

# Connecticut Songsmith

Newsletter of the Connecticut  
Songwriters Association



CSA is an educational, non-profit organization dedicated to  
improving the art and craft of original musical and lyrical composition.  
Serving music's artisans and craftsmen since 1979.



March 2007  
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Combining Arts,  
Education, and  
Community Outreach

1979 - 2007 : 28 Years of Combining Arts, Education, and Community Outreach

## A Demo and Discussion of Acoustic Folk Instruments from Lark in the Morning

Tuesday Mar 6,  
7:15 PM,  
Glastonbury  
YMCA

### Connecticut's newest Lark in the Morning dealer presents a demo and discussion of acoustic folk instruments

The CSA Meeting for March will be held on Tuesday,  
March 6, 7:15pm at the Glastonbury YMCA. (*directions  
on page 2*).

Have you ever wanted to have some exciting new  
sounds in your recordings, or wondered where you  
could get a particular kind of ethnic instrument. Lark  
in the Morning is a major distributor of some of the  
most diverse and unusual instruments you'll ever find  
in one place. The Music Bureau, a community music  
store in Salem, has become Connecticut's newest Lark in  
the Morning Dealer.

On hand will be one of Connecticut's most  
accomplished folk artists, **Rick Spencer**. If you know  
the amazing Lark in the Morning catalog, you'll know  
what a great resource it is to have a local dealer for these  
exceptional instruments. Get some great ideas for  
instrumentation for your upcoming recording projects.

Also, learn about the performing space at the Music  
Bureau and all the other great services offered by a  
community-minded music store.

CRITIQUE SESSION TO FOLLOW

**DEADLINE APPROACHING ! CSA WRITERS:**  
Check out the special LUNCH/CSA category in the  
International **UNISONG Songwriting Competition**.  
Win Valuable prizes and receive in-depth critiques in  
in this great competition. [www.unisong.com](http://www.unisong.com)

**COMING Mar 10** The LUNCH Ensemble presents  
a Hunger Awareness Concert at St. Michaels Center  
in Baltic, to benefit Willimantic social services

**CSA CRITIQUE SESSIONS:** At regular  
monthly meetings, following the presentation,  
as time permits, there will be a song critique  
session. To participate, bring a song on cassette  
or CD, or do it live, with 20 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.. Do NOT state what the song  
is "about").** For non-members, \$5 of your  
registration fee is 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 EVENTS CALENDAR

(for complete listing see <http://www.ctsongs.com>)

#### MUCH MORE TO COME !

- Mar 06 - CSA meeting, Glastonbury
- Mar 10 - LUNCH Concert in Baltic
- Apr 14- Annual Collaboration Workshop, Mystic
- May 04 - Music For a Change at University of Hartford
- May 08 - CSA Monthly Meeting
- Jun 01- Special Concert at the Shubert Theater in New Haven  
with the original Chapin Band
- Jun 17 - CSA Summer Showcase/Picnic
- Aug 26 - CSA Summer Showcase/Picnic
- Sep -- IMC Philadelphia
- Sep 15 - CSA Performance Collaboration and Day of Praise Concert  
St James Episcopal Church, West Hartford
- Oct - CSA Pro Workshop
- Dec 01 - LUNCH Holiday Show
- Dec - CSA Holiday Songshare/Potluck

COMBINING ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR 28 YEARS

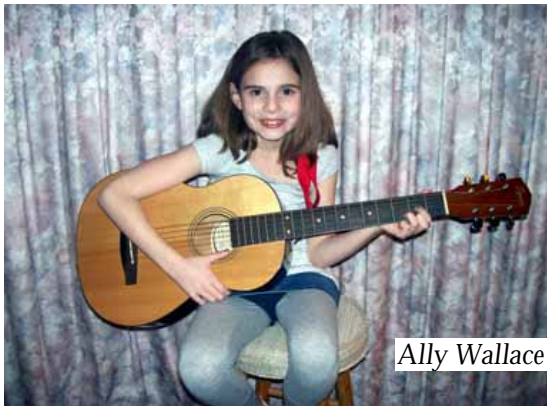
Guiding Songs Along the Path from Creation to Realization to Proliferation

## DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATIONS

How to  
Get There!

