



Workshop Descriptions

[More info on workshops here.](#)

People's Music Network Winter Gathering January 29-31, 2016 Hackett Middle School Albany, NY

Get more info: www.peoplesmusic.org

[Click here to register](#)

Saturday, January 30, 9:00–10:20am

1A) **Give Each Song Your Best: More Roses, Please** (Library)

The motto “Bread and Roses” speaks to the heart of liberation movements. We pursue a world where all people can transcend need and participate fully in the beauty and wonder of life. Our music can lead the way, if we present it well. In this workshop we will consider specific ways to improve our performance, stagecraft, preparations, and introductions, as well as our playing and singing; so that when the opportunity arises for a good song to carry the moment, we are delivering that song to the best of our ability. Feel free to bring a song you would like to learn how to deliver it more effectively.

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

1B) **Voice Journey: Liberate the Voice** (002: Music Room)

Join this journey into deep listening and empowered expression through multicultural practices and experimental vocal sound. Practice techniques from ancient traditions of India, Tibet, and indigenous cultures worldwide, as well as contemporary methods that demonstrate fundamental principles of sound healing with the voice. By incorporating these principles, we cultivate a deepened awareness of the possibilities of the voice and experience more freely the flow of creativity that runs powerfully through us when we can truly “get out of the way.”

Stephanie Rooker: Vocalist, composer, ethnomusicologist, music educator, sound healing facilitator, and founder of Voice Journey Sound Center in Brooklyn, NY. www.voicejourney.net

1C) **Spoken Word Swap: Speak up for Social Justice** (012: Classroom)

The facilitators will establish some general themes about the use of spoken word for social justice activism and present some of their own compositions. Participants are also invited to bring poems, raps, performance pieces, jokes, sayings, tales, recitations, declamations . . . anything but songs.

Victorio Reyes: Activist and poet based in Albany, NY. Featured in the anthology of emerging writers: Chorus, published by MTV Books. MFA grad & current PhD student at UAlbany, Former member of the hip-hop band, Broadcast Live. Served as executive director of The Social Justice Center of Albany for 11 years. www.victorioreyes.blogspot.com

Professor Louie: The “Poet of the Streets” has performed at more rallies, benefits, street fairs, meetings, and demonstrations than he, or anyone else, can remember.

1D) **Online & Traditional Promotion: a “PR”imer** (015: Faculty Lounge)

Learn how to promote yourself and your music in this participatory workshop. Topics will include crafting bios and one-sheets, media relations, the importance of having a good website and Electronic Press Kits and what they should feature, how to effectively and efficiently use social media, and how performers and presenters can work together to promote events.

Michael Kornfeld: An award-winning communications & PR strategist, Mike counts a number of independent recording artists among his clients. He is editor and publisher of AcousticMusicScene.com, president of the Folk Music Society of Huntington (NY), VP of the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance (NERFA), and a Folk Alliance International board member. Mike is a former contributing writer for The New York Times and a past president of two professional associations.

www.michaelkornfeld.com

1E) **Women's Song Swap** (001: Classroom)

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.

Terri Roben: Singing for progressive causes in the NY Capital District since 1969. Member of PMN and CMN, Women Against War, Local #14 American Federation of Musicians. Presents programs of interactive music for preschoolers and families.

www.terriroben.com

Mara Sapon-Shevin:

1F) **Men's Song Swap** (003: Classroom)

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.

Steve Suffet: An old fashioned folksinger in the People's Music tradition. This January completing a term of service on the PMN Steering Committee. www.stevesuffet.com

Saturday, January 30, 10:35am – 11:55pm

2A) **Power of Song: Building Solidarity from Within** (Library)

Many social justice activists and labor educators complained bitterly about the absence of civil rights songs in the recent film, Selma. But when asked if they teach these songs in their own work, many of these fine people answered, “No.” If you don’t know, learn. If you do know, teach. After all, if we don’t teach our songs and where they come from, who will? You do not have to be a great singer to use song in educational programs, but you do have to be courageous and willing to overcome the stifling disease of fear. In this workshop, I will pass out

copies of the Labor Heritage Foundation songbook, teach songs from labor and civil rights history, and discuss approaches for re-energizing traditions of singing in the movement.

Elise Bryant: For 30 years has used song in her educational work to teach history, inspire and build solidarity. She is Executive Director of the Labor Heritage Foundation, and director of the DC Labor Chorus. <http://www.laborheritage.org/>

Pamela Larson: Pam Larson is an alto in the DC Labor Chorus, volunteers at the Takoma Park Folk Festival, and participates regularly in the Great Labor Arts Exchange. She loves to organize around the power of song and sings to make people feel as strong as they are!

