



Workshop Descriptions

Updated 1/17/2017

People's Music Network

Winter Gathering

January 26-28, 2018

Pierce School

Brookline, MA

[More info on workshops here.](#)

[Click here to register](#)

Workshops take place Sat. Jan. 27 and Sun. Jan. 28, 2018 at the Pierce School in Brookline, MA ([Directions](#)).

Workshop Categories

- **Creative Process:** Participants develop their own creativity via writing exercises and exercises.
- **Group Singing:** Singing together, sometimes with the song leaders pre-selected.
- **Music in the Movement:** Panelists share knowledge, experiences, and strategies to make music more vibrant in today's social justice struggles and in the society at large.
- **Musical Traditions of Struggle:** Gain a deeper understanding of specific traditions of music that support people struggling for freedom.
- **Performance Skills:** Instruction on vocal, instrumental, and/or performance techniques.
- **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 Skills:** We examine different aspects of song craft such as lyrics, message, melody, as well as different approaches to songwriting.

Saturday, January 27, 9:00–10:20 am

1A) **Songs to Celebrate Women's Suffrage** (Library)

For the past year, we have been presenting performances of women's suffrage songs, celebrating the centennial of women's suffrage, at libraries, historical societies and other public venues. We trace the history and present state of the movement for women's equality in the U.S. through historical and contemporary song. Participants will learn about the movement and how songs provided the suffragists inspiration and courage with their biting, clever lyrics.

Sharleen Leahy: A long-time member of PMN, she performs solo and with two different bands at a variety of venues, leads song circles in public schools and works with activist communities struggling for peace, human rights and environmental justice.

www.rumorsofpeace.net/women-s-suffrage-centennial

Lydia Adams Davis: Stories, songs, arts in education projects with puppetry and ASL provide a full calendar of work and performance. It is all about creativity, and many of my newest songs spring forth while improvising with adult and younger audiences. www.lydiaadamsdavis.com

Pat Lamanna: Long-time member of PMN. Singer-songwriter with three original CDs to her credit, and a social justice activist in her community of Dutchess County, N.Y. www.patlamanna.com

Musical Traditions of Struggle



(Session 1 Continues)

1B) **LGBTIQA Song Swap** (Classroom 104)

This circle gives voice to LGBTIQA songs and issues. All LGBTIQ and Allies are welcome to witness and share songs that speak to our unique experience: originals, existing songs that offer private meaning or comfort, songs you wish you had heard as a young person, rallying anthems, personal revelations, celebrations of strength over adversity and the power of diversity. Due to the personal nature of this song swap, we respectfully request that participants arrive in a timely way to share with us and not just 'drop by'.

Martin Swinger: Award winning songwriter, and PRIDE performer and Emcee.

www.martinswinger.com

Song Swap



1C) **Songs for Anti-Colonial Struggles: Past and Present** (Classroom 110)

Participants are invited to share songs in resistance to colonialism, slavery, and neo-colonialism. Bring songs from all communities expressing their need for self-determination and political agency. Songs can be from struggles against oppression in Palestine, Puerto Rico, South Africa, Ireland, Cuba, the "internal colonies" of the United States, and elsewhere.

Morgana Warner-Evans: A singer of traditional and contemporary political songs. She is active in movements for peace and economic justice that are local to Portland, Maine.

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. Former PMN Steering Committee member. Member of the D.C. Labor Chorus.

www.blackagendareport.com/luci-murphy_cultural_warrior



Song Swap

1D) **Step Up to the Stage** (Classroom 113A)

Whether you feel anxious or at ease in the spotlight, this "Performance for Everyone" lab offers a chance to develop skills to connect with oneself and with an audience. We'll briefly talk about preparing for performance. "Being excited" is your body's way of telling you this performance is important and meaningful. Together we can turn fear INTO excitement and use it as our ally to be the best performers we can possibly be -- not an obstacle. Most importantly, this is a safe and supportive environment. We'll get to as many people as we can, based on time and the number of participants. Bring a song you know by heart and a willing spirit.

