



Voices For Hope

2014 ENTRY FORM, RULES and GUIDELINES

On behalf of New England's Hungry and Homeless Children, L.U.N.C.H. presents

VOICES For HOPE 2014 **An Opportunity for Young Singers To Perform and Record Professionally** **for a Great Cause and Win a \$500 Scholarship and other great prizes**

Early Entry Deadline: March 15 2014 -- Final Deadline April 12 2014

Local United Network to Combat Hunger (LUNCH) is proud to announce the annual Voices For Hope vocal scholarship competition and concert. This event benefits programs that provide food, shelter, and services for families in need. LUNCH is 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to using the power of popular music to produce positive social action.

The 2014 Voices For Hope song, "Blessings", recorded by Kay Pere and produced by Grammy-winner Bill Pere, is a wish for all that life will always provide reasons to be hopeful.

We are seeking a person to represent Voices For Hope and to sing and record the song. Finalists will audition live in Mystic, CT, and will be evaluated by industry professionals. The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship, perform the song at the Voices for Hope Benefit Concert as well as at LUNCH concerts and other future events. The song will also be professionally recorded (a \$750 value) and will be released worldwide as a CD-single and as part of the ongoing Voices For Hope Compilation CD. The winner also receives a lifetime membership in the Connecticut Songwriters Association, (a \$400 value).

Some of the recordings from our past winners are currently in worldwide distribution. As the competition winner, there may be additional opportunities to appear in print, radio, tv and electronic media. Past winners have performed with LUNCH in such venues as the Shubert Theater, the Bushnell, University of Hartford, EHCCC, and more, with such stars as Melba Moore, The Chapin Band, Diana DeGarmo, and Patti Austin. For a look at past Voices for Hope winners, concerts, recordings and videos, visit the Voices For Hope section of our website at www.lunchensemble.com.

Rules, Guidelines and Entry Form

SUMMARY:

Each individual performer (ages 11-19 as of April 26 2014) will submit either electronically or by mail:

- A completed Entry Form signed by a parent/guardian (if not 18 years of age)
- An audio or video recording of an inspirational (positive) song of the individual performer's choosing or creation. This may be *a capella* (no musical accompaniment) or with tracks.

A photo is not required although you may include one if you wish, or submit your entry as a video. This competition is only about vocal talent and the performer's desire to help children and adults

who need a helping hand. Entering this competition is enough evidence of the performer's passion. **Please be sure to clearly state your name and age on the recording before you begin to sing your song.**

- A short statement, recorded on your submission before you sing your song, stating why you wish to be part of the Voices for Hope and LUNCH mission.
- A \$36 entry fee payable to LUNCH if submitted before the early deadline of March 15. After March 15, the entry fee is \$42. All proceeds generated by this event benefit social services and programs to help those in need. Note the name of the individual performer on the check or money order, or if submitting online via PayPal.

Section 1: The Voices For Hope Competition Process

For the initial recorded submission, Vocal talent, expression, passion, originality, and depth of feeling are the judging factors, not the song selection or the sophistication of the recording. The entrant's recorded statement as to why they are entering this competition is also considered.

Youth groups, schools, teaching studios, houses of worship, and other service organizations in touch with youth and/or equipped with recording equipment are encouraged to assist members/students/friends to complete their individual competition packages, and to encourage everyone to participate.

As the competition Administrator, LUNCH will conduct the first tier of judging, with judges comprised of nationally known music professionals from the LUNCH Ensemble and the Connecticut Songwriters Association. Approximately 10-20 Finalists will be selected. The exact number is determined by the judges' discretion and the quality of the entries received.

The Finalists will receive a practice copy with tracks of the 2014 Voices For Hope song, "Blessings" to learn for the final audition live on stage in Mystic CT on Saturday, April 26, 2014 beginning at 12 noon. Finalists will have at least 5 days in advance of the finals to learn and practice the audition piece with the provided tracks.

