

The Song School

August 7-11, 2022 • Lyons, CO

Schedule and Course Descriptions

Sunday, August 7th

TO DO LIST:

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

1:00 Campgrounds Opens

3:00 - 5:00 Student Registration

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

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

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

Monday, August 8th

TO DO LIST:

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

7:30 - 8:15 QiGong

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

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

8:00 - 9:15 Student Registration

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

8:00 - 8:45 Yoga

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

9:15 - 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." During our opening session Moira Smiley and Rebecca Folsom will lead us all in song and movement and have us resonating in time and in tune for the week ahead. (Wildflower Pavilion)

10:30 - 12:30 Electives

- 1) **Directed Writing (Session 1) 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 and you should participate in all the sessions to get your song finished. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- 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 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 seen artists using partial or multiple capos and wondered "What on earth are they doing!?" Chances are you've been stricken by capo envy. This workshop with Justin Roth will demonstrate the simple keys to understanding why and how partial capos can enhance your guitar sound and elaborate your sonic palate without complicating your guitar parts. It's easier than it looks! Most times, using partial capos actually make your songs easier to play, but they will sound like you're playing richer and more compelling chords. You will learn a simple way to use single or multiple capos to enhance your guitar sound and apply it to songs you've already written or songs to come using chords you already know in standard tuning. Kyser "Drop-D" (5 string) and "Shortcut" (3 string) 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 is a Kyser Capo sponsored artist and instructor. (Trout Tent)
- 5) **Build a Wholehearted Creative 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 songs and songwriting! Presented by Terri and Ellis Delaney. (Lizard Tent)

- 6) **Songwriting & Movement: Kinetic Tools for Your Songwriting** – Do you notice that melodies come to you while walking? Learn approaches to your songwriting that are more kinetic, physical, playful and bold! Free yourself from a purely instrument-based, melody- or even lyrics-based approach to songwriting with games, percussive and other simple movement experiments. No grace or dance experience required AT ALL—only curiosity about the way body movement inspires creativity! Presented by Moira Smiley. (Eagle Tent - backstage)
- 7) **Writing Together** – This class with Courtney Hartman will be all about co-writing. We will talk through a few different ways that co-writing can work. Then Courtney will share some thoughts on etiquette, honesty and respect. To put it into action the class will split off into writing pairs to work together! (Spider Tent)
- 8) **Next Level Voice Class** – Join Ron Browning for a fun and engaging class on how to find your best voice and performance. Discover your unique sound through conversation—after all, your singing voice is your speaking voice! Use simple tricks of casual conversation to make your singing have a more intimate and honest delivery. Learn the do's and don'ts of lyric interpretation. Learn about the projection power found in a baby's cry and learn how to use it in singing for a more soulful expression, or to have more vocal power. Add "cry mode" to your vocal techniques and walk away from all vocal faults and your fear of high notes. And, of course, this will allow you to walk away from vocal fatigue once and for all. Both vocal and performance techniques will be taken into consideration for the more advanced singers. Come with questions. Guitars and recorded tracks are welcome—or sing a cappella! (Bear Tent)
- 9) **Intro To Home Recording** – In this introductory recording workshop, LA-based producer/engineer Ryan Benyo will guide students through the various aspects of setting up and utilizing a home recording studio. Discussions will include recording software/hardware, microphones, home acoustics, speakers/headphones, & MIDI keyboards. Basic recording techniques will also be demonstrated including acoustic mic techniques, digital recording/editing workflow, signal flow and troubleshooting. This workshop is perfect for beginning students with no prior recording experience or equipment set-up, as well as those who wish to better understand the tools they already have at their disposal. (Coyote Tent)

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

10) So You Want To Write A Musical – Steve Seskin has never met a songwriter who didn't at least think about it. In recent years with the success of *Waitress* by Sara Bareillies and *Hadestown* by Anais Mitchell not to mention *Hamilton* by Lin - Manuel Miranda there are a growing number of songwriters from all genres taking a look at putting their heart and soul into this art form. Steve is in the middle of writing a musical called "Things" with my friend Kate Schutt. It's a challenging task but one that he finds quite exhilarating. The big difference between writing one off songs and songs for a musical is how the songs go together, telling a story interspersed with dialogue. He will talk about some of the things to consider such as the arc of your story, how to tell if you have a great story, musical theater songwriting compared to other genres, and what kind of songs you will need to create tension and release in your narrative. Recently he took a class online with Benj Pasek & Justin Paul who wrote "Dear Evan Hanson" and "La La Land" and is eager to share with you everything he's learned that he's applying as he creates his first musical. (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 and More: Session 1

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

MEETING PLACES

- o Mick Flannery - Coyote Tent
- o Rachel Baiman- Bear Tent
- o Courtney Hartman - Spider Tent
- o Ellis Delaney - Lizard Tent
- o Rebecca Folsom - Eagle (backstage)
- o Mary Gauthier - Mountain Lion Tent
- o Bonnie Hayes - Festival Main Stage
- o Paul Reisler - Wildflower Pavilion
- o Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
- o Pat Pattison - Blue Heron Tent †

➤ **Mick Flannery will offer: Songwriting** – This class will explore different approaches to lyric writing, syllable use, rhythm in words and other aspects of the relationship between word and melody. Floor will also be open to anyone seeking advice on particular works in progress. (Coyote Tent)

- **Rachel Baiman** will offer: **Finding Your Songwriter Voice** – In this workshop, we will discuss what makes a song feel honest and relatable, and the tools you can use to find your personal songwriting voice. We will discuss songwriting as both an art and a craft, how to learn the rules and how and when you should break them. Students are encouraged to come with partial or complete songs to class and will be encouraged to share and give feedback. (Bear Tent)
- **Courtney Hartman** will offer: **Using Quiet and Listening As Vessels for Songwriting** – In this session, Courtney will guide us through some of the practices she uses to create listening spaces in which songs can be born and crafted. Each day we will utilize simple techniques to declutter the busyness in our minds and allow space for deeper listening. Journaling, walking, silence and improvisation will each be explored as ways to open and quiet ourselves enough to hear what might want to make a way through us—a song! And during each session we will use one of those practices to begin a new song or finish an already-begun song. Bring your instrument, a recording device, a notebook, a pen and your ears! (Spider Tent)
- **Ellis Delaney** will offer: **Intentional Performance: Performing From the Inside Out** – Most performing workshops focus on techniques designed for you to be seen as a professional, being polished, and letting the songs shine. Those are incredibly important skills, but not what this workshop is about. Ellis invites you to also consider how audiences need to be “seen” and how magic happens when the performer tunes in to the beauty of the audience. Real connection happens naturally when a performer is both self-aware and tuned in to others. In this engaging workshop, you will practice a new model that focuses on valuing who you are AND valuing the people in your audience! Bring your instrument and come ready to perform! (Lizard Tent)
- **Rebecca Folsom** will offer: **Vocal Freedom Workshop** – 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)

