

Connecticut Songsmith

Newsletter of the Connecticut
Songwriters Association



April 2019
Vol XL
Number 4
Issue # 448

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

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

10th ANNUAL CSA SONGWRITING RETREAT

It's time again for the Annual CSA Songwriting Retreat. Only a couple of slots left, so if you want to participate and give yourself a giant step forward toward your goals, this is the time to sign up.

Three days of Master Classes at a beautiful lakeside setting with all meals and lodging included. More than 40 years of experience working with top names in the industry is distilled for you into actionable steps and strategies that will help you move forward along your chosen path.

The CSA Songwriting Retreat has been called "Life-Changing", "Transformative", "Inspiring", and one of the "Best Values in the Industry"

Full details and registration info at www.ctsongs.com. The cost is extremely affordable but if you need financial assistance, email us and we may be able to apply a grant to help you out.

ONLY A COUPLE OF SLOTS REMAINING – ACT NOW!

CSA SONGWRITER SHOWCASE/OPEN MIC:

Mar 26, Apr 23– 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

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 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!**

CSA RHYTHM AND NEWS

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

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

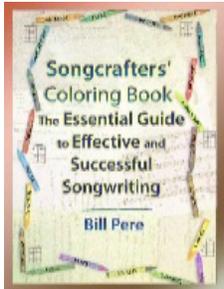
COME JOIN US; Mar 26, Apr 23, May 21, Jun 25
Contact us at info@ctsongs.com if you'd like a performance slot

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 !

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



Come and enjoy the company of good people,
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



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

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!)

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, Apr 23, 7pm-9pm

Music with Meaning

with

Santana Roberts

**Beautiful and soulful vocals of
favorite songs from a winner of the
Voices For Hope vocal competition**

Suggested Donation: \$5.

