

Blackstone River Theatre



Solstice Festival

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2004 Past Schedule

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Partial programming support provided by the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission

JANUARY

Saturday, January 10, 8 PM, \$12.00

Atwater-Donnelly

Aubrey Atwater and **Elwood Donnelly** return to present an enthralling concert of traditional American and Celtic American folk songs, a cappella pieces, hymns, dance tunes, and original works. Elwood and Aubrey blend unusual harmonies and play guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, Irish tin whistle, harmonica, banjo, bones, spoons and other musical surprises. Their performance is appealing to all ages, and with humor, audience participation, and a highly relaxed stage presence, Aubrey and Elwood explain song origins to give more relevance to the material. Aubrey and Elwood met as volunteers at the Stone Soup Coffeehouse in Providence and formed a duo in the fall of 1987. They perform widely in the Northeast and other parts of the United States and Great Britain and their recordings receive international airplay. Atwater and Donnelly have performed and researched folk music extensively in New England, Ireland, England, Prince Edward Island, the Ozarks, and Appalachia. They recently released a new recording called "And Then I'm Going Home: Atwater-Donnelly Live," which was recorded at the Blackstone River Theatre and other R.I. coffeehouses in 2000.

Sunday, January 11, 2-5 PM, \$6.00

Irish Ceili and Set Dance

Partial support provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional and contemporary Irish dance music as **Laura Travis**, host of WRIU'S "In the Celtic Realm," teaches Irish ceili dances from 2-3 PM for those new to the tradition or for complete beginners. From 3-5 PM there will be continuous dancing without instruction. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Tony Gutierrez** on fiddle, **Josh Kane** on whistle and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... no partners are necessary. Learn by doing, dance on our beautiful dance floor, or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Saturday, January 17, 11 AM, \$4 kids/\$6 adults

Rosalita's Puppets "Winter Wonderland"

Ideal for families with children ages four-and-up. It's a brand New Year in the Winter Wonderland, and everyone is cleaning up from the holiday season and getting ready to go on a well-deserved vacation to a tropical island. But all is not well in Wonderland because the Evil Elf has returned and is ready to ruin everything! Will Rudolph the red-nosed Dragon save the day? Will the magical unicorn carry Mr. & Mrs. Claus into the sunset to safety or will the Evil Elf finally destroy all things that are wonderful once and for all? Rosalita's Puppets will present this new show (re-scheduled from the December 6 snow storm and adapted for the New Year) which includes many of your favourite puppet characters plus several new ones like Mrs. Claus, two wolves, and an

enchanted apple pie. Expect plenty of songs and audience participation featuring English puppeteer **Charlotte Dore** and her beautifully hand-crafted marionettes.

Saturday, January 17, 8 PM, \$10.00

Phønix - Folk Music from Denmark

Phønix, embarking on their first U.S. tour, recently won awards for both the best Danish Folk Vocalist and Folk Composer of 2003. Their music, very accessible to audiences that like Celtic music, is intense and enthusiastic with unique instrumentation and songs taken from the great Scandinavian folk tradition. Featured in the December issues of Sing Out! and Global Rhythm, Phønix (pronounced "foon-nicks") is comprised of **Anja Praest Mikkelsen** on bass clarinet, **Jesper Vinther** on accordion, singer **Karen Mose** and percussionist **Jesper Falch**. Phønix is now a well-established band in the Danish folk music scene and the band's respect for tradition is balanced and challenged by a drive for originality. With unique instrumentation, new tunes, and texts taken from Scandinavian folk tradition, Phønix rejuvenates and furthers the Danish folk music tradition. We hope you'll come out and take a chance on something new... in the words of one of their members: "Danish music is easy to listen because the sound of Danish folk music is very bright," Anja says. "It has a great swing. You get happy by listening to Danish folk music and there are also very beautiful tunes, like what you find in Irish music,... the jigs, and your feet can't stand still."

Saturday, January 24, 8 PM, \$10.00

Windharp

Windharp is an eclectic group performing traditional and contemporary Celtic music on guitars, harp, mandolin, flute, whistles and bodhran. They also frequently set aside their instruments to present soul-stirring, four-part a cappella renditions of Celtic songs. Windharp is comprised of **John Bean, Cathy Jacques, Bob Coletta, and Katy Roth**.

Sunday, January 25, 2-5 PM, \$6.00

French Canadian Quadrille

Partial support provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Our monthly French Canadian quadrilles continue with **Side By Each** featuring **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, mandolin and banjo, **Marianne Valentin** on guitar and vocals, **Carol Flaxington** on vocals/spoons, **Edith Farias** on piano, **Ken Lyon** on bass and vocals, and caller **Bob Livingston**.

Saturday, January 31, 8 PM, \$15.00

The Robbie O'Connell Band Opening set by Matt and Shannon Heaton

The Robbie O'Connell Band features the virtuoso musicianship of **George Keith's** fiddle and concertina and **Shannon Heaton's** flute in combination with Robbie's tasteful guitar playing and distinctive singing voice. **Robbie O'Connell** has earned international acclaim as a singer-songwriter by making it quite clear that there's more to being Irish than filling stereotypes. Through his music, he continues to bring an inspired new vision and new voice of Ireland to American audiences. Having played for years with the Clancy Brothers including the recording of three albums, with his 1982 solo album, "Close to the Bone," Robbie emerged as an artist of major stature. Soon after, he began touring extensively with Mick Moloney and Jimmy Keane, and also with Eileen Ivers and Seamus Egan in the Green Fields of America. In 1985, the trio's first album, "There Were Roses," was released. In 1987, the trio followed up their very successful first release with the album, "Kilkelly," the title track of which was voted "Best Album Track of the Year" in Ireland. Robbie has taught songwriting at the Augusta Heritage Arts Workshop in Elkins, West Virginia, and at Gaelic Roots Week at Boston College. In 1991, he won a Boston Music Award as "Outstanding Celtic Act" and was also featured in the highly acclaimed TV series "Bringing It All Back Home."

FEBRUARY

BOHOLA'S SHOW IS POSTPONED DUE TO DEATH IN BAND MEMBER'S FAMILY

Saturday, February 7, 8 PM, \$14.00

bohola

Don't miss the return of this amazing group of musicians - their 2001 concert was one of the year's best! Irish music's accordion virtuoso **Jimmy Keane** (All Ireland

accordion champion for five consecutive years) along with fiddler extraordinaire **Sean Cleland**, remarkable vocalist/dordan player **Pat Broaders**, and new member, vocalist **Kat Eggleston** comprise bohola, Irish music's newest "supergroup" as penned by The Irish Herald. bohola plays a driving, muscular and yet very emotive style of Irish music with deep roots in the 'pure drop' tradition, which has been forged with the raw and gritty urbanized musical vernacular of the Irish-American experience. bohola's debut album on Shanachie Records is championed by the Irish Voice as "one of the most impressive debut recordings ever by an Irish traditional music group." The Courier News added, "Though most of the tunes bohola plays are well over 150 years old, the music comes across more vibrant than the moribund sounds of much of today's alternative rock. Their sound comes from the Irish version of jam sessions, but bohola puts the noodling of many current jam bands to shame." The Irish Echo captured the essence of bohola when it reviewed their self-titled release on Shanachie Records. "The sum here is greater than the parts, and egos are subordinate to both execution and effect. With essentially just box, fiddle, bouzouki, and voice, bohola have crafted an album of intricate, nearly invisible latticework, relying not on gimmickry but on imagination and vision. What a welcome concept: muse imbuing music."

