

Blackstone River Theatre



Solstice Festival

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JANUARY

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

- **THANK YOU! Blackstone River Theatre saw more than 7,200 audience members attend 190 concerts, dances, children events, classes and private functions in 2008.** September marked the 8-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 850 events in front of more than 52,000 audience members!** *An additional 3,000 people attended the 2007 and 2008 BRT Celtic Festivals held at Diamond Hill Park.*
- **Look for details about another six-week round of fiddle classes** for beginner, continuing beginner, advanced beginner and intermediate students with Cathy Clasper-Torch beginning Jan. 13 and Jan. 14.
- **Look for details about another eight-week round of Irish step dance classes** for adult and children beginner, continuing beginner, advanced beginner and intermediate students with Terry Songini beginning Jan. 13 and Jan. 17.
- **The joint art exhibit "Wet 'N' Dry," featuring watercolors and pastels by Rick Cardoza and Shelly Eager, will be in BRT's Art Gallery Jan. 9 through Feb. 15.**
- *There will be no children's events or drum circles in the month of January.*

Sunday, January 4, 2-5 PM

MAYOR MCKEE'S INAUGURATION CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

Friday, January 9, 8 PM, \$12.00

THE WIYOS/BERTRAND LAURENCE



Named after the toughest street gang of old New York, **the WIYOS** play old timey American music - vaudevillian ragtime blues, early swing, jugband and old time country. The quartet is comprised of **Parrish Ellis** - guitars and vocals; **Joseph "joebass" DeJarnette** - upright bass and vocals; **Michael Farkas** - washboard, harmonica, vocals; and new member, **Teddy Weber**, adding vocals, steel slide and acoustic guitar. The Wiyos transport listeners back to a time before TV and mass-media were the main sources of entertainment, to the days when music could be heard on live radio and at community dances, juke joints and house parties. Incorporating elements of

physical comedy and theatricality, The WIYOS create an interactive show in the tradition of vaudevillian performers like Fats Waller, Spike Jones and Uncle Dave Macon.



Tonight's split concert will begin with a set by French finger-style acoustic guitarist and songwriter **Bertrand Laurence** who is celebrating the CD release of "6 & 12 String Guitar Music." Laurence is a master of the art of country blues fingerpicking and slide guitar, but he's no purist. His live shows feature traditional, contemporary, and original blues but are full of surprises including swing tunes, ragtime, boogie, 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."

**Due to forecasted snowstorm, BRT is postponing tonight's set dance!
This dance has been rescheduled to Friday, March 6!**

Saturday, January 10, 8 PM, \$10.00

IRISH SET DANCE WITH THE BROAD STREET CEILI BAND



The Broad Street Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes. **Barry and Pat Callahan** will be on hand to help those new to the set dance tradition. From 8:00-11:00 p.m., Irish set dances will run continuously for the evening. The Broad Street Ceili Band is led by **Bob Drouin** on fiddle and features **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Josh Kane** on flute, **Marianne Kane** on bodhran and **Kevin O'Brien** on

piano. The emphasis is on fun... No partners are necessary. Try a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music.

January 13: Fiddle AND Irish Step Dance classes begin!

January 14: Advanced beginner and intermediate Fiddle classes begin!

**Wednesday, January 14, 6:30-8:30 PM (Main Hall)
BROAD STREET EDUCATIONAL SERIES WORKSHOP**

How to make more money in your business: Teaching merchants the advantages of accepting different ways of payment such as credit and debit cards and how to do it effectively. Discussion of the importance of establishing and developing a good banking relationship.

**Saturday, January 17, 8 PM, \$14.00
GENTICORUM - MUSIC FROM QUEBEC
Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union**



Genticorum has quickly become one of the most sought-after proponents of Québécois musical culture. This energetic, traditional 'power trio' incorporates the dynamism of today's diverse North American and European folk cultures in their music while remaining firmly rooted in the soil of their native land. Their new CD, "La Bibournoise," was released in 2008 and was named "Best Traditional Album Of The Year" at the 2008 CANADIAN FOLK MUSIC AWARDS. Weaving wooden flute, fiddle,

acoustic guitar, jaw harp, bass, and foot percussion with strong vocal harmonies, they produce a brilliant tapestry which gives them their distinctive sound. Since their debut in 2000, Genticorum has forged a solid place for itself on the folk festival circuit, playing concerts and dances throughout Canada and the US. Comprised of **Alexandre de Grosbois-Garand** (wooden flute, electric bass, vocals), **Pascal Gemme** (fiddle, feet, vocals) and **Yann Falquet** (guitar, feet, vocals), Genticorum offers a rich Québécois repertoire of captivatingly crooked traditional tunes and tongue-in-cheek songs. In addition to scavaging for seldom-heard traditional fare, they integrate an inspired selection of original compositions that render homage to their musical roots. *Don't miss an incredible night of Québécois culture with one of Canada's leading groups!*

**Thursday, January 22, 6:30-8:30 PM (snow date is January 29)
BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR CANAL**

MEETING

Saturday, January 24, 8 PM, \$12.00

JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD WITH CORY PESATURO



Cory Pesaturo, a 21-year old resident of Cumberland, is a graduate of the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA, where he was the first musician to ever major in accordion. Cory's extensive resumé includes appearances at the White House on four different occasions; he was also the youngest musician to ever play at a State Dinner at age 12. **Cory has won the New England Cup Accordion Competition three times, and the National Accordion Competition 4 times (at age 15, he was the youngest person to ever win the US National Accordion Championship.)** Tonight's show will feature Cory playing many styles of music, from classical to Klezmer to jazz to

Balkan and more as he performs with several guest musicians and his trio comprised of **Tal Gamlieli** from Israel on bass and **Tyson Stubelek** from Oregon on drums. Both are also New England Conservatory graduates.

Cory has recently recorded two CDs with legendary sax player George Garzone and his band The Fringe. At the 2007 World Accordion Championships, Cory was hailed as the best jazz accordionist in the World, as none of his competitors included improvisation.

BENEFIT FUND-RAISER FOR B.A.A.M. (Because Art Always Matters)

Saturday, January 31, 8:00 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$20 day of show

PENDRAGON



Tonight's concert is a fundraiser for B.A.A.M. (Because Art Always Matters), a nonprofit community organization established in 2007 which focuses on supporting the growth of art and music programs at Cumberland High School. Tonight's proceeds will go towards the purchase of a set of Timpani for the CHS Band (see picture at left.)

*The cost for the set is more than \$5,000 and the band currently plays on an old, barely functioning set which can no longer be tuned. Members of the Cumberland High School band will play a short set of music between 7:15 and 7:45 p.m. before the concert begins! **Please make all checks payable to: BAAM***



New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Having celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2008, the Rhode Island-based ensemble Pendragon has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. The band recently released their 8th album, "Still Standing," on Blackstone River Theatre's RiverFolk Productions label.

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 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005 MOTIF Magazine Music Poll. The band has also been voted Best Local Folk Act of the Year in the Providence Phoenix' Best Music Poll eight times. The three original members of Pendragon, Bob Drouin, Mary Lee Partington and Russell Gusetti, all grew up in Cumberland and are all Cumberland High School alumni. They are also the founders and directors of Cumberland's Blackstone River Theatre. Since reopening in September, 2000, after a four-year, volunteer renovation effort, Blackstone River Theatre has presented 850 arts and cultural events in front of more than 55,000 audience members. 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, fiddle, concertina, banjo, guitar, whistle, flute, percussion and step dance. Pendragon is comprised of step dancer and percussionist **Kevin Doyle**, **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, bouzouki and tenor banjo; **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertina; **Josh Kane** on flute and whistles; and **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals.

FEBRUARY

[Click Here for a PDF of This Month's Events!](#)

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

- **The exhibit of watercolor and pastels by artists Rick Cardoza and Shelly Eager** in BRT's Art Gallery will run through Feb. 15. **A new photography exhibit by Kevin Umlauf called "When They Close Their Eyes - Modern Blues Performed With Passion,"** will run **February 21 through March 28** in BRT's Art Gallery. A number of local landscapes and photo illustrations will also be on display
- **Fiddle classes with Cathy Clasper-Torch will continue** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through February 18.
- **Irish step dance classes including hard shoe for advanced beginner/intermediate levels** will continue with instructor Terry Songini on Tuesdays throughout February. Visit the classes link for full information.
- *There will be no children's events or drum circle in February.*

Saturday, February 7, 8 PM, \$8.00 adults/\$5.00 seniors and children
CONTRA DANCE WITH THE FRENCH CONNECTION
Traditional contra dance tunes with a French Accent



Beginner's dance workshop at 7:30 p.m. The French Connection features **Deck Nieforth** on harmonica, spoons and feet; **Dan Lanier** on fiddle and guitar; and **Mike Fischman** on guitar and mandolin. Dan Lanier brings a deep appreciation for the old styles and the essence of the genre; he has also composed hundreds of jigs, reels, and waltzes over the years. In 1982, Dan was a founder of the Rehoboth, MA contra series at Goff Hall where he played monthly during its formative years with

the band Geese in the Bog. Together, Deck (also known for his work in Get Reel!) and Dan have fun creating spontaneous harmonies with reeds and strings, adding a fresh and exciting dimension to the music propelled by the amazing backing of Mike Fischman. Contra dancing is the oldest form of American traditional social dancing, beginning in colonial times and still going strong after 250 years. A Contra dance is informal, friendly and good aerobic exercise and also lots of fun and easy to learn. All dances will be taught by caller **Lucia Watson** who has danced and called dances throughout New England and New York for more than 14 years. Known for her clear teaching and lively dances, she enjoys introducing new dancers to the high energy world of contra dancing. All are welcome - beginners and experienced dancers; singles, couples and families; old friends and new... Wear cool, comfortable clothing and flat, soft-soled shoes. Refreshments will be available. Get ready to tap your toes, stomp your feet, twirl your skirt, and smile!