Reggie Harris: A well-traveled performer, lecturer and cultural ambassador, Reggie has earned wide acclaim and respect from peers and audiences alike throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and around the world. He combines spirituals and roots music, historic inspiration, and moving original songs, emphasizing themes of unity and social justice. He was one of the 2015 PMN Artists in Residence.

www.reggieharrismusic.com



David Roth: He celebrated 30 years of full-time performing/writing/recording in December of 2017. He brings a wealth of experience to his interactive and participatory workshops. Accolades include top honors at Kerrville NewFolk and Falcon Ridge Emerging Artists. He is Executive Director of SummerSongs and the Cape Cod Songwriters Retreats.

www.davidrothmusic.com

Performance Skills



(Session 1 Continues)

1E) **Making Melodies** (Classroom 113)

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

Songwriting Skills



1F) **The Importance of Local Radio - Songs you Won't Hear Anyplace Else**

(Classroom 210)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

This will be a discussion and song swap led by by Hudson Valley Sally and others with songs and ideas about the importance of independent media and the threats to it from corporate and government censorship. News about the reactionary actions of the new FCC Commissioner have focused on net neutrality. Meanwhile, we're also facing major threats to local, independent media, including radio. Former Commissioner Michael Copps has tweeted: "Media ownership matters. Localism and diversity matter. The majority @FCC is poised to strangle local media."

The chorus of the song "[The FM Band](#)" from our new CD says: "Turn on the radio / Don't listen to the talk shows / Just turn that dial / Where the music flows / You can find a song / That might-a been banned / Down at the bottom of the / of the the FM band." Come sing (and organize) with us for independent media!

Hudson Valley Sally: We sing activist folk music. Charlie King wrote, "They light up the stage with a joyous energy. They breathe new life into old songs and make them sound brand new. Their roots are deep and their eyes are on the prize." www.hudsonvalleysally.com

Saturday, January 27, 10:35 – 11:55 am

2A) **PANEL: Identity, Cross-Cultural Work, & Cultural Appropriation in Theater, Dance, and Song**

(Library)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

Six artistically-engaged panelists draw on professional and life experiences subverting the dominant paradigm. Discussion questions include:

- In a country that's dominantly white and heterosexual, how can a diversity of cultures and viewpoints be respected and made welcome in the arts – both onstage and in the audience?
- How can nonwhite, non-straight people find spaces that are truly shared and genuinely welcoming to people who have been marginalized? — without being made to feel they have to solve the problem?
- What are the challenges of being a person of color performing for a predominantly white audience?
- What are implications of white performers performing music, dance and theater from other cultures?
- What are some intelligent and sensitive ways to reach across boundaries with the intention of improving diversity and equity, or at least communication?
- What does it mean for us as working performers to challenge the racial & economic status quo?

Charlie King (Moderator): Musical storyteller, political satirist, and the 2017 recipient of the Phil Ochs Award, in recognition of his music and activism for social and political justice. 2018 PMN Winter Gathering Artist in Residence. www.charlieking.org



Peter Kuo: LA Native currently working in New York, is a theatre director, producer, writer, and educator focusing on raising the visibility of marginalized communities. He is a co-founder of Artists at Play, an Asian American theatre collective that produces Los Angeles premieres of works for Asian Americans. He believes in challenging the default idea of being "American." www.peterkuo.com

Reggie Harris: Songwriter, storyteller and lecturer steeped in the tradition of African American spirituals, folk, gospel, rock and the music of civil and human rights. Recognized as one of the foremost presenters of songs in the spirit of his mentors Pete Seeger, Harry Belafonte and Bernice Johnson Reagon, he writes from a personal sense of mission that merges a world-wise point of view with a singularly hopeful perspective.



www.reggieharrismusic.com



Nell McGloin-King: Swing, blues and fusion social dance teacher and organizer in New Haven CT for Yale Swing, Blues, and Fusion, a non-competitive social dance community that strives to be accessible to all, and to work for progress regarding consent culture, deepening our understanding of the forms of dance that we practice, and challenging restrictive gender roles in the dance community. www.yaleswingandblues.org