2B) **Rise Again Singalong** (002: Music Room)

Annie & Peter, creators of Rise Up Singing will lead this song circle using their new songbook, Rise Again. Participants will move around the circle choosing songs out of Rise Again. Teach/lead a song or ask if someone else present knows the song well enough to lead it. Bring instruments & your copy of the book if you have one. Songbooks will also be available to borrow.

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

2C) **On the Griddle: Get Instant Critique on Your Recordings** (012: Classroom)

What makes for a politically effective song that can effectively engage listeners and stand a chance at getting real radio airplay? Inspired by similar panels held as Northeast Regional Folk Alliance, our panelists will give spontaneous reviews of the submitted song recordings you bring to the workshop. Panelists will listen to the first 90 seconds of your chosen cut. CDs marked with the number of the track you want heard will be collected at the beginning of the workshop and chosen by lottery from those submitted by when the workshop begins. Panelists' comments will contain constructive critique aimed at encouraging more effective songwriting and higher quality production, so come with an open mind and a willingness to learn.

Wanda Fisher: Host of "The Hudson River Sampler" on WAMC since 1982. Has also been a singer in the '60s Boston folk scene and in Appalachian music. A retired public relations professional, she is writing a novel about baseball. www.wamc.org

Jay Mankita: A singer/songwriter who actually dreads critiquing your songs, but somehow can't help himself, so agreed when asked about this panel. Says he's probably earned his reputation, whatever that may be.

Steve Deasy: Award winning singer/songwriter, producer, arranger, and recording engineer. Has produced music for film and CDs for himself and others. He desires to praise your work (not bury it) and/or make constructive comments about what you can improve.

2D) **LGBTQ Song Swap** (015: Faculty Lounge)

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.

Arjuna Greist: A singer-songwriter and LGBT activist whose music focuses on social justice and political issues on many fronts.

2E) **Music for Social Justice in the Capital Region** (001: Classroom)

Workshop description is coming.

Taina Asili: Puerto Rican singer, songwriter and bandleader carrying on the tradition of her ancestors, fusing past and present struggles into one soulful and defiant voice.

www.tainaasili.com

2F) Using Confrontational & Unifying Songs (003: Classroom)

This panel will be a musical dialog about the political use of song. Some songs condemn the powerful and seek to jostle the rest of us out of our complacency with injustice. These confrontational songs often reveal important and unrecognized truths about our world. But in criticizing the ways of life and political choices of potential audience members, they risk alienating them, or falling into their own distortions. We also have songs that emphasize universal themes of human commonality and seek to unify people across differences. These unifying songs reveal hidden points of solidarity among people. But in focusing on people's commonalities, certain divisions over important political matters may remain unaddressed.

Each panelist will share one song they have written that exemplifies their answers to the following questions, and then have 5 minutes to explain their answers in further detail: How did you emphasize the following goals in writing the song you shared? 1) mobilizing confrontational political action 2) telling painful truths about the world 3) getting people to look differently at social problems 4) unifying people across serious differences and 5) spurring personal transformation? In your approach to song craft, what is effective for achieving these goals?

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

Tem Blessed: Socially conscious Hip-Hop artist who's message is about sustainability, climate change and social justice. He inspires and engages the audience towards positive change and global responsibility. www.temblessed.com

Marcia Taylor: 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.

Joe Jencks: [2016 PMN Artist-in-Residence](#). www.joejencks.com

Evan Greer: Radical genderqueer singer/songwriter, parent, and activist based in Boston. She tours internationally as a performer and speaker, is the campaign director of a viral Internet freedom nonprofit, and writes regularly for The Guardian and Huffington Post.

Saturday, January 30, 2:15 – 3:35pm

3A) A Living Tradition: IWW Songs in Progressive Unionism Today (Library)

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) has emphasized the political role of singing as since its founding in 1905. Joe Hill, a prolific songwriter and early IWW organizer, wrote numerous parodies and labor anthems conveying a broad progressive vision alongside immediate demands for workers' rights. That tradition lives on today through many contemporary songwriters. In this session, the panel of artists will perform one or two IWW songs with an emphasis on new ones. If you have such a song, please tell Greg (ggwob56@yahoo.com) who will try to make time for you to share it (but no guarantees). The discussion will focus on opportunities for singing today – on the picket line, in the union meeting, and over the radio. Facilitator, Greg Giorgio, will briefly present on how the IWW of today is carrying on this tradition of the IWW of the early 20th Century.

