



Workshop Descriptions

Updated 1/24/2019

People's Music Network Winter Gathering January 25-27, 2019 New York City

[More info on workshops here.](#)

[Click here to register](#)

Workshops take place Sat. Jan. 26 and Sun. Jan. 27, at the Central Park East II School in East Harlem, NY.

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.
- **Creative Process:** Inspiration for developing creative work as well as 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 26, 9:00–10:20 am

1A) Strength from the Roots 1 of 2: Working Class Strength and Artistic Expression

(Library - Level 2)

Grounded in the popular education model developed by Brazilian educator Paulo Freire, and Highlander Center founder, Miles Horton in Tennessee, these two sessions build on cultural forms of self-expression that enhance individual and collective decision-making, public speaking skills, organizing, and strategy setting practices. The approach reflects the importance of valuing the use of play, small group, and plenary structures, allowing for more profound retention and learning. The process is based on the conviction that every person and community has the ability to organize themselves from the strengths they already carry internally. Our job is to evoke and provoke those strengths and work with people as a community of learners to deepen our collective understanding and analysis and refine our skills. Through this interdependent process, community is strengthened, re-formed, re-envisioned, critiqued and re-birthed.

Francisco Herrera: Theologian, cultural worker, singer-songwriter, and PMN Artist-in-Residence Francisco Herrera brings together different styles of music to promote human rights and social justice.

www.franciscoherreramusic.com

Creative Process



1B) **Building Bridges that Connect Networks of Musicians**

(Art Space - Level 3)

Music in the Movement

This panel of artists are all organizing within their arts communities to use music and the arts as a tool for social change. They will discuss:



1. How artistic & social justice organizing work intersect in the communities where they're active.
2. Strategies for the local and national level to build solidarity within the networks they're building (as opposed to ego-driven market competition) as well as practices for sustainability.
3. How they're working to establish an intentionally diverse network of musicians?
4. How local musicians networks have unified as artists to bolster current social justice organizations and campaigns through concerts and other arts events?
5. How their organizing promotes the sharing of money as well as time in the service of radical inclusion.

Luci Murphy (Moderator): D.C.-based vocalist and song-leader. Former PMN Steering Committee member. Member of the D.C. Labor Chorus. Founder and director of the Black Workers Center Chorus.

www.blackagendareport.com/luci-murphy_cultural_warrior

Olusanya Bey: Poet, mindfulness instructor and arts educator. He is one of the founding members of the Anti-diVision League, a collective of artists (largely from CT) who use their various art forms to raise awareness around the many social inequities plaguing our nation, and to also raise funds for community organizations actively engaged in resistance.

Sarah Rose Nunes: Singer, artist and activist and founding member of the Anti-diVision League based in Hartford, CT who uses music and arts events as an organizing tool to raise awareness and funds to combat the social injustices in our communities.

Annie Levin: Annie Levin is a writer and organizer with Sing in Solidarity: A Project of New York City DSA. She helped organize Voices for Immigrant Justice, a left unity concert benefitting members of the Central American migrant caravans.

Nicholas Horner: In 2014, he founded "Porch Stomp" -- a festival for cross-genre folk musicians (traditional folk, old-time, blues, roots, bluegrass and americana) and music lovers to share in a day of music and fun in Nolan Park (NYC). Porch Stomp now includes 100+ acts. It is run by a 100% volunteer team of artists and community builders. Nick also organizes Flatfoot Flatbush and is a successful songwriter and touring musician.

1C) **Women's Song Swap** (306 G+H - Level 3)

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.

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

Song Swap



1D) **Songs of the Resistance** (110 - Level 1)



Unsurprisingly, life under the Toddler-In-Chief has NOT been pleasant! In fact, it's been worse than we imagined. Yet, "our Prez,"* has proven unintentionally inspirational for many singers and songwriters.

While some have chosen to update old songs, there are also many fine new ones about the current situation – and the many issues that have been brought to the fore (immigration, #BlackLivesMatter, #MeToo, Islamophobia, and more). This workshop wants your contributions to this "genre." Hopefully we can all learn some new songs to bring to our activities. (Participants are encouraged to bring lyric sheets and/or contact info for their songs.)