**Directions to Glastonbury YMCA :** From I-91 going north or south: Take Exit 25 over the CT River onto Route 3 to Glastonbury. Bear right onto Route 2 towards Norwich. Take Exit 8 (Hebron Av.) off Route 2 and go right at the late onto Hebron Av. Go right at the next late which is New London Turnpike. Take first left (Welles St.) and a quick right into the Fox Run Mall. Go straight, park anywhere and look for CSA signs near People's Bank. **From I-84 east or west:** Take Exit 55 onto Route 2 towards Glastonbury to Exit 8. See above. **From Norwich / New London area:** Take Route 2 to Exit 8 in Glastonbury and go right and a quick left onto Hebron Av. Go 2 lites to New London Tpk. See above

**FOR APRIL COLLABORATION WORKSHOP: Directions to Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room (14 Holmes St) :** **Coming North on I-95, take Exit 89.** Go right off the Exit onto Allyn St Go about 2 miles and come to a light and the intersection of Rt 1. Turn left onto Rt 1 and go a short way to the 5-way intersection overlooking Main St, Mystic. Proceed down the Main Street of Mystic, across the drawbridge, to the flagpole (Holmes St). Turn left at the flagpole onto Holmes. Pass a few storefronts and you'll see a red brick building, #14 Holmes St. To park, turn right just before the brick building onto Church St, and park in the lot behind the brick building. The entrance for the Chamber of Commerce is at the far right as you face the rear of the building. Go down the corridor. The room is on the right. Coffee and Snacks available !



Don Donegan, Founder of CSA and owner of Rainbow Music Teaching and Recording Studio in Glastonbury, announces the first Rainbow Scholarship Achievement Award to Ally Wallace, a 4th grader at Hopewell Elementary School in Glastonbury. Ally sings and plays guitar and loves music. The scholarship was set up by Don through CSA and funded by sales of a 30 song compilation CD of 15 Rainbow Music students who each recorded 2 songs with Don. Donations to the fund are tax-deductible through CSA and details are on Don's website at [www.dondonegan.com](http://www.dondonegan.com)

CSA Thanks Marci Geller for joining us from New York for last month's Pro Workshop. Marci gave a great presentation on the ins and outs of the music business.

Bill and Kay Pere were at the Baggot Inn in Manhattan on Feb 25. Bill presented a critique workshop, and the duo performed for the evening showcase, sponsored by Songsalve!. Bill also announces the official release of his 15th CD, "Dare to Dream, a 2-disc CD with 30 new songs that look at dreams, hopes and aspirations through the panorama of human experience.

## GET A 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, old computers, 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](mailto:bill@billpere.com)



# CALLING ALL WRITERS

## SONGS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE NEXT CSA COMPILATIONS

### The next CSA compilations will be

**1: LOVE SONGS** - but not just any love songs. We want well crafted songs with a fresh approach to this often-overdone topic. Think out-of-the-box.

**2: HUMOROUS/NOVELTY SONGS** - If it doesn't fit anywhere else, this is probably the place. We want songs about off-beat topics, written with a twinkle in your eye and tongue-in-cheek. Let's bring some laughter into the world!

**3: PATRIOTIC/AMERICANA** . If you have patriotic songs, 9/11 songs, historical ditties or American nostalgia, this is the place for them. **NO OVERTLY POLITICAL SONGS.**

**4: HOLIDAY SONGS.** There is still space on the 2006 Holiday Song collection., so we are holding open and still accepting songs for a Fall 07 release. Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years, Thanksgiving. (All songs previously submitted for this collection in 2006 are already accepted and do not need to be resubmitted.)

#### GUIDELINES:

- At least one writer must be a current CSA member
- All songs must be professionally produced, up to 'radio-ready' standards.
- Songs for the Love Song collection must be well crafted and provide a fresh approach to some aspect of love and relationships. It is recommended that songs be critiqued before submitting, however this is not required. Preference will be given to songs which present a new and unusual perspective on love or which have a really great musical hook or melody.
- Songs for the Humorous/Novelty compilation must be appropriate for the theme of the collection. Songs should feature unusual topics, tongue-in-cheek lyrics designed to bring a smile to the listener, or to just present a totally whimsical idea or story.
- Patriotic/Americana includes songs that reflect patriotism, commemorate 9/11 or any other historical event, or present a look at uniquely American nostalgia or a part of our culture. Purely political songs are not appropriate for this collection.
- Holiday songs may reflect a Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years or Thanksgiving theme.

Please specify for which CD 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 (must be professionally recorded and radio-ready)
  - Available space on the CD (if there are more acceptable submissions than can fit on the CD, those submitted earlier and those of shorter length will be given greater consideration.
- 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 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)
- 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](http://www.ctsongs.com))
- A non-refundable one-time \$10 per song processing fee payable to CSA (there are no additional costs, whether a song is accepted for inclusion or not)

Send your recording, lyric sheet, release form, and \$10 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 .

**Saturday April 14**

# **CSA 5th Annual SONGWRITING COLLABORATION WORKSHOP**

**1:00pm - 5:00pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce  
Conference Room. 14 Holmes St, Mystic**

When you look at the credits for a song on almost any CD you often see more than one name listed as the writer. Why is this ?

