

# The Song School

August 12-16, 2018 • Lyons, CO  
Schedule and Course Descriptions

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## **Sunday, August 12th**

### *TO DO LIST:*

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

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

### **2:30 - 5:00 Student Registration**

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

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

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

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

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## **Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**

### *TO DO LIST:*

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

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

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

Monday

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

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.)

### **9:15 - 9:45 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)

### **9:45 - 10:15 Opening Session: The Song School Community Gathering**

*"Walking thru the door is the only audition."* In our opening session together, Rebecca Folsom, Moira Smiley and Jayme Stone will warm us all up and have us resonating in time and in tune for the week ahead. (Wildflower Pavilion)

### **10:30 - 12:30 Electives**

- 1) **Directed Writing with 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 with performances on the last day and you'll need to participate in all the sessions to get your song finished. We will not take new people after the 2nd day. (Wildflower Pavilion)
  
- 2) **Song Session with Steve Seskin and Pat Pattison** - These sessions take an in-depth look at participants' 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. This class is offered on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and it's fine to attend one or more sessions. Bring several lyric sheets. (Mountain Lion Tent).

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

Monday

- 3) **Performance with Amy Speace - A 4-day comprehensive look at The Art & Craft of Performance.** We write songs to express our journeys in life but we share them with others to connect, to allow the audience to find their own truth in what we sing. A performance at the highest level can be a deeply meaningful, almost spiritual experience for the singer and the audience, elevating the ordinary into the extraordinary. This is the Art of it. Getting to the deeper level. The Craft are the tools we practice, just like scales when learning an instrument. In this class, using specific exercises developed from theater and improv, we arrive at a deeper layer, a kind of back door to the song, with the experience of a radical shift in how you experience your own Performance and a sure-fire cure for stage fright! No commitment necessary to all 4 classes, you can take all 4, you can come in for just 1, but it is a comprehensive, so that each day will build on the next. **Day 1 and 2: The Song.** We will spend 2 days delving into the method (a few questions we ask of the song and the performer). Come prepared with a song you know well enough to sing without lyrics, bring your instrument or sing acapella. Cover songs are fine. It's just as powerful to watch someone else work as to do the work yourself. This is the heart of the work. (Festival Main Stage)
- 4) **Capo Envy: Obsessive Capo Disorder** – Have you ever seen artists using partial and/or multiple capos and wondered, "What on earth are they doing!?" Chances are you've been stricken by partial capo envy. Partial capos can enhance your guitar sound and elaborate your sonic palate without complicating your guitar parts. 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. Come to this workshop to learn the simple keys to understanding how to use both the Kyser "Drop-D" (5 string) and "Shortcut" (3 string) capos in standard tuning. It's easier than it looks! You will learn a simple way to use single or multiple partial capos to enhance your guitar sound and apply it to songs you've already written or songs to come using chords you already know in standard tuning. Partial capos will be provided for use during the workshop and are available for purchase from Justin. Some guitar experience is necessary, but this workshop is open to beginners as well as seasoned players. Come find out just how easy it is and take a leap forward with your sound. Justin Roth is a Kyser Capo sponsored artist and instructor. (Coyote Tent)
- 5) **Build a Wholehearted Life: How Your Music Dreams Fit into a Balanced Life!** – 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 music! Presented by Ellis Delaney and Terri Delaney. (Lizard Tent)
- 6) **Recreate Your Roots** - Join Jayme Stone and Moira Smiley on a journey through the deep river of song. We'll explore ways to discover, rework and reimagine traditional songs and how to draw songwriting inspiration from the wellspring of tradition. (Eagle Tent - backstage)

2018 Song School

Monday

Monday

- 7) **Collaboration 101** - In this class with Bonnie Hayes, we'll learn a basic etiquette of collaboration, a little bit of music business, and we'll try a few collaboration exercises in the class. (Blue Heron Tent)
- 8) **Generating Musical Ideas For Songs** - This class with Rob Roper focuses on the musical elements of songwriting-- rhythm, melody and chords. It is a very hands-on class. I will talk for a few minutes about each topic and then give you exercises where you will generate music ideas for songs. At the end of the class, you will have several new rhythm ideas, several new melody ideas, and several new chord progression ideas to use as building blocks for songs. For lyrics, that's another class! Bring a guitar (or any instrument capable of playing chords), a notebook and pen, and a handheld recorder (smartphone with voice recorder app will do). This class can serve songwriters of all levels - from beginners to touring singer-songwriters who want to write some different-sounding songs. If you know basic first position (cowboy) chords, can sing Do-Re-Mi, and tap a beat on your knee, then you're qualified. This class will especially benefit songwriters who worry that "all my songs sound the same." They won't after this class; you can count on that. (Bear Tent)
- 9) **Songwriting With a Painter's Eye** - How do you paint a scene so that the listener can not only feel, but SEE what the singer is talking about? In this workshop, we'll explore how songs convey emotion. We'll write from images and work on using language that is visual and expressive. Presented by Natalia Zuckerman. (Spider Tent)
- 10) **Guitar Basics – Novice / Early-Intermediate level** - This workshop with Arthur Lee Land 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. (Hummingbird Tent)
- 11) **Mentoring:** Rebecca Folsom (Turtle Tent)

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

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

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

The first of four daily longer songwriting and elective sessions. **See instructor descriptions below (for those offering different daily class themes) and in the last pages of the schedule, in the "Other Things You Need to Know" section.** Each instructor will meet at the following location:

Monday

## MEETING PLACES

- Mary Gauthier - Bear Tent
- Bonnie Hayes - Festival Main Stage
- Steve Poltz - Spider Tent
- Shelly Peiken - Coyote Tent
- Ellis - Lizard Tent
- Rebecca Folsom - Eagle Tent (backstage)
- Pat Pattison - Blue Heron Tent
- Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
- Paul Reisler - Wildflower Pavilion
- Darrell Scott † - Mountain Lion Tent

- **Mary Gauthier teaches songwriters to discover/uncover their own unique writer's voice**, and then use that authentic voice in their songs. This class will teach you to become more emotionally honest in your writing, so your songs will deeply resonate with the listeners. Mary will work with student's songs, finding teaching moments in songs that are stuck, or unfinished. Each lesson will add tools to your songwriting toolbox. We will explore the relationships between melody, chord choices, song structure and lyrics; break through fear-based ruts, and most of all, work on taking greater risks and deepening your writing. Songwriters often have to push through firewalls of fear, confusion and self-doubt to effectively articulate emotional truth, but the beauty of this challenging work is the discovery that the deeply personal is universal. Everybody goes through more or less the same challenges in life. It is the exposing of vulnerability that allows a song's truth to emerge. Once we understand this, our songs can reconnect us to ourselves and to other beings in ways we never could have imagined. These new connections inevitably bring us joy. We are returned to our own heart through the sharing of our humanity. Digging into our heart of hearts, we discover the whole world there. The universe is inside each and every one of us. The uncovering and revealing of emotional truth is a primary source of transformative beauty, the creation of art. (Bear Tent)
- **Bonnie Hayes will offer: Writing From Groove** - Groove, or the rhythmic structure of a song, is a critical component of creating an emotional landscape for your song, yet most songwriters leave it largely unexplored. In this workshop, we'll examine various ways of creating a groove and using it to make your songs more effective and varied, including in-class writing and maybe even playing together. Bring your instrument, and be ready to dig a canyon! (Festival Main Stage)

