

## 2006 CMN NATIONAL CONFERENCE WORKSHOP/SONGSWAP DESCRIPTIONS

For all workshop sessions: A, B, C, D

\* = *kid-friendly*

### ♪ **SONGSWAPS** (*Location: Buckeye*)

A. USING A LITTLE SONG TO EXPLORE A BIG ISSUE: Social justice issues for elementary kids—  
Songswap (Mara Sapon-Shevin) \*

How do we engage students in discussions of social justice issues in age-appropriate ways, neither shying away from the big issues, nor overwhelming them with too much? This songswap will focus on songs for exploring topics such as race, poverty, violence, homophobia, and war with students. Bring a favorite song and tell how you use it and why.

*Mara is a professor at Syracuse University and a longtime CMN'er.*

B. WE ARE ALL IMMIGRANTS: Songs for chance takers, wall shakers, boundary breakers, etc.—Songswap  
(Ted Warmbrand) \* (older kids)

How do we address, in song, permeable borders—especially the one between Mexico and the United States—and the need to "commute" to work, when barriers are everywhere?

*Ted lives near the Sonora Arizona border and has made and sung songs for people with and without papers for years.*

C. REMEMBERING BOB BLUE—Songswap and memory sharing (Joanne Tuller)

CMN's much-loved Bob Blue—teacher and songwriter extraordinaire, former CMN board member and editor of *Pass It On!*—died this past March. To honor his work and help us say goodbye to him, all are invited to spend this time together sharing memories of Bob, his songs and writings, and our thoughts and feelings.

D. LET'S SING AMERICAN HISTORY—Songswap (David Heitler-Klevans) \*

Music can be a fun medium for bringing history to life. Bring songs to share that relate to important events, ideas and people from various points in U.S. History.

*David Heitler-Klevans is one half of Two of a Kind, an award-winning duo that does performances, artist residencies, workshops and recordings.*

### ♪ **EARLY EDUCATION** (*Location: Fireside*)

A. LET THE SONGS "SING" THE BODY (Carol Passovoy)

The music of children's songs finds its way into my ankles, toes and knees, and I can't keep from dancing with joy. Hop, skip, slide and jitterbug to the songs that you sing with your audience. Learn ways you can get people up and moving with simple steps, sequences and repetition with some of your favorite CMN songs (used by permission).

*Carol Passovoy is trained in elementary education and has a background in expressive movement. She has been doing preschool and pre-rhythm-instrument education for 5 years. She loves children's music and the way it makes her move.*

Cont.

## Early Ed., cont.

### B. CAN WE ALL GET ALONG?: Preschool cooperation and fairness—Songswap (Sue Ribaud)

A songswap that brings social justice issues down to a preschooler's perspective. We'll share songs about fairness and how to get along with each other. Sue will lead us in ways to use musical activities to foster social skills. Bring songs and singing games that you've used to bring young ones together, and we'll change the world one toddler at a time.

*Sue has 30 years of musical experience teaching children and adults. She resides in NYC and is an early childhood music specialist at the Little Red Schoolhouse.*

### C. TUNES FOR TOTS—Songswap (Carole Peterson and Marie Hopper) \*

Join Carole and Marie as they facilitate a songswap of tunes for preschoolers. Bring a song, fingerplay, dance, or rhythm activity that is developmentally-appropriate for 3- to 5-year-olds, and we'll circle round for as many songs as time allows.

*Marie is from NC, Carole is from IL. Carole teaches classes for kids, parents and teachers, owns her own business of music for children, and has CDs. Marie is the owner/director of Musicare, a preschool music program. She sings with children and helps teachers discover their hidden musical abilities.*

### D. INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC TOGETHER (Ginger Parish) \*

Music Together is a research-based, internationally-recognized music curriculum for infants through kindergartners, with adults. Central to our approach is that young children learn best from the role model of parents/caregivers who are actively making music. Music Together is committed to helping adults and children discover the pleasure and educational value of informal music experiences. Best of all, it's fun!

*Ginger Parish is a mom, musician, songwriter, and director of Santa Rosa Area Music Together. She is also an Orff music teacher at an elementary school. She has led numerous song circles with children and adults in schools, at music festivals and around campfires.*

## ♪ CAREER/BUSINESS (Location: Sequoia Lodge)

### A. ON THE ROAD: How to plan a successful tour (Johnette Downing)

Have you ever thought about taking your show out on tour? How do you book it? How do you market it? Do you know the road rules and can you make radio waves?

*Johnette Downing has successfully toured all across the country. She's a multi-award winning musician for children, and she cooks it up with lots of Louisiana spice.*

### B. SUCCESS FROM A TO A (Billy Grisack)

Introducing and understanding the four A's of success—four concepts that will help you learn more, earn more and achieve more (in any area of your career) using the same amount of time you currently spend or less. Do you want to improve your marketing, recording, booking and other professional skills? This workshop is for you! Upbeat, informative, and interactive.