Song Swap

We invite you to submit song lyrics in advance (only one each); we will try to print as many as possible on two sides of a one sheet of paper. Send your "bon mots"- deadline: January 21st to mikeglick@earthlink.net.

** aka tRump, Angry Creamsicle, 70-Year-Old Toddler, the Angry Cheeto, Bumbledore, Don the Con, SCROTUS (So-Called-Ruler-Of-The-US)*

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

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

1E) **Improvisational Singing Games** (305D - Level 3)

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



Saturday, January 26, 10:35 – 11:55 am

2A) **Strength from the Roots 2 of 2: Using Song and Culture and Asset Inventory for Organizing**

(Library - Level 2)

Music in the Movement

This is the second part of a two part workshop. See description above: workshop 1A.

Francisco Herrera: Theologian, cultural worker, singer-songwriter, and PMN Artist-in-Residence Francisco Herrera brings together different styles of music to promote human rights and social justice.

www.franciscoherreramusic.com

2B) **Nueva Canción: a Younger Generation's Take**

(Art Space - Level 3)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

In this workshop we revisit the legacy of Latin American nueva canción, the socially conscious anticolonial musical-poetic movement of the 1960s, as heard and reimagined by a younger generation. We celebrate the legacy of Caribbean and Latin American politically-committed poets through originally-composed songs and Puerto Rico's national guitar, the Puerto Rican cuatro. Poems that challenge racial, ethnic and gender expectations are sung and/or recited in Spanish, French, and English, and translated or summarized when not in English. We also explain some key Caribbean/Latin American musical elements through interactive practices.

Mario Cancel-Bigay: Doctoral candidate in Ethnomusicology at Columbia University, he earned his M.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from NYU, and his B.A. in Modern Languages from the University of Puerto Rico.

www.facebook.com/mario.cancel.54

Yarisa Colón Torres: Award-winning poet and professor at Bronx Community College, she earned her M.A. in Puerto Rican literature at the Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe.

www.espacioasiray.blogspot.com



2C) **Choral Singing** (306 G+H - Level 3)

Bev Grant, director, and members of the Brooklyn Women's Chorus will teach some of their choral arrangements. All levels and voices are welcome.

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

www.brooklynwomenschorus.com

Group Singing



2D) **Grain of Salt: Workshopping Songs in Progress** (110 - Level 1)

Creative Process

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. Participants are invited to bring 10-15 lyric sheets of the song they'll be presenting.

Terry Kitchen: Long-time member of PMN; singer-songwriter for many years. www.terrykitchen.com



2E) **Rainbow Song Swap (formerly known at the LGBTQ Song Swap)** (305D - Level 3) **Song Swap**

This circle gives voice and support to LGBTQIA 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 - LGBTIQIA 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

Dave Gott:

2F) **Make it Full Time: Financial Sustainability for Creative Professionals**

(301L - Level 3)

Khaiim the RapOet will give an overview followed by Q&A, based on his online mastermind program for creative professionals. Participants will be acquainted with the 4 components of a sustainable arts career, the 12 major obstacles on the path to sustainability, and an introduction to the tools and solutions for each one. This workshop is not intended for those who've just begun dabbling in the arts; rather it guides those who are already establishing themselves as creative professionals to become more financially sustainable, in the midst of family and other competing responsibilities common to adult professional artists.

Khaiim the RapOet: an international touring artist and keynote speaker. He's received critical acclaim as a positive rapper while performing with everyone from Pulitzer Prize poets like Alice Walker to Grammy winning MCs like Common. He's also recorded in Jay-Z's studio with J Cole's multiplatinum engineer Mez. Although Khaiim lectures at colleges such as Trinity and Yale, fans know him as the charismatic MC Self Suffice, whose album with Dreamville's Mez summited the Indie Hip-Hop Top 40. Catch him with his live band performing the new album "Self Control" at a venue near you! www.rapoets.com

Music Promotion



Saturday, January 27, 2:15 – 3:35 pm

3A) **Children's Concert** (Library - Level 2)

Concert

This concert is FREE and open to the Public, so tell every child in NYC about it! It will feature: a chorus of children singing Woody Guthrie songs in Spanish, led by Bernardo Palombo; a group of children known as The Garden Players, led by Betina Hershey, A group of students from CPEII led by Paul Clarke, plus Martin Swinger, Lydia Adams Davis and others.