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

Monday

- **Steve Poltz has decided to teach a songwriting class in Lyons Colorado** - When asked what he was going to do Poltz replied “I don’t know. It’s all a mystery to me. Creativity is fun. It keeps folks young. Do you want to feel younger? Then come to my class. We will make up songs and laugh like idiots. This isn't rocket science! There are no rules! I want to inspire you and look into your crazy eyes and release your wild child energy that’s lying dormant in your spine. I want you to finish a song! Open up the pathways in your brain and let your freak flag fly.” When Poltz was asked if there was anything else he’d like to add he said, “If you take my songwriting class you will become a better person and probably win the lottery and achieve total consciousness.” (Spider Tent)
- **Shelly Peiken will offer: Living Room Live: A Journeywoman’s Journey** - There is much to learn about the business of songwriting from a professional who’s been living the life for over 30 years: the realities, the competition, the thrills, the muse, the determination, the balancing of work and play and the powering through rejection. It can be an emotional rollercoaster but the belief in one’s self is the cliché that leads to survival and longevity. In her up-close-and-personal LIVING ROOM LIVE experience, Shelly Peiken will share her journey through monologue and song. And then we’ll talk about it. Trust me, there *will* be questions. And she’ll be happy to answer them. No lyric sheets needed! Popcorn optional. (Coyote Tent)
- **Rebecca Folsom will offer: Vocal Performance Master Class-** 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)
- **Pat Pattison will offer: Writing Better Lyrics** - In this wide-ranging seminar with Pat Pattison, covering the essentials of lyric writing, you'll work on verse development, use of image and metaphor, prosody and the art of matching of lyric and music. Pat will use participant's songs as a springboard to begin conversations on effective re-writing. Interactive, challenging you with a spate of writing exercises, you'll come away from the weekend with deeper insights into writing no matter the genre. (Blue Heron Tent)

*Monday*

- **Paul Reisler** will offer: **Creating Memorable Melodies** - Are you a prisoner of your chord changes? When was the last time you left a concert humming the chord changes? The emotional power of the music lies in the melody yet so many songwriters start with a riff or some chords. Melody is the essence of music because it contains it all. This workshop is about melody and its magical interaction with a lyric. I believe the words are in the music and the music is in the words. You see, melody and speech are fruits of the same tree. When we speak, we pitch the vowels and the consonants create the rhythm by cutting off the sound of the vowels. There will be lots of techniques for building melodies from short motifs. We'll explore what makes a melody memorable, how to make the music support the emotion of the lyric, how to control the forward movement of your song, discovering the music in the lyric, finding melodic inspiration and much more. This is an active, participatory workshop, not a lecture. You'll be creating melodies inspired by lyric, by rhythm, by chord changes, and by the sounds around you. It will give you lots of tools for developing your melodic ideas into memorable songs. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- **Steve Seskin** will offer: **Let's Write a Song** - This class will offer students a chance to work on a brand new song from scratch with my direction. I will walk you through the process of coming up with an idea, developing the lyric and finding music that compliments it well. During this process I will provide song prompts to get things started. In the course of this class, students will most definitely start a song. After the initial burst of creativity, we will listen to what you've come up with and make some suggestions from there in the spirit of helping each other move the process along. There may be some collaboration as well. On Thursday during my rewriting class students can bring their starts into the class and we can take a further look at what might need a bit more work. Attendance is not required on Thursday in order to do this class. Students can also show me what they're working on privately in a mentoring session. (Hummingbird Tent)
- **Ellis** will offer: **Intentional Performance: Performing From the Inside Out** – Connection happens naturally when there is ease, joy, and a shared sense of a real communication between a performer and an audience. Connection can happen in the unexpected imperfect moments during a show. There are practices you can use to strengthen your relationship to the present moment on stage by anchoring yourself and by letting go of controlling the outcome. Learn tools for how to prepare and practice seriously "play" in your performances! In this class, Ellis will give you model for performing that focuses on valuing who you are, appreciating the chance to connect with others, and then valuing the people in your audience! With Ellis Delaney. (Lizard Tent)
- † PLEASE NOTE: **Darrell Scott** will offer: **A Songwriting Master Class** - This class will have fifteen students pre-selected ahead of time. All students are welcome to observe the process. (Mountain Lion Tent)

Monday

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

- 1) **Embellishing Your Song – Intermediate/Advanced levels** - Bring your songs to this interactive workshop with Arthur Lee Land 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 capoed positions and more. (Hummingbird Tent)
- 2) **Face your Fears: Using Mindfulness and Meditation to Transform Fear Into Courage** - What is your juiciest, wildest dream? One you don't even want to say out loud because it feels too hard or scary or you're afraid you might fail? Do you want to write your first song? Record an album? Sign up for an open mic? Change careers? Fear is a natural instinct that arises when you take risks or step into the unknown. To grow and give life to your dreams, you have to confront your deepest fears. In this class, you will explore where fear lives in your head, your heart, and your body. You'll get up-close and comfortable with your fear, inviting it to be your teacher rather than your enemy. You'll learn mindfulness techniques to notice and name your fear when it comes—and a meditation to honor, listen to, and release your fear. If you ignore fear, it only gets bigger. If you learn from fear, you might discover that you are braver and bolder than you ever dreamed. Presented by Emily Scott Robinson. (Festival Main Stage)
- 3) **Poems and Prompts for Lyric Inspiration** - We'll use poems, first lines of novels and other literature as prompts to inspire our own lyrics and find fresh storytelling devices. We'll consider how writers in other fields use metaphor, assonance, repetition, tropes and other rhetorical devices to make their storytelling voices more compelling. We won't just wax poetic—we'll put pen to paper with writing prompts and idea-sharing. Presented by Jayme Stone. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 4) **Song Critiquing in Real Time** - Join Shelly Peiken for a chance to work on your new or unfinished songs on the spot and let her listen and guide you with prompts and questions to flush out even tighter lyrics and arrangements. A fun little twist on our Song Listening Sessions. (Coyote Tent)
- 5) **Practicing Fearlessness: Being A Folk Singer in this Crazy World** - Join Steve Poltz for some total transparency. Students can ask anything and Steve will give them advice. He will encourage students to visualize their future and manifest their entertainment skills. Use their honesty and stories. Develop stories. Tell lies on stage. Be whoever you want to be. I truly believe I am an attorney for dogs. You guys can be rockstars. Have more fun. Have more laughs. Don't take this crap lying down. Be all that you can be. It's the real thing. Just do it. We bring good things to life. That was easy. Steal these mission statements. Make them your own. Let's change the world and make it better. We are the medicine. (Spider Tent)

Monday

- 6) **I Still Got It - Staying Relevant After A Certain Age** - This popular workshop will have its third airing. 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 grey 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. Presented by Vance Gilbert. (Bear Tent)
- 7) **Building a Career: Step by Step advice for the DIY Musician** - Booking shows/tours – how it works, how to do it, and how to build momentum as a DIY musician and not burn out. This class with Val Denn will focus on performing songwriters who will be booking themselves. We will go over what tools you need to be successful and ideas for building a career when just starting to tour. There will be some basic nuts and bolts information on deal memo's, advice on databases or how to track the information you gather, and certain questions to ask once you do secure an offer. We will cover how to work with the venue after booking your show, and go over some tactics to negotiating a fee with a venue if you are not sure what to ask for moneywise. This class will focus on booking yourself until you can get an agent, or if you are a DIY musician how to be effective and not lose momentum or more importantly how to not burn out. (Lizard Tent)
- 8) **Cracking the Code: Basic Chord Theory for Guitarists, Expanding your Creativity with Scales and Triads** - Are you getting in a rut with the same old chords? Are the upper regions of the fretboard a scary mystery to you? Have you ever wondered why you're supposed to learn all those silly scales? If so, let me invite you to begin exploring the wonder of your fretboard through the magic of the Major Scale. This introductory course is a purely guitar-based approach to basic Chord Theory. Together, we will learn how to create basic 3-note chords, or triads, up the neck of the guitar, using the "code" contained in the Major Scale. We will demystify major and minor chords and demonstrate how these different chord "qualities" remain constant across different keys. You will have the opportunity to immediately apply your knowledge by playing along with some familiar songs during the workshop. Learning to harmonize the Major Scale in this way will help you expand your versatility in arranging, writing and embellishing your songs. Presented by John Linn (Blue Heron Tent)

*"To live is to choose. But, to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there" – Kofi Annan*

Monday

- 9) **Slow Down, You Move Too Fast...** - Please join us if you are looking for a chance to; slow down, expand your awareness, experience a dynamic meditation, deepen your listening skills and get to that place where the music can come through you. In this workshop we will be exploring the powerful connection between music and the natural world and how to slow down in order to become more “in-tune” with all things. We will start with an interactive dialogue about this connection and then move outside for an experiential exercise designed to really dial you in and slow you down. Blindfolds will be provided. Presented by Bob Hemenger. (Eagle Tent)
  