Sunday, February 8, 2-5 PM, \$6.00

Irish Ceili and Set Dance

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The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional and contemporary Irish dance music as **Laura Travis**, host of WRIU'S "In the Celtic Realm," teaches Irish ceili dances from 2-3 PM for those new to the tradition or for complete beginners. From 3-5 PM there will be continuous dancing without instruction. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Tony Gutierrez** on fiddle, **Josh Kane** on whistle and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... no partners are necessary. Learn by doing, dance on our beautiful dance floor, or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Friday, February 13, 8 PM, \$12.00

Jez Lowe and the Bad Pennies

Jez Lowe is a remarkable songwriter using wit, sensitivity and keen perception to paint colorful portraits of ordinary people with ordinary lives who may be specific to Northeast England, but through Jez's eyes and verse become universal characters. Jez returns to BRT with the Bad Pennies - **Kate Bramley** on fiddle and whistle, **Simon Haworth** on double bass/keyboards, and **Andy May** on Northumbrian smallpipes, Irish Uilleann Pipes and whistles. Jez's recording, "The Honesty Box," was released in 2002 and was included in BBC Radio Two's album chart of best-selling CDs of 2002 - no mean feat as theirs was the only album included that did not have major UK distribution. By the time Jez recorded his first solo album in 1980, he'd already spent almost a decade playing and absorbing the traditional music of his native North East England, an area rich in working-class values, with a wealth of songs and music unique to that windswept corner of the British Isles. This was to be the substance from which he would create a body of work that would make him one of the most popular and enduring of the many singer songwriters to emerge from Britain in the last 20 years. With 14 full length recordings to his credit, numerous tracks on compilation projects, three songbooks and a consistently full international touring calendar, Jez has proven himself as one of the busiest and most respected performers on the international folk scene. Don't miss one of the world's finest songwriters in an intimate Valentine's weekend performance!

Saturday, February 21, 11 AM, \$4 kids/\$6 adults

Keith Munslow - Children's Show

Ideal for families with children ages 5-12, **Keith Munslow** returns with a 45-minute show of original songs, way-cool stories, tongue-tangling poems and quick-as-a-wink cartoons. Keith's guitar or piano playing, skillful cartoon drawing, and quick wit combine for an upbeat, positive experience with plenty of chances for audience participation. It's a fast-paced ride so hang on and don't blink - you might miss something! Multi-talented performer Keith Munslow has entertained thousands of children at shows throughout New England and beyond for 14 years. Keith can often be seen in a hilarious duo show with storyteller Bill Harley, and also with Big Nazo, an award-winning mask and puppet touring company. As the in-house composer for Perishable Theatre's Shows for Young Audiences, Keith created the music for The Potion, Eco-Spy, and Invasion of the Homogenoids. Keith's work as an illustrator has

appeared in the Providence Phoenix, Quix Art Quarterly and The Nicepaper as well as in numerous gallery exhibitions. Lots of fun for adults too!

Saturday, February 21, 8 PM, \$10.00

The Laura Cortese Band

A rising star, Boston's **Laura Cortese** boasts an energetic performance of driving fiddle, vocals, and step dance with an original blend of Celtic music and contemporary influence. Laura graduated in 2001 from Boston's Berklee College of Music, where she studied fiddle. As a teenager, she spent a few years in the Scottish fiddle club scene before developing a truly driving Scottish fiddle style all her own, winning a number of fiddle competitions and being named the 1998 New England regional Scottish Fiddle Champion. Through her involvement in Boston's varied traditional music scenes, Laura's music has been influenced by Irish & American traditional music, jazz, pop & more. She is also increasingly being recognized as an inspiring vocalist who combines a respect and depth of knowledge of traditional folk ballads with a thoroughly modern delivery. Laura is also a great step dancer, performing regularly with Maryland's Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble. Laura has recently returned from touring with Boston band Halali, which features Laura and two other stellar fiddlers Lissa Schneckenburger and Hanneke Cassel, with guitar accompaniment by Flynn Cohen.

Sunday, February 22, 2-5 PM, \$6.00

French Canadian Quadrille

Partial support provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Our monthly French Canadian quadrilles continue with **Side By Each** featuring **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, mandolin and banjo, **Marianne Valentin** on guitar and vocals, **Carol Flaxington** on vocals/spoons, **Edith Farias** on piano, **Ken Lyon** on bass and vocals, and caller **Bob Livingston**.

Saturday, February 28, 8 PM, \$10.00

Bill Petterson/Kerri Powers

This split concert promises to be a great night of acoustic blues, roots and Americana music. Described as having the voice of a "fuel injected angel," **Kerri Powers** is fast becoming one of the most compelling figures on today's acoustic music scene. Akin to the artistry of Shelby Lucinda Williams, Rosanne Cash, and Bonnie Raitt, Powers' song-craft encompasses Americana, alternative country-rock, soul, blues, and classic country. The organic atmosphere of her acclaimed CD, "You Me And A Redhead" is reflective and bittersweet, revealing and honest. In concert, Kerri's emotionally charged music brings the energy of rock, the cathartic power of blues and the constant surprises of country into the acoustic realm. Kerri has been chosen as a finalist in this year's 32nd Annual Kerrville Music Festival. She is joined tonight by **Steve Sadler** on dobro and mandolin.

For the past 20 years, **Bill Petterson** has traveled from California to Canada to Texas and the East Coast sharing the stage with such artists as Livingston Taylor, Harry Chapin, Emmylou Harris, Jonathan Edwards and even comedian Jeff Foxworthy. Petterson's first CD, "This Guy Walks Into a Bar," followed by "Angell Road," and his great new solo CD, "Parts and Labor" have consistently brought him critical acclaim. "He can turn the heartfelt phrase without being hokey, and makes crystalline melodies come to life with tasteful arrangements," said Michael Caito of The Providence Phoenix. "Definitely one of the truest voices in contemporary folk, Bill's songs are alternately tender and tough with a strong R&B influence," noted Jody Heck, Tryworks Coffeehouse, New Bedford, MA. The past six months in the witness protection program (actually, he just decided to finally stop playing out at bars) has given Bill time to focus on some new tunes and also begin writing his first book. A not-to-be-missed evening of music featuring two of the region's top acoustic songwriters and performers.

MARCH

Friday, March 5, 8 PM, \$12.00

The Angel Band

The Angel Band features the works of Ireland's national composer, Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738), and is recognized as a leading proponent of O'Carolan's music. In addition, the seven-piece Angel Band delights in performing traditional jigs, reels, airs, and hornpipes from Ireland, Scotland, Brittany and other Celtic regions of Europe. The group also offers the spoken word in the poetry of W.B. Yeats and others as well as

stories and anecdotes concerning the legends surrounding the life of O'Carolan. During his lifetime, this sightless harper created hundreds of melodies, over 200 of which have been preserved. From New Hampshire, this ensemble of accomplished musicians includes: Celtic Harp, **Mary Paul**; Violin, **Cathryn Norris**; Mandolin, **Mark Rockwood**; Banjo, **Bob Frost**; Hammered Dulcimer, **Bob Paul**; Concertina, Bodhran, **Emery Hutchins**; and Guitar, **David Behm**. The Angel Band's new CD, "Come Under My Protection" follows "Instrumental Music in the Celtic Tradition," and their debut, "County Meath: an O'Carolan Sojourn." A great night of Irish music and poetry!

Saturday, March 6, 8 PM, \$15.00

Eire Japan featuring Paddy Keenan and Frankie Gavin

Do not miss this electrifying group featuring **Paddy Keenan** (awarded 2002 Irish National Traditional Musician) on Uilleann Pipes and low whistles; **Frankie Gavin** on fiddle, flute, and whistle; and **Junji Shiota** on guitar, tenor banjo, 5 string banjo, and vocals. Tonight, two Irish legends join a Japanese icon to form one of the most exciting Celtic ensembles to hit the concert circuit in years! When the driving forces of two of the most illustrious groups in the history of traditional Irish music, The Bothy Band and De Danann (Keenan & Gavin respectively) get together, buttressed by the brilliant guitar of Shiota, batten down the hatches for some of the most exciting music you'll ever hear. Keenan is a legendary Celtic musician who has been referred to as "the Jimi Hendrix of the pipes," and "the King of the pipers." A master of the uilleann pipes (the Irish bagpipes), Paddy specializes in a wild, fluid style that is completely his own, never playing a tune the same way twice. At the age of 17, Frankie placed first in the All Ireland Fiddle Competition and in the All Ireland Flute Competition, both on the same day! Gavin's fiddle playing is technically complex, unabashedly brilliant, and has a pronounced, driving swing which harks back to the sound of the 1920s. The teaming up of these three amazing musicians, who come along once in a lifetime, is nothing short of miraculous. Not only are they producing some the most exciting sounds heard in the Irish world in years, but they can also launch into truly amazing bluegrass or jazz and then throw in a few Japanese traditional songs as well. For more info, visit www.paddykeenan.com, www.frankiegavin.com and Junji's site at <http://pweb.jps.net/~jgilder/junji.html>

Friday, March 12, 8 PM, \$12.00

Beolach - Cape Breton Music

ECMA 2003 nominee Roots traditional group of the year

Beolach is a Gaelic word meaning lively youth. Beolach is also one of Cape Breton's most exciting new young bands. The group performs an energetic mix of Cape Breton, Scottish, and Irish tunes featuring piano, pipes, whistles, guitar, and two fiddles. Beolach began at an impromptu session at the Celtic Colours Festival in 1998, and after a strong initial response has gone on to play many festivals in North America and Europe. The group recorded their self titled debut album in 2001 featuring original compositions as well as the group's dynamic arrangements of their favorite traditional tunes. Beolach thrills audiences with energetic performances, witty presentation, and their versatility as step dancers. Cape Breton tunes are removed from their usual fiddle/piano context and presented with the energy of a young five piece band. Although presenting these tunes in a contemporary style, Beolach maintains a respect and understanding of Cape Breton music. Beolach is: **Wendy MacIsaac** on Fiddle, **Mairi Rankin** on Fiddle, **Ryan MacNeil** on Pipes and whistles, **Patrick Gillis** on Guitar and **Mac Morin** on Piano.