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

2019 DATES: 3/5, 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 Kay Pere**

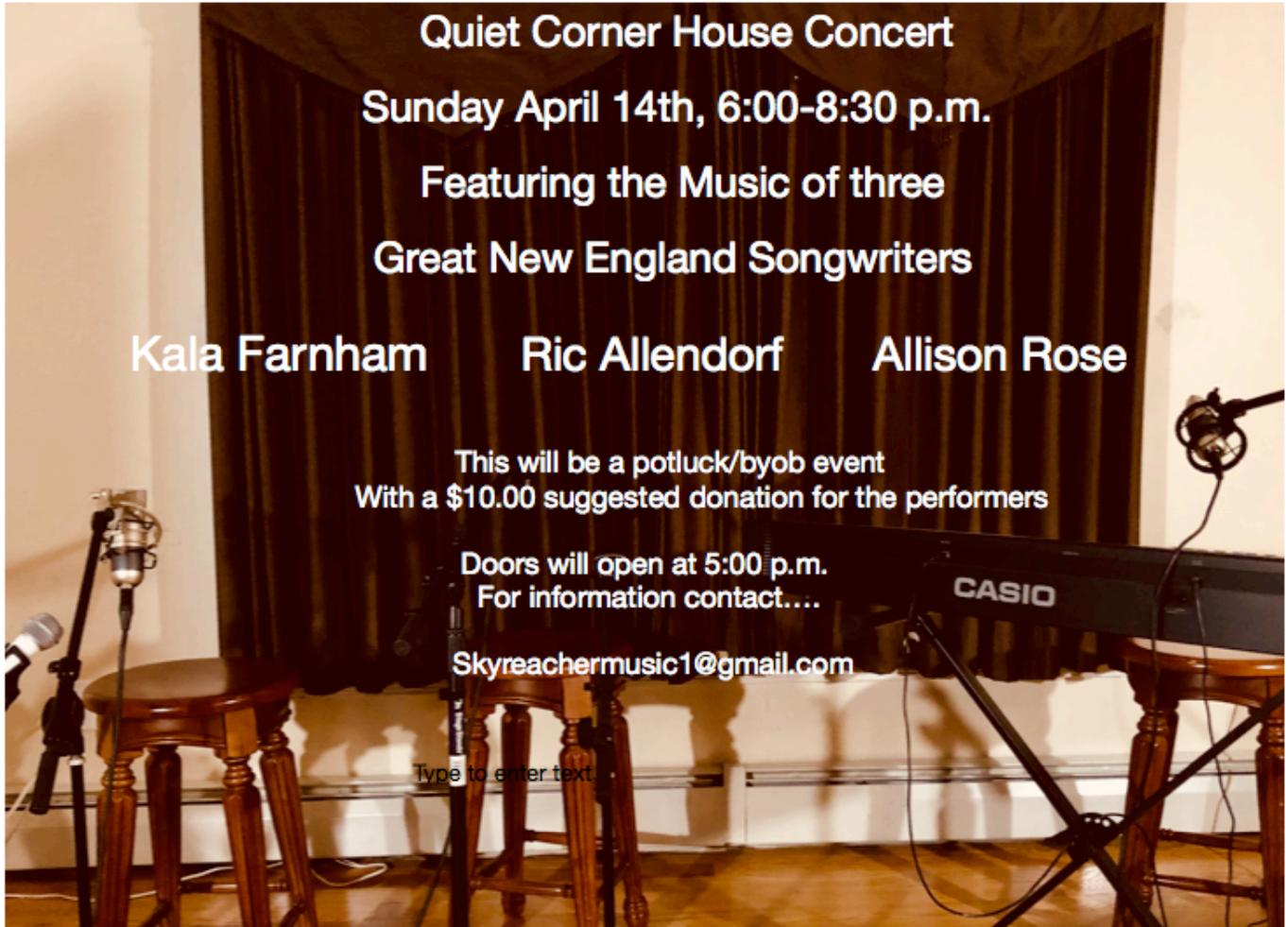


The Groton Songwriter Showcase is presented by
the Connecticut Songwriters Association and
Groton Congregational Church



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

CSA member Tim Young invites you to:



Quiet Corner House Concert
Sunday April 14th, 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Featuring the Music of three
Great New England Songwriters

Kala Farnham Ric Allendorf Allison Rose

This will be a potluck/byob event
With a \$10.00 suggested donation for the performers

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m.
For information contact....

Skyreachermusic1@gmail.com

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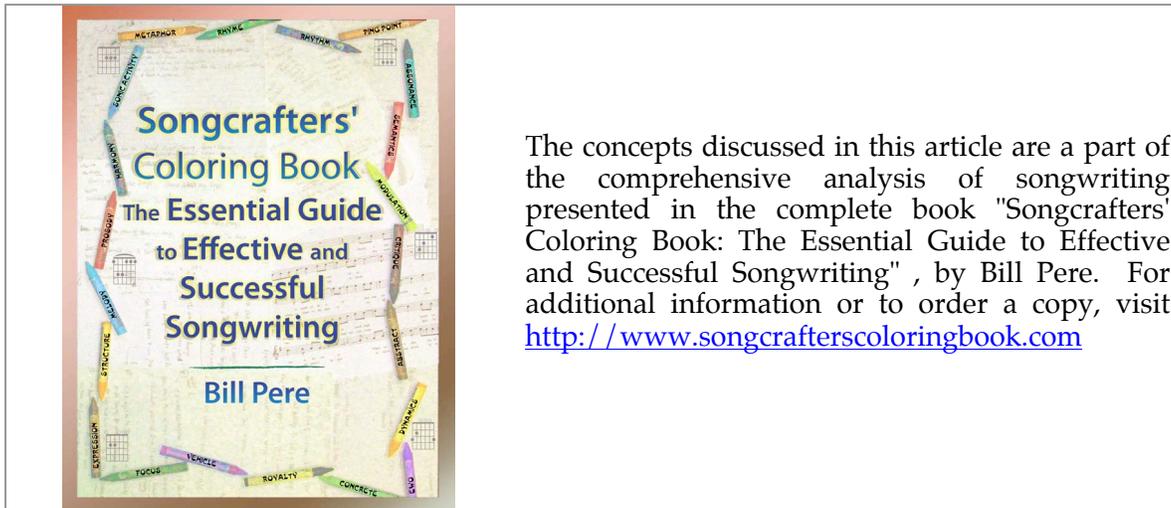
<https://www.kalafarnham.com/>



<https://www.ricallendorf.com/home>



<http://allisonrosemusic.com/>



The concepts discussed in this article are a part of the comprehensive analysis of songwriting presented in the complete book "Songcrafters' Coloring Book: The Essential Guide to Effective and Successful Songwriting", by Bill Pere. For additional information or to order a copy, visit <http://www.songcrafterscoloringbook.com>

(More on this topic in the complete Songcrafters' Coloring Book)

SONGCRAFTERS' COLORING BOOK

Writing a Bridge Should Not Take a Toll by Bill Pere

I am often asked about when, how, and why a song should or should not have a bridge (sometimes called a "middle 8", although it may have more or less than 8 measures) and how to write a musically effective one. First, let's look at the role of a bridge and why it should (or should not) be in a song.

