



Workshop Descriptions

PMN Summer Gathering, June 6-8 2014

Camp Epworth, High Falls, NY

For more info on the gathering, see www.peoplesmusic.org
To register, www.peoplesmusic.org/Charge_Form/Summer_2014_Form.htm

Saturday, June 7, 9:00–10:30am

1A) Songs by and about Heroes & Sheroes (Dining)

In this session we will perform songs about people who have been heroes in one way or another, whether it be activist songwriters, singers or musicians we admire, or individuals – not necessarily musicians – who stand out for their actions, contributions, sacrifices or commitments to a particular struggle.

Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner: For more than forty years, Greg and Terry have been singing their own songs and songs by their heroes and sheroes for many causes, from freedom and equality, to peace and justice, to environmental healing. www.Magpiemusic.com

1B) Sing-Along for Freedom Song Swap (Staff)

Sing-alongs can be an effective method for political education that simultaneously fosters solidarity and unity in a group. Workshop leaders will lead a few sing alongs and discuss their techniques of choosing songs for political action, song-leading, and drawing people in to sing together. Workshop participants are invited to lead a song they think can be useful for a range of struggles. As time allows, after each song, the performer may state what feedback, if any, they want to get from the group, followed by quick comments. We'll try to make time for all who are interested in leading a song to do one. An audio recording will be made and distributed afterward for learning purposes.

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

Ben Grosscup: Song-leader and performer at activist events wherever he goes; serves as director of People's Music Network.

1C) New Songs in Old Styles Song Swap (Rosebush)

Swapping contemporary songs consciously written in the styles of traditional music. Examples: blues, ragtime, old-time country, Gospel, Celtic.

Steve Suffet: An old fashioned folksinger in the People's Music tradition. PMN Steering Committee Member. www.stevesuffet.com

1D) Story Songs Songswap (Nicols)

We will start the session explaining our approach to telling stories through songs. Then we'll sing an example or two. For the rest of the time, we will go around in the circle swapping songs that tell one story from beginning to end about the lives of everyday people and everyday heroes.

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

1E) **Turn Up The Volume with Video** (Wesley)

This skill-sharing workshop shows how songs about important political struggles can be combined with pictures in a video format to add a new dimension. We'll begin by viewing two you-tubes produced using songs by PMN members – one about stopping the Keystone XL pipeline and one about preventing clearcutting. The workshop will then discuss and demonstrate tools. You will leave with tips for making similar short videos. During the year, a support community will form for anyone who wants to share videos, receive feedback, or ask questions.

George Aguiar: Long time technologist and new PMN member.

Saturday, June 7, 10:45am – 12:15pm

2A) **Heroes & Sheroes Song Swap** (Dining)

In this session, we invite participants to bring songs by and about people who have been heroes in one way or another, whether it be activist songwriters, singers or musicians we admire, or individuals not necessarily musicians who stand out for their actions, contributions, sacrifices or commitments to a particular struggle. Songs by and for Pete Seeger are especially welcome. We'll go around in a circle and try to make time for everyone who has a song to contribute something.

Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner

2B) **Nuts & Bolts of Getting Your Message Out By Song** (Staff)

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 early 1980s. She is a deejay at WIOX Roxbury, NY. She has produced Phil Ochs Song Nights for 31 years. www.sonnyochs.com

2C) **LGBTQ Song Swap** (Rosebush)

All are welcome to share songs of queer resistance, radical love, piercing loss, dynamic families, intersectionality, and the many other aspects, both painful and glorious, of LGBTQ+ life. We'll sing, recite, listen, and discuss the present and future of our movement.

Arjuna Greist: long time PMN member, and songwriter.

2D) **What's new in Nueva Canción** (Nicols)

Nueva canción, or new song, is a flourishing of socially conscious music concurrent with the liberation struggles in Central and South America. Violeta Parra (Chile), Mercedes Sosa (Argentina), Ali Primera (Venezuela), Amparo Ochoa (Mexico), and Silvio Rodríguez (Cuba) are some of the many artists who interwove poetry and melody to produce a new genre of song that traversed borders and articulated a new youth consciousness that spread across the Americas. Contemporary artists such as Lila Downs, Calle 13, Juanes, Joaquín Sabina of Spain continue the tradition of producing popular music, emphasizing social justice issues. This workshop explores the history of this movement, by singing and celebrating some of its signature songs, and looking at contemporary artist contributions.

Colleen Kattau: Bi-lingual singer-songwriter and dynamic performer – she delivers the goods in concert with 'power and beauty steeping in a fine tea,' She has five independently produced CDs her most recent In my name with her band Some Guys, and two benefit CDs. www.colleenkattau.com

2E) **Blues Dance for a Better World!** (Wesley)

Dances of Freedom and Struggle! Discover yet another way we can use musical expression to lift spirits and create connection and social change. We will have fun both learning the basics of blues dancing and exploring how we can use dance to promote a culture of equality, inclusion, and consent.

Mary Christensen: International dance instructor and social justice activist, writing and traveling the world training teachers and community organizers to promote equality and inclusion.

Nell McGloin-King: A lifelong attendee of PMN, currently working as an addiction and mental health counselor and exploring artistic and physical expression as ways of fostering positive emotional growth. Saturday, June 7, 1:30 – 3:00pm

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3A) Singing Playing Jamming for Freedom (Dining)

We will share in a singalong, play along style both original and traditional songs of human rights from many cultures. We will also improvise a new song, collectively written by all participants. We will have fun.

Faith Nolan: Singer songwriter/banjo /guitar/ukulele/harmonica activist www.faithnolan.org

Pamela Dogra: Singer / union rep./ teacher /beginner fiddle/harmonies www.pameladogra.net

3B) Song Swap: Telling Histories of Struggle through Song (Staff)

In a culture so focused on opinion and editorializing, historic songs can move the discourse toward fact, remind us of our common nature as humans and help break down the barriers of contemporary left/right thinking. Bring a song. Tell a true story. Learn someone else's story.

