

Blackstone River Theatre



Solstice Festival

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2007 Past Schedule

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

JANUARY

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- **THANK YOU! Blackstone River Theatre saw over 6,000 audience members attend 96 events in 2006.** March was a high point with six sold out events and September marked the 6-year anniversary of the reopening of Blackstone River Theatre after over four years of volunteer renovation efforts from July, 1996 to September, 2000. Since reopening, BRT has now presented 515 events in front of over 37,000 audience members!
- **Look for details about another six-week round of fiddle classes for continuing and advanced beginners** with Cathy Clasper-Torch beginning Jan. 10.
- **There will be an exhibit of watercolor paintings by Jerry Aissis in BRT's Art Gallery Jan. 13 through Feb. 10.** Jerry, a Director and Artist Member of the Rhode Island Watercolor Society (and a new BRT volunteer!) currently teaches watercolor classes at the Cumberland Library and at the Cumberland Recreation Department.
- **Look for details about our Jan. 13 Irish step dance workshops** which precede another round of 8-week beginner and advanced beginner/intermediate Irish step dance classes for adults and children starting in February with Terry Houlihan Songini.

Saturday, January 13, 10 AM - 1 PM

Irish Step Dance Workshops for Adults and children

10-10:45 AM: children ages 6 to 12

11-11:45 AM: continuing beginners AND advanced beginners, ages 13+

12-1:00 PM: Intermediate dancers

Saturday, January 13, 8 PM, \$12.00

THE ATWATER-DONNELLY TRIO

Opening set by Peter Janson

BRT favorites **Aubrey Atwater** and **Elwood Donnelly** return with multi-instrumentalist **Cathy Clasper-Torch** on fiddle, cello and vocals to present another engaging concert of traditional American and Celtic American folk songs, a cappella pieces, hymns, poetry, dance tunes, and original works. Elwood and Aubrey blend unusual harmonies and play guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, Irish tin whistle, harmonica, old-time banjo, bones, limberjack 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. Atwater-Donnelly performs widely in the Northeast and other parts of the United States and Great Britain and their recordings receive international airplay. For 18 years, they have performed and researched folk music extensively in New England, Ireland, England, Prince Edward Island, the Ozarks, and Appalachia. In addition to their nine recordings, Aubrey has written three books of poetry and a song book. Their latest studio CD, "The Blackest Crow," was released in 2004. Their ninth recording, "When Winter Calls," was recorded live at the Blackstone River Theatre and was released in late 2005. Fingerstyle guitarist Peter Janson will perform an opening set.

Sunday, January 14, 7 PM, \$12.00 adv/\$14.00 day of show
THE APRIL VERCH BAND

When you see 27-year-old **April Verch** perform, the first thing that strikes you is the pure energy that infuses her fiddle playing and step dancing. When you listen to *Take Me Back*, her third CD for Rounder Records, though, what draws you in are more subtle things - her confident, tender singing, the finely detailed elegance of her fiddle phrasing, and the depth of a repertoire that ranges through material from Americana to simple country songs and rollicking tunes from her native Ottawa Valley to sparkling original instrumentals. Produced by Dirk Powell and recorded in Louisiana, *Take Me Back* finds virtuoso fiddler (she counts over 400 competition awards on her résumé, including 1998 Canadian Open Fiddle Champion), vocalist, and step dancer April Verch continuing to broaden the scope of her music while maintaining close ties to the music of her Canadian home. Don't miss a chance to see a star in the making!

Thursday, January 18, 7-10 PM, \$5.00
BRT DRUM AND DANCE CIRCLE

Blackstone River Theatre's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are always welcome... the emphasis is on fun and learning! Since its inception, we have regularly had between 20-35 drummers and on many occasions, members of the bellydance community join in. Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

Saturday, January 20, 11 AM, \$6.00 children/\$8.00 adults
BILL HARLEY - FAMILY SHOW

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 6-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 or maybe even as a keynote speaker at a conference. With 25 recordings of songs and stories and five childrens books to his credit, Bill's humorous yet meaningful work chronicles the lives of children at school and at home. Armed with his guitar, songs, stories and slightly off center mind, Bill is the kind of performer you just have to see in person! As a storyteller, Bill has appeared numerous times at the prestigious National Storytelling Festival, and at dozens of other regional festivals from California to Florida. He also shows up on your car radio as a regular commentator for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." His commentaries are filled with his trademark humor and wisdom on topics ranging from T-ball game strategy to first jobs to dead groundhogs. 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. Bill is 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). Bring the whole family and experience the magic that is the wit and wisdom of Bill Harley!

Saturday, January 20, 8 PM, \$12.00
TROUZ BRAS - MUSIC OF BRITTANY

Trouz Bras (pronounced True Brazz) means "Big Noise" in the Celtic language of Brittany, the northwestern region of France. It also translates as "Great Sound" and both of these descriptions fit Trouz Bras perfectly. Firmly rooted in the trance-like medieval spiral dances of Brittany, Trouz Bras catapults traditional Breton dance tunes into the 21st century with blistering bagpipes, soaring fiddle and a dynamic rhythm section. Led by bagpiper and vocalist **Ray Price**, a globetrotting expert in Breton music and dance, Trouz Bras includes **Barry Hall** on fiddle, vielle, bouzouki and vocals, **Brian Rost** on bass and **Mance Grady** on the bodhran and percussion. Called Brittany in English, Bretagne in French, or Breizh in the Celtic language of Breton, this magical place is an ancient Celtic country that now finds itself in the northwest region

of contemporary France. It's a place of barren landscapes, Celtic myths and legends, and unique music and dance. Until recently, there were no musicians representing the fascinating music of Brittany in the USA. That all changed when Trouz Bras was born. Brought together by Ray Price, a longtime supporter of all things Breton and now a Rhode Island resident, Trouz Bras gets any place jumping when they begin to play. Don't miss their BRT debut!

**Sunday, January 21, 4:30-8 PM, \$6.00 adults/\$3.00 kids
IRISH CEILI AND SET DANCE**

Sponsored by Open MRI of New England

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances taught by Barry and Pat Callahan 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 ceili tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. 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 a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

**Saturday, January 27, 8 PM, \$10.00 adv/\$12.00 day of show
BILL HARLEY AND KEITH MUNSLOW - "IDS REQUIRED"**

You won't want to miss this special show designed for those of us who have managed to reach adulthood! This special evening brings together two of New England's finest children's entertainers, **Bill Harley** and **Keith Munslow**, and lets them cut loose with a show aimed at us older folks who are still young at heart! Keith and Bill have been musical compatriots for 15 years, sharing songwriting credits, performing together, and recording on each other's numerous albums. Yeah, sure, they both are known for work with kids and families, but those in the know recognize Munslow as a talented blues pianist and bandleader (Superchief Trio), and Harley as an insightful commentator on the cultural scene and songwriter of the first order. Blues, folk, and running inane commentary on life itself make for a show you won't see anywhere else!

FEBRUARY

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

- **Look for details about our 8-week Irish step dance classes for for children and adults beginning Feb. 3 and our 8-week Irish step dance classes for advanced beginners and intermediate dancers (including our first hard shoe class!) beginning Feb. 6** with instructor Terry Houlihan Songini.
- **The exhibit of watercolor paintings by Jerry Aissis in BRT's Art Gallery continues through Feb. 10. From Feb. 17 through March 18 there will be an exhibit of photography of the West of Ireland by Martin Gavin, a long-time photographer at the Sun Chronicle, who has traveled and shot extensively on his many trips over to the Emerald Isle.**

**Saturday, February 3, 8 PM, \$10.00
PETER JANSON & FRIENDS**

One of a breed of new acoustic musicians gaining a reputation for an eclectic approach to performance and composition, **Peter Janson** offers original fingerstyle guitar music with folk roots, rhythmic grooves, New Age and Jazz aesthetics, and Celtic elements, all woven into a hauntingly beautiful original sound. According to "Wind & Wire" magazine, "Peter Janson is one of the best acoustic guitarists recording today... a true artist's soul." Janson, primarily a solo guitarist, created Beautiful Day, the first in a series of Peter Janson & Friends albums, as an artistic rendition of his belief that if we are to achieve true peace and joy in the world we must all learn to creatively work together. In addition to the captivating instrumentation, the vocalists only sing vowels and a few consonants, as a gesture of the recognition of the universal connections we all have in our most important form of communication - verbal speech - and as a symbol of the hope that once united we can indeed have a future of beautiful days. Janson began playing guitar as a kid in Cambridge, Mass. His list of guitarist influences is long and diverse - Martin Simpson, Pat Metheny, Leo Kottke, Pierre

Bensusan, and many more. After receiving an undergraduate degree in music, he studied for two years with David Leisner at the New England Conservatory of Music, where he was awarded a Master's of Music. Janson currently also directs the Guitar Studies program at the University of Massachusetts - Boston.

**Saturday, February 10, NOON, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults
CLARE VADEBONCOEUR - "Once Upon A Medieval Time"**

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 6-and-up. Be prepared to travel back in time with **Clare Vadeboncoeur** who will delight the audience with her show of myth, merriment and mischief called "Once Upon a Medieval Time." Her wacky and wonderful characters reveal their stories through a mesmerizing mixture of movement and words in this interactive performance packed full of stories, songs and dance that explores the fun and folklore of the middle ages. Clare graduated from the Trinity Rep Conservatory, holds a Masters of Arts Degree in Theatre & Dance and is certified to teach dance, drama and elementary education. She is also well known this time of year as the Snow Queen and recently performed at Bright Night Providence.

Saturday, February 10, 8 PM, \$10.00

BERTRAND LAURENCE

Opening set by John Thibodeau and Barry Brown

Well THIS just doesn't happen too often...based on some rave reviews from friends who had seen him live as well as a listen to his great new CD, we decided to invite **Bertrand Laurence** to play as part of our Homecoming Concert last November, sight unseen. And we - and the crowd - were blown away! So much so that we have invited him to come back with his vintage guitars to do a whole show by himself this time... And the excitement seems reciprocated as it looks like he'll be recording the night for a live CD! French finger-style acoustic guitarist and songwriter Bertrand Laurence is a master of the art of country blues fingerpicking and slide guitar, but he's no purist. His live shows and CD featuring traditional, contemporary, and original blues are full of surprises including swing tunes, jump blues, ragtime, boogie, bluesy show tunes, rockabilly,... even blues sung in French! Inspired by childhood heroes, Laurence tries to recapture in his music the exuberance of Jelly Roll Morton and the rocking guitar style of Big Bill Broonzy. Having spent a number of years as a performance artist, Laurence also knows how to put on a show and his time working at a homeless shelter also taught him the healing power of the blues. "I like to focus on the upside of the blues," he says. "I'm into joy and celebration." La Vie en Bleu shows Laurence at his best, fingerpicking his way through a diverse collection of instrumentals on six-string, twelve-string and slide guitar, and singing blues in both English and French. On this CD, Laurence says, all the pieces of his musical life came together, and he calls it, "the culmination of twenty-five years of guitar-playing." Audiences all over have responded with warmth to Laurence's performances; tonight is a great chance to see what all the fuss is about! **John Thibodeau and Barry Brown** will perform an opening set of acoustic blues and ragtime music.

Thursday, February 15, 7-10 PM, \$5.00

BRT DRUM AND DANCE CIRCLE

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Saturday, February 17, 8 PM, \$12.00

BUILLE (Niall Vallely, Paul Meehan, Caoimhín Vallely)

Rooted in Irish traditional music, Armagh's Niall Vallely on concertina (well-known to BRT audiences for his performances with Karan Casey as well as with his brother Cillian), his younger brother **Caoimhín Vallely** on piano, and **Paul Meehan** (Lunasa, Karan Casey Band) on acoustic guitar "hit upon something new" about two years ago, according to Niall. He likened it to "tuning a radio and finding a station I'd never heard before but which seemed to be playing the music I wanted to hear." Comprising 14 melodies written by Niall and two traditional tunes, the debut CD "Buille" (meaning blow, stroke or beat) mixes Irish traditional with jazz and classical influences and stylings. While all are busy with other bands, rehearsal is not an issue because of the Vallelys' fraternal-musical bond and the constant touring by Niall and Paul in the Karan Casey Band. These three know each other well and know each other's style well: Caoimhín and Paul guested on Niall Vallely's "Beyond Words" solo debut in 1999 and

also on Niall and Cillian Vallely's "Callan Bridge" recording in 2002. That translates into often instantaneous communication by the trio in performance, and allows improvisation without loss of control. The Irish Times says, "Buille is as fresh a breath that's blown through traditional (and roots) circles in a long, long time." Don't miss this exciting night of Irish music!

