

The L.U.N.C.H. MENU

LOCAL
UNITED
NETWORK to
COMBAT
HUNGER



Founded 1989 by Bill Pere
continuing the legacy of Harry Chapin

Since 1989

Using the power of popular music to produce positive social action

Spring 1998 issue

So Far, No Dead Ends...

Whether we look back or ahead, the road is filled with activities. Our Chapin Legacy concert at Cheney Hall last October was an artistic success and it enabled us to make donations to the Samaritan Shelter, Manchester Youth Services, and FoodShare in Hartford. Additionally, we had 12 young people participating who were new to LUNCH and who now know of the Chapin legacy and how popular music can be used to produce positive social action.

In December, LUNCH received a great honor when the Mystic Chamber of Commerce named Bill Pere and the group as the 37th recipients of the annual Community Service Award. At a banquet held at the Mystic Hilton, Bill was presented with a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly, a letter from Governor John Rowland, and awards from the towns of Groton and Stonington.

As great as that honor is, Bill noted as he spoke from the podium that the greatest affirmation LUNCH has ever received came just a few days before, when the organization received in the mail a donation from none other than Sandy Chapin, Harry's widow.

Rounding out 1997 was a holiday showcase where the Ensemble performed along with several other fine musical acts from the Connecticut Songwriters Association, and of course, the traditional Mystic First Night celebration.

Starting off 1998, Bill returned to Cheney Hall to take part in the fourth All-Troubadour Concert, with all seven of Connecticut's Official State Troubadours.

TOTAL RAISED to DATE: \$150,000+

There Are More Than 80,000 Hungry Children In Connecticut!

The STEVE CHAPIN BAND !

The big show for 1998 will be the third appearance of **The Steve Chapin Band**, on **Saturday, April 4, 7pm** at the **Garde Arts Center in New London**. The original members of Harry Chapin's band -- Steve Chapin on keyboard, Big John Wallace on bass, and Howard Fields on percussion -- will be presenting an evening of old Chapin favorites like *Cat's in the Cradle*, *Taxi*, *Mister Tanner*, and *WOLD*, and new songs by Steve. There will be an opening set by Bill Pere and the LUNCH Ensemble, performing selections from their Chapin repertoire including *Dance Band on the Titanic*, along with Bill's original story-songs. At the show, LUNCH will present its annual donation to World Hunger Year to Steve Chapin who serves on the Board of Directors of the organization founded by his brother Harry.

After the sellout show in Mystic, we have moved to the Garde to allow for more room. Many people in the area remember the benefit performance given by Harry at that venue only a few months before he died. There will be a limited number of reserved seating, and general admission for most seats. For ticket information call 860-572-9285 or 860-444-7373.

Proceeds from the show will benefit local hunger relief and family service agencies. Call early to reserve your tickets, and tell all your friends.

APRIL 4 -- The Steve Chapin Band at the Garde Arts Center in New London ! with opening set by Bill Pere and the LUNCH Ensemble
MAY 29 -- Bill Pere and the LUNCH Ensemble in Concert at the Quaker Hill Baptist Church

SOME RECENT ACTIVITIES

The Ensemble presenting the Chapin Legacy at Cheney Hall, in Manchester, October 18, 1997.

State Senator Cathy Cook presents Bill Pere with a letter from Governor John Rowland and a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly, December 13, 1997 at the Mystic Hilton

UPCOMING SHOW -- MAY 29, 1998

Sponsored by the Quaker Hill Baptist Church

The LUNCH Ensemble will present a full 2-hour concert on Friday, May 29, 7pm at the Quaker Hill Baptist Church (Scotch Cap Road off Route 32).

Tickets will be available in advance or at the door. For information beginning May 1, call 860-442-8856 or 860-572-9285

...LUNCH ON THE WEB...

Visit us at <http://www.rimact.com/csalunch>
You can E-mail us at wdsongs@aol.com. We're always happy to hear from you and we always write back.