Paddy Mills: Singer/songwriter and touring artist. Newest CD is "Race to the Bottom."

www.paddymills.com

3C) Copyright, Trademark & Music Publishing (Rosebush)

Lecture with Q&A on copyrighting songs and songbooks, trademarking business names, and publishing songs of one's own and of others. Participants will learn why and how to register copyrights and trademarks, and how to publish and get paid for (or publish and pay for) the use of copyrighted material.

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

3D) Grain of Salt: Workshopping Politically-based Songs in Progress (Nicols)

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 from David Roth at Summersongs, a songwriter's camp at the Ashokan Center in Olive, N.Y. www.patlamanna.com

3E) Word-Swap: Spoken Word (Wesley)

Bring poems, raps, performance pieces, stories, jokes, sayings, tales, recitations, declamations . . . anything but songs.

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.

Sunday, June 8, 9:00–10:30am

4C) How to be a Better Guitar Player (Rosebush)

This workshop will show you technical exercises, scales, chord progressions and chord changing techniques that will improve your guitar playing whether you use a pick, finger-pick, play nylon or steel string guitar.

Robin Greenstein: Robin is a full time musician and private teacher in NYC. She is a former clinician for Martin Guitars. She has a B.A. in Music and majored in Classical Guitar at SUNY- Stony Brook. www.robingreenstein.com

4D) The Blues and Political Song (Nicols)

A brief history of the blues as a song form, including variations, with well known examples from Big Bill Broonzy and Leadbelly among others, and solicitations of political songs in blues form those in attendance.

Mike Glick: PMN Steering committee member, long time performer and songwriter, newly returned to PMN. The New York Times called his work “more rousing and substantive than the music of city folksingers of previous generations.” www.generations-music.com

4F) Songs of the Spirit (Pavillion)

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 also welcomed as a transition between songs that are shared. Songs raised in this circle are easy to learn, folk tradition 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 who participates are leaders

Sunday, June 8, 10:45am – 12:15pm

5A) Songwriting With Humor for Social Change (Dining)

Gilles will first present his socio-political parodies and then invite the group to share theirs. The intent, approach, and techniques used in writing with humor will be discussed, as well as the functions of writing and performing them as compared with the expectations of change upon those who hear them.

Gilles Malkine: Writing and performing humor in the folk music genre with my partner-in-crime, Mikhail Horowitz, for the past 25 years. www.gillemalkine.com

5B) Men's Song Swap (Staff)

TBA:

5C) Women's Song Swap (Rosebush)

This song swap is designed as a sanctuary time for those who feel nourished sitting and singing in this circle. It includes and welcomes transgender people. Historically in PMN, this swap is a time of slowing down to share meaningful songs and say a word about them as we listen, laugh, perhaps cry together and hear each other deeply.

Sarah Pirtle: has been part of Women's Song Swaps at PMN since 1982 and is dedicated to creating welcoming circles.

5D) Creating with Words: Art, Healing, and Empowerment (Nicols)

Inspiring music is grounded in compelling lyrics and stories. In this workshop we'll share ideas for kickstarting your imagination and finding the emotional truth of the story you want to tell. Using a series of prompts, we'll write in short bursts, share with each other in gentle, guided discussion, and write some more. If anyone wants to share a song in progress or another piece of writing, time will be set aside for that.

Ina May Wool: "One of my favorite New York singer/songwriters," says WFUV's John Platt. She's made two CD's of her own music and recently released WOOL&GRANT along with duo partner, Bev Grant, and has led writing workshops for the last 10 years everywhere from grade sc www.inamaywool.com

5E) **Songs of Struggle that Last** (Wesley)

Will your song be remembered in 100 years? Listen to some traditional songs of struggle and analyze why we still sing them today. Bring songs you do that are 100 years or older, or that you think will be around in 100 years.

Heather Wood: Singer of traditional songs and occasional songwriter . Member of the Young Tradition, influential English group. Program Chair of the Folk Music Society of N.Y. Folk music: Enjoy, don't enshrine!

Sunday, June 8, 1:30 – 3:00pm

6B) **PMN Song of the Month Strategy Meeting** (Staff)

On May 1, 2014 PMN Launched a new project, "PMN Song of the Month," which aims to integrate inspiring new songs of freedom and struggle in today's progressive movements. Each month we designate a social justice topic and collect songs on that topic. Each panel of judges is composed of people leading organizations that are addressing the topic. This organizing meeting is an opportunity for PMN members to learn about the project, its vision, and how to get involved. We need songwriters, activists, judges, tech-savvy people, and people who can promote songs of the month via radio and in live events.

Ben Grosscup: Serves as director of People's Music Network. www.soundclick.com/bengrosscup.

Steve Deasy: Lead web technician for PMN Song of the Month. PMN Steering Committee Member. www.stevedeasy.com.

6C) **Song-leading in Community Settings** (Rosebush)

Techniques and song for bringing singing into settings where it's not usual but where getting folks singing together can make a real difference in group climate, cooperation, energy, and hopefulness--like conferences, trainings, classrooms, etc.

Verne McArthur: Retired college teacher, non-retired activist, singer, song-leader and workshop facilitator. He brings group singing into his work to inspired collaboration and make learning and activism fun!

6D) **Guitar Arranging for Songs** (Nicols)

There are 3 parts to a song: the words, the melody, and the arrangement. Too often the arrangement amounts to background accompaniment. Each song should sound unique with variations on finger picking patterns, picking notes during strums, and musical hooks during verses -- not just at the chorus. Sharing of arrangement tricks welcome.

Glenn Goytil