

# The Song School

August 4-8, 2024 • Lyons, CO

## Schedule and Course Descriptions

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### Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>

#### **TO DO LIST:**

- Sign up for the open stage lottery. All schedules will be posted during lunchtime on Monday in the Blue Heron Tent. (Registration Tent)
- Check master roster information at the registration desk for accuracy.

#### **9:30 Campground Line Up and Lottery at the Farm**

#### **1:00 Campgrounds Opens**

#### **3:00 - 5:00 Registration**

Visit us at the Blue Heron Tent and pick up your Song School schedule, wristband, Song School laminate and other goodies.

#### **5:30 - 6:00 New Student Meet and Greet - Wildflower Pavilion**

First timer? Meet up with staff and Song School veterans, perhaps an instructor or two, ask that burning question and get some sage advice on how to make your week enjoyable.

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### Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>

#### **TO DO LIST:**

- Sign up by 9:15am for the open stage lottery. All schedules will be posted during lunchtime today in the Blue Heron Tent.
- Check master roster information at the registration desk for accuracy.
- Mentoring sheets will go out at 9am each morning for that day's mentoring sessions.

#### **7:30 - 8:15 Qi Gong**

Qi Gong is a 4,000 year old practice that cultivates energy and vitality. Practice gentle movements with Carli Zug that strengthen the body, increase flexibility and relieve stress. No experience necessary. (Trout Tent)

*"Eighty percent of life is just showing up." – Woody Allen*

### **8:00 - 9:15 Registration**

Visit us at the Blue Heron Tent and pick up your Song School schedule, wristband, Song School laminate, reusable and other goodies. Help yourself to tea or coffee and fruit and muffins next door at the beverage area. Burritos and snacks are available for purchase at the Bloomberries Booth next to the bathhouse.

### **7:30 - 8:30 Yoga**

Yogi Heather Hottovy will help celebrate the start of your day with a gentle yoga routine each morning. No prior experience necessary. Complimentary mats and blocks provided. (Meet by silo)

### **9:00 - 9:30 Orientation**

Official welcoming: we'll cover logistics, put the program in perspective, introduce instructors, and get you prepared for the week. Please be there... (Wildflower Pavilion)

### **9:30 - 10:00 Opening Session: The Song School Community Gathering**

*"Walking thru the door is the only audition."* During our opening session, Rebecca Folsom, Steve Szymanski and Bandits on the Run will lead us all in song and movement and have us resonating in time and in tune for the week ahead. (Wildflower Pavilion)

### **10:00 - 10:45 Group Songwriting Extravaganza**

After our opening session, we'll immediately find our groups and facilitators and proceed to start a song! You'll be given prompts to include and the rest is all about having fun and making new friends. There'll be time to share a couple song starts and all are encouraged to finish their songs during the week.

### **11:00 - 1:00 Electives**

- 1) **Directed Writing (Paul Reisler)** - Thirty years ago, a friend gave me the best advice I've ever heard regarding songwriting. He told me to get up every morning and write a song, complete it, and put it in a file folder and not look at it for 6 months. Not a good song or a long song necessarily, just a song. Two years and several hundred songs later, I realized that I had not only learned a lot about the craft of songwriting, but a great deal about how to generate ideas and images and carry them through, how to dance around writer's block and how to fool myself into approaching my writing in a fresh way each day. If you want to write songs on a regular basis, you need a reliable technique that you can use whenever you sit down to write. You'll be writing a song during this workshop and gathering the tools you'll need to write on a daily basis. This is a 4-day workshop and you should participate in all the sessions to get your song finished. (Wildflower Pavilion)

- 2) **Song Session (Pat Pattison and Bonnie Hayes)** - This session takes an in-depth look at participant's songs, finding teachable moments to benefit not only the writer but observers as well. We'll identify strengths in each song and look at what could be even better. This session is open to as many people as wish to attend. We'll probably get to 3 or 4 songs each morning, showing you tools to move the songs further ahead. We prefer that people play live so we can more easily suggest different approaches, especially when it comes to melody and phrasing. Bring several lyric sheets. (Mountain Lion Tent).
- 3) **Performance (Amy Speace)** - A four day comprehensive performance class. You can do all four or just jump into one of them. We will look at performance from the 'inside out' (it'll make sense, I promise). You will learn the art of connecting to both the song and the audience in a profound way. This is an "on your feet" class, so come prepared with a song you know by heart that you're willing to dig into. (Festival Main Stage)
- 4) **Little Songs Telling Big Stories (Vance Gilbert)** - Social Justice and Topical Songs are important and central to changing ideas and times, particularly today. However, maybe you have a song that focuses on an individual, or an animal, or, hell, even a cup or spoon or a portrait as your protagonist, that illuminates some idea or ideal. Do you have that song to move people and touch or change hearts while avoiding placard-y platitudes, or billboard-lists-style poetry that tells the listener what they already know? Bring your "little movies" to play, discuss, and review. (Hummingbird Tent)
- 5) **Fingerpicking Good (Justin Roth)** - Whether you've never fingerpicked before or feel you've plateaued in your guitar playing, this workshop with Justin Roth will teach you why and how to incorporate fingerpicking into your box of tools. We will cover multiple fingerpicking patterns and other important basic techniques to help you either begin, or improve, your fingerpicking as well as gain finger independence, control and clarity. We'll also explore ways to further develop our finger independence, as well as create more contrast and motion in our fingerpicking. Using just the notes within the chords we are already playing, we'll expand beyond some basic fingerpicking patterns to help you start creating more melodic and expressive guitar parts. (Trout Tent)
- 6) **Build a Wholehearted Creative Life (Terri and Ellis Delaney)** - This workshop is designed to inspire, encourage, and provide you with insight into how you can create a balanced life that includes your musical aspirations but isn't limited by them. In this workshop, we will help you to identify what makes you feel alive and whole, as well as what your music gives to others. This workshop is for everyone, regardless of whether you make a living making music (or hope to) or you just live for the love of songs and songwriting! (Lizard Tent)

- 7) **Basic Guitar Skills (Arthur Lee Land)** - This workshop covers guitar basics that will help you deliver your songs with more variety and punch. Topics covered: various picking and right hand strumming/muting techniques, anti-spider finger technique to learn new chords faster making it easier to move between chord changes, and basic techniques for using capos for alternate chord forms and inversions. We will also touch on ideas to help embellish your songs by adding tasty guitar fills using basic hammer-on/pull-off techniques in common guitar keys. (Eagle Tent - backstage)
- 8) **Songs in Action: Writing for Theatre (Bandits On the Run)** - All three members attended top conservatories for acting and come from extensive theatre backgrounds. *“Our experience in this field ranges from Broadway Shows, to improv comedy, to Bread & Puppet Theatre and beyond, and we believe that the world of live music and the world of live theatre have several magical interconnections. Lately we’ve been living in both these worlds, developing several folk-based musical theatre projects for the stage, and we’re ready to share what we’ve learned with you.”* What makes a song a good musical theatre song? How is that different from a good singer-songwriter song? What are the things to take into account when writing for a character? How do you best employ themes and motifs in your musical theatre score? We’ll talk about these questions and more, break down a few examples from our recent work, and answer your questions about the process of making a musical. (Spider Tent)
- 9) **Intro To Home Recording (Ryan Benyo)** - In this introductory recording workshop, LA-based producer/engineer Ryan Benyo will guide students through the various aspects of setting up and utilizing a home recording studio. Discussions will include recording software/hardware, microphones, home acoustics, speakers/headphones, & MIDI keyboards. Basic recording techniques will also be demonstrated including acoustic mic techniques, digital recording/editing workflow, signal flow and troubleshooting. This workshop is perfect for beginning students with no prior recording experience or equipment set-up, as well as those who wish to better understand the tools they already have at their disposal. (Coyote Tent)

*“You know, sometimes all you need is twenty seconds of insane courage. Just literally twenty seconds of just embarrassing bravery. And I promise you, something great will come out of it.”*  
– Benjamin Mee

- 10) Next Level Voice Class (Ron Browning)** - Join this fun and engaging class on how to find your best voice and performance. Discover your unique sound through conversation—after all, your singing voice is your speaking voice! Use simple tricks of casual conversation to make your singing have a more intimate and honest delivery. Learn the do's and don'ts of lyric interpretation. Learn about the projection power found in a baby's cry and learn how to use it in singing for a more soulful expression, or to have more vocal power. Add "cry mode" to your vocal techniques and walk away from all vocal faults and your fear of high notes. And, of course, this will allow you to walk away from vocal fatigue once and for all. Both vocal and performance techniques will be taken into consideration for the more advanced singers. Come with questions. Guitars and recorded tracks are welcome-or sing a cappella! (Bear Tent)
- 11) Mentoring Sessions** - These sessions are offered for participants to receive more personalized attention and help with specific questions. They can take the form of one-on-one or small group consultations depending on the desires of the instructor. Each day, sign ups and meeting locations for that day's participating instructors will be posted in the Blue Heron Tent at 9am (registration area). Check back for late additions. Most sessions will meet under 10 x 10 tents near the silo and riverfront. Because of the limited amount of mentoring sessions, you may sign up for only one session during the week unless space is available last minute.

### **1:00 - 2:00 Lunch Break**

TO DO: Confirm open stage performance times posted in Blue Heron Tent.