- 10) **Guaranteed Groove: Finding Your Inner Rhythm** - Having steady time is important for all musicians, not just drummers. Someone once introduced me onstage as: "JJ Jones... bringing rhythm to folkies since 2002!" We all laughed, but it got me to thinking, that's exactly what I hope to do! Lack of groove can affect your ability to write interesting songs, play with other musicians, record your music using a click track (or a drummer), and most importantly, to engage your audience. If you can't keep steady time, even if you're just playing solo, your listeners will lose interest. I believe everyone has an innate sense of rhythm. The trick is getting in touch with it and this is done by letting your body do what it naturally does: move to a pulse. In this hands-on, interactive class we'll learn how to count and feel various beat subdivisions, and using different types of strumming patterns, play a simple chord progression first to a metronome, then drum loops, and finally to me on live drums. At the end of the class, students will have the opportunity to play a song in front of the group and receive feedback on their own strumming patterns and timing. Through grounding yourself, feeling the beat, moving your body, and learning how to listen and count, you too can internalize and embody steady rhythm in your playing. This will be a fun, energetic class that will give you practical tools for finding your inner groove! *Remember to bring your guitar or primary instrument with you to class, and a strap if you have one.* (Wildflower Pavilion)
  
- 11) **Exploring Textures and Rhythms** - Embellish your songwriting with instruments such as the washboard and saw. In this class Bonnie Paine will give a brief hands on introduction on how to play the musical saw and washboard. Students will be welcomed to play 1 verse of a song and I will accompany them on either washboard or saw depending on what seems desired. We will discuss how to broaden or distinguish the parts of a song from the perspective of a support musician. (Trout Tent)
  
- 12) **Mentoring** – see sign-ups in Blue Heron Tent

### 6:00 - 7:30 Song School Barbecue

The barbecues are open to Song School students and their registered guests. Your wristband is your meal ticket. Head chef: Markus Chesla. **Please reuse or compost everything. Thanks!** (Backstage)

### 7:30 Open Stage

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

2018 Song School

Monday

Tuesday

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## **Tuesday, August 14<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 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.
- Your night to play the open stage? Confirm your time at Blue Heron Tent.
- Musical supplies will be available for sale after class today in front of the bathhouse! Call HB Woodsongs for special requests at 303-449-0516.

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

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

### **9:30 - 9:45 All Group Session: Live Performing Basics**

Join Vance Gilbert for a quick review of the nuts and bolts of live performing. A perfect mini-primer for the evening open stages, especially if you're new to performing live. (Wildflower Pavilion)

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

- 1) **Directed Writing with 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 with performances on the last day and you'll need to participate in all the sessions to get your song finished. We will not take new people after the 2nd day. (Wildflower Pavilion)

Tuesday

- 2) **Song Session with Steve Seskin and Bonnie Hayes** – these sessions take 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. This class is offered on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and it's fine to attend one or more sessions. Bring several lyric sheets. (Mountain Lion Tent).
  
- 3) **Performance with Amy Speace - A 4-day comprehensive look at The Art & Craft of Performance.** We write songs to express our journeys in life but we share them with others to connect, to allow the audience to find their own truth in what we sing. A performance at the highest level can be a deeply meaningful, almost spiritual experience for the singer and the audience, elevating the ordinary into the extraordinary. This is the Art of it. Getting to the deeper level. The Craft are the tools we practice, just like scales when learning an instrument. In this class, using specific exercises developed from theater and improv, we arrive at a deeper layer, a kind of back door to the song, with the experience of a radical shift in how you experience your own Performance and a sure-fire cure for stage fright! No commitment necessary to all 4 classes, you can take all 4, you can come in for just 1, but it is a comprehensive, so that each day will build on the next. **Day 1 and 2: The Song.** We will spend 2 days delving into the method (a few questions we ask of the song and the performer). Come prepared with a song you know well enough to sing without lyrics, bring your instrument or sing acapella. Cover songs are fine. It's just as powerful to watch someone else work as to do the work yourself. This is the heart of the work. (Festival Main Stage)
  
- 4) **Getting Started With Altered Tunings** - Do you want to explore altered tunings, but don't know where to start? Are you afraid that using altered tunings will turn your guitar into a beast that you will never be able to tame? This workshop with Justin Roth will explore ways to understand, compose in, convert songs to, and switch between altered tunings to 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. Handouts will be provided to get you started with chord positions in DADGAD and CGDGBD. Come find the richness and new sound your guitar has to offer. In addition, Justin will share other techniques to help you utilize and discover new tunings and enhance your solo guitar sound. (Coyote Tent)

Tuesday

- 5) **Time and Tools of a Songwriter: Right-brained Approaches to Time Management and Planning** – Ellis Delaney (performing songwriter) and Terri Delaney (artist manager/social worker), will teach you friendly tools for time management and organization that are designed for wandering creative-minded songwriter types who want out of the box! 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)
- 6) **Production In Process** - Recording itself has become a significant songwriting tool. We'll look at ways contemporary artists like Bon Iver and Frank Ocean build songs out of sounds, samples and sonic structures. We'll explore how timbre, technology and creative editing can be used throughout your writing process. We'll also talk about album production and how to collaborate with other musicians to enhance your songs. Presented by Jayme Stone. (Bear Tent)
- 7) **Writing From the Soul Side** - Do you ever find yourself writing or singing tunes just on the outside edge of the folk/Pop/tradition, even questioning whether what you're doing is folk or singer-songwriter? Sure you do. There's a home for you. We'll take a look at Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson etc.-influenced styles of writing and how they might tiptoe its way into your acoustic thing. Martin Sexton does it, Jonatha Brooke too. Tell me, doesn't Chris Stapleton have at least one toe of his foot firmly planted in the Soul House? We'll discuss the country/soul albums of Don Was (80's) and Ray Charles (late 50's) that were landmark. We'll look at some of your work too - you know you have something in your notebook that's more Lauryn Hill than it is Wreck Of The Edmund Fitzgerald. We'll take a look at the Guitar stylings that make this approach come alive, and examine the why and how they hold up as acoustic tunes. Presented by Vance Gilbert. (Hummingbird Tent)
- 8) **Take a Lead Break On Your Own Song - Novice/Intermediate levels** – We will use chord changes from participant's songs and Arthur Lee Land's "Live Looping" technology to provide a framework for exploring intermediate and advanced soloing ideas. Building on pentatonic pattern ideas, we will 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)
- 9) **Songwriting From Movement** - Body percussion, vocal & theatrical improvisation, gesture work, breath work... Explore these fresh, physical ways into songwriting while at the same time strengthening your confidence, clarity and presence. Presented by Moira Smiley. (Spider Tent)

Tuesday

- 10) **Phrasing: The Body Language of Your Song** - This seminar with Pat Pattison 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 another "can't miss" seminar -- it's bound to take your writing to the next level. Presented by Pat Pattison. (Blue Heron Tent)
- 11) **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 Creative Songwriting Groups: Session 2**

Your daily dose of songwriting and more. **See instructor descriptions below and also on last pages of the daily schedule, in the “Other Things You Need to Know” section.** Instructors offering different topics each day will have descriptions listed below. Each instructor will meet at the following location:

#### **MEETING PLACES**

- o Mary Gauthier - Spider Tent
- o Steve Poltz - Bear Tent
- o Shelly Peiken - Trout Tent
- o Bonnie Hayes - Festival Main Stage
- o Korby Lenker - Lizard Tent
- o Paul Reisler - Coyote Tent
- o Pat Pattison - Blue Heron Tent
- o Les Poules a Colin - Wildflower Pavilion
- o Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
- o Rebecca Folsom - Eagle Tent (backstage)
- o Darrell Scott † - Mountain Lion Tent

*“All the arts we practice are apprenticeship. The big art is our life.” – M.C. Richards*