Sunday, March 14, 7 PM, \$15.00

Pendragon with step dancers Kevin Doyle and Jen McCormack

New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Having celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2003, Pendragon has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. Pendragon's music celebrates the lives and lore of generations of New Englanders who brought traditions from Ireland, Scotland, French Canada and other distant shores to the banks of the Blackstone River. While drawing on the ethnic music of the Blackstone River Valley, Pendragon fashions the music of tradition into the music of tomorrow. The band composes and performs their original songs and dance tunes on an innovative combination of bouzouki, concertina, banjo, guitar, whistle, fiddle, flute, bass and percussion. In performance, Pendragon elaborates on the cultural and historical context of the music while projecting a relaxed and humorous stage presence that comes from two decades of performance together. Pendragon is comprised of **Bob Drouin** on bouzouki, fiddle and tenor banjo; **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertinas; **Josh Kane** on flute and whistles; **Ken Lyon** on vocals, guitar

and bass; **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals and step dancer and percussionist **Kevin Doyle**, a U.S. champion dancer who has performed throughout the New England area for over 30 years.

Saturday, March 20, 8 PM, \$12.00

Paul Geremia/Martin Grosswendt

Double CD release concert!

For over 30 years, Rhode Island native **Paul Geremia** has been surviving solely by the fruit of his musical labors. ACOUSTIC GUITAR magazine calls Geremia, "One of the best country blues finger-pickers ever!" Blues Review has described Paul Geremia as "the guitarist's guitarist" because of his incredible mastery of both the 12- and 6-string guitar. Live, Geremia is a riveting performer, offering audiences not only some fantastic interpretations of older acoustic blues songs and original material, but also providing a great deal of information and insight to the music that he plays. Paul is also an accomplished harmonica player and has a distinctive voice which is instantly recognizable. **Tonight, Paul will be releasing his new CD on Red House Records "Love, Murder and Mosquitoes."**

Audiences may recognize **Martin Grosswendt** from his playing with the Cajun group Magnolia. At home in folk, blues and country, he is a master of the guitar, mandolin and banjo and in recent years has added the fiddle. He's also an earthy singer of country blues and old timey songs and will be teaching at the Old-Time Music Camp North in Groton, MA this spring and WUMB's Summer Acoustic Music Week in NH this July. **Tonight, Martin will be releasing his first solo recording in 24 years entitled "Call and Response,"** featuring solo performances of songs from the Golden Age of blues, the late 1920s and '30s. While his name is not a household word, amongst musicians and fans of country, blues and folk, Martin is sort of an underground legend. And, oh yeah, Paul and Martin are old friends so audiences should expect to hear a few collaborative pieces too!

Sunday, March 21, 2-5 PM, \$6.00

Irish Ceili and Set Dance

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The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional and contemporary Irish dance music as **Laura Travis**, host of WRIU'S "In the Celtic Realm," teaches Irish ceili dances from 2-3 p.m. for those new to the tradition or for complete beginners. From 3-5 p.m. there will be continuous dancing without instruction. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Tony Gutierrez** on fiddle, **Josh Kane** on whistle and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... no partners are necessary. Learn by doing, dance on our beautiful dance floor, or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Saturday, March 27, 8 PM, \$12.00

Chanterelle featuring Josee Vachon

Chanterelle brings audiences into the heart of New England's warm, lively French culture. Distinctively beautiful voices, virtuoso French fiddling and trademark trio harmonies are hallmarks of Chanterelle performances, taking the listener on an unforgettable journey from Québec to Cajun Country. Invoking their culture in music, story and song, singer **Josée Vachon**, fiddler **Donna Hebert** and guitarist **Liza Constable**, joined by **Alan Bradbury** on accordion and bass, make the audience part of the soirée. Laughter and music will ring together as hands and feet keep time with the music! Born in Quebec and raised in Maine, BRT favorite Josée Vachon loves to share her Franco-American culture through traditional folksongs from Quebec and Acadie featuring her warm voice, guitar, and unrelenting foot percussion. Josée moved away from New England last year so we hope you will come out and catch one of her increasingly rare local performances!

Sunday, March 28, 2-5 PM, \$6.00

French Canadian Quadrille

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Our monthly French Canadian quadrilles continue with **Side By Each** featuring **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, mandolin and banjo, **Marianne Valentin** on guitar and vocals, **Carol Flaxington** on vocals/spoons, **Edith Farias** on piano, **Ken Lyon** on bass and vocals, and caller **Bob Livingston**.

APRIL

Saturday, April 3, 8 PM, \$12.00

Cillian and Niall Vallely

Niall and Cillian Vallely are brothers who have not only inherited a prestigious musical heritage from their family, but have established interesting reputations for themselves. Recording together for the first time as a duo, "Callan Bridge" brings the brother's piping and concertina playing to a selection of original instrumental tunes, as well as a number of "lost" tunes. The boys grew up in Armagh, learning music from their parents Brian and Eithne Vallely, founders of the Armagh Pipers' Club. Niall earned a degree in music in Cork, where he formed the band Nomos in 1990. In addition to his own projects he also tours extensively with life-partner Karan Casey. Cillian has been active among traditional music circles in New York City, and is a member Lunasa, as well as having been involved with Whirligig. Both brothers also have an impressive history of collaboration with leading Celtic artists as guest players. They are joined tonight by multi-instrumentalist **Paul Meehan** for what promises to be a high-energy night of traditional Irish music.

Friday, April 9, 8 PM, \$12.00

Joyce Andersen/David Francey

We are excited to bring back the wonderful fiddler/singer **Joyce Andersen** and pair her with acclaimed Canadian singer-songwriter **David Francey** in his first Rhode Island appearance. With Andersen's clear and powerful voice and brilliant fiddle work always in the forefront, her second solo CD "Right Where I Should Be" shines the spotlight on Joyce as a songwriter and guitar player while her thoughtful and inspiring songs, memorable phrases and uncanny gift for melody mark her as a major new talent in the acoustic scene. While BRT fans know her best for her duo shows with Harvey Reid, Joyce has also played and recorded with The McKrells, John Lincoln Wright, Marshall Crenshaw, and the Childsplay Fiddle Orchestra.

Folk singer **David Francey** is a storyteller who establishes a personal rapport with his audience in minutes. His wry humor and astute observations combined with his openhearted singing style have earned him a loyal following across Canada and now into the US. Francey seemed to come out of nowhere when he released "Torn Screen Door" in 1999. Although the album was hailed by critics everywhere, good old-fashioned word-of-mouth has made Francey one of the most exciting traditional folksingers around. "Far End of Summer" picked up where "Torn Screen Door" left off and received a JUNO Award in the Best Roots and Traditional Album solo category. "Francey has made a reputation for himself as one of Canada's most revered folk poets and singers... His songs are small and beautifully crafted pieces of work that have made Francey both a folk festival favourite and something of a latter-day Canadian poet laureate." says The Toronto Star. He recently released his third CD, "Skating Rink."