Greg Giorgio: Member of the IWW since 1992 currently serving as Secretary of the Union's Upstate N.Y. Branch. He hosted WRPI's "Labor Show" from 1997 -2008 and is a guest host with WRPI's "Mostly Folk". He has produced shows of Labor Music with George Mann, Julius Margolin, George Mann, and Rik Palieri, and has volunteered with Old Songs and the Eighth Step for decades.

Other performers to be announced.

3B) Fun & Serious Rounds (002: Music Room)

Rounds for roundheads, squares, all. Of course, we will honor Roundman, Sol Weber, who is unable to lead this session due to a recent stroke. We'll have lots of rounds prepared – political, satirical, humorous, just plain pretty. We also hope others will bring their own rounds to share.

David Tarlo and Laurie Siegel: Members of Hudson Valley Sally and Walkabout Clearwater Chorus. www.hudsonvalleysally.com

3C) Protest Songs & Social Activism of the Blues (012: Classroom)

Blues music has a long history of protest songs and social commentary and activism, but many people know it's more prevalent themes of human relationships. The workshop will explore the history of the songs and artists, play examples both recorded and live.

Mark Emanatian: Longtime political activist, musician and songwriter. Has recorded over 10 albums and performed at blues fests and clubs all over the country.

3D) Music & Healing: Body, Mind & Soul (015: Faculty Lounge)

Participants will gain deeper insight into ways in which music can connect with people's hearts. This includes very basic understanding of how music is processed in the body/brain. There will be participatory exercises that will enhance participants' insight into their own passion for music (and their calling to music, if they are musicians). Learn skills of how to use music for healing. [FOR BACKGROUND, consider viewing the documentary film, [THE MUSIC INSTINCT: SCIENCE AND SONG](#) with/Bobby McFerrin, Yo-Yo Ma, Oliver Sacks M.D., Daniel Levitin, and Audre McDonald narrating.]

Jesse Palidofsky: Has utilized music in hospitals/hospices/prisons/dementia units for 27 years. Lead workshops at Common Ground on the Hill and at national conferences for hospice & health care workers. [Www.jessepal.net](http://www.jessepal.net)

3E) Grain of Salt: Workshopping Politically-based Songs in Progress (001: Classroom)

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).

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

Terry Kitchen: Has been performing on the folk scene since 1990. His songs have won the Mid-Atlantic and USA Song Contests and been runner-up in the John Lennon Song Contest. www.terrykitchen.com

3F) Songs & Chants for Today's Front Line Struggles (003: Classroom)

Come share your favorite/most energizing participatory songs and chants for engaging and motivating crowds of activists at rallies and events focused on current struggles for justice. For example, Black Lives Matter, Climate Justice, Fight for \$15, Immigrant Rights, and Reproductive and Gender Justice. Share your insights (briefly) on what makes an effective participatory song or chant.

Blue Wilder Carreker: Singer/songwriter and community organizer engaged in struggles for economic, racial and gender justice since the 60s. Current work includes paid family leave, Moral Mondays & Capital Area Against Mass Incarceration.

Sunday, January 31, 9:00am – 10:30pm

4A) Songs of the Spirit (Library)

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) The Accordion for Non-Accordionists (002: Music Room)

For musicians who don't play the accordion but would consider learning it. I will explain and demonstrate 1. Unique advantages of the accordion; 2. The accordion as the ideal protest instrument; 3. The role of the accordion in American guitar-driven folk ensembles; 4. Use of the accordion throughout the world; 5. Different accordion types and kinds of music they are used for; 6. Different tunings and registers; 7. How the accordion produces sound; 8. Advantages and disadvantages of different sizes; 9. The standard layout of the bass buttons on a piano accordion; 10. The free base accordion; 11. The best places to buy accordions; 12. Accordion prices; 13. What to look out for when buying a used accordion; 14. Accordion music notation; 15. How difficult is it to learn? Participants will have the opportunity to try out an accordion.

Paul Stein: Accordionist for almost 60 years, is also an activist, melodicist, claviolist, singer, songwriter, technical director of the Peoples' Voice Cafe, and member of the Filthy Rotten System and of the New York Klezmer Workshop Band.

<https://www.facebook.com/paul.stein.accordionist>

4F) Differing Perspectives Through Music (003: Classroom)

Contrast the portraits of Dr. King in Don Henry's "Beautiful Fool" and Professor Louie's "More Than a Dreamer" - two entirely different approaches to MLK. Using songs which come from varying perspectives on the same theme, we will compare and contrast musical approaches to various social justice topics. The first part of the workshop will be a presentation with lively discussion, followed by a songswap in which participants can share songs which demonstrate unique or unusual perspectives.