### **2:00 - 4:00 Songwriting Groups: Session 1**

The first of four daily songwriting and elective sessions. See all instructor descriptions below. Each instructor will meet at the following location:

#### **MEETING PLACES**

- o Phoebe Hunt - Bear Tent
- o Peter Mulvey - Trout Tent
- o Michaela Ann - Spider Tent
- o Ellis Delaney - Lizard Tent
- o Rebecca Folsom - Eagle (backstage)
- o Heather Mae - Coyote Tent
- o Mary Gauthier - Mountain Lion Tent
- o Bonnie Hayes - Festival Main Stage
- o Paul Reisler - Wildflower Pavilion
- o Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
- o Pat Pattison - Blue Heron Tent †

- **The Transformational Power Of Songwriting (Phoebe Hunt)** - Based on the work of Joseph Campbell and Maureen Murdock, we will explore the template of the Hero's Journey (and Heroine's Journey) as vehicles to bring a song to life through pulling out the transformational moments of a story. This allows the song to live dimensionally, adding depth and purpose as it evolves, revealing new layers of meaning as it unfolds. This also allows the writer the opportunity to tap into the inner purpose beneath the song and peel back layers that may have previously been dormant. (Trout Tent)
- **Song de- and re- Construction (Peter Mulvey)** - Each day, Peter will start with one of his own songs. He'll play it, and then take it apart, into its components, explaining how it was written, what choices were made and why, and what, in his estimation, works well, and why. Then, for the rest of the class, he'll ask students to perform one of their songs and do his best to notice and point out the structural points that work well, both musically and lyrically, and offer some suggestions for improving the mechanics of the whole machine. (Bear Tent)
- **Songwriting With Your Subconscious (Michaela Anne)** - This class will explore how to connect more to what you truly want to write about rather than what you feel you should write about or what you think others want to hear. Through free writing exercises as well as writing of actual songs, we will explore how to quiet those outside voices and pressures to better listen to and more easily access our own unique stories and perspectives. Throughout this exploration and actual writing of songs, we will explore what it means to us, individually, to be an artist, to make work in private or public, how to nurture and honor our own creative dreams and write more freely as ourselves. (Spider Tent)
- **Intentional Performance: Performing From the Inside Out (Ellis and Terri Delaney)** - Most performing workshops focus on techniques designed for you to be seen as a professional, being polished, and letting the songs shine. Those are incredibly important skills, but not what this workshop is about. Ellis invites you to also consider how audiences need to be "seen" and how magic happens when the performer tunes in to the beauty of the audience. Real connection happens naturally when a performer is both self-aware and tuned in to others. In this engaging workshop, you will practice a new model that focuses on valuing who you are AND valuing the people in your audience! Bring your instrument and come ready to perform (optional)! (Lizard Tent)

*"The ability to appreciate music is the defining quality of our humanity."  
- Oliver Sachs*

- **Vocal Freedom Workshop (Rebecca Folsom)** - In this class you will learn tools (some traditional and some very nontraditional) to open and expand your vocal range, resonance, and character, along with tools to open and expand your performance ease, depth and brilliance. You will be given key adjustments particularly focused to your voice/your body that with little effort make fundamental shifts to your overall Vocal and Performance Freedom. We will alternate diving into teaching moments for the whole class to practice the exercises, and having individual volunteers perform. Come ready to sing with the group and sing individually, if you choose to volunteer. We will embody the practices moving beyond mental understanding to the knowing “ah ha” of relaxing into your best voice and best performance ever. These shifts are lasting and you can take them with you for the rest of your life. Vocal Performance Freedom! (Eagle Tent - backstage)
  
- **Crowdfund Your Next Record! (Heather Mae)** - Kickstarter is a platform for creative freedom—a place where artists find the support they need to bring their visions to life. Whether you have 1,000 followers or 100K, you can launch and fund a successful crowdfunding campaign! Having raised over \$400K for independent artists, Mae brings a wealth of experience as a Kickstarter manager and coach. An artist herself and the founder of Rad Heifer, a boutique marketing agency in Nashville, Mae invites you to learn how to craft an eye-catching and compelling story, leverage your existing marketing team (you already have one!), crack Kickstarter's algorithm, and discover insider tricks to ensure your campaign's success! (Coyote Tent)
  
- **Let's Write! (Mary Gauthier)** - No matter if you are brand new to songwriting, or have been at it for years, coming up with a new song you're proud of is one of the most exciting parts of being a songwriter. If you hope to move the dial on new material at song school this week, maybe come up with a new song or two that you can sing with confidence, this class is for you. Mary will show you how to deeply engage your imagination, generate new ideas and turn them into solid song starts. We will write in every class and have fun breaking down inner resistance to the blank page together! Truth is that sooner or later, all songwriters must break through resistance to new work. We all must learn how to deal with emotional and psychological barriers that hinder the creative process. Here are some common aspects of this resistance: Fear of Failure, Perfectionism, Lack of Inspiration, Self-Doubt, Fear of Criticism, Comparison to Others, Time Constraints...the list goes on and on! So, if you've asked yourself, why aren't I writing more? Why is there never enough time? Why am I not generating the new songs I deeply long to write? The truth is, everyone feels a little stuck at one time or another! The answer is, of course: JUST KEEP WRITING. But how? Mary will show you! And you will write. Then, Mary will help you see what's working, and why. When you focus on what's working, it will grow, and what isn't working will naturally fall away. The blocks that once had you frozen will no longer be so daunting. This class will be a safe place to create. Your fellow classmates and your teacher will cheer you on, and powerful new connections will be made. This is YOUR week, so make the most of it. Wanna write some new material? Join us! (Mountain Lion Tent)

- **Finding the Chords: Creating the Emotional Understory of Your Song (Bonnie Hayes)** - The chord progression of a song provides the emotional understory to your lyrics and melody, the “film score” to your song’s lyric story. But for some of us, using chords in an emotional way is hindered by difficulty with “thinking” about harmony. This class will walk theory-resistant writers through the basics of creating a chord progression that says what you want it to say, using harmonic rhythm to make the song move, how modes can set a tone, finding chords that support your melody, and creating surprises in your songwriting. (Festival Main Stage)
- **Harmony and Chord Substitution (Paul Reisler)** - We’ll work on understanding how chords work and how they help shade the emotion of the moment with a proper choice of chords, chord types and substitutions. You’ll learn how they are constructed, and how to harmonize your melody in different ways using functional substitutions, secondary dominants, extended chords and much more. We’ll do this by taking a song and harmonizing it in 8 different ways using different types of chord substitutions. This is a participatory workshop for students of all levels that will give you an understanding of harmony and an inspiration to use it in your music. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- **Inspiration: Where Do Songs Come From? (Steve Seskin)** - In this class we will explore ways to “jump start” your creativity with prompts, morning pages, object writing, etc. I will provide some titles, ideas for you to choose one from or you can generate your own idea. I will try to empower you to write about more than just your own life and to use emotional moments as catalysts to inspire you. We’ll also delve into the power of fiction, point of view and examine what’s really important in songs - emotional truth. My friend Allen Shamblin always says “A great writer never lets the facts get in the way of the truth.” You will leave this class with a song start that hopefully you will “finish ” by the end of the week and bring it to my rewriting class on Thursday morning! (Hummingbird Tent)
- † **Songwriting Masterclass (Pat Pattison)** - This class is for students who were pre-selected ahead of time. All students are welcome to observe. (Blue Heron Tent)

## 4:15 - 5:30 Monday Electives

- 1) **Embellishing Your Song (Arthur Lee Land)** - Bring your songs to this interactive workshop and learn new ways to embellish your song by adding tasty guitar fills, substitute chord changes, various picking and strumming approaches, alternate chord forms and inversions, varied capo positions and more. (Eagle Tent - backstage)



- 2) **Bio-Writing For Songwriters (Jayme Stone)** - If you're a musician with an online presence, you need a bio that doesn't read like a resume for a cubicle job. We'll repurpose songwriting exercises to help you craft a unique and resonant story that magnetizes your ideal fans, gigs and press. We'll use writing prompts and the power of our collective creativity to see constellations where you only see stars. Presented by. (Trout Tent)
- 3) **Master the Skill of Manifesting! (Shanna in a Dress)** - Shanna manifested an extra \$42,000 in two months after learning the quantum techniques of how to bend reality! After years of being obsessed with the art of manifestation- which is simply the ability to bring the non-physical into the physical, she now has tips, techniques, and tools that you ALL should know, and we will practice together in this workshop. Imagine being able to bring your creative dreams into reality 10x faster than you ever could do with your mind and your hard work- that is available to you! We will do a creative visualization, some writing exercises, and end with a pretend VIP party for all of your future selves to attend and practice Speaking As If! (Festival Main Stage)
- 4) **Royalties & Registration 101 with Tunedough® - Tell the Universe You're Open for Business! (Sarah Clanton)** - Did you know you can make money from playing your own songs live? This is just one of a few ways you can collect money for your music. Overwhelmed? Not sure where to start? Fear not and start making money with Tunedough® 's support! In this class you will learn how to confidently set up passive income streams to collect your streaming royalties for the long term, without all of the nausea. Sarah Clanton, singer-songwriter, cellist and founder of Tunedough® is here to set you up for success by getting you crystal clear on what royalties there are to claim and exactly how to claim them for the songs you write and record to release on streaming platforms. After finding thousands of dollars in royalties left unclaimed on her own music, Sarah became determined to take out the struggle for other artists so they too can collect what IS out there waiting for them. Leave this class having actually set up passive income streams (bring your laptop!) and feeling empowered to continue the process with a suite of resources to guide you. Remember: when you don't claim your royalties they get redistributed to the highest earners in the industry. Quit giving your money away, it adds up! The starving artist story is tired and boring, let's flip the script. Quit waiting around to be discovered, or until you go viral, tell the universe you are open for business now! (Bear Tent)

*"All the arts we practice are apprenticeship.  
The big art is our life."  
- M.C. Richards*

- 5) **Capo Envy (Justin Roth)** - Have you seen artists using partial or multiple capos and wondered “Why does it sound so good and look so easy?” Chances are you've been stricken by capo envy. This workshop will demonstrate the key to understanding how partial capos can enhance your guitar sound and elaborate your sonic palate *without* complicating your guitar parts. It's easier than it looks! Most times, using partial capos actually make your songs easier to play, but they will sound like you're playing richer and more compelling chords. You will learn a simple way to use single or multiple capos to enhance your guitar sound and apply it to songs you already know or songs to come using chords you already know in standard tuning. Come find out just how easy it is and take a leap forward with your sound. Capos will be provided for class and available for purchase. (Coyote Tent)
- 6) **Putting Joy At the Core of Your Songwriting (Meg Braun)** - Many begin the journey of songwriting and performing because of the satisfaction and joy that comes with creating and sharing songs. However, as we progress in our creative craft, it can begin to feel imperative that our songs become "good" or even "hits". At times that pressure can be paralyzing and can cause writer's block and get in the way of doing what we love. So, what can we do to bring the joy back in? In this class, we begin with a mix of grounding exercises/somatic work to calm our nervous systems. We will actively explore the concept of play and its importance to the creative process and the healing process, then through a series of playful creative exercises, we will unlock what brings us joy in the process. We will use prompts generated by the participants and take 15 minutes to start a song and put joy at the center. We'll come back and share with each other what that process felt like. (Lizard Tent)
- 7) **Essences (Amy Speace)** - Have you ever wondered what superpower or secret character you bring to the stage that no one else does? All performers have an essence that helps them own their presence on stage. Finding your essence goes beyond your songs and even your skill as a performer, singer, and player. It is something inherent in you that cannot be taken away. Come find it and learn how to use it to your benefit. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 8) **Standards, Covers, and Songs That Ain't Yours and How To Adapt Them To Your Set (Vance Gilbert)** - Come join the fun as Vance shows you tools and gives permission to put everything in your set from Jimi Hendrix to John Denver. You'll explore the neck of the guitar a little, develop confidence in singing your favorite covers *\*your\** way, and talk about where and when these classics are placed in your set. Even a 2-song set!! (Hummingbird Tent)