It takes multiple dimensions to write an effective song. Some folks can do it all by themselves, but for many, working with a collaborator is a great way to create songs that are better than either could produce alone. These multiple dimensions, and techniques for collaboration have been presented at by Bill Pere at several major music conferences, and have been published as a featured article in the Songwriters Market book.

To turn this into actual practice, CSA will host an afternoon Collaboration Workshop preceding The workshop will include a presentation of "Taking the Labor Out of Collaboration"

- Determining if you would benefit from collaboration
- Considerations for finding and working with collaborators
- The differences between creative and performance collaboration
- Examples of successful results from collaborations within and outside of CSA

And then will actually do some hands-on collaborative writing. We'll work in groups, write a song, and share it with the group. This process has yielded some very good results, and is a highlight of the national Independent Music Convention in Philadelphia.

One of the songs resulting from this process has been professionally recorded and is currently being shopped in Nashville. Other CSA collaborations have yielded many deals including cuts by well known artists. These songs would never have been written if not for the coming together of folks who otherwise might never have met.

**Registration: \$8 for CSA members. \$10 for non-members.  
Send to CSA PO BOX 511 Mystic CT 06355**

**Workshop space is limited, so advance registration is recommended.**

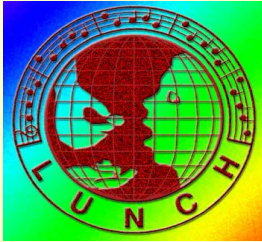
**Directions to Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room (14 Holmes St) for the COLLABORATION WORKSHOP: Coming North on I-95, take Exit 89. Go right off the Exit onto Allyn St. Go about 2 miles and come to a light and the intersection of Rt 1. Turn left onto Rt 1 and go a short way to the 5-way intersection overlooking Main St, Mystic. Proceed down the Main Street of Mystic, across the drawbridge, to the flagpole (Holmes St). Turn left at the flagpole onto Holmes. Pass a few storefronts and you'll see a red brick building, #14 Holmes St. To park, turn right just before the brick building onto Church St, and park in the lot behind the brick building. The entrance for the Chamber of Commerce is at the far right as you face the rear of the building. Go down the corridor. The room is on the right. FREE Coffee and snacks.**



**Connecticut  
Songwriters  
Association**

(www.ctsongs.com)

and



**Local  
United  
Network to  
Combat  
Hunger**

(www.lunchensemble.com)

**26 YEARS of  
Using the Power  
of Popular  
Music to  
Produce  
Positive Social  
Action**

**SATURDAY SEPT 15, 2007**  
**St. James Episcopal Church, West Hartford**

**A DAY OF PRAISE**  
**CSA PERFORMANCE COLLABORATION AND RELEASE**  
**CONCERT FOR "Along The Road"**

**Spiritual and Inspirational Music to Benefit Local Social Services**  
(see [www.lunchensemble.com](http://www.lunchensemble.com))

- 1:00pm - 5:00pm: Gather to learn each other's songs to play and sound backup as needed. Sound Check.
- 5 - 6:00 pm: Fellowship dinner (bring a dish to share - kitchen facilities available)
- 6 - 6:30pm: Kitchen cleanup, set up post-show reception for audience
- 6:30pm: Doors open for concert
- 7 - 9 pm: Concert, open to the public. (Tickets: \$10)

Registration in advance is only \$10 for the entire program

All CSA members are welcome to participate in performing the songs. Artists who have songs on either the "Share the Journey" or "Along the Road" CD are invited to present the song at the concert, and to teach the other artists any back-up parts you may want. It is your responsibility to provide written chord sheets, music, and lyrics as needed. We will have approximately 20 minutes to work on each song., so keep it simple.

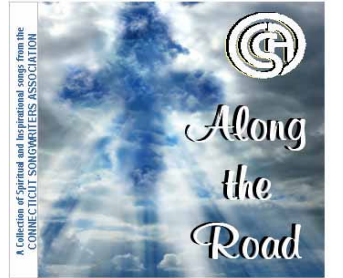
**If you do not have a song on the CD but would like to perform at the concert:** Contact Bill Pere at [bill@ctsongwriting.com](mailto:bill@ctsongwriting.com) . **We welcome other performers to do backup parts on the songs.**

**All registrants may have a spot on the merchandise table to display and sell CD's. It is requested that \$1 of each item sold be donated to LUNCH**