*"Mr. Billy" Grisack was a successful rock and roll musician who founded a successful Internet marketing company and walked away from it all to become a successful children's songwriter/performer.*

## Career, cont.

### C. WHERE THE GUYS AREN'T: Addressing the lack of male involvement in the early education profession—Discussion (Kitt Cox)

The U.S. is currently facing an all-time low in male elementary teachers. This will be a forum for all teachers and caregivers to address this subject. It's bound to be an informative, thoughtful discussion.

*Kitt Cox is the program coordinator for the Birth to Three Family Center in Ipswich, MA.*

### D. LEADING A CHILDREN'S CHORUS (Joanne Hammil and Pam Donkin)

Come share ideas and experiences on setting up and running a children's chorus. Joanne and Pam have each run successful choruses for over 20 years and, along with participants, will share suggestions about structure, activities, the "business" end, performance, attention to individuals, goals, and repertoire that works well. If there is interest, we'll also discuss intergenerational choruses.

*Joanne Hammil—songwriter, performer, music educator, and community chorus director— runs and directs the Choral Connection (2 choruses of 40 kids each, for grades 2–4), and the Greater Boston Intergenerational Chorus (for ages 10–110). Pam Donkin is an award-winning songwriter and recording artist, performer, and music educator who has directed children's chorus groups on the San Francisco Peninsula for over 20 years. Also a Music Together director/teacher, she directs an after-school children's chorus at Las Lomas School in Atherton, CA, for 60 children grades K–3.*

## ♪ INSTRUMENTAL (Location: Muir)

### A. DRUMMING CIRCLE (Jenny Heitler-Klevans) \*

Bring your drums and other percussion instruments. We'll do some improvisation, learn some basic rhythms from rock 'n' roll beats to traditional African rhythms, and have fun playing together and listening to each other.

*Jenny Heitler-Klevans is part of Two of a Kind, a nationally-touring duo that has been performing for kids and adults for over 15 years. She lives just outside of Philadelphia, PA.*

### B. GUITARS IN THE CLASSROOM (Ingrid Noyes) \* (older kids)

Guitars in the Classroom uses a method of jump-starting teachers to play the guitar by starting out in open-G tuning, which gets amazingly quick results. Come check it out, whether you want to learn about this tuning, to try playing guitar for the first time, or to learn about becoming a GITC instructor. Some guitars provided, but bring one if you can.

*Ingrid Noyes is an instructor for Guitars in the Classroom, a nationwide nonprofit organization which provides free guitar classes and music education training for teachers and others who work with children.*

### C. CHIMES, HORSESHOES, RAILROAD SPIKES, AND PAN LIDS (Karen Johnsen) \*

A workshop teaching musical concepts to children using songs and fun instruments that dazzle the soul, energize the spirit, and tweak creative senses. Karen likes using "stuff" that other people might not consider musical instruments.

*Karen teaches hundreds of children in the San Francisco Bay Area elementary schools each week.*

## Instrumental, cont.

### D. HARMONICA FOR EVERYONE (Wiley Rankin) \*

No harmonica experience? Not a problem. Convinced that you could never play this little piece of shrapnel? Think again. We'll cover all the basics and the fun begins right away. Music booklet is free for any who attend. Harmonica is \$6.00, or bring your own 10-hole C harmonica.

*Wiley has played with legendary guitarist Les Paul and the Yardbirds. He conducts harmonica classes at colleges in N. CA.*

## ♪ INTERNATIONAL (Location: Maple)

### A. HAWAIIAN MUSIC (Kaliko Beamer-Trapp)

Nona Beamer coined the term *Hawaiiana*. Come find out what that means and learn some Hawaiian songs and some background about Hawaiian music.

*Kaliko Trapp (originally from the Isle of Wight in England) made such an impression on Nona when she met him in the late '80s that she adopted him into her family in Hawaii, where she shared her knowledge of Hawaiian language, culture, and rich musical tradition with him. He is a well-respected teacher of Hawaiian language, culture, and music to people of all ages, and currently works at the University of Hawaii, Hilo, where he creates curriculum for the Hawaiian Language Immersion School system. Recently, Kaliko's nationally released Hawaiian language audio learning series won Judges Choice Award at the annual The Audies award ceremony. He is honored to be invited to share his love of Hawaiiana with us this weekend on behalf of his hanai (adopted) mother, Aunty Nona Beamer.*

### B. WORLD HARMONY IN SONG (Elise Witt) \*

Elise Witt will share selections from her repertoire of international songs and then open the circle to the group. *Elise speaks 5 languages fluently and sings in at least a dozen more. She presents workshops in the U.S. and around the globe and loves getting people singing in glorious polyrhythmic polyphony.*

### C. VAN A CANTAR ("Come and Sing") (Frank Hernandez)

In this workshop, participants will be encouraged to bring a simple song they would like to have translated from English to Spanish. The song should be original. Be ready to brainstorm and sing in Spanish.

