



# Workshop Descriptions

## People's Music Network

### Winter Gathering

#### January 23-25, 2015

#### Greenfield Middle School

#### Greenfield, MA

*"We still can have singing tomorrows" – Pete Seeger*

Get more info: [www.peoplesmusic.org](http://www.peoplesmusic.org)

[Click here to register online](#)

### Saturday, January 24, 9:00-10:15am

#### 1A) **Song Leading Made Simple** (Library)

How do the masters of song leading (e.g., Pete Seeger, John McCutcheon, Ysaye Barnwell) get groups to sing with joy and abandon? It's not as simple as "get up and get 'em going!" Song-leading can be an uneven experience for both the leader and the participant. Song leaders often miss important elements that limit the impact for the participants and create moments where things break down. We will outline the essential ingredients of successful song leadership, discuss why they matter, and then practice them. Bring your voices and your desire to create an environment where people can sing with confidence.

**Reggie Harris:** [2015 PMN Artist-in-Residence](#).

#### 1B) **Nuts & Bolts of Getting Your Message Out By Song** (Room 201)

I will be giving advice on CD packaging, getting airplay, finding venues, do's and don't's of performance and writing.

**Sonny Ochs:** Starting out as a DJ on WFMU in New Jersey, she joined the People's Music Network and Hudson River Sloop Singers in the early 1980s. She is a deejay at WIOX Roxbury, NY. She has produced Phil Ochs Song Nights for 31 years. [www.sonniochs.com](http://www.sonniochs.com)

#### 1C) **Song Swap for a Livable Planet** (Room 202)

Participants will share songs that inspire humanity toward ways of treating one another and caring for the natural world that are compatible with a livable future on the planet.

**Ben Grosscup:** Song-leader and performer; serves as director of People's Music Network.

#### 1D) **Oral History of The Sloop Clearwater & The Hudson River Sloop Singers** (Room 207)

We will show a 28 minute video of Pete Seeger and members of The Hudson River Sloop Singers telling an oral history of the Sloop Clearwater. The second part features a panel of performers, producers, writers, and festival organizers who worked with Pete & Toshi discussing how lessons from this period of musical history apply to social movements today.

**Rik Palieri:** Early member of the Hudson River Sloop Singers. Produced the documentary that will be shown. [www.banjo.net](http://www.banjo.net)

### 1E) **Turn Up The Volume with Video** (Room 208)

This skill-sharing workshop shows how to combine songs with pictures and other video to produce powerful videos for online venues such as YouTube. We will watch a couple videos featuring PMN members. Then we'll create a short video using Camtasia and compare and contrast it with Final Cut Pro.

**George Aguiar:** Long time technologist and new PMN member. [www.georgeaguiar.com](http://www.georgeaguiar.com)

### 1F) **Ukulele Meet-Up and Sing** (Room 232)

This country is experiencing a massive revival of ukulele playing, true "people's instruments", easy and fun. Join us singing and playing songs in the civil rights, anti-war, union and protest traditions. If you play a fretted instrument you can play a ukulele! We will have loaners and song sheets with chord diagrams.

**Dan Lynn Watt:** Life-long activist, folkie, educator, guitar strummer, ukulele player. He and Molly facilitate a weekly uke band, lead Meetups at NEFFA, workshops at World Fellowship, and at FSSGB Getaway Weekends.

**Molly Lynn Watt:** Life-long activist, folkie, educator, poet, now ukulele player/teacher. Author, "On Wings of Song: A Journey into the Civil Rights Era." Co-author, performer, "Songs and Letters of the Spanish Civil War."

## **Saturday, January 24, 10:30am-11:45pm**

### 2A) **Songs of the Spanish Civil War** (Library)

From 1936-39, an international movement rose up to support the fight of the Spanish People against a fascist coup, which sought to overthrow a politically-progressive democratically-elected government. This session features performances of songs that describe the bravery of the idealistic young people who joined this fight -- many of which we know thanks to Pete Seeger. Songs will be presented by artists with different points of connection to this particular history of struggle.

**Performers:** Dan and Molly Watt; Annie Patterson and Peter Blood; Graham and Barbara Dean; Mike Glick; and Colleen Kattau.