Brian Folkins-Amador: Musical director/composer/arranger/guitarist and vocalist for Sol y Canto, who are known for making their music accessible to Spanish and non-Spanish speaking audiences of all ages. A Chicano/Gringo mongrel from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Brian was one of the founding members of Flor de Caña and is the recipient of an "exceptional artist" grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. www.solycanto.com



Rick Burkhardt: Obie-award-winning playwright, composer, director, songwriter, and accordionist for The Prince Myshkins. 2018 PMN Winter Gathering Artist in Residence. www.rickburkhardt.com



2B) **Rise Again Singalong** (Classroom 104)

Bring voices, instruments and your copy of *Rise Again* (if you have one) to this sing along led by Annie and Colleen. This workshop is a chance to have fun singing together and allow the music to lift our spirits. Copies of *Rise Again* will be available to borrow.

Group Singing



Annie Patterson: Co-creator of *Rise Up Singing* & *Rise Again*, folk & jazz performer, illustrator & well-loved song leader. www.riseupandsing.org/anniepeter/concerts

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

2C) **Songs that give us Strength to Resist and Carry on** (Classroom 110)

Every social movement needs a sound track to help uplift people's spirits. Let's swap songs that keep us going -- whether they are old songs whose timelessness continues to strengthen the resolve of people in struggle today or new songs that help transformational movements grapple with new conditions in new ways.

Song Swap



Bev Grant: Founder and director of the Brooklyn Women's Chorus. www.bevgrant.com



Lindsey Wilson: Singer/songwriter who embraces issues of the heart and mind in her original music. She writes love songs, protest tunes, and lyrics of empowerment. Her influences include Richie Havens, Joni Mitchell, Carole King, and Karen Carpenter, but her message is all her own. www.facebook.com/LindseyWilsonLive

(Session 2 Continues)

2D) **New Yiddish Songs of Social Justice** (Classroom 113A)
Traditions of Struggle

Musical

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, Linda Gritz, and Mike Katz: Katz and Gritz Mishpokhe (Pauli, Mike, Linda) are a Yiddish Speaking and Yiddish singing family, founding members of A Besere Velt Yiddish chorus and long term leaders of Boston Workmen's Circle's monthly Yiddish Sing.

2E) **Men's Song Swap** (Classroom 113)

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

Song Swap



2F) **PMN Comedy & Creativity BOOST Camp** (Classroom 210)

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

Creative Process



Saturday, January 27, 2:15 – 3:35 pm

3A) **Why We Sing: the Power of Choral Singing** (Library)

Members of the DC Labor Chorus will share their history of activism in the DC labor movement as well as the in's and out's of choral singing. Participants will be able to create a new song and learn a song from the DCLC repertoire.

Group Singing



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.
www.laborheritage.org



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. Former PMN Steering Committee member. Member of the D.C. Labor Chorus. www.blackagendareport.com/luci-murphy-cultural-warrior

(Session 3 Continues)

3B) **Not Poetry: Word Play With A Purpose!** (Classroom 104)

Literary Performer, Educator, and Former National Poetry Slam Champion, Regie Gibson, has been having fun with language since he was a kid. After doing so, and studying the craft of writing and performing poetry for decades, he has gathered and developed a ton of techniques to open the creative mind. This will be a lively writing workshop for those who want to write what's in the heart, but without all the rules. Please bring paper and a writing utensil.

Regie Gibson: Poet, songwriter, author, workshop facilitator, and educator Regie Gibson has performed, taught, and lectured at schools, universities, theaters and other venues throughout the world. National Poetry Slam Individual Champion!

www.regiegibson.com

Creative Process



3C) **Songs to Resist SCROTUS, Fascism, White Nationalism, Patriarchy, Climate Denial and MUCH MUCH more** (Classroom 110)

In this round-robin style session, we invite participants to present new songs—both new compositions and new parodies – that speak plainly to current conditions in our country, particularly in the wake of the 2016 Election.