- 9) **Guaranteed Groove: Finding Your Inner Rhythm (JJ Jones)** - The ability to keep steady time is important for ALL musicians, not just drummers. It can affect your ability to write interesting songs, play with other musicians, record your music using a click track (and/or a drummer), and most importantly, to engage your audience. Keeping a consistent rhythm, even if you're just playing solo, is part of what keeps your listeners interested. Everyone has an innate sense of groove—the trick is getting in touch with it. In this hands-on, interactive class we'll learn how to feel, count and play various beat subdivisions, and apply them to the guitar. Does your guitar playing feel stuck in a “rhythmic rut”? Do you hate playing to a click? This is a fun, energetic class to give you practical tools for finding your own inner groove! Bring your guitar to class, and a strap if you have one. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- 10) **Caring For Your Body is Caring for Your Voice (Michaela Anne)** - Get a crash course in basic vocal anatomy, nutrition and body care to perform and sing to the best of your abilities with. Your voice is your internal instrument and is affected by what you eat and drink, your habits, how you breathe and how you exercise. We will learn about the basics of how your voice functions and how to care for it to keep you singing at your healthiest for your whole life without damage and constraints. (Spider Tent)
- 11) **Song School Check In and Reflect (Phoebe Hunt)** - Need a moment to check in? Within the process of exploring our songwriting, it is natural for participants to unlock parts of themselves that may feel uncomfortable, vulnerable or raw. Similarly, you may feel the highest highs alongside the lowest lows within your journey here at song school. This daily gathering offers a safe space to share about the visceral experience you are having. We offer a moment of refuge to process what might be coming up for you, honoring your unique journey here and allowing a moment to reflect and be witnessed through your process here at The Song School. (Trees by Yurt behind the Wildflower)
- 12) **Mentoring Sessions** - These sessions are offered for participants to receive more personalized attention and help with specific questions. They can take the form of one-on-one or small group consultations depending on the desires of the instructor. Each day, sign ups and meeting locations for that day's participating instructors will be posted in the Blue Heron Tent at 9am (registration area). Check back for late additions. Most sessions will meet under 10 x 10 tents near the silo and riverfront. Because of the limited amount of mentoring sessions, you may sign up for only one session during the week unless space is available last minute. (various locations)

### **6:00 - 7:30 Song School Dinner**

This dinner is for Song School students and their registered guests. Your wristband is your meal ticket. **Please remember to reuse and compost everything. Thanks!** (Wildflower Lawn)

**7:30 Open Stage** - Confirm your day and time posted in Blue Heron Tent. Sing and play for peers! (Wildflower Pavilion)

*"I want it all, and I would like it delivered"*  
– Bette Midler

*"I was born with music inside me. Music was one of my parts. Like my ribs, my kidneys, my liver, my heart. Like my blood. It was a force already within me when I arrived on the scene. It was a necessity for me - like food or water."*  
– Ray Charles

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## Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>

### **TIP OF THE DAY**

If you have a Festival related question or problem, please let us know before class or during lunch break today so we can help you work out a solution before the Festival. Use the message board as needed.

### **TO DO LIST**

- Mentoring session sign-ups. Sign-up sheets for Tuesday will be put out at 9am in the Blue Heron Tent. Check back at lunchtime for additions during the day.
- Your night to play the open stage? Confirm your time at Blue Heron Tent.
- Musical supplies will be available for sale after class today (4:15-5:15pm) in front of the bathhouse! Call ahead to HB Woodsongs for special requests at 303-449-0516.

### **7:30 - 8:30 Qi Gong**

Qi Gong is a 4,000 year old practice that cultivates energy and vitality. Practice gentle movements with Carli Zug that strengthen the body, increase flexibility and relieve stress. No experience necessary. (Trout Tent)

### **8:00 - 9:00 Yoga**

Yogi Heather Hottovy will help celebrate the start of your day with a gentle yoga routine. No prior experience necessary. Complimentary mats and blocks provided. (Meet by silo)

### **9:30 - 9:50 All School Session: Live Performing Basics**

A perfect mini-primer or reminder for the evening open stages, especially if you're new to performing live, join Vance Gilbert and Amy Speace for a quick review of the nuts and bolts of live performing. Work with your sound person! (Wildflower Pavilion)

### **10:00 - 12:00 Electives**

- 1) **Directed Writing (Paul Reisler)** - Thirty years ago, a friend gave me the best advice I've ever heard regarding songwriting. He told me to get up every morning and write a song, complete it, and put it in a file folder and not look at it for 6 months. Not a good song or a long song necessarily, just a song. Two years and several hundred songs later, I realized that I had not only learned a lot about the craft of songwriting, but a great deal about how to generate ideas and images and carry them through, how to dance around writer's block and how to fool myself into approaching my writing in a fresh way each day. If you want to write songs on a regular basis, you need a reliable technique that you can use whenever you sit down to write. You'll be writing a song during this workshop and gathering the tools you'll need to write on a daily basis. This is a 4-day workshop and you should participate in all the sessions to get your song finished. We will not take new people after the 2nd day. (Wildflower Pavilion)

- 2) **So You Want To Write A Musical (Steve Seskin)** - Steve has never met a songwriter who didn't at least think about it. In recent years with the success of *Waitress* by Sara Bareillies and *Hadestown* by Anais Mitchell not to mention *Hamilton* by Lin - Manuel Miranda there are a growing number of songwriters from all genres taking a look at putting their heart and soul into this art form. Steve is in the middle of writing a musical called "Things" with his friend Kate Schutt. It's a challenging task but one that he finds quite exhilarating. The big difference between writing one-off songs and songs for a musical is how the songs go together, telling a story interspersed with dialogue. He will talk about some of the things to consider such as the arc of your story, how to tell if you have a great story, musical theater songwriting compared to other genres, and what kind of songs you will need to create tension and release in your narrative. He is now in year three of writing his first musical and it is close to being staged with two readings this year. It's amazing how many changes have been made along the way. We will look at examples of what has changed and why. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 3) **Performance (Amy Speace)** - A four day comprehensive performance class. You can do all four or just jump into one of them. We will look at performance from the "inside out" (it'll make sense, I promise). You will learn the art of connecting to both the song and the audience in a profound way. This is an 'on your feet' class, so come prepared with a song you know by heart that you're willing to dig into. (Festival Main Stage)
- 4) **Next Level Voice Class (Ron Browning)** - Join this fun and engaging class on how to find your best voice and performance. Discover your unique sound through conversation—after all, your singing voice is your speaking voice! Use simple tricks of casual conversation to make your singing have a more intimate and honest delivery. Learn the do's and don'ts of lyric interpretation. Learn about the projection power found in a baby's cry and learn how to use it in singing for a more soulful expression, or to have more vocal power. Add "cry mode" to your vocal techniques and walk away from all vocal faults and your fear of high notes. And, of course, this will allow you to walk away from vocal fatigue once and for all. Both vocal and performance techniques will be taken into consideration for the more advanced singers. Come with questions. Guitars and recorded tracks are welcome-or sing a cappella! (Bear Tent)

- 5) **Music Production Techniques (Ryan Benyo)** - Join LA-based producer/engineer Ryan Benyo for an interactive recording and music production workshop. Watch as Ryan takes you through his recording process, explaining each technique in detail along the way as he records a fully produced section of a song from scratch. A variety of techniques will be covered, ranging from various microphone selection and placement techniques for guitar, vocals and other instruments, to drum programming, sweetening and more. Best of all, emphasis will be placed on utilizing the tools students already have, and getting the most out of a cost-efficient home studio set-up. Those with no prior recording experience should take "Intro To Home Recording" prior to taking this workshop. (Coyote Tent)
  
- 6) **Singing Your Way Around the Fretboard (Arthur Lee Land)** - Using the seven notes of the major scale and student's own melodies from their songs, Arthur Lee Land will take you on an interactive melodic journey that will transform your relationship with your songs and the fretboard on your guitar. Using IMPROVISE FOR REAL's Tonal Map, their Melody Path concept and Arthur's "Art of Live Looping" to provide a backing track for students to explore the seven notes of the Major Scale inside the context of their own melodies through call and response singing exercises. Then applying these Melody Paths to a simple fingering on the fretboard giving students the ability to easily locate and figure out song melodies on the guitar neck. This class will rock your musical world! (Eagle Tent - backstage)
  
- 7) **Getting Started With Altered Tunings (Justin Roth)** - Do you want to explore altered tunings, but don't know where to start? This workshop will introduce reasons why and ways to understand, compose in, convert songs to, and switch between different altered tunings to help you find a new approach and sound for your songs. Don't worry about the music theory part. We will learn a "theory-lite" way of understanding and relating altered tunings to songs you've already written or songs to come. Using altered tunings doesn't have to be a scary thing. Handouts will be provided to get you started with multiple chord positions in DADGAD and CGDGDB, as well as tuning tips to help you get in and out of different tunings quickly. Come find the richness and new sound your guitar has to offer! (Spider Tent)
  
- 8) **Getting Stuff Done: Organizational Tools for Creatives (Terri and Ellis Delaney)** - Ellis (performing songwriter) and Terri (social worker), will teach you friendly tools for time management and organization that are designed for wandering creative-minded songwriter types who regularly feel overwhelmed and lost. Says Ellis, "Setting aside songwriting time has always been challenging for me amidst a busy touring schedule, being a mom and doing all those music business-y things on my to-do list. All of the traditional left-brained time management and organizing skills haven't worked for me. I have found that structure is freedom and we can't wait to show you these tools." (Lizard Tent).