### 2B) **Hospice Singing** (Room 201)

Hospice singing can open hearts, quiet fears and touch all who are present, including family members and friends, caregivers and singers. Participants will learn comforting songs that offer support to the ill, homebound, and dying.

**Joe Toritto:** Directs the Eventide Singers and the Holyoke Catholic HS *A Cappella* Singers.

**Lynn Waldron:** Sings soprano with Eventide and collaborates with folk singer/songwriter Tom Neilson.

[www.eventidesingers.com](http://www.eventidesingers.com)

### 2C) **Women's Song Swap** (Room 202)

This song swap is open to ALL women (including trans women) who feel nourished sharing songs by and about women and their issues. Within the limits of time, every woman is invited to sing a song (original or by someone else) or request that we sing a song. This session provides a time and space to share meaningful songs and say a word about them as we listen, laugh, perhaps cry together and hear each other deeply.

**Mara Sapon-Shevin** and **Sarah Pirtle**

### 2D) **Men's Song Swap** (Room 207)

We want to invite the participation of people who feel nourished by sharing freely in a supportive community of men, including transgender people who for whom this kind of community is meaningful. This is a rare chance to gather as men, share songs, stories and poems, and then go where they lead us.

**Terry Kitchen:** Long-time PMN member, singer/songwriter, organizer, and author (and male). [www.terrykitchen.com](http://www.terrykitchen.com)

**Chuck Williams:** PMN member, a male songwriter who employs a proud and strong tradition of folk music speaking truth to power. [www.chuckwilliamsmusic.com](http://www.chuckwilliamsmusic.com)

## 2E) **Songcrafting** (Room 208)

We'll analyze why some songs rock, others flop! Phil Ochs said "A badly written song, though meant for a good purpose, can turn people off an issue; a well written one can open the door." In addition, we'll look at how to write a good, singable chorus. Lecture and discussion. If you would like to send Lorre Wyatt a comment about what you hope to get out of this workshop, or just write to say that you plan to come to it, then write him at [lwatt369@gmail.com](mailto:lwatt369@gmail.com).

**Lorre Wyatt:** Has a passion for writing socially and environmentally conscious songs. With years of experience writing alone and collaborating for over five decades with Pete Seeger, he enjoys sharing songwriting tips, and encouraging audiences to sing along. [www.LorreWyatt.com](http://www.LorreWyatt.com)

## 2F) **Let Them Be Your Voice** (Room 232) **CANCELLED**

~~Song leader Nick Page has developed creative ways of inspiring great sing-alongs. They all begin by empowering community and not making the experience about ourselves (embracing the circle instead of the ladder). Nick is the author of three books on song-leading and has written a lot of music, over a hundred of them published as choral octaves.~~

~~**Nick Page:** Boston based song leader & conductor. Author of three books on song-leading and composer/arranger of over a hundred published choral octaves. Directs Boston's Mystic Choral. [www.nickmusic.com](http://www.nickmusic.com)~~

# Saturday, January 24, 2:15-3:30pm

## 3A) **Family Concert** (Library)

This concert is a joyful opportunity to hear national touring artists who are leaders in the Children's Music Network with lively sing-along and unforgettable lyrics. (This event is being advertised to people not already attending the PMN Gathering. We suggest a free-will donation per family if not registered for the full PMN Weekend, with no one turned away).

**Ruth Pelham:** Ruth Pelham is a singer, songwriter and educator who brings to the world a fresh vision of world peace and social change. [www.musicmobile.org](http://www.musicmobile.org)

**Sarah Pirtle:** Received the Magic Penny Award for her twelve recordings of inspiring songs like "The Mahogany Tree," "Walls and Bridges," and "My Roots Go Down." [www.sarahpirtle.com](http://www.sarahpirtle.com)

**Two of a Kind (David and Jenny Heitler-Klevans):** For 25 years, David & Jenny have been engaging audiences of all ages with fun and meaningful songs, movement, sign language, puppets and more! [www.twoofakind.com](http://www.twoofakind.com)

## 3B) **LGBT Song Swap** (Room 201)

This is a safe and affirming opportunity for LGBT attendees and straight allies to share music that is relevant to our lives, our rights, and our struggles.

