

# Workshop Descriptions

[More info on workshops here.](#)

## People's Music Network Summer Gathering June 2-4, 2017 Camp Kinderland Tolland, MA

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

[Click here to register](#)

### Workshop Category Descriptions (Category listed to the right, above first picture)

- **Creative Process:** Workshop leaders help participants develop their own creativity via writing exercises and/or feedback sessions.
- **Group Singing:** The focus is on all the participants singing together, sometimes with the song leaders pre-selected.
- **Music in the Movement:** With a focus on discussion, workshop leaders share knowledge and help participants strategize ways to make music a more vibrant part of today's social justice struggles.
- **Musical Skills:** Workshop leaders provide instruction on vocal, instrumental, and/or performance techniques.
- **Musical Traditions of Struggle:** These presentations provide participants with a deeper understanding of specific traditions of music that support people struggling for freedom.
- **Song Swap:** The focus is on music you bring, shared in a round. Workshop leaders may open the session with a short presentation to set the tone, or just take their turn in the round.

### Saturday, June 3, 9:00–10:20 am

#### 1A) Songs of Global Resistance and Rebellion (Paul Robeson Theatre)

The workshop takes a long and global look at resistance and liberation songs. Latin American Nueva trova, songs of anti-apartheid, 20th century domestic and world liberation music, and current cultural production prove the power of music to resist and solidify action across the globe. We'll offer specific examples and have time for sharing our own work.

**Colleen Kattau:** Award-winning social change songwriter and vocalist. She is a two time NERFA showcase artist and dynamic performer of gringa grooves from the heart with a



voice that 'haunts with its range and clarity'. [www.colleenkattau.com](http://www.colleenkattau.com)

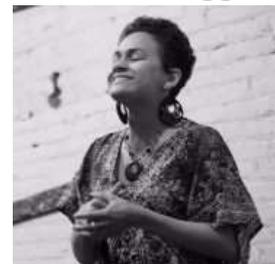
**Charlie King:** Musical storyteller and political satirist. He's been at the heart of American folk music for half a century, singing and writing passionately about the extraordinary lives of ordinary people. [www.charlieking.org](http://www.charlieking.org)

#### *Song Swap*



## 1B) **'73 til Infinity: Interactive Timeline of Hip-Hop Culture** (Rec Hall) *Musical Traditions of Struggle*

In this interactive learning experience, participants will explore the socio-cultural and political history of hip-hop. After a brief opening, participants are split into small groups, which will then tour a series of stations categorized by clusters of years from 1973-2016. Each station includes multi-media tools and hands-on activities, including images, passages, and trivia questions about popular hits, lyrical content, news and events, and the principles of hip hop. Each stop will also request input and creative



expression as part of a piece of a song, which will be put together at the end of the workshop.

**Ren:** Creative educator who utilizes poetry, song, dance, and numerous teaching styles to share cultural lessons, while inspiring expression.

[www.facebook.com/anewblackartsmovement](http://www.facebook.com/anewblackartsmovement)

**Dilson Hernandez:** Multi-genre artist from the Bronx, incorporating spoken word, various instruments, and song. He is also a certified audio engineer.

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

## 1C) **Topical & Historical Songwriting** (Porch Beside Dance Hall)

I will cover some essentials on composing topical and historical songs in the Americana tradition using secondary and primary sources. Expect an introduction to traditional styles of instrumentation on acoustic guitar and banjo. There will also be a close look at the idiomatic aphoristic vernacular that is peculiar to writing with a historical slant. Time permitting, I might be able to make space for a few workshop participants to share compositions emblematic of this type of songwriting.

**Vincent Cross:** A NYC-based rustic singer-songwriter who exemplifies the folk song tradition. With roots in Ireland and Australia, he draws inspiration from old-time mountain music, British ballads and traditional bluegrass. He also lyrically expresses an observant modern sensibility. He tours extensively in the US, Europe and Australia. [www.rescuedogrecords.com](http://www.rescuedogrecords.com)

### *Creative Process*



## 1D) **Rounds: Take 'em with a grain of SOLt.** (Screened-in Outdoor Room)

Rounds for roundheads, squares, all. We'll have lots of rounds prepared – political, satirical, humorous, just plain pretty. We also encourage others to bring their own rounds to share.