3B) **Commemorating Pete Seeger's 100th Year** (Art Space - Level 3)

Group Singing

Commemorating Pete Seeger's 100th year, we will present songs and stories of Pete's activism throughout his life i.e. Spanish Civil War, Unions, McCarthy era, Civil Rights Movement, Environmental Movement etc. In the Tradition of Pete we will encourage the attendees to join us in song.

Walkabout Clearwater Chorus: Walkabout Clearwater Chorus

includes: Patricia Evans, Johnny Fisher, Lou Goldstein, Nancy Goldstein, Debbie Kair, Michael Lavery, Sandi Lieb-Geiger, Norma Moshman, Steve Moshman, John Sarna, Laurie Siegel, Carole Siegel, Jeffrey Siegel, Steve Siegelbaum, www.walkaboutchorus.org



3C) **Raging Grannies in Action** (306 G+H - Level 3)

Music in the Movement

In the tradition of wise women elders, the mission of the "Raging Grannies" is to promote global peace, justice and social and economic equality by raising public awareness through the medium of song and humor. We will all sing Raging Granny songs. We will discuss what we do, where we do it, and the desired impact. We will invite others to share their work and songs, focusing on bringing easy to sing music to demonstrations, events and public spaces. Participants will learn how to write and perform music that works well for sing alongs with the general public and with a wide range of groups.

Adele Rolider: Singer- songwriter and music therapist; Been a member and vocal coach for the Raging Grannies for about 15 years.

Other Raging Grannies include: Alice Sturm Sutter, Nikki Leger, Nora Freeman, Nancy Adelman, Corinne Willinger, and Judith Ackerman, Mary Lutz, Mercy Van Vlack, and Richenda Kramer.



3D) **Stanzas for the Movement: A Poetry Exchange** (110 - Level 1)

Song Swap

Come one, come all! Are you a writer? Have you always wanted to share your poems but haven't been granted the space? Now is finally your chance to showcase your work. Spoken word artists Luz Ozoria and Dilson will give tips and advice on poetry, while opening the space for participants to share their written work and discuss the importance of poetry in our social justice movements.

Dilson Hernandez: He is a multi-genre artist from the Bronx. His talents include creative writing, playing various instruments, spoken-word poetry, singing, audio engineering, and beat making. www.dilsonmusic.com

Luz Ozoria: She is a multi-genre artist with passions in writing, spoken-word poetry, film production, and painting. She recently founded a creative group dedicated to creating spaces for uptown and Bronx creators to share their art.



3E) **Guitar Fingerboard Workshop** (305D - Level 3)

Can't get where you're going if you don't know where you are. Detailed exploration of the structural nature of a guitar fingerboard. The ability to locate the sounds that we hear, chord inversions, notes in all keys, etc. opens up creative possibility.

Barry Kornhauser: Brooklyn resident and longtime PMN member. Actively involved in music most waking hours. Enjoys exchanging and sharing insights, speculations, hallucinations especially in the service of people's revolution. Plays guitar, cello and many other instruments.

Creative Process



3F) **Artists as Cultural Organizers in the Poor People's Campaign**

(301L - Level 3)

In these times, people are rising up. We must raise our voices and infuse our movements with music – to unite, galvanize, energize, inform, comfort, calm, direct, and encourage. Figuring out HOW to incorporate music into direct actions and work with movement organizers can sometimes be a challenge. This workshop will explore effective strategies for using music in direct action and organizing spaces today. Drawing on lessons and songs from the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, we will lift up specific practices that have been used to prepare both traditional organizers and song leaders to understand music as an organizing tool. We will also focus on the role of music in direct action spaces and explore its ability to ground, energize, de-escalate, and transform our actions.

Charon Hribar: Dr. Charon Hribar is the Director of Cultural Strategies at the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice and Co-Director of Cultural Arts for the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Over the past 15 years, Charon has www.poorpeoplescampaign.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.

Music in the Movement



Saturday, January 26, 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 26 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.