- 9) Writing From a Title (Bonnie Hayes)** - Writing a song without identifying your main idea is kind of like starting an essay before you figure out what your point is, or starting a joke without remembering the punchline. In this class we'll learn why titles are one of the most used methods to focus writing time, how to identify and refine a title, how to build a concept or frame for the title, and how to flesh it out into a fully developed song in which everything leads to the main idea. (Blue Heron Tent)
- 10) This Song is For Me (Vance Gilbert)** - Often there is so much focus on honing our originals so they can stand side-by-side with songs we admire on the radio, Spotify, Apple Music. But what about the songs you wrote in the midst of that 15 months of serious sequestering and introspection? Or when you were just sad or pissed. Do they have to scan like hits? Or can we honor and validate those songs written from that very personal space, even if they don't line up like "verse verse chorus verse bridge chorus" tickets to fame. What about those songs that are the ticket to your personal well being? Let's play some of them, chat about them, and see where these songs live in the pantheon of \*you\*. (Hummingbird Tent)
- 11) The Easiest Songwriting Class, Ever! (Rebecca Folsom)** - We often make songwriting much harder than it needs to be. Here we will focus on the magic and flow of the transmission of a song. We will refrain from interrupting a song in the pure stream as it is being handed to us, engage our abandon, and write FREELY. We will use a special and simple technique designed to open your songwriting flow so that you write a song (usually in its entirety) right here, right now. Come leap and enjoy the invigorating experience of uncensored creativity. (Trout Tent)
- 12) Mentoring Sessions** – See sign-ups in Blue Heron Tent

## 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch Break

TO DO: Confirm open stage performance times posted in Blue Heron Tent.

## 1:30 - 4:00 Songwriting Groups: Session 2

Your daily dose of songwriting and more. See all instructor descriptions below. Each instructor will meet at the following location:

### MEETING PLACES

- o Phoebe Hunt - Bear Tent
- o Peter Mulvey - Trout Tent
- o Michaela Ann - Spider Tent
- o Vance Gilbert - Eagle Tent
- o Rebecca Folsom - Coyote Tent
- o Mary Gauthier - Mountain Lion Tent
- o Bonnie Hayes - Festival Main Stage
- o Paul Reisler - Wildflower Pavilion
- o Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
- o Pat Pattison - Blue Heron Tent †



- **Songwriters Toolkit (Phoebe Hunt)** - Bring a song! In this class, we will have each participant play an original song of their choosing and rather than receiving direct feedback, we will dissect the song into the tools that are being used. As we go around the class, we will reveal the plethora of tools available to the songwriter through the examples revealed in class. Through this experiential process, participants often begin to see the pattern of tools they often use, as well as learn new tools that they can tuck away to use in future writing! Let's expand our toolkits together! Please note: We will have time to listen to approximately 15-20 songwriters in a single class session. We will do our best to accommodate all participants but cannot promise that everyone will have a chance to play time permitting. (Bear Tent)
- **Song de- and re- Construction (Peter Mulvey)** - Each day, Peter will start with one of his own songs. He'll play it, and then take it apart, into its components, explaining how it was written, what choices were made and why, and what, in his estimation, works well, and why. Then, for the rest of the class, he'll ask students to perform one of their songs and do his best to notice and point out the structural points that work well, both musically and lyrically, and offer some suggestions for improving the mechanics of the whole machine. (Trout Tent)
- **Creativity Empowered on Order (Michaela Anne)** - Sometimes a blank page can be intimidating or freeing. This class will explore our actual process of writing through varied approaches. What happens when we give ourselves parameters, prompts, guidelines, context? How does it change the way we write, our feeling for our writing and what type of topics we end up exploring? We also will discuss our daily creative habits, how to implement more and how that may or may not impact our writing and connection to our creativity. (Spider Tent)
- **Songwriting Through the Eyes of Performance (Vance Gilbert)** - A great song does not by itself get heard. It needs to be performed so that a producer, publisher, record exec, and most importantly your fans can be part of its full impact. It's a "collision course" Vance offers where performance and songwriting are inextricably intertwined entities. Here's your chance to pick up and hone some skills that will make your song and its presentation shine. Everything from keeping time, arrangement of the song, what key, "getting the guitar out of the way", the cliché police, posture, vocal stuff, even how to approach the stage and plug in the guitar will be examined on the mike in a safe and supportive "open mike-ish" atmosphere. We'll also look at the song in this performance context. Does it need a bridge? Does it need *that* bridge? That song is in *\*C\** -how about we start the bridge in *\*Eb\** and work our way back to the chorus? Let's remove some "buts" and "ands" and get right to the core of the song, let's try singing that, and now let's watch songwriting and performance collide and you become your best songwriting self! (Eagle Tent - backstage)

- **Dynamic Songwriting Tools (Rebecca Folsom)** - Crack open your songwriting habits with these super-easy-to-learn and fun-to-apply tools from Berklee College of Music. We will play with how simple changes in vocal melodies and rhythms, and instrument melodies and rhythms can create a dynamic shift in your songs. If you want to make your song sections sound dramatically different from each other, and you want your songs to not only stand out from other songs you've written but to stand out in a crowd, you will love this class. (Coyote Tent)
- **Let's Write! (Mary Gauthier)** - No matter if you are brand new to songwriting, or have been at it for years, coming up with a new song you're proud of is one of the most exciting parts of being a songwriter. If you hope to move the dial on new material at song school this week, maybe come up with a new song or two that you can sing with confidence, this class is for you. Mary will show you how to deeply engage your imagination, generate new ideas and turn them into solid song starts. We will write in every class and have fun breaking down inner resistance to the blank page together! Truth is that sooner or later, all songwriters must break through resistance to new work. We all must learn how to deal with emotional and psychological barriers that hinder the creative process. Here are some common aspects of this resistance: Fear of Failure, Perfectionism, Lack of Inspiration, Self-Doubt, Fear of Criticism, Comparison to Others, Time Constraints...the list goes on and on! So, if you've asked yourself, why aren't I writing more? Why is there never enough time? Why am I not generating the new songs I deeply long to write? The truth is, everyone feels a little stuck at one time or another! The answer is, of course: JUST KEEP WRITING. But how? Mary will show you! And you will write. Then, Mary will help you see what's working, and why. When you focus on what's working, it will grow, and what isn't working will naturally fall away. The blocks that once had you frozen will no longer be so daunting. This class will be a safe place to create. Your fellow classmates and your teacher will cheer you on, and powerful new connections will be made. This is YOUR week, so make the most of it. Wanna write some new material? Join us! (Mountain Lion Tent)
- **Writing Emotional Melodies (Bonnie Hayes)** - Learn how to write melodies that will carry the emotion you want to evoke straight into your listeners' minds and hearts. It all comes down to writing intentionally—and knowing a few awesome tricks! We'll examine some key ideas in writing melodies and try to use the techniques with some in-class writing assignments. (Festival Main Stage)

*"Sometimes the most ordinary things could be made extraordinary, simply by doing them with the right people"*

– Nicholas Sparks

- **Advanced Harmony and Chord Substitution: If Your Truth Requires More Than Three Chords (Paul Reisler)** - Sure, three chords and the truth works for some songs. But, it's a bit like writing a story with just nouns and verbs - it covers the black and white, and perhaps the primary colors. To really paint the picture, you need the subtle emotional shading—the adverbs and adjectives—that a more extended harmonic language can provide. If you want to add some color to your palette, this class with Paul Reisler is for you. While this might sound complex and scary to the theory-phobic, we promise to lead you through it in an accessible and fun way so that you'll understand how to use it and why it works. We'll be looking at techniques such as cadences, extended chords, voice leading, borrowed chords, secondary dominants, diminished ii-V-I progressions, flat 5 substitutions, modulation and perhaps even negative harmony. We'll also look at a really incredible program that lays out the chord substitutions in an organized way. There will be lots of examples of the techniques in a wide range of styles. Participation in Paul's regular Harmony and Chord Substitution class is a prerequisite. (Wildflower Pavilion.)
- **The Curse of the 2nd Verse and Phrasing (Steve Seskin)** - The place where most writers seem to get stuck. We will discuss strategies that can make your second verse even stronger than the first. Our goal is to never repeat ourselves by saying the same thing conceptually with different words. Maybe you wrote the 2nd verse, first. Maybe your verse is a bridge. Moving things around is something every songwriter should be willing to do. The muse does indeed deliver us gifts but they're often not in the right order. We will also talk about and illustrate the process of storyboarding your song with the intention of creating a journey that works. That doesn't mean you have to stick with the plan. When is there a 3rd verse? When is there a bridge? Maybe you've said it all and don't need either. There is always more than one way to phrase any line. The choice that works best depends on several factors. What are the two or three most important words in the sentence? What is the overall emotional meaning trying to be expressed? How does the phrasing sing? What is the phrasing of the other sections of the songs? We want to vary the melodic journey in our songs and our phrasing is one way to accomplish keeping things interesting for the listener. (Hummingbird Tent)
- † **Songwriting Masterclass (Pat Pattison)** - This class is for students who were pre-selected ahead of time. All students are welcome to observe. (Blue Heron Tent)

*"I'm a firm believer that embracing the imperfections of making music is so much of what makes something groove. Getting rid of these imperfections runs the risk of removing a lot of the magic that makes this music really special, and diminishes music's ability to connect with us as human beings. We are all imperfect, after all."*

*– Jacob Collier*

## 4:15 Creative Gap

Just a few offerings for overachievers:

- 1) **Song School Check In and Reflect (Phoebe Hunt)** - Need a moment to check in? Within the process of exploring our songwriting, it is natural for participants to unlock parts of themselves that may feel uncomfortable, vulnerable or raw. Similarly, you may feel the highest highs alongside the lowest lows within your journey here at song school. This daily gathering offers a safe space to share about the visceral experience you are having. We offer a moment of refuge to process what might be coming up for you, honoring your unique journey here and allowing a moment to reflect and be witnessed through your process here at song school. (Bear Tent)
- 2) **Guitar Skills Mentoring** - A chance to sit with our guitar instructors for some tips and tricks and sage advice. With Justin Roth, Arthur Lee Land, Jayme Stone.
- 3) **Mentoring Sessions** - See sign-ups in Blue Heron Tent

## 5:30 - 7:30 Dinner Break

Visit the Bloomberries Booth next to the bathhouse to purchase dinner, treats and snacks.

## 7:30 Open Stage

Confirm your day and time posted in the Blue Heron Tent. (Wildflower Pavilion)

*“Who knows what you might learn from taking a chance on conversation with a stranger? Everyone carries a piece of the puzzle. Nobody comes into your life by mere coincidence. Trust your instincts. Do the unexpected. Find the others.”*

– Timothy Leary

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## Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>

### **TIP OF THE DAY**

Pace yourself and enjoy!

### **TO DO LIST**

- Mentoring session sign-ups. Wednesday sheets out at 9am in the Blue Heron Tent.
- Your night to play the open stage? Confirm your time at Blue Heron Tent.

