



Workshop Descriptions

[More info on workshops here.](#)

People's Music Network Summer Gathering June 3-5, 2016 Camp Kinderland Tolland, MA

Get more info: www.peoplesmusic.org

[Click here to register](#)

Saturday, June 4, 9:00 AM-10:20 AM

1A) **What Makes Activist Music Powerful?** (Paul Robeson Theatre)



Join renowned folk quartet HUDSON VALLEY SALLY as they take us on a musical journey through some of the most important movements of the 20th century and explore how to inspire community and action through song in the 21st century. This session will be part concert, part dialogue, and part political/topical song swap. Bring your ears and voice, and, if you feel so moved, bring a song that has inspired people in action.

Hudson Valley Sally (Terry Colliton, Laurie Siegel, Dave Tarlo, Johnny Fisher): In the activist tradition "they sing with a freshness that reminds us why we fell in love with folk music in the first place" (Si Kahn). They make the oldest songs new, and the newest like comfortable old clothes.

www.hudsonvalleysally.com

1B) **Music of Faith** (Rec Hall)



Believers and non-believers welcome! We will share ancient and contemporary music from several faith traditions that have been anchors for the artists as social activists. Participants will share how and why they use music to bring awareness of social justice to religious settings and to bring their own religious sensibilities to activist settings. Each panelist will share a bit of background, one or two examples of songs and how they have used them. Participants may also share if time allows.

Tobie Hoffman: Liturgical lay leader for Philadelphia Jewish Renewal congregation, where she writes and leads music. Member of the PMN Steering Committee.

Joe Jencks: [2016 PMN Artist-in-Residence](#). Presents his soulful stories about working and oppressed people in church communities and shares music from many faith traditions in his concerts. www.joejencks.com



1C) **Guitar Techniques** (Porch Beside Dance Hall)



This workshop focuses on rhythm guitar and fingerpicking techniques for accompaniment or solo performance, with an emphasis on establishing a solid rhythm that encourages audience participation. I will demonstrate techniques and then coach participants. I will also solicit participants to demonstrate techniques they use to present songs. Find a performance example at https://youtu.be/a6ySnyYrj_0

Jonny Rosen: Performs as rhythm guitarist in Annie & the Hedonists, a band that performs swing, jazz, and other acoustic Americana and performs duets at labor and safety and health events. www.annieandthehedonists.com

1D) **What's new in Nueva Canción** (Screened-in Outdoor Room)



Ven a cantar con nosotros" (come sing with us) as we take a musical journey throughout the Américas with "la música de Nueva canción."

Luis Cortes: Started playing the guitar after hearing Silvio Rodriguez cassette. While studying at the University de Chile, began learning Violeta Parra, Victor Jara, Inti-Illimani, Quilapayun, Illapu, Sol y Lluvia and more. He moved to NY in 2012 and performs at open-mics and participates in a Chilean Folk Dance. He moved to Albany in 2015 and works for Citizen Action of NY as a Community Organizer.

Melanie Pores: For her, Nueva canción has been a passion since 1979. She has amassed over 200+ Nueva canción lyrics from throughout Latin America. She looks forward to singing along with you.



1E) **Phil Ochs Songswap** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)



Bring songs written by or about Phil Ochs. Phil Ochs was born Dec. 19, 1940, and would be 75 now if he were alive today. Although many of his songs were specific to events in the 60s and 70s when he wrote them, they also remain relevant to today's struggles, even achieving a timeless character. There are seven of them in "Rise Up Singing" and six in "Rise Again." You can also find lyrics and chords to many of his songs at

<http://web.cecs.pdx.edu/~trent/ochs/lyrics.html>

Pat Lamanna: Long-time member of PMN; singer-songwriter for many years.

www.patlamanna.com

Saturday, June 4, 10:35 AM-11:55 PM

2A) **Song & Poetry Jam Against Police Brutality & Mass Incarceration** **#BlackLivesMatter #Latina-oLivesMatter #NativeLivesMatter**

(Paul Robeson Theatre)



From Eleanor Bumpurs to Amadou Diallo to Anthony Baez to Ferguson to Baltimore to the Elsipogtog First Nation, words and music are powerful in the struggle against police brutality and its evil twin: mass incarceration. We will come together to witness and learn and perform new songs of freedom and struggle. Come share words and music for standing up to police brutality and mass incarceration!