Pre-Scheduled Free Space Activities:

EyeOpeners (306 G+H) --- (Sat., 5:15-6:00pm)

Improve concentration, attention and mental skills through fun movement games involving your eyes. Enhance vision and focus. Includes learning RelaxToFocus workout. EyeOpeners are mind openers!. This workshop is geared toward youth but adults are especially welcome to participate or observe.

Dr. Martha Eddy: www.movingforlife.org

Open Song Swap (305A)

We'll go round the circle and take turns performing songs/spoken word pieces we want to share. This will be an open space for sharing.

Sunday, January 27, 9:00 – 10:30 am

4A) **Songs of the Spirit** (Library - Level 2)

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.

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.

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.

4C) **Online and Traditional Promotion: A PRimer** (306 G+H - Level 3)

Music Promotion

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 Reg www.michaelkornfeld.com



4D) **Black Banjo Traditions & Cultural Memory**

(110 - Level 1)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

By examining contemporary Black banjo players and their performance practices, participants will gain a deeper understanding of cultural memory, the power it can impart to performers, and how we can best use that power.

Jake Blount: A performer and ethnomusicologist (B.A., Hamilton College) specializing in the fiddle and banjo music of Black and Native American communities in the Southeastern United States. www.jakeblount.com



Sunday, January 27, 10:45 am – 12:15 pm

5A) **Living Hip-Hop: A Nonviolent Creative Response to Oppression**

(Library - Level 2)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

Khaiim the RapOet and Professor Seth Markle will interview guests of their upcoming college course, in which icons such as Abiodun Oyewole of the Last Poets will discuss the often dismissed positive achievements of Hip-Hop culture, origins in the Civil Rights Movement, and how each of its 10 Elements can be used to respond to oppression in a creative way, rather than passing on that oppression to other marginalized groups.



Khaiim the RapOet: An international touring artist and keynote speaker.

Seth Markle: Associate Professor of History and International Studies at Trinity College whose work focuses on the histories of cultural and political exchange between Africa and the African Diaspora. He is advisor to "The International Hip-Hop Festival" and author of,

A Motorcycle on Hell Run: Tanzania, Black Power, and the Uncertain Future of Pan-Africanism, 1964–1974.

<https://www.sethmarkle.com/>

Abiodun Oyewole: of the Last Poets.



5B) **World Music Rhythms** (Art Space - Level 3)

Musical Traditions of Struggle

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.



Nick Russo: Co-founder of Banjo Nickaru & Western Scooches. 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. www.banjonickaru.com

Chris Eddleton: A full-time musician living in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Chris tours Europe and the U.S. with a popular local Punjabi-Funk band called Red Baraat.



5C) **Functional Protest Music: Tactical lessons from South Africa, and the rural South**

(306 G+H - Level 3)

Music in the Movement

The legacy of mass resistance in South Africa and the rural US south to racism, apartheid, and capitalism led to some of the most compelling examples of functional protest music. The music that emerged from these struggles effortlessly 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 that provide compelling templates for 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 and members of the DSA Sing In Solidarity Chorus: Ethnomusicologist, philosopher and singer who has researched the history of American folk music and the International and American Left.



5D) **Round Singing, For Fun/ With Messages/OR Both** (110 - Level 1)

Group Singing

A lively selection of great rounds -- Fun, beautiful, silly, serious, old and new.

Laurie Siegel: Member 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.)

Evy Mayer: Sings and plays ukulele and a host of other percussion instruments. Currently President of the FMSNY, she loves humorous songs.

5E) **Songs for Working Class Solidarity** (305D - Level 3)

Come share a song and learn some new ones! Everyone who wants to share a song will have a chance. Even better if your song links labor themes with immigration or solidarity across borders. Poems, hip-hop, spoken word, and other art forms are welcome too.

Alexandra (Al) Bradbury: Editor of Labor Notes, member of Musicians Local 1000, and singer-songwriter. www.etandtheboy.wordpress.com

Song Swap



5F) **Men's Song Swap** (301L - Level 3)

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. Member of the Peoples' Voice Cafe collective in NYC. www.stevesuffet.com

Song Swap