### **7:30 - 8:30 Qi Gong**

Practice gentle movements with Carli Zug that strengthen the body, increase flexibility and relieve stress. (Trout Tent)

### **8:00 - 9:00 Yoga**

Heather Hottovy will help celebrate the start of your day with a gentle yoga routine. Complimentary mats and blocks provided. (Meet by silo)

### **10:00 - 12:00 Electives**

- 1) **Directed Writing (Paul Reisler)** - This is a multi-day workshop that is progressive. Sorry, no new people after Tuesday. (Hummingbird Tent)
- 2) **Phrasing: The Body Language of Your Song (Pat Pattison)** - This seminar will give you important keys to phrasing your lyrics for the most impact and support of meaning. Working with rhythms and placements, you'll learn how to make sure that the line, like body language, helps to really deliver the emotion you intend. This is a "can't miss" seminar - it's bound to take your writing to the next level. (Blue Heron Tent)
- 3) **Performance (Amy Speace)** - A four day comprehensive performance class. You can do all four or just jump into one of them. We will look at performance from the 'inside out' (it'll make sense, I promise). You will learn the art of connecting to both the song and the audience in a profound way. This is an 'on your feet' class, so come prepared with a song you know by heart that you're willing to dig into. (Wildflower Pavilion)

*"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly;  
what is essential is invisible to the eye."  
– Antoine de St. Exupery*

- 4) **Next Level Voice Class (Ron Browning)** - Join this fun and engaging class on how to find your best voice and performance. Discover your unique sound through conversation—after all, your singing voice is your speaking voice! Use simple tricks of casual conversation to make your singing have a more intimate and honest delivery. Learn the do's and don'ts of lyric interpretation. Learn about the projection power found in a baby's cry and learn how to use it in singing for a more soulful expression, or to have more vocal power. Add "cry mode" to your vocal techniques and walk away from all vocal faults and your fear of high notes. And, of course, this will allow you to walk away from vocal fatigue once and for all. Both vocal and performance techniques will be taken into consideration for the more advanced singers. Come with questions. Guitars and recorded tracks are welcome-or sing a cappella! (Bear Tent)
- 5) **Guitar Hack Toolbox - 10 Tricks To Enhance Your Songs (Justin Roth)** - As a songwriter, there are so many hacks to playing guitar and learning basic guitar theory that I wish someone would've shown me sooner. These tips can help make simple songs sound more interesting, are not overly-technical, and you don't need a music degree to understand how to use them. This workshop will show you 10 easy ways to elevate your playing and songs, as well as your understanding of the how and why to incorporate them into your playing. The guitar has a lot of luxuries to it, and is incredibly expressive including: repeatable shapes and patterns. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 6) **Mixing & Mastering Techniques (Ryan Benyo)** - In this intermediate recording workshop, students will experience mixing and mastering a pre-recorded song from start to finish. Topics and techniques will include balance, compression, EQ, time-based effects (reverb/delay), gain-staging, vocal-tuning, style, loudness and more. Each of these techniques will be explained in further detail along with overall mixing/critical listening philosophies while collectively working through a mix. Those with no prior recording experience should take "Intro To Home Recording" prior to taking this workshop. (Coyote Tent)
- 7) **I Still Got It: Staying Relevant (Vance Gilbert)** - After years of practice and hard work, all the goodness of what you do has really come together—and now you have stylish bifocals and some gray hair. More than ever, after-50 singer songwriters have earned the right to take some extra care to keep their thing together. Lower the key, pace your set, show your maturity in your vocal approach to the music. We'll talk about your age, station, health, direction, and expectations. Let's talk about subject material too—writing about love and relationships has a different slant now, doesn't it? You know more now—here's your chance to parlay that experience and knowledge into successful songwriting and performance. While there'll be plenty of discussion, be prepared to play and sing. (Lizard Tent)

- 8) Take a Lead Break on Your Own Song (Arthur Lee Land) - Yo Songwriters!**  
Wanna learn to play lead guitar in 2 hours? For real... you will be improvising lead guitar solos before you leave this class! Arthur will show you the way using "The Art of Live Looping" to provide a backing track for you to explore your new found soloing ideas & techniques based on handouts with simple pentatonic patterns spanning the entire neck. We will also be covering techniques to help you develop clarity in your phrasing such as Major and Minor Pentatonic Scale Substitution, Motif playing, Question & Answer, Melodic & Rhythmic Repetition, Target Notes and Color Tones. (Eagle Tent - backstage)
- 9) Swiftie Songwriting Secrets: Infusing Taylor Swift Catchiness into Your Music (Shanna in a Dress) -** Want to learn songwriting secrets from the master of hooks, unique song forms, and melodic rhythm? Shanna in a Dress goes deep into some Taylor Swift moves that fly in the face of the songwriting rules we've all been taught, and makes it work! Expect to do a few writing exercises after we break down the genius in 3-4 Taylor Swift songs. (Spider Tent)
- 10) So You Wanna Write a Musical - Your Turn (Steve Seskin) -** Bring in excerpts from your musical if you've started one and/or ideas you have for a musical that we can discuss. How to develop your story once you've figured out it's a story worth telling. How to let the story lead to the songs, not the other way around. We will also discuss the difference between writing one-off songs and writing a group of songs that tell a story as well as the difference between dialogue and song and when and how to make the right choice between the two. I can't wait to hear your ideas!! (Trout Tent).

### 11) Mentoring Sessions

### 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch Break

Confirm open stage performance times posted in Blue Heron Tent.

### 1:30 - 4:00 Songwriting Groups: Session 3

Your daily dose of songwriting and more. See all instructor descriptions below. Each instructor will meet at the following location:

#### MEETING PLACES

- o Phoebe Hunt - Bear Tent
- o Peter Mulvey - Trout Tent
- o Michaela Ann - Spider Tent
- o Bonnie Hayes - Coyote Tent
- o Vance Gilbert - Eagle Tent (backstage)
- o Mary Gauthier - Mountain Lion Tent
- o Bandits on the Run - Wildflower Pavilion
- o Paul Reisler - Lizard Tent
- o Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
- o Pat Pattison - Blue Heron Tent †

- **The Transformational Power Of Songwriting (Phoebe Hunt)** - Discovering your hero (and heroine's) journey. Based on the work of Joseph Campbell and Maureen Murdock, we will explore the template of the Hero's Journey (and Heroine's Journey) as vehicles to bring a song to life through pulling out the transformational moments of a story. This allows the song to live dimensionally, adding depth and purpose as it evolves, revealing new layers of meaning as it unfolds. This also allows the writer the opportunity to tap into the inner purpose beneath the song and peel back layers that may have previously been dormant. (Bear Tent)
- **Song de- and re- Construction (Peter Mulvey)** - Each day, Peter will start with one of his own songs. He'll play it, and then take it apart, into its components, explaining how it was written, what choices were made and why, and what, in his estimation, works well, and why. Then, for the rest of the class, he'll ask students to perform one of their songs and do his best to notice and point out the structural points that work well, both musically and lyrically, and offer some suggestions for improving the mechanics of the whole machine. (Trout Tent)
- **Songwriting With Your Subconscious (Michaela Anne)** - This class will explore how to connect more to what you truly want to write about rather than what you feel you should write about or what you think others want to hear. Through free writing exercises as well as writing of actual songs, we will explore how to quiet those outside voices and pressures to better listen to and more easily access our own unique stories and perspectives. Throughout this exploration and actual writing of songs, we will explore what it means to us, individually, to be an artist, to make work in private or public, how to nurture and honor our own creative dreams and write more freely as ourselves. (Spider Tent)
- **Writing Hit Songs (Bonnie Hayes)** - Most songwriters don't care at all about writing hit songs. But most do want to write songs that make listeners dance, or sing along, or cry—or all three. Even if we don't really like them when we hear them on the radio, hit songs, which are listened to and loved by millions of people, hold secrets that can be unlocked and applied to personal writing. Learning techniques used by hit songwriter can help us make the tweaks to our songs that make them just a little more effective. In this class, we'll look at the characteristics of hit songs past and present. We'll also answer the question of why the chorus is the heart of a hit, celebrate the wonderful invention of the post-chorus, review some processes that songwriters use to make their songs accessible and yet unique, and discuss how to balance your own authentic voice and story with the more technical approach used by hit writers. (Coyote Tent)



- **Songwriting Through the Eyes of Performance (Vance Gilbert)** - A great song does not by itself get heard. It needs to be performed so that a producer, publisher, record exec, and most importantly your fans can be part of its full impact. It's a "collision course" Vance offers where performance and songwriting are inextricably intertwined entities. Here's your chance to pick up and hone some skills that will make your song and its presentation shine. Everything from keeping time, arrangement of the song, what key, "getting the guitar out of the way", the cliché police, posture, vocal stuff, even how to approach the stage and plug in the guitar will be examined on the mike in a safe and supportive "open mike-ish" atmosphere. We'll also look at the song in this performance context. Does it need a bridge? Does it need *that* bridge? That song is in *C* -how about we start the bridge in *Eb* and work our way back to the chorus? Let's remove some "buts" and "ands" and get right to the core of the song, let's try singing that, and now let's watch songwriting and performance collide and you become your best songwriting self! (Eagle Tent - backstage)
  
- **Let's Write! (Mary Gauthier)** - No matter if you are brand new to songwriting, or have been at it for years, coming up with a new song you're proud of is one of the most exciting parts of being a songwriter. If you hope to move the dial on new material at song school this week, maybe come up with a new song or two that you can sing with confidence, this class is for you. Mary will show you how to deeply engage your imagination, generate new ideas and turn them into solid song starts. We will write in every class and have fun breaking down inner resistance to the blank page together! Truth is that sooner or later, all songwriters must break through resistance to new work. We all must learn how to deal with emotional and psychological barriers that hinder the creative process. Here are some common aspects of this resistance: Fear of Failure, Perfectionism, Lack of Inspiration, Self-Doubt, Fear of Criticism, Comparison to Others, Time Constraints...the list goes on and on! So, if you've asked yourself, why aren't I writing more? Why is there never enough time? Why am I not generating the new songs I deeply long to write? The truth is, everyone feels a little stuck at one time or another! The answer is, of course: JUST KEEP WRITING. But how? Mary will show you! And you will write. Then, Mary will help you see what's working, and why. When you focus on what's working, it will grow, and what isn't working will naturally fall away. The blocks that once had you frozen will no longer be so daunting. This class will be a safe place to create. Your fellow classmates and your teacher will cheer you on, and powerful new connections will be made. This is YOUR week, so make the most of it. Wanna write some new material? Join us! (Mountain Lion Tent)
  