Tuesday

- **Mary Gauthier teaches songwriters to discover/uncover their own unique writer's voice**, and then use that authentic voice in their songs. This class will teach you to become more emotionally honest in your writing, so your songs will deeply resonate with the listeners. Mary will work with student's songs, finding teaching moments in songs that are stuck, or unfinished. Each lesson will add tools to your songwriting toolbox. We will explore the relationships between melody, chord choices, song structure and lyrics; break through fear-based ruts, and most of all, work on taking greater risks and deepening your writing. Songwriters often have to push through firewalls of fear, confusion and self-doubt to effectively articulate emotional truth, but the beauty of this challenging work is the discovery that the deeply personal is universal. Everybody goes through more or less the same challenges in life. It is the exposing of vulnerability that allows a song's truth to emerge. Once we understand this, our songs can reconnect us to ourselves and to other beings in ways we never could have imagined. These new connections inevitably bring us joy. We are returned to our own heart through the sharing of our humanity. Digging into our heart of hearts, we discover the whole world there. The universe is inside each and every one of us. The uncovering and revealing of emotional truth is a primary source of transformative beauty, the creation of art. (Bear Tent)
- **Steve Poltz has decided to teach a songwriting class in Lyons Colorado** - When asked what he was going to do Poltz replied "I don't know. It's all a mystery to me. Creativity is fun. It keeps folks young. Do you want to feel younger? Then come to my class. We will make up songs and laugh like idiots. This isn't rocket science! There are no rules! I want to inspire you and look into your crazy eyes and release your wild child energy that's lying dormant in your spine. I want you to finish a song! Open up the pathways in your brain and let your freak flag fly." When Poltz was asked if there was anything else he'd like to add he said, "If you take my songwriting class you will become a better person and probably win the lottery and achieve total consciousness." (Spider Tent)
- **Shelly Peiken with offer: One Size Does NOT Fit All** - Whether it's structure, chord progression, context, that undeniable first line, or a melody that sounds a little too familiar, a song's strengths and weaknesses vary depending on the song. So let's hear it! Play your songs for me and let's see what draws me in? Or what makes me yawn? Bring a lyric sheet and let's get to work! (Trout Tent)
- **Bonnie Hayes will offer: 7 Techniques of Pro Songwriters** - There's no wrong way to write a song, but there are definitely faster ways than waiting months for inspiration to strike, trying to figure out what you're writing about after you've written the song, or fitting words to a melody you wrote in the moment if inspiration that's now passed. After years of writing songs every way, most pro writers develop a process that cuts some time corners and yields better songs. You can practice when you're NOT inspired, and it'll help you to ride your inspiration to a better song when you are. (Festival Main Stage)

Tuesday

- **Korby Lenker** will offer: **DIY 360** - This intensive is for anyone looking to expand his/her presence as a touring indie artist - whether that be playing a few more (or better) gigs in your region, to going on tour across the country, to building a long-term career as a sustainable professional musician. The first 1/3 of the class will focus on the philosophy behind my approach to indie touring (how do you want to define success? how do you set reachable goals?) and the last 2/3 will focus on the practical steps the emerging artist can take to expand a fanbase and build positive relationships within the greater professional music community. I've been doing this for 15+ years, and I'd love to tell you what I've learned. (Lizard Tent)
- **Paul Reisler** will offer: **Harmony and Chord Substitution** – While the melody carries the emotion, it's the harmony that shades that emotion and turns sorrow into depression and blue into a black and blue bruise. If you are stuck in just a few shades of blue, this workshop is for you. We'll look at many different ways to harmonize your melody taking you all the way from the basic 3 chords and the truth all the way through secondary dominants, flat 5 substitutions and extended and altered chords. We'll end with a look at the magical harmonic lattice that will open up a whole new roadmap. It doesn't matter how much you know about music theory, you'll develop an understanding of how and why it works while expanding your harmonic universe. (Wildflower Tent)
- **Pat Pattison** will offer: **Point of View: Choosing the Best Lens** - Illuminate your songwriting: Involve your audience more deeply in your song by creating the most potent lens for them to look through. This seminar will focus on Point of View as a tool, illustrating and understanding all the possible angles for viewing, and their effects on the listener. Choosing the right Point of View is the difference between "Wow!" and "Next." Let everyone see your songs shine like they should! (Blue Heron Tent)
- **Les Poules a Colin** will offer: **Meeting Belle Exodina; A Québécois French Song Breakdown** - Expand your musical pallet of possibilities by learning a French folk song. You will get to focus on the various building blocks, the songform, lyrics, melody and chorus and get to practice your French accent while you're at it. You'll also learn about where these songs come from and how they get a new modern life. It's an adventure that will open up your musical landscape and hopefully leave you with new ideas for constructing your songs and arrangements. (Coyote Tent)
- **Rebecca Folsom** will offer: **Angel/Devil On Your Shoulder Performance Class - Turning Unconscious Personas into Empowered Allies** - Would you like unconscious beliefs to stop holding you back from your most vibrant, stellar self? Would you like to have more consistently great performances, more stability, agility and ability onstage, and more connection with your audience? We will dig in and with humor magnify parts of ourselves (personas) that we either deny or long to be. By befriending and integrating them, you strengthen your whole self, boosting your capabilities onstage and on the greater stage of your life. Instead of unconsciously working against you, these personas then become allies that give you more confidence, authenticity and emotional range in your performances. The workshop is experiential, fun, effective, and deeply enlightening. (Eagle Tent)

2018 Song School

Tuesday

Tuesday

- **Steve Seskin** will offer: **Melody Class** – In focusing on melody writing, I teach from a place of writing melodies for lyrics. Prosody is the marriage of music and lyric. We explore ways to determine if the overall vibe of the music feels right, and look at specific parts of songs in terms of choosing an appropriate melody that milks the emotion that the writer would like the listener to feel from the lyric. I also talk about phrasing and accents. There is an important word in every sentence. We look at choosing accent places that stress the right syllables and help drive home your point. Music can actually change the meaning of a lyric when used to its fullest potential. We also discuss rhythm and range and how to use them effectively in songs. (Hummingbird Tent)
- † PLEASE NOTE: **Darrell Scott** will offer: **A Songwriting Master Class** – This class will have fifteen students pre-selected ahead of time. All students are welcome to observe the process. (Mountain Lion Tent)

#### 4:15 Creative Gap... (with a few offerings for overachievers)

- 1) **Taking Care of Your Accompanist: How to Maintain Your Guitar and Any Other Stringed Instrument** - Description: Two days into the song school and your instrument is covered in dust and grime and is buzzing in a new spot. Or maybe the neck is warping or a tuning machine broke. Learn simple techniques to maintain your guitar and prevent problems, and learn how to identify and fix some common issues that all too often lead to frustration and expensive repairs. We are spending a week learning to care for our craft, our voices, and performances, why not learn to take care of our guitar, fiddle or mandolin as well. We'll look at selecting the right strings for instrument style and playing technique, changing strings, cleaning your instrument: what to use, what not to use, humidity control - cracks, popped out frets, neck warping and how to prevent it all, understanding neck relief, why it matters and some techniques to adjusting it and understanding intonation and how adjust it if needed. Presented by Dan Harris. (Coffee Bar next to Blue Heron Tent)
- 2) **Alan Explains It All** - This workshop will cover a wide range of topics crucial to the success of the performing songwriter, and tailored to the student's interests, including why building an internet identity is much more than creating a web page. 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, and/or ways to make a living as a musician in the post-CD economy. 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. Presented by Alan Rowoth. (Blue Heron Tent)

Tuesday

3) **Check...one...two...** Does approaching a sound person intimidate you? Have you always wondered how to get the most from your sound check? Do you have a tough time communicating with the sound engineer? In this class, we will take you through some of the most common sound issues that the singer/songwriter will encounter during a sound check. We will address the difference between the monitors and the mains, present low, mid and high frequency issues, cover DI boxes, microphone choices and chord configurations. Most importantly, we will teach you how to communicate with your sound engineer to get the most from your sound check. Your sound check is time for you to feel comfortable on stage and dial in your best sound before your audience arrives. When done correctly, it frees you up to have a great show and focus on your performance and not the sound. One or two students will be asked to volunteer to do a sound check and be presented with one of the previously addressed problems. The class and instructors will help them work through the problem. Presented by Jill Brzezicki (Wildflower Pavilion)

4) **Mentoring Sessions** - see sign-ups in Blue Heron Tent

### **4:30 – 5:30 HB Woodsongs Traveling Music Store**

The easy way to have items like picks, strings, capos, music, delivered to you. Feel free to call them ahead of time with special requests (303-449-0516). They will set up in front of the bathhouse in the courtyard immediately after class.