Facilitator: Ángel L. Martínez: PMN Steering Committee member, poet, and professor, member of The Bread is Rising Poetry Collective.

Other Presenters: Carlos Raúl Dufflar (The Bread is Rising Poetry Collective), Luci Murphy (DC Labor Chorus), Letitia Vansant (Showing up for Racial Justice, www.letitiavansant.com), Professor Louie (NYC's "Poet of the Streets"), others TBA.



2B) **Biz Basics for the Working Musician** (Rec Hall)



Are you interested in pursuing a more professional path for your music? In this workshop Joe Jencks will present and discuss various issues concerning the working musician: finances, logistics, health, booking, promotion, touring, and ways to present our selves and our work in the most professional light. An 18-year road veteran and full-time touring artist, Joe will demystify some of the challenges in making a living as a working musician, and as a socially conscious entrepreneur.

Joe Jencks: [2016 PMN Artist-in-Residence](#). Began his full time touring career in 2001. In 2016, he is leading a series of [Educational Conference Calls](#), sponsored by

PMN, designed for people using music as a tool of social change, particularly working musicians.

www.joejencks.com

2C) **Staging Your Stage Presence: Useful Tips & Tricks for Performers** (Porch Beside Dance Hall)

Having a professional stage presence takes practice, planning and preparation. I'll strive to share useful and practical do's and don'ts to encourage good habits and discourage behaviors that make a performer seem unprofessional. I'll cover such topics as body language, eye contact, flow, animation, between-song comments, energy and enthusiasm level. I'll encourage attendee participation and additional suggestions for best practices for honing the art of performance.

Di Morgan: a singer, a songwriter, and an active member and lead instrumentalist with the Walkabout Clearwater Chorus. She spent most of her adult life in Rochester, NY actively involved with the local folk music community.

2D) **Healing Circle Singers** (Screened-in Outdoor Room)



Participants will experience a healing singing circle. This is a model that we have found very successful, combining music, rich harmonies, and focused intentions. We will teach selected music for personal and global healing. Participants will gain confidence to lead circles in their own communities.

Dorothy Cresswell: Retired teacher and singer/songwriter, who is tapping into the

power of music for all people of all ages. She hosts Bridges Open Mic in Amherst.

www.pioneervalleysinging.com

Helen Fortier: A nurse and grandmother, she is known for spiritually inspirational, healing, social changing, earth-loving music—with 7 albums. She formed One Journey Band, Thundermoon Choir, and Healing Circle Singers. www.pioneervalleysinging.com



2E) **How Wobblies & Communists Culture-Jammed Early 20th Century Popular Music & How we Can Do it Today** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)



In our hands is placed a power greater than their corporate radio dreck! This session will begin with a presentation about specific approaches to song leadership and musical adaptations that organizers of the Old Left used in their struggles for the liberation of the working class. Come share an example of how you have served a progressive political purpose by using the tools of a musical tradition – either old or even contemporary.

Ben Bath: Ethnomusicologist, philosopher and singer who has researched the history of American folk music and the American Left.

Saturday, June 4, 2:15 PM-3:35 PM

3A) **Making The Most of Your Voice** (Paul Robeson Theatre)

The motto here is, "Work with what you've got!" The voice is the most intimate instrument, because it emanates from inside our selves. In this supportive, "hands-on" singing workshop – we will delve into vocal techniques for various occasions and circumstances. Starting with basic breathing techniques and vocal warm-ups, and moving into learning how to sing more effectively standing, sitting, solo, and with instruments. Conservatory trained vocalist Joe Jencks will lead us in some group singing as well as provide some individual / Master Class style teaching. Bring a song you want to work on.

