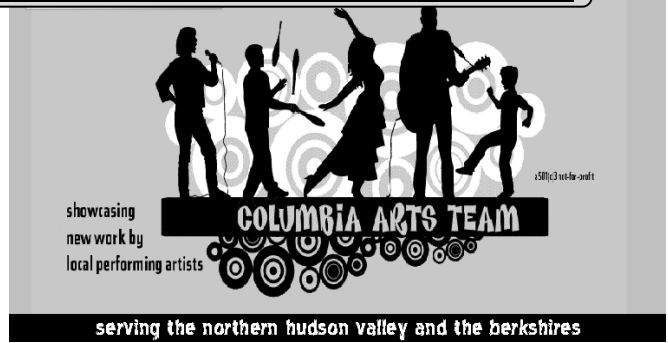




a 501(c)3 not-for-profit

"showcasing new work by local performing artists"

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2009 SEASON & A LOOK AHEAD TO 2010

2009 - another successful and rewarding year for CAT

The 2009 CAT season began in February with a new monthly series, **SongFeast**, that combined great music and delicious food. Music guests included local artists: The Ramblin Jug Stompers, Kurt Henry, Sandy McKnight, and Christina Dellea, as well as hit Nashville writer Jill Colucci ("I'm Gonna Be Somebody" and "Anymore" by Travis Tritt, "No One Else on Earth" by Wynonna Judd, and "He Would Be Sixteen" by Michelle Wright.) Caterers from the Hudson area prepared tasty meals and desserts.

In May, CAT presented its 4th annual **Songwriters Festival**. The format grew to include more one-on-one mentoring, song critiques, and panels. The guest line-up was the most impressive yet, with Jonathan Edwards ("Sunshine"), Jill Colucci, Jacob Brackman (of Hudson; several hits with Carly Simon), Andy Pratt ("Avenging Annie") and many other hit songwriters and industry pros. 'Two days of information and inspiration' gave



Event Producer Sandy McKnight addresses attendees at the CAT Songwriters Festival. Panelists in the background: the late Phil Ochs' sister, Sonny Ochs; singer/songwriter Jonathan Edwards; and Nashville-based country hit writer Jill Colucci, among the 20+ industry pros who imparted their knowledge of music.

local songwriters and musicians some great ideas for developing their craft.

The weekend also included a **Tribute to Phil Ochs**, hosted by Phil's sister Sonny Ochs. Performances by Jonathan Edwards, Andy Pratt and Chatham's own Lincoln Mayorga highlighted the evening.

In July, the second annual **Upstate Idol** competition was held. The contest is open to local, original music artists. The semi-finals were held in Hillsdale, and the finals, which also starred Catskill's Tom "Lennon" Raider and his band doing Beatles hits, were in Hudson. The winners, Millerton band Window Box Failurs, won a recording session at Hyland Studios in Albany.

In its 8th season, **Saturday Night Liv** (hosted by Liv Cummins) continued to present local performers in a comedy/variety format. SNLiv presented two new 'episodes' this season with performances across the county, as well as a well-attended fundraiser for St. Bridget's Church in Copake Falls.



Saturday Night Liv's cast includes Liv, Sandy, Louise Pillai (Copake), Andrew Joffe (Crarville), John Wallace (Chatham), Tony Carrano (Cairo), Raja Pillai (Copake), Prudence Theriault (Kinderhook), Christina, and Zach Nayer (Copake)

A Halloween fundraiser for CAT was a fun event, with music, prizes, and a 60s-themed costume contest.



Local kids perform in the holiday musical they wrote. The Kids Holiday Theater Workshop, like all CAT events, are free for kids

Between Christmas and New Year’s Day, CAT presented its annual **Kids Theater Workshop**, which is free to local children, as part of the **CAT Kids Holiday Spectacular** in Copake. The Spectacular, which features youth participants performing their own musical piece, as well as variety acts and a play performed by local actors about Santa Claus, was a big hit. The play was presented again a few days later in Chatham.

Coming in 2010, CAT has another schedule of exciting events planned

On May 22, CAT presents its 5th annual **Hudson Valley Songfest & Music Expo**. The format has changed this year, designed to cater not only to songwriters, but to musicians, bands, local merchants, and anyone else interested in the music business. General admission to the Expo and Showcase Concert is free to all. The event will be held at Columbia-Greene Community College.