Friday, April 16, 8 PM, \$12.00

The Jennifer Roland Band

Jennifer Roland is one of the next rising Celtic fiddle stars on the vibrant Cape Breton, Nova Scotia music scene. A remarkably talented 25-year-old fiddler in the unique Cape Breton style, Jennifer is also a spectacular Cape Breton step dancer, occasionally doing both at the same time. Whether it's her heartfelt fiddling, her show-stopping step dancing, or her natural charm, Jennifer is gaining legions of fans across Europe and the U.S. This show marks her 4th Rhode Island appearance at BRT; she will be joined by a pianist and a guitarist. Since the release of her 1997 debut recording "Dedication," Jennifer has impressed audiences both at home and abroad with her brilliant musical talent and her overwhelming charisma. Her second recording "Wings," represented Jennifer's metamorphosis from a young, raw talent to a seasoned, mature musician. Jennifer not only plays some outstanding fiddle on all the tracks, she wrote a dozen of the tunes, and uses her own step dancing to add some punch to the music. Most of Roland's music consists of traditional Cape Breton tunes. These are descendants of Scottish tunes the original settlers of Cape Breton brought with them when they emigrated from the Highlands and Hebrides Islands in the late 1700s and early 1800s. These are mainly Scottish dance tunes: jigs, strathspeys, and reels.

Saturday, April 17, 11 AM, \$4 kids/\$6 adults

Aubrey Atwater - Traditional Music for Children

Saturday, April 17, 8 PM, \$10.00

Willson & McKee

A Colorado native, **Kim McKee** has won numerous awards, including 3-time Colorado Dulcimer Champion, first place at the National Dulcimer Championships in 2002 and many other dulcimer awards. She was also the 1st AND 2nd place winner of the Milwaukee Irish Festival's songwriting competition, in 2003. This prestigious event is the largest Irish Festival IN THE WORLD! **Ken Willson** has honed his skills on international stages through decades of performance as a singer and guitarist. A Willson & McKee performance is not really a performance, but a two-way journey between past and present - between audience and artists.

Sunday, April 18, 2-5 PM, \$6.00

Irish Ceili and Set Dance

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Friday, April 23, 8 PM, \$12.00

Tempest - Celtic Rock

Since forming in 1988, Tempest has delivered a hybrid of high-energy folk rock fusing Irish reels, Scottish ballads, Norwegian influences and other world music elements. The last 15 years have seen the San Francisco Bay Area-based act release 10 critically acclaimed CDs and play more than 1,600 gigs. Tempest has also enjoyed an evolving line-up that's enabled its musicianship and creativity to rise with each new member - something highlighted by the group's current roster. Recognized as a driving force in the modern folk-rock movement, the band is renowned for its dynamic and electrifying concerts. Tempest's members hail from five countries across three continents: lead vocalist, electric mandolinist and founder **Lief Sorbye** from Oslo, Norway; drummer **Adolfo Lazo** from Havana, Cuba; guitarist **Ronan Carroll** from Dublin, Ireland; bassist **Ariane Cap** from Innsbruck, Austria; and fiddler **Michael Mullen** from Fresno, California. As the group's original fiddler, longtime fans cheered the news of Mullen's return to the fold. Tempest's latest CD, "Shapeshifter" showcases diverse traditional material from across England, Scotland, Ireland, America and Norway, in addition to inventive, original material. Tempest is regularly featured at prestigious festivals including The Philadelphia Folk Festival, Denmark's Skagen Festival, Britain's Cropredy Festival and The Winnipeg Folk Festival.

Saturday, April 24, 7-11 PM

Fusionworks Dance Company Fund-raiser

This Fusion Blues Party will include a company presentation, soul food and the R&B sounds of RI's own Powerhouse. Call 401-334-3091 for more information/reservations.

Sunday, April 25, 2-5 PM, \$6.00

French Canadian Quadrille

Partial support provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

Our last French Canadian quadrille of the season with **Fleur-de-lis** features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, mandolin and banjo, **Colette Fournier** on fiddle and vocals, **Jim Chapin** on vocals/guitar, **Edith Farias** on piano, **Ken Lyon** on bass and vocals, and caller **Bob Livingston**.

MAY

Saturday, May 1, 1:30 and 3 PM

Blackstone River Theatre will be a featured site as part of the "There's No Place Like Home" state-wide tour in Rhode Island on May 1. BRT will host two tours, at 1:30 PM and 3 PM. For ticket information, visit visitrhodeisland.com/tourri or call 401-724-2200.

Saturday, May 1, 8 PM, \$10.00

Cajun Dance with Magnolia

Includes a half hour of dance instruction at 7:30 PM. Known throughout New England for their irresistible Cajun two-steps and sensuous waltzes with French lyrics, Magnolia is sure to make you feel welcomed whether you are an experienced dancer or have always wanted to learn. Magnolia is dedicated to exploring the roots of Cajun Music; its members have spent much time in Louisiana playing with traditional musicians and working to expand the band's repertoire and style. And true to the tradition, Magnolia's seven members create a party wherever they perform!

May 3, 5, 10, 12, 6-9 PM

Blackstone River Theatre will be hosting a new initiative of the Cumberland Police Dept. on May 3, 5, 10 and 12, 6-9 PM. **This session has already sold out but more are planned.** The Cumberland Police Department has received funding from the Rhode Island Justice Commission, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Act of 2004 to fund a unique self-defense training exclusively for woman. The R.A.D., Rape Aggression Defense System, advocates realistically employable tactics, without the time investment, ceremony or mystical concepts of a martial arts. Applications can be picked up at the Cumberland Police Department, Cumberland Town Hall and the Cumberland Public Library. For more information contact Captain Christine Crocker 333-2500.

May 6, 14, 10 AM

On May 6 and May 14 at 10 AM, Blackstone River Theatre will host professional performers presenting student-written fables and myths by Rhode Island students 1st grade through 12th grade from Flynn Elementary, Nathanael Greene Middle School, The International Charter School, Blackstone Academy, Central Falls High School, The Providence Black Repertory Company Seeds Program, and The Pawtucket CSI Program. Abigail Jefferson, Erminio Pinque with Big Nazo creatures designed by students, and Elizabeth Anne Keiser will perform the words of students as the students are identified in the audience. A facilitation about the value of VOICE and the wisdom of anyone too young to vote will follow the show. Sponsored by RISCA (Rhode Island State Council for the Arts).

Sunday, May 9, 7 PM, \$14.00

Niamh Parsons with Graham Dunne/Andy Irvine with Rens van der Zalm

Niamh (pronounced Neeve) **Parsons** is one of the freshest and most powerful voices of Ireland. Singing traditional or contemporary songs with equal assurance, she is likened to the magical Dolores Keane, as well as June Tabor and Sandy Denny. Niamh has sung with the best Irish bands, from Arcady to The Waterboys, and joined Grammy Award winner Paul Winter for an album and annual summer concert in New York. Hers is a truly remarkable voice; capable of soaring alone, or with accompaniment, it never fails to amaze the listener. An exceptionally gifted guitarist, **Graham Dunne** offers the perfect foil for this voice, playing with mastery and grace. He works as a full time guitarist with Niamh and is featured on "Heart's Desire" which won the 2003 Indie Award in the Celtic/British Isles category.

Through his 35 years of playing with Planxty, Patrick Street, Mozaik and on his own, **Andy Irvine** has maintained his individualism and singular passion for songs and music that stretch the boundaries of traditional music. Whether it be blending Eastern and Western European traditional music together, carrying the immigrant and exile songs of the Irish back to Ireland and around the world, or being a persistent voice of social justice and a reminder of the joys and sorrows throughout our human experience, Andy has always stood apart. He defies classification and categorization other than as a musician strongly rooted in the traditional music of all people. In 2002, Andy drafted his favorite musicians to join him in his "dream band" called Mozaik, reuniting the East Wind Trio of Andy, multi-instrumentalist **Rens van der Zalm** from Holland and Hungary's Nikola Parov, and also including Irish musician Donal Lunny and American old-time fiddler Bruce Molsky.

Saturday, May 15, 8 PM, \$15.00

BRT Spring Sampler Fund-raising Concert

This great night of music will benefit future Blackstone River Theatre programming with all artists donating their time. Come listen to some of the best Rhode Island musicians out there! Featured will be: **Kim Trusty** (solo original music - soulful jazz/blues); **Bill Petterson** (RI singer-songwriter nominated for Prov. Phoenix Best Local Folk Act - country/folk/blues), **Ken Lyon & Justin Lyon** (acoustic blues/folk); members of **Magnolia Cajun Band** (Cajun music); **Eric M. Armour** (Scottish bagpiper); **Marjorie Thompson** (original country/fingerpicking blues) **Dave**

Peloquin and Everett Brown (folk/sea music) with members of **Pendragon** (Celtic music & step dance) as hosts.

