

# CALL FOR SONGWriters

## **A special event for a “Virtual” CT Trails Day The Great East Thompson Train Wreck Songwriting Competition Sponsored by the Thompson Trails Committee & Thompson Historical Society**

Seeking acoustic singer-songwriters to compose and perform a contemporary folk song telling the story of the **Great East Thompson Train Wreck**, and its present-day connection to the **Air Line Trail State Park**.

**The Great East Thompson Train Wreck** was a large rail disaster which occurred in Thompson, Connecticut, on December 4, 1891. It was one of the most extensive train wrecks in American history, and the only one to involve four trains. It happened on the New York and New England Railroad, which provided a shortcut from New York City to Boston by making a diagonal across Connecticut. The site of the wreck is now a part of the Air Line Trail State Park, which extends in Connecticut from its Northernmost point in Thompson to its Southernmost terminus in Portland. For more information about the wreck, we encourage you to contact the Thompson Historical Society at [thompsonhistorical.org](http://thompsonhistorical.org)

**This call is open to singer-songwriters of any musical genre.** In order to maintain appropriate social distancing, submissions are limited to solo artists or performing ensembles that share a household. Applicants are asked to submit a self-produced video recording of one original song, which must incorporate some aspect of the Great East Thompson Train Wreck as its main theme. This can be a very simple video recording from a mobile phone or other device.

**Applicants are encouraged to record their submission on the site of the wreck**, located on the Air Line State Park Trail in Thompson CT. Those wishing to do so should email [planner@thompsonct.org](mailto:planner@thompsonct.org), in order to schedule a time slot. That will help us avoid crowding at the site while social distancing protocols remain in effect.

For a map of the Air Line State Park Trail in Thompson, visit: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/stateparks/maps/AirLineTrailNorthThompsonpdf.pdf?la=en>

**The submission period will be open from Monday 4 May – Friday 29 May. Submissions will be compiled and posted for the public to vote for their favorite starting on Connecticut Trails Day 2020 (Saturday 6 June 2020) with voting open through 26 June. The winner will be announced on 30 June.**

**The award for the winning musician will be a professional studio recording and video of their winning song**, funded by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program. The Town of Thompson and Thompson Historical Society will retain the right to use both recordings in any of their promotional media for the Air Line State Park Trail, The Great East Thompson Train Wreck Park, The Ramsdell Collection of the Thompson Historical Society, or any other promotional uses. No restrictions are placed on the use by the artist, beyond the release of the song for free use by the sponsoring organizations. There is no cash award for this competition. **The provided recording and/or video will be the only compensation offered.**

**To Apply:**

1. Copy, paste and complete the **entry form** in an email to:  
**planner@thompsonct.org**
2. Make sure to include on **the subject line** "Songs for the Train Wreck"
3. Attach a zipped **file of the original video**

**Deadline:**

Submission deadline is Friday May 29 2020

**Performer ENTRY FORM  
Songs for the Train Wreck  
DEADLINE: Friday, May 29 2020**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Website \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Link to video: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT**

- The winner will be selected by popular vote. In the event of a tie, members of the Thompson Historical Society and the Thompson Trails Committee will act as the tie-breakers.
- By submitting your entry you give the Town Of Thompson, Thompson Historical Society, and CT DEEP the right to publish your images for publicity purposes. (All credits to artist will be included).
  - We may ask select artists to provide high resolution publicity photos (jpegs) suitable for publishing, for use in online/print promotions for the event
- Select artists may be highlighted on the Town of Thompson, Thompson Historical Society, and/or CT DEEP website.

**For More information about the history of the wreck, and the Air Line State Park Trail:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_East\\_Thompson\\_Train\\_Wreck](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_East_Thompson_Train_Wreck)

<https://thompsonhistorical.org/>

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/State-Parks/Parks/Air-Line-State-Park-Trail>

**If you have questions, please email [planner@thompsonct.org](mailto:planner@thompsonct.org)**