Sunday, February 8, 2 PM MATINEE, \$12.00
THE DIXIE DIEHARDS JAZZ BAND
Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union



Join the **Dixie Diehards Jazz Band** for a raucous, Mardi Gras-style show as they dish out a thick gumbo of traditional New Orleans Jazz! The Dixie Diehards, whose lineup includes a medical doctor, a retired college professor and an investigative reporter among others, shares at least one thing in common: a passion for the "hot jazz" and blues of the early 20th century. The era, typified by such greats as Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller and Jelly Roll Morton, firmly established jazz as "America's music" and set the direction for much of subsequent pop

culture. The term "Dixieland" refers to a form of small group jazz which typically includes a trumpet, a clarinet and a trombone and often a tuba combined with a rhythm section that may include a banjo, percussion or bass player as well as a piano. In most arrangements, the trumpet plays the melody while other elements freely

improvise around it or paraphrase the melody in creative solos. The Dixie Diehards have won an enthusiastic reception across southern New England for bringing an irrepressible sense of fun and frolic to their shows. That attitude almost always includes audience sing-alongs, spontaneous dance outbursts (remember the Charleston?) and a spirit of "wonderful nonsense." The lineup includes **Jim Kelleher** on trombone, **Santo Pullara** on clarinet; **Bill Kiesewetter** on sax, **Alan Shapiro** on trumpet; **Steve Shaw** on tuba; **Dolly Fruzzetti** on piano; **Dale Ellenberg** on drums; **Chris Wadsworth** on banjo, and **Rick Foster** on vocals/cornet. *Don't miss a rare BRT matinee show sure to be fun for all ages!*

Friday, February 13, 8 PM, \$10.00

RORY RAVEN - Mentalist and mindbender



It has become a BRT tradition to do something a little different for a Friday the 13th show and we've certainly found it! **Rory Raven** is a mentalist with over 13 year's 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 audiences have 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... Rory is also

well-known for leading people on his Providence Ghost Walk; he also recently released his first book, "Haunted Providence: Strange Tales from the Smallest State."

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. Rory is also interested in things like suggestion, non-verbal communication, and the so-called trance state. And he doesn't hesitate to borrow ideas from the stage magician, either! *So is he psychic or what?* No. Not everyone believes him when he say that, but there's not much he can do about it he explains. People who believe in the paranormal will believe no matter what he tells them, and those who don't believe won't believe no matter what he shows them. But a long time ago Rory 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 we invite you to sit back, concentrate on your mother's maiden name, and enjoy the show...

Sunday, February 15, 7 PM, \$15.00

THE ATWATER-DONNELLY BAND



Winners of the 2007 Motif Magazine "Best Folk Act" award, the four-member **Atwater-Donnelly Band**, includes Aubrey, Elwood, **Cathy Clasper-Torch** (fiddle, cello, and vocals) and **Kevin Doyle** (percussion, Irish step and tap dance). BRT favorites **Aubrey Atwater** and **Elwood Donnelly** return tonight with multi-instrumentalist **Cathy Clasper-Torch** and percussionist/dancer **Kevin Doyle** to present another engaging concert of traditional

American and Celtic American folk songs, a cappella pieces, hymns, poetry, dance tunes, and original works. Elwood, Aubrey and Cathy blend unusual harmonies and play guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, Irish tin whistle, harmonica, old-time banjo, bones, limberjack and other musical surprises. The band format also allows exciting dance combinations featuring Kevin, Aubrey and Elwood. Their performance appeals to all ages with humor, audience participation, and a relaxed stage presence.

Saturday, February 21, 8 PM, \$12.00

MATT & SHANNON HEATON - CD release



Guitarist/singer **Matt Heaton** and Irish flute player/singer **Shannon Heaton** have been making music together since 1992. Together, they built up their traditional Irish music skills on flute and guitar in the Chicago sessions. When they began bringing in singing, they focused on their favorite aspects of both Irish and American traditions, ending up with new songs that sound traditional, alongside centuries-old ballads with fresh new melodies. For years, the two

worked as active side players for major Celtic acts including Robbie O'Connell, Aoife Clancy, Boys of the Lough, and Emily Smith. After releasing two previous duo albums, several things happened to push Matt and Shannon's new CD, "Lovers' Well," in the direction it took. While assembling songs for the record, they realized that all the material was a love song of some sort or another. Being a CD of traditional Irish ballads, many of the stories don't have happy endings, but they all explore various dynamics of lovers (passion, flirtation, jealousy, despair). Unapologetically traditional in style, with bold American roots on full display, the Heaton's bring respect and glee to these centuries-old ballads. Even the instrumental numbers on the album have love titles and were written to commemorate lovers ("The Newmarried Couple," "The First Date.") When deciding where to record, their friend offered her cottage in Wellfleet on Cape Cod. Producer/fiddler Eric Merrill agreed to load up his gear and spend a week there recording with them and the result was a relaxed and natural process which captured the music in the spirit it was intended. The tracks have an organic nature about them—crickets, rain and other noises made their way into the microphones. Adding in some of the finest players in New England (Keith Murphy, Kieran Jordan, Nic Gareiss, and Dan Gurney), "Lovers' Well" has an energy which bursts out of the speakers. *Don't miss their Rhode Island CD release!*

Saturday, February 28, 8 PM, \$12.00
THE BEE EATERS - CD release



The Bee Eaters is a new group that boasts four of the most accomplished, creative young talents of the new generation, tracing roots back to the musical traditions of Bluegrass, Old-time, Celtic, Jazz and Pop. The quartet combines the strong, striking music of hammered dulcimer virtuoso **Simon Chrisman** and banjo phenomenon **Wes Corbett** with the inimitable sound of brother-sister fiddle duo **Tristan and Tashina Clarridge**. The result of the foursome's

collaboration is an elegant fusion of tradition and innovation. Says fiddle legend Darol Anger, "The Bee Eaters are the instrumental cream of the brand new string nation. Harking back to the 'grand old days' when new virtuosos seemed to spring onto the scene fully formed with a whole repertoire of brilliant music nobody had ever heard before, somehow these kids have absorbed everything we had to offer and alchemized it into a new musical world." ***Tonight will be the CD release of their debut project.*** Tristan Clarridge, an inventive cellist and 5-time Grand National Fiddle Champion, tours internationally with Crooked Still and Darol Anger's Republic of Strings, and has also appeared with Mike Marshall, Bruce Molsky and Natalie MacMaster. Tashina Clarridge, the 2005 Grand National Fiddle Champion, has toured with Mark O'Connor and Tony Trischka, and performed at Carnegie Hall as part of MacArthur Fellow/Grammy-winning bassist Edgar Meyer's Young Artists program. 22-year-old banjoist Wesley Corbett has appeared with the David Grisman Quintet and Matt Glaser, and toured internationally with bluegrass sensation The Biscuit Burners. Hammered dulcimer wizard Simon Chrisman has performed with Mike Marshall and Darol Anger, opened for Bill Frisell, and at 16 was a scholarship guest artist at the Augusta Heritage Festival in West Virginia. His sophisticated rhythmic sense and ingenious tonal flexibility, on an instrument usually considered limited, has created a buzz among musicians all over the world. *Don't miss out on the debut and CD release of this amazing new band!*

MARCH

[Click Here for a PDF of This Month's Events!](#)

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

- **The exhibit of photography by Kevin Umlauf in BRT's Art Gallery runs through March 28.**
- **Five levels of Irish step dance classes for adults and children, including hard shoe for advanced beginner/intermediate levels,** will begin March 21 and March 24 with instructor Terry Songini. Visit the classes link for full information.
- *There will be no children's events in March; our monthly drum circle begins on March 19.*

Friday, March 6, 8 PM, \$10.00

IRISH SET DANCE WITH THE BROAD STREET CEILI BAND

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union



The Broad Street Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes. **Barry and Pat Callahan** will be on hand to help those new to the set dance tradition. From 8:00-11:00 p.m., Irish set dances will run continuously for the evening. The Broad Street Ceili Band is led by **Bob Drouin** on fiddle and features **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Josh Kane** on flute, **Marianne Kane** on bodhran and **Kevin O'Brien** on

piano. The emphasis is on fun... No partners are necessary. Try a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music.