The Judges for the final auditions will include professional nationally known artists from the LUNCH Ensemble and the Connecticut Songwriters Association. The scholarship winner will be announced that evening at the Voices For Hope Concert event, which is open to the public. All Finalists will be able to participate in the concert, 7:00pm April 26 2014 in Mystic CT. Concert proceeds benefit social service programs addressing issues of hunger and poverty.

Voices For Hope Prizes

- The judges will select a winner, and may also select a first and second runner up.
- The winner will receive a \$500 Scholarship Award and be designated an official Voices For Hope Ambassador.
- The winner will receive a lifetime membership in the Connecticut Songwriters Association, valued at \$400, with all membership rights and privileges
- The winner will perform "Blessings" and other songs live at events which may include various LUNCH concerts and other future events (see www.lunchensemble.com)
- The winner will have the opportunity to record the song professionally at the Connecticut Songwriting Academy for international release through i-Tunes and similar outlets (a \$750 value)
- Other finalists may have recording and performing opportunities as well, as opportunities arise.
- Finalists may have opportunities for inclusion in print, Radio, TV, electronic media releases and interviews.

The song "Blessings" is a collection of traditional Celtic blessings, adapted and set to music by Kay Pere, and produced by Bill Pere (www.billpere.com). The Voices For Hope winner will record the song for inclusion on compilation and/or single CD releases to be produced by LUNCH and also distributed during LUNCH events, as well as internationally via digital distribution. Proceeds from the CD release will benefit local social service programs.

Section 2: Voices For Hope Rules

Our future depends on knowledgeable, thoughtful and motivated citizens to build a more just society. In the belief that awareness about social justice and leadership are vital to civic education, we established the Voices For Hope program to expand opportunities for people to make their talent and spirit of hope known.

2.1. Eligibility

- This competition is open to anyone age 11 to 19 by the audition date.
- If selected as a Finalist, you must be able to appear for the live final auditions and concert on April 26, 2014 in Mystic CT
- An individual performer may enter as many times as he/she wishes, but each entry requires a separate and complete Performance Package, including a signed Entry Form, Recorded Performance, and Entry Fee.
- Entry packages postmarked after the final deadline of April 12, 2014 will not be considered. (If there are special circumstances for being late, contact us).
- Entrants and winners in past Voices For Hope competitions are eligible to enter again as long as they continue to meet the age requirements.

2.2. The Performance Package

Submit an audio or video recording of any inspiring, positive song of your choosing or creation in any of the following formats: Audio CD, DVD, cassette tape; mp3 file (on CD, flash drive, or by e-mail), VHS tape., or online via YouTube or DropBox.

Do NOT use digital video tape, mini-CD discs. Be sure to finalize your disc so that it will play in any other machine. Please introduce yourself by clearly stating your name and age before beginning to record your song. Please be sure the name of the contestant is written on the CD or submission medium. You may submit electronically by emailing an mp3 file (info@ctsongwriting.com) or by providing the link to an online video or audio file (e.g. You Tube or Drop Box).

You may include a photo in your entry package if you wish. (not required, but it will help the judges recognize you on concert day if you are a finalist).

Mail using sufficient postage, to: LUNCH, PO Box 511, Mystic, CT 06355

Performance Package materials will not be returned. All eligible submissions must be in English. (Rights to any original songs remain entirely with the writer).

Only the competition judges will hear your private recording. It will not be shared with any other parties. Judging will have nothing to do with your song selection or with the quality of your recording equipment. The judges are seeking the finalists whose voices can best perform the Finals Audition Song.

Entrants shall include a spoken essay or statement as to why they feel they would make a good representative of programs like LUNCH and Voices For Hope. The statement should be included on your recorded submission BEFORE the song you sing.

Each Performance Package (an individual may submit more than one) requires a separate Entry Fee, although entry fees may be combined in a single check or online payment. Please make your check or money order payable to LUNCH. On each check please note the name of the individual performer in the memo area. Proceeds from this event benefit social services programs to help children and families in need.

2.3. Additional Contest Rules and Information

The right to submit your recording must not be restricted by any obligation to a third party (manager/agent/publisher, etc). If you are represented by an agent or manager and/or if your Performance Package is encumbered in any way, you must provide sufficient evidence to LUNCH that you are permitted to participate in this competition.