Sunday, May 16, 2-5 PM, \$6.00

Irish Ceili and Set Dance

Partial support provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional and contemporary Irish dance music as **Laura Travis**, host of WRIU'S "In the Celtic Realm," teaches Irish ceili dances from 2-3 p.m. for those new to the tradition or for complete beginners. From 3-5 p.m. there will be continuous dancing without instruction. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Tony Gutierrez** on fiddle, **Josh Kane** on whistle and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... no partners are necessary. Learn by doing, dance on our beautiful dance floor, or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Thursday, May 20, 7 PM

John Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission Meeting

Friday, May 21, 8 PM, \$12.00

Iona

IONA's music is a unique, acoustic weave of the traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, the Isle of Man and Galicia (Spain). Blending songs, dance tunes, and airs into a rich and stunning tapestry, their style is outstanding in an arena where these traditions are seldom intertwined. Conceived in 1986, IONA was founded by **Barbara Ryan** and **Bernard Argent**. With piper **Ian Lawther** and bass guitar player **Chuck Lawhorn**, IONA has become the leading Celtic group in the Mid-Atlantic region. They are all seasoned performers and entertainers who involve their audiences with the history and cultural backgrounds of the music. All the members of the band play several instruments, often switching within a piece to achieve their unique sound. They weave tunes from different countries around their songs, pursuing complex rhythms with deft professionalism. Barbara has performed throughout the British Isles and Brittany, at concerts and festivals all over the U.S. with IONA, and has sung for Voice Of America broadcasts, and for the National Geographic Explorer Special. She and Bernard have also gained international recognition as the organizers of the Potomac Celtic Festival.

Sunday, May 23, 2-4 PM

Polish Heritage Event

The American Polish Cultural Exchange Commission will host a Polish Arts and Cultural event covering various cultural aspects of Polish heritage including a small DVD show about the geographpy/landscape of Poland, artifacts and articles of clothing from Polish dancers as well as music and Polish cuisine.

Saturday, May 29, 8 PM, \$10.00

The Ken Lyon Band - Opening set by John Thibodeau

Ken Lyon's name conjures visions of everything from electric roadhouse blues with the Tombstone Blues Band, to acoustic solo and ensemble work, to folk performance with the Celtic band, Pendragon. Lyon's voice ranks among the finest on the American blues-folk scene and his musical history is the stuff of legend including albums for Epic, Columbia, Decca and others. Lincoln, RI resident Lyon is celebrating 43 years of performing music this year; he released "Old School" on Rogue Island Records last year - his first release as a band leader in 13 years. Led by Rhode Island blues legend **Ken Lyon** on vocals and guitar, The Ken Lyon Band also features drummer **Carl Eggert** and **Justin Lyon** on bass and vocals. Mixing country blues, folk, and '50s roots music, The Ken Lyon Band celebrates the tradition of players like Robert Johnson, Brownie McGee, Mississippi John Hurt and John Lee Hooker. Scott Freeman, senior editor at Atlanta Monthly Magazine and author of "Midnight Riders: The Story Of The Allman Brothers Band," wrote that Ken Lyon, "possesses Rhode Island's most authentic blues voice... whiskey-tinged, and as rich as the black Mississippi mud." Now in his early sixties, Ken drives the band with both passionate vocals and masterful guitar.

JUNE

Saturday, June 12, 8 PM, \$10.00

Lisa Moscatiello and Rosie Shipley/Sara Milonovich and Greg Anderson

An exceptional evening featuring two of the hottest new duos around! Dirty Linen has called **Lisa Moscatiello**, lead singer for Whirligig, "one of the finest voices in America today." She has joined with Cape Breton-style fiddler **Rosie Shipley** to record "Well Kept Secrets." Fiddler/singer **Sara Milonovich**, ex of The McKrells, is joined by multi-instrumentalist **Greg Anderson**, founder of Whirligig and member of the Cathie Ryan Band.

Saturday, June 19, 8 PM, \$12.00

North Sea Gas - Music from Scotland

Scotland's North Sea Gas have now been performing for 24 years, from national theatres to oil rigs, folk clubs to open air concerts. Over the years they have played to audiences all over Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, and Canada. Their 12th album "Dark Island" was released in 2002 while 2003 marked the successful completion of their first two U.S. tours. The band is led by founder **Dave Gilfillan** on lead vocals, guitar and banjo, known for his tongue-in-cheek humor. **Ronnie MacDonald** on lead and harmony vocals, guitar and bouzouki is joined by new member **Cameron Gaskell** on fiddle, mandola and vocals. Together they will entertain you with songs, great instrumentals, history and more!

JULY

Closed

AUGUST

Closed

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 10, 8 PM, \$14.00

Advance reservations strongly recommended!

Andy M. Stewart & Gerry O'Beirne

Blackstone River Theatre opens its fall season with one of Celtic music's most gifted singers and arguably the best songwriter in the folk tradition. Andy M. Stewart first drew attention with his work as lead singer for Scottish supergroup Silly Wizard with whom he toured until their break-up in 1988. It was while Andy was in the Wizards that he gained recognition for his interpretations of traditional songs of Scotland and Ireland and also became known as a master of songwriting in the traditional style. Self-penned gems such as "Golden, Golden," "The Queen of Argyll" and "Where are You Tonight, I Wonder?" have become almost instant classics. Andy is equally known for his wicked wit and sterling live performances. Simply put, Stewart is among the finest singers in the Scots/Irish traditional genre, with a voice that "conveys more emotion in one line than most singers do in a lifetime." - Beacon Herald. A native of Co. Clare, Ireland, Gerry O'Beirne is a self-taught master of 6- and 12-string guitar and an inspired singer and songwriter. The producer of Stewart's "Man In The Moon" and "Donegal Rain," O'Beirne has also toured around the globe with Patrick Street, Sharon Shannon, The Waterboys, and Martin Hayes.

Saturday, September 11, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$20.00 day of show

Advance reservations strongly recommended!

The Highwaymen

The original Highwaymen, one of the seminal folk groups of the '60s, have rejoined to play the classic tunes of the '60s revival and their interpretations of popular music since then. Unlike some folk revival groups, The Highwaymen who play today are all the original members of the group that recorded and performed in the 1960s (Steve Butts, Dave Fisher, Steve Trott and Bob Burnett. Chan Daniels passed in 1974; their friend Johann Helton now plays bass). The group appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, the Johnny Carson Show, and released 8 albums. In 1961, their first single, "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," shot to the top of the charts and sold over 3 million copies, followed by "Cotton Fields," which sold over one million. Recent appearances include the PBS special "This Land Is Your Land," and at Milwaukee's Irish Fest as the only not-strictly-Irish group to appear. "The Best of The Highwaymen" CD is part of the Legendary Masters Series released by EMI Records and the band has also produced a

CD of recent concerts entitled "On the Road." Don't miss a rare appearance by one of the '60s most popular folk ensembles!

Thursday, September 16, 6-8 PM, \$5.00

Drum and Dance Circle

Open drum circle for tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices welcome...emphasis on fun! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet. Minimum 10 people needed for event to be held.

Friday, September 17, 8 PM, \$12.00

The Sprigs - Brendan Bulger & Billy Knox

The Sprigs are a two-piece musical group at the head of Chicago's Irish music scene and are rapidly emerging on the national and international music scene. Fusing the traditional music of Ireland with American ballads and the dance tunes of French Canada, Cape Breton, and Normandy, the Sprigs are world-class musicians who are sure to keep your feet tapping from the minute they step on stage. The Sprigs features All Ireland Fiddle Champion Brendan Bulger and guitarist Billy Knox. The Boston Globe has described Brendan Bulger as making "one fiddle sound like two" and being "prodigiously talented." The Irish American News remarked that "Bulger's fiddle playing is perfect... and (try as we might) there is nothing more to say. He is wonderful. Period. Full stop." Bulger's latest CD "Music At The House" with famed melodeon player Marty Fahey was produced by Dennis Cahill. The accompanying guitar style of Billy Knox is quite unique and instantly recognizable. In addition to regularly touring Europe with The Sprigs, Billy Knox has headlined countless venues with traditional music's top performers such as Tommy Peoples, John Williams, Larry Nugent, Jimmy Keane and Marty Fahey.

