



PMN Summer Gathering

May 26-28, 2023

GROTONWOOD CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER,
167 Prescott Street, Groton MA, 01450

The following schedule is provisional. Confirmed Workshops are not yet scheduled to specific times. Final schedule will include changes.

EVENT COLOR CODE:

MEALS	IN-PERSON	IN-PERSON & ZOOM LIVESTREAM
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Friday, May 26, 2023				
4:00 PM-11:00 PM	Registration Opens			
4:30 PM-6:00 PM	Welcoming Song Swap: Greet and Sing - Dining Hall Side Room A greeting song circle where lots of people will have a chance to share many styles of music will be facilitated by Sarah Pirtle and Marcie Boyd. This is a way to get grounded through song as you arrive. Come by to share a song, and feel free to come and go as you need in order to set up your space in your cabin.			
5:45 PM-6:15 PM	Shabbat - Outside at Picnic Tables Come join Tobie Hoffman for a musical Shabbat ceremony open to EVERYONE. We will sing songs, light the candles, bless the wine and share challah. No prior knowledge necessary — come sing, hug and start the weekend with extra warmth.			
6:00 PM-10:00 PM	Dinner - Dining Hall			
7:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Opening Program We'll gather for welcoming songs, a drum circle, and movement. There will be get-to-know each other exercises.			
10:00 PM-???	Friday Night Campfire Song Swap (Fireplace by the Dining Hall) We'll create a space where newcomers to PMN can get introduced to the community. Newcomers are especially encouraged to share songs. We'll also have some old-comers on hand to share some songs. Bring your voice, instrument and percussion. (Host: Steve Deasy)			
Saturday, May 27, 2023				
7:30 AM-9:15 AM	Breakfast - Dining Hall			
8:00 AM-11:00 AM	Registration Open			
8:30 AM-9:15 AM	Opening Ceremony - Dining Hall Music, movement, and introductions to get the day started. We'll remember PMN members who have passed away. Get oriented to the structure of the Gathering.			
Wrksp #1: 9:30 AM-	A) Chapel	B) Dining Hall Anex (Side Room)	C) Prescott Lodge Lounge	D) Gym Lounge Side Room

10:50 AM	How to be a Song Leader Luci Murphy	Creating and Performing Bilingual Songs Dave Tarlo Ruben Gonzalez	Poetry Workshop Hausson Byrd, Professor Louie	Women's Song Swap Sarah Pirtle
Wrksp #2: 11:10 AM-12:30 PM	A Spiritual Journey: Understanding the African American Spirituals Jane Sapp, DuPree, Luci Murphy, Lindsey Wilson, Walter Cooper, Jenny Bonham-Carter	Fifty Years of Hip Hop Jendog Lonewolf Don Don	Nueva Canción Lucelia de Jesus, Colleen Kattau, Ruben Gonzalez	Functional Songs for the Picket Line Ben Bath, Tristan Lion, Ben Grosscup
12:30 PM-2:00 PM	Lunch See the menu.			
1:30 PM-1:55 PM	Community Gathering Singing. Recognize Steering Committee Members. Thank PMN Monthly Sustainers.			
Wrksp #3: 2:00 PM-3:20 PM	A) Chapel	B) Dining Hall Side Room	C) Prescott Lodge Lounge	D) Gym Side Room
	Learning Gospel Songs of the Black Church & Freedom Songs with a Gospel Sound Jane Sapp, Michael Carter	Songs for the Climate Anne Goodwin Marcia Taylor	Jam Session Dilson Hernandez	LGBTQ Song Swap Evan Greer
3:40 PM-4:40 PM	From Spirituals to Protest: Struggle and Faith in the African American Musical Tradition - Chapel Slave-owners in the South dehumanized and terrorized the Africans they enslaved. Black people refused to be silenced and afraid and spoke their lives and truths through the spirituals, using the form of call and response. The power of faith, hope, community and resistance permeate African American spirituals and has energized generations of protest voices. Jane Sapp, DuPree, Luci Murphy, Lindsey Wilson, Walter Cooper, Jenny Bonham-Carter			
5:00 PM-6:15 PM	Free Space / Rehearsal Time During the Free Space, you can propose a workshop, activity, or jam right up to the very last minute. The deadline for proposals is Saturday at 4:00 PM. You can also use this time to prepare a collaborative piece for the Saturday Night Round Robin, or visit the sales table.			
6:00 PM-7:15 PM	Dinner - Dining Hall			
7:15 PM-Midnight	Round Robin Collaborative Concert - Dining Hall We're encouraging and prioritizing performances by artists who are new to PMN as well as performances that are collaborative in nature.			