Your Performance Package, must not defame or invade publicity rights or the privacy of any person, living or deceased, or otherwise infringe on any person's personal or proprietary rights.

LUNCH is not responsible for human error, lost, late, misdirected, mail, postage due, mutilated or illegible mail, faulty or damaged recordings, and/or incorrect or inaccurate Entry Form information.

All Performance package materials will be retained by LUNCH and will not be returned to entrant. Any and all expenses incurred during the competition process, including but not limited to recording, postage and transportation are the entrant's sole responsibility.

LUNCH will not have any ownership rights to the content of any original songs in the Performance Package submitted. The only purpose of the Performance Package is for the judges to select the finalists.

All decisions made by the LUNCH judges, Administrator, and other partners are final and not subject to inquiry or appeal.

If selected as a Finalist, you must provide for your own transportation to the final auditions and concert. It is the responsibility of all Entrants, Finalists and Winner to make any and all necessary arrangements with schools, employers, families, etc. to participate in this competition and any subsequent live events. Any lodging expenses are the responsibility of the entrant.

All Voices For Hope dates (e.g., competition submission deadline, judging and live judging), acknowledgement of entrants, and prizes are subject to change.

By entering, entrants agree that they have no right to bring, and covenant not to bring any claim, action, or proceeding of any kind or nature whatsoever against LUNCH or any other partnering organization, individual or judge in connection with any aspect of this competition.

For those winners invited to participate in recording a LUNCH CD, all songs, arrangements and CD placements are selected at the discretion of LUNCH.

Entrants give permission to LUNCH to take and use photos and videos of any events related to this contest for promotional purposes to further the organization's non-profit mission.

In the event of a tie in the Finalist selection process, **the entry with the earliest postmark will be chosen.**

Section 3: ENTRY FORM

*(Please return the 2 pages of this section, signed, with your entry package.
Be sure to include a valid e-mail address. All communications will be via e-mail.
You may also enter online using the forms at the website.)*

Send your Performance Package to : LUNCH – Voices For Hope P.O. Box 511,
Mystic, CT. 06355-0511 **The postmark deadline for entries is April 12 2014.** (In the event of
a tie in the Finalist selection process, the entry with the earliest postmark will be chosen).
Early deadline submissions must be postmarked by March 15, 2014.

The Contestant: *(Please fill in all items below)*

Name:

Age (as of April 26, 2014): _____ Male _____ Female _____

Entrant Parent/Guardian name: 1 _____
2. _____

Entrant Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone: (home) : _____ (cell) : _____

Your School: _____ Grade: _____

Your Music/Chorus teacher: _____

YOUR Email:

PARENT Email:

Do you have a public web page or Facebook page ? (www. _____)

Do you play a musical instrument? _____ How long? _____

How did you hear about LUNCH or Voices for Hope? We want to know who to thank.

Your T-shirt Size (circle one) S M L XL.

Your Recorded Performance:

The name and writer(s) of your chosen or original song recorded a capella or with tracks

Recording format submitted: (*check one*) ___CD ___ Cassette ___mp3
___VHS ___ DVD (no Blu-Ray)

or link to YouTube: _____

Song Title: _____ Written by: _____

Entry Fee

There is a \$36 per song entry fee for performance packages submitted by the early deadline. After that the entry fee is \$42 per song. Each entrant may submit more than one complete performance package.. Please make your check or money order payable to LUNCH. Please note the name of the performer on the check in the memo area. Or you may enter by using the online forms at the website. LUNCH is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Proceeds will benefit social service programs. Payment may be made online via Paypal to info@ctsongwriting.com)

Clearly mark your name, address, and phone number on your recording and on everything included in your performance package.

Your Promise

I certify that I have read, understood and accept the Rules & Guidelines for the Voices For Hope Competition. I warrant that I have the right to make this recording and submit this material for the private use of the judges, and this submission does not in any way infringe upon the rights of any third party.

Signature & Date

:_____Date_____

If entrant is under 18 years of age, the signature of a parent or guardian is required.