**5:30 - 8:00 Dinner and snacks served on site** (Visit the Bloomberries Booth next to the bathhouse for a convenient dinner.)

### **8:00 Open Stage**

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

*Everything passes through the opening of the ear; we speak, read, sing and dance with our ears, we maintain a vertical posture, establish relational dynamics and laterality thanks to our ears.”*  
– A.A. Tomatis

Wednesday

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## Wednesday, August 15<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.

**8:00 - 9:00 Yoga** - Heather Hottovy will help celebrate the start of your day with gentle yoga. (Meet near silo.)

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

- 1) **Directed Writing with Paul Reisler** – We'll be writing in a very directed way that will give you the tools to write on a daily basis. This is a multi-day workshop that is progressive. Sorry, no new people after Tuesday. (Hummingbird Tent)
- 2) **Song Session with Pat Pattison and Steve Seskin** – these sessions take an in-depth look at participants' 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. This class is offered on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and it's fine to attend one or more sessions. Bring several lyric sheets. (Mountain Lion Tent).
- 3) **Performance with Amy Speace** – A 4-day comprehensive look at The Art & Craft of Performance. **Day 3. The Performer.** Who are you? What is your “Thing?” What are you bringing to the stage, before you put on your costume, your makeup, your guitar? What is essentially YOU that you may or may not be aware you're taking with you every night and, once you know, are you using that knowledge in your performance? That is: are you working *against* your own essence or using it *for* a more powerfully authentic performance? Day 3 is about The Performer, who you really are and the different performance choices that offers. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- 4) **Exploring Arrangements With Les Poules a Colin** – Let's get lost in arrangement possibilities of a song. We will show how to give a song arrangement a second life. It works with any song! (Spider Tent)

Wednesday

- 5) **Production in Process** - Recording itself has become a significant songwriting tool. We'll look at ways contemporary artists like Bon Iver and Frank Ocean build songs out of sounds, samples and sonic structures. We'll explore how timbre, technology and creative editing can be used throughout your writing process. We'll also talk about album production and how to collaborate with other musicians to enhance your songs. Presented by Jayme Stone. (Blue Heron Tent)
  
- 6) **Finding Melody In Your Surroundings** - In this session with Bonnie Paine, we will open our ears to the sounds around us and explore how those can be woven together to form melodies that people can relate to. As humans we often forget that there are many forms of communicating besides the words spoken out of human mouths. This will be a time to listen for tones that may resonate in certain spaces, a time to consider in what ways everything is expressing it's part of an existence that we all stem from and how music can be drawn from that. (Meet in Yurt behind the Wildflower Pavilion.)
  
- 7) **Modes** - You've probably heard of modes in your song school theory classes, but most musicians approach them as a tool for figuring out which notes go with which chords. We'll look at modes as tonal fields that create an emotional mood, discuss how to write a song section "in a mode", and understand how modes can make your songs uniquely emotional. With Bonnie Hayes. (Coyote Tent)
  
- 8) **Finding Your Story and Writing it Down** - This class with Val Denn will focus on finding your story and you will leave the class with a strong bio of 75 to 100 words. This class will help you find a solid plan on how to begin to create what you will need to send out to get shows, or use for social media, or just to fine tune what you are currently using. We will focus on how you want to be seen as a musician and songwriter. Everyone has something interesting to share and sometimes you need to have others help you find those gems you might overlook about yourself. The class will be experiential, where we will explore how to create your story and the best way to tell it. This process of telling your story is, one of the most clarifying things you can do for yourself. Writing an artist bio is one of the hardest things to do as a musician. But your music bio is one of the most important parts of your musician press kit. Especially when releasing music, you need a solid promotion plan. Your bio is a key tool that communicates why people should care about you and your music. A good bio gets people intrigued to listen to your music—especially if you're not already known. We will step into a safe place with our class and write your story. (Lizard 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

Wednesday

- 9) **Take a Lead Break On Your Own Song - Intermediate/Advanced levels** – We will use chord changes from participant’s songs and Arthur Lee Land’s “Live Looping” technology to provide a framework for exploring intermediate and advanced soloing ideas. Building on pentatonic pattern ideas, we will 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)
- 10) **Wild, Wild Voice** - The human voice has astonishing range, and - like our lungs & our brains - we may not use it to its full glory! Here’s a class to explore the far reaches of our vocal color palettes. Moira Smiley playfully draws out techniques, timbres, ornaments, laments, laughter you always knew were in you, but maybe hadn’t felt you could bring ‘out’! (Bear Tent)
- 11) **Mentoring Sessions** – Check sign-ups at Blue Heron Tent

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

Confirm open stage performance times posted in Blue Heron Tent.

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

Your daily dose of songwriting and much more. **See instructor descriptions below (for those offering different daily class themes) and in the last pages of the schedule, in the “Other Things You Need to Know” section.**

#### MEETING PLACES

- o Vance Gilbert - Eagle Tent (backstage)
  - o Mary Gauthier - Bear Tent
  - o Bonnie Hayes - Coyote Tent
  - o Shelly Peiken - Trout Tent
  - o Rebecca Folsom - Wildflower Pavilion
  - o Pat Pattison - Blue Heron Tent
  - o Steve Poltz - Spider Tent
  - o Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
  - o Paul Reisler - Lizard Tent
  - o Darrell Scott †– Mountain Lion Tent
- **Vance Gilbert** – “Songwriting Through the Eyes of Performance.” 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 mic in a safe and supportive “open mic-ish” atmosphere. (Eagle Tent – backstage)

Wednesday

- **Mary Gauthier** - see description on page 5. (Bear Tent)
- **Bonnie Hayes** will offer: **Writing Emotional Melodies** - 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. (Coyote Tent)
- **Shelly Peiken** will offer: **Living Room Live: A Journeywoman's Journey** - There is much to learn about the business of songwriting from a professional who's been living the life for over 30 years: the realities, the competition, the thrills, the muse, the determination, the balancing of work and play and the powering through rejection. It can be an emotional rollercoaster but the belief in one's self is the cliché that leads to survival and longevity. In her up-close-and-personal LIVING ROOM LIVE experience Shelly Peiken will share her journey through monologue and song. And then we'll talk about it. Trust me, there *will* be questions. And she'll be happy to answer them. No lyric sheets needed! Popcorn optional. (Trout Tent)
- **Rebecca Folsom** will offer **Zen Mind, Beginner Mind: Performing, Painting, Music and Poetry Workshop** - 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)
- **Pat Pattison** will offer **Verse Development** - Solve "Second Verse Hell" quickly and easily by learning to what to look for in a title and how to develop the flow of ideas BEFORE you waste time writing a lyric that dead-ends in some dark alley. Learn how to advance your ideas so the song gains rather than loses interest as it moves forward. Find out how to create a chorus or refrain that can be repeated effectively without having to change the words each time. This seminar will save you time and channel your energies efficiently, allowing you to write more songs and better songs. (Blue Heron Tent)
- **Steve Poltz** -see description on page 6. (Spider Tent)

*Wednesday*

- **Steve Seskin** will offer a two part class: **Point of View Part** – In this seminar we explore eight different perspectives to choose from when deciding how your characters can best tell their story. We will look into figuring out how to find the most powerful way to tell any given story. We'll talk about 1st, 2nd, 3rd person and various combinations as well. We will then look into more complex ways to use perspective to bring out the most emotion in all your lyrics. I believe this is one of the most important lessons on the road to writing great songs. **Then... Inspiration: Where do songs come from? Part 2** - This workshop explores ways to "jump start" your creativity with morning pages, object writing, etc. 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 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.” (Hummingbird Tent)
- **Paul Reisler** will offer: **A Song is a Story is a Song: Dramatic Structure for Songwriters** - At the heart of song is story--just like a movie, a play, or any other art form. Using principles of screenwriting, we'll look at how to use the dramatic structure of the story to create tension that moves the story along and keeps the listener's attention riveted on the story. We'll explore point of view, transformations, reversals, beginnings, endings, inspiration and theme, characterization, plot, song structure and much more. Looking at verse development, we'll see how to maintain interest and direction for the verses so that we are able to recolor the chorus every time it comes around. (Lizard Tent)
- † PLEASE NOTE: **Darrell Scott** will offer: **A Songwriting Master Class** – This class will have fifteen students pre-selected ahead of time. Students are welcome to observe the process. (Mountain Lion Tent)