Saturday, March 7, 8 PM, \$15.00

SUNNY AND HER JOY BOYS featuring DUKE ROBILLARD - CD RELEASE



Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended! Award-winning guitarist **Duke Robillard** has traveled the world over for the last 40 years entertaining audiences with his special blend of blues and classic jazz. He's recorded with, played with, or produced many of the most important artists of the last several decades including Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, Ruth Brown, and the Fabulous Thunderbirds. With 20 albums under his own name and many more as guitarist with countless artists, Duke has

achieved what many only dream of - working with many of his legendary musical heroes. But there is one project that has been in the back of Duke's mind since he heard Ivie Anderson, Helen Humes and Billie Holiday nearly 40 years ago - to celebrate the rich era of women song stylists from the thirties to the fifties - women who brought poise and class to the great American songs of the time, and who interpreted the best lyrics of the American master songwriters with depth, sincerity, and a personal flair that's all but forgotten today. That project has never been realized until late 2007 when he heard **Sunny Crossover** sing at a show at Harvard University. Duke says "Her relaxed style and natural stage presence started the wheels turning. I felt I had finally found the vocalist I had been hoping to discover for so many years." Duke wasted no time finding material and enlisting a crew of great musicians to join forces, and Sunny and Her Joy Boys were born. **Billy Novick** joined in on clarinet and alto sax. An acknowledged master of his instruments. Billy has toured for 35 years, has been a member of the acclaimed New Black Eagle Jazz Band for two decades, and has five solo CDs and nine duo CDs with Guy Van Duser. Bassist **Jesse Williams** has played and recorded with Duke for five years. He is also currently recording and performing with Al Kooper and Jay Geils. Guitarist **Paul Kolesnikow** and Duke have been playing together in duo, trio and quartet situations for many years now and he helps with the group's arrangements. Duke is proud of and excited about this new musical venture, which for him is the realization of a lifelong dream.

Don't miss the CD release of Sunny and Her Joy Boys!

Sunday, March 8, 1-5 PM, \$35.00

DUKE ROBILLARD GUITAR SEMINAR



Grammy-nominated guitarist **Duke Robillard** will present a guitar seminar at Blackstone River Theatre for all blues, swing and Duke Robillard guitar fans. The Guitar Seminar will include:

1. Demonstration of several blues and swing styles. Duke will attempt to answer all your questions about guitar and guitar playing.
2. Subjects covered will include soloing, comping, chord progressions and inversions.
3. Duke will also demonstrate points on phrasing, mixing chords, single note runs and double stops in the same solo. He will also explore how to play on top of or behind the beat to add tension and emotional effect in solos as well as adding passing chords in simple progressions to make them more interesting.
4. Duke will be accompanied by **Mark Texeira** on drums and **Jesse Williams** on bass for part of the seminar and there will be a period for attendees to come up and jam on a song onstage with them.
5. A full assortment of official Duke Robillard merchandise will be on hand including T-shirts, CDs, concert DVDs, and possibly a few of Duke's own guitars.

Bring your guitar and a chord. No amps please. Tape or digital recorders welcome. No cameras please during seminar. Tickets will most likely sell out quickly so please make your reservation early! **How to sign up:** Send your name, address, phone number and make the \$35.00 seminar fee check payable to: Duke Robillard. Mail check and info to: Jack Gauthier, 5 Hemlock Ct., Greenville RI 02828. For additional questions, please contact Jack Gauthier at: dukerobillard17@yahoo.com

Saturday, March 14, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$18.00 day of show
MALINKY - Music from Scotland



With their stunning fourth CD, "Flower & Iron," **Malinky** celebrates their tenth anniversary and introduce a newly revamped line-up while underscoring their reputation as one of Scotland's most distinctive and accomplished folk bands. While retaining their hallmark song-based repertoire, performed by three superb lead vocalists with inventive instrumentation, Malinky today unites seasoned maturity with a new energy. Ten years after they debuted, the two remaining members from that founding line-up - **Steve Byrne** (vocals/bouzouki/guitar) and **Mark Dunlop** (vocals/whistles/bodhrán) - are now joined by **Fiona Hunter** (vocals/cello), who replaced original lead singer Karine Polwart in 2005, alongside recent recruits **Dave Wood** (guitar/bouzouki) and **Mike Vass** (fiddle). *Malinky was nominated for the 2008 Scottish Traditional Music Awards in the category of "Scottish Folk Band of the Year," while Fiona Hunter was also nominated as "Scots Singer of the Year."* Malinky's three previous recordings, Last Leaves (2000), 3 Ravens (2002) and The Unseen Hours (2005), all on top Scottish folk label Greentrax, have each won successively greater acclaim, establishing the band not only as outstanding interpreters of traditional song, but as equally gifted exponents of contemporary material. "I think the mix of material and moods on the new project really reflects how the band sounds now, and how we've progressed since the last album," says Hunter. "We've still got the big dark ballads in there, but they're balanced with more upbeat, contemporary songs." After kicking off 2009 with a special tenth anniversary show at Celtic Connections, they are making their Rhode Island debut tonight.

Sunday, March 15, 7 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$18 day of show
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 25th anniversary in September with the release of a new CD, "Still Standing," Pendragon has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. Pendragon is step dancer and percussionist **Kevin Doyle**, **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, bouzouki and tenor banjo, **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertina; **Josh Kane** on flute and whistles and **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals. 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. The band performs their original songs and dance

tunes on an exciting combination of fiddle, flute, bouzouki, concertina, banjo, guitar, whistle, and percussion. Past tributes include three straight Boston Music Award nominations for Outstanding Celtic Act and a Governor's Tourism Award. Pendragon has been voted Rhode Island's Best Celtic Act in the 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005 Motif Magazine's Best Music Poll. Pendragon has also been voted Best Local Folk Act of the Year in the Providence Phoenix' Best Music Poll eight times.

Thursday, March 19, 7-9 PM, \$5.00
BRT DRUM AND DANCE CIRCLE



Come join in a celebration of the power of rhythm, drums and dance! The BRT drum and dance circle is a hands-on event with the emphasis on fun, group improvisation, self-expression and creativity. No experience is necessary and absolute beginners are welcome. Basic facilitation is occasionally provided during the circle to create an understanding of how to become part of the whole. Some instruments will be provided but feel free to bring your own percussion instruments, or didgeridoos - or just come to

dance along to the primal beat of the drums. Not recommended for children under age seven.

Saturday, March 21, 8-10:30 PM, \$12.00
SUPERCHIEF TRIO SWING DANCE PARTY
Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union
(Beginner lessons from 7-8:00 p.m.)



Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended!



Tonight we bring back the always zesty **Superchief Trio** for their second swing dance at BRT (the first SOLD OUT in November!) Beginners and experts alike are sure to enjoy themselves and there will be a free beginner's lesson from 7-8:00 p.m.

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 jump blues to hot swing, ragtime to smooth, sultry ballads, Superchief Trio proves that big sounds do indeed come in small packages. Superchief

Trio were named the winners of the Motif Magazine Best Music Poll for Best Local Roots Act (2005) and Best Local Release (2006). *A fun-filled night of music with plenty of room to dance!* There will also be some seats set up along the sides of BRT for spectators, wallflowers and to let the dancers catch their breath!

Sunday, March 22, 7 PM, \$20.00 advance/\$22.00 day of show
BATTLEFIELD BAND - Music from Scotland

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.

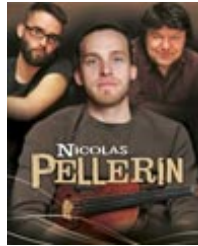
Named after the Glasgow suburb of Battlefield, where the group was formed by four student friends, Battlefield Band have travelled the world for 30 years now, distilling their own unique form of the Scottish spirit and bottling it in concert and onto disc, all the time introducing new musicians and new music. Their newest album, "The Road of Tears," focuses on the subject of immigration. The current line-up features: **Mike Katz** (Highland pipes/small pipes/whistles/bass guitar) the unmistakable piper who joined the line-up in late 1997 and has contributed 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//Highland and small pipes/bodhran), a superb fiddle player 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.

Thursday, March 26, 8 PM, \$10.00
6:30 p.m. reception for those attending concert
THE NICOLAS PELLERIN BAND
In celebration of La Semaine de la francophonie
Sponsored by the Québec Delegation in Boston.