Mike Glick: Long time PMN member and member of GENERATIONS, a father/son led progressive music group using jazz, blues, US folk, Brazilian, latin music and more.

www.generations-music.com

Song Swap



3D) **PANEL: How and When to Make an Issue Album** (Classroom 113A)

This discussion addresses how and when to make an album around a particular social issue: What are the key ingredients for an effective project? How does one garner media attention and spread the word? Where can one look for funding? When does it make sense to bring in guest musicians and/or create a compilation album? Our panelists draw on their own experiences as fundraisers, concert promoters, and creators of albums for grownups and kids alike.

Alastair Moock: Makes music for grownups and kids alike. His family album about cancer, *Singing Our Way Through (ITAL)*, which he created with his daughter around their journey with pediatric cancer, garnered a 2013 GRAMMY nomination for Best Children's Album of the Year. The Boston Globe calls him "one of the town's best and most adventurous songwriters." www.singingourway.com



Colleen Kattau: Producer of multiple successful fundraiser albums including: with Bev Grant, "Singing Clear: Clean Earth, Air, Water 'Round Here"; with Jolie Rickman, "Sing it Down: Songs to Close the SOA" and "Sing it Down, Volume 2" created at the request of the School of the Americas Watch Director. Has also contributed songs for a few compilation albums produced by other individuals and organizations. www.colleenkattau.com

Music in the Movement



3E) **From Plagiarism to Hommage: Joys and Lessons of Parody Writing** (Classroom 113)

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

Songwriting Skills



(Session 3 Continues)

3F) **Songs of the Communist Movement: A Childhood Perspective** (Classroom 210) **Group Singing**

Folksongs, union songs, civil rights songs have long been organizing tools of the left – to build community, energize supporters and express shared beliefs. As Dan grew up in a communist family in the 1940s and 50s he learned progressive values from songs of his family and Camp Wochica (Workers Children’s Camp). Join us as Dan reads excerpts from his 2017 memoir, *History Lessons*, and sing along with Dan, Molly and other PMN members on some old stalwarts such as *Jarama*, *Union Maid & Solidarity Forever*, and Dan’s childhood favorite, *The Horse With a Union Label*.



Dan Lynn Watt: Author, “History Lessons,” about growing up communist. Activist, folkie, educator, guitar and ukulele player. He and Molly co-lead a uke band, uke meetups at NEFFA, and an annual ukulele festival at World Fellowship.

Molly Lynn Watt: Activist, folkie, co-founder Folk Song Society of Greater Boston (1959), poet, ukulele player/teacher. Author, “On Wings of Song: A Journey into the Civil Rights Era.” Co-author, performer, “Songs and Letters of the Spanish Civil War.” www.mollylynnwatt.com

Saturday, January 27, 5:00-6:15 pm (Free Space)

During the Free Space, you can propose a workshop, activity, or jam right up to the very last minute. Deadline for proposals is Saturday, January 27 at 4:00 PM.

At the registration table, write up a description of a small workshop, discussion, or activity that you’d like to help lead during this time. Use the schedule grid to reserve a room. This is an opportunity for last minute collaborations among artists, as well as people who missed the deadline to submit a workshop. Since our physical space is limited, sign up as early as you can.

The topics, group leaders, and locations will be announced at the end of the plenary, which is Saturday at 4:50 PM. Large pieces of paper will be posted to indicate what is happening where. Please start thinking now what topics you’d like to connect with other musical activists about. Also feel free to use this time for napping, exploring the neighborhood, jamming in the hall, or socializing.

Sunday, January 28, 9:00 – 10:30 am

4A) **Songs of the Spirit** (Library)

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.

Mara Sapon-Shevin: Long time PMN member who has helped to carry on this tradition for years.