Sunday, May 28, 2023				
7:30 AM-8:45 AM	Breakfast - Dining Hall			
Wrksp #4:	A) Chapel	B) Dining Hall Side Room	C) Prescott Lodge Lounge	D) Gym Side Room

9:00AM-10:30AM		Songs of the Spirit	Hard Hitting Song Swap Ben Grosscup	
Wrksp #5: 10:45AM-12:15PM	Songs of Labour and Labor Russ Chandler Steve Suffet	One-on-One Coaching for Guitarists in a 'Fish Bowl' Format Marcia Taylor	Songwriters Peer Feedback Session: "If I had a Song" Terry Kitchen, Marcie Boyd, Steve Deasy	Free Range: Vocal Improv Workshop Colleen Kattau
12:15PM-1:30 PM	Lunch - Dining Hall			
1:30PM-2:00PM	Closing Ceremony - Dining Hall			
2:00PM-2:30PM	Clean Up			

(Back to [main registration page for the PMN Summer Gathering](#))

Workshop Descriptions

Saturday, May 27, 2023, Workshop #1: 9:30AM-10:50AM

1A) How to be a Song Leader

Performance Skills

Chapel

Participants will gain tools to be a strong spark for spirited group singing. We begin with foundational breath practices that strengthen your singing voice. Select participants will be given a chance to practice their song leadership skills with the group. The purpose is learning song leadership skills, not performing your song. To have a chance at practicing, you must know the song you wish to lead by heart. Please only bring sing-alongs where people sing on all or almost all the words with you.

Selected song leaders will be coached to facilitate a cohesive group sound by practicing how to:

- 1) Be musically consistent.
- 2) Deliver each part of the song to allow singers to digest what they're hearing.
- 3) Convey a deep understanding of the words so that people can feel it.
- 4) Exaggerate consonants to make each word unmistakable.
- 5) Break down your teaching into the constitutive elements that make a song: First, words. Then, rhythm. Finally, melody.

Facilitator:

- **Luci Murphy:** founding member of The People's Music Network and the founder of the Black Workers Center Chrous in Washington DC.

1B) Creating and Performing Bilingual Songs

Creative Process

Dining Hall Side Room

One reason to write and sing in languages other than English is you may reach a wider audience and your songs and messages will have a broader appeal. In this workshop, we will explore multilingualism in the songs we write. Presenters will show various techniques to turn your monolingual tune into a bilingual or multilingual performance. We will also devote some group time to working on turning songs participants may bring into a multi-lingual form.

Facilitators:

- **Dave Tarlo:** Member of Hudson Valley Sally.
- **Ruben Gonzalez:** Singer Songwriter.

1C) Poetry Workshop *Musical Traditions of Struggle and Creative Process*

Prescott Lodge Lounge

Join us for an unique, participant driven dive into the poetic creation process. Led by Hausson, we will discuss the elements, uses, and impact of poetry, before journeying through the creation process in order to craft a poem inspired by your craft, your nature, and the movements that mean the most to you. Come prepared to talk, listen, write, think, and share your art with the people around you.

Facilitator:

- **Hausson Byrd** (he/him) Hausson Byrd is a Poet, Organizer, Author, and Rapper from Raleigh NC. He is a Graduate of NCAT, and a Relapsing Book Addict trying his absolute hardest to make his village proud. Starting out as a spoken word artist, He has been expanding his artistry to include poetry, music, emceeing, event curation, networking and community building. A plaque above the dining room at his mother's old house read "Never, Ever, Ever Give Up", and so he never has and he never will. He hopes to inspire you to do the same.
- **Professor Louie:** "Poet of the Streets" and long time PMN member.