- **Singing Together: Harmonies and Vocal Arrangement Masterclass (Bandits on the Run)** - There's an undeniable magic and ancient quality about singing together. We Bandits believe there's nothing more delicious than multiple voices joining to create a song together, and we've had years and years of practice to hone our particular method of harmony and vocal arrangements. We'll talk about intuitive voicings, how to tell a story and grow a song with harmonies, and how to work on vocals side-by-side with instrumentation. Performers of all kinds are welcome AND we especially encourage acts with multiple singers to attend as a group and bring something to work on! Come ready to explore, and to sing together! (Wildflower Pavilion)

- **Songwriting With Kids (Paul Reisler)** - I'm the founder and artistic director of Kid Pan Alley. We've now written over 2,700 songs with over 65,000 children using a group songwriting process I've developed. Kid Pan Alley Nashville features Amy Grant, Delbert McClinton, Suzy Bogguss, Raul Malo, Tommy Sims and others recording the songs we wrote with the children. Songwriting with kids is fun. It's part of how we give back some of what has been given to us and it sows the seeds for a new generation of songwriters. It's also great for our own songwriting chops because we have to work quickly using our intuition and wits. There's no time for the dreaded editor. Their minds work in the way we wish ours would when we write songs—non-linearly. And it may be the most likely way to make money with your songwriting. (Lizard Tent)
- **Writing/Rewriting, There is a Difference (Steve Seskin)** - Writing can more easily come from that dreamy/stream of consciousness place. Rewriting involves considering what you've already written and in many ways is a lot more tedious. In this seminar we examine all types of rewriting. Are you rewriting because the content is not serving the moment in the song, or is the problem the tone of how you put forth your idea? Is the lyric right but musically the song needs some changes. We'll look at chord substitutions and musical choices made to create more prosody. We'll also look at how to know when a song is done and the wisdom of sticking to the task versus putting a song away for a while and giving it a rest. Many times I write more than I need just to give myself choices. There is no shame in starting an idea and not finishing it. Sometimes we need to cut our losses and move on, hopefully learning something in the process. (Hummingbird Tent)
- † **Songwriting Masterclass (Pat Pattison)** - This class is for students who were pre-selected ahead of time. All students are welcome to observe. (Blue Heron Tent)

#### ➤ **Mentoring Sessions**

### **4:15 - 5:30 Electives**

- 1) **Plug In: Acoustic Instrument Amplification (Eben and Michael Grace)** - So you have your guitar and your song and you're ready to hit the stage. You've spent countless hours honing your act and conjuring up beautiful sounds on your instrument, and now you need to plug in. Along with all the other skills you work to master as a performing acoustic artist, plugging in an acoustic instrument is an essential skill which can really help you sound your best. In this class we'll be investigating the various ways to get your instrument plugged in and sounding great, including: Acoustic instrument pickups / selecting the best one for your instrument and style, using various types of Preamps and DI boxes, using EQ to dial in the best sound for your instrument and pickup combination, adding and using effects—reverb, compression, delay etc. We will have a number of our preamps to try (FELiX, ALiX and BiX) with a high quality PA system. Participants are asked to bring their instruments so we can do hands-on experiments with everybody's particular setups. (Wildflower Pavilion)

- 2) **Social Media 101: Crash Course for Beginners (Heather Mae)** Social media is a necessary communication and marketing tool for today's musician, but for a beginner, it can be overwhelming. Stories, hashtags, TikTok - where do you even start? Led by Heather Mae, an artist and the owner of Rad Heifer, a boutique marketing agency based out of Nashville, this workshop will help you grasp the basics of social media. We'll explore the various social media platforms, discuss different types of posts (and how to use them effectively), teach you how to create engaging reels and TikToks, and provide plenty more to kick-start your social media journey. Come prepared with questions and a smartphone! (Coyote Tent)
- 3) **Chords Are Oracles (Jayme Stone)** - It's a mystery how a few notes played at the same time can summon an entire song. In this workshop, we will explore how to find and use new chord voicings to get you entranced and spark unique melodies. We'll look at how adding, subtracting or changing just one note in a chord can tilt the axis of your familiar shapes just enough to feel like you've entered a new multiverse. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 4) **Experimenting With Altered Tunings and Multiple Capos (Bill Nash)** - You hear other people using altered tunings and multiple capos and it sounds so good... well this workshop will introduce you to the magical world of multiple three string capos with altered tunings! Bill Nash has been on the cutting edge of trying to make the guitar easier to play with fewer fingers due to his dealing with multiple sclerosis for over 30 years, and in this workshop, you will learn many hints and ideas on how to achieve this goal. He has been giving these workshops at song schools across the country (including the Rocky Mountain Folks Festival Song School for more than a decade, the Kerrville Songwriters School for the since 2016, and at the SWRFA conference the last two years) and has received many accolades from his participants. He also does one-on-one mentor sessions during song school and sometimes during the festival (by appointment). There will be handouts available for students to take away from each workshop. (Blue Heron Tent)
- 5) **Song Listening (Michaela Anne)** - An invitation to bring your new, used or unfinished songs to this group listening session. (Spider Tent)
- 6) **Ask Me Anything (Alan Rowoth)** - This workshop will cover a wide range of topics crucial to the success of the performing songwriter, and tailored to the students interests, including why building an internet identity is much more than creating a webpage. We'll cover using email, web research, and social networking effectively, as well as making one's music available online. We'll also talk about booking strategies, building community coalitions, getting the most out of a sound check, strategizing on alternative ways to monetize and make a living as a musician in the post-CD economy when live gigs have become far more scarce and logistical costs keep rising. There are countless challenges out there. Alan Rowoth is the creator of folkmusic.org, one of the most comprehensive sources for folk and acoustic music resources on the World Wide Web and will let the students dictate where the conversation goes. (Hummingbird Tent)

- 7) **Ask a Grizzled Forty Year Veteran Road Dog Who Still Has All his Teeth, Is Reasonably Fit and Still Likes his Job (Peter Mulvey)** - An open conversation with instructor and performing songwriter Peter Mulvey. He'll share his experience, wisdom and advice and answer student questions. (Trout Tent)
- 8) **Takin' Care of Business: Setting Up For Success in the Music Business (Mark Monroe Gibson and "Chicago" Mike Beck)** - Question: Do you know the secret of how to end up with a million dollars in the music industry? Start with 2 million dollars! Unless we already have a couple million in the bank, independent artists and songwriters need to make sure we are on top of the business aspects of our recording, songwriting and performing activities. This workshop—hosted by two touring songwriters and recording artists, attorney Mark Monroe Gibson and Access Film Music's "Chicago" Mike Beck, who will take participants through a check-list and review of critical business infrastructure for every performance / recording / songwriting career, including the setup, structure and form of your business, an inventory of intellectual property assets (copyrights and trademarks), and possible regulatory requirements. It will also include a discussion of important considerations for various common music industry contracts, music publishing matters, licensing music to film / tv / video games / advertising, trademarks, how to get your royalties from performance rights organizations (PROs) like ASCAP, BMI, SoundExchange, and more. (Bear Tent)
- 9) **Vocal Clarity: A Party in Your Mouth! (Clare MacLeod)** - How do you convey meaning? Should you open your mouth more - but what about ventriloquism? Spit out your words - um, ew? Sounds like you're working harder than you have to... Are you supposed to get those pesky consonants out of the way so we can hear your sound - but the consonants are what make meaning of those sounds, as well as being percussive and help you to float and groove... This class will help you improve resonance, projection, and give you options for more expressive singing and speaking. You wrote the words - now remove any barriers to an audience receiving your intent. (Eagle Tent)
- 10) **Song School Check In and Reflect (Phoebe Hunt)** - Need a moment to check in? Within the process of exploring our songwriting, it is natural for participants to unlock parts of themselves that may feel uncomfortable, vulnerable or raw. Similarly, you may feel the highest highs alongside the lowest lows within your journey here at song school. This daily gathering offers a safe space to share about the visceral experience you are having. We offer a moment of refuge to process what might be coming up for you, honoring your unique journey here and allowing a moment to reflect and be witnessed through your process here at song school. (Trees by Yurt behind the Wildflower Pavilion)
- 11) **Mentoring Sessions**

**5:30 - 7:30 Dinner Break** - Visit the Bloomberries Booth next to the bathhouse to purchase dinner, treats and snacks.

**7:30 Open Stage** - Confirm your day and time posted in Blue Heron Tent. (Wildflower Pavilion)

*“When you go out into the woods and you look at trees, you see all these different trees. And some of them are bent, and some of them are straight, and some of them are evergreens, and some of them are whatever. And you look at the tree and you allow it. You see why it is the way it is. You sort of understand that it didn’t get enough light, and so it turned out that way. And you don’t get all emotional about it. You just allow it. You appreciate the tree. The minute you get near humans, you lose all that. And you are constantly saying, “you’re too this, or I’m too this.” That judging mind comes in. And so I practice turning people into trees. Which means appreciating them just the way they are.”*

– Ram Dass

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## Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>

### **TIP OF THE DAY**

Pick up your Festival wristbands. (Festival Box Office opens from noon - 9pm)

### **TO DO LIST**

- Your night to play the open stage? Confirm your time at Blue Heron Tent.
- Mentoring session sign ups out at 9am in Blue heron Tent.
- All vehicles without on-site Folks Festival Vehicle Passes must be off property by 1:30pm. Please move to the Farm between 8:00am to 1:30pm.