Saturday, September 18, 8 PM, \$12.00

Paul Geremia and Mary Flower

Acoustic Guitar magazine calls Paul Geremia "One of the best country blues finger-pickers ever!" Paul is a riveting performer, offering not only some fantastic interpretations of older acoustic blues songs and original material, but also providing a great deal of history and insight into the music he plays. His new CD is the critically-acclaimed "Love, Murder and Mosquitoes." For over thirty years, Paul has survived solely by the fruit of his musical labors. Combining his interpretation of the earlier music of people like Blind Lemon Jefferson, Robert Johnson, Blind Willie McTell, and Blind Blake with his original compositions, he has created a style which is very much his own. With his six and twelve-string guitars, harmonica and a husky soulful voice - and with an innate sense of the humor as well as the drama of the music - Geremia keeps traditional blues fresh and alive with his performances. Making her R.I. debut, Mary Flower's career has spanned 30 years. A prize-winning fingerstyle and lap slide guitarist, singer and songwriter with a focus on blues & ragtime, Mary teaches at prestigious guitar camps around the country. She twice placed 3rd in the National Fingerpicking Championship ('01 and '03) and has performed at Merlefest, the King Biscuit Festival & Prairie Home Companion. Acoustic Guitar says, "With her low-register voice and on-the-money guitar work, Flower is one of the best blues-based singer-songwriters working today." Her exceptional new CD is called "Ragtime Gal." "Unassuming blues heroine Mary Flower proves once again that she's one of the nation's premier fingerstyle blues guitarists...her technique is exceptional throughout, and in the end, serves the highest purpose, the music." - All Music Guide to the Blues

Sunday, September 19, 2-5 PM, \$6.00/\$3.00 children

Irish Ceili & set dance with the Alleged Ceili Band

Partial support provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. Laura Travis will be on hand to teach those new to the tradition or for complete beginners as needed. The Band features Bob Drouin on fiddle, Ron Lister on concertina, Chuck Papini on tenor banjo, Jay Gilbert on guitar, Josh Kane on flute and Marianne Kane on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try out our beautiful dance floor or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Saturday, September 25, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults

Marvelous Marvin's "The Magic of Science"

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Recommended for K- through 6th grade. Behold the twirling perpetuals! Marvel at the

eight-foot tall photo collage! Thrill to the billiard-ball spinning sculpture! This funny and exciting 45-minute show, done entirely in rhyme, explains the scientific process, from the art of experimenting to the creation of an invention. With simple experiments that kids can try at home, Marvelous Marivin teaches about air pressure, carbon dioxide and the invention of the wheel while incorporating fun-filled circus tricks. "The Magic of Science" also draws a link between the work of artists and scientists, encouraging persistence and exploration.

Saturday, September 25, 8 PM, \$15.00

Advance reservations strongly recommended!

Pendragon - Celebrating the 4-year anniversary of Blackstone River Theatre's re-opening!

New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Celebrating their 21st anniversary tonight, Pendragon has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. Pendragon's music celebrates the lives and lore of generations of New Englanders who brought traditions from Ireland, Scotland, French Canada and other distant shores to the banks of the Blackstone River. While drawing on the ethnic music of the Blackstone River Valley, Pendragon fashions the music of tradition into the music of tomorrow. The band composes and performs their original songs and dance tunes on an innovative combination of bouzouki, concertina, banjo, guitar, whistle, fiddle, flute, bass and percussion. Pendragon is comprised of Bob Drouin on bouzouki, fiddle and tenor banjo; Russell Gusetti on guitar and concertinas; Josh Kane on flute and whistles; Ken Lyon on vocals, guitar and bass; Mary Lee Partington on vocals and step dancer and percussionist Kevin Doyle, a U.S. champion dancer who has performed throughout the New England area for over 30 years.

September 26 (9AM-12 PM), 27, 28, 29, (6-9 PM)

Blackstone River Theatre will be hosting an ongoing initiative of the Cumberland Police Dept. on September 26-29. This session has already sold out but more are planned so call if interested. The Cumberland Police Department has received funding from the Rhode Island Justice Commission, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Act of 2004 to fund a unique self-defense training exclusively for woman. The R.A.D., Rape Aggression Defense System, advocates realistically employable tactics, without the time investment, ceremony or mystical concepts of martial arts. Applications can be picked up at the Cumberland Police Department, Cumberland Town Hall and the Cumberland Public Library. For more information contact Captain Christine Crocker 333-2500.

Thursday, September 30, 8 PM, \$12.00

Classical Cellist Matt Haimovitz - "Anthem" tour

Inspired by Jimi Hendrix's "Star-Spangled Banner," maverick cellist Matt Haimovitz transforms the listening-room experience and defines a new American classical voice on his 50 state solo cello "Anthem" tour. A former child prodigy, at age 32, cellist Matt Haimovitz has established himself as one of classical music's most adventurous artists, intent on bringing classical music to new listeners. Haimovitz approaches familiar classical pieces with a fresh ear and open mind while also embracing new music and 20th-century pieces. Last year, Haimovitz made headlines playing Bach's "6 Suites for Cello Solo," taking Bach's suites out of the concert hall and performing them in intimate venues across the U.S. and the U.K., (including Blackstone River Theatre.) Born in Israel, Haimovitz has been honored internationally by his colleagues and critics and has been featured in numerous publications. In late 2003, Matt released "Anthem," a tapestry of solo cello works by living American composers, including several new commissions. In addition to performing and recording, Haimovitz is committed to teaching, now heading the cello program at UMASS Amherst. Haimovitz plays a cello built in 1710 by Venitian luthier Matteo Goffriller and will be performing without amplification.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 2, 8 PM, \$12.00

Bretons & Co. - Music of Brittany

Until recently, the authentic traditional music of Brittany, an old Celtic region of Western Europe, was represented in North America by three musicians - Alain Leroux (co-founder of Ad Vielle que Pourra), Gilles Plante, and Hervé Connan. Jean-Louis Cros and Vincent Dhavernas have now joined these musicians, adding new instruments to play the Breton music of today. Concerts feature spectacular dance tunes feature

Breton pipes, bombards, rustic clarinet, recorder, mandocello, fiddle, melodion, percussion and more. Bretons & Co. also specializes in the vocal technique known as singing and response. They never play their music the same way, instead filling it with improvisation and spontaneity. Don't miss their first R.I. appearance! Note: \$2.00 will be taken off admission to this concert for anyone who calls ahead and shows a fully-stamped Passport booklet from today's Great Road Fall Festival Tour in nearby Lincoln, RI.

Sunday, October 3, 7 PM, \$10.00

Siúcra

Siúcra, pronounced "shoo-kruh" means sugar in Irish. Siúcra is also a Boston-based trio featuring Beth Leachman (lead vocals, bodhran), Shannon Heaton (flute, whistles, vocals), and Matt Heaton (guitar, vocals). Tonight, Siúcra will be joined by fiddler Sam Amidon, one of the most prominent young folk musicians in the Northeast known for his eloquent Irish-style fiddle playing, as well as his experimental work in the avant-folk ensemble Assembly. Formed in 1998, Siúcra has developed a thick, sassy sound that blends vocals, powerfully rhythmic guitar and gutsy Irish flute. Acoustic Guitar says, "A five-piece band would be hard-pressed to match the amount of music these three make." The band is riding high on the release of their second CD, "Here Among Strangers". Sing Out called the album "disarmingly infectious... What this group does best is keep things simple and pure." With artful combinations of guitar, bodhran, voices, Irish flute and tin whistle, audiences travel from exuberant highs to intimate lows. The music is couched in Siúcra's easy camaraderie, a natural stage presence rooted in deep friendship and years of experience performing together. Don't miss Siúcra's high-energy BRT debut!