“I aspire to inspire before I expire.” – unknown

- **Mary Gauthier** will offer: **Let's Write!** – Do you hope to do some writing here at Song School, move the dial on new material, grow new song ideas into music you can bring out into the world and sing with confidence? If yes, Mary will help you grow your ideas into songs. Mary will offer a writing prompt in each class that will encourage new music. She will give you time to write and create, and then help you see what's working in what you've just put together. When you focus on what is working, it will grow, and what isn't working will naturally fall away. This will be a safe place to create; your fellow classmates will cheer you on, and powerful new connections will be made. This is YOUR week, so make the most of it. If you wanna write new material, join us. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- **Paul Reisler** will offer: **Harmony and Chord Substitution** – We'll work on understanding how chords work and how they help shade the emotion of the moment with a proper choice of chords, chord types and substitutions. You'll learn how they are constructed, and how to harmonize your melody in different ways using functional substitutions, secondary dominants, extended chords and much more. We'll do this by taking a song and harmonizing it in 8 different ways using different types of chord substitutions. This is a participatory workshop for students of all levels that will give you an understanding of harmony and an inspiration to use it in your music. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- **Steve Seskin** will offer: **Inspiration: Where Do Songs Come From** – Here we explore ways to "jump start" your creativity with morning pages, object writing, etc. Picasso said, "inspiration does exist but it likes to find you working." I want to encourage you to write about more than just your own life and use emotional moments as catalysts to inspire you. I will give some prompts, and by the end of class we will all have started a song. 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)
- **Bonnie Hayes** will offer: **Song Rewriting Workshop** – Some smart alecky songwriter once said, "Songwriting should be called 'song rewriting'", and boy was she right. It seems like it's easy to write a first draft, and yet so hard to find the time, or the creative energy, for re-writing our songs. In this workshop, bring a song you'd like to re-work; you'll get feedback and rewriting tips, and get 20 minutes to go apply them and return with a revised version to play for the group. (Festival Main Stage)
- † PLEASE NOTE: **Pat Pattison** will offer: **A Songwriting Master Class** – This class will have students pre-selected ahead of time. All students are welcome to observe the process. (Blue Heron Tent)

"The ability to appreciate music is the defining quality of our humanity."

– Oliver Sachs

4:15 - 5:30 Monday Electives

- 1) **Your Own Wild Voice** – The human voice has astonishing range and color, and—as with our lungs & brains—we may not use it to its full glory! This fast-paced, fun workshop playfully explodes your assumptions about your own voice. You'll sing extraordinary parts of unusual traditional songs. Eastern European and Appalachian songs will root you, while call and response, vocal improvising and a bit of movement will keep you discovering ever more inventive parts of you. Moira Smiley playfully draws out techniques, timbres and styles you always knew were in you as a singer or writer, but maybe hadn't felt you could bring out! Expect group and individual (optional) singing and sound-making to feed your songwriting craft. (Eagle Tent - backstage)
- 2) **NFTs: Opportunities for the Independent/Performing Musician** – Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) are revolutionizing the music industry and offer unique opportunities for independent musicians who want to earn a better living making music. A long-time Song Schooler himself, Steve Krause is General Counsel at Dapper Labs, a world leader in NFT experiences (NBA Top Shot, NFL All Day, and CryptoKitties). Steve will explain the brave new world of NFTs, and talk about how independent musicians can leverage their independence to drive fan engagement (and make more money). Come and join us! (Blue Heron Tent)
- 3) **Music Biz - Finding the Story Behind Your Music** – In this elective, we will tackle a subject that many musicians dread- the artist bio. We will discuss how you can take your songs and honestly and coherently explain the message behind them and additionally why publicity outlets should care about your music. This is a key step in moving from the art creation stage to the career creation stage. This will help you sell your music to prospective agents, publicists and record labels and help you get back to what you really want to be doing, making the music! Presented by Rachel Baiman (Bear Tent)
- 4) **The Magic of Making Friends With Meter** – This fun, interactive workshop with Maggie Wing is designed to sharpen an often-overlooked tool in our songwriting toolkit: meter! What exactly is meter? In songwriting, meter is the pattern of stresses in the lines of a lyric. Since we humans are wired to recognize patterns, *intentional meter* creates a kind of ear-candy for the listener, keeping them engaged and anticipating the next line. In this class we'll explore the simple beauty of a few classic metrical feet, and through some quick exercises and examples, we'll see—and hear—the magic that happens when the beats in your lyric are all dancing together. Bring a lyric to work on if you're so inclined! (Spider Tent)

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

– M.C. Richards

- 5) **I Still Got It - Staying Relevant After A Certain Age V** – This popular workshop will have its 5th 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 gray hair. More than ever, after-50 singer songwriters have earned the right to take some extra care to keep their thing together. Lower the key, pace your set, show your maturity in your vocal approach to the music. We'll talk about your age, station, health, direction, and expectations. Let's talk about subject material too—writing about love and relationships has a different slant now, doesn't it? You know more now—here's your chance to parlay that experience and knowledge into successful songwriting and performance. While there'll be plenty of discussion, be prepared to play and sing. Presented by Vance Gilbert. (Lizard Tent)
- 6) **Cracking the Code Part 1: Basic Chord Theory for Guitarists: Understanding the Major Scale, Keys and Triads** – Julie Andrews was right: it all starts with Do Re Mi! This gentle introduction to music theory will start right at the beginning with an easy-to-understand, guitar-based introduction to scales, keys and triads. Together we will learn how to create a family of notes called a "key," using the basic "code" contained in the major scale. We will also learn how to generate a family of basic 3-note chords, or triads, within each key. Exploring the basics of intervals will help us to demystify major and minor chords. We'll also discover how these different chord "qualities" remain constant across different keys, thereby making musical shorthand systems, such as "Nashville numbering," easier to understand. We will finish with a brief discussion of "extended harmonies," by learning to create 7th chords from the major scale. By understanding and appreciating the fundamental language and symbols of music, you can enhance your creativity and improve your communication with other musicians. Presented by John Linn. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 7) **Preparing to Record? Reviving the Forgotten Art of Pre-Production** – Fueled by your questions, this workshop with Justin Roth will talk about the pros and cons of different approaches to consider when preparing to record. Before you run to the studio, there's a less glamorous, but far more important step to take before you begin—Pre-production. You've got your songs, but are you prepared to really start recording? You wouldn't run a marathon "off the couch" without preparation and training, would you? So, let's not record an album "off the couch" either. Whether you're new to recording or a seasoned pro, pre-production serves an important role in preparing for a successful recording experience. Mapping out your plan, instrumentation ideas, album goals, expectations, and most importantly, making sure they realistically align with your budget, are all helpful decisions to be made before you enter the studio. We'll also talk about the roles of engineer vs. producer, budgeting and fan funding, self-recording vs. a "real" studio, full album or EP, digital release or CD...the list goes on and on. Bring a notepad and your questions and let's get down to it. This is a crucial step to help turn your dream of recording into a fully realized final product and it can save you a lot of money and frustration in the long run as well. Presented by Justin Roth (Hummingbird Tent)