Sunday, February 18, 4:30-8 PM, \$6.00 adults/\$3.00 kids

IRISH CEILI AND SET DANCE

Sponsored by Open MRI of New England

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances taught by Barry and Pat Callahan 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 ceili tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. 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 a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Wednesday, February 21, 7:30 PM, \$15.00 adv/\$18.00 day of show

ALASDAIR FRASER AND NATALIE HAAS

Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended!

Master Scottish fiddler **Alasdair Fraser**, long regarded as one of Scotland's premier musical ambassadors, presents the music of his homeland with unsurpassed eloquence, passion and energy. He links bows with vibrant young cellist **Natalie Haas** in an exciting weave of rocking, reeling rhythms, poignant melodies, and exquisite musicianship. The duo has created a buzz among Celtic music lovers at festivals and concerts across the US and Europe and their October 2005 show at BRT sold out early and was truly one of the season's highlights musically. Fraser and Haas met when, at age 11, Natalie first attended Alasdair's Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School in California. As a student at the Juilliard School in New York, Natalie regularly performs throughout the US and Europe with Fraser, and is a member of American fiddler Mark O'Connor's Appalachian Waltz Trio. She also performs on Alasdair's Legacy of the Scottish Fiddle series of CDs. Fraser is recognized throughout the world as one of the finest fiddle players Scotland has ever produced. His name is synonymous with the vibrant cultural renaissance which is transforming today's Scottish musical scene. His richly expressive playing transports listeners across a broad musical spectrum, ranging from haunting laments from the Gaelic tradition to classically-styled airs, raucous dance tunes, and improvisations based on traditional themes. The duo's latest CD, "Fire & Grace," was awarded the honor of Scots Trad Music Album of the Year for 2004. Don't miss this incredible night of Scottish music!

Saturday, February 24, 8 PM, \$12.00 adv/\$14.00 day of show

ADRIAN LEGG

Since the 1990 release of his first U.S. recording, "Guitars and Other Cathedrals," **Adrian Legg** has more than lived up to the expectations stirred by an ongoing avalanche of praise from critics, fans, guitar mags and peers alike. The genius that the Boston Globe has called "technical brilliance paired with a troubadour's tale-weaving skill" led him to be voted Best Acoustic Fingerstyle Guitarist four years straight (from 1993-96) by the readers of Guitar Player magazine. He was also voted "Guitarist of the Decade" by England's Guitarist magazine. Legg plays fingerstyle guitar, mixing an alternating-bass style with harmonics, banjo-peg retuning and single or double-string bending. Often he will play a piece entirely in arpeggios similar to a classical guitar style. He also makes extensive use of altered tunings and capos.

More recently, Legg has pioneered the use of modelling technology and midi for fingerstyle guitar. Newsday says, "Unlike Richard Thompson or Robert Fripp, in whose league he belongs, Legg seems never to have been seduced by rock. But unlike Leo Kottke or Ry Cooder, whom he also occasionally resembles, Legg is an adventurer, not an archivist." Over the years, he's played at the Montreux Jazz Festival and toured with Richard Thompson, Joe Satriani, Eric Johnson and as part of the G3 Tour featuring Satriani, Johnson and Steve Vai. He's also shared the wealth of his talent and experience with teaching DVDs, videos and books. In recent years, he has been a commentator at large for National Public Radio's All Things Considered, and even more recently, regular listeners have heard his guitar versions of the show's theme music. As popular as his recordings are, Legg's true home is onstage. "Playing live is the whole point," he says. "Everyone makes a journey, an effort; we all come together -

me, the audience, the people who run the venue - to share this wonderful, universal, human emotional interaction. This is where music lives."

MARCH

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

- **Look for details about another six-week round of fiddle classes** for BEGINNERS and INTERMEDIATE with Cathy Clasper-Torch beginning March 14. An ADVANCED BEGINNER class starts March 13.
- **Martin Gavin's exhibit of photographs of the West of Ireland continues through March 18 in BRT's Art Gallery.** From March 24 through April 22, **Anne Hunnington and Steve Palombo from the po gallery will have an exhibit of drawings** in the gallery space.

Sunday, March 4, 7 PM, \$15.00 adv/\$18.00 day of show

BATTLEFIELD BAND

Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended!

Inspired by their rich heritage of Celtic music and fired by the strength of today's Scottish cultural scene, which indeed they have done much to create and fuel, Battlefield Band performs a music of rare passion and joy under the banner "Forward With Scotland's Past." Refusing to be limited musically by suffocating antiquarianism or the "music business," they have mixed the old songs with new self-penned material, playing them on a unique fusion of ancient and modern instruments - bagpipe, fiddle, synthesiser, guitar, cittern, flute, bodhran and accordion. Angry, joyful, raucous and contemplative, their music is, most importantly, accessible to all. Named after the Glasgow suburb of Battlefield, where the group was formed by four student friends, Battlefield Band have travelled the world for 30 years now, distilling their own unique form of the Scottish spirit and bottling it in concert and onto disc, all the time introducing new musicians and new music. This tour sees the release of a new album, "The Road of Tears," which focuses on the subject of immigration. The current line-up features: **Mike Katz** (Highland pipes/small pipes/various whistles/bass guitar) the unmistakable piper who joined the line-up in late 1997 and has contibuted massively to the music and accessibility of the band; **Alan Reid** (keyboards/guitar/vocals) from Glasgow, one of the founder members of the band, does much of the bands singing and songwriting, particularly on contemporary Scottish themes; **Alasdair White** (fiddle/whistle/banjo/bazouki/Highland and small pipes/bodhran), a superb fiddle player and multi-instrumentalist hailing from the island of Lewis, one of the Gaelic speaking Outer Hebrides; and newest member **Sean O'Donnell** (vocals and guitar), who has played with the award-winning Scots Irish band Bionic, as part of The Emily Smith Band as well as the Michael McGoldrick Band and Deaf Shepherd.

Sunday, March 11, 7 PM, \$12.00

CYNTHIA MACLEOD AND GORDON BELSHER

Award winning 21-year-old fiddler **Cynthia MacLeod** has taken Canada by storm with her dynamic performances, entertaining audiences from all corners of the world with her fiery and enthusiastic fiddling and floorboard-burning footwork. From Prince Edward Island, Cynthia has definite leanings towards the music of neighboring Cape Breton; there's lots of Scots in her repertoire, but plenty of Irish reels and jigs as well. Cynthia has become one of the leading musical ambassadors for Canada's East Coast and is now poised to take on America. The release of her debut CD in 2002, "Head Over Heels," captured a Prince Edward Island Music Award for Album of the Year and since then, she has accumulated a number of PEI Music Awards including Roots/Traditional Artist/Group of the Year (2002, 2003 & 2004) and Entertainer of the Year (2003 & 2004). In 2004, Cynthia celebrated the release of "Crackerjack," her second CD, and had a track included in Prince Edward Island's promotional tourism packages. After nearly 30 years in Prince Edward Island, accompanist/vocalist **Gordon Belsher** is still going strong. As well as performing solo at concerts, ceilidhs, and pubs, he accompanied MacLeod on tours to Ontario and to the New England States in 2006 and will join her again for this tour. Released in June, 2006, Gordon's new CD "Call up all the Neighbours" is his first solo recording since his 2003 ECMA nominated "Reel in the Flickering Light." Gordon's talents have also helped establish one of the world's great Celtic fiddlers, Richard Wood.

Thursday, March 15, 7-10 PM, \$5.00

BRT DRUM AND DANCE CIRCLE

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SOLD OUT AS OF 3/10/07!

Friday, March 16, 8 PM, \$20.00

THE KARAN CASEY BAND

Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended!

It just doesn't get better than this - **Karan Casey** in concert the day before St. Patrick's Day! The former longtime lead vocalist with the Irish supergroup Solas has always exhibited the grace, pacing and richness of an old soul. The Wall Street Journal says Karan Casey is "one of the true glories in Irish music today" while The Associated Press says Casey has "...a voice so beautiful, it's almost impossible to avoid falling under her spell." On this tour Karan welcomes a new member to her band - cellist **Kate Ellis** - who will be featured alongside **Caoimhín Valley** (of Buille) on piano and **Robbie Overson** on guitar and vocals. The subtle and sensitive instrumentation and arrangements on all of her CDs illuminate Casey's voice and illustrate just what she can do with her magical instrument. Karan now has four solo albums to her credit - "Songlines," "The Winds Begin To Sing," "Distant Shore" and her newest CD, "Chasing the Sun." Don't miss a chance to celebrate St. Patrick's Day a day early with one of the very best - and most engaging - Irish performers ever to grace a stage.

Saturday, March 17, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults

THE TOE JAM PUPPET BAND

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 5-and-up. Formed in 2000, the Toe Jam Puppet Band is great with kids, but best when parents are also there having fun with the little ones. The shows are always very active, encouraging kids and parents to sing and dance along with the band as they entertain with a unique combination of original songs, puppetry, storytelling and just plain old fun! Big kids **Vinny Lovegrove** and **Tom Poitras** will lead the crowd in dance songs like Do the Conga, Barn Dance and Block Cheese Dance Party to interactive songs such as Car Wash the flying Laundry and the wacky bubble machine. Plain old walls also magically become a shadow puppet theater for Mr. Bun, Born a Bug, and various other shadow puppet shows. A great time for kids of all ages!

SOLD OUT!

Sunday, March 18, 7 PM, \$15.00

PENDRAGON - ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION!

Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended!

New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Having celebrated their 23rd anniversary in September, Pendragon has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. The band released their 7th album, "Artistic License," on Blackstone River Theatre's RiverFolk Productions label in 2005. 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 step dancer and percussionist **Kevin Doyle**, a U.S. champion dancer who has performed throughout the New England area for over 30 years; **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, bouzouki and tenor banjo; **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertinas; **Josh Kane**, (who achieved a 5th-place finish in the All-Ireland flute competitions last year!) on flute and whistles; **Ken Lyon** on vocals, guitar and bass; and **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals. Past tributes include three straight Boston Music Award nominations for Outstanding Celtic Act and a Governor's Tourism Award. Pendragon was voted Rhode Island's Best Celtic Act in the 2006 and 2005 MOTIF Magazine Music Poll as well as 2005 Best Local Folk Act of the Year in the Providence Phoenix' Best Music Poll, the 8th time they gained that recognition.

SOLD OUT!

Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 PM, \$10.00

GRAND DERANGEMENT

In celebration of La Semaine de la francophonie

Sponsored by the Consulate General of Canada in Boston

6:30 PM reception open to the public!

This will be the group's Rhode Island debut and their only appearance in southern New England on this tour. The members of the music group Grand Dérangement always planned to have an international fan base, but never anticipated such astounding popularity in English speaking countries. They identify themselves primarily as a Francophone Acadian group, and incorporate such disparate musical inspiration as French chansonniers, folk, Celtic, rock, and Broadway. The rhythms are contagious, the dancers enthralling. They initially expected to thrive in Francophone markets. As they have discovered, however, language has not been a barrier to their success. Grand Dérangement was formed in 1998 by violinist Daniel LeBlanc when he was preparing for the release of his first solo album. He recruited other musicians from St. Mary's Bay in Nova Scotia to play with him for the launch and the performance was so well received that they decided to stay together. One of their original goals has been to prove that young Francophone musicians from Nova Scotia could succeed in bringing their rich Acadian culture to the world. Their name, meaning "great disturbance", comes from the French name for the Great Expulsion of Acadians by the British in 1755 – a major turning point of Acadian history – but also refers to the group's desire to "rouse its audience." Members include **Briand Melanson, Daniel LeBlanc, Jean-Pascal Comeau, Armand Dionne** and **Charles Robicheau** along with step dancers **Erin Westby** and **Christiane Theriault**.