Délégation du Québec à Boston



We are thrilled to once again host a francophonie concert brought to us by our friends at the Quebec Delegation in Boston. This year we welcome dynamic fiddler, singer, foot percussionist **Nicolas Pellerin** who was born in the small village of Saint Élie de Caxton. The Nicolas Pellerin Band invites the audience on a journey of exploration of traditional Quebecois music. Nicolas will be joined by **Simon Lepage** (Matapat) and **Jean-Philippe Reny** to perform a unique style of music where soft atmosphere meets groove mingled with a bit of craziness due to various influences. Nicolas Pellerin has a refined technique and specializes in traditional music. He has been part of the most well-known band of traditional music in Quebec, The Yves Lambert et le Bébert orchestra, for four years. His vitality, his dedication to his roots and his unique style in both foot-tapping and fiddle are some of the many qualities that puts him on the top of the list in folk music. Nicolas just won a Quebec Music Award for "Best traditional album of the year" for his first album with his brother, "Fred et Nicolas Pellerin." He also won the Canadian Folk Award for "Best ensemble of the year" with Yves Lambert et le Bébert orchestra. *Don't miss a great night of Quebecois culture and music!*

Saturday, March 28, 8 PM, \$10.00
JOHN THIBODEAU WITH BARRY BROWN - CD RELEASE



Tonight's concert is the CD release for **John Thibodeau's** new project, "Passin' Through." Expect a great night of music featuring country blues, original and ragtime music as John is joined by Providence guitarist and composer **Barry Brown**. John first came to our attention with the 2002 release of his folk/blues CD "Everyday Shoes." His new project continues his tradition of great storytelling delivered in an understated, unassuming style. Thibodeau has been exploring the world of ragtime and country blues for over thirty years. As a performer and guitar teacher in his native Canada, he earned the respect and admiration of fellow musicians and fans from Montreal to Toronto. One of his students, Juno-Award winning Colin Linden, would become a major force in the music world and also played on and produced John's first CD, "Everyday Shoes." In 2007, Colin's legendary band, Blackie and the Rodeo Kings, recorded one of John's early compositions on their CD "Let's Frolic Again." Combining superb finger-style guitar picking and a warm down-home singing style with an extraordinary repertoire, John's performances always leave his audiences satisfied and wanting to hear more. Barry Brown has been a performing guitarist for 40 years, playing in concerts, coffeehouses and clubs in the Midwest and throughout New England. He has explored and performed everything from folk music, blues and ragtime to Brazilian jazz and instrumental fingerstyle guitar. John and Barry grew up separated by the Detroit River - John on the Canadian side, Barry in Detroit. While they frequented coffeehouses on both sides of the border, it would take three decades for them to finally meet one another and begin making music together in their adopted state of Rhode Island.

APRIL

[Click Here for a PDF of This Month's Events!](#)

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

- **An exhibit of collages by Thomas Terceira will run in BRT's Art Gallery April 4 through May 16.**
- **Look for details about an eight-week round of fiddle classes** for beginner, continuing beginner, advanced beginner and intermediate students with Cathy Clasper-Torch beginning April 7 and April 8. Visit the classes link for full information.

- **Five levels of Irish step dance classes for adults and children, including hard shoe for advanced beginner/intermediate levels, will continue in April** on Tuesdays and Saturdays with instructor Terry Songini.

Saturday, April 4, 8 PM, \$15.00
NORTHERN LIGHTS



Northern Lights, the Northeast's superlative veteran string band, doesn't qualify as typical traditionalist. But over a three-decade career, the band has created its own tradition - a constant exploration of new musical territory without ever losing its acoustic and vocal bearings. From 1990's "Take You to the Sky," to 2005's "New Moon" the band has fused an eclectic mix of traditional roots music, rock, country, soul and gospel with the high, lonesome vocal sound and instruments of bluegrass. Northern Lights new album "One Day" continues the band's tradition of stretching the boundaries of bluegrass and acoustic music.

The group, **Bill Henry** (guitar, lead/harmony vocals), **John Daniel** (bass, lead/harmony vocals), and **Mike Barnett** (fiddle, lead/harmony vocals) are joined by new members, mandolinist and singer-songwriter prodigy **Eric Robertson**, and singer-guitarist **Alex MacLeod**. They have performed at festivals and concert halls from coast to coast and abroad, including the Newport Folk Festival, Falcon Ridge, American Folklife Center, Barns at Wolf Trap, Smithsonian Institute, Bumpershoot Festival and the Winnipeg Folk Festival. Northern Lights have recorded 10 albums, including "Three August Nights," a live CD with the late, legendary Nashville fiddler Vassar Clements, who often performed with them; three of their CDs reached the top ten of Bluegrass Unlimited's National Bluegrass Survey. *Don't miss a great night of bluegrass/newgrass music!*

Friday, April 10, 8 PM, \$12.00
PAUL GEREMIA



Acoustic Guitar magazine calls **Paul Geremia** "One of the best country blues finger-pickers ever." Geremia is possibly the greatest living performer of the East Coast and Texas fingerpicking and slide styles and has been called a national treasure. Paul has created a style which is very much his own combining his interpretations of the music of Blind Lemon Jefferson, Robert Johnson, Blind Willie McTell and Blind Blake. His superb recordings have made him a critical favorite and place him firmly among the legends who inspired and influenced him over the past four decades. With his six and twelve-string guitars, harmonica and a husky, soulful voice - and with an innate sense of the humor as well as the drama of the music

- Geremia keeps traditional blues fresh and alive with his performances. Paul has recorded ten solo albums, and has also appeared on numerous anthologies and compilation discs. His latest release is a DVD out on Rounder Records - "Guitar Artistry of Paul Geremia, Six & Twelve String Blues." *Don't miss a true blues legend!*

Saturday, April 11, 1:00 PM, \$5.00 children/\$7.00 adults
THE TOE JAM PUPPET BAND - Toe Jam in Outer Space CD Release Party!



Ideal for families with children ages 4-and-up. Today's show will feature songs from the Toe Jam Puppet Band's brand new CD, "Toe Jam in Outer Space!" Join Toe Jam during the show for fun games with CD prize give-aways, and stick around after the show for a CD signing with the band! 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 during Toe Jam's Outer Space adventure - a great time for kids of all ages!

Saturday, April 11, 8 PM, \$12.00
LONG TIME COURTING/MATT HEATON & FLYNN COHEN



Do not miss the Rhode Island debut of *Long Time Courting* as they play a split concert with the guitar duo of **Matt Heaton and Flynn Cohen!** Take four individually accomplished traditional musicians and singers with fresh attitudes. Combine them and you have the rich, soaring three-part vocal arrangements and fiery Irish jigs and reels that is **Long Time Courting**. This high-energy new band brings heavenly harmonies to old and new ballads and also serves up a

zesty side of high-energy dance tunes. Bringing together the talents of **Ellery Klein** on fiddle/vocals, **Liz Simmons** on guitar/vocals, **Shannon Heaton** on flute/vocals, and **Ariel Friedman** on cello, this Boston-based ensemble shares a love of traditional Irish and American music, as well as contemporary folk and pop. Together, they bring elements of these various genres to their traditional repertoire with sensitivity, musicality, beauty and a bit of mischief, too! Ellery Klein's fiddling is deeply rooted in an authentic Irish sound, but seasoned with the Americana sounds of her Ohio childhood. Her lyrical, high-energy fiddle style was onstage in over 600 shows around the U.S. with Irish super-group Gaelic Storm (with whom she recorded on two Billboard-charting albums). Liz Simmons has developed a unique style that incorporates the sounds of Appalachian traditional singing and pop. Her performance credits include North Cregg, The Sevens, and The John Whelan Band. She is currently the lead singer of Annalivia, a band that infuses a contemporary edge with the traditional sounds of Ireland, Appalachia and Cape Breton. Shannon Heaton has toured nationally with her husband, guitarist Matt Heaton, for over ten years and her exquisite Irish flute style has been featured with numerous other Boston groups. Ariel Friedman is an inventive folk and classical cellist from Boston, and a winner of the American String Teachers Association's 2009 Alternative Styles Award. She also performs, tours, and records with Hanneke Cassel and New England's highly acclaimed fiddle band, Childsplay.

Thursday, April 16, 7-9 PM, \$5.00
BRT DRUM AND DANCE CIRCLE



Come join in a celebration of the power of rhythm, drums and dance! The BRT drum and dance circle is a hands-on event with the emphasis on fun, group improvisation, self-expression and creativity. No experience is necessary and absolute beginners are most welcome. Basic facilitation is occasionally provided during the circle to create an understanding of how to become part of the whole. Some instruments will be provided but feel free to bring your own percussion instruments, or didgeridoos - or just come to

dance along to the primal beat of the drums. Not recommended for children under age seven.

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS AT BRT JUST ADDED!

Saturday, April 18, 1-3 PM, \$35.00, Pre-registration necessary!

Fiddle and guitar workshops with MAEVE DONNELLY and TONY McMANUS (geared towards intermediate/advanced musicians)

Maeve Donnelly (fiddle) and Tony McManus (guitar) will each be offering workshops on April 18th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. This is a rare opportunity to learn from musicians who are not only consummate performers but experienced and dedicated teachers. **In Maeve Donnelly's Irish Fiddle Workshop**, attendees will explore tone, rhythm, bowing, and ornamentation in the context of different types of tunes - reels, jigs and hornpipes, played by old master musicians like Patrick Kelly, Tommy Potts and Willie Clancy. Maeve will teach a couple of tunes with a focus on how to individualize your style and inspire your fiddle to sing. *Tunes will be taught by ear so please bring along a recording device.* **In Tony McManus' Guitar Workshop**, attendees will look at the different rhythms involved in Celtic music: jigs, reels, strathspeys, hornpipes etc. Tony will look at different strumming patterns for accompanying these as well as some techniques for flatpicking these tunes. Students will also look at altered tunings for Celtic music. Why is DADGAD so popular in Irish music, why is standard tuning standard? Tony will teach a great slip jig in this tuning - beautiful and accessible. Pre-register by emailing russell@riverfolk.org. Then send a check for \$35.00 payable to either Tony or Maeve, c/o Blackstone River Theatre, 549 Broad St., Cumberland, RI 02864.