- 8) **Guaranteed Groove: Finding Your Inner Rhythm** – The ability to keep steady time is important for ALL musicians, not just drummers. It can affect your ability to write interesting songs, play with other musicians, record your music using a click track (and/or a drummer), and most importantly, to engage your audience. Keeping a consistent rhythm, even if you're just playing solo, is part of what keeps your listeners interested. Everyone has an innate sense of groove—the trick is getting in touch with it. In this hands-on, interactive class we'll learn how to feel, count and play various beat subdivisions, and apply them to the guitar. Does your guitar playing feel stuck in a “rhythmic rut”? Do you hate playing to a click? This is a fun, energetic class to give you practical tools for finding your own inner groove! Bring your guitar to class, and a strap if you have one. Presented by JJ Jones. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- 9) **Peace. Love. Guitar.** – We spend countless hours writing songs concentrating on lyrics and melody to create something we hope is special. Sometimes we forget that what we do or don't do with the guitar accompaniment can impact how the song is received by the listener. Let's get to know our guitars a little and have some fun exploring subtle and simple ways to add just a splash of color that complements the song and elevates our performances. Bring your guitar. Presented by RJ Cowdery (Trout Tent)
- 10) **Believe In Yourself - A Magical Framework for Falling in Love with Your Art and Moving Past Self-Doubt** – Seven years ago Shanna in a Dress showed up at Song School as a nanny in Boulder who wrote songs sometimes. Now she is a full-time independent musician in Nashville, headlining folk festivals, and supporting herself with Patreon, touring, and coaching. Last year she biked across the US ("Tour de Dress") from Seattle to Boston performing over 60 shows along the way. She believes you will go as far as you believe you can go, your creative journey won't look like anybody else's, and that the road to success can be happy, fun, and even EASY! Most importantly, she thinks that believing in yourself is a SKILL that can be learned and you'll be given a practical framework to shift your mental state, organize your thoughts, and solve ANY area where you're stuck or “should”-ing on yourself. This mental framework has been a game-changer for Shanna and her Shiny Object Syndrome and you will be able to use these tools for the rest of your life. A few attendees will get coaching on the spot on their Stuck Spots and you will leave with FUN perspectives and strategies that you invented in the area where you've been dragging your feet. If the only thing in the way of you and your creative dreams is YOU, come to this class! Bring a notebook. And all your crippling self-doubt. (Main Stage)
- 11) **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. **Please remember to reuse and compost everything. Thanks!** (Hummingbird Tent)

7:30 Open Stage

Confirm your day and time posted in Blue Heron Tent. Play for peers! (Wildflower Pavilion)

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

– Ram Dass

Tuesday, August 9th

TIP OF THE DAY

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

TO DO LIST

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

7:30 - 8:15 QiGong

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

8:00 - 9:00 Yoga

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

9:30 - 9:50 All Group Session: Live Performing Basics

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

10:00 - 12:00 Electives

- 1) **Directed Writing (Session 2) 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 and you should participate in all the sessions to get your song finished. We will not take new people after the 2nd day. (Wildflower Pavilion)

- 2) **Song Session with Bonnie Hayes and Pat Pattison** – 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).
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- 4) **Music Production Techniques** – Join LA-based producer/engineer Ryan Benyo for an interactive recording and music production workshop. Watch as Ryan takes you through his recording process, explaining each technique in detail along the way as he records a fully produced section of a song from scratch. A variety of techniques will be covered, ranging from various microphone selection and placement techniques for guitar, vocals and other instruments, to drum programming, sweetening and more. Best of all, emphasis will be placed on utilizing the tools students already have, and getting the most out of a cost-efficient home studio set-up. Those with no prior recording experience should take "Intro To Home Recording" prior to taking this workshop. (Blue Heron Tent)

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow;
Learn as if you were to live forever."
– Gandhi*

- 5) **Basic Guitar Skills** – 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. (Eagle Tent - backstage)
- 6) **Getting Started With Altered Tunings** – Do you want to explore altered tunings, but don't know where to start? This workshop with Justin Roth will introduce reasons why and ways to understand, compose in, convert songs to, and switch between different altered tunings to help you find a new approach and sound for your songs. Don't worry about the music theory part. We will learn a "theory-lite" way of understanding and relating altered tunings to songs you've already written or songs to come. Using altered tunings doesn't have to be a scary thing. Handouts will be provided to get you started with multiple chord positions in DADGAD and CGDGBD, as well as tuning tips to help you get in and out of different tunings quickly. Come find the richness and new sound your guitar has to offer! (Coyote Tent)
- 7) **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 regularly feel overwhelmed and lost. Says Ellis, "Setting aside songwriting time has always been challenging for me amidst a busy touring schedule, being a mom and doing all those music business-y things on my to-do list. All of the traditional left-brained time management and organizing skills haven't worked for me. I have found that structure is freedom and we can't wait to show you these tools." (Lizard Tent)
- 8) **Next Level Voice Class** – Join Ron Browning for a fun and engaging class on how to find your best voice and performance. Discover your unique sound through conversation—after all, your singing voice is your speaking voice! Use simple tricks of casual conversation to make your singing have a more intimate and honest delivery. Learn the do's and don'ts of lyric interpretation. Learn about the projection power found in a baby's cry and learn how to use it in singing for a more soulful expression, or to have more vocal power. Add "cry mode" to your vocal techniques and walk away from all vocal faults and your fear of high notes. And of course this will allow you to walk away from vocal fatigue once and for all. Both vocal and performance techniques will be taken into consideration for the more advanced singers. Come with questions. Guitars and recorded tracks are welcome—or sing a cappella! (Bear Tent)

- 9) **This Song is For Me** – Often there is so much focus on honing our originals so they can stand side-by-side with songs we admire on the radio, Spotify, and Apple Music. But what about the songs you wrote in the midst of 15 months of serious sequestering and introspection? Do they have to sound like hits? Or can we honor and validate those songs written from that very personal space, even if they don't line up like "verse verse chorus verse bridge chorus" tickets to fame. What about those songs that are the ticket to your personal well being? Let's play some of them, chat about them, and see where these songs live in the pantheon of *you*. Presented by Vance Gilbert. (Hummingbird Tent)
- 10) **Improvising Towards Songs** – Play with dozens of improvisation structures that encourage outside-the-box melodic and rhythmic creation. We'll build ways to respond creatively to each other and the environment right around us. Solos, duets and larger group improvisation structures are amazing ways to see what your spontaneous musical brain produces in a brave, supportive (and NEVER competitive) class environment. Presented by Moira Smiley. (Trout 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 and More: Session 2

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

MEETING PLACES

- o Mick Flannery - Coyote Tent
- o Rachel Baiman - Bear Tent
- o Courtney Hartman - Spider Tent
- o Connor Garvey - Lizard Tent
- o Rebecca Folsom - Eagle Tent
- o Mary Gauthier - Mountain Lion Tent
- o Bonnie Hayes - Festival Main Stage
- o Paul Reisler - Wildflower Pavilion
- o Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
- o Pat Pattison - Blue Heron Tent †