Heritage Arts Studio Classes Begin

(See Classes Link for More Info)

October 5: 6-Week Irish Tin Whistle Workshop for Beginners

October 5: 6-Week Mountain Dulcimer or 5-String Clawhammer Banjo for Beginners

October 5: 6-Week Contradancing Class for Adult & Children Beginners

October 6: 6-Week Beginner Fiddle Class Ages 8-15

October 6: 6-Week Beginner Fiddle Class Age 16+

October 6: 6-Week Fiddle Class - Advanced Beginners

Saturday, October 9, 8 PM, \$12.00

The Hanneke Cassel Band

"Exuberant and rhythmic, somehow both wild and innocent, delivered with captivating melodic clarity and an irresistible playfulness," says The Boston Globe. Such fiddling has brought 25-year old Hanneke Cassel many honors - she is the 1997 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, holds a Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance from Berklee College of Music, and has performed and taught across the U.S., & Europe. Hanneke is joined by Christopher Lewis on guitar and Rushad Eggleston on cello (of the Grammy-nominated group Fiddlers 4). Hanneke, who also plays fiddle for the Cathie Ryan Band, and is a member of Childsplay and Halali, recently released her beautiful new CD, "Some Melodious Sonnet."

Sunday, October 10, 2-5 PM, \$6.00/\$3.00 children

Irish Ceili & set dance with the Alleged Ceili Band

Partial support provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. Laura Travis will be on hand to teach those new to the tradition or for complete beginners as needed. The Band features Bob Drouin on fiddle, Ron Lister on concertina, Chuck Papini on tenor banjo, Jay Gilbert on guitar, Josh Kane on flute and Marianne Kane on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try out our beautiful dance floor or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Saturday, October 16, 8 PM, \$12.00

The Neon Valley Boys

Relive the bluegrass/newgrass magic of the infamous Neon Valley Boys in their only area reunion concert! With original members Michael Bresler on mandolin, Ed Stern on banjo, Jeff Horton on vocals/bass, Karl Dennis on fiddle, and Paul Mellyn on guitar/vocals. Always a fun night of tight harmonies, quick picking and snappy patter.

Thursday, October 21, 6-8 PM, \$5.00

Drum and Dance Circle

Open drum circle for tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices welcome...emphasis on fun! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet. Minimum 10 people needed for event to be held.

Friday, October 22, 8 PM, \$12.00

James Keelaghan & David Francey

We're excited to bring back the great James Keelaghan and pair him with fellow Canadian singer-songwriter David Francey for their first-ever U.S. concert together! They will be joined by multi-instrumentalist Hugh McMillan of the Canadian group Spirit of the West. The night will be presented with all artists on stage performing several series of songs from James' and David's repertoire. Folk music tells the stories of people & places, and James Keelaghan is certainly that kind of storyteller. After 17 years, 8 albums, 3 Juno nominations, and a Juno award (equivalent to Canada's Grammy award), Keelaghan mines his own history with "Then Again," reworking 11 of his best-loved tunes with versions he now shares in concerts. Simply put, Keelaghan is one of the brightest stars on the folk scene today. He'll be joined by the amazing David Francey who put on one of last year's most amazing shows at BRT. David is a storyteller who establishes a personal rapport with his audience in minutes. His wry humor and astute observations combined with his openhearted singing style have earned him a loyal following across Canada and now into the US. Francey seemed to come out of nowhere when he released "Torn Screen Door" in 1999. Although the album was hailed by critics everywhere, good old-fashioned word-of-mouth has made Francey one of the most exciting traditional folksingers around. "Far End of Summer" picked up where "Torn Screen Door" left off and received a JUNO Award in the Best Roots and Traditional Album solo category. He recently released his third acclaimed CD, "Skating Rink." "His songs are beautifully crafted pieces that have made him something of a latter-day Canadian poet laureate." - Toronto Star. If you are a fan of great songwriting and storytelling, you do not want to miss this incredible double bill!

Saturday, October 23, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults

"Allison and the Blackstone" by Marc Levitt and Pendragon

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Recommended for K- through 7th grade. "Allison and the Blackstone" is a 40-minute history of the Blackstone River Valley as seen through the eyes of a young girl. Her musical journey takes listeners back to the time of the Native Americans, through the colonial period, the earlier and later periods of the Industrial Revolution, and into the present. Given a gift by a Nipmuc Indian, Allison moves through the river's history via canoe, canal boat, railroad and bus with many stops along the way. Written and narrated by Marc Levitt, "Allison and the Blackstone" is accompanied by the live music of members of Pendragon. A wonderful story and a great experience for the whole family!

Friday, October 29, 8 PM, \$15.00

Advance reservations strongly recommended!

Mick Moloney, Robbie O'Connell and Dana Lyn

Mick Moloney, making a rare small venue appearance, is truly a legendary figure in Irish music in America. Founder of the group Green Fields of America in the 1970s, he has toured worldwide recording many critically acclaimed CDs. In 1999, he received the national heritage award from the National Endowment for the Arts - the highest official honor a traditional artist can receive in the U.S. Robbie O'Connell has earned international acclaim as a singer-songwriter by making it quite clear that there's more to being Irish than filling stereotypes. A singer-songwriter with over 12 CDs to his credit, Robbie has toured extensively with both the Clancy Brothers and Green Fields of America. Ireland's top music magazine, Hotpress, calls him "a National Treasure." Dana Lyn's fiddle playing has made her one of the rising stars on the New York Irish scene having toured extensively with her own group East Along the Road, Moloney and Susan McKeown.

Saturday, October 30, 8 PM, \$15.00

Advance reservations strongly recommended!

The Duke Robillard Band

Recently awarded the W.C. Handy Award for "Best Guitarist" for the 4th time in five years, Duke Robillard has been called "one of the great players" by the legendary B.B. King. In the 25 years of Handy awards, only Buddy Guy has won more awards in the guitar category (6), and only Albert Collins is tied with Duke for 4 awards for Best Blues guitarist. Since founding Roomful of Blues in 1967, Duke's guitar work has

seamlessly spanned the worlds of jazz, blues and swing. This special concert coincides with the first-ever dual visual art exhibit by Duke (photographs) and his brother Gerry (acrylics) in the BRT Art Gallery. Expect the unexpected as Duke moves from acoustic blues and jazz to full band blues, swing, R&B and rock and roll! A few special guests may also turn up to help make it an extra special evening of music and art!

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 6, 8 PM, \$15.00

Advance reservations strongly recommended!

Kim Trusty - CD Release

Kim Trusty's soulful, original songs will touch you in a positive way as you ride the melodies of her pure alto voice and feel the rhythms of her jazz & roots-rockin' R&B background. Tonight's show will feature Trusty's incredible three and a half octave range as she presents her highly textured blend of jazz, pop, R&B, and improvisation. Join vocalist/guitarist Kim Trusty for the CD release of "Sweet Novena" with Mauricio Zottarelli on drums, Chris Lopes on bass and Chris Pitts on sax. Dirty Linen magazine said of her debut cd, "...This release features the great bluesy voice of Trusty whose sincere lyrics and smoky music are at home in either a coffehouse setting or an old jazz after-hours club." Kim has made an indelible imprint on the music scene, having opened for Paula Cole, Taj Mahal, Koko Taylor, Rick Danko, Richie Havens and many more.

Saturday, November 13, 11 AM, \$6.00 children/\$8.00 adults

Advance reservations strongly recommended!

Bill Harley - Family Show

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 5-and-up. Trying to describe Bill Harley is often as funny as attending one of his concerts. One person will call him a singer/songwriter, another a storyteller. People know Bill from his books, his plays, his concerts, his albums and more. With 25 recordings of songs and stories and five children's books to his credit, Bill's humorous yet meaningful work chronicles the lives of children at school and at home. Since 1984, Bill's been producing recordings for kids and adults that have become staples in the car cassette player and the home entertainment system. Winner of two Grammy Nominations and numerous other national awards including Parent's Choice, ALA (American Library Association), NAPPA (The National Parenting Publications Award) and AFIM (Association for Independent Music), Bill tours nationally as a solo artist as well as with his band, the Troublemakers. Armed with his guitar, songs, stories and slightly off-center mind, Bill is the kind of performer you just have to see in person! He also shows up on your car radio as a regular commentator for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." The reasons for Harley's success are obvious - his songs are direct and honest, his stories are filled with the details of daily life, and everything he does has a refreshing dose of fantasy mixed with a healthy breath of reality. Don't miss this wonderful family event!