1D) Women's Song Swap

Song Swap

Gym Side Room

This will be a welcoming circle to start the day. It's a PMN tradition going back to 1982 to provide a nourishing place to share meaningful songs of women's voices, hearts and minds. Each participant is invited to sing a song (original or by someone else) or request that we sing a song after saying a word about why the song matters to you. We'll listen, laugh, perhaps cry together and hear each other deeply. This song swap is open to all women, non-binary participants, and trans women as we work in solidarity to help reverse the wheel of oppression. Although described as women's voices, your choice of song is flexible to respect gender expansion.

Facilitator:

- **Sarah Pirtle:** a dialogue leader who is a member of Hands Across the Hills, Bridge4Unity, and Stitch the Web. She's had a chance to lead many workshops since joining PMN in 1982. She has five books including An Outbreak of Peace and nine recordings -- with songs for free at Sarah Hope Sings.

Saturday, May 27, 2023, Workshop #2: 11:10AM-12:30PM

2A) A Spiritual Journey: Understanding the African American Spirituals

Musical Traditions of Struggle

Chapel

A panel of six participants will lead a discussion, accompanied with music, that demonstrates the historical, cultural, communal and faith-based roots of the African American spirituals. With deep knowledge and passion, the panelists will share the birth of the spirituals along with the stories and messages inside of the songs. The workshop will also explore how the spirituals became the foundation of the subsequent range of African Music and styles, including jazz, R&B, gospel music, freedom songs, etc.

Presenters:

- Jane Sapp, DuPree, Luci Murphy, Lindsey Wilson, Walter Cooper, Jenny Bonham-Carter

2B) Fifty Years of Hip Hop + Hip Hop Culture: Evolution/De-Evolution/Re-Evolution

Participants will be taken on a journey through the first fifty years of Hip Hop and Hip Hop Culture, learning its origins, connections, evolution, de-evolution, and its re-evolution.

Facilitators:

- Jendog Lonewolf (Hip Hop MC, Photographer, and Cultural Worker)
- Don Don (Hip Hop Curator and Radio Station DJ)

Educational Resources:

- www.BlackPowerRadio.com
- www.HipHopEdutainment.com

- www.TruthHipHop.com

2C) Nueva Cancion

Musical Traditions of Struggle

DESCRIPTION COMING.

Facilitators:

- [Lucelia de Jesus](#):
- [Colleen Kattau](#): Vocalist and writer of original & bilingual music. With a voice that 'haunts with its range and clarity' her energy in performance is contagious. She performs solo and with her band Dos XX.
- [Ruben Gonzalez](#): Originally from San Juan Argentina, Rubén González is a singer songwriter, musician and educator residing in New York City. His music is a journey crossing borders between distant places and spaces: South and North America, politics and poetry, pain and humor.

2D) Functional Songs for the Picket Line

Musical Traditions of Struggle

Prescott Lodge Lounge

Songs can be many things: popular entertainment, an artistic presentation from a performer to an audience, but songs can also be tools that serve a material purpose. From pulling on a rope, to slinging a hammer, to rocking a baby to sleep, there have always been forms of singing that serve a very concrete function. In social struggle, songs can be presented to a listening audience and provide a consciousness raising or entertaining experience. But songs can also be used to coordinate pushing back lines of riot police. They can be used to disrupt management meetings. They can be used as collective uplift to make the time pass quicker for people who've spent hours marching.

In this workshop, we want to explore the various functional uses of picket line music. Come ready to learn and lead collective songs and chants, hear and share experiences of picket line music, what worked, what didn't, and why. Together we can build a joyous, uplifting, and collective repertoire of songs to help each other stay out on the line one day longer and one day stronger!

Facilitators:

- **Ben Bath**: Member of PMN Steering Committee. Has led singing on many picket lines.
- **Tristan Lion**: Member of Amazon Labor Union. Reggae Singer.
- **Ben Grosscup**: Long-time picket line song leader/Labor Troubador.