Joe Jencks: [2016 PMN Artist-in-Residence](http://2016.PMN.Artist-in-Residence). With an enchanting voice, he delivers songs that touch the spirit, lend courage & hope, and invite us to live joyously in our passions and beliefs. www.joejencks.com

3B) **Choral Music as Organizing Strategy** (Rec Hall)



Speeches are one way to mobilize and organize groups of supporters, but vocal harmony cuts through to emotions more quickly and reliably than almost anything else we can do. If we look at organizing as developing the capacity of a group of people to advocate for themselves, building a choir can be a powerful organizing strategy. In this panel we will explore the ways we can use choir membership as a way to organize and empower budding activists, as well as to inspire and activate audiences. We will conclude by singing through a simple choral arrangement together (music reading not required).

Josh Feintuch: Josh is a Brooklyn-based composer/conductor who directs the activist community choir Grassroots Harmony. He sits on the Executive Committee of the Green Party of New York State. www.joshfeintuch.com/grassroots

Luci Murphy: a D.C.-based vocalist and song leader whose music draws inspiration from the folkloric traditions and musical idioms of cultures and languages throughout the world — including her own roots in Spirituals, Blues and Jazz. She has served on the Steering Committees of the People's Music Network, and many other progressive organizations. She sings with the SGI New Century Chorus and the D.C. Labor Chorus.



3C) **Roots & Branches: New Songs in Old Styles Song Swap** (Porch Beside Dance Hall)



We will be sharing contemporary songs composed in traditional musical styles. Examples include blues, ragtime, Dixieland, Appalachian, bluegrass, and Cajun/Zydeco. Traditional world music styles are also welcome.

Steve Suffet: Old fashioned folksinger in the People's Music tradition, on the folk scene for more than 50 years. www.stevesuffet.com

3D) **Images of Women in Trad. Folk & Blues Songs** (Screened-in Outdoor Room)



This workshop features traditional Anglo- and Afro-American folk and blues songs that reveal views towards and by women about their roles in society and the family, and how feminist viewpoints started to evolve in the repertoire. In a male-dominated society, how did the power differences between men and women shape the traditional song repertoire that has been handed down? Since women did not often have the chance to officially express themselves, traditional oral arts like song and storytelling became a vehicle for awakening the consciousness of women to their unequal status in the world. We will connect to this traditional music without perpetuating the inherent sexism that is attached to so much of its content. Traditional songs celebrating women in a feminist context will be presented and shared. Please bring a traditional song to share if you wish, or just come and listen.

Robin Greenstein: Worked under folk legend Hedy West. She's performed a concert-lecture called "Images of Women" at over 40 college campuses. She has two CDs of music on this topic. www.robiningreenstein.com

Heather Wood: Has been singing English traditional folk songs for over 50 years – with the influential Young Tradition, others and solo. She especially likes songs about women who win.



3E) **Climate Crisis Song Swap: Singing Our Hope for the World** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)



Climate Change is both a political and social justice issue and an existential crisis that provokes feelings of hopelessness. As musicians who want to make lasting change on a deep level, we're in a great position to address both. In this workshop, participants are particularly invited to bring songs that 1) honor our pain for the world and celebrate sources of hope by singing together and/or 2) enliven the consciousness and resolve of movements resisting new extreme energy infrastructure, including the Break Free from Fossil Fuels Movement.

Please considering bringing copies of song lyrics to share.

Anne Goodwin: sings and organizes in the Boston area with the climate action group Mothers Out Front. She is a student of the Work That Reconnects, which guides activists to honor our pain for the world, embrace our interconnectedness, and become more deeply empowered. She visits faith groups with her sermon-with-songs "Hope for the Community of Earth".

Laura Simon: political singer/song writer, co-founder UV350VT, activist to close VT Yankee and to stop pipelines in Lebanon, NH, Western VT, Northeast Vermont, Western Mass.



Sunday, June 5, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM

4A) **Songs of the Spirit** (Paul Robeson Theatre)

We gather in a large circle for a cappella singing of inspirational and empowering songs. A singing stick will be placed in the middle of the circle. To make space between each song without using words, we'll all take one deep breath after each song and wait for the next song leader to pick up the singing stick. We ask that song leaders lead just one song and return the singing stick to the middle so that others have a turn. If you are able bodied and are sitting next to someone with mobility challenges, before the session begins, please offer to pick up the singing stick on their behalf, if they signal that they would like this.