YOUR LUNCH DOLLARS AT WORK

LUNCH is a community service outreach of the Connecticut Songwriters Association, a tax-exempt charitable organization founded in 1979. Most LUNCH projects i.e., concerts and recordings, are funded through grants or through earmarked donations. Proceeds generated by our projects are used to help hunger relief and family service efforts in Connecticut. As a volunteer organization, we have no administrative overhead.

More important than financial support however, is the involvement of kids in our programs. By showing tomorrow's leaders that their individual efforts can make a difference in the lives of others, we hope they will grow to shape a kinder, more caring future.

To date, more than 750 kids, grades K-12 from around the state, have participated in our programs.

Our shows and recordings have provided quality family entertainment for many thousands of people. We have produced 8 recordings, 4 Chapin Legacy Shows, 2 Holiday Shows, 3 Steve Chapin Concerts, a show by Nancy Tucker, 2 summer camps, and many other events all around the state.

The list of agencies to whom we have given direct financial support continues to grow:

- The Sunshine Kitchen, Stonington-Groton
- The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center
- The Groton Food Locker
- Stonington Youth Services Bureau
- Catholic Charities of Norwich
- Community Service Ministry of New London
- Community Resources Commission, New London
- Covenant Shelter, New London
- WARM Shelter, Westerly RI
- Connecticut Hospice
- World Hunger Year, New York City
- H.O.P.E.
- The Noank Group Homes
- St. Vincent DePaul Shelter, Waterbury
- The Cornerstone Soup Kitchen, Vernon
- The Samaritan Shelter, Manchester
- Foodshare of Hartford
- Manchester Youth Services

In addition, we've participated in events to support the Animal Shelter of West Haven, United Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Girl Scouts, and more. Most importantly, we give a kids a chance to be involved and show them that they can make a difference.

We're happy to help out wherever the power of popular music and the involvement of kids can come together to make a difference. It was a series of concerts for the Noank Group Homes almost 20 years ago that first got us into the business of benefit shows.

If you would like to have a LUNCH show at your church, school, civic group, backyard, or anywhere, give us a call: 860-572-9285

LUNCH -- SOUP TO NUTS TIMELINE

- **Oct. 18** -- LUNCH concert at Cheney Hall in Manchester to start off the Family Concert Series by bringing the Harry Chapin Legacy to that well-known venue, to benefit local social service agencies.
- **Nov 1** -- Kay Johnson represents LUNCH at the Alliance for Youth conference in New London
- **Nov 8** -- LUNCH is at Mission Mall at the Quaker Hill Baptist Church
- **Dec 9** -- Bill Pere and LUNCH are named as the recipients of the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Award for Outstanding Community Service. The group is honored at a Banquet at the Mystic Hilton with a citation from the Governor and the Connecticut General Assembly.
- **Dec 13** -- LUNCH and the Songwriters Association are at Olde Mistick Village for a Holiday Season Concert. Bill and Kay host the annual year-end LUNCH holiday party.
- **Dec 31** -- Bill and the Ensemble are at the Union Baptist Church family venue for Mystic First Night.
- **Jan 6-8** -- Bill presents his music technology demonstration to hundreds of students at the annual Science and Math Jamboree at Connecticut College.
- **Jan 23** -- Bill and all the State Troubadours present a concert at Cheney Hall, Manchester
- **Feb 9** -- Troubadours Bill Pere and Tom Callinan present the debut performance of the song they wrote to commemorate the commissioning of the submarine USS Connecticut
- **Feb 15** -- The group provides music for the Sunday service at Quaker Hill Baptist Church
- **Mar 6** -- Bill is artist-in-residence for a day at J. Eliot Middle School in Clinton, presenting his Music, Math and Technology program. The Ensemble gives a full concert in the evening involving students from the school.
- **Apr 4** -- The third Concert with the Steve Chapin Band, at the Garde Arts Center. Bill and the group provide the opening set and present the annual donation to World Hunger Year.
- **May 29** -- The Quaker Hill Baptist Church hosts a concert by Bill and the Ensemble
- **July 12-18** -- The third Summer Music Camp at Camp Wightman with Bill as the music director, and the Ensemble joining the campers for the week.