**Linq (Diane Lincoln):** Singer-songwriter and LGBT activist whose music focuses on social justice and political issues on many fronts. [www.linqmusic.com](http://www.linqmusic.com)

### 3C) **Song Swap for today's Labor Movement** (Room 202)

In this songswap, we encourage participants to share contemporary labor songs.

**Tom Juravich:** Professor of Labor Studies at UMass, sings and writes regularly about work and labor. CDs include: At the Altar of the Bottom Line sponsored by 17 unions.

[www.tomjuravich.com](http://www.tomjuravich.com)

### 3D) **Rise Again Songbook** (Room 207)

We will lead, teach & perform songs out of our forthcoming songbook. Other workshop will have the opportunity to sing songs out of the new book from the songlist posted on our website.

**Annie Patterson:** Co-creator of Rise Up Singing & Rise Again, folk & jazz performer, illustrator.

[www.riseupandsing.org](http://www.riseupandsing.org)

**Peter Blood:** Co-creator of Rise Up Singing & Rise Again, editor of Pete Seeger's

autobiography, Where Have All the Flowers Gone: A Singalong Memoir [www.riseupandsing.org](http://www.riseupandsing.org)

### 3E) **PMN Comedy & Creativity BOOST Camp** (Room 208)

**Laughter is the Best Medicine... Plus, no copays!** Through a fun and fast paced blend of Improv-theatre principles and practices, participants will learn tips and take away tools for injecting humor into their presentations, and linking social justice lessons with laughter. We'll also experience first-hand how comedy leads to more flexible thinking and boosts creativity; plus we'll play Laughter-Yoga games that lead to less stress and more zest!

**Rob Peck:** Motivational speaker, author, humorist (and recovering perfectionist), Certified Laughter-Yoga leader, Founder of First Fridays Coho Concerts monthly folk music series, President of ZESTWORKS Speaking & Training- defying convention... and gravity!

### 3F) **Presenting Political Music & Building Progressive Culture** (Room 232)

In the last two decades, presenting musicians who express progressive and politically-challenging points of view has become harder. This music has always been on the margins of commercial music, but even these marginal spaces have been eroded. Today, audiences that came of age in the 1960s and 70s, when protest music was more prominent, are getting older. Meanwhile audiences of all ages have countless digital alternatives to live music. And the venues are under enormous financial strain just to stay afloat.

This panel – made up primarily of presenters of progressive political music – will present the key issues affecting the success of their venues, and discuss how they have tried to develop a sense of community to support the artistry that inspires us. Whether you are a presenter, a performer, or a listener, anyone who wants to expand the space for progressive political music is invited to participate in this dialog about how we can create thriving performance spaces that advance progressive political culture.

Reggie Harris (Moderator)

Margie Rosencranz, Eighth Step, Schenectady, NY

Steve Suffet, People's Voice Cafe, New York City

Bruce Pollack-Johnson, The Folk Factory, Philadelphia, PA

## **Saturday, January 24, 3:45-5:00pm**

### 4A) **Music and Civil Rights: Past, Present and Future** (Library)

We remember the courage and sacrifice of the Civil Rights activists – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, Rabbi Abraham Heschel, John Lewis, and Pete Seeger – who led the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches. Their determination was fueled by a commitment to justice,

faith, equality, and song! We'll explore the context of the songs of that pivotal time to highlight lessons that can help us create music that inspires social change movements today.

**Kim and Reggie Harris:** [2015 PMN Artists-in-Residence](#).

**Rabbi Jonathan Kligler:** Senior Scholar of the Lev Shalem Institute, a center for learning, creativity, healing, and spiritual growth that is open to all seekers.

#### 4B) **Rounds for Fun (AND Serious)** (Room 201)

A lively selection of great rounds -- Fun, beautiful, silly, serious, old and new.

**Sol Weber:** Roundman", Sol Weber, is the author of Rounds Galore! Captivating Rounds, Old and New. He lives in Astoria, NY.

**David Tarlo:** Member of the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus and of the band, Hudson Valley Sally.

#### 4C) **Hard Times Song Swap** (Room 202)

We will share songs about hard times, economic or otherwise, past or present.