David Heitler-Klevans: In addition to making music with Two of a Kind & Acoustic Blender, he has been teaching adult school classes, including "33 Revolutions Per Minute: Music & Politics".

www.twoofakind.com

Sunday, January 31, 10:45 – 12:15pm

5A) Songwriting for Transformation (Library)

Historian Howard Zinn noted that while history books teach us the story of kings and conquerors, captains of industry, and the ruling class of any culture; it is songs that teach us the history of the people who made those societies function. Songs give us our own history. How do we honor the deep traditions of “People’s” music and carry it forward in our own writing? How do we use musicality, poetry, journalistic clarity, and sound composition to craft songs that will transcend fact and by their very beauty, have a transformative effect? Through presentation, discussion, and hands-on participation, we will explore these questions.

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

5B) Teaching & Leading Songs in Community Settings (002: Music Room)

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.

5C) What’s New in Nueva Canción (012: Classroom)

Nueva canción, or new song, is a flourishing of socially conscious music concurrent with the liberation struggles in Central and South America during the latter half of the twentieth century and which continues in contemporary cultural production in the Americas. We will explore the history of the nueva canción movement, sing and celebrate some of its signature songs, and look at some contemporary artists that continue the tradition in new and exciting ways.

Colleen Kattau: Vocalist and writer of original & bilingual music. With a voice that 'haunts with its range and clarity" her energy in performance is contagious. She performs solo and w her band Dos XX. www.colleenkattau.com

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.

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. Moved to NY in 2012 and performs at open-mics and participates in a Chilean Folk Dance.

5D) Solidarity Forever: Still Singing in Wisconsin (015: Faculty Lounge)

I’ll begin with an update about the Wisconsin Solidarity Sing-Alongs, which happen every weekday at the Statehouse in Madison, WI. It’s the longest running musical protest in history that we know about – now nearly 5 years in duration. The rest of the session will be much like a regular Solidarity Sing-Along. Participants will chose from dozens of songs in the Solidarity Sing-Along Songbook, and will have the opportunity to suggest songs to try. Bring guitars and any song-leading skills you can contribute. Expect familiar tunes with new lyrics about the

ongoing struggle in Wisconsin. Gain inspiration for how this enduring tradition could inform the struggle going on in your home town.

[Click here for a great article about the Solidarity Sing-Along phenomenon.](#)

Kathy Miner: Weekly participant and occasional song contributor since the Solidarity Sing-Alongs began in 2011; arrested in 2013 for 'unlawful assembly' for singing without a permit. Also, a Raging Granny.

5E) **Musicians' Roles in the Upcoming Presidential Election** (001: Classroom)

Are elections sometimes worth getting involved in? Or, are they a farce of power? Is there a role for activist musicians in presidential campaigns – either as inspiring supporters of certain candidates and/or as unyielding critics of the whole system? PMN members have widely diverging points of view on these questions. This session provides an opportunity to hear songs that represent these divergent views. We will discuss what makes a song effective in the context of a specific campaign, and what enables a song to effectively disrupt the received wisdom about electoral politics.

Sandy Pliskin: Early childhood specialist, a lifetime activist, a politically oriented musician, and a 30 year veteran of PMN. He has participated in many electoral campaigns for Greens, Democrats, and independents. www.sandypliskin.bandcamp.com

Charlie King: A musical storyteller and political satirist. Charlie has been an electoral politics junkie since supporting Barry Goldwater in 1964. He has a good track record for backing losers and regretting his support for winners, but keeps writing songs about both. www.charlieking.org

5F) **Building a New Generation of Activists through Creative Arts & Experiential Learning** (003: Classroom)

Come join in the inspiration of this song-filled workshop where the three panelists will share successful strategies of engaging children and youth in social justice activism in schools, colleges, and communities. With interaction at the heart of this workshop, attendees will be invited, as time permits, to share songs and experiences that highlight youth activism and empowerment.

The panel includes educators and activists whose expertise and knowledge has evolved through decades of working with tens of thousands of youth. Throughout their careers, the panelists have used music, the creative arts, experiential learning and civic engagement to provide youth with opportunities to speak out, stand up and co-create powerful visions and actions that help bring about peaceful and just communities locally and globally.

Ruth Pelham: www.musicmobile.org

Sarah Pirtle: www.sarahpirtle.com

Paul Murray: Siena College Sociology Professor since 1979. Specializes in race relations, collective behavior, and research methods. Recipient of the 2004 Jerome Walton Award for Excellence in Teaching by Siena College. Author, *The Civil Rights Movement: References and Resources* (1993) and numerous articles dealing with civil rights. www.siena.edu