



Workshop Descriptions

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(Subject to change. Last updated 5/25/2018)

People's Music Network Summer Gathering June 1-3, 2018 Camp Kinderland Tolland, MA

Get more info: www.peoplesmusic.org

[Click here to register](#)

Workshop Categories *(Category listed to the right in italics)*

- ***Creative Process:*** Participants develop their own creative process in terms of writing and developing stage presence and musicality.
- ***Group Singing:*** Singing together, sometimes with the song leaders pre-selected.
- ***Musical Skills:*** Instruction on vocal, instrumental, and/or performance techniques.
- ***Musical Traditions of Struggle:*** Gain 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.
- ***Songwriting:*** We examine different aspects of song craft such as lyrics, message, melody, as well as different approaches to songwriting.

Saturday, June 2, 9:00–10:20 am

1A) **Performance Piece: "Si Se Puede: A history of Latino workers in the U.S."**

(Paul Robeson Theatre)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

PMN Artist-in-residence, Charlie King, co-leads a piece written by Karen Brandow about the history of Latino workers in the U.S. The piece honors the struggles, victories, and contributions of Latino workers in U.S. labor history from the 19th century to the present, and documents how Latino working class heroes and heroines have raised standards for all workers.

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. He is a 2018 PMN Winter Gathering Artist in Residence. www.charlieking.org

1B) **"Riveted" - Exploring A Work In Progress** (Rec Hall) *Musical Traditions of Struggle*

Singer-Songwriter, Deborah Silverstein, is in the process of developing a musical. "Riveted" involves three generations of women: a "Rosie the Riveter," relegated to the post war life of a 50's housewife, her daughter who grew up in the Vietnam Era, and Rosie's granddaughter, a current day 30-something woman. The women are gathered to help elderly Rosie prepare to move out of the family home. As they sort through

decades of mementos and memories, the scenes will flash back to the WWII and Viet Nam Eras, exploring the social, emotional and political landscapes and struggles of those earlier years which continue to haunt their relationships in the present day. In this workshop, Deborah will present the story line in its current form and sing several songs she has already developed. She will then invite participants to share stories, memories and thoughts and/or songs, about themselves or their mothers or grandmothers, as they relate to the multi-generational themes of the play.

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

1C) **Improvisational Singing Games** (Porch Beside Dance Hall) *Creative Process*

Improvisational Singing Games immediately engages even the shy-est player in singing playfully improvised melodies in a safe and welcoming environment. Simple vocal games scaffold into group improvisations which are deeply gratifying and fun. Opportunities abound for participants to share personal truths in a musical setting, explore at your own comfort level, take safe risks, discover individual strengths and learn to be a dependable ensemble member and music creator.

Martin Swinger: A life-long performer/arts educator has studied with international teachers of the improvisational form. He shares his imaginative approach to singing with anyone willing to be playful with their voices. www.martinswinger.com

1D) **Women's Song Swap** (Screened-in Outdoor Room) *Song Swap*

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.

1E) **War, Peace, and Reconciliation Song Swap** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch) *Song Swap*

Bring songs that address the militarism of today and the past as well as songs about the bravery of peace makers who stand up to the war machine.

Erika Kulnys: Won Music Nova Scotia's Inspirational Recording of the Year and Rise Up, released at Copenhagen Pride, garnered awards and charted Top Ten on Folk/Roots Charts. Erika's won fellowships for music activism and is played on CBC, BBC, and NPR. www.erikakulnys.com

Saturday, June 2, 10:35 – 11:55 am

2A) **Carry It On -- The Legacy of Pete Seeger** (Paul Robeson Theatre) *Song Swap*

For the third year we'll circle up for a song swap of songs Pete wrote and songs Pete loved. This year we keep an eye on how these songs integrate into today's justice work. In the final fifteen minutes of the workshop we'll do brainstorming in preparation for next year being Pete's 100th birthday anniversary. What local and regional events could happen? How can these events be broad so that they further today's social justice and earth protection struggles?

