

## YTS 2026 WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### DAN + CLAUDIA ZANES

#### **Haitian Folk Music: Claudia's Favorites (T)**

In this workshop Dan + Claudia will teach some of the Haitian folk songs that Claudia grew up singing with her family. Participants will learn the stories behind the songs, the guitar (or ukulele) chords, basic translations, and pronunciation. It's 2026, time for everyone to add some Kreyol to their songbag!

#### **Community Music: Young People, Sensory Friendly, and a Service Mindset (P)**

In this workshop Dan + Claudia will talk about their experiences performing for people of all-ages - particularly young folks, key aspects of the Sensory Friendly movement, and how keeping a service mindset has helped them find new audiences. And of course there will be singing!

### ERIN FULTON

#### **How to "Bass" a Hymnbook Tune (T)**

This session will teach strategies for developing a vocal bassline against a preexisting melody. It is stylistically rooted in the three-voice "hymnbook" singing practiced in the Ozarks. Please note that seven-syllable solfège terminology (do, re, mi, etc.) will be used in this class.

#### **Why Do Some Folk Music Gatherings Outlive Others? Insights from the Big Singing, Benton, Kentucky (P/D)**

The Big Singing began as a nostalgic gathering of elders who wanted to sing the tunes they had learned in youth. It has tentatively continued from 1884 to the present day. This session will open with an examination of the strategies used by Big Singing caretakers over the years (and comparison to those adopted in analogous events), then broaden into a free discussion of the "lifecycle" of longrunning musical events.

#### **Building a Hymnbook Repertoire Using the Power of Refrain (S)**

To use text-only hymnals, singers not only need to know tunes in multiple hymnodic meters, but to retrieve a tune of the correct meter quickly and accurately. Associating a certain meter with a certain refrain is an easy first step toward developing this skill. The class will teach a small repertoire of refrain-bearing tunes that is sufficient for singing most metrical hymns.

### MACDARA YEATES

#### **The Brown and the Yellow Ale - Folk Song or Literary Invention? (P)**

Macdara will explore the much misunderstood folk song The Brown and the Yellow Ale, detailing its folk origins and its many modern authors, from James Joyce to Luke Kelly.

#### **Townie: Song Collecting and Outreach in Dublin's North Inner City (P)**

Macdara will detail his work in his native north inner-city Dublin, collaborating with schools, retired dockworkers, and local history groups, to uncover lost, unsung ballads, and find ways to reintegrate folk singing in modern communities.

### **Dublin Slang Songs: The Lost Songs of Dublin's Criminal Underworld (P)**

In this workshop, Macdara embarks on a journey to 18<sup>th</sup> century Dublin, to discover songs of gang warfare, public hangings, and one street criminal's rise from the dead.

### **Antiracism Workshops**

#### **Constructive White Conversations: Examining Racial Conditioning (D)**

Led by Dan Zanes

In this workshop Dan will talk about his experiences with Constructive White Conversations, an organization that started in his living room sixteen years ago. He'll tell his story to open up a conversation about race, antiracism, and how self examination can help White people find a greater sense of purpose. The focus will be on White antiracism but all are welcome.

#### **Anti-Racist Book Club (D)**

Are you curious about diverse folk music? Looking for more context about where the tradition we love to sing in comes from? We will review and analyze Les and Stevie Back's: *Black Folk in English Folk* as a group, then spend some time synthesizing, reflecting, and maybe even integrating and planning! What comes up for us? How is what's happening (and has happened) in the UK relevant to *us* in the United States? What can we learn about intentionally continuing our living tradition from our folk tradition cousins across the pond? Come nerd out with us!

#### **Rewording Lyrics to Continue Tradition (T)**

Many beloved songs have one harmful line or word that makes them better suited for a historical study than a song circle. Aside from not singing them at all, what tools do we have to make these songs more inclusive? This workshop will teach strategies for editing bits of songs, from simply removing a verse to using the nuances of word choice and scansion to create a new lyric that flows seamlessly. We will look at examples of altered lyrics, see why they work or don't, and try our hand at finding substitutions for a lyric as a group. Altering lyrics to suit the times is a practice as old as folk music itself - come learn how to join the tradition!

### **Attendee Led Workshops**

#### **Sing and Dance! Country dances done to great songs.**

**Susie Petrov, Jacob Whiting**

Sing AND Dance! American Play Parties

#### **Protest Songs - New and Updated (Susan Galbraith and Laura Waterstripe) - song swap**

A song swap of protest songs, we may spend time prepping for making a No Kings Video in the next session slot.

#### **Let's make a No Kings video! (Jeff Keller et al.)**

Since we're missing today's No Kings rallies, let's show our support by recording ourselves singing a few good protest songs and posting them. Some examples are: Stand Together, Keep on Moving Forward,

and maybe America the Beautiful or Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around, we may sing some current ICE protest songs.

**Singing on T (D) - Lafayette Matthews**

**What Makes a Sea Chantey? Lynn Noel (T)**

Learn how work was done aboard a sailing ship by sharing a selection of working chanteys from Joanna Colcord's Songs of American Sailormen.

**Song Swap - Newer Story Songs (S)**

**Rick Mohr**

**Singing Strategies for Different Spaces- (D) Michael Hotkowski- facilitator**

**Animal Songs (S) - Bethany Comegys (at the Hobby Farm!)**

**Secular Hymns: Songs of Hope, Healing and Community That Don't Rely on Religion (S) (Pamela Goddard & Mike Livingston)**

Share songs of hope, healing and community that don't rely on religion -- atheist, agnostic, or just plain secular songs with an uplifting and reassuring vibe but that don't require faith in a deity or divine influence. A YTS tradition since 2017 started by Lynz Morahn & Cate Clifford, hosted this year by Pamela Goddard & Mike Livingston in their absence.

**Song Swap - Immediately Joinable Songs (S)**

**Rick Mohr**