**Dave Tarlo and Laurie Siegel:** Members of Hudson Valley Sally and Walkabout Clearwater Chorus. [www.hudsonvalleysally.com](http://www.hudsonvalleysally.com)

### *Group Singing*



## 1E) **Inclusion vs. Othering: Songs That Promote Inclusion** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)

We will begin considering the various faces of inclusion vs. "othering" across visible markers of race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, and gender. Then, I'll share information about Autism, Sensory Processing Disorder and other invisible disabilities – how they often go unnoted as reasons for exclusion, and how we can help through awareness and recognition. Please bring songs that you would like to share on the topic of inclusion/othering.

**Joanie Calem:** Musician, singer/songwriter, storyteller, disability awareness activist, community-builder, cross-cultural worker and teacher. Have taught music and performed since 1983. Uses music to break down stereotypes, build community and foster connection.

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



### *Song Swap*

## Saturday, June 3, 10:35 – 11:55 am

### 2A) **Culture, Songwriting, and Resistance** (Paul Robeson Theatre)

I've always "made up" songs – at least that's what I called it as a kid. To me, it was not only fun, but also empowering, because I found my voice. More importantly, I found what I really wanted to "say." How can songwriting help communities we work with to clarify their vision and project the sound of their resilience, courage and willingness to struggle? We'll try to create a song together to demonstrate the power of songwriting!

**Jane Sapp:** A cultural worker for social justice whose main tools and approach are music, song and stories. She recently worked as a cultural facilitator with the the Southern Partners Fund, documenting the efforts of activists in the rural south. She is the [2017 PMN Summer Artist in Residence](#).

### *Creative Process*

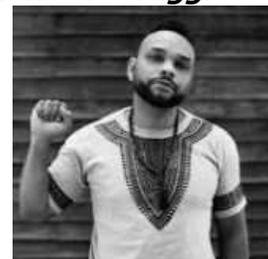


### 2B) **Who is Hip Hop? I am Hip Hop!** (Rec Hall)

This workshop explores the musical, cultural, and political origins of hip hop as it relates to social justice themes, sexism, racism, classism, and other forms of oppression. Will involve participation by the participants and performance by the presenter.

**Tem Blessed:** is a socially conscious Hip-Hop Artist who makes music about social justice, sustainability and climate change. Born in West Africa to Cape Verdean parents, he lives in Hadley, MA. A "Green For All" fellow and a 350.org Artist in Residence, Tem inspires audiences towards positive change and global responsibility. [www.temblessed.com](http://www.temblessed.com)

### *Musical Traditions of Struggle*



### 2C) **Men's Song Swap** (Porch Beside Dance Hall)

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.

### *Song Swap*

### 2D) **Women's Song Swap** (Screened-in Outdoor Room)

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:** Professor of Inclusive Education at Syracuse University, long-time PMN and CMN member, peace and justice activist, rabble rouser, Let Your Yoga Dance teacher, and quilter.

### *Song Swap*



### 2E) **Connecting Immigrant Rights to Imperialism and War** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)

Does immigrant rights make you think about how war displaces the very people who are leaving their homes to move elsewhere? In this moment of heightening threats against immigrants and heightening threats of war, let's put a spotlight on how these issues are connected . . . through song. If your song is just about war or just about immigrant rights, please bring it. If your song puts the two together, then definitely bring it!

**Steve Deasy:** Detroit based performing songwriter, producer, and arranger. His songwriting has been recognized by the Kerrville, Music To Life, and Great Lakes Songwriting competitions. He's a socially-conscious writer in the tradition of Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger. His musicality has new folk, classic rock, pop, and jazz influences. Add some humorous Steve Goodman-style story songs and you have Steve Deasy: relevant, complex funny and talented. [www.stevedeasy.com](http://www.stevedeasy.com)



## Saturday, June 3, 2:15 – 3:35 pm

### 3A) **Help Us Rise: Carrying on the Work & Songs of Pete & Toshi** (Paul Robeson Theatre) *Song Swap*



How are we carrying forward Pete & Toshi's vision and work? We'll swap songs by Pete, share ones he liked, or ones that inspire us to continue their work. We'll also make time to share stories, and talk about projects that we're working on as we further the broad commitments of Pete and Toshi.