(Session 4 Continues)

4B) **World Music Rhythms and Sonorities** (Classroom 104)

In this workshop, Members of Banjo Nickaru & Western Scooches will explore how world music rhythms & sonorities in our music can be a step toward community that fully includes diverse cultures. We will explore scales, harmony, rhythms, polyrhythms, and hemiola from India, Brazil, Latin America, Gullah-Geechee, West Africa as well as Ostinato patterns, clave, and call and response. How can we incorporate these devices from other cultures into our own original music in ways that show respect to the people who created them? We will discuss how to position ourselves as a world community of diverse artists. Participants are welcome to bring samples of their own original music that incorporates world music.

Musical Traditions of Struggle



Nick Russo: Appears on ABC's Good Morning America, Sam Mendes film, "Away We Go" and was a sideman with the late greats: Jimmy McGriff, Teddy Charles and Sonny Dallas.

Betina Hershey: As a songwriter, Hershey performed live on WFUV, played with Fast Folk at The Bottom Line, C-Note, workshopped songs at Jack Hardy's Monday night gatherings and BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Writing Workshop.

4C) **Guitar Technique "Master Class"** (Classroom 110)

Using the 'master class' format, Marcia will provide tips and insights for improving guitar technique. Sign up in advance for a ten-to-fifteen minute lesson – we'll get in as many 'private lessons in public' as time permits. On the sign-up sheet, indicate what part of your technique you'd like to improve. To sign up, e-mail the presenter at mdt.renn@gmail.com, or speak to her in person at the gathering. Come with your guitar if you'd like a turn 'in the goldfish bowl'! You'll have a supportive audience as everyone learns from your lesson. All are welcome to attend. Even if you're simply observing, you'll come away with something to apply to your own playing.

Performance Skills



Marcia Taylor: lives and works in Providence, Rhode Island. Teaches music at a Quaker school for girls, and leads singing weekly at her Unitarian church. She graduated from Hartt College of Music with a degree in classical guitar performance. Some of her instrumental strengths include finger-style arrangements, and jazz and swing chord voicings up and down the neck.

4E) **Functional Protest Music: Tactics from South Africa & Rural US South** (Classroom 113)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

The legacy of mass resistance to racism, apartheid, and capitalism in South Africa and the Rural US South led to some of the most compelling examples of functional protest music. These struggles fused forms rooted in vernacular song, dance, and congregational singing with revolutionary politics and practical tactics. Song forms gained practical applications, from dislodging lines of police, to secretly describing plans for mass action in code. These forms provide compelling templates for the radical music of today. Come ready to sing and also discuss/present songs you have learned/wrote that you feel have practical use in mass protest. Come ready to sing!



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

Sunday, January 28, 10:45 am – 12:15 pm

5A) **"New Song" in the Americas: From Gardel to Manu Chao** (Library) *Musical Traditions of Struggle*

From Gardel to Manu Chao and Violeta Parra to Woody Guthrie, this multimedia presentation tells the story of Nueva Canción or "New Song" and how the tradition traveled from Latin America to New York City at the El Taller Cultural Center. We'll sing along on some Nueva Canción as well as songs originally written in English that have been translated into Spanish. Among them: "Swimming to the other Side" by Pat Humphries and "Deportee" & "This Land is your Land" by Woody.

Bernardo Palombo: Argentine musician and composer and founder of El Taller Latino Americano – a community-based arts and education institution. He arrived in New York without a word of English, but he found no language barrier among musicians. He quickly realized the power of culture and art to cross barriers and began holding double-feature concerts featuring artists like Pete Seeger, Mercedes Sosa, Philip Glass and Atahualpa Yupanqui. Palombo also began teaching Spanish, incorporating his songs and the languages of Latin America. This immersion model, combining the vitality of the arts with language learning, continues today. www.tallerlatino.org



Timna & Dario Duo: A beautiful Brazilian voice and a virtuoso Argentinian guitar come together in exquisite arrangements that combine tropical rhythms with jazzy harmonies and a touch of contemporary music. After launching their album "Tabula Rasa" in 2015, they have performed in Argentina, Brazil, Spain, France, Belgium, England, Netherlands, Israel, and Palestine. They are finishing their second CD, "Cotidiano". www.timnadario.com

Mario Roberto Cancel-Bigay:

5B) **Women's Song Swap** (Classroom 104)

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 & CMN member, peace and justice activist, rabble rouser, Let Your Yoga Dance teacher, & quilter.