### **7:30 - 8:30 Qi Gong**

Practice gentle movements with Carli Zug that strengthen the body, increase flexibility and relieve stress. (Trout Tent)

### **8:00 - 9:00 Yoga**

Heather Hottovy will help celebrate the start of your day with gentle yoga. (Meet near silo)

### **9:30 - 12:00 Songwriting Groups: Session 4**

The final songwriting session and more. See all instructor descriptions below. Each instructor will meet at the following location:

#### **MEETING PLACES**

- o Phoebe Hunt - Bear Tent
- o Peter Mulvey - Trout Tent
- o Ellis Delaney, Terri Delaney - Lizard Tent
- o Michaela Ann - Spider Tent
- o Heather Mae - Eagle Tent (backstage)
- o Rebecca Folsom - Wildflower
- o Bonnie Hayes - Coyote Tent
- o Mary Gauthier - Mountain Lion Tent
- o Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
- o Pat Pattison - Blue Heron Tent †

*"No one can realize how substantial the air is, until he feels its supporting power beneath him. It inspires confidence at once."*

– Otto Lilienthal

- **Songwriter's Toolkit (Phoebe Hunt)** - Bring a song! In this class, we will have each participant play an original song of their choosing and rather than receiving direct feedback, we will dissect the song into the tools that are being used. As we go around the class, we will reveal the plethora of tools available to the songwriter through the examples revealed in class. Through this experiential process, participants often begin to see the pattern of tools they often use, as well as learn new tools that they can tuck away to use in future writing! Let's expand our toolkits together! Please note: We will have time to listen to approximately 15-20 songwriters in a single class session. We will do our best to accommodate all participants but cannot promise that everyone will have a chance to play time permitting. (Bear Tent)
- **Song de- and re- Construction (Peter Mulvey)** - Each day, Peter will start with one of his own songs. He'll play it, and then take it apart, into its components, explaining how it was written, what choices were made and why, and what, in his estimation, works well, and why. Then, for the rest of the class, he'll ask students to perform one of their songs and do his best to notice and point out the structural points that work well, both musically and lyrically, and offer some suggestions for improving the mechanics of the whole machine. (Trout Tent)
- **Undefended Songwriting (Ellis and Terri Delaney)** - Are you interested in writing with an undefended heart? In this workshop, Ellis (performing songwriter) and Terri (somatic therapist) will help you work with your body & nervous system to be less defensive and more open-hearted as you write. It is nearly impossible to create when your nervous system believes there is a threat. The truth is that good writing is vulnerable writing, and if you have a history of not being seen, just trying to write will create a defensive body response. We will explore bottom-up practices (vs. top-down) that will help you grow your capacity to stay engaged and be intimate with creativity instead of spacing out, avoiding, fighting or running away. Come prepared to write and move your body! (Lizard Tent)
- **Editing As My Superpower (Michaela Anne)** - The hardest part can be finishing the song. But how much better could it be if I went back and tried again? This class will explore the art, tedium and power of editing. We consider every 'finished' song a first draft until we go back through and explore and play with each line until we feel it is exactly as we hoped it could be. Bring a song that you started or finished from either of Michaela's classes, *Creativity Empowered on Order* and *Songwriting with Your Subconscious* or any other class or source of inspiration this week and we will go through the editing process together. (Spider Tent)

- **Transform Your Performance: Take 'em to Church (Heather Mae)** - Join Heather, an award-winning songwriter known for her soul-stirring performances, in a transformative workshop on turning your stage presence into a sacred experience. Through witnessing on-your-feet exercises, participants will observe performers as they experiment with techniques that infuse their live performance with The Big 3: Authenticity, Vulnerability, and Emotional Resonance. From harnessing the power of storytelling to orchestrating moments of collective uplift and transforming your crowd into a choir, we will learn how to conjure an atmosphere of connection and community from the stage. Transform your stage show into a transcendent experience that leaves a lasting impact on your audience and transforms audience members into devoted fans. Get ready to elevate your performance and create sacred spaces wherever you perform. (Eagle Tent)
- **Zen Mind, Beginner Mind: Performing, Painting, Music & Poetry (Rebecca Folsom)** - This is one unique and surprisingly freeing workshop! We will actively mix three different creative mediums; playing music, painting with acrylics, and writing prose. Participants will rotate and take turns with each media. Experience the freedom and delight of bypassing your inner rational critic as you surprise and entice your inner muse into ecstatic expression! No experience necessary. Come ready to paint, to write and to play. All art supplies will be provided, just bring your voice and/or instrument and writing journal. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- **Stealing Fire: Learning from the Songs We Love (Bonnie Hayes)** - What do our favorite songs have to teach us? If we listen to them carefully and pay attention to our own responses, we can pull out a technique or trick, a spark that we can “steal” to inspire a new song of our own. We’ll do a song or two that I am currently obsessed with, and then one or two of your favorite songs. Come with a song you wish you’d written! (Coyote Tent)

*“We have to continually be jumping off cliffs and developing our wings on the way down.”*

– Kurt Vonnegut



- **Let's Write! (Mary Gauthier)** - No matter if you are brand new to songwriting, or have been at it for years, coming up with a new song you're proud of is one of the most exciting parts of being a songwriter. If you hope to move the dial on new material at song school this week, maybe come up with a new song or two that you can sing with confidence, this class is for you. Mary will show you how to deeply engage your imagination, generate new ideas and turn them into solid song starts. We will write in every class and have fun breaking down inner resistance to the blank page together! Truth is that sooner or later, all songwriters must break through resistance to new work. We all must learn how to deal with emotional and psychological barriers that hinder the creative process. Here are some common aspects of this resistance: Fear of Failure, Perfectionism, Lack of Inspiration, Self-Doubt, Fear of Criticism, Comparison to Others, Time Constraints...the list goes on and on! So, if you've asked yourself, why aren't I writing more? Why is there never enough time? Why am I not generating the new songs I deeply long to write? The truth is, everyone feels a little stuck at one time or another! The answer is, of course: JUST KEEP WRITING. But how? Mary will show you! And you will write. Then, Mary will help you see what's working, and why. When you focus on what's working, it will grow, and what isn't working will naturally fall away. The blocks that once had you frozen will no longer be so daunting. This class will be a safe place to create. Your fellow classmates and your teacher will cheer you on, and powerful new connections will be made. This is YOUR week, so make the most of it. Wanna write some new material? Join us! (Mountain Lion Tent)
- **Rewriting Part Two (Steve Seskin)** - In this class we will take a look at songs brought in by you to examine what is working really well and what could use some more work. The hardest thing to change in a song is something working pretty well. I always challenge myself saying "what if that so - so line became the best line in the whole song, the one everyone is talking about." If you come to the first class on Monday, hopefully you'll bring your start into this class so we can see where you're at and where you might go from here. We will have time to look at between 6 and 10 songs but the emphasis will be on all of us learning something from each song we look at. (Hummingbird Tent)
- † **Songwriting Masterclass (Pat Pattison)** - This class is for students who were pre-selected ahead of time. All students are welcome to observe. (Blue Heron Tent)
- **Mentoring Sessions**

*"Music is life itself." - Louis Armstrong*

**12:00 - 1:30 Lunch Break - please read!**

All Song Schoolers without On-site Folks Festival Vehicle Passes must move their vehicles out of the Song School Parking Lot and onsite campground by the end of lunch break to the designated Song School parking area at the Planet Bluegrass Farm. Simply turn right at exit and go 1/3 mile past Apple Valley Road to Farm entrance on the left. It's just a short walk back over the bridge and under the highway to the festival grounds. Thanks in advance! Camp sites may be broken down on Friday morning by 9am. Vehicles may be driven into the onsite campground to pack out camping items Friday morning..

**1:30 - 3:00 Electives**

- 1) **Directed Writing Songsharing (Paul Reisler)** - In this final session, participants will perform and record their songs written from the morning songwriting sessions. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 2) **The Art of Live Looping (Arthur Lee Land)** - Through dynamic performance, demonstration and audience participation, multi-instrumentalist Arthur Lee Land teaches the fundamentals of live-looping. The elements of musicianship, technology, sound engineer, arranger and entertainer all come together in this 21<sup>st</sup> century art-form. Learn how to combine traditional instruments and emerging technologies to create an entire one-man band and how you can use live-looping to enhance your performances. Live-looping is also a great tool for writing songs and practicing your instrument. Students will participate in improvised song creation and build their own loops. (Parlor)
- 3) **Showpersonship: How to Put on a Good Show (Bandits on the Run)** - How many times have you stumbled upon a song or album and fallen in love, listened to it over and over, and finally gotten the chance to see the artist live, only to find that something got lost in translation? Crafting a beautiful song requires a set of skills, but presenting that song live in person requires a whole other set of skills. To make sure that your song has the best possible life, you need both of these skill sets, and this class focuses on the performance aspect of musicianship. How do you set yourself up to be the best vessel for your song's message? How do you show up in all your glorious uniqueness so that folks can *hear* the song while really *seeing* you? How do you put on a memorable show? Come to this class and let's find out! (Lizard Tent)

*"And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud  
was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."  
- Anaïs Nin*

- 4) **360° Creative Freedom (Rebecca Folsom)** - Have you ever had the suspicion that in life and in your creative ventures maybe you don't have to work so hard? Maybe there is an easier way? Have you had the experience when something you're creating—a song, a show, an experience, a connection—comes together quickly and effortlessly? Do you know some people who make manifesting their vision look easy? Have you had enough of working hard? Are you ready for easy? On almost all boats there are small parts called Trim Tabs. These pieces, though small, create great impact in the movement of the vessel. Here's what is said about Trim Tabs. Large and small boats benefit, they get the boat out of the hole and on the plane quickly. They improve speed, safety and overall performance. They improve fuel consumption and lessen stress. They provide cost savings and make for a more enjoyable ride. Sound good? Come and I'll teach you how to access your Trim Tab moves for all your creative ventures. (Spider Tent)
- 5) **Before You Record, Do THIS... (Justin Roth)** - Are you thinking about making a recording? This workshop with Justin Roth will talk about the pros and cons of different approaches to consider when preparing to record. Before you run to the studio, there's an important step to take before you begin - pre-production. You've got your songs, but are you prepared to really start recording? You wouldn't run a marathon "off the couch" without preparation and training, would you? So, let's not record an album "off the couch" either. Whether you're new to recording or a seasoned pro, pre-production serves an important role in preparing for a successful recording experience. Mapping out your plan, instrumentation ideas, album goals, expectations, and most importantly, making sure they realistically align with your budget, are all helpful decisions to be made before you enter the studio. We'll also talk about the roles of engineer vs. producer, budgeting, fan funding, self-recording vs. a "real" studio, full album or EP, digital release or CD...the list goes on and on. Bring your questions and ideas, and let's dig in. This is a crucial step to help turn your dream of recording into a fully realized final product. (Coyote Tent)
- 6) **Your Voice: A Guided Tour (Clare McLeod)** - Your sound is the result of a dynamic process in which several parts of your body interact. In this session, you'll develop your understanding of the structures that make up the quality of your voice and strengthen both your consistency and versatility. Operating from a thorough understanding of how the voice works, Clare will help you deepen your connection to your instrument, your material and your audience. (Trout Tent)