Peter Blood: Editor of Pete's autobiography, *Where Have All the Flowers Gone: A Singalong Memoir*. Collaborated with Pete on the songbooks *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again*. Helped found The Carry It On Fund supporting projects that further Pete & Toshi's vision and work. www.riseupandsing.org

Sarah Pirtle: Hosts a yearly Western MA singalong concert honoring Pete. Has ten recordings including "Everyday Bravery." Wrote "My Roots Go Down," "Mahogany Tree," which are in *Rise Again*. www.sarahpirtle.com

2B) **The Influence of Rhythm & Blues on Hip Hop 1945-1973** (Rec Hall)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

In this interactive learning experience, participants will explore the socio-cultural and political history of rhythm & blues music and its influence on the development of hip hop in America. After a brief opening, participants split into small groups, which will tour a series of stations categorized by clusters of years from 1945-1973. 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

2C) **Becoming a PMN Peer Reviewer** (Porch Beside Dance Hall)

Creative Process

The PMN Membership Development Committee is initiating a new online project in which PMN members submit songs to a panel of peer evaluators for constructive feedback. Members are invited to submit new songs in the broad tradition of People's Music Network, which embodies themes of freedom and struggle, social justice, protest, and social conscience. This workshop will 1) explain the goals of the project 2) cover the techniques and processes necessary to become a good peer evaluator 3) introduce a songwriting critique template 4) provide a chance to use the template on each other's songs, and 5) inform participants on the personal time requirement for future participation. Artists often assesses the effectiveness of their songs by audience response. This workshop helps participants to be a more helpful and informative audience for fellow songwriters.

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

Martin Swinger: Teaches singing and songwriting to folks who believe they can't. Martin's 6th album, Living Things, is already winning accolades at festivals, concerts, coffeehouses and private events. www.martinswinger.com

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

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: 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. www.stevesuffet.com

2E) **Teaching & Leading Songs in Community Settings** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)

Musical Skills

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. Special focus on songs to inspire action in this time of upheaval.

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.

Saturday, June 2, 2:15 – 3:35 pm

3A) **Teaching Songs of the Poor People's Campaign** (Paul Robeson Theatre)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

On May 14, 2018, a major campaign was launched throughout the U.S., which puts music at the center of its organizing: The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. This workshop, led by two singer/activists who have been involved with the current day campaign, will explain its roots in the 1960s civil rights movement and the role of music in the current strategy. The campaign is currently generating a new

canon of easily singable social justice music that speaks to the "the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality." The session will be primarily devoted to learning these new songs and discussing how PMN members can get involved with this ongoing campaign.

Luci Murphy: 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. She has been active as a singer in the Poor People's Campaign. Member of the D.C. Labor Chorus. Former PMN Steering Committee member.

Kate Stevens: Retired Unitarian Minister from Ashfield, MA, currently active in her local Franklin County group for the Poor People's Campaign as well as at the national level convenings of the campaign.

3B) **Making Melodies** (Rec Hall)

Songwriting

Rick's going to look at some great melodies and talk about how and why they work. You don't need to have studied music theory — if you know what a scale is, and what a chord is, you know all you need to enjoy this lecture / demonstration. Drawing on songs by the Beatles, Bob Dylan, Cole Porter, Noel Coward, Edith Piaf, Cat Stevens, and more, the goal will be to learn easy techniques for making your own melodies more surprising, more memorable, and more moving. We may even test out our new knowledge and see if we can fiddle with a song or two.

Rick Burkhardt: an Obie-award-winning playwright, performer, composer, and songwriter whose original works have been performed throughout the world. He is a founding member of the Nonsense Company, a touring experimental music/theater trio, and member of the Prince Myshkins, a political cabaret/folk duo. He is a 2018 PMN Winter Gathering Artist in Residence. www.rickburkhardt.com

3C) **Indigenous Roots of Social Evolution** (Porch Beside Dance Hall)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

I will give a brief historical perspective of Ct's Indigenous people and our relationship to regional Natives across colonial boundaries of thought, before and after colonization. During the workshop I will use history, music and audience participation to impart a clearer understanding of Ct Natives history and our impact on the modern world in terms of technology, society, art and social change.

Mixashawn: Multi-disciplinary and internationally acclaimed Jazz artist. Holds a degree in History and Ethnomusicology from Trinity College. Offers musical performances and educational workshops on traditional and contemporary Indigenous music to inspire creativity and natural expression for all ages.

www.mixashawn.com

3D) **Grain of Salt: Workshopping Songs in Progress** (Screened-in Outdoor Room)

Song Swap

Stuck somewhere in the middle? Here's an interactive and participatory workshop for any songs or parts thereof that you'd like to have some input on. We'll hear these songs-in-progress and become a collective think-tank about what's working so far and what might be improved upon. It's also an opportunity to hone your listening and feedback-giving skills as we work with as many participants as time allows and collectively ponder the many elements – lyric, melody, rhythm, chord progression, key, arrangement, etc. – that make a song click.

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

3E) **Comedy Improv with Guitars** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)

Creative Process

Comedy improvisation is a first step toward expanding our horizons. Using a variety of theater games, word association techniques, and imagination prompts, we will watch as barriers fall away, opening us up to new levels of responsiveness and action – living the moment, before we go back to saving the world. The guitars are there just in case we need them. Done this before? Bring your favorite theater game to try out on the group!