Signature & Date

:_____Date_____

Parent or Guardian

WHAT HAPPENS ON THE DAY OF THE FINAL AUDITION and CONCERT ?

The event will be held on Saturday April 26, 2014 in Mystic CT.

Entrants should arrive by 11:30am. Entrants under age 18 must be accompanied by a member of their family or other designated adult.

The schedule for the day (subject to adjustment) will be :

12:00-12:30pm – Welcome and Introductions; Photos.

12:30 – 3:00pm Auditions: One at a time, entrants will enter the Auditorium and sing the audition song, accompanied by music tracks, in front of the judges. No other persons will be permitted to watch the audition. Each finalist will audition individually.

3:00-4:30pm Rehearsal for the evening concert (the Voices for Hope Finalists will participate in some of the songs)

4:30-5:30pm Dinner break

5:30-6:00pm Final sound check and prep for concert

6:00pm Doors open for audience

7:00-9:30pm – Voices For Hope Concert : A Tribute to Harry Chapin, with Bill and Kay Pere and the LUNCH Ensemble. The winner for the Voice For Hope competition will be announced, and the scholarship prize will be presented. The finalists will sing "Rhythm of Our Heart" in the concert, as well as joining LUNCH for some other songs.

Check out YouTube videos of other Voices For Hope participants at
www.youtube.com/ctsongwritingacademy

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

VOICES FOR HOPE PARTNERS

LUNCH (Local United Network to Combat Hunger)

LUNCH uses the power of popular music to produce positive social action, involving kids in music and theater productions to show them they can make a difference in the lives of others. LUNCH was founded in 1989 by Grammy-winner Bill Pere, an internationally published writer and recording artist, who has been in the forefront of the music industry for almost 30 years. A songwriter, lyricist, and music educator, Bill is the Executive Director of the CT Songwriters Association and President of the CT Songwriting Academy. Bill is the author of the internationally acclaimed music reference "[Songcrafters Coloring Book](#)". Working with thousands of kids, LUNCH has produced shows raising more than \$1,000,000 for local social services. LUNCH follows the example set by singer-songwriter Harry Chapin who said "Do one show for yourself and one for the other guy..." LUNCH does them ALL for the other guy. LUNCH has received many state and national awards. In 1995, Bill Pere was appointed as an Official CT State Troubadour by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, and was named national Independent Artist of the Year 2003. Visit www.lunchensemble.com and www.billpere.com

The Connecticut Songwriters Association

Founded in 1979, CSA is non-profit educational organization dedicated to improving the craft of original music and teaching aspiring artists about the complexities of the music business. CSA is known nationally, with connection in NY, Nashville and Los Angeles. The organization's song critiques are considered among the best in the industry.

The Connecticut Songwriting Academy

Based in Mystic CT, the Academy teaches the art and craft of songwriting, and provides top quality vocal coaching and voice instruction with programs that are annually presented across the U.S.

The Voices for Hope Program

Voices for Hope is a public education program to conduct a service-oriented music competition for the benefit of worthwhile programs that address basic human needs. The contest is administered by the non-profit organization LUNCH (Local United Network to Combat Hunger) to aid their programs helping to end hunger and homelessness as well as other similar minded 501(c)(3) organizations in New England. Additional *pro bono* support is offered by the Connecticut Songwriting Academy (www.ctsongwriting.com), Sound Krayons Music (www.soundkrayons.com) and the Connecticut Songwriters Association (www.ctsongs.com).

Past Voices For Hope partner organizations include:

- Brooklyn, the Musical
- The Bushnell
- Angels on Horseback Therapeutic Riding School
- The Granite Theater
- The Shubert Theater
- Special Voices
- The East Hartford Cultural Center
- The Connecticut Songwriting Academy
- The Steve Chapin Band
- Union Baptist Church and Morgan House, Mystic CT

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

If you need further information regarding this competition, or any aspect of LUNCH's community outreach through music, contact Bill Pere at LUNCH by e-mail at info@lunchensemble.com and visit the website at www.lunchensemble.com