Saturday, April 18, 8 PM, \$15.00

MAEVE DONNELLY with TONY McMANUS



Virtuoso traditional fiddler **Maeve Donnelly** will be performing music from her recently released CD "Flame on the Banks" accompanied by ace guitarist **Tony McManus** who also co-produced the CD. This is Maeve Donnelly's second solo CD and features some of the Co. Galway fiddler's favorite traditional tunes with more recent compositions by Paddy Fahey, Ed Reavy, Paddy Kelley as well as some surprises. Tony McManus is a Scottish acoustic guitarist of Irish descent who is highly regarded for his exceptional skill and expressive playing. English guitarist John Renbourn described him as "the best Celtic guitarist in the world" so lovers of traditional music are in for a "double treat" at this concert. "Flame on the Banks" constitutes a pinnacle performance from Maeve Donnelly. It is traditional fiddling at its finest, with inventively complementary guitar accompaniment from Tony McManus," says Earle Hitchner, THE IRISH ECHO newspaper.

Saturday, April 25, 8 PM, \$15.00

PEPPINO D'AGOSTINO

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union



Peppino D'Agostino is a Renaissance man. This is not just because he was born in Italy. Everything about the longtime California resident and his art - virtuoso acoustic guitarist, composer, singer, teacher and all-around entertainer - is rooted in his heritage. It's fitting then that his new CD is titled "Made in Italy." "This CD is like a little portrait of Italy," says D'Agostino. "It's my thoughts and personal impressions of my native country. This music is for people who really want to sit down and listen." D'Agostino has had a long and distinguished career filled with highlights. His most recent accolade was being **voted "Best Acoustic Guitarist" by the readers in The 2007 Guitar Player Magazine Reader's Choice Awards.** Signed to Steve Vai's Favored Nations record label, Peppino blends an array of open tuning and fingerstyle techniques which culminate into a seductively melodic and percussive style. His alluring guitar style has wowed audiences around the world playing such festivals as the renowned Montreal International Jazz Festival as well as playing to crowds in Europe, Moscow, Istanbul, the United States and Canada. "Made in Italy" features compositions by Peppino as well as tunes by Ennio Morricone, Gioachino Rossini and other great Italians. Variety is important to D'Agostino, and he proves it at his live performances. You never know what you're going to get, and he doesn't either. D'Agostino feeds off each individual crowd to decide what he's going to play and sing and how he's going to mix up the set. "All the different parts of me are out there - the singer, the composer, the guitarist, all together. I'm all of those. I really believe in that because I like to entertain an audience. I usually talk and try to make them laugh. Sometimes I tell jokes. The audience wants an experience where they feel connected to the performer and moved by the music. Otherwise people would just buy the CD and listen to it at home. I'm a medium - a filter between the music and the audience," said D'Agostino. *Do not miss a rare chance to see a master guitarist up close and personal!*

MAY

[Click Here for a PDF of This Month's Events!](#)

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

- **The exhibit of collages by Thomas Terceira will run in BRT's Art Gallery through May 24.**
- **An eight-week round of fiddle classes for beginner, continuing beginner, advanced beginner and intermediate students with Cathy Clasper-Torch will run through May 27.** Visit the classes link for full information.
- **Four levels of Irish step dance classes for adults and children, including hard shoe for advanced beginner/intermediate levels, will continue in**

May on Tuesdays and Saturdays with instructor Terry Songini through May 12.

Friday, May 1, 8 PM, \$15.00

CHANTERELLE FEATURING JOSÉE VACHON

Songs, stories and fiddle music of the French in America

With opening set by Daniel Boucher and Friends

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union

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 Acadia and beyond. Invoking their culture in music, story and song, singer **Josée Vachon**, fiddler **Donna Hebert**, **Alan Bradbury** on accordion and bass, and new member, accordionist/pianist **Jeremiah McLane**, of Nightingale fame, 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 ^ 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 2, 8 PM, \$12.00

KEN LYON - AMERICAN FOLK MASTER

Featuring his Acoustic Trio and special guest Mark Taber



With a career now into its 50th year, Rhode Island legend **Ken Lyon** has certainly earned the designation "folk master." During this special performance, Ken will take a break from his electric work with Tombstone and dip deeply into his near bottomless bag of songs and make connections between the varied styles into which American popular music has evolved during the last 100 years and how they all interact as root elements in his style. Bursting on to the scene during the Folk Revival and Rock 'n' Roll explosion of the late 1950s, Ken and the other members of the trio, percussionist **Don "D.C." Culp** and multi-instrumentalist **Rick Bellaire**, will perform not only songs from his recording career, but also from his formative years as he soaked up the many influences which formed his unique style. You'll hear selections from Delta Blues to Tin Pan

Alley, from Country & Western to good old Rock 'n' Roll as well as a healthy slice of the songs by his folk master predecessors such as Leadbelly, Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. Also appearing will be Ken's longest-running musical collaborator, pianist **Mark Taber**, who will open the performance with selections from his equally varied songbook in his completely unique style which falls somewhere between Fats Waller and Keith Jarrett and encompasses everything in between. *Not to be missed!*

Saturday, May 9, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance/\$14.00 day of show

NORTH SEA GAS - MUSIC FROM SCOTLAND



Don't miss the return of Scotland's North Sea Gas, a Scottish folk band who have now been performing for 28 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

6th 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 the dynamic **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." *Poignant and rousing songs, great instrumentals, history, humor and more!*

Saturday, May 16, 8 PM \$12.00

THE GNOMES



Members of The Gnomes each bring an enormous wealth of musical knowledge, musicianship, creativity, and fun to their performances. Their live shows are upbeat and never fail to get folks on their feet, moving and grooving! They'll go from a traditional tune into a tango, or a piece of music that makes you feel like you just stepped off a dirt road in Ireland to a sidewalk cafe in France. Gnomes concerts also have plenty of songs interspersed with their instrumental music. **Pete Breen** wails on everything from Reggae to Gospel while playing his bass; **Otis Read**, a gifted singer-songwriter, plays rhythm and lead guitar; **Cathy Clasper-Torch** is a fiddler, pianist and harmony queen; **Phil Edmonds**, a master Irish whistle-player and button accordionist, writes much of The Gnomes' original music; **Ron Schmitt** is a phenomenal World Beat and dance percussionist. The Gnomes play a lively blend of world music with a repertoire featuring Irish, Scandinavian, klezmer, Latin, eastern European, Reggae, and original material. Their debut CD "To the Dance Floor," was followed by 2008's "Everybody Must Get Gnomed." *BRT's Intermediate fiddle class, which is taught by Cathy Clasper Torch, will also play a few tunes before the Gnomes' second set!*

Thursday, May 21, 7-9 PM, \$5.00

BRT DRUM AND DANCE CIRCLE



Come join in a celebration of the power of rhythm, drums and dance! The BRT drum and dance circle is a hands-on event with the emphasis on fun, group improvisation, self-expression and creativity. No experience is necessary and absolute beginners are welcome. Basic facilitation is provided during the circle to create an understanding of how to become part of the whole. Some instruments will be provided but feel free to bring your own percussion instruments, or didgeridoos - or just come to dance along to the primal beat of the drums. Not recommended for children under age six.

JUNE

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

- **Blackstone River Theatre will be taking most of June off from full-time concert and dance programming** to continue renovations on the building and focus on fundraising. There WILL be a few special events added as well as some Heritage Arts Studio offerings.

Saturday, June 13, 8 PM, \$10.00

The Irish set dance scheduled for June 13 has been cancelled!

Sunday, June 14, 12-5 PM

PRIVATE EVENT

Thursday, June 25, 6-9 PM

PRIVATE EVENT

Saturday, June 27 AND Sunday, June 28, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM
Celtic Relief Stonecarving in Limestone for Beginners Class

JULY

- **Blackstone River Theatre will be taking July through mid-September off from full-time concert and dance programming** to continue renovations on the building and focus on fundraising.
- **There will be a Gardening Workshop with Karin Robison on Saturday, July 11.** See the [classes](#) link for full details.
- **Due to the challenging economy, Blackstone River Theatre will NOT program a Celtic Festival in 2009. We do however plan on producing the BRT Celtic Festival again in 2010 and would be interested in hearing from any potential sponsors!**

AUGUST

- **Blackstone River Theatre will be taking August through mid-September off** from full-time programming to continue renovations on the building and focus on fundraising.

Thursday, August 13, 7 PM, \$10.00 (doors open 6:30 p.m.)

SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE

Catch 'em while they're young! Ever listened to one of your favorite artists and wondered what they were like when they first started off? Here is your chance to catch some of today's promising young musical talent before they hit it big! *This is a one-time event, so don't miss it!* The concert will feature event organizer **Emmery Brakke, Live from the Sun**, and two dynamic duos-**Ethan and Dan**, and **Billy and Nick**. Each of the artists featured in this unique showcase are young, talented, and promising songwriters who will no doubt be making their mark upon the music industry in no time - and you can say you saw them when! Sound too good to be true? It gets even better! For only ten dollars you can see all four of these astounding young acts in one great concert AND, ***proceeds from the show will go to benefit two great organizations - the Cumberland Office of Children Youth and Learning, which provides local youth with civic engagement and early learning opportunities, and the Blackstone River Theatre.*** So you can enjoy a great night of entertainment for a great price while also contributing to two great organizations. Tickets are on sale now and this event is expected to SELL OUT so be sure to get your tickets as soon as possible! **To purchase tickets for this event, please contact the Office of Children Youth and Learning at (401) 475-0929, or email Kristina Klara at kklara.cyc@gmail.com.** Tickets can be picked up at the office or processed by mail order. *Cash or check only; checks can be made out to CLEF.*

SEPTEMBER

- **Blackstone River Theatre will open our Fall 2009 season on September 19 with a return performance by Scotland's Dougie MacLean!**
- **Fiddle classes start September 8th and 9th** (*All class levels are full as of 9/3/09!*)
- **A new BRT Volunteer training session meets September 12th, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**
- **Cheryl Dacosta will exhibit her photography in BRT's Art Gallery from September 18 through October 17. The exhibit is entitled "Uniquely New England,"** a collection of landscape, seascape and nature photographs capturing the beauty and uniqueness of New England.

Tuesday, September 8, 5:00-6:30 PM, Free
RISCA FALL GRANT WORKSHOP

THIS SHOW IS SOLD OUT AS OF 9/17/09!

Saturday, September 19, 8 PM, \$32.00 advance/\$35.00 day of show

DOUGIE MACLEAN

Advance purchase highly recommended...this show will sell out



It simply does not get much better than this! This very rare small-venue show sees **Dogie MacLean** returning to Blackstone River Theatre (one of only two New England dates on this tour!)... 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!*

Saturday, September 26, 8 PM, \$12.00 adv/\$15.00 day of show

STAN RENARD'S BOHEMIAN QUARTET

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union



Experience an amazing evening of gypsy music! **The Bohemian Quartet** is a four-piece string band composed of violin, viola, cello and an upright bass. The Quartet was founded by violinist **Stan Renard** in 2005. The name "Bohemian Quartet" was borrowed from the original Bohemian Quartet (also known as the Czech Quartet after 1918), a Czech string quartet of international repute that was founded in 1891 and disbanded in 1934. The new Bohemian Quartet performs a vast and unique repertoire revolving around 'Gypsy' or 'Romany' music as well as

traditional Eastern-European folk music which has been collected via recordings, transcription, interviews, and has been arranged by Stan. French violinist, conductor/arranger Stan Renard is joined by **Nancy Richardson**, viola, **John DeBossu**, upright bass, who performs in numerous jazz ensembles throughout New England, and **Christine Harrington**, cello, who performs regularly with pianist Joe Parillo and is also a member of the Hartford Festival Orchestra.

OCTOBER

- **Tin whistle and clogging classes with Aubrey Atwater begin October 1st** - [See classes link for details!](#)
- **Irish step dance classes for adults and children with Terry Songini begin October 3rd** - [See classes link for details!](#)
- **A two-day Celtic stonecarving class with Laura Travis takes place October 3-4** - [See classes link for details!](#)
- **Cheryl Dacosta's** exhibit/sale of her photography continues in BRT's Art Gallery **through October 17. From October 24 through December 13, Cindy Peloquin** will have an exhibit/sale of photography in the BRT Art Gallery.

Saturday, October 3, 8 PM, \$14.00
MAGNOLIA - CAJUN DANCE PARTY



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.** Magnolia was voted the 2009 Motif Magazine Folk Act of the Year in the Americana category.

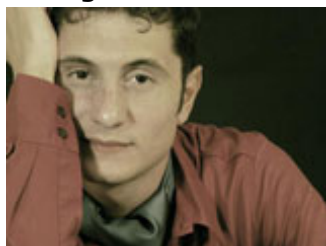
Saturday, October 10, 8 PM, \$15.00
ROBBIE O'CONNELL, MICK MOLONEY & JIMMY KEANE
Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union



Don't miss a great night of Irish music as two long-time friends reunite for a rare duo concert! **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. Robbie has taught songwriting

at the Augusta Heritage Arts Workshop in West Virginia and has earned international acclaim as a singer-songwriter by making it quite clear that there's more to being Irish than filling stereotypes. **Mick Moloney** combines the careers of folklorist, arts presenter and advocate, professional musician, and radio and television personality. He has recorded and produced over forty albums of traditional music and acted as advisor for scores of festivals and concerts all over America. Mick also served as the artistic director for several major arts tours including The Green Fields of America, an ensemble of Irish musicians, singers and dancers which toured across the United States on several occasions. He has hosted three nationally syndicated series of folk music on American Public Television; was a consultant, performer and interviewee on the Irish Television special "Bringing It All Back Home"; a participant, consultant and music arranger of the PBS documentary film "Out of Ireland"; and a performer on the PBS special "The Irish in America: Long Journey Home." *In 1999 he was awarded the National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts - the highest official honor a traditional artist can receive in the United States.* Born in London of Irish-speaking parents, **Jimmy Keane** is an All-Ireland accordion champion for five consecutive years. Many regard Keane as the premier exponent of traditional Irish music on the piano accordion. Noted University of Limerick Professor, composer, and musician Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin praised Keane as the "savior of the piano accordion." Emusic described him as "one of the true giants of Irish traditional music of the past fifty years." Keane formed the group Aengus with Robbie O'Connell and his current group bohola was initially formed with Sean Cleland and Pat Broaders after Sean and Pat joined Jimmy on an Aengus tour.

Saturday, October 17, 8 p.m., \$12 advance/\$15.00 day of show
THE EMILIANO LOCONSOLO ENSEMBLE
The Italian Songbook: 1000 years of Italian life and legends to ring in Italian Heritage Month



Blackstone River Theatre is proud to present internationally-acclaimed Tuscan vocalist **Emiliano Loconsolo** and his ensemble in a very special program which explores over 1000 years of Italian popular songs. The evening, called "**Italian Songbook: 1,000 Years of Life and Legends,**" celebrates timeless human themes of love, laughter, and loss through a chronological anthology of tarantellas, madrigals, canzoni popolari, and ballads - all sung in their original dialects - starting from the 17th

century right up through swing tunes from the 1960s. Hailing from Pisa, Italy, Emiliano is a specialist in the music of folk artist Roberto Murolo, and is considered one of the most authentic interpreters of Italian Canzone Popolare performing in the U.S. today. Loconsolo hopes that this program will give the audience a broader perspective on Italian music. "When I tell people I sing Italian music, especially in the United States, they automatically think of Mario Lanza, Louis Prima, and Frank Sinatra... really just the most recent tip of the iceberg. Italian music has a long, rich history and a tune like "That's Amore" is really a descendant of equally popular songs of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries which encapsulated the everyday lives of our ancestors then, just the same as music written today expresses our own." Emiliano's program will include music by Monteverdi, a medley of saucy tarantellas from the early 1800s, and songs from the 1920s, '40s and '60s. Also an accomplished Jazz and classical performer, the National Italian newspaper "Il Tirreno" recently hailed Loconsolo's "...sophisticated, elegant, delicate voice, almost fragile like Chet Baker, fascinating in his melodies and in his velvet swing." He has collaborated with some of the best jazz artists in Europe including Stefano "Cocco" Cantini, Stefano Bollani, Paolino Dalla Porta, and Massimo Manzi. He has performed at the famous Capolinea club in Milan, the Lucca Jazz Festival in Tuscany, Break in Jazz in Milan, and the prestigious Umbria Jazz Winter Festival in Orvieto. Emiliano will be appearing with **Roberto Cassan** on accordion, **Matt Glover** on mandolin, **Mike Rivard** on bass, and **Fabio Pirozzolo** on drums/percussion.