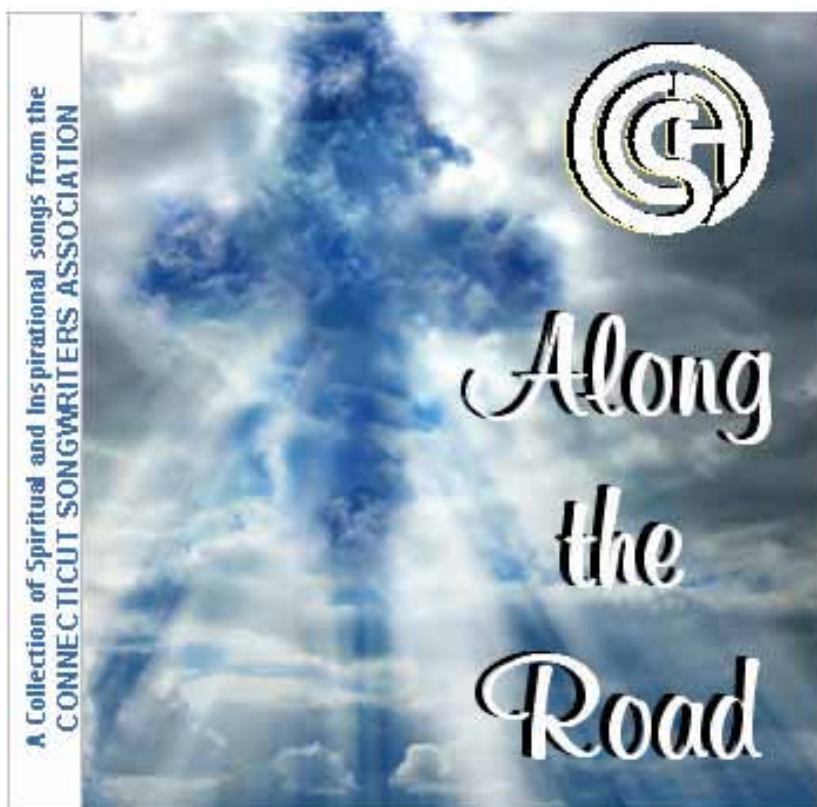
**On Behalf of the 100,000 hungry children  
in Connecticut, Thanks for Caring**



**St James's Episcopal Church West Hartford**  
[www.stjameswh.org](http://www.stjameswh.org)  
19 Walden St, West Hartford, 06107  
(860) 521-5756



# CSA's 15th Compilation Release !



CSA is proud to announce our 15th Compilation album and our second on the specific theme of Spiritual and Inspirational music. This collection represents several different musical styles, united by a common theme..

"Along the Road" is a sequel to "Share the Journey", which was CSA's best-selling compilation to date. These collections are the result of the CSA "Day of Praise" events that began in 2004.

To order your copy, you may print out an order form from the CSA website or you can send a check for \$10 per copy to CSA PO Box 511, Mystic CT. FREE shipping.

**We've had a great initial response to this CD. We hope you'll support our CD compilation series. Order your copy now.**

## TRACK LIST

1. Live For the Coming Day 4:09 (Paul Chapin) ©2007 Paul Chapin.
2. doG 4:20 (Bill Pere) ©2006 Bill Pere/KidThink Music - [www.billpere.com](http://www.billpere.com)
3. How Can I Keep From Singing 3:08 (Trad. adapted by Thomasina Levy)  
©2006 Back Seat Boys Music - [www.thomasina.net](http://www.thomasina.net)
4. Noah Smiling Down 3:01 (Sean Moore ) ©2007 Sean W. Moore
5. Break Away 4:08 (Robert E. Jones) ©2006 Eye On Creation
6. Footsteps 4:39 (Bill Pere & The LUNCH Ensemble) © 2006 KidThink Music
7. In Hope of...(The Family of Man) 5:59 (Stephen Hayes) © 2006 Stephen C. Hayes
8. I'm On My Way 3:29 (Thomasina Levy) ©2006 Back Seat Boys Music - [www.thomasina.net](http://www.thomasina.net)
9. I Got It All 2:13 (Dolores A. Hudson/George LaFlame) ©2002 Hudson/LaFlame
10. We See His Face 3:14 (Laura Principato) ©2005 Laura Principato
11. More Than Horses and Men 3:47 (Gale Gardiner) ©2006 Gale Gardiner
12. I Am Grateful 3:41 (Thomasina Levy) ©2000 Back Seat Boys Music [www.thomasina.net](http://www.thomasina.net)
13. This Gift 4:42 (Robert E. Jones) ©2006 Eye On Creation
14. The Wheat Bows Down 3:30 (Gale Gardiner) ©2005 Gale Gardiner
15. Three Crosses 3:20 (Karen Cunningham) ©1991 Karen Cunningham