

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.



April 2007
Vol. XXVIII
Number 4
Issue #329

Combining Arts,
Education, and
Community Outreach

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

The Annual CSA COLLABORATION WORKSHOP

Saturday April 14,
1-5 PM
Mystic Chamber
of Commerce

CSA Presents the Annual Collaboration Workshop

The CSA meeting for April will be held on Saturday, April 14 from 1pm-5pm at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce conference Room, 14 Holmes St, Mystic (directions on page 2)

CSA PRESENTS one of our most popular programs, the annual Collaboration Workshop.. We will do actual hands-on collaboration !

The music industry is first and foremost a people-driven business. In taking a song from creation to realization, there are many roles that must be filled, and skills which must be brought to bear. It is rare for one person to be able to do everything, thus, the need for collaboration, in many capacities.

Today's markets require that any writer or performer wear many hats. Knowing which hats you can wear successfully and those for which you may need help will keep your energy focused and keep you moving ahead. Most songs are written by more than one person. Writers collaborate with artists, arrangers, producers, managers, and so many others. How do you find the right collaborator to fill in the gaps in your wardrobe of hats ?

Come and do some actual hands-on collaborative writing -- you'll see some amazing results !

WIN \$1000 --- DEADLINE APPROACHING !
MARCH 31 ! CSA WRITERS: Check out the special LUNCH/CSA category in the International **UNISONG Songwriting Competition**. Win Valuable prizes and receive in-depth critiques in this great competition. www.unisong.com

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 24 - LUNCH Concert in Bradford, RI
- 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 1 -- IMC Philadelphia
- Sep 15- CSA Performance Collaboration and Day of Praise Concert at St James Episcopal Church, West Hartford
- Oct - CSA Workshop
- Dec 01 - LUNCH Holiday Show
- Nov 10 Veterans Day Tribute Concert
- 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!

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!

CSA COMPILATIONS FOR 2007 -- The CSA CD "Along the Road" is now released as the 15th addition to our ever growing library. Our compilations have received airplay and made available online and at national conference events.

For this coming year, CSA will be accepting songs for FOUR themed compilations.

- 1 -- LOVE SONGS -- Yes 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.)

Songs from the compilations will be available for worldwide digital download with royalties being paid to the writers. Get in and ride the digital distribution wave. **GET YOUR SONGS IN BY OCTOBER 31 2007.** After Oct 31, inquire info@ctsongs.com for status.

Song-a-Day Music Center will be hosting a Connecticut Songwriters Association(CSA) Songshare and Acoustic Jam! Sunday, April 1, 2006, from 6-9PM at 903 Main Street in Coventry, CT. Songwriters, performers, and the musically curious from across Connecticut are invited to share music and discussion. This event is free and open to the public. Please call 860-742-6878 for more information and reservations, as space is limited. Come and celebrate the beginning of our 5th year of Songshares! Donations to defray expenses are welcome.

NOTE: CSA Marketplace/Classified Ads, and Member Happenings are now online 24/7 at the CSA website. You can go there any time at www.ctsongs.com.

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



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)
- 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.

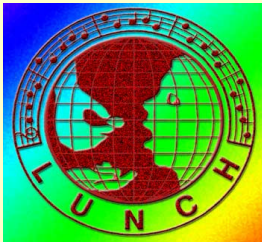
Directions to Mystic Chamber of Commerce Conference Room (14 Holmes St) for the COLLABORATION WORKSHOP: Coming North on I-95, take Exit 89. Go right off the Exit onto Allyn St. Go about 2 miles and come to a light and the intersection of Rt 1. Turn left onto Rt 1 and go a short way to the 5-way intersection 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)

- 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.

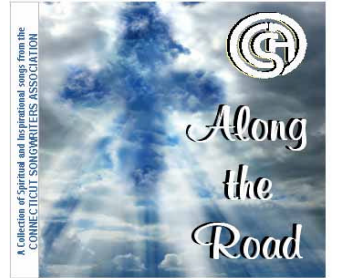
If you do not have a song on the CD but would like to perform at the concert: Contact Bill Pere at bill@ctsongwriting.com . **We welcome other performers to do backup parts on the songs.**