Saturday, March 24, 7:00 PM, \$15.00/\$10.00 students with college ID

INDIAN BAMBOO FLUTE AND TABLA CONCERT

featuring Rupak Kulkarni and Aditya Kalyanpur

Partially funded by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and co-sponsored by Indian organizations and Businesses of RI We are very pleased to offer this seventh collaboration with the nonprofit group Raagmaala in the presentation of Indian classical music concerts. The biggest difference between Indian and Western Classical music is that the former is based very largely on improvisation, with emphasis on the creativity of the performer rather than on the exact reproduction of a composer's work. **Rupak Kulkarni** is torchbearer of the Mahihar Gharana house of music that has given the music geniuses like Ravi Shankar. Rupak is a disciple of the world-renowned flute Maestro Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia. Says Rupak, "I think the flute is the easiest instrument to reach out to people with for it is God's own creation. Which is why even when I perform abroad, I don't have a problem connecting with the audience. In fact, they know the Western flute and when they see me play the bansuri, they know what other sounds can be derived from it. We introduce more staccato beats to keep them interested, of course, improvising only within the raga being played." Tabla master **Aditya Kalyanpur** is a disciple of Ustad Alla Rakha who accompanied Pt. Ravi Shankar for over 20 years.

Sunday, March 25, 4:30-8 PM, \$6.00 adults/\$3.00 kids

IRISH CEILI AND SET DANCE

Sponsored by Open MRI of New England

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances taught by Barry and Pat Callahan 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 ceili tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. 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 a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Friday, March 30, 7 PM, \$10.00

KEITH MICHAEL JOHNSON'S "The Secret World of Bubbles"

A benefit event for the Engineers of Tomorrow

Limited seating - please call to make advance reservations! Pre-paid tickets can be picked up at door the night of the show.

This event will benefit the Engineers of Tomorrow, winners of the Champion's Award at Rhode Island's FIRST LEGO League competition. The Engineers of Tomorrow will represent Rhode Island at the FIRST LEGO World Festival where they will compete alongside 100 teams from 35 countries. Funding for the research and development of

the Secret World of Bubbles was provided by a grant from the RI State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and private funders - the first bubble art performance in America to be so honored. Preview the show at www.bubbleartist.com

APRIL

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

- **Look for details about our 8-week Irish step dance classes for children and adult beginners** starting Saturday, April 7 and our 8-week Irish step dance classes for **advanced beginners and intermediate dancers (including hard shoe lessons)** beginning Tuesday, April 10 with instructor Terry Songini.
- **Anne Hunnington and Steve Palombo from the po gallery will have an exhibit of drawings** through April 22 in BRT's Art Gallery. The next artist exhibit, **large-scale posters by Pat and George Sargent**, will run from April 28 through May 26.

4:00 PM SHOW SOLD OUT AS OF 3/24/07. Tickets going fast for 8:00 PM show!

**Sunday, April 1, TWO SHOWS! (80 minutes each, no intermissions)
4 PM AND 8 PM, \$20.00 EACH SHOW**

LUNASA

Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended!

This is no April Fool's joke! After last year's show completely sold out over a month in advance, we've decided to do TWO separate concerts this year...don't be left out this time! Named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish god Lugh, patron of the arts, Lúnasa is indeed a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Its members have helped formed the backbone of some of the greatest Irish groups of the decade - bassist **Trevor Hutchinson** was a key member of The Waterboys, and later he, with guitarist Donogh Hennessy, would form the dynamic rhythm section of The Sharon Shannon Band. Fiddler **Sean Smyth** is an All-Ireland champion who has played with Donal Lunny's Coolfin. **Kevin Crawford**, considered to be among the finest flutists in Ireland, played with the acclaimed traditional group Moving Cloud and piper **Cillian Vallely** comes from the same talented musical family as brother Niall Vallely of Buille and the Karan Casey Band. Newest member **Paul Meehan** on guitar and banjo has performed for years as a member of the Karan Casey Band. Folk Roots magazine has rightly termed them an "Irish music dream team." Inspired by legendary Irish group The Bothy Band, Lúnasa uses melodic interweaving of wind and string instruments, pairing flutes, fiddle, whistle and pipes in often breathtaking arrangements. By pinning traditional elements of composition and instrumentation to a fluid rhythmic undercurrent, Lúnasa has achieved a new pinnacle of intricacy. "The Kinnitty Sessions," their last album, returned the band to that immediate style of recording. Cut before a live audience at Kinnitty Castle in Ireland and then refined in a Dublin studio, the recording blends the best elements of a studio recording with the energy and spontaneity of a live album. Their new CD, "Sé" (pronounce "shay") was released to incredible critical acclaim. Four years of constant touring has elevated the band's already-formidable skill to peak brilliance - don't miss this amazing night of music!

Thursday, April 5, 8 PM, \$12.00

Maeve Donnelly with Tony McManus

Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended!

This rare mid-week show at BRT pairs two exceptional musicians, Irish fiddler **Maeve Donnelly** and Scottish guitarist **Tony McManus**, in a very rare duo appearance. Donnelly has been playing the fiddle since the age of five and won her first All-Ireland Fiddle Competition at the age of nine. She subsequently won two more All-Ireland fiddle titles as well as the National Slogadh Competition for Solo Fiddle and The Stone Fiddle Competition in County Fermanagh in 1981. When she moved to County Clare from East Galway, she entertained guests at the Medieval Castles in Bunratty and Knappogue. In 1976 she was the youngest of 25 musicians invited from Ireland to perform at the Bicentennial Festival of American Folklife in Washington D.C.

Maeve is widely recognised as one of the top female performers of her generation having played in the US and Europe as a leading member of groups such as Moving Cloud. Donnelly's solo debut, simply titled "Maeve Donnelly," captures not only the unique East Galway and Clare sound, but also the spirited and rhythmic music from Nova Scotia and Quebec. Tony McManus has been called "The best Celtic guitarist in the world" by John Renbourn, "The finest guitarist Scotland has ever produced" by BBC Radio Scotland, and "A master of the idiom" by Acoustic Guitar Magazine. In little over 10 years, McManus has come to be recognized throughout the world as the leading guitarist in Celtic music. From early childhood, his twin obsessions of traditional music and acoustic guitar have worked together to produce a startlingly original approach to this ancient art. In Tony's hands the complex ornamentation normally associated with fiddles and pipes are accurately transferred to guitar in a way that preserves the integrity and emotional impact of the music. Having been nominated as Musician of the Year by both the BBC Folk Awards and The Scottish Traditional Music awards, in 2002 his CD "Ceol More" hit the Critic's Album of the year list in Acoustic Guitar magazine and was named "Live Ireland Awards" Album of the Year.

Saturday, April 7, 8 PM, \$10.00

SUPERCHIEF TRIO

The Rhode Island roots/blues band Superchief Trio features **Keith Munslow** on piano and vocals, **Pam Murray** on trombone and vocals and **Johnny Coté** on percussion. Able to leap seamlessly from New Orleans grooves to hot swing to smooth, sultry ballads, Superchief Trio proves that big sounds do indeed come in small packages. On their debut CD, "The Devil Knows Me Better," the high-energy trio serves up 14 original tunes that spin tales of dancing and devilment, bad luck and trouble, vanity and vice, love and sandwiches. Superchief Trio were named the winners of the Motif Magazine Best Music Poll for Best Local Roots Act (2005) and Best Local Release (2006) as well as the Providence Phoenix Best Music Poll winners for Best Local Jazz Act (2005). Pianist Keith Munslow met trombonist Pam Murray at the Providence arts incubator AS220, where they performed together in the Smoking Jackets and the Neo 90s Dance Band. Keith and drummer Johnny Cote played together in the Big Nazo band, and soon Johnny became the drummer for the Neo 90s. Having cut their teeth on rough-and-tumble dance blues with the Smoking Jackets, Keith and Pam began playing gigs at a dim and smoky basement bar (now defunct) called The East Bay Regatta Club. Owing to safety in numbers, Johnny Cote was recruited, and Superchief Trio was born. The casual nature of the place and its heckling denizens encouraged recklessness and experimentation with new songs, new arrangements and inspired a higher level of daredevil musical abandon. Emerging from this subterranean honky-tonk, Superchief Trio continues the tradition of good-time music and barrelhouse hijinks at all their concerts. A fun-filled night of music with room to dance in the back if the spirit moves you!

Friday, April 13, 8 PM, \$10.00

MENTALIST/MINDBENDER RORY RAVEN

It's another Friday the 13th so we invite you to come out and try something completely different! Over 50 folks showed up at Rory's last show and after 3 BRT shows, we STILL can't figure out how he does it! **Rory Raven** can't play a musical instrument... but he CAN read your mind! Rory is a mentalist with over 13 years of experience (there's that number again!) reading minds and astonishing audiences. Neither a psychic nor a magician, he offers a new and compelling kind of entertainment unlike anything you've ever seen. With a few simple props (paper and pencil, a pack of playing cards, some paperback books, and the thoughts of some volunteers) Rory involves the audience in a highly unusual - and unusually entertaining - experience. Thoughts are revealed, predictions come true, and perhaps even the spirits are summoned... Frequently Asked Questions: Okay, let's start with that title - what's a mentalist? A mentalist is a theatrical mind-reader; a performer who, using a variety of techniques, is able to produce results that would only seem possible by psychic or paranormal means. And those techniques would be...? They range from a knowledge of subtle psychological principles and the quirks of human behavior, to quick thinking and a good memory. So, are you psychic or what? No. Not everyone believes me when I say that, but there's not much I can do about it. People who believe in the paranormal will believe no matter what I tell them, and those who don't believe won't believe no matter what I show them. But a long time ago I realized that everybody's mind is pretty much made up before they came to a show, so it was a fool's errand to try and convince people of the validity of one viewpoint or another. So, sit back, concentrate on your mother's maiden name, and enjoy the show...

Saturday, April 14, 8 PM, \$12.00

MAGICAL STRINGS

Magical Strings is the Celtic harp and hammered dulcimer duo of **Philip and Pam Boulding**. Over the years their sound has drawn a large and loyal following captivated by a combination of traditional Celtic arrangements, original compositions and subtle world music influences. Their virtuosity and expressive style have been described as "warm, graceful and sonically gorgeous" by the Washington Post. Their music and stories have the effect of holding an audience and opening their hearts to a forgotten world well-veiled by the bustle and trappings of modern life. Magical Strings has toured nationwide and abroad for 20 years. They recorded eight albums on Flying Fish/Rounder Records; their ninth, "Islands Calling," was released in 1996 on EarthBeat! Records with a theme of island journeys reflecting their own world travels, from Ireland to Jamaica, and Madagascar to Hawaii. Their 10th CD, "Legend of Inishcahey," was a return to Celtic roots featuring the family quartet. It was hailed by the leading English music magazine, "Folk Roots" as "...an exciting cross-pollination of Irish/World sounds delivered with freshness, style and panache..." The Boulding's exciting new CD, "Where Dragons Dance," harnesses the powerful joy to be found in transforming darkness into light. The music is full of captivating rhythms and soulful music that invites the spirit to dance. Pam Boulding performs on hammered dulcimer, and Philip Boulding plays Celtic harp (both nylon and wire strung), hammered dulcimer, tin whistle and valiha (a bamboo harp from Madagascar). Philip also designs and builds the harps and dulcimers, and has handcrafted more than 2,000 instruments in the past 25 years. In addition, for two decades Philip has run his School of Magical Strings in Seattle where he teaches harp and dulcimer. Always a great concert, the Bouldings are also two of the most genuine and nicest people you'll ever meet.