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

– Nicholas Sparks

- **Mick Flannery** will offer: **Songwriting** – This class will explore different approaches to lyric writing, syllable use, rhythm in words, and other aspects of the relationship between word and melody. Floor will also be open to anyone seeking advice on particular works in progress. (Coyote Tent)
- **Rachel Baiman** will offer: **Finding Your Songwriter Voice** – In this workshop, we will discuss what makes a song feel honest and relatable, and the tools you can use to find your personal songwriting voice. We will discuss songwriting as both an art and a craft, how to learn the rules and how and when you should break them. Students are encouraged to come with partial or complete songs to class and will be encouraged to share and give feedback. (Bear Tent)
- **Courtney Hartman** will offer: **Using Quiet and Listening As Vessels for Songwriting** – In this session, Courtney will guide us through some of the practices she uses to create listening space in which songs can be born and crafted. Each day we will utilize simple techniques to declutter the busyness in our minds and allow space for deeper listening. Journaling, walking, silence and improvisation will each be explored as ways to open and quiet ourselves enough to hear what might want to make a way through us—a song! And during each session we will use one of those practices to begin a new song or finish an already-begun song. Bring your instrument, a recording device, a notebook, a pen and your ears! (Spider Tent)
- **Connor Garvey** will offer: **Breaking the Block: Song Prompts, Starts, Continuers, and Creativity Inducers** – This class is a full-fledged attack on writer's block. We'll weave through conversation, activities, exercises, and healthy practices aimed at getting creativity in motion and breaking through the barriers along the way. The most foundational premises for this class are that writing, like any exercise, gets more effective and efficient with practice. And that practice is more than just doing the same thing over and over again, we need a "trainers' eye" to develop broad confidence or laser focused skill. Students will leave with a handout with over 50 exercises and are encouraged to come with their own favorite song prompts and together we will grow our collective catalog of ways to get the ball rolling, new ways of thinking about things, finding hidden inspirations, and strengthening areas of focus. Let's fuel an all-around fun and engaging spark-filled process of songwriting—one that starts new songs with ease and busts through blocks wherever they surface! This is a hands-on class. (Lizard Tent)
- **Rebecca Folsom** will offer: **Your Vulnerability is a Superpower - Performance with Persona Play** – 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)

- **Mary Gauthier will offer: Let's Write!** – The purpose of these classes is to increase your overall understanding of the art of song and give you a deeper understanding of *why* you are called to write, as well as offer you valuable tools for your songwriting tool kit. Mary will give a short lecture each day, answer questions, and provide feedback on student's songs. Mary Gauthier is a Grammy Nominated songwriter who has over 20 years of experience working with other songwriters in this way, and her book *Saved by a Song* (St. Martin's Press) has gathered glowing reviews and accolades. You will walk away from this workshop with insider songwriting knowledge that usually takes decades to figure out. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- **Bonnie Hayes will offer: Writing Hit Songs** – Most songwriters don't care at all about writing hit songs. But most do want to write songs that make listeners dance, sing along, and cry—or all three. Even if we don't really like them when we hear them on the radio, hit songs, listened to and loved by millions of people, hold secrets that can be unlocked and applied to personal writing. Learning techniques used by hit songwriters can help us make the tweaks to our songs that make them just a little more effective. In this class, we'll look at the characteristics of hit songs past and present. We'll also answer the question of why choruses are so important, celebrate the wonderful invention of the post-chorus, review some processes that songwriters use to make their songs accessible and yet unique, and discuss how to balance your own authentic voice and story with the intentional and technical approach used by hit writers. (Festival Main Stage)
- **Paul Reisler will offer: Advanced Harmony and Chord Substitution; If Your Truth Requires More Than Three Chords** – Sure, three chords and the truth works for some songs. But, it's a bit like writing a story with just nouns and verbs - it covers the black and white, and perhaps the primary colors. To really paint the picture, you need the subtle emotional shading—the adverbs and adjectives—that a more extended harmonic language can provide. If you want to add some color to your palette, this class with Paul Reisler is for you. While this might sound complex and scary to the theory-phobic, we promise to lead you through it in an accessible and fun way so that you'll understand how to use it and why it works. We'll be looking at techniques such as cadences, extended chords, voice leading, borrowed chords, secondary dominants, diminished ii-V-I progressions, flat 5 substitutions, modulation and perhaps even negative harmony. We'll also look at a really incredible program that lays out the chord substitutions in an organized way. There will be lots of examples of the techniques in a wide range of styles. Participation in Paul's regular Harmony and Chord Substitution class is a prerequisite. (Wildflower Pavilion.)

"Because I always have a choice, I choose love."
– Deepak Chopra

- **Steve Seskin** will offer: **Phrasing and Point of View** – There is always more than one way to phrase any line. The choice that works best depends on several factors. What are the two or three most important words in the sentence? What is the overall emotional meaning trying to be expressed? How easily does the line sing? What is the phrasing of the other sections of the song? We want to vary the melodic journey in our songs and our phrasing is one way to accomplish keeping things interesting for the listener. You owe it to yourself as a lyricist to do everything you can to have people actually hear what you're trying to say! We will try various ways to phrase the same line, hopefully illustrating what a big difference it can make. In this session we explore seven different point of view 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. (Hummingbird Tent)
- † PLEASE NOTE: **Pat Pattison** will offer: **A Songwriting Master Class** – This class will have students pre-selected ahead of time. All students are welcome to observe the process. (Blue Heron Tent)

4:15 Creative Gap... with just a few offerings for over achievers.

- 1) **The Song Lab: Facilitated and Dedicated Time to Experiment** – The Song Lab will be a place to experiment, explore, break down, rebuild in the interest of advancing what is possible. We aim to spark curiosity and embolden the part of us looking to grow. This “workshop” is based loosely off Harrison Owens’ model of group facilitation called “Open Space Technology” where participants propose and create their own agenda. The process recognizes we all have strengths and gifts to contribute. We'll start (the/each) session asking what each of us is looking to practice/explore/experiment with AS WELL AS what each of us may have to offer toward those ends. Perhaps you want to explore a concept from another class further... you can invite other folks who might want to do the same. Maybe you're starting to crack through a new barrier in your playing/writing...you can invite others to dedicate time to explore that edge with you. Or perhaps you just need permission to spend a little time working on one thing. This can be that time. The Song Lab will create a structure of “experiments” for folks to explore what they're most curious about. Instructors and students are invited. This is not an “arrive to receive” type of class but rather “arrive to explore.” The Song Lab will provide additional time on Wednesday at 4:15pm. (Mountain Lion Tent)

“I want it all, and I would like it delivered”
– Bette Midler

- 2) **Taking Care of Your Accompanist: How to Maintain Your Guitar and Any Other Stringed Instrument** – 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)
- 3) **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 students interests, including why building an internet identity is much more than creating a webpage. We'll cover using email, web research, and social networking effectively, as well as making one's music available online. We'll also talk about booking strategies, building community coalitions, getting the most out of a sound check, 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. (Blue Heron Tent)
- 4) **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)
- 5) **QiGong** – QiGong is a 4,000 year old practice that cultivates energy and vitality. Join Carli Zug for gentle movements that strengthen the body, increase flexibility and relieve stress. No experience necessary, just comfortable clothes. (Trout Tent)
- 6) **Mentoring Sessions** – Rebecca Folsom, others, see sign-ups in Blue Heron Tent

4:15 - 5:15 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 to purchase a convenient dinner.)

8:00 Open Stage

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

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

– Timothy Leary

Wednesday, August 10th

TIP OF THE DAY

Pace yourself and enjoy!