**1:30 - 4:00 Mentoring** – Judith Wade and Danielle Morales (backstage), others TBA.

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

- 1) **Plug In: Acoustic Instrument Amplification** - 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. Presented by Michael and Eben Grace. (Wildflower Pavilion)

Wednesday

- 2) **Experimenting With Altered Tunings and Multiple Capoes** - This workshop is about expanding musical possibilities on the guitar – have you ever felt limited by having to play in standard tuning all the time (i.e. hard chord fingerings, etc), or confused by other people using altered tunings and multiple capos and making it sound so good. This workshop will introduce you to the magical world of multiple three-string capos with altered tunings! The focus of the workshop is to begin to open up your musical thought processes to the experimentation Bill has developed through necessity. He will show you his process for using altered tunings and capo schemes to produce very colorful guitar sounds that used to be only possible with three and four finger chords, but now with just one and two fingers! Presented by Bill Nash. (Blue Heron Tent)
- 3) **Enhance Your Solo Performance With ... The Art of Live Looping** - Through dynamic performance, demonstration and audience participation, multi-instrumentalist Arthur Lee Land teaches the fundamentals in The Art 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 Arthur combines traditional instruments and emerging technologies to create an entire one-man band and how you can use live-looping to enhance your live 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. (Eagle Tent - backstage)
- 4) **Face your Fears: Using Mindfulness and Meditation to Transform Fear Into Courage** - What is your juiciest, wildest dream? One you don't even want to say out loud because it feels too hard or scary or you're afraid you might fail? Do you want to write your first song? Record an album? Sign up for an open mic? Change careers? Fear is a natural instinct that arises when you take risks or step into the unknown. To grow and give life to your dreams, you have to confront your deepest fears. In this class, you will explore where fear lives in your head, your heart, and your body. You'll get up-close and comfortable with your fear, inviting it to be your teacher rather than your enemy. You'll learn mindfulness techniques to notice and name your fear when it comes—and a meditation to honor, listen to, and release your fear. If you ignore fear, it only gets bigger. If you learn from fear, you might discover that you are braver and bolder than you ever dreamed. Presented by Emily Scott Robinson. (Trout Tent)
- 5) **Your Voice - Achieve Consistent Results** – Targeting specific strategies for extending range, take the fear and guesswork out of singing. Operating from a thorough understanding of how the voice works, Clare McLeod will help you explore options and choices that will put you in the driver's seat. Gain confidence in your ability to deliver performances you will be proud of! (Coyote Tent)

Wednesday

- 6) **Vocal Miscellany - Scatting, Humming, Yodeling, Talking, Stories, and Silence-** You don't have to have a lightning-fast, smoking guitar solo in that break between the bridge and the last verse. Heck, do you even need all those words in the bridge? - as you've said what you needed to say. Or do you just want your mouth to dance with joy in your solo break? Bring your good songs, a ready mouth and an open mind and let's have some vocal fun! Presented by Vance Gilbert. (Bear Tent)
- 7) **Passport Required: International Touring Without a Record Label, Agent or Manager -** Touring outside the USA presents some daunting logistical challenges. But it can also prove immensely rewarding, artistically, professionally and personally. This workshop with Mike Beck examines the nuts-and-bolts of touring internationally, including getting gigs, making contacts, transportation, P.A. and backline, financial realities of touring overseas, as well as strategies for maximizing your impact before, during and after your tour. Handouts include contact info for European and Asian venues, booking agencies and radio stations as well as a planning sheet and actual tour budget. (Spider Tent)
- 8) **Ask Darrell Scott and Mary Gauthier Anything -** No question is silly or dumb! Come to this session with a question about songwriting, touring, agents, managers, publishers, you name it, and Darrell and Mary will do their best to answer students questions from their combined decades of experience in music. (Hummingbird Tent)
- 9) **Booking Yourself: How It Works, How To Do It and How To Build Momentum -** This class will focus on booking yourself and what tools you need to be successful. There will be some basic nuts and bolts information like the difference between door deals, flat fees, and plus or bonus offers. Advice on databases or how to track the information you gather, and certain questions to ask once you do secure an offer. How to work with the venue after booking, and some tactic to negotiating with a venue if you are not sure what to ask for moneywise. This class will focus on booking yourself until you can get an agent, or if a DIY musician how to be effective and not lose momentum or burn out. The course will fit well with the pitchcraft session where we discuss how to take a meeting or showcase at events. Presented by Val Denn. (Lizard Tent)

*“Often the creative urge, once we express it, brings real relief in whatever form it takes. We have an inner sense that we can make what is into what we feel could and should be.” – Fred Rogers*

*Wednesday*

- 10) **The Art of Marketing (and SELLING) Your Music Online** - Think nobody buys music anymore? Think again! Join Ali Handal as she discusses what works – and what doesn't work – when it comes to marketing your music online. Ali will share tips based on her personal experience using Facebook advertising to grow her email list from 3,000 to over 11,000 in just 3 months, while simultaneously selling over 1,000 physical CDs to these new fans. Mary will chime in with her own experiences as a successful songwriter in the online world. Our goals for this workshop are to give you a new perspective, as well as concrete tools, to help you find your new fans and sell your music to them – whether or not you tour, or ever have a “team” of music industry pros behind you. Please bring your questions and an open mind. We'll bring our experiences, ideas, and resources you can use to continue your music marketing education long after Song Schools ends. (Mountain Lion Tent)
  
- 11) **Mentoring Sessions** - Judith Wade, Danielle Morales (backstage campground), others TBA

**5:30 - 8:00 Dinner and snacks served on site** (visit the Bloomberries booth)

**8:00 Open Stage**

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

*“Why not go out on a limb? That's where the fruit is.”*  
– Will Rogers

*Thursday*

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**Thursday, August 16<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.
- Song School Vehicles off site during lunch break. All vehicles without on-site festival vehicle passes must be off property by 1:30pm.

**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 Creative Songwriting Groups: Session 4**

The final songwriting session and additional offerings. **See instructor descriptions below (for those offering different daily class themes) and in the last pages of the schedule, in the “Other Things You Need to Know” section.**

**MEETING PLACES**

- o Mary Gauthier - Bear Tent
- o Steve Poltz - Spider Tent
- o Vance Gilbert – Eagle Tent (backstage)
- o Shelly Peiken - Trout Tent
- o Pat Pattison - Blue Heron Tent
- o Clare McLeod - Wildflower Pavilion
- o Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
- o Ellis - Lizard Tent
- o Bonnie Hayes - Coyote Tent
- o Darrell Scott † - Mountain Lion Tent

- **Mary Gauthier** - see description on page 5. (Bear Tent)
- **Steve Poltz** - see class description on page 6. (Spider Tent)

Thursday

- **Vance Gilbert** – “Songwriting Through the Eyes of Performance.” 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 mic in a safe and supportive “open mic-ish” atmosphere. (Eagle Tent – backstage)
- **Shelly Peiken** will offer: **One Size Does NOT Fit All** - Whether it’s structure, chord progression, context, that undeniable first line, or a melody that sounds a little too familiar, a song’s strengths and weaknesses vary depending on the song. So let’s hear it! Play your songs for me and let’s see what draws me in? Or what makes me yawn? Bring a lyric sheet and let’s get to work! (Trout Tent)
- **Pat Pattison** will offer a: **Master Class** - Pat's Master Classes are legendary. In these events, watch him take already strong songs and put them through a workout until they emerge trim and toned. In this session, Pat will look at selected songs and take the time to work out any kinks, focusing on prosody between the intent of the song and structure, rhyme, rhythm, point of view, phrasing, and many other tools that have proven so useful to Grammy winners John Mayer and Gillian Welch and seminar participants across the globe. No one demands more of a song than Pat and he can show you how to take it all of the places it could go to cross the "finish" line, while millions cheer. (Blue Heron Tent)
- **Clare McLeod** will offer: **Your Voice: A Guided Tour** – 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. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- **Steve Seskin** will offer **Writing/Rewriting, There is a Difference** - Writing can more easily come from that dreamy/stream of consciousness place. That part of songwriting is super important to the process. Rewriting involves considering what you’ve already written and in many ways is a lot more tedious. In this class we will 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? 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. In the first part of the class, I will use some of my own songs to illustrate rewriting techniques, showing what I had, what I changed it to and why. In the 2nd part we will take a look at some participant songs we started in the Monday class to see what parts might benefit from a little rewriting. (Hummingbird Tent)