Thursday, April 19, 7-10 PM, \$5.00

BRT DRUM AND DANCE CIRCLE

Blackstone River Theatre's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are always welcome... the emphasis is on fun and learning! Since its inception, we have regularly had between 20-35 drummers and on many occasions, members of the bellydance community join in. Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

Saturday, April 21, 8 PM, \$12.00

THE EMILY SMITH BAND - From Scotland

Emily Smith, the 2005 USA Song Writing Competition winner, Scots Singer of the Year 2005 nominee and former BBC Young Traditional Musician of the Year in 2002, has established herself as one of Scotland's finest young singers. A respected interpreter of traditional song, with a particular passion for those sourced in her home region of Dumfries & Galloway, Emily gives a refreshing and modern slant to ancient songs which blend easily alongside her own compositions. She's joined tonight for her Rhode Island debut by **Jamie McClennan**, a talented musician on fiddle, guitar and flute, and **Matt Heaton**, of the Heaton's and Siucra, on bouzouki and guitar. In 2005, Smith became the first ever winner from the Scotland in the USA Songwriting Competition where she won the folk category with her song "Edward of Morton." She has released two solo albums to date "A Day Like Today" (2002) and "A Different Life" (2005). Emily has a relaxed and informative presence on stage and though only in her mid-twenties, she has toured worldwide with her band. Her material is song based, many being Smith originals, with the occasional instrumental set thrown in. Happy to sing unaccompanied or back herself on piano or accordion, Emily's voice has a delicate intensity which soars over the subtle arrangements of her band. Audiences can be assured of an entertaining and varied performance. Don't miss her BRT debut!

Sunday, April 22, NOON, \$6.00 adults/\$4.00 kids

STEVE ROSLONEK PRESENTS STEVESONGS

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 2 to 9. **Steve Roslonek** of SteveSongs is one of a few young, energetic artists writing and performing truly thoughtful, educational, and contagiously fun songs for kids of all ages. In six short years, Steve has already released five critically acclaimed CDs and has played over 2000 shows all over the USA. Steve is a winner of numerous national awards, including two Parents' Choice Gold Awards. The Los Angeles Times writes, "Warm, gentle humor and well-crafted, quirky wordplay run through Steve Roslonek's creative songs and stories." Steve blends participatory songs, clever stories and great melodies into an experience that leads young listeners on what the Boston Globe calls "not just a musical journey but

an entertaining, interactive and educational one." Today, Steve will be featuring songs from his new CD "Marvelous Day" as well as some old favorites.

Sunday, April 22, 4:30-8 PM, \$6.00 adults/\$3.00 kids

IRISH CEILI AND SET DANCE

Sponsored by Open MRI of New England

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances taught by Barry and Pat Callahan 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 ceili tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. 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 a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Saturday, April 28, 8 PM, \$12.00

MARK & BEVERLY DAVIS/THE PIONEER CONSORT

Folk song has long been fertile ground for composers and arrangers of music for the classical guitar, perhaps the most personal of instruments. "Folk song," writes Ed Flower, "has a haunting spiritual quality that goes straight to the heart, stirring a response at the core of our being." "Ayres and Dances," Mark and Beverly Davis' new recording, celebrates this association with deeply felt and beautifully played renditions of original works for classical guitar inspired by melodic and rhythmic elements of folk song from around the world. A highly-respected concert artist in the field of guitar and mandolin music for more than three decades, **Mark Davis** appears on many CD recordings, including the Grammy-nominated "Vienna Nocturne," and has been a featured artist at various international events such as the Festival Internacional Musica de Plettro (Spain), and the Kobe International Music Festival (Japan). Mark Davis is the music director of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra, and directs a classical guitar program at the Wheeler School in Providence. **Beverly Davis** has performed on the classical guitar for over two decades, and as a member of the Providence Mandolin Orchestra has appeared in concerts in Germany, France, Canada, and throughout the U.S. Mark and Beverly Davis have performed together as a guitar duo since 2001. Mark and Beverly Davis both perform on custom made classical guitars by luthier Stephan Connor. **The Pioneer Consort** performs composed and improvised chamber music for Violin, Cello, Guitar, Mandolin, and the Banjar - a seven string classical banjo. Their concert explores unique and colorful arrangements of traditional classical repertoire - Argentine Tango, Brazilian Choro, Classical Neapolitan Mandolin music, American Banjo music, jazz, and multi-genre original compositions with works by Haydn, Mozart, Piazzolla, Gershwin, Abreu, O'Carolan, and Nix. Based in the culturally rich Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts, The Pioneer Consort is comprised of three exceptional musicians - **Chris Devine**, **Michael Nix**, and **Greg Snedeker** - who bring together years of concert touring, recording, and composing in many genres. They have recently released their first CD as a trio and Nix has also released a new project focusing on the Banjar.

MAY

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

- **Pat and George Sargent** will have an exhibit of large-scale posters in BRT's Art Gallery from April 28 through May 26.
- **Look for details about another six-week round of fiddle classes** for ADVANCED BEGINNERS and INTERMEDIATE with Cathy Clasper-Torch beginning May 2. A CONTINUING BEGINNER class starts May 1.

Friday, May 4, 8 PM, \$12.00 Adv/\$14.00 day of show

Chanterelle featuring Josée Vachon

Songs, stories and fiddle music of the French in America

Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended!

Since 1993, Chanterelle has brought 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's 12-year stint as host of French-language cable TV show *Bonjour* made her name a household word to Francos in the northeast. Her mix of traditional ballads, chansons à répondre and humorous originals, plus her warm, engaging stage presence make an immediate connection with any audience. Josée has moved away from New England so we hope you will come out and catch one of her increasingly rare local performances! This show will sell out so make sure you plan ahead!

Saturday, May 5, NOON, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults
ROSALITA'S PUPPETS - "Rosalita and the Giant Bugs"
Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for ages 4-and-up. Rosalita's Puppets brings another original show with some of your favorite puppet characters and many new ones to Blackstone River Theatre. As always, expect plenty of songs and audience participation featuring English puppeteer **Charlotte Dore** and her beautifully hand-crafted marionettes. When Rosalita drinks a bottle of something strange, she shrinks down to a very tiny size only to be scared by the giant bugs in her garden. Mr. Bob the Caterpillar tells her the only one who can help is the dragonfly, so she goes on a quest to find him. On the way, Rosalita meets Queen Ant, and a spider. Eventually, she finds out that there is no place like home and just as the caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly, Rosalita transforms back to her normal size. Join us to see this new show filled with Charlotte's wonderful bug marionettes!

Saturday, May 12, 8 PM, \$12.00
BACK OF THE MOON - From Scotland

Back of the Moon is a traditional Scottish folk band featuring both new and traditional tunes and songs cast in fresh, modern sounding arrangements. Since forming in 2000, the band have rapidly gained a reputation for their dynamic live performances, touring annually throughout the UK, Canada, USA and beyond. Back of the Moon creates their giant acoustic sound through a tightly woven frontline of Scottish border pipes and fiddle, an intimate pairing of low whistle and flute, the distinctive rhythmic force of their guitar/piano rhythm combo, and awesome three-part vocal harmonies in their Scottish songs - in which each unique singer takes the lead. **2005 saw them win "Best Folk Band" at the Scottish Trad Music Awards**, having received "Best Up and Coming Act" at the awards back in 2003 and "Best Celtic Group" at Lorient Interceltic Festival 2003. Back of the Moon is: **Gillian Frame** (fiddle, vocals), **Ali Hutton** (border pipes, whistle, bodhran), **Findlay Napier** (guitars, vocals), and **Hamish Napier** (piano, flutes, vocals, Scottish step dance). Don't miss this exciting band's Rhode Island debut!

Thursday, May 17, 7-10 PM, \$5.00
BRT DRUM AND DANCE CIRCLE

Blackstone River Theatre's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are always welcome... the emphasis is on fun and learning! Since its inception, we have regularly had between 20-35 drummers and on many occasions, members of the bellydance community join in. Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

Friday, May 18, 8 PM, \$12.00
LISSA SCHNECKENBURGER & FRIENDS/TRIPPING LILY

New England fiddler and folk singer **Lissa Schneckenburger** grew up in Maine as an active member of the folk music and dance community, where she cut her teeth as a musician at a very young age. She has continued to explore music throughout her life, leading to her graduation from The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston in 2001. While embracing diverse musical influences, she still stays true to her New England roots. She'll be joined tonight by **Corey DiMario** on bass. Lissa's new self-titled CD is a rich and cohesive mix of traditional and original material brought together by the warm tones of her fiddle and sweet vocals throughout. It follows her previous two solo albums, "Different Game" and "The Mad Hatter" as well as three band collaborations with the groups Spin, Halali, and Phantom Power. Tripping Lily's

acoustic folk pop sounds were formed long before they made their move from Nashville to Boston. With **Demetrius Becrelis** (guitar/mandolin/vocals), brother **Alex Becrelis** (guitar/mandolin/vocals), **Monica Rizzio** (fiddle/vocals), and **Laird Boles** (upright bass), **Tripping Lily** blends a unique sound of traditional and contemporary genres. Their edgy, unique sound took shape when Monica and Demetrius starting writing and recording more than five years ago. With a strong intent to improve upon their craft, Tripping Lily made the move to Boston. Whether they're exploring new music genres or soaking up popular literature and art, Tripping Lily has found their home on the East Coast. Touted as fresh, energetic, and alive, Tripping Lily's pop-rock groundwork is cross-fertilized with folk music and cutting edge vocal harmonies. The band's unique ability to absorb traditional music while speaking to the here and now is proof of their versatility as contemporary musicians. Tripping Lily's CD "The Couch Sessions" was named Number One on WUMB's Top Ten Playlist in the Dec 1 Boston Globe.

Saturday, May 19, 8:00 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 sultry waltzes with French lyrics, Magnolia is sure to make you feel welcomed whether you are an experienced dancer or have always wanted to learn. Since 1989, Magnolia has been New England's hometown Cajun band. Learning their music from Louisiana's finest has earned them a solid reputation at home and recognition in the Cajun heartland. Their dance lessons and music have helped build a strong sense of community at festivals and fais-do-dos all over Northeast. Playing high-energy two steps and waltzes, the band's twin fiddles, accordion, guitar, bass, and rich vocals keep the audience on its feet long into the night. And true to the tradition, Magnolia's seven members create a party wherever they perform! **Magnolia is Alan Bradbury, Michelle Kaminsky, Chris Ash, Martin Grosswendt, Maggie Moniz, Richard Moniz and Jack Ezikovich.**

Sunday, May 20, 4:30-8 PM, \$6.00 adults/\$3.00 kids

IRISH CEILI AND SET DANCE

Sponsored by Open MRI of New England

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances taught by Barry and Pat Callahan 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 ceili tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. 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 a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Saturday, May 26, 8 PM, \$12.00

AINE MINOGUE

Don't miss one of BRT's favorite performers as we end our spring season on a high note! As traditional Irish music and dance continue to enjoy phenomenal success both here and in Ireland, **Áine Minogue** is an artist who has long explored its themes and who captures its very essence. Her singing reflects the lyricism and richness to be found in Irish music, mythology and poetry with a voice undeniably her own. Born in County Tipperary, Áine's musical family encouraged her to pursue a number of different instruments during her youth but it was at age 12 that Áine discovered her true love - the harp - which she decided to pursue in lieu of the others. After completing school she spent three years developing her talent as a harpist at Bunratty Castle, County Clare - the perfect setting to emphasize the harp's lyrical connection to Irish history. Like so many Irish before her, Áine moved to the United States and settled in New England and continues to concentrate on the traditional music of her homeland. Áine takes the ancient art form, extensively explores its underpinnings but adds her own creativity to each piece. With her combination of harping, singing and storytelling with a touch of poetry to suit the time of year, her concerts have an intimate "getting away from it all" feel. Her leaning is very much toward the philosophy around the music and she veers towards ethereal, spiritual and ancient themes and ideas. She is a regular performer at folk festivals and concerts throughout the country. With seven full length CDs to her credit, numerous tracks also appear on compilations for such labels as BMG, Virgin and Putumayo in styles including Celtic, Folk and New Age.

Sunday, May 27, Classes between 12-7:00 PM

Blues guitar lessons with Duke Robillard

(for intermediate and advanced players)

E-mail Duke directly at dukerobillard@cox.net for detailed information and registration.