TO DO LIST

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

7:30 - 8:15 QiGong

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

8:00 - 9:00 Yoga

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

10:00 - 12:00 Electives

- 1) **Directed Writing (Session 3) with Paul Reisler** – This is a multi-day workshop that is progressive. Sorry, no new people after Tuesday. (Hummingbird Tent)
- 2) **Phrasing, Where You Put it Has Emotional Consequences** – This session with Pat Pattison will transform your songwriting; it will show you how to place your lyrics for maximum impact, making sure that each line you write will deliver the emotion you intend. You'll work not only with front and back-heavy phrasing, but with strong and weak-bar phrasing as well. This is "can't miss" information—it's bound to take your writing to the next level. (Blue Heron 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)

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

– Antoine de St. Exupery

- 4) **Next Level Voice Class** – Join Ron Browning for a fun and engaging class on how to find your best voice and performance. Discover your unique sound through conversation--after all, your singing voice is your speaking voice! Use simple tricks of casual conversation to make your singing have a more intimate and honest delivery. Learn the do's and don'ts of lyric interpretation. Learn about the projection power found in a baby's cry and learn how to use it in singing for a more soulful expression, or to have more vocal power. Add "cry mode" to your vocal techniques and walk away from all vocal faults and your fear of high notes. And of course this will allow you to walk away from vocal fatigue once and for all. Both vocal and performance techniques will be taken into consideration for the more advanced singers. Come with questions. Guitars and recorded tracks are welcome--or sing a cappella! (Bear Tent)
- 5) **Mixing & Mastering Techniques** – In this intermediate recording workshop, LA-based producer/engineer Ryan Benyo will walk students through mixing and mastering a pre-recorded song from start to finish. Topics and techniques will include balance, compression, EQ, time-based effects (reverb/delay), gain-staging, vocal-tuning, style, loudness and more. Each of these techniques will be explained in further detail along with overall mixing/critical listening philosophies while collectively working through a mix. Those with no prior recording experience should take "Intro To Home Recording" prior to taking this workshop. (Coyote Tent)
- 6) **Intention of Connection; Not Just Another "Song Selfie"** – Why do we write songs? Why play them? Why do they elicit such strong reactions? While these questions may seem self-evident for those of us who engage with song, if we take a step back to look at what songs and song delivery serve to do, it opens the conversation of how we intentionally access realms of connection. In this collaborative, conversational, and engaging class we will dissect the all-encompassing world of songwriting looking at connection to self, others, and the world around us. We challenge each other to aim for connection on multiple levels within our songwriting or shows and avoid the trap of writing every song like a social media "look at me" selfie. Given our incredible location we'll also pay particular attention to the use of and impact of the NATURAL WORLD. What better time to engage with it than sitting by the banks of the amazing St. Vrain river in beautiful Lyons, CO. This class will incorporate writing exercises, conversation, and reflection aimed at writing with connection in mind and moving beyond "Song Selfies." Presented by Connor Garvey (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 7) **Finding the North Star of Your Song: Writing Songs that Matter** – In this workshop with Bonnie Hayes and Nan Crawford, we'll look at the idea of having a "North Star" Line in your song, the line that signals our emotional intent for the song. We can do this by invoking metaphors and symbols to create connections to universal as well as personal touchstone themes. We'll spend the first half of the class using exercises to generate song ideas, and the second half fleshing our ideas out into a song form and melody. (Trout Tent)

- 8) **Take a Lead Break On Your Own Song** – 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) **Little Songs Telling Big Stories** – Social justice and topical songs are important and central to changing ideas and times. However, maybe you have a song that focuses on an individual, or an animal, or, hell, even a cup or spoon or a portrait as your protagonist, that illuminates some idea or ideal. Do you have that song to move people and touch or change hearts while avoiding placard-y platitudes, or billboard-lists-style poetry that tells the listener what they already know? Bring your "little movies" to play, discuss, and review. Presented by Vance Gilbert (Lizard Tent)
- 10) **New Songs From Ancient Forms** – Are you curious about song structures that aren't what we've come to expect as a 'pop' or new 'folk' song form? We'll listen to –and use as song-writing prompts–songs with structures that were born of special musical contexts like memorials, physical work, folk dance, sacred rituals, child-minding, self-soothing, trance to name a few! Let's use the voice and these structures as sharp tools for communicating what it is to be human! Presented by Moira Smiley (Spider Tent)
- 11) **Mentoring Sessions** – Steve Seskin (Turtle Tent), others TBA. 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 and More: Session 3

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

MEETING PLACES

- o Mick Flannery - Coyote Tent
- o Rachel Baiman - Bear Tent
- o Courtney Hartman - Spider Tent
- o Bonnie Hayes - Wildflower Pavilion
- o Moira Smiley - Trout Tent
- o Mary Gauthier - Mountain Lion Tent
- o Vance Gilbert - Eagle Tent (backstage)
- o Paul Reisler - Lizard Tent
- o Steve Seskin- Hummingbird Tent
- o Pat Pattison† - Blue Heron Tent

- **Mick Flannery will offer: Songwriting** – This class will explore different approaches to lyric writing, syllable use, rhythm in words, and other aspects of the relationship between word and melody. The floor will also be open to anyone seeking advice on particular works in progress. (Coyote Tent)
- **Rachel Baiman will offer: Finding Your Songwriter Voice** – In this workshop, we will discuss what makes a song feel honest and relatable, and the tools you can use to find your personal songwriting voice. We will discuss songwriting as both an art and a craft, how to learn the rules and how and when you should break them. Students are encouraged to come with partial or complete songs to class and will be encouraged to share and give feedback. (Bear Tent)
- **Courtney Hartman will offer: Using Quiet and Listening As Vessels for Songwriting** – In this session, Courtney will guide us through some of the practices she uses to create listening space in which songs can be born and crafted. Each day we will utilize simple techniques to declutter the busyness in our minds and allow space for deeper listening. Journaling, walking, silence and improvisation will each be explored as ways to open and quiet ourselves enough to hear what might want to make a way through us—a song! And during each session we will use one of those practices to begin a new song or finish an already-begun song. Bring your instrument, a recording device, a notebook, a pen and your ears! (Spider Tent)
- **Bonnie Hayes will offer: Harmony, Tonality, Chords - Oh My!** – The chord progression of a song provides the emotional understory to your lyrics and melody, the “film score” to your song’s lyric story. For some, using chords in an emotional way may be hindered both by limitations of what we know or are able to play, as well as difficulty with “thinking” about harmony. This class will walk songwriters through the basics of tonality, including chord progressions, modes and relative minors, and blues tonalities. We’ll learn some chord progressions for each, explore the wonders of the circle of 5ths, and just generally nerd out on harmony. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- **Moira Smiley will offer: Masterclass With Moira** – Moira works with a vast range of musical artists at the top of their genres: from Indie-pop darlings, Tune-Yards; Irish-American legends, Solas; and multi-grammy-winning composer/pianist, Billy Childs. What these successful artists share musically is a unique approach to musical surprise and density coupled with emotional intensity and a sense of what Nina Simone called ‘an artist’s duty to reflect the times in which we live.’ If you’re interested in putting more surprise, density, emotional intensity and “timeful” truth-telling into your songs, let’s have a Masterclass format coaching and discussion session together! (Trout Tent)