Saturday, November 13, 8 PM, \$10.00

Bill Petterson & Buddy Cavaleri and The Late Bloomers

This split show features one of the region's best writers of songs both heartfelt and hilarious, BRT favorite Bill Petterson. Joining Bill tonight will be multi-instrumentalist Buddy Cavaleri. For the past 20 years, Petterson has traveled from California to Canada to Texas and the East Coast sharing the stage with such artists as Livingston Taylor, Harry Chapin, Emmylou Harris, Jonathan Edwards and even comedian Jeff Foxworthy. Petterson's first CD, "This Guy Walks Into a Bar," followed by "Angell Road," and his great new solo CD, "Parts and Labor" have consistently brought him critical acclaim. "He can turn the heartfelt phrase without being hokey, and makes crystalline melodies come to life with tasteful arrangements," says The Providence Phoenix. Definitely one of the truest voices in contemporary folk, Bill's songs are alternately tender and tough with a strong R&B influence. Randy Browning and Brett Kinney are Late Bloomers, an acoustic guitar duo from Maine playing an original blend of folk, blues, jazz and ragtime. Former Berklee College of Music grads and hot off a performance at the Falcon Ridge Festival, their new CD, "Sneakin' in the Back Door" showcases impressive picking, endearing gravelly vocals, and insightful and humorous lyrics.

Sunday, November 14, 2 PM

A Reception and Book Signing with Author Erin Hart

There is no admission but reservations for space are requested!

Acclaimed by the critics for her luminous first novel, "Haunted Ground," Erin Hart returns with a magnificent new tale of death and destiny, past and present, in an Ireland rich with tradition, myth, and mystery. In her second literary thriller starring pathologist Nora Gavin, "Lake of Sorrows," set in the misty midlands of County Offaly, Hart again delves into Ireland's mysterious peat bogs to create a stunning tale of deception and murder. The danger mounts, fueled by illicit liaisons, rumors of ancient gold, and one person's thirst for vengeance. On Sunday, November 14, you can meet this award-winning author and participate or watch an Irish ceili and set dance featuring live music by the Alleged Ceili Band immediately following the book signing. Admission to the ceili dance will be complimentary for guests at the book signing who have made reservations. For more information, visit Hart's web site at:

<http://www.erinhart.com>

**Sunday, November 14, 2-5 PM, \$6.00/\$3.00 children
Irish Ceili & set dance with the Alleged Ceili Band**

Partial support provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. Laura Travis will be on hand to teach those new to the tradition or for complete beginners as needed. The Band features Bob Drouin on fiddle, Ron Lister on concertina, Chuck Papini on tenor banjo, Jay Gilbert on guitar, Josh Kane on flute and Marianne Kane on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try out our beautiful dance floor or simply come down to listen to some great music!

**Thursday, November 18, 6-8 PM, \$5.00
Drum and Dance Circle**

Open drum circle for tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices welcome...emphasis on fun! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet. Minimum 10 people needed for event to be held.

**Saturday, November 20, 8 PM, \$10.00
Cajun Dance with Magnolia**

Includes a half hour of dance instruction at 7:30 PM. Known throughout New England for their irresistible Cajun two-steps and sensuous waltzes with French lyrics, Magnolia is sure to make you feel welcomed whether you are an experienced dancer or have always wanted to learn. Magnolia is dedicated to exploring the roots of Cajun Music; its members have spent much time in Louisiana playing with traditional musicians and working to expand the band's repertoire and style. And true to the tradition, Magnolia's seven members create a party wherever they perform. The band's twin fiddles, accordion, guitar, bass, percussion and, of course, rich vocals always get folks off their seats and onto the dance floor!

**Saturday, November 27, 8 PM, \$15.00
BRT Homecoming Concert and Silent Auction**

With family and friends in town for Thanksgiving, our 5th annual fund-raiser hosted by Pendragon features some of the best of Rhode Island's homegrown talent. With Dave Peloquin & Everett Brown, Bill Petterson, Windharp, Minor Swing, Atwater-Donnelly, Ken Lyon, and Bill Harley. At 7:00 PM and during intermission, we'll also hold a silent auction featuring CDs, jewelry, gift certificates and more.

DECEMBER

**Sunday, December 5, 7 PM, \$12.00
Atwater-Donnelly Holiday Show**

This concert will feature seasonal and holiday material as Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly present traditional American and Celtic folk songs, a cappella pieces, hymns, and original works. This much-acclaimed folk duo blend gorgeous and unusual harmonies and play guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, mandolin, tin whistle, harmonica, banjo, bones, spoons, limberjack, and include other surprises including Appalachian clog dancing. Their performance is appealing to all ages, and with humor, audience participation, and a relaxed stage presence, Aubrey and Elwood always explain song origins to give more relevance to the material.

Friday, December 10, 8 PM, \$12.00

Harvey Reid and Joyce Andersen Holiday Show

BRT favorite Harvey Reid is a former national acoustic guitar and autoharp champion and an amazing multi-instrumentalist. Don't miss a night of rare, beautiful seasonal music played by a master musician who will be joined by gifted vocalist/fiddler Joyce Andersen. While BRT fans know her best for her duo shows with Harvey Reid, Joyce has also played and recorded with The McKrells, John Lincoln Wright, Marshall Crenshaw, and the Childsplay Fiddle Orchestra. Both will be playing material from their regular repertoires as well including songs from their new release, "Kindling the Fire." Says the Boston Globe, "Downeast musicians Harvey Reid and Joyce Andersen... have brought each other's music to new heights. The duo's new CD "Kindling the Fire" is a rootsy, warmhearted delight, rambling amiably from traditional gems to their own eloquent, timeless songs. Andersen's fiddling is fresh, fun and spacious, Reid's guitar playing fluid and graceful, and their harmonies - well, you'd think they were in love."

Saturday, December 11, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults Rosalita's Puppets - "Mrs. Claus and The Ice Queen"

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for ages 4-and-up. Rudolph the Red-nosed Dragon is living happily at the North Pole with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Everyone is getting ready to deliver presents for the holidays when tragedy strikes and Santa mysteriously falls ill. Was it the apple pie the stranger gave Santa to eat? Or was it the Ice Queen's evil spell? Will Rudolph be tempted by the Ice Queen to leave the North Pole and work for her? Will the Ice Queen use her gold to turn good hearts cold and spoil the spirit of the Holidays? Can Mrs. Claus save the day and make sure Santa is able to ride his sleigh? Come out and discover the answers to these questions this holiday season as Rosalita's Puppets brings another original show with many of your favorite puppet characters and a few new ones to Blackstone River Theatre. As always, this show includes songs, audience participation and is ideal for the whole family.

Celebrate a Victorian Christmas at Blackstone River Theatre and Hearthside Reservations recommended but also available day of event!

Sunday, December 12, 4-8 PM at Hearthside; 5-9 PM at BRT

\$15.00 per person: BRT's Fezziwig's House Party event only

\$10.00 per person: Hearthside Candlelight Tour event only

\$25.00 per person: Fezziwig's House Party AND Hearthside Candlelight Tour

From 4-8 PM, Lincoln's historic (1810) Hearthside homestead will open its doors with "A Christmas Carol Celebration" featuring a Candlelight Tour of Hearthside by guides dressed in Victorian finery, carolers, a violinist, Wassail Bowl, and hot hors d'oeuvres. Guests are invited to step back in time with a tour through the lavishly-decorated, 10-room mansion, recalling the traditions of Christmas at the turn of the century.

From 5-9 PM, Cumberland's Blackstone River Theatre will offer their 3rd annual holiday event, "Fezziwig's House Party" as guests celebrate Christmas in true Dickensian fashion. Guests are invited to come dressed in Victorian costume or simply in their Christmas best. At BRT you can enjoy Victorian carols, roving musicians including members of Pendragon, demonstrations of period dancing with live music provided by The Alleged Ceili Band, complementary cold hors d'oeuvres, and more. A great way to celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas in the Blackstone Valley!

This year, Cumberland's Blackstone River Theatre has partnered with Hearthside to incorporate a candlelight tour at the historic Hearthside homestead, located just five minutes away from BRT on Rte. 123 in Lincoln. While both venues will be open as a single destination, guests are encouraged to make a night of it by enjoying a visit at Hearthside, and then proceeding to the festivities at Fezziwig's House Party or by starting at the Theatre and then heading over to Hearthside.

Visit www.hearthsidehouse.org for more information or call 726-0597 to purchase tickets for the Hearthside Candlelight Tour. Call 401-725-9272 to purchase tickets for Fezziwig's House Party or the combination event.