**Peter Blood:** Peter Blood: Peter was the editor of Pete Seeger's autobiography *Where Have All the Flowers Gone*. He works with Annie Patterson to create resilience and resistance through group singing. [www.riseupandsing.org](http://www.riseupandsing.org)

**Annie Patterson:** Co-creator of Rise Up Singing & Rise Again, folk & jazz performer, illustrator. [www.riseupandsing.org](http://www.riseupandsing.org)

**Sarah Pirtle:** Sarah Pirtle: Her eleven recordings and six books on social justice, feminism, and ecology include *An Outbreak of Peace*. 12 national awards. A member of PMN since 1982. [www.sarahpirtle.com](http://www.sarahpirtle.com)



### 3B) **PMN Comedy & Creativity BOOST Camp** (Rec Hall)

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!  
[www.zestworks.com](http://www.zestworks.com)

### *Creative Process*



### 3C) **Where the Notes Are: Visualizing Guitar** (Porch Beside Dance Hall)

It's a lot about the guitar in a short time - with humor and with a unique memory device – I'd like to show you my approach to demystifying the fret board. We do it with improvisation (games) with chords and scales. This is good for players of all levels and musical styles. I'll have a handout with a lot of information, but bring your guitar and plan to have a good time.

**Jim Scott:** Former Paul Winter Consort guitarist and jazz-informed songwriter trying to save the world, Jim created the "Earth and Spirit Songbook," and guitar book "All Scales in All Positions."

### *Musical Skills*



### 3D) **Breaking through Writer's Block** (Screened-in Outdoor Room)

Waiting on inspiration? Well, inspiration is actually waiting on you. In this workshop we will discuss what causes writer's block and learn how to create writing habits that work against it. Time will be spent exploring a variety of techniques to start the writing process, drafting poems and discussing tips for revision that will help with the days we do not feel so inspired.

**Danielle Colin** or more commonly on stage, D. Colin, has been writing poetry since childhood. Her writing is heavily inspired by spirituality, pan-Africanism, personal experiences and the intersection between race, class and gender. She holds a BA in English and an MA in Africana Studies. She has performed at venues throughout the United States as well as in Toronto, London and Glasgow, Scotland internationally. D. Colin has also competed at the National Poetry Slam (2012) and at the Women of the World Poetry Slam (2016). Her first collection of poems entitled *Dreaming in Kreyol* pays homage to her Haitian heritage. D. Colin currently resides in Troy, NY where she hosts a weekly open mic called Poetic Vibe, and for fun she teaches 8th grade English! [www.dcolin.com](http://www.dcolin.com)

### *Creative Process*



### 3E) **Music in the Creative Classroom** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)

#### **Musical Skills**

Using a wholistic music to enhance learning and develop character can be the best part your school day. We will learn how to enhance language development,



incorporate kinesthetic activities and bond with our students which make up the ingredients for a fun, educational experience. Kids and parents welcome!

**Jill Friedman:** From Hartford, CT I have 33 years of experience as a Special Educator, ESL teacher, musician and artist. I have developed strategies for using music to enhance learning.

## **Sunday, June 4, 9:00 – 10:30 am**

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

### ***Group Singing***

Songs of the Spirit is a PMN tradition since 1982. We gather in a large circle for a cappella singing of inspirational and empowering songs. Between songs, we pause, breathe and feel the energy and connection of the group.

Please select songs that can be learned immediately and where essentially the entire song can be sung by every voice. Because we are aiming to achieve full group participation throughout, we ask that you not choose songs in which only the leader knows the verses or which preclude full participation. If you've already initiated one song, make space for someone else to do this.

Songs of the Spirit allows us to practice spontaneity and responsiveness in a large group – both essential components of community building. We aim to transcend attachments we feel to specific songs and our own leadership and to become more aware of ways the whole group can feel inspired. We hope to conclude feeling centered and grounded.