Saturday, May 27, 2023, Workshop #3: 2:00PM-3:20PM

3A) Learning Gospel Songs of the Black Church & Freedom Songs with a Gospel Sound

Group Singing

Chapel

In this session, we'll learn a few songs in 4 part harmony, and sing them together, with an eye to sharing a few of them at the afternoon plenary in front of the full gathering. The history of African American life and spirituality is inextricably entwined with spirituals and gospel music. We will discuss the historical roots of this music as we're learning it. Participants will experience the collective voice as they learn and sing songs with the choir leaders.

Choir Leaders:

- [Jane Sapp](#): is a powerful and highly regarded performer, songwriter, recording artist and educator who for many years has engaged with disenfranchised urban and rural communities in the United States and around the world. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia and is a member of the PMN Steering Committee. www.janesapp.org
- **Michael Carter**: an educator, community leader, musician, choral director and cultural worker. He currently serves as the principal at KIPP OKC College Prep. Prior to that, was an elementary school principal in Tulsa, OK and served as the Program Director for a national social justice organization, the Encampment for Citizenship. He is currently working on a Doctorate in Education at the University of Oklahoma. When Michael is not at school, he may be found at the piano, leading choirs throughout the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

3B) Songs for the Climate

Song Swap

Dining Hall Side Room

What makes a good climate justice or climate action song? What makes a song singable, direct, and powerful in the heightened moment of a rally? We'll explore what makes a song like this work, and maybe get inspired to create some new ones.

Facilitators:

- **Anne Goodwin:** Mothers Out Front.
- **Marcia Taylor:** Former PMN Steering Committee member. Singer/songwriter.

3C) Jam Session

This session is open to all rappers, singers and instrumentalists. Not genre specific. We'll have a beat maker on hand that people can sing to or rap to. Other instrumental accompaniment is also welcome. We'll make a beautiful sound together.

Facilitators:

- **Dilson Hernandez:** A genre merging artist from the Bronx. Talents include creative writing, playing various instruments, spoken-word poetry, singing, audio engineering, and beat making. He is a certified Audio Engineer from the Institute of Audio Research. Dilson wishes to change the world with his art and community work (mostly for youth), striving for a more progressive and creative future.

3D) LGBTQ Song Swap

Come share songs by and for queer and trans folks.

Facilitator:

- **Evan Greer:** Trans/genderqueer activist singer/songwriter, parent, and organizer based in Boston. She writes and performs high-energy acoustic songs that inspire hope, build community, and incite resistance! Evan tours internationally as a musician and speaker, and facilitates interactive workshops to support movements for justice and liberation.
www.evangreer.org

Sunday, May 28, 2023, Workshop #4: 9:00AM-10:30AM

4B) Songs of the Spirit

Group Singing

Dining Hall Side Room

Songs of the Spirit is a PMN tradition since 1982. We gather in a large circle for a cappella singing of inspirational and empowering songs. Between songs, we pause, breathe and feel the energy and connection of the group.

Please select songs that can be learned immediately and where essentially the entire song can be sung by every voice. Because we are aiming to achieve full group participation throughout, we ask that you not choose songs in which only the leader knows the verses or which preclude full participation. If you've already initiated one song, make space for someone else to do this.

Songs of the Spirit allows us to practice spontaneity and responsiveness in a large group – both essential components of community building. We aim to transcend attachments we feel to specific songs and our own leadership and to become more aware of ways the whole group can feel inspired. We hope to conclude feeling centered and grounded.

4C) Hard Hitting Song Swap

Song Swap

Prescott Lodge Lounge

Has something about an urgent social/political issue been left unsung this weekend? Come bring songs against war, US Imperialism, the war economy, racism, the injustices of the healthcare system, the breakdown of the biosphere, the threats against women's rights, and more. At PMN, we talk a lot about group singing and the unity this brings. Songs can also convey poignant critical thoughts on society. Both kinds of songs are welcome in this space, but the emphasis will be on song and poems that make a clear point about injustices happening in the world. Let's have a political dialog, but not by talking. This dialog will be done in verse!