Jasper Lapienski

Sunday, June 3, 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 which provides a space for weekend participants to come together to feel the power of spontaneous a cappella singing of inspirational and empowering songs. In an atmosphere of stillness, we let songs arise around the circle from the silence; we pause between songs, take a few breaths and let the energy of the moment lead us to the next song.

All manner of songs are welcome. Songs that are somewhat familiar or that can be learned quickly are preferred to enhance full group participation; we avoid spoken words by each song leader so as to keep the flow of singing. Songs of the Spirit is an opportunity to be receptive rather than forceful or anxious to contribute, to be musically part of a whole community rather than a standout performer.

You are invited to enter the circle in a spirit of respect for this tradition and with an open heart and open mind.

Ben Tousley: Long time PMN member, singer-songwriter and spiritual counselor who has helped to carry on this tradition for years.

4B) **Guitar Fingerpicking 101** (Rec Hall)

Musical Skills

Fingerpicking means anything from basic chord accompaniments to complex solo breaks and instrumentals. We'll work on strong alternating bass patterns played with your thumb that are built off the roots of chords, while playing rhythm patterns on the higher strings with your fingers. Once these rich patterns are established, we'll go over how to add melody & harmony lines, bass runs, and ideas for how to work your way into more complex arrangements.

Cathy Winter: "Long Time Friend" from the first PMN. Toured (FlyingFish) 25 years, followed by a hiatus teaching public school. Now teaching guitar & toddler music classes, getting back to writing more.

www.cathywinter.com

Sunday, June 3, 10:45 am – 12:15 pm

5A) **From Plagiarism to Hommage: the Joys and Lessons of Parody Writing** (Paul Robeson Theatre)

Songwriting

A look at how parody writing can spice up your repertoire and enhance your craft: re-writing; shadow writing; chord progression stealing; style parodies. This workshop addresses how to break through writers block; what to do if you don't do melodies; presenting subversive gifts in safe, familiar packages; learning from the masters and stealing power from the gods. I'll present ideas and examples followed by Q&A.

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. He is a 2018 PMN Winter Gathering Artist in Residence. www.charlieking.org

5B) **Solidarity and Dialogue Songs - Hands Across the Hills** (Rec Hall)

Song Swap

Do you have a song to swap that could be part of offering a dialogue? As we look at how musical traditions of struggle are a crucial part of dialogue, we'll begin with a song from South Africa used in gender reconciliation and a song from Maher House in India, learned at an international interfaith gathering. Earlier this year, I led singalongs as part of an ongoing Kentucky coal country collaboration crossing political lines called "Hands Across the Hills" (www.handsacrossthehills.org). After I share four songs and some insights about new dialogues on ageism, the second part of the session opens up for everyone to swap songs.

Sarah Pirtle: Songwriter of 250 recorded songs, asked to write theme for Hands Across the Hills, available for free on Sarah Hope Sings. Ten national music awards. Awardwinning social justice author.

www.sarahpirtle.com

5C) **Healing Circle Singers** (Porch Beside Dance Hall)

Group Singing

We will invite everyone to participate in a healing circle which uses the power and gift of music and harmony to transform our worry into hope and to hold one another with respect and care. We will lead a nature-based centering exercise, and then have a short sharing of concerns. Then we shift to teaching healing songs for our times.

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: Known for spiritually inspirational, healing, social changing, earth-loving music—with 7 albums. Formed One Journey Band, Thundermoon Choir, Healing Circle Singers. A Baystate nurse, grandmother, she holds the vision of personal/planetary healing through www.pioneervalleysinging.com

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

Song Swap

This circle gives voice and support to LGBTIQA songs and issues. ALL are welcome to share songs that speak to the queer experience: originals, existing songs that offered meaning or comfort, songs you wish you had heard, rallying anthems, personal revelations, celebrations of strength over adversity and the power of diversity. All are welcome - LGBTIQA identified and Allies. Due to the nature of this workshop we respectfully request participants arrive in a timely way, share with us and not just 'drop by'.

Martin Swinger: A thoughtful facilitator establishing safe space for participants to share profound and intimate, unique and universal themes. Martin is a life-long musician and gay activist. www.martinswinger.com

5E) **Songs of Labour and Labor** (Dining Hall Foyer/Porch)

Song Swap

We will share songs by and about working people, their lives, their struggles, and their unions from both sides of the Pond. Participants are welcome to bring examples to share.

Russ Chandler: Singer of traditional, political, and modern songs from the UK. www.russchandlermusic.com

Steve Suffet: Old fashioned folk singer in the People's Music tradition. www.stevesuffet.com