**Steve Suffet:** An old fashioned folksinger in the People's Music tradition. PMN Steering Committee Member. [www.stevesuffet.com](http://www.stevesuffet.com)

#### 4D) **Girls Voices Rising Song Swap** (Room 207)

People of every age will hear songs sung by girls and young women in a song swap format. Sophia Bereaud and Inari Barrett as well as members of Constellations – a Pioneer Valley teen leadership group from Traprock Center for Peace and Justice – will share songs that say what matters, ask questions, and/or address social change. Other girls and young women (under 30) are also invited to share songs of their choosing. Instead of a fast-paced sharing to fit in the most possible songs, we will make time to discuss the songs, and discuss what is feminism today.

**Sarah Pirtle, facilitator:** A member of PMN since 1982, director of Constellations and a feminist camp called Moonseed Journey Camp.

#### 4E) **Cantastorias to Spread Ideas and Empower Communities** (Room 208)

A Cantastoria is a sung story that dramatizes social issues, using artistic depictions on sheets, accompanied by instrumentation and costumed characters. We'll introduce how Cantastorias have been used in political activism, and show examples, including the Climate Crisis Cantastoria we are working on. Participants will work in small groups to identify a message they are dying to tell an audience, and then develop their story, how to get it across, and where to present it.

**Laura Simon:** A social worker, educator and environmental activist. She is developing a Cantastoria to involve community members in understanding climate change and ways to help get the word out to others.

**Bob Marshall:** A contractor, converter of cars to veggie fuel and environmental activist he is also working to develop the Cantastoria message on climate change and training others to do the same.

#### 4F) **Stagecraft Performance Clinic** (Room 232)

Whether at a concert series or a demonstration it's all about communication. I'll share some tips and tricks for creating the maximum effect from your performance. Come prepared to present a sample of your performance style, and I'll also conduct an open discussion in which we will learn from one another ways to expand and improve our respective performances.

**Stephen Lee Rich:** Has been an entertainer and activist for over forty years. He currently tours much of the U.S. and serves as Lead Organizer for Musicians United To Protect Bristol Bay and on the Solidarity Committee of Local 1000. [www.musiciansunited.info](http://www.musiciansunited.info)



## Sunday, January 25, 9:00am-10:30pm

### 5A) **Songs of the Spirit** (Library)

This is a circle in which we have the opportunity to share inspirational and empowering songs. One song typically follows another organically, with limited facilitation and no performance-type introductions or spoken words. Silence is welcomed as a transition between songs that are shared. Songs raised in this circle are easy to learn sing-alongs. This is not the place to showcase your new ballad. Discrete, non-intrusive audio recording is permissible, but video recording and still photography are not allowed.

**All participants are leaders.**

### 5B) **Writing Down the Bones of Your Agreements** (Room 201)

All too often, good relationships are soured by bad memory. When you write down your agreement's terms, you have a better shot at living up to them, and of getting what you expected in return. Geared especially toward musicians, presenters, and organizers who incorporate music in activist events, this workshop covers what makes a good contract and why. Drawing on over 30 years of experience negotiating and drafting agreements for all kinds of arts, entertainment and nonprofit clients and purposes (20 of them as an attorney), I'll also answer participants' specific questions.

**Leslie Berman:** Attorney, former president of Folk Alliance, concert/festival producer, music journalist, publicist, etc., with over four decades of music industry experience. Seen it all, done it all, donated the t-shirt. [www.lesliebermanlawfirm.com](http://www.lesliebermanlawfirm.com)

### 5C) **Using Interviews and Documents in Songwriting** (Room 202)

This workshop explores writing songs based on a wide variety of printed materials including historical documents, interviews, and fiction. The first half of the workshop explores a variety of examples of songs written from documentary materials. In the second half, we will model the approach by creating song fragments based on documentary materials.

**Tom Juravich:** Professor of Labor Studies at UMass, sings and writes regularly about work and labor. CDs include: At the Altar of the Bottom Line sponsored by 17 unions.

[www.tomjuravich.com](http://www.tomjuravich.com)

### 5D) **Media outreach for activists and musicians** (Room 207)

This is a hands-on, nuts-and-bolts training for activists and musicians looking to attract local and national press coverage. Topics covered: writing press releases, pitch emails, followup phone calls, brief media strategy overview.