JUNE

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

- Blackstone River Theatre will be taking June through August off from full-time concert and dance programming to continue renovations on the building. There WILL be a few special events as well as several Heritage Arts Studio offerings including Celtic stonecarving, blues guitar and fiddle classes.

Wednesday, June 6, 10 AM-NOON

New England Foundation for the Arts Information Session

How can you get a grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts?

What does NEST stand for? What is MatchBook.org?

Learn the answers to these questions and much more when NEFA comes to Blackstone River Theatre! The New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) is providing a series of workshops for organizations and performing artists to learn more about all of their programs, including:

New England States Touring (NEST): Provides grants to New England nonprofit organizations for performances, readings, and related community activities by NEST-eligible artists listed on MatchBook.org.

Meet the Composer/New England: Offers grants to nonprofit organizations in New England to provide interaction between individual composers and audiences, in conjunction with performances of the composer's work.

Expeditions: Provides grants to New England nonprofit organizations for the presentation of touring projects featuring artists working in all disciplines from around the world.

MatchBook.org: An online cultural directory of New England's performing artists, venues and presenting organizations.

National Dance Project: Provides grants for the production and touring of contemporary dance work by regionally and nationally significant artists in the United States and abroad.

American Masterpieces: Dance: Provides grants for the reproduction and touring of American Dance works that are artistically, historically, and culturally significant.

Presenter Travel Fund: Provides monetary assistance to arts programmers or curatorial staff in New England so that they may investigate new or unfamiliar work outside of their home community.

Please RSVP to apetrillo@nefa.org with the date and location of this workshop if you plan to attend. Questions? Contact Adrienne Petrillo at apetrillo@nefa.org or call 617.951.0010 x 527.

Sunday, June 10, Classes between 12-7:00 PM

Blues guitar lessons with Duke Robillard

(for intermediate and advanced players)

E-mail Duke directly at dukerobillard@cox.net for detailed information and registration.

Thursday, June 21, 7-10 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

Blackstone River Theatre's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are always welcome... the emphasis is on fun and learning! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet! This will be the last BRT drum circle until September so we hope you'll join us!

Saturday, June 16 AND Sunday, June 17, 9:30 AM-4:00 PM

Celtic Relief Stonecarving in Limestone for Beginners Class

Sunday, June 24, 1-5:00 PM, \$35.00

Duke Robillard Guitar Seminar

Grammy-nominated guitarist Duke Robillard will present a guitar seminar on the blues roots of rock and jump blues styles at Blackstone River Theatre. There will be a rhythm section to accompany Duke and attendees will also be able to sit in on guitar, bass and drums! Duke and band will advise players on how to support soloists and singers and give tips on playing the right thing in rhythm section situations. Drummers and bass players are also invited to attend and possibly play but the focus is mostly on playing guitar and how to play in a band situation. All interested in making a reservation for the seminar can e-mail Duke at dukerobillard@cox.net. If you want to ensure your seat at this event you can pay in advance through paypal at the above mentioned email address. Admission can also be collected at the door or by mailing a check with your reservation request to Duke Robillard Productions, P.O. Box 2958, Pawtucket, R.I. 02861. Amplifiers will be provided for those wanting to play. Just bring your guitar cord and a single pedal if you want. Tickets will most likely sell out quickly so please make your reservation early! Tape or digital recorders welcome. No cameras please during seminar. For questions or to reserve a spot, contact Duke directly at: dukerobillard@cox.net

JULY

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

- Please come out and support the first-ever **Blackstone River Theatre Celtic Festival** sponsored by the Town of Cumberland to be held at Diamond Hill Park, Cumberland, RI on July 21, 2007, from 11 AM to 7 PM (rain date is July 22.) It's going to be a great festival with a MAIN MUSIC STAGE (still seeking a sponsor!) a second MUSIC STAGE sponsored by Amica Insurance, A CHILDREN'S STAGE sponsored by American Power Conversion and a DANCE STAGE sponsored by Open MRI of New England, Inc. and you'll be able to catch many of your favorite Celtic performers including **The Clancy Legacy (Robbie O'Connell, Aoife Clancy & Donal Clancy), Pendragon, The April Verch Band, The Jennifer Roland Band, the Atwater-Donnelly Trio, Solas An Lae, The Gnomes, Windharp, the Publicans, the Alleged Ceili Band and many more!** Please check back often for more information. There will also be a music session Saturday night at Blackstone River Theatre from 8:30-11:30 PM sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. **We are currently seeking sponsors, vendors and festival volunteers; if interested call 401-725-9272 or email russell@riverfolk.org.**

AUGUST

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

Blackstone River Theatre will be taking August off from full-time concert and dance programming to continue renovations on the building. There WILL be a few special events as well as several Heritage Arts Studio offerings.

SEPTEMBER

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

- **THANK YOU!** Blackstone River Theatre had our best attended 5-month period ever with over 3,800 audience members attending events January-May 2007. September marks the 7-year anniversary of the reopening of Blackstone River Theatre after over four years and two

months of volunteer renovation efforts from July, 1996 to September, 2000. Since reopening, BRT has presented 620 events in front of over 42,000 audience members! **And our first-ever Blackstone River Theatre Celtic Festival held in July saw an additional 2,000 plus audience members!**

- **BRT is looking for 6-8 new volunteers for the Fall 2007 season** (and beyond we hope!) If you are interested, please email volunteer@riverfolk.org. We will be holding a new BRT Volunteer orientation session on September 9 so please let us know if you are interested so we can be in touch!
- **There will be an exhibit by Providence artist Neal Drobnis in BRT's Art Gallery** beginning September 8 and running through October 8. Inspired by nature and ancient artifacts, Neal Drobnis creates glass sculpture in an exciting combination of the cast and blown glass techniques, reinterpreting a tradition of glass forming used by the Romans over three thousand years ago.
- **Check the Classes link for details about another round of 8-week beginner, advanced beginner and intermediate level Irish step dance classes for adults and children** starting in late September with Terry Songini!
- **Check the Classes link for details about another round of 6-week beginner and continuing beginner fiddle classes starting in mid-September on Tuesdays and 5-week advanced beginner and intermediate level fiddle classes starting in mid-September on Wednesdays!** All classes are taught by Cathy Clasper Torch.

Saturday, September 8, 8 PM, \$15.00

The McDades

Best Roots/Traditional Album of the Year winners at the 2007 Juno Awards!

We are very excited to kick off the 2007 Fall season at BRT with one of the most dynamic bands to come out of Canada in a long time. The McDades - siblings **Shannon, Solon and Jeremiah McDade** - will be joined by **Andy Hillhouse**, a multi-faceted guitarist, and **François Taillefer**, a driving percussionist. Their new CD, "Bloom," won the Juno for the Best Roots/Traditional Album of the Year (Group) at the 2007 Juno Awards, Canada's equivalent of the Grammy Awards. They were also named winners of the 2007 Independent Music Award for "Best World Album" and winners of the 2006 Canadian Folk Music Awards for "Best World Group" and "Best Instrumental Group." Punching through the walls of tradition, The McDades' Celtic-rooted music fuses the spontaneity of jazz improvisation with infectious global rhythms. The Edmonton-based band's sound is truly immersed in this spirit of improvisation, featuring both energetic instrumentals and sensitive vocals performed in both English and French. And while fast fiddle reels bring to mind a Celtic-based repertoire, it is the improvised solos and unisons of fiddle and alto pennywhistle over Middle Eastern-influenced Balkan scales that most clearly defines their sound. Their groundbreaking compositions and innovative arrangements are characterized by stunning virtuosity and a near-telepathic interaction on stage. Shannon's lyrical fiddle, Jeremiah's soaring whistles and Solon's smooth bass create the rich foundation for this adventurous band. With vocal harmonies that can only come from a family, an obvious love for each other and their music, and the release of their second CD "Bloom," The McDades continue to stretch the boundaries of modern tradition.

Saturday, September 15, 8 PM, \$12.00

Red Molly

Red Molly is an amazing new group featuring the talents of **Laurie MacAllister** (vocals, guitar, banjo), **Abbie Gardner** (vocals, dobro, guitar) and **Carolann Solebello** (vocals, bass, mandolin). They keep the old music alive with incredible harmonies, light-hearted banter and an incredible sense of energy. A very busy touring schedule has brought them much acclaim in a very short time including being named NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR by WUMB Radio in 2006 and winners of the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival Emerging Artist Showcase in 2006. In just three years, Red Molly has steadily garnered a devoted regional fan base in the northeast by opening shows for artists such as Aztec Two-Step, Catie Curtis, Jonathan Edwards and David Wilcox. In mid-2006, Red Molly's first full-length offering, "Never Been to Vegas," was released. A collection of 14 carefully-chosen songs that span more than a century of great American song writing, it features uncluttered arrangements for three voices and songs by timeless greats like Hank Williams, new traditionalists like Gillian Welch, Patty Griffin, and Red Molly's own Abbie Gardner as well as traditional American folk and gospel. "Never Been to Vegas" quickly climbed into the top 30 on the Radio & Records Americana chart... a rare accomplishment for an independent album. Don't miss a hot new group on the rise!

Sunday, September 16, 4:30-5:30 PM dance instruction
5:30-8:30 PM dancing straight-through! \$8.00 adults/\$3.00 children
Irish Ceili and Set Dance with the Broad Street Ceili Band
Sponsored by Open MRI of New England

The Broad Street Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes. This Fall sees a slight format change as **Laura Travis** and **Barry and Pat Callahan** will be on hand from 4:30-5:30 p.m. to teach total beginners and those new to the dance tradition. From 5:30-8:30 p.m., Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes for the rest of the evening. The Broad Street Ceili Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Josh Kane** on flute, **Marianne Kane** on bodhran and newest member **Kevin O'Brien** on piano. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!



SOLD OUT!

Wednesday, September 19, 7 PM, \$30.00

Dogie MacLean

It simply does not get much better than this! This very rare small-venue show sees **Dogie MacLean** performing in Rhode Island for the first time in eight years.... do NOT miss your chance to see this legendary artist in an intimate theater setting! Dogie MacLean is considered by many to be Scotland's pre-eminent singer-songwriter and is certainly one of the country's greatest musical treasures. From his home base in Butterstone near Dunkeld, MacLean tours the world with his unique blend of lyrical, 'roots based' songwriting and instrumental composition. He has built an international reputation as songwriter, composer and extraordinary performer which has led to concerts and festivals worldwide including New York's Carnegie Hall. His songs have been covered by hosts of artists and his "Caledonia" has become one of Scotland's most popular contemporary songs. His music has been used in Hollywood films ("Last of the Mohicans") and he has been the subject of three BBC TV music-documentaries. Described as " ...a musical hero" (Wall Street Journal) MacLean is renowned for his meaningful, haunting and emotion-filled music. His innovative work has created a modern interpretation of this music but its fundamental values remain rooted in the ancient Scots culture. Buy tickets soon so you won't be disappointed!

Thursday, September 20, 7-10:00 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

Blackstone River Theatre's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are always welcome... the emphasis is on fun and learning! Since its inception, we have regularly had between 20-35 drummers and on many occasions, members of the bellydance community join in. Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

Saturday, September 22, 11 AM, \$5.00 children/\$7.00 adults

Keith Michael Johnson's "The Secret World of Bubbles"

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union

Ideal for families with children age six-and-older. Do not miss this incredibly fun and informative children's show! You can learn a lot from a bubble... The "Secret World of Bubbles" is packed with state-of-the-art bubble sculptures that snare the attention of children and adults alike. The science behind the magic unfolds like a mystery, making this show both educational and unforgettable. In 2006, Keith Michael Johnson became the first Soap Bubble Artist in America to create a Bubble-Show with the help of public funding through Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and an appropriation from the Rhode Island General Assembly. This 50-minute program showcases his discoveries and inventions and shares the science of bubbleology... Soap films, liquids, tension, pressure, gasses are some of the topics we'll cover - all topics right in line with elementary school curriculum. You'll also see bubbles as big as bathtubs, chains of bubbles, foamy towers, freely-floating hot air filled bubbles, bouncing bubbles, bubble cubes, long lived bubbles and more! Using humor and audience participation, Keith teaches and entertains in a way that makes learning fun!