*Thursday*

- **Bonnie Hayes** will offer: **Painting Your Lyric With Chords** - Theory, theory, theory. I chords and IV chords and relative minors...sometimes it all seems so technical! But it all comes from an attempt to explain the way that a word, when accompanied by the correct chord, can speak an emotional language unlike any other. In this class, we'll look at intrinsic and relative chord properties, listen to songs by masters and discuss how they do it, look at the relationship of melody to word to chord, and talk about how to get to a chord that will say what you want it to say. Bring a lyric to a current song to work with. (Coyote Tent)
- **Ellis** will offer: **Undefended Songwriting** - Are you interested in writing with an undefended heart? Ellis Delaney will share her songwriting processes and the many strategies she uses to generate and explore song ideas. She will help you prime your brain and open your heart to support creativity and identify and utilize strengths you have that you may not always see to keep those songs coming! (Lizard Tent)
- † PLEASE NOTE: **Darrell Scott** will offer a **Songwriting Master Class** – This class will have fifteen students pre-selected ahead of time. Students are welcome to observe the process. (Mountain Lion Tent)

**9:30 - 12:00 Mentoring Sessions** – Judith Wade and Danielle Morales (backstage campground along river), others TBA

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

All Song Schoolers without on-site festival vehicle passes must move their vehicles out of the campground parking area to the designated Song School parking area at the Planet Bluegrass Farm. Turn right at exit and go 1/3 mile past Apple Valley Road to Farm entrance on left. A shuttle to and from the site is provided during the lunch break but it's also a nice walk back!

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

- 1) **Directed Writing Songsharing with Paul Reisler** – In this final session, participants will perform material gleaned from the morning songwriting sessions. This session goes until 4:30pm if necessary. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 2) **La Chorale Du Tabarnaque** - In this vocal class with Les Poules a Colin, you will get to learn and experience both conventional and less conventional ways of harmonizing vocals over a melody. Stretch your possibilities. (Spider Tent)

Thursday

- 3) **Guaranteed Groove: Finding Your Inner Rhythm** - Having steady time is important for all musicians, not just drummers. Someone once introduced me onstage as: "JJ Jones... bringing rhythm to folkies since 2002!" We all laughed, but it got me to thinking, that's exactly what I hope to do! Lack of groove can affect your ability to write interesting songs, play with other musicians, record your music using a click track (or a drummer), and most importantly, to engage your audience. If you can't keep steady time, even if you're just playing solo, your listeners will lose interest. I believe everyone has an innate sense of rhythm. The trick is getting in touch with it and this is done by letting your body do what it naturally does: move to a pulse. In this hands-on, interactive class we'll learn how to count and feel various beat subdivisions, and using different types of strumming patterns, play a simple chord progression first to a metronome, then drum loops, and finally to me on live drums. At the end of the class, students will have the opportunity to play a song in front of the group and receive feedback on their own strumming patterns and timing. Through grounding yourself, feeling the beat, moving your body, and learning how to listen and count, you too can internalize and embody steady rhythm in your playing. This will be a fun, energetic class that will give you practical tools for finding your inner groove! *Remember to bring your guitar or primary instrument with you to class, and a strap if you have one..* (Eagle Tent)
  
- 4) **Slow Down, You Move Too Fast...** - Please join us if you are looking for a chance to; slow down, expand your awareness, experience a dynamic meditation, deepen your listening skills and get to that place where the music can come through you. In this workshop we will be exploring the powerful connection between music and the natural world and how to slow down in order to become more "in-tune" with all things. We will start with an interactive dialogue about this connection and then move outside for an experiential exercise designed to really dial you in and slow you down. Blindfolds will be provided. Presented by Bob Hemenger. (Yurt behind Wildflower)
  
- 5) **Essential Guitar Toolkit - Making Your Guitar Parts More Compelling, Not More Complicated** - This interactive workshop with Justin Roth is open to all levels, beginner-advanced. We will demonstrate and learn techniques to add color and character to your guitar parts to make them more compelling and dynamic. Your guitar parts do not need to be complicated in order to be interesting. However, your guitar can be more than just a harmonic backdrop for your songs; it can have a voice of its own! We'll also look at other right-hand techniques to add melodic lines to your chord changes, percussive effects and tone/timbre variations to make your songs come alive. By working within your individual level of guitar playing and expanding upon what you're already doing, you can find what's missing to better complement your songs, without complicating them. Don't tell anyone I said this, but you can even do it without partial capos or altered tunings! All levels are welcome in the class because using these techniques effectively starts with learning how to **listen** for what's missing. (Coyote Tent)
  
- 6) **Song Listening Session** - Bring Your new or unfinished songs to Darrell Scott (Lizard Tent)

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- 7) **Compositional Ideas to Spark Your Next Songs** - We'll explore how counterpoint, voice leading, unusual scales and rhythmic ideas from other cultures can spark fresh sounds and songs. We'll bring theory down to earth by learning how to get immediate creative material from new musical ideas. Presented by Jayme Stone (Trout)
- 8) **Fill Your Cup: Toning Workshop** – This workshop with Rebecca Folsom 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, passionate voice. We will practice a very unique blend of traditional and non-traditional vocal technique, martial arts, yogic posture, Toltec and Taoist exercises. Together we will embody agile, grounded vocal resonance, and culminate toning and harmonizing together. (Bear Tent)
- 9) **Performance - Session 4 - The Show: Putting It Together.** Now that we know what we are trying to DO (The Technique) and who we ARE (Essence), we deal with the show. First, we tackle banter. When is it necessary and when is it just nervous babble that takes us (and our audience) out of the connection? Then, we tackle the arc of the set as an extension of the narrative of the songs and the performer and how to order songs for each set. And how your knowledge of the work we did on Day 1-3 can help you make choices of your banter and song choice; even which songs to cover. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- 10) **Takin' Care of Business: Setting Up For Success in the Music Business** - 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 - 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. Presented by Mark Monroe Gibson and "Chicago" Mike Beck (Blue Heron Tent)
- 11) **Mentoring Sessions** – see sign-ups in Blue Heron Tent

### 3:15 - 4:30 Electives

- 1) **Directed Writing Songsharing with Paul Reisler (continued)** – In this final session, participants will perform material gleaned from the morning songwriting sessions. This session goes until 4:30pm as necessary. (Mountain Lion Tent)