*"Music can change the world."*  
- Ludwig van Beethoven

- 7) **Vance Advanced 202 (Vance Gilbert)** - Are you a working musician? Have you had a few sessions with Vance's "bootcamp" over the last few years? Well, here's a chance to dig in a little deeper. We'll look at the shape of a "set", the set list itself, patter, and prepping for a performance. Also the song will be scrutinized (bring one that is somewhat "tattered" and just not working for you for whatever reason). Think of the previously mentioned Vance classes with a substantially more intensive examination of what you write and how you present it on the stage. There'll be a little clawing and bleeding – antiseptic will be provided (just kidding – don't be such a chicken!) (Eagle Tent)
- 8) **Performance (Amy Speace)** - A four day comprehensive performance class. You can do all four or just jump into one of them. We will look at performance from the 'inside out' (it'll make sense, I promise). You will learn the art of connecting to both the song and the audience in a profound way. This is an "on your feet" class, so come prepared with a song you know by heart that you're willing to dig into. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- 9) **Social Media 201: Work Smarter, Not Harder (Heather Mae)** - This advanced workshop is tailored for musicians looking to elevate their social media game. Led by Heather Mae, an artist and the owner of Rad Heifer, a boutique marketing agency based out of Nashville, this workshop aims to redefine social media as an extension of your artistry rather than a source of frustration! Discover how to manage a content calendar, batch create content to save yourself from the dreaded "what should I post today?" question, decode the intricacies of social media algorithms (allowing you to effectively reach your niche audience), dominate TikTok and Instagram reels by "bending trends", and funnel fan support into platforms like Kickstarter and Patreon to grow your income. Mae will share her expert insider tips and tricks (directly from the platforms themselves!), equipping you with the knowledge to create engaging content that deeply resonates with your audience. Recommended for those with a moderate understanding of social media. Beginners should attend Heather Mae's "Social Media 101: Beginner Crash Course" before attending this workshop. Come prepared with questions and a smartphone! (Coyote Tent)

*"You can't use up creativity.  
The more you use, the more you have."  
– Maya Angelou*

**10) Please Release Me (Jenn Cleary, Mike Beck)** - Musicians releasing new music today are faced with a bewildering array of options, challenges, choices and chores: Album vs EP vs singles? Videos? Which one of the 20+ distributors to use? On which streaming service(s) should you focus? On which social media platform(s) should you promote your new release? Radio – Is anybody listening? DIY vs hiring someone? And that’s just the tip of the iceberg! Ugh!!! In this workshop, Jenn Cleary and “Chicago” Mike Beck will walk you through step-by-step current best practices for sharing your new music with the world. In this class, you will learn how to prepare for your next release and how to create a marketing plan to optimize your opportunities. Among the topics to be discussed are: Defining goals, planning and scheduling, distribution, budgeting, hiring help, your public image and branding, graphics, websites, building email lists, social media, creating promotional content, advertising, reviews, articles, awards, radio airplay, streaming, merchandise and more. (Bear Tent)

### **11) Mentoring Sessions**

#### **3:15 - 4:30 Electives**

- 1) Directed Writing Songsharing with Paul Reisler continued** - In this final session, participants will perform and record material gleaned from the morning songwriting sessions. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 2) Single String Theory: Unlocking the Fretboard (Peter Mulvey)** - Taking off from Mick Goodrich (Berklee School of Music) and his theory of the Unitar, Peter will explore melodic use of a single string to show how much more we already know about the fingerboard. Even this most rudimentary guitar player is better than they think they are at improvising, soloing, and locating scales. (Spider Tent)
- 3) Balancing Worlds: How to Juggle Your Multiple Art Forms (Bandits on the Run):** In Bandits on the Run, there are singers, cellists, guitar players, accordionists, percussionists, actors, producers, writers, composers, tarot readers, photographers, makeup artists, stylists, activists, runners, casting directors, voiceover artists, dancers, bicyclists, roller skaters, mask-makers, scenic designers, chefs, and poets - and there’s only three of us. In this world where it’s not only celebrated but often necessary to be a Renaissance Person, how on Earth do you balance all of these loves and professions? What about when there’s more than one of you in your band or collective, and you’re often trying to balance different things? How do you combine some of these passions to feel more holistic and actualized as an artist? Come to this class and learn to juggle! (Not literally. Only one Bandit is really good at that.) (Lizard Tent)

- 4) **Wrap Up and Exploring the Possible (Mary Gauthier, Amy Speace, Steve Seskin)** - Bring us your question - about the Music Business, Living a Creative Life, or anything you learned this week and are wondering about. This is a chance to process and collaborate. There are no dumb questions. (Bear Tent)
- 5) **Fill Your Cup: Toning Workshop (Rebecca Folsom)** - This workshop will have a leaning towards vocal toning, releasing and relaxation. The voice is the barometer of the soul, and the instrument is you. Training your whole being to be awake, at ease, and working in synchronicity you gain access to your own authentic, balanced, and passionate voice. We will practice a unique blend of traditional and nontraditional vocal technique, martial arts, yogic posture, and Toltec and Taoist exercises. Together we will embody agile, grounded vocal resonance, and culminate toning and harmonizing together. (Trout Tent)
- 6) **Transform Your Strumming (JJ Jones)** - Building on the basic principles of the Guaranteed Groove class, this workshop will explore practical ways to change up your strumming patterns. We'll analyze your current patterns, offer a variety of new ones, introduce tools for creating your own, and demonstrate the power of repetition to create new muscle memories in your strumming hand. If you don't currently use a pick to strum your guitar, we'll cover why you should and how to start. We'll also talk about how to separate the rhythm of your strumming hand from the rhythm you're singing. Do you feel like a lot of your songs use similar grooves? Are you looking for new rhythmic ideas to jumpstart your songwriting? This class is for you and can be taken as a stand-alone class with or without Guaranteed Groove. Being familiar with how to use a metronome and count beat subdivisions will be helpful! (Wildflower Pavilion)
- 7) **Manifesting Music: Write a Song That Changes Your Life! (Shanna in a Dress)** - Songs are spells. Have you ever written a song that ended up predicting something in your life further down the line? The words we speak, the vibrations we create literally change our future, and we as songwriters hold a magic wand and a special creative power that other art forms don't. In this class we're going to script a future we desire. I'll offer a simple template that's been proven to work for me, and turn it into a song! Shanna in a Dress will share a few inspiring examples in the beginning, then we'll break out into writing, and come back and share our new realities! (Blue Heron Tent)
- 8) **Taylor Guitar Roadshow** - Join Eric Sakimoto from Taylor Guitars for an instrument meet and greet and test out some of Taylor's many iconic models. (Parlor)
- 9) **Mentoring Sessions**

### **4:45 - 5:15 Song School Closing**

Our final all school session brings us all back together for a community sing in the Wildflower Pavilion and the river.

### **6:00 - 7:30 Song School Dinner and Mercantile**

The dinners are open to all Song School participants and their registered guests. Bring your dinner ticket! Head Chefs: Markus and Tommy. **Please reuse and compost everything!** (Backstage)

Instructors and students will have books, CDs and things for sale backstage during the dinner.

### **7:30 Open Stage**

Confirm your day and time posted in Blue Heron Tent. (Wildflower Pavilion)

*“Creativity is God’s gift to us.  
Using our creativity is our gift back to God.”  
– Julia Cameron*

*“In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity.” – Sun Tzu*

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## More things you need to know about...

**The Song School Instructor Bios:** Bios can be found at:

<https://bluegrass.com/song-school/classes/instructors>

**Songwriting Sessions:** These daily longform sessions are a chance to dive into a variety of approaches to the songwriting craft. We also offer other elective topics during this time. Some instructors repeat their lesson plan while others will focus on specific topics each day as noted in the schedule. We encourage students to self-monitor class sizes and keep in mind that if a class you want to take is large one day, it's very likely to be smaller the next.

**Electives:** Your journey through The Song School schedule is entirely up to you! Each day, a variety of elective classes are offered. Most electives are only offered once, and a few are offered additional times during the week. The electives, Directed Writing and Advanced Harmony, require that you be in attendance for the initial session in order to participate later in the week and this is noted in the schedule. Refer to your **class listing** for a quick overview and to the course descriptions for specific details. No advance sign-up needed! Just a little patience and courage to find your own path.

**Mentoring Sessions:** These sessions are offered as a chance to receive more personalized attention and help with specific questions. They can take the form of one-on-one or small group consultations. Each day, sign up sheets and meeting locations will be posted in the Blue Heron Tent at 9am (Registration area). Check back for late additions. Most sessions will meet under 10 x 10 tents near the silo and riverfront. Because of the limited amount of mentoring sessions, students may sign up for one session during the week unless space is available last minute.

**Open Stage:** The evening open stages are offered as an opportunity to perform an original song for your peers in the Wildflower Pavilion. Due to our amplified sound curfews, we have a limited number of spots available. Students who wish to perform must sign up in advance. Students are randomly selected until all available performance slots are filled. The performance list for all four nights will be posted Monday during the lunch break in the Blue Heron Tent.

**Message Board:** The message board is located in the Blue Heron Tent (registration tent). If you have messages for other participants, need to communicate about festival or camping passes or have tickets to sell, this is the place to post your message for others to see.

**Wi-Fi Hot Spots:** We have wi-fi coverage available near the Wildflower Pavilion and in much of the front campground. Wifi password will be posted on the message board.



**Guests:** We ask that your guests please do not disturb classes and not hang out in classroom areas while classes are in session. Wi-fi is available in the front campground and there is also free wi-fi access at Moxi Coffee Shop a short walk away in Lyons.

**Instructor materials and recordings available during the Thursday dinner:** Many instructors will have books and recorded products available to purchase during the Song School. You may find the instructor during the week or wait until Thursday evening during dinnertime to purchase instructor materials. Students may also sell their CDs during the dinner as space allows.

**Composting and Recycling:** Planet Bluegrass continues to use best practices to minimize the landfill waste our schools and festivals produce. Please do your part by correctly using our color-coded waste stations in the campground and classroom areas and dispose of your campground compost in the Song School grounds or large compost dumpster on the road behind the bathhouse. *Remember, all food, beer and water cups and plates used at the Song School dinners are compostable or recyclable.* Thanks in advance for your help.

**Onsite Food Options:** We are pleased to once again have a food vendor, Bloomberries, on the grounds during the Song School for breakfast and lunch every day and **dinners on Tuesday and Wednesday**. Full menu is available at their booth. It's their 20th year providing delicious food and snacks as part of The Song School!

*"You'll never get bored when you try something new. There's really no limit to what you can do." - Dr. Seuss*