Saturday, October 24, 8 p.m., \$12.00
CHEYENNE BROWN & SEYLAN BAXTER
Scottish song, harp and cello



The combination of **Cheyenne Brown's** exuberant and sensitive harp playing, with **Seylan Baxter's** mellow, natural singing and her creatively atmospheric cello playing, forms rich and varied musical textures with a distinctive style. Whether in slow airs, jigs and reels, or traditional songs, Cheyenne and Seylan bring precision and empathy to their quirky, innovative arrangements. Cheyenne and Seylan met while studying in the prestigious Scottish Music course at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and performed for the first time together in 2005. They recently released their

debut CD, 2:forty, consisting of 7 instrumental tracks and 6 Scots songs. *This is the Scottish duo's first U.S. tour!*

Sunday, October 25, 1-4:30 p.m.
PRIVATE EVENT

NOVEMBER

- **Irish step dance classes for adults and children with Terry Songini continue through November.**
- **Four levels of fiddle classes with Cathy Clasper-Torch continue in November.**
- **Cindy Peloquin's exhibit/sale of her photography continues in BRT's Art Gallery through December 13.**
- **Blackstone River Theatre will hold its annual Homecoming Concert and Silent Auction fund-raiser on November 28th 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!**

Sunday, November 1, 2 p.m., \$12.00
THE DIXIE DIEHARDS JAZZ BAND
Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union





Join the **Dixie Diehards Jazz Band** for a raucous, Mardi Gras-style show as they dish out a thick gumbo of traditional New Orleans Jazz. The Dixie Diehards, whose lineup includes a medical doctor, a retired college professor and an investigative reporter among others, shares at least one thing in common: a passion for the "hot jazz" and blues of the early 20th century. The era, typified by such greats as Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller and Jelly Roll Morton, firmly established jazz as "America's music" and set the direction for much of subsequent pop

culture. The term "Dixieland" refers to a form of small group jazz which typically includes a trumpet, a clarinet and a trombone and often a tuba combined with a rhythm section that may include a banjo, percussion or bass player as well as a piano. In most arrangements, the trumpet plays the melody while other elements freely improvise around it or paraphrase the melody in creative solos. The Dixie Diehards have won an enthusiastic reception across southern New England for bringing an irrepressible sense of fun and frolic to their shows. That attitude almost always includes audience sing-alongs, spontaneous dance outbursts (remember the Charleston?) and a spirit of "wonderful nonsense." The lineup includes **Jim Kelleher** on trombone, **Santo Pullara** on clarinet; **Bill Kiesewetter** on sax, **Alan Shapiro** on trumpet; **Steve Shaw** on tuba; **Dolly Fruzzetti** on piano; **Dale Ellenberg** on drums; **Chris Wadsworth** on banjo, and **Rick Foster** on vocals/cornet. *Don't miss a rare BRT matinee show sure to be fun for all ages! The Diehards will be recording a live CD so be part of the fun as an audience member!*

Saturday, November 7, 8 p.m., \$12.00
ESTHEMA WORLD FUSION ENSEMBLE - CD release

First 20 pre-paid reservations get a free CD!



Esthema, a world fusion ensemble out of Boston, creates their unique sound by fusing elements from the traditional music of the Eastern European Balkan region and the Near/Middle East with progressive rock and various styles of jazz. The five musicians that shape the sound of Esthema bring together both Western and Eastern influences, instruments, and musical concepts. **Onur Dilisen** (violin) was born, raised, and began his studies in Turkey. In May, 2009, Onur

graduated from the Boston Conservatory with his Master's Degree in violin performance. **Tery Lemanis** (oud & bouzouki), a graduate from Berklee College of Music's guitar performance program, studied bouzouki, oud, and Byzantine music in Greece as part of Berklee's exchange program. **Bruno Esrubilsky** (drums & percussion), from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has studied, taught, and toured throughout Europe and the States and is currently enrolled at Berklee College of Music, majoring in Performance and Contemporary Writing and Production. **Ignacio Long** (bass), born in Patagonia, Argentina, has studied, taught, and performed in Buenos Aires, New York, and Boston. In 2007 Ignacio graduated from Berklee College of Music where he majored in Composition and Film Score. **Andy Milas** (guitar) has studied privately with some of Boston's most acclaimed guitar voices - Joe Stump, Garrison Fewell and Bruce Bartlett. For almost two decades, Andy has been performing traditional and contemporary Greek music and has performed with, and written and arranged for various Progressive Rock, New Age, and Jazz projects. As musicians, they bring those places and experiences together into one musical setting. Esthema's first CD, "A P A R T FROM THE REST," was voted as one of the Top 25 independent recordings of 2008 at Indie-Music.com. With tonight's release of their second CD, "The Hereness and Nowness of Things," Esthema will once again blur the boundaries between Eastern and Western music. This time around, their exploration brings them down paths they had not yet ventured. 'Eastern Dance' explores the beautiful major sounding Eastern maqam, Houzam; 'Illusion of Truth' has a main groove that is based on the Eastern Çiftetelli (Tsifteteli), and 'Arrhythmia' is based on the Anatolian Zeybek dance.

Saturday, November 14, 8 PM, \$10.00
TREEHOUSE UNION featuring STEFAN COUTURE & MATT NOLAN



Treehouse Union is the acoustic duo of singer/songwriter **Stefan Couture** and the funky multi-guitar stylings of **Matt Nolan**. The sound these two friends make will touch both the heart and mind with a fusion of contemporary folk, rock, roots and soul. With the combination of Couture's thought-provoking lyrics and rich vocals and Matt's emotionally and intricately-stylized guitar playing, Treehouse Union celebrates acoustic traditions of the

past while taking the typical idea of the folk duo someplace fresh and new! Within the first seconds of listening to the music of Stefan Couture, audiences find themselves submerged in a mixture of American roots and acoustic-driven soul along with honest and passionate lyrics. It's been almost a decade since this North Smithfield released his debut solo CD, "Great Big Somewhere." He subsequently formed The Campfire Orchestra and toured far and wide behind the group's 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. Come see the next chapter of Stefan's music...

Friday, November 20, 7-9:30 PM

CUMBERLAND LAND TRUST WINETASTING FUNDRAISER

www.cumberlandlandtrust.org

Saturday, November 21, 8 p.m., \$12.00 advance/\$15.00 day of show

PATRICK BALL - O'Carolan's Farewell to Music

*A solo musical theater piece performed by Celtic Harpist & Storyteller **Patrick Ball** written by **Patrick Ball and Peter Glazer***



Ireland in the 17th and 18th centuries was a troubled, tumultuous place. The old Gaelic order had been shattered by the English, and the poets, the bards and the harp players were set walking the roads. Yet, this dark period of Irish history produced a Celtic harper and composer of such brilliance, grace and character that he is, to this day, regarded as his country's greatest and most beloved musician - **Turlough O'Carolan**. "**O'Carolan's Farewell to Music**," conceived and performed by Patrick Ball, is a one-person musical theater piece which brings to the stage the legendary life, the turbulent times and the captivating music of this most celebrated Irish artist.

Interspersed with performances of fourteen of Carolan's tunes played on the rare wire-strung harp, the play tells the harper's story through the character of poet and harper, Charles MacCabe, Carolan's life-long friend and traveling companion. Through MacCabe's eyes and Carolan's music, we are drawn into this storm-tossed chapter of Irish history. The play, enriched by Carolan's beautiful melodies and the crystalline sound of Patrick's harp, is charged with Irish wit and pathos, and demonstrates both the power of friendship and the vital role of the artist in troubled times. Says Variety, "Hauntingly beautiful ballads and lilting storytelling... it might spring from the 17th century... but the play seems as current as the latest troubles in Belfast... Patrick Ball's acting is fine, his musicianship outstanding... A small gem." *Don't miss the Rhode Island premiere!* For video clips, visit:

www.patrickball.com/pages/shows/show_ocarolan.php

Only New England concert on this tour!

Sunday, November 22, 8 p.m., \$20.00 advance/\$24.00 day of show

KARAN CASEY WITH BUILLE

Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended!



BRT is extremely pleased to welcome back **Karan Casey with Buille** for an intimate theatre performance. A legend in her own right, Karan has long been one of the most innovative, provocative and imitated voices in Irish traditional and folk music. Her career has spanned 20 years; from the early days as a jazz performer in Georges bistro in Dublin to her heady days in New York with the band Solas to her now blossoming solo career, she has sold over half a million

albums. Karan released her first album with the group Solas, which quickly became the most celebrated Irish band in the U.S., and her four years with the group were

pivotal. Following their groundbreaking early releases Casey struck out on her own. Since embarking on her solo career Karan has released 5 solo albums as well as an album for children and numerous contributions to other artist's projects. Karan has won awards for "Best Folk Album" and "Best Folk Female" from Irish Music Magazine and been nominated for the BBC Folk Awards and the Danish Grammys and was also a key member of Paul Winter's Grammy-award winning "Celtic Solstice." She has made many TV and radio appearances on both sides of the Atlantic and has been a frequent guest on Garrison Keillor's 'A Prairie Home Companion.' Karan recently released her fifth solo album entitled "Ships in the Forest." On this tour Karan is accompanied by Buille - virtuoso **Niall Vallely** on concertina, his younger brother **Caoimhín Vallely** on piano, **Ross Martin** on guitar, and cellist **Kate Ellis**. 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 out on this rare small-theatre appearance!*

SOLD OUT!

Saturday, November 28, 8:00 p.m., \$20.00

BRT HOMECOMING CONCERT AND SILENT AUCTION

featuring The Atwater-Donnelly Trio, Barry Brown, Doug Brunelle, Martin Grosswendt, Matt & Shannon Heaton, The Miller Family, Occidental Gypsy Jazz Quartet, Robbie O'Connell, and Pendragon

Advance ticket purchase recommended!