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

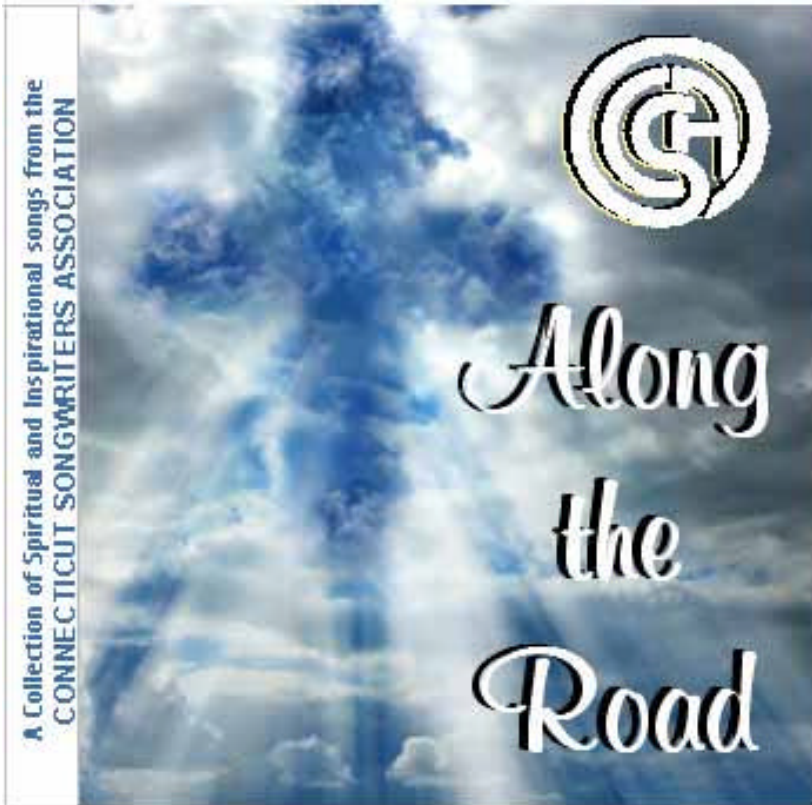
**On Behalf of the 100,000 hungry children
in Connecticut, Thanks for Caring**



St James's Episcopal Church West Hartford
www.stjameswh.org
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
3. How Can I Keep From Singing 3:08 (Trad. adapted by Thomasina Levy)
©2006 Back Seat Boys Music - 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
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
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

SONG CRITIQUES Members may bring a song or lyric on cassette to the monthly meeting for critiquing by fellow members. Please bring 30 copies of typed lyric sheet. Out-of-State members may have their songs or lyrics critiqued by sending one submission with 30 typed copies of lyrics to: CSA, PO Box 511, Mystic CT 06355. Include a stamped return envelope. Comments by the group will be summarized in writing and sent back to the writer.

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.

FREE ACCESS to CT SONGS CAFE -- The CSA online area for posting notices, getting your electronic newsletter, and other features.

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, industry pros, and providers of various music services. Come to CSA events!

• SONG SCREENING : CSA helps its members get well-crafted songs targeted to their best potential market. Songs are screened periodically at meetings or by mail. Selected songs are eligible for inclusion on compilation CD's which may be given to industry pros. and used as a promotion vehicle by the writers. Songs submitted for screening must have been presented at a prior critique session. (exceptions on a case-by-case basis)

• PARTICIPATION IN CSA RETAIL OUTLETS AND DISTRIBUTION : Recordings by CSA members may be made available to retail outlets or through on-line sales vehicles.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES: The LUNCH Program offers opportunities to be involved in the production and performance of benefit shows to address hunger and poverty in Connecticut. Contact Bill Pere, bill@billpere.com for details.

PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES: CSA often has showcase, concert, and songshare events with preference for performance slots given to CSA members.

www.ctsongs.com

CSA REGISTRATION FORM FOR NEW MEMBERS (This form not valid for membership renewals)

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

E_MAIL (required for newsletter) _____

TODAY'S DATE: _____ BIRTH DATE _____

PHONE: (____) _____ OCCUPATION: _____

CHECK WHERE APPROPRIATE Songwriter Lyricist Vocalist
 Composer Musician Patron Other: _____

Members receive a free 1 year subscription to the monthly e-newsletter *Connecticut Songsmith*, free admission to monthly meetings and critique sessions, participation in the Song Share Sessions, Song Screening Services, eligibility for inclusion on Cassette albums, free classified ads in the Newsletter, and discounts on goods and services.

Membership Categories

(outside the U.S., please add \$10 to all categories)
 (All memberships include free electronic Newsletter Subscription. **For a paper copy by mail, add \$7 per year**)

- 1 year New Membership \$40
- 2 year New Membership \$70 (save \$10)
- 3 year New Membership \$99 (save \$21)
- Full Time Student (under 18) \$30/yr
- Senior Citizen \$30/yr
- Lifetime \$400 one time total
- e-Newsletter Subscription only (\$25/yr. 12 issues)

Enclosed is my check or money order to CSA for \$ _____.



Mail to:
CSA Membership
PO Box 511
Mystic CT 06355

E-Mail: info@ctsongs.com

Name on Credit Card: _____

Credit Card Number : Visa Mastercard Expiration _____



Connecticut Songwriters Association
 PO Box 511., Mystic, CT 06355
 Serving Music's Artisans
 and Craftsmen Since 1979