Celebrating Blackstone River Theatre's 7-year anniversary!

Saturday, September 22, 8 PM, \$15.00

Pendragon

Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended.

New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. **Celebrating their 24th anniversary tonight, Pendragon** has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. The band released their 7th album, "Artistic License," on Blackstone River Theatre's RiverFolk Productions label in 2005. 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. Past tributes include three straight Boston Music Award nominations for Outstanding Celtic Act and a Governor's Tourism Award. Pendragon was voted Rhode Island's Best Celtic Act in the 2007, 2006 and 2005 MOTIF Magazine Music Poll. They were voted 2005 Best Local Folk Act of the Year in the Providence Phoenix' Best Music Poll, the 8th time they gained that recognition. While drawing on the ethnic music of the Blackstone River Valley, Pendragon fashions the music of tradition into the music of tomorrow performing 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 fiddle, bouzouki 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 dynamic step dancer and percussionist **Kevin Doyle**, a U.S. champion dancer who has performed throughout the New England area for over 30 years.

Saturday, September 29, 8 PM, \$12.00

The Bohemian Quartet

Experience an amazing evening of gypsy music! The Bohemian Quartet is a four-piece string band composed of violin, cello, gypsy guitar and an upright bass. The quartet performs traditional gypsy music as well as traditional Eastern-European folk music. It is sometimes difficult to tell if a tune is 'gypsy' or not for the simple reason that as the Romany musicians moved to the country they would make their homeland, they would pick up the local tunes there and perform these with their personal and unique touch. The Bohemian Quartet is formed around violinist, conductor/arranger **Stan Renard**. Stan is from France and has travelled extensively throughout Europe collecting tunes via diverse sources (records, transcriptions, interviews etc.) He was the pupil of Veda Reynolds (Curtis) and Alexandre Brussilovsky (Moscow) and made gypsy music his area of expertise. **Paul Kolesnikow**, gypsy guitar, teaches at Brown University and performs all over New England with musicians such as Duke Robillard. **John DeBossu**, upright bass, performs in numerous jazz ensembles throughout New England as well as in the Rhode Island Big Band. Newest member, **Christine Harrington**, cello, performs regularly with pianist Joe Parillo and is also a member of the Hartford Festival Orchestra. In addition to recording the Grammy-nominated CD "Sandbox" by the Parillo/Harrington Duo, Christine recorded with Johnny Cunningham and Kevin Burke on the CD "Celtic Fiddle Fest" released in 2001.

Sunday, September 30, 7 PM, \$12.00

North Sea Gas - CD release concert!

Don't miss the return of Scotland's North Sea Gas, a Scottish folk band who have now been performing for 27 years. With a combination of fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bodhran and bouzouki, complementing strong vocal harmonies and a keen sense of humor, an entertaining evening is always guaranteed! Over the years North Sea Gas has recorded 14 albums and played to audiences all over Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, the U.S. and Canada... this marks their fifth appearance at BRT. The band is led by founder **Dave Gilfillan** on lead vocals, guitar and banjo, well-known for his tongue-in-cheek humor. **Ronnie MacDonald** on lead and harmony vocals, guitar and bouzouki is joined by newest member **Grant Simpson** on high-energy fiddle and vocals. For a number of years North Sea Gas has attracted large audiences to concerts held at the Edinburgh Festival. The band received a Gold Disc award from the Scottish Music Industry for their album "Caledonian Connection," which American author, Diana Gabaldon, writer of Scottish historical novels, referenced as one of her sources when researching Scottish speech patterns for her books. Additionally, Silver Disc awards have been received for "Keltic Heritage," "Live from Edinburgh," "Scottish Destiny," "Spirit of Scotland" and "Dark Island." This evening will be the release of their new CD, "Rosslyn." Poignant and rousing songs, great instrumentals, history, humor and more!

OCTOBER

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

- **There will be an exhibit by Providence musician/illustrator Keith Munslow in BRT's Art Gallery** beginning October 12 and running through November 11. Keith will also have a CD release party on October 20 to celebrate his new children's CD!
- **Check the Classes link for details about a two-day beginner and advanced beginner level workshop in Celtic relief stone carving** in limestone with instructor Laura Travis on October 13-14.
- **Check the Classes link for details about another round of 8-week advanced beginner and intermediate level Irish step dance classes (soft and hard shoe)** starting October 2 with Terry Songini.
- **BRT's Heritage Arts Studio begins a new initiative by honoring New England's literary legacy in the Blackstone River Valley with a new print and electronic journal called STUDY HILL.** Named for William Blackstone's 17th century farm and library once located in the area of Blackstone River Theatre, STUDY HILL will publish both new writing and special editions of rare and out of print or older text evocative of New England themes and connections. **STUDY HILL for Young Writers is an after school workshop for secondary writers working to meet RI's Dual Diploma Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements.** Workshop participants will work as a creative and critical team to produce new writing for potential publication in "STUDY HILL, A Journal of New and Legacy Literature." Young authors in grades 10 through 12 will meet starting October 30 for six Tuesdays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. to read and discuss short samples of New England-based fiction as inspiration for new writing of their own! Writers will then begin portfolios of original work including "in the round" conclusions to G. Wayne Miller's original short story, "Vapors." Artifacts from STUDY HILL for Young Writers at the Blackstone River Theatre will be available for use in high school graduation digital portfolios or Senior Projects.

FOOTSTEPS IN HISTORY EVENT

**Saturday, October 6, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance/\$14.00 day of show
New England Mandolin Ensemble featuring Carlo Aonzo**

The New England Mandolin Ensemble is dedicated to revitalizing this traditional American format by exploring new directions as well as old. Its members come from diverse musical backgrounds, from jazz and classical to bluegrass and folk music traditions around the world. All are seasoned performers and teachers who are exploring contemporary paths for mandolin, as well as maintaining meaningful connections to tradition. They recently released their debut CD, "Sip a Little New." The music includes jazz, classical, and traditional folk music and features both intricately-composed and improvised music for four mandolin-family instruments. NEME founder and director **August Watters** is a mandolinist and professor of ear training at Boston's Berklee College of Music. The New England Mandolin Ensemble also features classical mandolin icon **Marilynn Mair** (Roger Williams University), multi-stylistic virtuoso **Jim Dalton** (Boston Conservatory), and mandocello specialist **Mitch Nelin**. Tonight's show will also feature special guest mandolinist **Carlo Aonzo**, a native of Savona, Italy who studied with Ugo Orlandi, the current patriarch of the Italian mandolin camp, at the Cesare Pollini Conservatory of Padua. His playing has been recognized with awards at prestigious competitions including the "Vivaldi" prize of the 6th annual Vittorio Pizianti National Mandolin Competition in Venice. He is known as perhaps the best Italian classical mandolinist and also holds the US National Mandolin Champion title.

**Friday, October 12, 8 PM, \$12.00
Mary Ann Rossoni - CD release!**

We are very happy to be presenting the release party for Mary Ann Rossoni's long-awaited new CD, "Timber & Nails." Mary Ann will be performing with her full band; special guests **Joanne Lurgio, Paul Pasch and Jan Luby** will open the night with a set of acoustic songs in the round. Mary Ann Rossoni - band leader, writer and lead vocalist - is not new to the scene, having toured for many years as a soloist and with

her band. She was raised in Johnston, RI, yet has called Providence her home since graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design with a degree in Illustration. Rossoni's music is cross-generational, original, acoustic rock n' roll, or in today's terms, Americana. Her music is very upbeat and inspirational but she's known to throw in a few hard luck/gut wrenching tunes into her sets "for the weepy, pensive types." After all, her life isn't perfect either... Mary Ann has recorded three CDs, "Downcity," "Half Slips & Garters," and "Waking Up from the American Dream." Rossoni will be joined by **Joe Potenza** on bass, **Dan Hann** on drums, **DJ Lauria** on electric/acoustic guitars, and **Betsy Dake** and **Ginny McCormick** on backing vocals.

Saturday, October 13, 8 PM, \$18.00

Kings of Strings featuring Jay Geils and Gerry Beaudoin

Advance ticket purchase recommended!

This concert is sponsored by the Statesmen of Jazz

Jay Geils needs no introduction to the legion of music fans that made The J. Geils Band one of the leading acts in the history of rock and roll. After a 25-year career with over 10 million records sold, five gold records and one double platinum record, the band decided to quit at the top of their game with the number one single and number one album on the charts. **Kings of Strings** is not the first collaboration between Jay Geils, who has now returned to his jazz roots, and jazz guitar veteran **Gerry Beaudoin** (they also collaborated on the release "New Guitar Summit" along with Duke Robillard). Beaudoin has been called "One of New England's premier jazz guitarists" by Just Jazz Guitar Magazine, appearing on over 20 recordings since his first national release in 1990. His award-winning group the Boston Jazz Ensemble featured percussion legend Alan Dawson on drums and vibes, alto saxophonist Fred Lipsius from the seminal jazz-rock group Blood Sweat and Tears, and Dick Johnson on clarinet. Among his unique talents is his fondness for the 7-string jazz guitar, where he finds and melds chords and changes into his playing in a manner that is purely his own. The 30's and the 40's were a time in US history that had extreme highs and lows, but what kept morale high and attitudes positive was music, and with Jay Geils, Gerry Beaudoin and the Kings of Strings you truly feel what made this era and genre of music so special. Their free flowing pace and styles open the doors to the 'gypsy' style of music and draws in 19-year-old fiddle/mandolin whiz **Aaron Weinstein** like a moth to light. The result is a swinging evening of classics from the swing era plus some original blues and bebop.

Sunday, October 14, 7 PM, \$12.00 advance/\$14.00 day of show

The Emily Smith Band - Music from Scotland

It's not often that we present the same group in the same year but this group was so good when they debuted in April that we couldn't pass them up on their Fall tour! **Emily Smith**, the 2005 USA Song Writing Competition winner, Scots Singer of the Year 2005 nominee and former BBC Young Traditional Musician of the Year in 2002, has quickly established herself as one of Scotland's finest young singers. A respected interpreter of traditional song, with a particular passion for those sourced in her home region of Dumfries & Galloway, Emily gives a refreshing and modern slant to ancient songs which blend easily alongside her own compositions. She's joined tonight by **Jamie McClennan**, a talented musician on fiddle, guitar and flute, and new member **Ross Milligan** on guitar. In 2005, Smith became the first ever winner from Scotland in the USA Songwriting Competition where she won the folk category with her song "Edward of Morton." She has released two solo albums to date "A Day Like Today" (2002) and "A Different Life" (2005). Emily has a relaxed and informative presence on stage and though only in her mid-twenties, she has toured worldwide with her band. Her material is song based, many being Smith originals, with the occasional instrumental set thrown in. Happy to sing unaccompanied or back herself on piano or accordion, Emily's voice has a delicate intensity which soars over the subtle arrangements of her band. Audiences can be assured of an entertaining and varied performance. Don't miss her!

Thursday, October 18, 7-10:00 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

Blackstone River Theatre's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are always welcome... the emphasis is on fun and learning! Since its inception, we have regularly had between 20-35 drummers and on many occasions, members of the bellydance community join in. Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

Saturday, October 20, 1:00 PM, \$5.00 children/\$7.00 adults

Keith Munslow - CD release party!
Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union

Ideal for families with children age six-and-older. BRT favorite **Keith Munslow** returns with a 45-minute show of original songs, way-cool stories, tongue-tangling poems and quick-as-a-wink cartoons. Today's show celebrates the release of his new children's CD, "Dressed Up For The Party." On this exciting collection of stories (and a song or two!) Keith presents "Marfa the Barfa," the captivating tale of Martha Maloney's quest to overcome her sea-sickness and save her Dad. Also featured is "No Token, No Milk," a story of survival in the school cafeteria. Produced by Bill Harley, "Dressed Up For The Party" is both mischievous and genuine, capturing the spirit of childhood in vivid, hilarious detail! Keith's piano playing, skillful cartoon drawing, and quick wit always combine for an upbeat, positive experience with plenty of chances for audience participation. Multi-talented performer Keith Munslow (who will also have some of his illustrations on display in the BRT Art Gallery) has entertained thousands of children at shows throughout New England and beyond for 15 years. Keith can often be seen in a hilarious duo show with storyteller Bill Harley, and worked previously with Big Nazo, an award-winning mask and puppet touring company. His previous CD, "Accidentally (On Purpose)," was a winner of a Parent's Choice Recommended Award. Keith's show is also lots of fun for adults too!