With family and friends in town for Thanksgiving, **BRT's 9th 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. It is also a great way to experience upcoming performers at Blackstone River Theatre! *100% of the proceeds from both the concert and the silent auction will go to support Blackstone River Theatre's programming and operating expenses.* Having celebrated their 9th anniversary in September, Blackstone River Theatre has now presented more than 935 concerts, dances, arts classes and children's events in front of 59,500 people. **At 7:00 p.m. and during**

intermission, Blackstone River Theatre will also hold a silent auction featuring CDs, jewelry, original artwork, Christmas items and gift certificates. **Pendragon** will act as hosts this evening and will perform a set of their Celtic-inspired music. Featured performers, who are all donating their time, include celebrated Irish singer-songwriter **Robbie O'Connell**, **The Atwater-Donnelly Trio** featuring **Aubrey Atwater**, **Elwood Donnelly** and fiddler **Cathy Clasper-Torch**, who will perform Appalachian, gospel and Celtic-inspired folk music and dance, and **The Miller Family - Ruby Mae, Samuel and Evelyn** - who will perform some holiday music and join in on some Irish step dancing. **Matt and Shannon Heaton** will perform Irish and original music on flute, guitar and vocals, **Martin Grosswendt** will perform a set of acoustic blues on fiddle and guitar, **Barry Brown** will play American roots finger-style guitar and songs of social significance, and the **Occidental Gypsy Jazz Quartet** will make their BRT debut with an exciting set of gypsy jazz music.

DECEMBER

- **The exhibit of Cindy Peloquin's photographs continues in BRT's Art Gallery through December 19.**
- **Blackstone River Theatre will shut down for the holiday season starting December 20 and will reopen again on January 9.** 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!*

Saturday, December 5, 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Free!

BRT HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR FUNDRAISER

Blackstone River Theatre invites the community to our **2nd annual Holiday Craft Fair!** *Please come out and support local craft vendors and home-based businesses from the area and support the BRT while you do your holiday shopping locally! We will have 23 local vendors on site and the event will also feature door prizes, live music, a bake sale table and more. Door prizes will be raffled off from each vendor with the raffle proceeds to benefit BRT's programming. Refreshments will be available. Think*

out of the box (store!) **Vendors include: Majeau tote bags, Quint's Finest Gourmet Cookies, Celebrating Home, Arbonne, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Lia Sophia, David Schwartz Photography, Suzan Wentworth Antiques, Alspach Beaded Jewelry, Barbara Komlyn Silk flower arrangements, It's All In The Bag, Linda Lague Felted Pocketbooks, New Moon Studio, Tastefully Simple, Shibori Designs, Usbourne Books, Cassandra Michael Gifts, Paper In Style, Gustafson Gifts & Jewelry, Short & Sweet Design, KKline Design, BRT CDs, shirts & bake sale table and Dwyer Homemade Jewelry.**

**Saturday, December 5, 8:00 p.m., \$12.00 advance/\$15.00 day of show
THE JEREMY KITTEL BAND**



When a musician is as likely to be found playing a ferocious set of reels in some dark pub in Ireland as he is to be found trading licks with a saxophonist at a hip New York City jazz club - and he is occasionally even seen doing such apparently odd-ball things as exploring Indian classical music on stage at Carnegie Hall - one starts to wonder... what is it that drives him? Whatever the source of **Jeremy Kittel's** inspiration may be, it has led to a dizzying heap of accomplishments and opportunities, one of which is his *recent inclusion as a full-time member of the Grammy award-winning Turtle Island Quartet*. Just prior to joining Turtle Island Quartet, Kittel was earning his masters

degree in jazz performance at the Manhattan School of Music and skipping town on weekends to perform across the country alongside fiddle legends Mark O'Connor and Darol Anger. He has won multiple U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Championships, six Detroit Music Awards for both folk and jazz, and has released three highly acclaimed solo CDs. In addition to many great guest musicians, the core musicians on his new CD, *Chasing Sparks*, are Kittel's own bandmates, who somehow, manage to share quite a bit of common musical ground with him. Guitarist **Kyle Sanna** possesses a knack for musical balance that recently led cellist nonpareil Yo-Yo Ma to hire him as an arranger for his 2008 Sony Classical recording. Cellist **Tristan Clarridge** is a member of bluegrass sensation Crooked Still and is a three-time National Fiddle Champion himself. And cosmopolitan drummer **Bodek Janke** (he's fluent in five languages) lends deep, visceral grooves with echoes of Africa, India, and Eastern Europe. Each track is woven with earthy, Celtic-inspired melodies; sometimes as a jumping-off point for intricate compositions; other times inducing heady improvisations; still other times maintaining a simpler, more traditional feel. *Don't miss their Rhode Island debut!*

**Thursday, December 10, 6-8 PM
SEN. DAN CONNORS FUNDRAISER**

Two Holiday performances of "Christmas in the Olden Time"

**Saturday, December 12, 8:00 PM, \$18.00 advance/\$20.00 day of show
AND Sunday, December 13, 7:00 PM, \$18.00 advance/\$20.00 day of show
The Atwater-Donnelly Trio & Pendragon - Christmas in the Olden Time
With special guests The Miller Family & Victorian Carolers**

Advance ticket purchase recommended!



Last year's holiday show marked the first joint concert by these two well-known New England groups! For this year's holiday offering, expect the unexpected... songs, poetry, carols, dancing... as each group will perform on their own and also join in on several holiday and winter-themed pieces together. Special guest performers will include **Victorian Carolers** from Jazz Up Your Party and music and step dancing by **The Miller Family - Ruby May Miller, Evelyn Miller and Samuel Miller. Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly**

along with **Cathy Clasper-Torch** on fiddle, cello and vocals are well-known for presenting engaging concerts of traditional American and Celtic American folk songs, a cappella pieces, dance tunes, and original works. Elwood, Aubrey and Cathy blend unusual harmonies and play guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, Irish tin whistle, mandolin, old-time banjo, fiddle, and other musical surprises while also featuring Aubrey's amazing clogging and step dance. Pendragon, having celebrated their 25th anniversary in 2008, features dynamic step dancer/percussionist **Kevin Doyle, Bob Drouin** on fiddle, bouzouki and tenor banjo; **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and

concertina; **Josh Kane** on flute and whistles; and **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals.

"BOOK A SEAT" for the Blackstone River Theatre's Holiday Show "Christmas in the Olden Time." Blackstone River Theatre invites audience members to return the many gifts bestowed on Rhode Island readers throughout the year by both public and private libraries. ***Concert-goers are invited to bring a new, unwrapped book inscribed as a gift for the library of their choice.*** Donated books will be displayed during the Saturday and Sunday concerts and then delivered by BRT to RI libraries during the holiday season.

"Christmas in the Olden Time" is inspired by the poem written by Sir Walter Scott from his epic MARMION published in 1808. Scott's grand-uncle, Edward Scott, was among the founders of the Redwood Library and Athenaeum which opened in 1750 in Newport. It is the oldest public (membership) library in continuous use in the United States today. In honor of Rhode Island's connection to the great Scottish author through his literary and civic-minded uncle, Blackstone River Theatre celebrates the season with music, dance, poetry and a community gift of books to our much-loved libraries. Cumberland's Blackstone River Theatre is in the area of "Study Hall," the 17th-century home of William Blackstone, which was destroyed shortly after his death. Blackstone was known for his large, private collection of books, and during the 2010 season, Blackstone River Theatre will celebrate the 375th anniversary of Blackstone's arrival to make Study Hill and Study Hall his home in the valley that bears his name.

SOLD OUT! Only New England Christmas Concert on this tour!
Saturday, December 19, 8:00 p.m., \$30.00 advance/\$35.00 day of show
CHERISH THE LADIES - CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND CD RELEASE!

Advanced ticket purchase recommended - this show will sell out!



They have grown from a one-time concert concept to an Irish traditional music sensation, literally the most successful and sought-after Irish-American group in Celtic music. Organized by folklorist/musician Mick Moloney and sponsored by the Ethnic Folk Arts Center and the National Endowment for the Arts, they began as a concert series featuring the brightest lights in Irish traditional music. Taking their name from the name of a traditional Irish jig, the group initially won recognition as the first and only all-women traditional Irish band. In a relatively short time, they soon established themselves as musicians and performers without peer and have won many thousands of listeners and fans of their music. With their spectacular blend of virtuosic instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements and stunning step dancing, this powerhouse group combines all the facets of Irish traditional culture and puts it forth in an immensely humorous and entertaining package. Cherish the Ladies - **Joannie Madden, Mary Coogan, Roisin Dillon, Michelle Burke, Mirella Murray and Kathleen Boyle** - have been named Best Musical Group of the Year by the BBC, Entertainment Group of the Year by the Irish Voice Newspaper, chosen as the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall's International Group of the Year Award at the Celtic Connections Festival in Scotland and voted the Top North American Celtic act by NPR Radio's "Thistle and Shamrock." Cherish the Ladies was also chosen as top North American Celtic Act at the Irish Music Awards held in Castlebar, County Mayo in August! They have just completed a new Christmas album, "A Star In The East," which is a follow up to "On Christmas Night," hailed by critics as one of the best Christmas albums of 2007. The new CD continues the theme with old Christmas favorite singalongs - given their unique Celtic touch - and some new Christmas songs with jigs, reels, polkas, airs and slides. *For tonight's Christmas show, the band will be joined by several step dancers... **do not miss a VERY rare small room appearance by this amazing group!***