Please select songs that can be learned immediately and where essentially the entire song can be sung by every voice. Songs in which the leader sings verses solo are an essential part of many group singing traditions, but for this particular session, we're aiming to achieve full group participation throughout. We also prioritize songs that are new to the Songs of the Spirit Circle.

Songs of the Spirit, a PMN tradition since 1982, allows us to practice spontaneity and responsiveness in a large group – both essential components of community building. In this session, we're aiming to transcend attachments we feel to specific songs and to become more aware of ways the whole group can feel inspired.

All who participate are leaders.

4B) **Songwriting: On Purpose, Be'Cause'** (Rec Hall)



Why wait for inspiration? It helps to have a reason, but even that isn't essential. In this workshop we will study how to manufacture meaningful songs out of thin air using traditional methods of rhetoric and modes of development. This is both a listening and hands-on workshop.

Jane Fallon: College level writing instructor and winner of 22 songwriting awards in the last 3 years, including two first place songs (Woody Guthrie and Will McLean contests) written on purpose and be 'cause'. www.janefallon.com

Sunday, June 5, 10:45 AM-12:15 PM

5A) Songs of Our Ancestors: The Carter Family & Leadbelly (Paul Robeson Theatre)



We invite participants to share their favorite songs of these (and other) great pillars of American roots music. We're particularly interested in hearing insights into American History, race relations, and the lives of everyday working people that come with these songs. Participants will be invited to sing along. Fiddle, banjo, and mandolin players will be welcome to play along as well. We'll start the session with presentations of a few samples of songs from these great songwriters and provide some historical context before inviting participants to add in their own contributions.

Deborah Silverstein: I've been writing and performing since the early 70's. My first band, "New Harmony Sisterhood" recorded an album on Paredon Records in the 70's which is now part of the Smithsonian Folk Life Collection. www.debobiz.com

Mike Glick: Long time performer, songwriter and educator, member of the PMN Steering Committee. www.generations-music.com



5B) This Land is My Land? Or Yours? Or Ours? (Rec Hall)



To face the immense challenges of co-existence in the Middle East, we need songs to pull us closer to possible paths of peace, freedom, and livable justice. This song sharing session will give us a chance for musical dialogue: how do we address the pains and prejudices, the anger and anguish, and the sorrows and struggles? If we can move from vilification of others to verification of each other's humanity, perhaps within the very walls that divide peoples, we can build windows toward new vistas of freedom.

Ted Warmbrand: For over 30 years, directed a non-profit in Tucson, AZ "celebrating community building culture" by organizing semi-regular fundraising concerts featuring nationally and internationally touring songmakers who address the challenge of movement building.

5C) Teaching & Leading Songs in Community Settings (Porch Beside Dance Hall)



Learn and share techniques for teaching and leading songs in community settings (conferences, workshops, trainings, rallies, church, etc)—places where getting folks singing together in an impromptu "peoples' chorus" can transform energy and facilitate cooperative learning and action.

Verne McArthur: Activist, song-leader, and long-time UU member from Springfield, MA. He travels around UU congregations in New England offering Sunday services built around congregational singing.

5D) Carry It On: Continuing the Work of Pete & Toshi Seeger

(Screened-in Outdoor Room)



How are we carrying forward Pete & Toshi's vision and work? We'll share stories, talk about projects that we're working on or imagining, and sing together - songs by Pete, about Pete or ones that inspire us to continue their work. Bring your copy of Rise Up Singing and/or Rise Again - we'll also bring copies to borrow. We'll also talk about The Carry It On Fund, a new fund supporting Seeger-related projects and the archiving of Pete &

Toshi's papers (<https://carryiton.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

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



5E) **Grain of Salt: Workshopping Politically-based Songs in Progress**



(Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)

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."

It is suggested (though not required) that people who want to share a song bring 15 lyric/chord sheets so people listening can write their comments on them (and then return them to the songwriter).

Charlie King: Musical storyteller and political satirist. His repertoire covers a century and a half and four continents. He sings and writes passionately about the extraordinary lives of ordinary people. www.charlieking.org

Marcia Taylor: Teaches music at a Quaker school, and considers herself to be something of a musical midwife. Writing, making music, and trying to point towards a better future make her happy.