KIDS !! If you're in grades 5-12 and would like to be a part of LUNCH, either performing with us or singing in the studio, give a call. We're always looking for kids who like music and who like to help others. 860-572-9285

LUNCH SuperStars

Each year, LUNCH presents awards to kids who have made outstanding contributions to our outreach through music. The award, consisting of a plaque and a \$100 scholarship recognizes the high level of commitment it takes to give so much time and energy to helping others. This year's recipients have all been with LUNCH regularly for at least 5 years.



Caitlin Reiter has been with the Ensemble since 5th grade. Now a sophomore at St. Bernard, she plays violin and sings. She received her award on Oct. 18.



Michelle Lane, in her second year at Fitch High School has been with LUNCH since 5th grade. She is the group's actress and kinetic member. Her award was presented on Oct 18.



Melody Pere has been a LUNCH regular since Kindergarten, in recordings and stage productions. Now in 6th grade at Mystic Middle School, she plays guitar, piano, digital horn, and sings. She received her award on Dec 13.



Jason Pere has been participating in LUNCH recordings and productions since second grade. Now an 8th-grader at Mystic Middle, he is the group's videographer and helps write scripts and songs. His award was presented on Dec 31



Amanda Carpenter, now in 10th grade at Fitch High school, is the 3rd member of the Carpenter family to be involved in community outreach through music. She has been singing with LUNCH since 4th grade and received her award on Dec 31.

Previous award winners from 1996 are
Kara Watts and Robert Dunlop

When in doubt, do something -- Harry Chapin

RECORDING UPDATE

NEW DAY COMING TOMORROW
RURAL MURAL

Okay, so why is it taking so long to get the next recording done? Two reasons: One is because we've gotten very busy with doing performances. The other is that we're actually working on two recordings at the same time -- besides *New Day Coming Tomorrow*, we're also working on *Rural Mural* which completes the trilogy started by *Crest of a Wave* and *Cityscape* -- but we're almost done with *New Day...* just three more songs to go. And we're already planning the next few recordings: One will be *The High School Years*, so our songs can grow as our kids grow. And for the romantically inclined, we will have *Let Me Count the Ways*.

COMING THIS WINTER

The Third LUNCH HOLIDAY SHOW

We've done the "X-mas Files" and "A Christmess Carol" to brighten up past holiday seasons. This year, we will raise money for local Holiday food baskets by having our troop of talented young people parody the world of Christmas advertising and merchandising, in an original mix of music and theater.

Any kids who would like to participate and try out for parts should contact us no later than June at 860-572-9285.

THANKS

The Congregation of Quaker Hill Baptist Church presented a check to LUNCH in the amount of \$536 as a result of their special "Souperbowl" Sunday Collection. LUNCH will add \$500 to this amount in making distributions to area agencies.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LUNCH ADULT VOLUNTEERS

LUNCH is about kids, but it takes many adults behind the scenes to provide the infrastructure and support system that makes it all work.

Gary Reas, Ric Speck, Peter Gale, and Roger Riley, and Ken Young are among the folks who provide professional photography and video services for our productions. Their efforts have enabled us to compile a detailed pictorial record of all our events.

Bob Kammer has worked with us at the Ledyard Center School to organize the kids there to learn new songs and come to the studio to record them. Many of those kids have continued to participate in LUNCH stage productions.

And of course, there are all the parents who support their kid's involvement in our activities. **Carol Schwenk** has logged many miles hauling equipment and kids, and running out for emergency pizza rations.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In Connecticut, there are more than 80,000 children under the age of 12 who are hungry or at risk of hunger. that is almost 17%. This does not account for teenagers and adults.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

If a man tried to take his time on earth and prove before he died what one man's life could be worth, I wonder what would happen to this world? -- Harry Chapin

MARK THAT CALENDAR --- !

**Saturday, APRIL 4 at the GARDE ARTS CENTER in New London -
The STEVE CHAPIN BAND**

L.U.N.C.H.
40 Bruggeman Place
Mystic CT 06355



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**The Steve Chapin
Band returns - April 4**



LUNCH -- Using the power of popular music to produce positive social action