A bridge is a section of a song distinctly different musically from either verse or chorus, and its purpose is to either provide new information in the song, a turn of circumstances, or a summation of the song's overall message. It usually comes after at least two verses and two choruses, because prior to then, it can interfere with the verse and/or chorus establishing their own clear identities. Also, by coming in the latter part of the song, it provides a new injection of fresh musical ideas, if the verses or chorus are too plain. A song should only have a bridge if it actually needs one. In rare cases a song will have two instances of the bridge (the same bridge, not two different ones), but that is an exception (e.g. Billy Joel's "Goodbye to Hollywood", or Dan Fogelberg's "How Do We Make Love Stay").

If new information needs to be conveyed beyond a typical 3 verse structure, or if three repetitions of verse/chorus would start to get dull, a bridge is indicated. If the song can be told in two or three verses and there is enough musical interest, then a bridge is probably not needed. In no case should you add a bridge just to "throw in" extra lyrics that don't convey new information, or just to try out a new musical idea.

There are many options to writing a musically effective bridge. Since a bridge must have a musical identity clearly different and distinct from the verses and the chorus, a bridge is often in a different key.

A typical way to get there is to go to the relative minor i.e. if the song is in G, drop the bass line (g, f# e) and end up on Em for the bridge. This always works, but it is very common and won't sound particularly fresh. You'll get more musical interest if you use a less common transition e.g., going to the chord a minor third higher or lower (if the song is in G, go to Bb or E) while singing the note common to the original key

(d in the first case, b in the second case).

Best of all is to actually make the key transition on the last chord of the prior section, rather than on the first chord of the bridge. For example, if the song is in the key of "A" and the last note you sing is "a", then instead of using a typical A-chord to end the section, you can use ANY other chord that contains the note "a". Each choice will tend to lead you to a new, unique place.

EXAMPLES:

If you are singing "a", play D or D7 ("a" is the 5th) and you can now go to G or Bm

If you are singing "a", play B7 ("a" is the 7th) and you can now go to E

If you are singing "a", play F#m ("a" is the m3) and you can now go to B

If you are singing "a", play BbM7 ("a" is the M7) and you can go to F or Eb

If you are singing "a", play F or FM7 ("a" is the 3rd) and you can go to Bb, Bbm, or C or Dm

If you are singing "a", play Esus ("a" is the 4th) and you can go to E or Em

There are many additional options, but you get the idea. This latter technique is not used as frequently as others, so when used well, it can really give your song some extra 'zing'. There is no right or wrong, just choices -- and the best choice is whatever your ear says is best for the song. Try these techniques and see what works for your particular song. Each song has it's own specific needs. Whatever you choose to do, writing a bridge should not take a toll.

For more: www.songcrafterscoloringbook.com

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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 superbly crafted 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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LOCAL
UNITED
NETWORK to
COMBAT
HUNGER

&

Academy
of the
Holy
Family



PRESENT

MUSIC for GIVING

A Hunger-Awareness Concert to Benefit Local Social Services

*A family event with the music of **HARRY CHAPIN** and **LUNCH** featuring
Grammy Winner and Connecticut State Troubadour **Bill Pere**,
Nashville Recording Artist **Kay Pere**, and the **LUNCH Ensemble**
with students from **Academy of the Holy Family***

SATURDAY MAY 18, 2019 - 7pm

St. Michael's Center --54 West Main St. Baltic

**Fun For the
Whole Family!**



**Fun For the
Whole Family!**

TICKETS: \$8 (adult) \$5 (under 12)

Proceeds benefit local social services

Tickets at www.lunchensemble.com or at the door

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 song-sharing 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. Join the CSA group on Facebook.

• 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