Song Swap



5C) **Expressing Anger in Activist Music** (Classroom 110)

If you're angry and you know it write a song! Most people engaged with organizing, resistance, and left political activism these days ARE angry -- typically for very good reasons. Meanwhile, much of the punditry class says that it was anger that put the current president in the White House! But is anger as such the problem? What does anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-sexist anger sound like, and how can we incorporate it in our songs while maintaining the political effectiveness of those songs? What are the challenges and pitfalls of reaching out with our own anger, or naming the anger that others feel? Let's come together with songs and discussion about this topic!

Sandy Pliskin: Songwriter, fiddler, banjo and uke player, activist, early childhood development specialist, and PMN Steering Committee member. www.sandypliskin.bandcamp.com

Ren: Creative educator who utilizes poetry, song, dance, and numerous teaching styles to share cultural lessons, while inspiring expression. www.facebook.com/anewblackartsmovement

Song Swap and Discussion



(Session 5 Continues)

5D) **PANEL: Songs for Social Change and Song Contests** (Classroom 113A) (*Music in the Movement*)

Writing songs with the intent of creating positive social change might seem in conflict with the very notion of a song contest: competition, evaluation and judgment, promise of rewards in the form of promotion, exposure, even—gasp!—money.... Yet, for better or worse, contests are inescapable in contemporary culture and the arts, and varied organizations have sought to harness contests as ways to encourage songwriting for social aims. By sharing and comparing experiences and insights gleaned in diverse settings, we hope to spark an open conversation within the PMN community about possibilities, challenges, and issues in the design and stewardship of songs for social change contests. How do we balance issues of message and effectiveness with song craft? How essential is the songwriter's direct involvement with activism, beyond their artistic work? Does a contest framework encourage, or compromise, that unity of action and expression? We hope this open conversation will directly help in planning future directions for several of these initiatives.

Mark Simos (Moderator): Associate Professor in Songwriting at Berklee College of Music (Boston). For the past decade, has co-facilitated an inward-facing student Songs for Social Change contest and showcase. www.devachan.com



Elise Bryant: Executive Director of the Labor Heritage Foundation and lead organizer of an annual event in Washington DC, "The Great Labor Arts Exchange", which attracts politically progressive artists from around the country and which hosts an annual song contest. www.laborheritage.org

Paul Nagle: As the coordinator of Musicians United to Protect Bristol Bay, he has run song contests focused on songs to support the struggle of Alaskans to stop the destruction of their land and water from the proposed Pebble Mine. www.musiciansunited.info



Ben Grosscup: Executive Director of People's Music Network, he regularly runs a song contest showcase on behalf of PMN at the Northeast Regional Folk Alliance. The showcase grew out of an earlier project called PMN Song of the Month, which is archived at www.pmnsongofthemonth.org/

5E) **Grain of Salt: Workshopping Songs in Progress** (Classroom 113)

Songwriting Skills

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.



David Roth: His songs took flight in the 1980s Greenwich Village folk scene (with Jack Hardy's weekly songwriting group) and have since found their way to Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, several Chicken Soup for the Soul books, the Kennedy Center, Peter, Paul, & Mary and Kingston Trio CDs, Rise Up Singing and Rise Again songbooks, and 13 CDs. www.davidrothmusic.com

5F) **Rounds: Take 'em with a grain of SOLT.** (Classroom 210)

Group Singing

Rounds for roundheads, squares, all. As always, we honor Roundman, Sol Weber who led these sessions for many years, but now has been incapacitated by a stroke. 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 & Walkabout Clearwater Chorus. www.hudsonvalleysally.com



Rebecca Pomerantz: Long-time rounds fanatic and rounds collector from the Boston area who loves singing and harmony. (Talk to her if you like rounds and live in the area.)

Sandi Propp-Gubin: a rounds lover who co-coordinates and is a member of the Voices of Harmony choir. Ask her about her podcast (in the exploration phase) about rounds!