- **Mary Gauthier will offer: Let's Write!** – Do you hope to do some writing here at song school, move the dial on new material, grow new song ideas into music you can bring out into the world and sing with confidence? If yes, Mary will help you grow your ideas into songs. Mary will offer a writing prompt in each class that will encourage new music. She will give you time to write and create, and then help you see what's working in what you've just put together. When you focus on what is working, it will grow, and what isn't working will naturally fall away. This will be a safe place to create; your fellow classmates will cheer you on, and powerful new connections will be made. This is YOUR week, so make the most of it. If you wanna write new material, join us. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- **Vance Gilbert will offer: 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)
- **Paul Reisler will offer: Songwriting With Kids** – I'm the founder and artistic director of Kid Pan Alley. We've now written over 2,700 songs with over 65,000 children using a group songwriting process I've developed. Kid Pan Alley Nashville features Amy Grant, Delbert McClinton, Suzy Bogguss, Raul Malo, Tommy Sims and others recording the songs we wrote with the children. Songwriting with kids is fun. It's part of how we give back some of what has been given to us and it sows the seeds for a new generation of songwriters. It's also great for our own songwriting chops because we have to work quickly using our intuition and wits. There's no time for the dreaded editor. Their minds work in the way we wish ours would when we write songs—non-linearly. And it may be the most likely way to make money with your songwriting. (Lizard Tent)
- **Steve Seskin will offer: Imagery and Emotion: How To Get the Most Impact in Your Lyric Writing** – What elements make up the most potent and engaging lyrics? In this workshop we take a look at lyrics that have that magical combination of imagery and emotion and how those two factors contribute greatly to drawing in the listener. I always say "show me, don't tell me." We need to paint pictures with our lyrics. We'll talk about some of the tools every songwriter needs to be a better lyric writer. We'll also talk about how to spot when you have too much imagery and not enough emotional payoff or tons of emotion but not enough that the listener can see. (Hummingbird Tent)
- † **PLEASE NOTE: Pat Pattison will offer: A Songwriting Master Class** – This class will have students pre-selected ahead of time. All students are welcome to observe the process. (Blue Heron Tent)

1:30 - 4:00 Mentoring – Judith Wade (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)
- 2) **Transform Your Strumming: Break Out of Your Rhythmic Ruts** – Building on the basic principles of the Guaranteed Groove class, this workshop will explore practical ways to change up your strumming patterns. We'll analyze your current patterns, offer a variety of new ones, introduce tools for creating your own, and demonstrate the power of repetition to create new muscle memories in your strumming hand. If you don't currently use a pick to strum your guitar, we'll cover why you should and how to start. We'll also talk about how to separate the rhythm of your strumming hand from the rhythm you're singing. Do you feel like a lot of your songs use similar grooves? Are you looking for new rhythmic ideas to jumpstart your songwriting? This class is for you! Presented by JJ Jones. *Can be taken as a stand-alone class with or without Guaranteed Groove. Being familiar with how to use a metronome and count beat subdivisions will be helpful!* (Coyote Tent)

spiritual badass:
1. SENDS OUT LOVE TO STRANGERS
2. ALWAYS SEEKING OUT THE LESSON
3. KNOWS THAT HAPPINESS IS A CHOICE

- 3) **Experimenting With Altered Tunings and Multiple Capoes** – "You hear other people using altered tunings and multiple capos and it sounds so good... well this workshop will introduce you to the magical world of multiple three string capos with altered tunings!. Bill Nash has been on the cutting edge of trying to make the guitar easier to play with fewer fingers due to his dealing with multiple sclerosis for over 30 years, and in this workshop, you will learn many hints and ideas on how to achieve this goal. He has been giving these workshops at song schools across the country (including the Rocky Mountain Folks Festival Song School for more than a decade, the Kerrville Songwriters School for the since 2016, and at the SWRFA conference the last two years) and has received many accolades from his participants. He also does one-on-one mentor sessions during song school and sometimes during the festival (by appointment). There will be handouts available for students to take away from each workshop. Presented by Bill Nash. (Blue Heron Tent)
- 4) **Embellishing Your Song** – 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. (Eagle Tent - backstage)
- 5) **Kids Are Folks Too!** – Have you ever thought about adding kids' songs to expand your repertoire? Did you hesitate, thinking that it might be just a bit childish for a deep-thinking folkie or beat-driven rocker? Well...it's not. Kids are folks too and many can love sweet melodies, clever lyrics and engaging rock'n'roll just as much as we do! Tons of popular artists have released children's albums: Jerry Garcia, Ziggy Marley, Lisa Loeb, Taj Mahal and Kenny Loggins to name just a few. Acoustic rocker Jenn Cleary has woven kids' tunes into her performances for many years and has now released two first full-length children's albums in the last two years. *All Together Now! Rockin' Songs for Kids of All Ages*, won multiple awards, including the prestigious 2021 NAPPA award and the 2021 the Parent and Teacher Choice award. Her brand new album, *Happy Day* has just been released. In this workshop, Jenn will talk about tips and techniques for writing children's songs, expanding one's public image to include a new genre, as well as career development, performance, marketing and promotion that can apply to all of your music. Warning: You just might find yourself ordering a bubble machine, kazoos or puppets immediately after this class. (Trout Tent)
- 6) **Song Listening** – A group song listening session with Mick Flannery. Bring your new, old or unfinished songs and let the group listen and respond. (Lizard Tent)

*"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes.
Art is knowing which ones to keep."
– Scott Adams*

- 7) **Passport Required: International Touring** – Touring outside the USA presents daunting logistical challenges, but it can be immensely rewarding—artistically, professionally and personally. In today’s “post-COVID” world (and it’s not so “post-COVID” as we’d like to believe!) there are additional considerations and inherent risks involved with touring, which are amplified when international travel is factored into the mix. This workshop examines the nuts-and-bolts of touring internationally, including getting gigs, making contacts, transportation, PA and backline, visas, financial realities of touring overseas, as well as strategies for maximizing your impact before, during and after your tour. The impact of COVID and other disruptive events on international touring will also be discussed, as well as how these types of complications can be evaluated and proactively addressed while planning your international tours. Presented by Mike Beck (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 8) **Making Music in These Covid Times** – Loss. Survival. Wellbeing. Purpose. Creativity. Healing. These are just a few words that come to mind when I think about how the pandemic has and is still affecting us. How have you been coping? What has changed in your approach to playing shows? How are you reconnecting back to your musical community? Let’s talk about what we can do moving forward making the art that only we can make, right now in the times we are living. Presented by RJ Cowdery (Hummingbird Tent)
- 9) **Finding the Story Behind Your Music** – In this elective we will tackle a subject that many musicians dread—the artist bio. We will discuss how you can take your songs and honestly and coherently explain the message behind them and why publicity outlets should care about your music. This is a key step in moving from the art creation stage to the career creation stage. This will help you sell your music to prospective agents, publicists and record labels and help you get back to what you really want to be doing, making the music! Presented by Rachel Baiman (Bear 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

- 10) The Song Lab: Facilitated and Dedicated Time to Experiment** - The Song Lab will be a place to experiment, explore, break down, rebuild in the interest of advancing what is possible. We aim to spark curiosity and embolden the part of us looking to grow. This “workshop” is based loosely off Harrison Owens’ model of group facilitation called “Open Space Technology” where participants propose and create their own agenda. The process recognizes we all have strengths and gifts to contribute. We’ll start (the/each) session asking what each of us is looking to practice/explore/experiment with AS WELL AS what each of us may have to offer toward those ends. Perhaps you want to explore a concept from another class further... you can invite other folks who might want to do the same. Maybe you’re starting to crack through a new barrier in your playing/writing...you can invite others to dedicate time to explore that edge with you. Or perhaps you just need permission to spend a little time working on one thing. This can be that time. The Song Lab will create a structure of “experiments” for folks to explore what they’re most curious about. Instructors and students are invited. This is not an “arrive to receive” type of class but rather “arrive to explore.” (Yurt, behind Wildflower)
- 11) Mentoring Sessions** – Rebecca Folsom (Turtle), Judith Wade (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

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

Thursday, August 11th

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.

