

## **CAT Presents Two Pre-Songfest Events at Helsinki**

In the lead-up to Hudson Valley Songfest7, the annual music conference and showcase produced by Columbia Arts Team, CAT will present two music-related pre-Songfest events at Helsinki Hudson.

On April 5 at 7pm is "The Songwriters", featuring three veteran songwriters performing their best songs 'in the round', along with insights into their process and journey in the music world. Michael Eck, Liv Cummins and Rob Skane will perform. A cocktail hour begins the evening, followed by the performance at 8pm. The event is a fundraiser for CAT.

On May 11, the evening before Songfest, CAT will present the "Best New Artists" show. Specially chosen, up-and-coming performers will be evaluated by music industry judges, based on originality, songwriting skill, and performance. The artists chosen as Best New Artist will perform the following night as the opening act for Helsinki's featured performer. Musicians can apply for a showcase slot on <http://sonicbids.com/HudsonValleySongfest7>

Hudson Valley Songfest at Club Helsinki, held May 12, consists of panels and seminars with music industry pros discussing the nature of the business, as well as creative issues. Also featured are showcase performances by new and up-and-coming songwriters and performers, and a lunchtime performance by established hit songwriters. Attendees can learn more about the specifics of

Songfest by going to the CAT website, [www.columbiaartsteam.org](http://www.columbiaartsteam.org) or [www.catevents.org](http://www.catevents.org).

Sponsors of "The Songwriters" and "Best New Artist" include The Ungar Foundation and Helsinki Hudson. These events are made possible (in part) with public funds from the Decentralization Program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered through the Community Arts Grants Program by the Greene County Council on the Arts in partnership with the Columbia County Council on the Arts.

Columbia Arts Team is a 501c3 not-for-profit performing arts company that presents original, live music, theater, comedy, and variety shows all season, showcasing new work by the best local talent, in addition to youth programming. For more information on CAT's other 2012 events, go to [www.columbiaartsteam.org](http://www.columbiaartsteam.org).

April 5 and May 11 events are \$20 per ticket, and are tax-deductible contributions to CAT. Musicians are admitted free after 8pm.

Tickets and information can be found at [www.columbiaartsteam.org](http://www.columbiaartsteam.org) .