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- 2) **Music, Movies, Money: How To Make The Movie Business Work For Your Music –** Most independent recording artists are seeking opportunities to expose their music to a wider audience and are eager to earn money with their music. Having your music included in a popular film, television series, video game or new media outlet can serve both these goals, and it's not as far out of reach as you might expect. This workshop "Music, Movies & Money" will show you how to make the movie, television and video game industries work for you and your music. Benefits include increased revenue, new promotion and exposure opportunities, connections with new audiences, prestige and more. This workshop will unveil the process behind the scenes, and show you several paths to bring your music to the big screen. Presented by Mike Beck (Blue Heron Tent)
- 3) **Vocal Folk Archive Inspire** - Listen to, learn, break down, lift yourself up with inspiring snippets of the strangest, coolest folk songs - discover awe-inspiring solo and harmony singing sounds, and step into them. Presented by Moira Smiley (Spider Tent)
- 4) **Rap Up and Exploring the Possible** - Bring us your question - about Music Business, Living a Creative Life, or anything you learned this week and are wondering about. A chance to process and collaborate. There are no dumb questions. With Val Denn, Amy Speace and Mary Gauthier. (Lizard Tent)
- 5) **Advanced Vance 301** - Is your Set All Set? - It's time. You're a seasoned performer or you've done a performance class with Vance, Amy Speace, or Kathy Mattea. Great! Now let's string 2-3 songs together in an effective "set" and look at pacing, keys, time signature and subject material. We'll look at the shape of the performance, patter, and what makes you and your thing most effective: \*Note - class is open to all, but participation requires a minimum 10 - 15 minute commitment, so there will be 4 - 5 people worked with, maximum. (Eagle Tent)
- 6) **Québécois Foot Percussion**– Play drums with your feet! Learn basic rhythms and beyond. All you need is two feet and a floor! Presented by Les Poules a Colin. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- 7) **Play Slide Guitar** "I started out with a pocket knife. That's why I'm doing this now with this here bottleneck." - Mississippi Fred McDowell. There's no "right" way to play slide guitar but we all know that unmistakable sound - the moan and cry of a guitar when played by folks from Mississippi Fred and Robert Johnson to Bonnie Raitt and Ben Harper. In this workshop, we'll listen to some great slide music, try out different techniques and use various materials - glass, metal and lap style. Alternate tunings will be explored and basic blues forms. Bring your guitar and your curiosity! All levels are welcome. Presented by Natalia Zuckerman (Coyote Tent)

Thursday

- 8) **Want to Record? Ready, Set...No, Wait, Reviving the Lost Art of Pre-Production -** You've got your songs, but are you really prepared to start recording? Before you run to the studio excited to hit record, there's a less glamorous, but far more important step to take before you begin. Pre-production. 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. Pre-production is a crucial step to help turn your dream of recording not only into a fully realized final product, but also a successful experience. It'll probably save you money and a lot of frustration in the long run as well. 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. This workshop with Justin Roth will talk about the pros and cons of different approaches to consider when preparing to record. Beyond just the songs themselves, we'll talk about whether you want someone to help you fine tune your songs before the session begins, budgeting and fan funding, self-recording vs. a "real" studio, full album or EP, digital release or CD...the list goes on and on. There is no one right way to skin a cat, but there are many things to consider before attempting it, or it could make a mess. Bring a notepad and your questions and let's get down to it. (Bear Tent)
- 9) **Mentoring Sessions** – Rebecca Folsom (Elk Tent), others TBA

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

Our final session will bring us all back together for a final community gathering led by Moira Smiley in the Wildflower Pavilion.

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

The BBQ's are open to all Song School participants and their registered guests only. Head Chef: Markus Chesla. **Please compost everything!** (Backstage)

- Instructors and students will have books and CD's for sale backstage during the BBQ.

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

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

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

**Songwriting Sessions:** These daily sessions are designed to give you a variety of approaches to the songwriting craft. Some instructors will 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. Below are a few words from songwriting instructors about their sessions...

- ▶ **Mary Gauthier** teaches songwriters to discover/uncover their own unique writers voice, and then use that authentic voice in your songs. This class will teach you to become more emotionally honest in your writing, so your songs will deeply resonate with the listeners. Mary will work with student's songs, finding teaching moments in songs that are stuck, or unfinished. Each lesson will add tools to your songwriting toolbox. We will explore the relationships between melody, chord choices, song structure and lyrics; break through fear-based ruts, and most of all, work on taking greater risks and deepening your writing. Songwriters often have to push through firewalls of fear, confusion and self-doubt to effectively articulate emotional truth, but the beauty of this challenging work is the discovery that the deeply personal is universal. Everybody goes through more or less the same challenges in life. It is the exposing of vulnerability that allows a songs truth to emerge. Once we understand this, our songs can reconnect us to ourselves and to other beings in ways we never could have imagined. These new connections inevitably bring us joy. We are returned to our own heart through the sharing of our humanity. Digging into our heart of hearts, we discover the whole world there. The universe is inside each and every one of us. The uncovering and revealing of emotional truth is a primary source of transformative beauty, the creation of art.
- ▶ **Steve Poltz** has decided to teach a songwriting class in Lyons Colorado - When asked what he was going to do Poltz replied "I don't know. It's all a mystery to me. Creativity is fun. It keeps folks young. Do you want to feel younger? Then come to my class. We will make up songs and laugh like idiots. This isn't rocket science! There are no rules! I want to inspire you and look into your crazy eyes and release your wild child energy that's lying dormant in your spine. I want you to finish a song! Open up the pathways in your brain and let your freak flag fly." When Poltz was asked if there was anything else he'd like to add he said, "If you take my songwriting class you will become a better person and probably win the lottery and achieve total consciousness."

**Electives:** Your journey through The Song School schedule is entirely up to you! Each day, a variety of elective classes are offered. Please note that some electives are only offered once, and some are offered multiple times during the week. A couple electives require that you be in attendance for the initial session in order to participate later in the week, and these are noted on the schedule. Refer to your **matrix** for a quick overview and to the course descriptions for specific details. No advance sign-up needed!

### *Other Information*

**Mentoring Sessions:** These sessions are offered as a way 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). 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 at the last minute.

**Open Stage:** The evening open stages are offered as an opportunity to perform your original songs for each other in the Wildflower Pavilion. Due to our amplified sound curfews, we have a limited number of spots available. Students who wish to perform must enter their name by 9:15am in the Blue Heron Tent (registration tent) on Monday to participate. A random drawing will be made (from the names of those who have entered their name to participate) until all available performance slots are filled. The final list for all four nights will be posted Monday during the lunch break in the Blue Heron Tent.

**Instrument Issues?** Dan Harris is available during the week for any instrument issues that students may have. You may make an appointment during the mentoring sign-ups each morning. In addition, he is offering a workshop on caring for your instrument on Tuesday at 4:15pm at the coffee bar by 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 festival or camping passes or have tickets to sell, this is the place to post your message for others to see.

**The Song School Roster:** Double check your info on the roster Sunday or Monday when you register to make sure your information is correct. We will email an updated roster to all the week after Song School.

**Evaluation Forms:** Evaluation forms are in the back of your booklet. Please take the time to fill them out and hand in on Thursday during the BBQ or open stage to help us improve The Song School. Thanks in advance for your input! You can also mail in your evaluation at a later date using the address on the form.

**Handouts will be made available online after the Song School:** We will have instructor handouts available to all students after the Song School at:

- [www.thesongschool.com/materials/](http://www.thesongschool.com/materials/)
- Login: student
- Password: songschool

We will remind students of the URL, login and password when we email rosters to you a week after the Song School and Festival are over.

*Other Information*

**Wi-Fi Hot Spots:** We have wi-fi coverage available near the Wildflower Pavilion and in much of the front campground.

- Network names: **PB-SongSchool**
- Wifi Password: **tompetty**

**Guests:** Please do not disturb classes i.e. do 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 the Stone Cup Coffee Shop a short walk away in Lyons.

**Instructor materials and recordings available during the Thursday BBQ:** 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 the BBQ where instructor materials will be for sale. Students may also sell CDs during the BBQ.

**Composting Recycling and Biobags:** Planet Bluegrass has continued to minimize the landfill waste the schools and festivals produce. You can help us by using a bio bag for all your compostable waste. With your help we are now composting and recycling over 70% of all school and festival waste! Help us by using our color-coded waste stations in the campground and classroom areas. *Remember, all food, beer and water cups and plates used at the Song School BBQ's are compostable.* 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 **dinner on Tuesday and Wednesday.**

**Reiki and Massage Sessions:** Reiki and massage will be available all week for students. Students may schedule and pay for Reiki on Tuesday and a limited number of free Reiki and massage sessions will be available on Wednesday and Thursday with Judith Wade and Danielle Morales. Sign ups will be posted at 9am on Wed and Thurs in the Blue Heron Tent. Reiki is a facilitated energy technique to assist with easing tension and stress and helps support the body's natural healing process. It's for everyone and enriches personal wellness. Are you feeling overwhelmed? Lacking energy? Processing emotions? Seeking clarity? Have writers block? Have aches and pains? Reiki heals on all levels and can help you find a greater sense of peace and renewal. These changes are often accompanied with physical changes such as easier breathing, lower heart rate, and relief from pain.