CONCERT POSTPONED TO A DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED!

Saturday, October 20, 8 PM, \$12.00

Jerry O'Sullivan and the Eastern Trad Trio

Jerry O'Sullivan has been widely hailed as America's premier uilleann piper. His reputation for technical and melodic mastery of the instrument, an Irish bagpipe known for its subtlety and expression, is unsurpassed in the United States, and Jerry is also widely recorded on the tin whistle, the low whistle, the Highland bagpipes, and the Scottish smallpipes. He has appeared on more than 90 albums and has performed or recorded with artists such as The Boston Pops, Don Henley, Paul Winter, James Galway, Dolly Parton, Eileen Ivers and many others. He was a featured soloist on Paul Winter's Grammy-winning album, "Celtic Solstice" and his first two solo albums, "The Gift" and "The Invasion" have both received critical acclaim. Jerry's newest solo CD, "O'Sullivan Meets O'Farrell," features music from the 200-year-old O'Farrell tutor and tune collections. Jerry has also recorded a number of film soundtracks including "The Long Journey Home," "Far and Away," and "Out of Ireland," and has toured extensively in the United States and Europe. O'Sullivan is a gifted ambassador of the Irish uilleann pipes, and his mastery of the instrument, traditional knowledge and dedication to education truly make him America's premier uilleann piper. **The Eastern Trad Trio** consists of **Mike Reynolds** on accordion and vocals, **Bill Black** on banjo, bouzouki and guitar and **Mark Oien** on fiddle. Mike Reynolds comes from a musical family whose father Larry is well-known throughout the traditional world; he has been a member of various bands including the Boston Comhaltas Ceili Band and was voted into the CCE Regional Hall of Fame in 2003 for his service to Irish music. Bill Black became active in the Irish traditional revival that began in New York in the early '70s. Bill, also elected to the CCE Hall of Fame in 2003, composes tunes and runs traditional sessions on Cape Cod. Fiddler Mark Oien, known for his lively playing, regularly attends seisiuns in Boston, Cape Cod, and Providence.

Sunday, October 21, 4:30-5:30 PM dance instruction

5:30-8:30 PM dancing straight-through! \$8.00 adults/\$3.00 children

Irish Ceili and Set Dance with the Broad Street Ceili Band

Sponsored by Open MRI of New England

The Broad Street Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes. This Fall sees a slight format change as **Laura Travis** and **Barry and Pat Callahan** will be on hand from 4:30-5:30 p.m. to teach total beginners and those new to the dance tradition. From 5:30-8:30 p.m., Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes for the rest of the evening. The Broad Street Ceili Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Josh Kane** on flute, **Marianne Kane** on bodhran and newest member **Kevin O'Brien** on piano. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Saturday, October 27, 8 PM, \$15.00

Jerimoth Hill

The latest addition to the Atwater-Donnelly performance repertoire is **Jerimoth Hill**, named after the highest point in Rhode Island, in the town of Foster, home of Elwood

and Aubrey. Jerimoth Hill is an all old-time gospel band that includes **Aubrey Atwater** on mountain dulcimer, banjo and mandolin; **Elwood Donnelly** on lead vocals and guitar; **Cathy Clasper-Torch** on fiddle and cello; **Heidi Cerrigione** on autoharp; **John Cerrigione** on bass; and **Uriah Donnelly** on piano and lead guitar. "The Halfway Ground" (2007) marks the 10th recording for Atwater-Donnelly and the first for Jerimoth Hill: it was voted 2007 Album of the Year in the Motif Magazine Music Poll. The project summarizes years of research throughout those hidden pockets of America where music, as an integral part of daily life, weaves an emotional thread through work and play, commitment and faith, endurance and hope, struggle and peace. Come witness "The Halfway Ground," where the hereafter is ever-present in conversation and song, and greener pastures are a simple assurance.

NOVEMBER

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

- **There will be a split exhibit by Providence musician/illustrator Keith Munslow (upper lobby) and North Scituate glass artist Neal Drobnis in BRT's Art Gallery** through November 11.
- **From November 16 to December 9, the BRT Art Gallery will showcase the original paintings of Woonsocket-based painter and illustrator Emily Lisker.** This will be an all-new show of original work and Emily will hold an opening reception on Saturday, November 17, from 4-6 p.m.
- **Check the Classes link for details about another round of 4-week beginner and continuing beginner fiddle classes starting in early November on Tuesdays and 4-week advanced beginner and intermediate level fiddle classes starting in early November on Wednesdays!** All classes are taught by Cathy Clasper Torch.
- **Blackstone River Theatre will hold its annual Homecoming Concert and Silent Auction fund-raiser on November 24th this year.** As always, we welcome any donations of artwork, goods or services, or gift certificates from local businesses and individuals who support our mission. Contact russell@riverfolk.org if you'd like to help!

SOLD OUT!

**Friday, November 2, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$20.00 day of show
AND Saturday, November 3, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$20.00 day of show
The Highwaymen - Release of Live CD recorded at BRT last year!
Advance ticket purchase recommended!**

We are proud to welcome back the original Highwaymen, one of the seminal folk groups of the '60s, who first rejoined in 2004 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. They also contributed a couple of future standards to the folk repertory ("Big Rock Candy Mountain," "All My Trials"), played a key role in the unearthing of a major, overlooked Leadbelly song, which later became a major addition to the repertoires of both Creedence Clearwater Revival and the Beach Boys, and also made the first American recordings of important songs by Buffy St. Marie and Ewan McColl. 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. **This weekend celebrates the release of their brand-new CD, "When the Village Was Green," recorded live at BRT last year over the course of their two concerts!** Their shows have sold out the past three years... don't miss a rare chance to see one of the '60s most popular folk ensembles in an intimate theater setting!

Sunday, November 4, 7 PM, \$12.00

Brooks Williams/Bertrand Laurence

If you are a fan of great guitar music, DO NOT miss this amazing split concert! One of the things we like to do best at BRT is to pair like-minded musicians with each other to expose their music to the other's fan base. This show marks the return of now-local favorite Bertrand Laurence and the debut of Brooks Williams whom we have long admired but never been able to book. **Brooks Williams** is a stunningly soulful and blues-soaked guitarist. His musical vision encompasses blues fingerpicking, swingin' slide, and rootsy flatpicking, and manifests itself in a hybrid of funky chords, walking bass lines, and fiery leads. With influences as diverse as John Fahey, Michael Bloomfield, and Joseph Spence, it is pleasantly difficult to pin Williams down. He's a guitarist, a songwriter, and an interpreter and also one of the most entertaining and engaging performers on the circuit today. Williams has released 15 CDs to date on labels like Green Linnet and Signature Sounds including his classic "Blues and Ballads." His music rocks like the blues and swings like jazz and is as fresh and original as any music you are likely to hear inspiring Dirty Linen magazine to call Brooks Williams one of "America's musical treasures." French finger-style acoustic guitarist and songwriter **Bertrand Laurence** is a master of the art of country blues fingerpicking and slide guitar, but he's no purist. His live shows featuring traditional, contemporary, and original blues are full of surprises including swing tunes, jump blues, ragtime, boogie, bluesy show tunes, rockabilly,... even blues sung in French! Inspired by childhood heroes, Laurence tries to recapture in his music the exuberance of Jelly Roll Morton and the rocking guitar style of Big Bill Broonzy. Having spent a number of years as a performance artist, Laurence also knows how to put on a show and his time working at a homeless shelter also taught him the healing power of the blues. "I like to focus on the upside of the blues," he says. "I'm into joy and celebration." His CD, "La Vie en Bleu" shows Laurence at his best, fingerpicking his way through a diverse collection of instrumentals on six-string, twelve-string and slide guitar, and singing blues in both English and French. Audiences all over have responded with warmth to Bertrand's performances; tonight is a great chance to see what all the fuss is about!

Saturday, November 10, 1 PM, \$5.00 children/\$7.00 adults

Maria Sangiolo - CD release concert!

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union

Ideal for families with children age six-and-older. Following on the heels of her critically acclaimed, award-winning release "Fairy Moon - Songs of the Ring," (Parents' Choice Recommended Award 2004, NAPPA Gold 2005 and Children's Music Web Award 2005), **Maria Sangiolo** celebrates the sea and makes an appealing plea to families to help save the ocean on her brand new release "Under the Mystic Sea." On her third family release and 7th recording overall, Sangiolo sings the blues for sharks, swings with penguins and brings awareness to ocean-friendly living. This New England native has been enchanting audiences with her pure vocals and veteran stage presence for almost 20 years. Beginning with her contemporary folk roots in Boston, MA and now residing in Connecticut, Sangiolo has performed in children's museums, schools, libraries, festivals and coffeehouses for both children and adults. With her gorgeous voice, stellar musicianship and eclectic mix of musical genres, Maria welcomes you into her musical world, gently teaching us to respect ourselves, our blue planet and its creatures of the sea.

Sunday, November 11, 7 PM, \$12.00 advance/\$14.00 day of show

Back of the Moon - Music from Scotland

Back of the Moon is a traditional Scottish folk band featuring both new and traditional tunes and songs cast in fresh, modern sounding arrangements. Since forming in 2000, the band has rapidly gained a reputation for their dynamic live performances, touring annually throughout the UK, Canada, USA and beyond. Back of the Moon creates their giant acoustic sound through a tightly woven frontline of Scottish border pipes and fiddle, an intimate pairing of low whistle and flute, the distinctive rhythmic force of their guitar/piano rhythm combo, and incredible three-part vocal harmonies in their Scottish songs in which each unique singer takes the lead. 2005 saw them win "Best Folk Band" at the Scottish Trad Music Awards, having received "Best Up and Coming Act" at the awards back in 2003 and "Best Celtic Group" at Lorient Interceltic Festival 2003. Back of the Moon is: **Gillian Frame** (fiddle, vocals), **Ali Hutton** (border pipes, whistle, bodhran), **Findlay Napier** (guitars, vocals), and **Hamish Napier** (piano, flutes, vocals, Scottish step dance). Their show in May was one of the best concerts of the year so far - don't miss them this time around!

Thursday, November 15, 7-10:00 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

Blackstone River Theatre's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are always welcome... the emphasis is on fun and learning! Since its inception, we have regularly had between 20-35 drummers and on many occasions, members of the bellydance community join in. Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

Friday, November 16, 8 PM, \$10.00

"An Evening of Ocean State Songwriters" featuring members of the RI Songwriters Association (RISA)

This is the 5th annual show at BRT where audiences get to hear Rhode Island songwriters performing in an "in the round" format. Each set consists of three or four songwriters taking turns performing their original songs with the other songwriters on stage occasionally joining in with harmonies or guitar to provide an even more memorable performance. Casual banter between the performers usually gives a comedic edge to the sets, making the shows even more fun and enjoyable. This will be some of the best music you may have never heard - catch these local songwriters while they are still local! Scheduled for the show are: **Mark Cutler, Dan Lilley, Keith White, Jake Haller, Anna's House, Corinne Wahlberg, Chris Rosenquest and Frank Romanelli**. For more info about RISA and the artists, please visit www.risongwriters.com.

SOLD OUT!

Saturday, November 17, 8 PM, \$20.00

Roomful of Blues

Advance ticket purchase recommended!