7:30 - 8:15 QiGong

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

8:00 - 9:00 Yoga

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

9:30 - 12:00 Creative Songwriting Groups and More: Session 4

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

MEETING PLACES

- o Mick Flannery - Coyote Tent
- o Rachel Baiman - Bear Tent
- o Courtney Hartman - Spider Tent
- o Clare McLeod - Yurt (behind Wildflower)
- o Rebecca Folsom - Wildflower
- o Vance Gilbert - Eagle Tent (backstage)
- o Steve Seskin - Hummingbird Tent
- o Bonnie Hayes - Trout Tent
- o Ellis Delaney, Terri Delaney - Lizard Tent
- o Mary Gauthier - Mountain Lion Tent
- o Pat Pattison †- Master Class

- **Mick Flannery will offer: Songwriting** – This class will explore different approaches to lyric writing, syllable use, rhythm in words, and other aspects of the relationship between word and melody. The floor will also be open to anyone seeking advice on particular works in progress. (Coyote Tent)

- **Rachel Baiman will offer: Finding Your Songwriter Voice** – In this workshop, we will discuss what makes a song feel honest and relatable, and the tools you can use to find your personal songwriting voice. We will discuss songwriting as both an art and a craft, how to learn the rules and how and when you should break them. Students are encouraged to come with partial or complete songs to class and will be encouraged to share and give feedback. (Bear Tent)
- **Courtney Hartman will offer: Using Quiet and Listening As Vessels for Songwriting** – In this session, Courtney will guide us through some of the practices she uses to create listening space in which songs can be born and crafted. Each day we will utilize simple techniques to declutter the busyness in our minds and allow space for deeper listening. Journaling, walking, silence and improvisation will each be explored as ways to open and quiet ourselves enough to hear what might want to make a way through us - a song! And during each session we will use one of those practices to begin a new song or finish an already-begun song. Bring your instrument, a recording device, a notebook, a pen and your ears! (Spider 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. (Yurt, behind Wildflower Pavilion)
- **Rebecca Folsom will offer Zen Mind, Beginner Mind: Performing, Painting, Music & 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)
- **Vance Gilbert will offer: Vance Advanced 202** – Are you a working musician? Have you had a few sessions with Vance's "bootcamp" over the last few years? Well, here's a chance to dig in a little deeper. We'll look at the shape of a "set", the set list itself, patter, and prepping for a performance. Also the song will be scrutinized (bring one that is somewhat "tattered" and just not working for you for whatever reason). Think of the previously mentioned Vance classes with a substantially more intensive examination of what you write and how you present it on the stage. There'll be a little clawing and bleeding antiseptic will be provided... just kidding—don't be such a chicken! (Eagle Tent backstage)

- **Steve Seskin** will offer: **Writing/Rewriting: There is a Difference** – Writing can more easily come from that dreamy/stream of consciousness place. Rewriting involves considering what you've already written and in many ways is a lot more tedious. In this seminar we examine all types of rewriting. Are you rewriting because the content is not serving the moment in the song, or is the problem the tone of how you put forth your idea? We'll also look at how to know when a song is done and the wisdom of sticking to the task versus putting a song away for a while and giving it a rest. Many times I write more than I need just to give myself choices. We will also explore melodic re-writes and chord substitution as a tool to get the most impact out of the musical side of things. (Hummingbird 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 get a chance to practice the techniques with some in-class writing assignments. (Trout Tent)
- **Ellis and Terri Delaney** will offer: **Undefended Songwriting** – Are you interested in writing with an undefended heart? In this workshop, Ellis (performing songwriter) and Terri (somatic therapist) will help you work with your body & nervous system to be less defensive and more open-hearted as you write. It is nearly impossible to create when your nervous system believes there is a threat. The truth is that good writing is vulnerable writing, and if you have a history of not being seen, just trying to write will create a defensive body response. We will explore bottom-up practices (vs. top-down) that will help you grow your capacity to stay engaged and be intimate with creativity instead of spacing out, avoiding, fighting or running away. Come prepared to write and move your body! (Lizard Tent)
- **Mary Gauthier** will offer: **Let's Write!** – The purpose of these classes is to increase your overall understanding of the art of song and give you a deeper understanding of *why* you are called to write, as well as offer you valuable tools for your songwriting tool kit. Mary will give a short lecture each day, answer questions, and provide feedback on student's songs. Mary Gauthier is a Grammy Nominated songwriter who has over 20 years of experience working with other songwriters in this way, and her book *Saved by a Song* (St. Martin's Press) has gathered glowing reviews and accolades. You will walk away from this workshop with insider songwriting knowledge that usually takes decades to figure out. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- † PLEASE NOTE: **Pat Pattison** will offer a **Songwriting Master Class** – Students have been pre-selected ahead of time, but all students are welcome to observe the process. (Blue Heron Tent)

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

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

All Song Schoolers without on-site festival vehicle passes must move their vehicles out of the campground parking area by the end of lunch break to the designated Song School parking area at the Planet Bluegrass Farm. Simply turn right at exit and go 1/3 mile past Apple Valley Road to Farm entrance on the left. It's just a short walk back over the bridge and under the highway to the festival grounds. Thanks in advance!

1:30 - 3:00 Electives

- 1) **Directed Writing Songsharing (Part 1) with Paul Reisler** – In this final session, participants will perform and record their songs written from the morning songwriting sessions. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 2) **Curious Listening** – We all love music, and especially songs - that's why we're here. Learning to listen carefully, what some people call critical listening but which we'll call curious listening, is an important part of unlocking the songwriting secrets that songs hold. In this class, we'll listen to songs in a curious and analytical way, several times, and ask each other to share what we hear. If you have a song you'd like to understand better, please come prepared to suggest it - hopefully we can listen to 4-5 songs! Presented by Bonnie Hayes. (Spider Tent)
- 3) **Cracking the Code (Part 2): Connecting the Dots: Working Creatively with Scales, Triad Inversions and Arpeggios** – Why do guitarists learn scale patterns anyway? In Part 2 of Cracking the Code, we will explore applications for writing and arranging with scales and triads, based on our knowledge from Part 1 of the class. First, we will gently learn the fundamentals of *chord inversions*, easily unlocking the upper regions of the fretboard, where you'll be able to play the chords you already know in different ways and in different places. We will discover how triads "overlap" across the neck of the guitar, which will help us see how triads are fundamentally connected to scale shapes in specific regions around the guitar neck. We will learn new arrangement techniques with *arpeggios*, by simply playing triads notes one at a time in different patterns. We will apply our new skills by playing along with some familiar chord progressions. By creating your own geography of the neck with scales, triads and arpeggios you can discover the Grand Unified Field Theory of guitar! I hope this course will help you expand your versatility and creativity in writing, arranging and embellishing your songs. Presented by John Linn. (Lizard Tent)

*"Creativity is God's gift to us.
Using our creativity is our gift back to God."
– Julia Cameron*