Facilitator:

- **Ben Grosscup:** An activist folksinger working with radical and progressive movement leaders to integrate his own song leading and performing at rallies, picket lines, and political education events. Based in Greenfield, MA, Ben serves as director of People's Music Network.

Sunday, May 28, 2023, Workshop #5: 10:45AM-12:15PM

5A) Songs of Labour and Labor

Song Swap

Chapel

We will share songs by and about working people, their lives, their struggles, and their unions from both sides of the Pond. Participants are welcome to bring examples to share.

- **Russ Chandler:** Singer of traditional, political, and modern songs from the UK. www.russchandlermusic.com
- **Steve Suffet:** Old fashioned folk singer in the People's Music tradition. www.stevesuffet.com

5B) One-on-One Coaching for Guitarists in a 'Fish Bowl' Format

Performance Skills

Dining Hall Side Room

Marcia provides tips, warm-ups and insights to improve guitar technique. Sign up in advance for a one-on-one mini-lesson in front of the group. We'll get in as many 'private lessons in public' as time permits. On the sign-up sheet, indicate which aspect of your guitar technique you'd most like to improve. To sign up, e-mail the presenter at MarciaTaylorMusic@gmail.com, or speak to her in person at the gathering. Come with your guitar if you'd like a turn 'in the fish bowl'! You'll have a supportive audience as everyone learns from your lesson. All are welcome to attend. Even as an observer, you'll come away with something to apply to your own playing.

Coach/Leader:

- **Marcia Taylor:** lives and works in the Portland, Maine area. She has a degree in classical guitar performance from Hartt College of Music. Some of her instrumental strengths include finger-style arrangements, and jazz and swing chord voicings up and down the neck.

5C) Songwriters Peer Feedback Session: "If I had a Song"

Songwriting

Prescott Lodge Lounge

Songwriters in People's Music Network strive to write songs that wake people up, challenge the status quo, and reach people's hearts and minds. We don't believe it takes larger-than-life talent to create powerful songs. Rather, the craft of songwriting involves skill, practice, hard work, and the willingness to listen for how our words and music land with others.

This in person workshop is based on the format of our monthly "If I Had a Song" workshops, which have been taking place online since 2020. Through these sessions, PMN is building a loving and supportive creative community that provides songwriters with the honest listening we need.

Songwriters share original material and listen for insights they can gain from the feedback and suggestions offered by fellow songwriters. We learn to listen non-defensively. You are responsible for your own song, and can decide what – if any – of the feedback you choose to use. This is a chance to hone your listening and feedback-giving skills as we work together to understand the elements of lyrics, melody, rhythm, chord progression, key, and arrangement that make a song click.

Come to observe and/or present and get feedback on a song you're working on. Depending on the attendance we may break into small groups or stay as one large group. Participants are invited to bring 10-15 lyric sheets of the song they'll be presenting.

Facilitators:

- **Terry Kitchen:** Long-time member of PMN; singer-songwriter for many years.
- **Marcie Boyd:** Marcie Boyd is a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, teacher, activist, and longtime PMN member. She lives in Berkeley, CA, where she sings with Occupella and the LaPeña Chorus. PMN Steering Committee member.

- **Steve Deasy**: Award-winning American-Canadian performing songwriter, producer and arranger; socially conscious in the tradition of Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger with contemporary musicality.

5D) Free Range: Vocal Improv workshop

Group Singing

Gym Side Room

Vocal improv artist Rhiannon states: “the music is out there”: when we open to it, it comes to us and through us. This participatory and play-full workshop is based on vocal maestro Bobbie McFerrin’s circlesong – or collective creative singing. We’ll warm up with deep listening, breathing, and with a few exercises developed by Rhiannon in her Vocal River series. Then we’ll practice ‘music in motion’ and share the circle in improvised song. Participants will try their hand at facilitating, and if the spirit moves them, spiral the circle outward to their own communities.

Facilitator:

- **Colleen Kattau**: Vocalist and writer of original & bilingual music. With a voice that 'haunts with its range and clarity' her energy in performance is contagious. www.colleenkattau.com