Here's a VERY rare chance to hear this amazing band in an intimate listening room setting! USA Today says Roomful of Blues plays "marvelous wall-to-wall grooves... between the wicked guitar work and the brassy horn section, things never stop swinging." With their masterful combination of jumping, hard-edged blues and R&B, it's no wonder why the great Count Basie called them "the hottest blues band I've ever heard." DownBeat said the band is "in a class by itself." Without a doubt, Roomful of Blues is all this and more. Since 1967, the band's deeply rooted, horn-driven blend of swing, rock 'n' roll, jump, blues and soul has earned it five Grammy Award nominations and a slew of other accolades, including four W.C. Handy Blues Awards. The band has always boasted great musicianship featuring a stellar horn section - they won two W.C. Handy Blues Awards in 2004: Instrumentalist of the Year - Horns, as well as the coveted Blues Band of the Year. Remaining together for so long is not simply a matter of survival, but rather a testament to Roomful of Blues' commitment to its originality and its ability to evolve. Over the years, Roomful's lineup has changed but the band has always been one of the tightest, most joyful blues ensembles in the world. Currently an eight-piece unit led by guitarist **Chris Vachon**, the band has never sounded fresher or stronger. With new vocalist/harpist **Dave Howard** (who sang in his first Rhode Island concert with Roomful last year), bassist **Dima Gorodetsky**, drummer **Ephraim Lowell**, keyboardist **Travis Colby**, and baritone and tenor saxophonist **Mark Earley** along with long-time members tenor and alto saxophonist **Rich Lataille** (the longest-standing member of the group) and trumpeter **Bob Enos**, their newest CD "Standing Room Only" swings with urgency and purpose. This concert has sold out the past two years... don't be left out this time!

Sunday, November 18, 4:30-5:30 PM dance instruction

5:30-8:30 PM dancing straight-through! \$8.00 adults/\$3.00 children

Irish Ceili and Set Dance with the Broad Street Ceili Band

Sponsored by Open MRI of New England

The Broad Street Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes. *The November ceili will also feature two performances by BRT's Intermediate step dance class under the direction of instructor Terry Songini.* This Fall sees a slight format change as **Laura Travis** and **Barry and Pat Callahan** will be on hand from 4:30-5:30 p.m. to teach total beginners and those new to the dance tradition. From 5:30-8:30 p.m., Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes for the rest of the evening. The Broad Street Ceili Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Josh Kane** on flute, **Marianne Kane** on bodhran and newest member **Kevin O'Brien** on piano. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

SOLD OUT!

Saturday, November 24, 8 PM, \$15.00
BRT Homecoming Concert and Silent Auction
Advance ticket purchase recommended!

With family and friends in town for Thanksgiving, Blackstone River Theatre's 7th annual fund-raiser features some of the best of Rhode Island's homegrown talent as well as others who now live in the Ocean State. This show always sells out and is a great chance to sample some of the best music presented at BRT so get your tickets early! At 7:00 PM and during intermission, Blackstone River Theatre will hold a silent auction featuring CDs, jewelry, Christmas items and gift certificates. There will also be over 10 pieces of original artwork this year at our silent auction, donated by artists who have exhibited in BRT's Art Gallery. *100% of the proceeds from both the concert and the silent auction will go to support Blackstone River Theatre's programming and operating expenses.* Members of the band **PENDRAGON** will act as hosts this evening and will perform a set of their Celtic-inspired music. Featured performers include celebrated Irish singer-songwriter **ROBBIE O'CONNELL**, the original music of singer-songwriter **STEFAN COUTURE** and **THE ATWATER-DONNELLY TRIO** featuring Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly joined by fiddler Cathy Clasper-Torch performing Appalachian and Celtic-inspired folk music. **BERTRAND LAURENCE** will perform solo acoustic blues, **KEN LYON** will front the Shoe Fly Orchestra and **SUPERCHIEF TRIO**, featuring Keith Munslow, Pam Murray and Johnny Cote will also be on hand to perform a set of New Orleans based blues, hot swing and smooth, sultry ballads. Expect a few surprises as well!

Friday, November 30, 8 PM, \$10.00
Stefan Couture

Within the first seconds of listening to the music of **Stefan Couture**, you will find yourself submerged into a mixture of American roots, acoustic driven soul and sweet pop hooks, along with some of the most honest and passionate lyrics since the early days of the singer-songwriter movement. It's been several years since this North Smithfield native first played at BRT after releasing his solo CD, "Great Big Somewhere." He subsequently formed The Campfire Orchestra and toured far and wide behind the group's second CD, "Ghost In The Rearview" and the band became known for their high-energy jazz/funk/blues/jam band sound. During this time, Stefan was voted "Best Male Vocalist" in the 2005 Providence Phoenix Best Music Poll and they played to enthusiastic crowds all over the East Coast. Tonight's show however will see Stefan return to his acoustic folk roots, performing new music and old favorites in solo, duo and trio settings and with a renewed emphasis on the lyrics that always seem to be meaningful to everyone in some way.

DECEMBER

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

- **The exhibit of Emily Lisker's original paintings continues** in BRT's Art Gallery through December 9.
- **Blackstone River Theatre will shut down for the holiday season starting December 10 and will reopen again on January 11.** We wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season with best wishes for a peaceful new year!
- **Blackstone River Theatre gift certificates** make a great gift for friends and family of all ages!

SOLD OUT!

Saturday, December 1, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$18.00 day of show
The Clancy Legacy Christmas Show
featuring Aoife Clancy, Donal Clancy and Robbie O'Connell
Advance ticket purchase recommended!

Very few families have impacted Irish music as much as the Clancys. Aoife Clancy, Robbie O'Connell and Donal Clancy first performed together at a workshop called "The Clancy Legacy" during the Irish Arts week in East Durham, NY in 2006. It was the first time they had performed together in that combination and the show was extremely well received so The Clancy Legacy was born - **Aoife Clancy** (daughter of Bobby Clancy) **Donal Clancy** (son of Liam Clancy) and their cousin **Robbie O'Connell**, who was part of the last tours of the "Brothers." All are carrying on the music in their own

solo careers but come together to sing old and new songs as their family always has. Aoife Clancy (pronounced "Eefa") brings a refreshing new voice to folk music, one that ranges from traditional Irish songs to ballads and contemporary folk. Aoife comes from the small town of Carrick-on-Suir, in Co Tipperary, where her musical career began at an early age. Her father Bobby Clancy placed a guitar in her hands at age ten, and by age fourteen was playing with her father in nearby pubs. She later moved to Dublin, where she studied drama at the Gaiety School of Acting. In 1995 Aoife was asked to join the acclaimed group Cherish the Ladies, one of the most sought-after Irish American groups in history. Since 1999, Aoife has pursued a solo career and clearly established herself as one of the divas of Irish and contemporary folk music. Donal Clancy grew up in the Ring Gaeltacht of Co. Waterford. Born into a musical family, he was exposed to Irish music from an early age. Carrying the legacy of the Clancy family name into the 21st century, Donal has established himself at the forefront of a new generation of traditional Irish musicians. He first rose to fame as a founding member of the Irish supergroup Danœ, and later cemented his reputation as one of the genre's leading guitarists as a member of Solas and The Eileen Ivers Band. His highly acclaimed first solo album, "Close to Home" was released on Compass Records in 2006. Robbie O'Connell was born in Waterford, Ireland and grew up in Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary. In 1977, he joined the Clancy Brothers with whom he recorded 3 albums. With the 1982 release of his first solo album, "Close to the Bone," Robbie emerged as an artist of major stature. Soon after, he began touring 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 released "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 West Virginia and Gaelic Roots Week at Boston College and has earned international acclaim as a singer-songwriter by making it quite clear that there's more to being Irish than filling stereotypes. *Don't miss an amazing evening of songs and laughter as The Clancy Legacy celebrates the holidays and the traditions they grew up with...*

Saturday, December 8, 11 AM, \$5.00 children/\$7.00 adults
Patrick Ball - Celtic Harp and storytelling for Children
Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union

Ideal for families with children age six-and-older. There was once a time when the telling of traditional tales touched nearly every child's life, a time when the tales spoke of things that touched nearly every child's heart. These tales kindled their imaginations and taught them the pleasures of listening. They gave them a sense of place, of belonging, and taught them many of life's lessons. They inspired the children to tell these tales themselves and to experience firsthand the power and beauty of the spoken word. These tales gave them joy. Now these tales and their proper telling have been all but forgotten, and children have suffered the loss of them. For storybooks may hold the old tales, but rarely are they rendered with the music of the traditional speech, and never can they come alive and sing as when they are spoken from one heart to another. **Patrick Ball** encountered such storytelling first and most memorably in the West of Ireland, and then later in the hollows of the Southern Appalachian mountains. The stories he heard there were fiery and tender, funny and filled with wild flights of the imagination. The tellers spoke them with a rhythmic charm and a poetry of phrase that was striking and beautiful and a feast for the mind of a child. Patrick lived in these lands, listened and became a part of the cultural life in which these tales unfold and these stories that were passed down for generations were passed down to him. As a result he tells them with a full measure of authenticity and he presents a vibrant picture of the character and folk beliefs of the Irish and Appalachian peoples. As an accompaniment to these tales, Patrick plays the Celtic harp and offers the children an introduction to this rare, legendary instrument, its music, its playing technique and its place in Irish culture and folklore. *Patrick is the recipient of the Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Association.*

Saturday, December 8, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance/\$14.00 day of show
Patrick Ball - "The Christmas Rose," Celtic Harp and Storytelling

Patrick Ball is one of the premier celtic harp players in the world today and a captivating storyteller in the Celtic tradition. He has recorded nine instrumental and three spoken word albums which have sold well over one-half million copies internationally and earned national awards in both the music and spoken word categories. His two solo musical theater pieces, "O'Carolan's Farewell to Music" and "The Fine Beauty of the Island" have toured throughout North America and won critical and popular acclaim wherever they have played. Patrick is "a rare artist" for in playing the ancient, legendary brass-strung harp of Ireland with its crystalline, bell-like voice,

and in telling the marvelous old tales of wit and enchantment, he not only carries on two of the most cherished traditions of Celtic culture, but blends them in concert to create "a richly theatrical and hauntingly beautiful performance." He tours extensively throughout the United States and Canada. Several years ago he recorded a Christmas/Winter season CD and gave it the name of "The Christmas Rose" because it includes a very beautiful traditional melody that his mother loved and used to sing in her childhood. The recording was awarded the National Association of Independent Record Distributors Indie Award for Best Seasonal Recording of 1991 and prompted many requests for a live concert featuring the pieces on the recording and a selection of beloved Holiday stories. Ball stepped into the magical world of English and Irish literature, Celtic legend and traditional folk beliefs and drew out tales such as "A Child's Christmas in Wales," chapters from "The Wind in the Willows," and passages from Shakespeare, William Butler Yeats, and Thomas Hardy, mingling them with beloved pieces of seasonal music. All of the stories and all of the music touch on what is, to him and to many of us, the central message of the Christmas/Winter season: hope. Hope for something wondrous. Hope for a light in the darkness. *Don't miss this unique holiday celebration!*

Sunday, December 9, 5-9 PM at BRT

Fezziwig's House Party and Hearthside Candlelight Tour

\$15.00 per person: Fezziwig's House Party only (at BRT)

\$12.00 per person: Hearthside Candlelight Tour only

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

This holiday season, Cumberland's Blackstone River Theatre on Broad Street has again partnered with Lincoln's Hearthside, located just five minutes away from the theater on Rte. 123 in Lincoln, to offer a Victorian Christmas Celebration. 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. The event is designed as a great way to celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas in the Blackstone Valley! This 4th annual holiday event celebrates Christmas in true Dickensian fashion... Come dressed in Victorian costume or simply in your Christmas best and take a step back in time! The event incorporates **a candlelight tour at Lincoln's historic (1810) Hearthside homestead, open 4-8 PM.** 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. Hearthside will also offer caroling, a Wassail Bowl and hot hors d'oeuvres. **From 5:00-9:00 p.m., Cumberland's Blackstone River Theatre will offer "Fezziwig's House Party."** At BRT, guests will enjoy Victorian carols, roving musicians including members of Pendragon, demonstrations of period dancing with live music provided by The Broad Street Ceili Band, complementary cold hors d'oeuvres, and more. Call 401-725-9272 to purchase tickets for Fezziwig's House Party or the combination event. Visit www.hearthsidehouse.org for more information or call 401-726-0597 to purchase tickets for the Hearthside Candlelight Tour.