- 4) **360° Creative Freedom** – Have you ever had the suspicion that in life and in your creative ventures maybe you don't have to work so hard? Maybe there is an easier way? Have you had the experience when something you're creating—a song, a show, an experience, a connection—comes together quickly and effortlessly? Do you know some people who make manifesting their vision look easy? Have you had enough of working hard? Are you ready for easy? On almost all boats there are small parts called Trim Tabs. These pieces, though small, create great impact in the movement of the vessel. Here's what is said about Trim Tabs. Large and small boats benefit, they get the boat out of the hole and on the plane quickly. They improve speed, safety and overall performance. They improve fuel consumption and lessen stress. They provide cost savings and make for a more enjoyable ride. Sound good? Come and I'll teach you how to access your Trim Tab moves for all your creative ventures. Presented by Rebecca Folsom. (Yurt, behind Wildflower Pavilion)
- 5) **Fingerpicking Good (Part 1)** – Whether you've never fingerpicked before, or feel you've plateaued in your guitar playing, this interactive workshop with Justin Roth will teach you why and how to incorporate fingerpicking into your box of tools. We will cover multiple fingerpicking patterns and other important basic techniques to help you to either begin, or improve, your fingerpicking as well as gain finger independence, control and clarity. This workshop is open to all levels, but we will start with beginner-intermediate level. Handouts provided. (Coyote Tent)
- 6) **Political Songwriting** – This class is largely based on this quote by Yeats: “We make out of the quarrel with others, rhetoric, but of the quarrel with ourselves, poetry.” In this elective class we will discuss what makes a great political song, and go through some examples of great political songs by other songwriters. Specifically, we will be discussing the use of character and personal perspective to reach people through emotion rather than statements of rhetoric. Then we will go through some prompts in which participants can brainstorm the best way to approach an issue that they are passionate about. Feel free to bring your songs or song drafts, there will be plenty of time for Q&A! Presented by Rachel Baiman (Bear Tent)
- 7) **The Art of Live Looping** – Through dynamic performance, demonstration and audience participation, multi-instrumentalist Arthur Lee Land teaches the fundamentals of live-looping. The elements of musicianship, technology, sound engineer, arranger and entertainer all come together in this 21st century art-form. Learn how to combine traditional instruments and emerging technologies to create an entire one-man band and how you can use live-looping to enhance your performances. Live-looping is also a great tool for writing songs and practicing your instrument. Students will participate in improvised song creation and build their own loops. (Eagle Tent)

- 8) **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. Then we'll look at 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. Presented by Amy Speace. (Wildflower Pavilion)
- 9) **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)
- 10) **Mentoring Sessions** – See sign-ups in Blue Heron Tent

3:15 - 4:30 Electives

- 1) **Directed Writing Songsharing (Part 2) with Paul Reisler continued** – In this final session, participants will perform and record material gleaned from the morning songwriting sessions. (Mountain Lion Tent)
- 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 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) **Fingerpicking Better! (Part 2)** – This two-part course with Justin Roth will continue where we left off in “Fingerpicking Good” for those who are ready for more, or for other intermediate/advanced players who have the basics of fingerpicking covered already. Feel free to attend both or just one of these workshops depending upon your comfort and experience level. In this course we will also learn how to incorporate other right hand techniques including hammer-ons, pull-offs, muting and percussive techniques into different fingerpicking patterns, as well as using them in chord progressions. Handouts provided. (Coyote Tent)
- 4) **Wrap Up and Exploring the Possible** – Bring us your question—about the Music Business, Living a Creative Life, or anything you learned this week and are wondering about. This is a chance to process and collaborate. There are no dumb questions. With Amy Speace, Steve Seskin and Mary Gauthier. (Lizard Tent)
- 5) **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, and passionate voice. We will practice a unique blend of traditional and nontraditional vocal technique, martial arts, yogic posture, and Toltec and Taoist exercises. Together we will embody agile, grounded vocal resonance, and culminate toning and harmonizing together. (Yurt, behind Wildflower)
- 6) **Standards, Covers, & Songs That Ain’t Yours: How To Adapt Them To Your Set** – Come join the fun as Vance Gilbert shows you tools and gives permission to put everything in your set from Jimi Hendrix to John Denver. You’ll explore the neck of the guitar a little, develop confidence in singing your favorite covers **your** way, and talk about where and when these classics are placed in your set. Even a 2-song set!! (Eagle Tent)
- 7) **Guitar Ruts** – Writing with an instrument can be fun and freeing, or it can sometimes feel like we fall into the same patterns and chord progressions on every single song. In this workshop, we’ll explore a few ways to pull ourselves out of those ruts, first by taking a look at what some of them are and then finding our ways through and around them in hopes that our instrument can be a vessel and not a crutch in our writing process. Presented By Courtney Hartman (Bear Tent)

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

8) **Vocal Clarity: A Party in Your Mouth!** – How do you convey meaning? Should you open your mouth more—but what about ventriloquism? Spit out your words—um, ew? Sounds like working harder than you have to...Are you supposed to get those pesky consonants out of the way so we can hear your sound—but the consonants are what make meaning of those sounds, as well as being percussive and help you to float and groove... This class with Clare McLeod will help you improve resonance, projection, and give you options for more expressive singing and speaking. You wrote the words—now remove any barriers to an audience receiving your intent. (Wildflower Pavilion)

9) **Mentoring Sessions** – See sign-ups in Blue Heron Tent

4:45 - 5:15 Song School Closing

Our final session brings us all back together for a final community sing led by Moira Smiley in the Wildflower Pavilion. Yay for us!

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

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

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

7:30 Open Stage

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

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

Other things you need to know about...

The Song School Instructor Bios: Bios can be found at: TheSongSchool.com/bios

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

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

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). Check back for late additions. Most sessions will meet under 10 x 10 tents near the silo and riverfront. Because of the limited amount of mentoring sessions, you may sign up for only one session during the week unless space is available at the last minute.

Open Stage: The evening open stages are offered as an opportunity to perform an original song for peers in the Wildflower Pavilion. Due to our amplified sound curfews, we have a limited number of spots available. Students who wish to perform must enter 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 Maintenance Issues? Luthier Dan Harris is offering a workshop on caring for your instrument on Tuesday at 4:15pm at the coffee bar by Blue Heron Tent. He is also available during the week for any issues that might pop up.

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.

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.

Some handouts are available online during and after the Song School: We will have instructor handouts available to students after the Song School at:

- **TheSongSchool.com/materials**

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

Guests: We ask that your guests please do not disturb classes and not hang out in classroom areas while classes are in session. Wi-fi is available in the front campground and there is also free wi-fi access at 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 their CDs during the BBQ as space allows.

Composting Recycling and Biobags: Planet Bluegrass has continued to minimize the landfill waste the schools and festivals produce. 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 or recyclable.* Thanks in advance for your help.

Onsite Food Options: We are pleased to once again have a food vendor, Bloomberries, on the grounds during the Song School for breakfast and lunch every day and **dinners on Tuesday and Wednesday**. Full menu available at booth.

Reiki Sessions: Students may schedule and pay for Reiki on Monday and Tuesday and a limited number of free Reiki sessions will be available on Wednesday and Thursday with Judith Wade. Sign ups will be posted at 9am each morning 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 writer's 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.