Seminars and panels will run throughout the day, covering subjects such as “How to Get More Exposure for Your Music,” “The New Music Paradigm,” and many other music-related topics. Speakers will include experts and professionals, such as record company A&R execs, publishers, lawyers, indie label owners, artist managers, songwriters, and music supervisors.

The Expo will feature listening booths where attendees can sample new bands and artists, products and demonstrations, and a day-long Showcase Concert featuring the best of up-and-coming musicians and songwriters. The Expo is open to the general public at no charge.

In the evening, the day’s activities are capped off with a concert by well-known indie artist Ellis Paul. Paul is one

of the most popular singer/songwriters in the country, whose music is heard regularly on local stations WKZE and WDST.

Once again CAT will present its original music competition, **Upstate Idol**. Open to all local musicians with self-penned tunes, the contest is always exciting and well-attended. A panel of local music business pros will choose a winner based on stage presence, musicianship and songwriting skills. The winner will get a day in a recording studio with a producer. The event will take place at Mt. Washington House in Hillsdale, NY on July 15.

Saturday Night Liv (hosted by Liv Cummins) enters its 9th season of variety, hilarity and music. Dinner shows this year will be performed at various venues (dates TBA). Returning will be comedy troupe *The Really Convincing Players* performing original sketches by McKnight, cast member regular Andrew Joffe, and others; musical trio *the pop!ternatives*; comedic juggler Dave Cox; physical comic Pat Ferri; and lots of surprises.

The annual CAT Kids Holiday Spectacular has been a successful event for 6 years. Local kids get a free education in theater, writing their own mini-musical, and performing it for their families and friends. In addition, CAT puts on a holiday-themed show for members of the community. Variety acts add to the mix. This year, the theater workshop for kids will run December 28-30, with the big show on the evening of the 30th. A matinee after New Year’s is also planned.

Also, throughout the year, CAT will present concerts, fundraisers, special events for kids, and other opportunities for local performers, musicians and writers to showcase their work. This is the mission of the Columbia Arts Team, and we’re proud to present another season of enriching and innovative programming.



Liv Cummins - Sandy McKnight – Christina Dellea



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIBUTE TO PHIL OCHS

above, top: JONATHAN EDWARDS
above, bottom: finale with JONATHAN, JILL COLUCCI
opposite, top: LINCOLN MAYORGA
opposite, middle: ANDY PRATT
opposite, bottom: emcees SANDY MCKNIGHT and
SONNY OCHS

How can I help??

Times are tough, and all the more reason our communities need to come together to save the arts so that the economy comes back around with a bang. We need your **tax-deductible** donation to help pay for scholarships, artist fees, props, sets, lights, advertising, printing costs, venue rental fees, and all costs associated with producing CAT's events. Your assistance allows CAT to produce high-quality performing arts and entertainment for the whole family, and to allow students to participate in our educational workshops free of charge.

Our donors, called Cat-alysts, are entitled to special discounts, free tickets based on level of participation. More importantly, you'll be contributing to the cultural enrichment of your community, thereby making Columbia County and its environs a better place to live.

See you at our shows this season!

Our best,
Christina Dellea, Liv Cummins, and Sandy McKnight
www.columbiaartsteam.org

We greatly appreciate a donation in ANY amount, and we thank you in advance for your support. Please make checks payable to CAT, and send to 272 Herrington Rd, Hillsdale, NY 12529, OR make a donation online at our website, www.columbiaartsteam.org.

To volunteer, or to find out about performing, email us at info@columbiaartsteam.org

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CAT has been supported in part over the years by Berkshire Taconic's Our Town Fund, the Black Rock Foundation, Herrington's Inc., Key Bank, Stewarts, First Niagara Bank, Wal-Mart Foundation, Hillsdale IGA, Mount Washington House, Price Chopper's Golub Foundation, the Hudson River Bank & Trust Foundation, Town of Copake, the Twin Counties Cultural Fund (which is administered by the Columbia and Greene County Councils on the Arts); and many local businesses.

COLUMBIA ARTS TEAM
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