to fit a workout into your day? So be it. That’s the size of your canvas. Your job is to see if you can make those 30 minutes a work of art.

You can only spare 15 minutes each day to write? That’s the size of your canvas. Your job is to make each paragraph a work of art.

You only have \$100 to start your business? Great. That’s the size of your canvas. Your job is to make each sales call a work of art.

You can only eat whole foods on your diet? That's the size of your canvas. Your job is to take those ingredients and make each meal a work of art.

There are a lot of authors who would complain about writing a book with only 50 words. But there was one author who decided to take the tools he had available and make a work of art instead.

We all have constraints in our lives. The limitations just determine the [size of the canvas](#) you have to work with. What you paint on it is up to you.

Excerpted portions originally appeared on www.jamesclear.com. James Clear is the author ofr NYT best-seller “Atomic Habits”

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Bill Pere is named one of the “Top 50 Innovators, Groundbreakers and Guiding Lights of the Music Industry” by Music Connection Magazine. With more than 30 years in the music business, as a recording artist, award winning songwriter, performer, and educator Bill is well known for his superblycrafted lyrics, with lasting impact. Bill has songs on more than 26 CD’s including a Grammy, and has received many awards for his philanthropy through music. He is President of the Connecticut Songwriters Association, an Official Connecticut State Troubadour, and is the Founder and Executive Director of the LUNCH Ensemble. Twice named Connecticut Songwriter of the Year, Bill is a qualified MBTI practitioner, trained by the Association for Psychological Type. As Director of the Connecticut Songwriting Academy, he helps develop young talent in songwriting, performing, and learning about the music business. Bill’s song analyses and critiques are among the best in the industry. Bill has a graduate degree in Molecular Biology, an ARC Science teaching certification, and he has received two awards for Outstanding contribution to Music Education. The New York Times calls Bill “the link between science and music For workshops, consultation, performances, or other songwriter services, contact Bill via his web sites, at <http://www.billpere.com>, <http://www.ctsongwriting.com>, and <http://www.lunchensemble.com> ”.
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The Annual
VOICES FOR HOPE
Scholarship and Vocal Competition

Service-Learning Through Music
for students ages 11-19

Finalists audition live and participate in the annual Harry Chapin Legacy Concert

AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG VOCALISTS

The winner receives prizes valued at more than \$1500, including:

- a \$500 scholarship
- professional recording and performing opportunities, with worldwide distribution
- professional vocal and performance coaching with Grammy and Immie Award Winners
- a lifetime membership to the Connecticut Songwriters Association

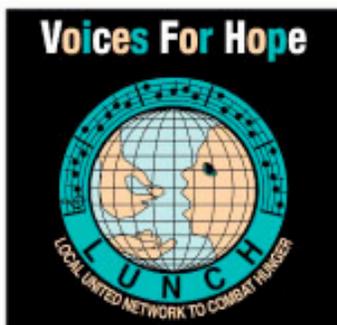
All participation is part of a service-learning outreach to support local agencies that provide basic human services for those in need, focusing on issues of hunger and poverty.

Previous winners have had opportunities to meet and perform with artists like Melba Moore, Diana Degarmo, The Harry Chapin Band, Patti Austin, and the LUNCH Ensemble at venues like the Bushnell, The Shubert Theater, University of Hartford, the Granite Theater, and many more. Their recordings have been released worldwide. Participants have come from many states, and our winners range in age from 11 to 19.

EVENT DETAILS AND ENTRY FORMS are at www.lunchensemble.com

ENTRY DEADLINE: February 28, 2019 (early entry) / APRIL 1, 2019 (final deadline)

FINAL LIVE AUDITIONS & CONCERT: APRIL 27, 2019 in Mystic, CT



VOICES FOR HOPE is an outreach of L.U.N.C.H (Local United Network to Combat Hunger), using the Power of Popular Music to Produce Positive Social Action

For additional information and inquiries, contact Bill Pere, Founder and Executive Director, LUNCH

bill@billpere.com

860-572-9285

www.lunchensemble.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT -- YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

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 OR BY MAIL: www.ctsongs.com/csajoin.htm