**Evan Greer:** Radical queer musician & organizer, Campaign Director of viral digital rights nonprofit, Fight for the Future. [www.FightfortheFuture.org](http://www.FightfortheFuture.org)

## Sunday, January 25, 10:45-12:15pm

### 6A) **Singing Music from the Civil Rights Movement, 1960-66** (Library)

This workshop will engage people in singing music from the Civil Rights Movement. I'll talk about my experiences in the Civil Rights Movement, particularly leading singing at mass meetings in Mississippi. I will also talk about the songs themselves -- historical backgrounds as well as where and how they were used in demonstrations in the south.

**Julius Lester:** joined the Civil Rights Movement in February, 1960. From 1960-69, he was associated with Sing Out and Broadside magazines, during which time he served stints as an

author and editor, as well as Highlander Folk School where he served briefly as music director. He co-authored with Pete Seeger, *The Twelve-String Guitar as Played by Leadbelly*. He recorded two albums for Vanguard. He taught at UMass for 32 years where his most popular class was, "Freedom Songs."

#### 6B) **How to Tell a Darn Good Story** (Room 201)

This playshop is a celebration of the art of storytelling. Participants learn to find, shape, polish and tell stories that make a difference: the emphasis on unearthing our own unique storyteller's voice. You will leave with at least one new story and a template for creating many more.

**John Porcino:** Celebrating 30+ wonderful full time years weaving threads of laughter and insight into the world. Coeditor of the book *Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope: Stories of Peace, Justice and the Environment*. [www.johnporcino.com](http://www.johnporcino.com)

#### 6C) **Healing Circle Singers** (Room 202)

We'll give an overview of the healing practice we have led in Amherst, MA for five years. Then we will hold a healing circle filled with songs we've written or gathered that foster healing through comfort, encouragement, and lifting the heart, body, and soul in community and beauty.

**Dorothy Cresswell:** a retired teacher, and has written and produced two song collections: "Love is a Waterfall" and "Curious songs for Curious Kids." She also produced the booklet, "Healing Circle Singers with CD". [www.pioneervalleysinging.co](http://www.pioneervalleysinging.co)

**Helen Fortier:** has been writing, singing, and recording songs from the heart and for the spirit for over 20 years. She called together One Journey, a five-part band, to perform her songs. [www.pioneervalleysinging.co](http://www.pioneervalleysinging.co)

#### 6D) **Singing in Yiddish for Peace and Justice** (Room 207)

Drawing from over a century of songs by the Yiddish Labor Movement Poets, and Yiddish songs to inspire us to create a besere velt, a better world I'll teach about the meanings, and context of the songs as well as Yiddish pronunciation and traditional singing style.

**Yosl Kurland:** Lead singer songwriter and workshop leader with the Wholesale Klezmer Band since 1982. [www.ganeydn.com/wkb.html](http://www.ganeydn.com/wkb.html)

#### 6E) **Songswap to Remember the Ones We've Lost** (Room 208)

Please bring songs to keep alive the memory of someone who's passed on. Could be a public figure who made a difference in your life, or a personal hero or friend. Share a song that tells the story of someone who made a difference in your life.

**Daniel and Faith Senie:** We are singer/songwriters of original songs in familiar folk styles. We sing songs that tell stories of people and places, real and imagined. We sing songs of peace and love, loss and hope. [www.danandfaith.com](http://www.danandfaith.com)

#### 6F) **Grain of Salt: Workshopping Politically-based Songs in Progress** (Room 232)

Participants bring politically-based songs in progress, present what they've done so far and where they may be stuck, and ask for specific feedback for improving/completing the song. All feedback is offered in a positive, respectful spirit, starting with what's working so far and moving to what could be improved. Songwriters are reminded that they should feel free to take all suggestions with a "grain of salt."

**Pat Lamanna:** Long-time member of PMN; singer-songwriter for many years. Learned about this type of workshop at Summersongs, a songwriter's camp in Ashokan, N.Y. [www.patlamanna.com](http://www.patlamanna.com)

**Charlie King:** Veteran song leader and song writer, co-founder of People's Music Network. He has been at the heart of American folk music for half a century and has been writing songs for the past 40 years. [www.charlieking.org](http://www.charlieking.org)