**All who participate are leaders**

### **4B) Strategies to Integrate Songs in People's Movements (Rec Hall)**

### ***Music in the Movement***

Let's build the musical culture of transformational social movements! How can we more effectively integrate our music at rallies, picket lines, marches, and conferences? This workshop focuses on strategies to build collaborative relationships between performing musicians and activist leaders who are open to energizing movement events with music. Using a fun theatre game, we'll explore our egos' ability to perceive how our choices affect the collective whole and how this can get in the way of this relationship. We'll also explore some common reasons event organizers don't immediately embrace inclusion of music.

Other topics: selecting the right song for the right occasion, developing one's own artistry to serve a broader range of movement contexts, and different approaches to teaching and leading songs. In small-groups, participants will respond to guiding questions, which are intended to identify strategies that can help make music a more prominent and vibrant component of movement culture.

**Ben Grosscup:** An activist folksinger working with radical and progressive movement leaders to integrate his own song leading and performing at rallies, picket lines, and political education events. Based in Greenfield, MA, Ben serves as director of People's Music Network. [www.bengrosscup.com](http://www.bengrosscup.com)



# Sunday, June 4, 10:45 am – 12:15 pm

## 5A) **Cultural Work in Organizing and Social Change** (Paul Robeson Theatre) *Music in the Movement*

Creativity can be an act of resistance, because it engages with the unending possibilities around us. What is cultural work? What is its role in organizing? Who is a cultural worker – are they only artists? It took me over 30 years of music and songwriting before I started to describe myself as a "cultural worker". Participants will examine their own practices through storytelling and skill sharing to explore how what we do effects social change . . . or not.

**Jane Sapp:** A cultural worker for social justice whose main tools and approach are music, song and stories. She is the [2017 PMN Summer Artist in Residence](#).



## 5B) **Grain of Salt: Workshopping Politically-based Songs in Progress** (Rec Hall) *Creative Process*

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](http://www.patlamanna.com)



## 5C) **Yiddish Songs of Social Justice** (Porch Beside Dance Hall) *Musical Traditions of Struggle*

Yiddish has long been and continues to be a language of resistance in the sweatshop, in the strike, and in the union. The Yiddish Music repertoire is vast, varied, and growing. Come and share in the music of struggle that has been, can be, and is being used to bring change to create *a besere velt* (a better world). We'll learn the history, pronunciation, translation, and melody of Yiddish Songs of Social Justice and share examples of how they are used/can be used today. This will include offering workshop participants a chance to share their knowledge of Yiddish Music.

**Pauline Katz:** raised on these songs at the Arbiter Ring & Camp Kinderland and has taught them at protests. Has taught workshops for the Jewish Women's Archive and Workmen's Circle on teaching Yiddish Music. She sings with *A Besere Velt*, the Boston Yiddish Community Chorus of the Workmen's Circle.



## 5D) **LGBTQ Song Swap** (Screened-in Outdoor Room)

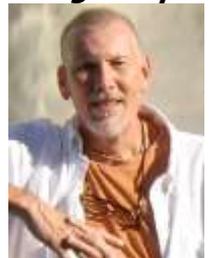
This song swap gives voice and support to LGBTQ songs and issues. ALL are welcome to share songs that speak to the queer experience: original songs, existing songs that offered secret meaning or comfort, songs you wished you had heard as a young person, rallying anthems, personal revelations, celebrations of strength over adversity and the power of diversity. All LGBTQ performers and Allies are encouraged to share!



**Martin Swinger:** Award winning songwriter, and PRIDE performer and Emcee. [www.martinswinger.com](http://www.martinswinger.com)

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

## *Song Swap*



## 5E) **Music Reaching Across the Lines** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)

We will share songs and experiences about using music to reach out to people whose political, social, cultural, and/or religious views are very different from our own. Participants will learn from one another about which tactics and strategies have worked and which have not. I may pose questions to stimulate deeper discussion.

**Steve Suffet:** An old fashioned folksinger in the People's Music tradition. Member of the Peoples' Voice Cafe collective in NYC. Co-organizer of the Sunnyside Singers Club in Woodside, Queens, NY. [www.stevesuffet.com](http://www.stevesuffet.com)

## *Song Swap*