*Frank grew up in Mexico and now lives in AZ. He is the assistant director of Arts for All, Inc., a no-profit whose mission is to help children and youth build confidence and develop skills through the performing and visual arts. He is a bilingual singer and musician who believes strongly in the transformational power of music.*

### D. MUSICAL GAMES FROM AROUND THE WORLD (Bonnie Lockhart) \*

All over the world people sing in a ring, dance in a line, play guessing games and all kinds of games, with music. Come and share these international treasures that nurture musicality, build community, and just plain feel fun.

*Bonnie is an educator, songwriter and performer currently living in Oakland, CA.*

## ♪ COACHING/CRITIQUING (Location: Museum)

### A. HIGH PERFORMANCE COACHING (Jackson Gillman)

Having trouble getting that performance number humming? Bring it into the CMN pit stop! We specialize in hammering out the dents, parts replacements, lubrication, and fine tune-ups. Jackson and whatever crew shows up will have that clunker up and running like a charm.

*Jackson is a multi-talented performance artist who resides in MA. He's spontaneous and energetic, and you'll learn a lot from his many years of experience.*

### B. THE ART OF CRITIQUE (Monty Harper) \* (older kids)

Feedback is an essential part of any creative process, yet it can be very difficult to receive. Monty will teach us how to give and receive truly helpful critiques. Bring in a song that you might not consider "finished" yet. We will learn a four-step procedure you can adapt to extract constructive feedback from anybody. Whether you are a professional or a beginner, this method will help improve your songwriting skills by leaps and bounds.

*Monty Harper is an award-winning children's songwriter. He has 5 CDs, a blog, and a podcast on the creative process. Monty lives in Stillwater, OK, with his wife, Lisa, and their 5-year-old daughter, Evalyn.*

### C. USING SONGS SO WE CAN LISTEN TO CHILDREN (Tom Hunter)

Tom will present an interactive approach to singing songs with kids. "The more I sing with kids, the more I want to encourage participation." Songs need to be interrupted, changed and questioned. Songs give children opportunities to think and feel and awaken pieces of their stories. When participation increases, learning does too.

*Tom Hunter is a modern-day minstrel with a national schedule of keynotes, seminars, and concerts. He lives in Bellingham, WA, with his wife Gwen, 2 grown children, 5 foster children, and a wide assortment of animals.*

## ♪ MISCELLANEOUS (Location: Buckeye tree; Indoor back-up location: Barn)

### A. BRINGING SPIRIT INTO THE CLASSROOM (Betsy Rose)

Is there a place for spirituality (not religion) in classroom programs? Children have a strong and natural sense of connection to nature, animals, and others, and much curiosity and wondering about the unseen and mysterious dimensions of life. How can artists nurture and explore those dimensions with children in the classroom setting? How have you found ways to walk the fine line between religious concepts and beliefs, and the "universals" that add so much depth and richness to life? Have you had run-ins with parents or school professionals regarding this? Let's share our experiences and the songs we are bringing to children that touch on this subject.

*Singer and writer Betsy Rose has been for many years a voice within the progressive and spiritual movements of our times. Cultural visionaries such as Thich Nhat Hanh, Matthew Fox, and Joanna Macy have included her music in their work. Her musical programs for children and families focus on earth care, diversity, creativity, and practices for healthy bodies and minds in a high-stress society. Betsy is a music specialist at Cornell School in Albany, CA, and co-teaches the family practice program at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in Woodacre, CA.*

**Misc., cont.**

**B. MUSIC, MOVEMENT, DRAMA: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER (Mara Beckerman) \***

Mara will demonstrate how to take a simple rhyme or song and expand it so that it becomes an exploration in movement and/or drama and then covers the standards for a variety of things. There will be time for you to share and/or ask for suggestions on how to expand on things you've used or wanted to use.

*After starring on Broadway (1982) Mara switched gears and became a storyteller/ musician and has been performing, recording, writing, and teaching for the past 18 years for children of all ages.*

**PLUS: ENVIRONMENTAL SONG SWAP (Nancy Schimmel) \***

By popular demand, we did an impromptu swap of songs relating to the environment—nitrogen-fixing bacteria, pond creatures, tidepools, and like that.

*Nancy Schimmel has been writing environmental songs and parodies since the first Earth Day in 1970.*