

Blackstone River Theatre



Solstice Festival

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JANUARY 2012

- **THANK YOU! Despite the still-challenging economy, Blackstone River Theatre saw more than 6,950 audience members attend 135 concerts, dances, classes and private functions in 2011 plus an additional 1,100 at our Summer Solstice Festival!** September marked the 11-year anniversary of the reopening of Blackstone River Theatre after more than four years of volunteer renovation efforts from July, 1996, to September, 2000. *Since reopening, BRT has now presented almost 1,200 events in front of more than 75,000 audience members!*
- **Look for details about another six-week round of fiddle classes** for beginner, continuing beginner/intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced students with Cathy Clasper-Torch beginning Jan. 10 and Jan. 11.
- **Look for details about another eight-week round of Irish step dance classes** for beginner children and adults with Erika Damiani beginning Jan. 14.
- **Look for details about a six-week round of classes in clogging, beginner tin whistle, and beginner 5-string banjo** with Aubrey Atwater starting Jan. 26.
- **Look for details about a four-week series of classes in beginner and continuing beginner bodhran** (Irish drum) with Aoife Clancy starting Jan. 26.
- **We will continue our popular Zumba and Zumba Tone classes** with April Hilliker on Monday evenings and we will also add a Sunday, 9:30 AM Zumba class with April starting Jan. 15!
- **There will be a new exhibit in BRT's Art Gallery featuring student work from Woonsocket's RiverzEdge Arts Project** January 8 through Feb. 19.

NOTE: If a show at BRT has an advance price & a day-of-show price it means: If you pre-pay OR call in your reservation any time before the show date, you get the advance price. *If you show up at the door with no reservations OR call in your reservations on the day of the show, you will pay the day of show price.*

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, CALL BRT AT: 401-725-9272

Leave your name, number of tickets desired, for which show, your phone number and please let us know if you would like a confirmation phone call.

Every Monday starting January 2, \$5.00 per class; \$8.00 if both same night
6:30-7:30 PM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER begin
7:45-8:30 PM - ZUMBA TONE CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER begin

AND

Every Sunday starting January 15, \$5.00 per class
9:30-10:30 AM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER begin

Sunday, January 8, 10 AM to noon, \$20.00 adults; \$10.00 students
BRUNCH WITH MAYOR DANIEL McKEE

Join Mayor McKee and the Cumberland Youth Commission for brunch at Blackstone River Theatre to kick off the year with a focus on education. Find out how the "pieces of the pie" will fit together! Topics will include the New Youth Center, The Declaration of Education for Cumberland, and the vision of an "Edu-Conomy." Hosted by the Cumberland Youth Commission as a fundraiser to benefit The Office of Children, Youth and Learning via the Cumberland Local Education Fund, a 501-c-3 non-profit organization. Questions? Please contact Cheryl: 401-475-0929 OR email: info@ocyl.org

Tuesday, January 10

5:30 PM: 6-week class in BEGINNER FIDDLE with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins

6:30 PM: 6-week class in CONTINUING BEGINNER FIDDLE with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins

7:30 PM: 6-week class in ADVANCED BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE FIDDLE with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins

Wednesday, January 11

6:30 PM: 6-week class in ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE FIDDLE with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins

7:45 PM: 6-week class in ADVANCED FIDDLE with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins

Friday, January 13, 8 PM, \$15.00 ROBBIE O'CONNELL, ED MILLER, AND DAN MILNER

An evening of Irish, Scottish, and Maritime songs



Singer-songwriter **Robbie O'Connell** was born in Waterford, Ireland, and grew up in Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary. In 1977, he joined the legendary Clancy Brothers with whom he recorded 3 albums. With the 1982 release of his first solo album 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. He has earned international acclaim as a singer-songwriter by making it quite clear that there's more to being Irish than filling stereotypes. *The Boston Globe* describes Robbie as "a writer of timeless-sounding, emotionally powerful and often hilarious songs" and places him "among the most respected guitarists, singer and songwriters in Celtic music."

Ed Miller has been hailed as "one of the finest singers to come out of the Scottish Folksong Revival" and as "one of Scotland's best singing exports." Originally from Edinburgh, he has been living in Austin, Texas for many years, where he gained graduate degrees in Folklore and Geography at the University of Texas. Ed performs in concerts, clubs, festivals, Highland Games and Burns Suppers, and has recorded eight CDs of Scottish songs.

Dan Milner has been involved in traditional song all his life as a singer, author, collector and organizer. A former National Park Ranger, he teaches "Storytelling in Song: The Ballad Tradition" at New York University and is on the staff of *The Journal of New York Folklore*. Dan has made six recordings including "Irish Ballads & Songs of the Sea," and "Irish Songs from Old New England" for Folk-Legacy. His 2009 CD, "Irish Pirate Ballads," received two Indie Awards nominations: Best Album and Best Song - World Traditional. *Help us kick off 2012 and don't miss this rare opportunity to see these three talented performers together in an intimate theater setting!*

Saturday, January 14

9:00 AM: 8-week class in BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE FOR CHILDREN 6-10 with Erika Damiani begins

10:00 AM: 8-week class in BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE FOR ADULTS with Erika Damiani begins

11:00 AM: 8-week class in ADVANCED BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE FOR ADULTS with Erika Damiani begins

Saturday, January 21, 8 PM, \$15.00

THE BOHEMIAN QUARTET



Experience an amazing performance of gypsy music! The mission of keeping a rare musical flame alight is a noble and often challenging one, but The Bohemian Quartet is more than up to the task. In this case, the acclaimed Providence, Rhode Island-based ensemble featuring violin, viola, cello, and bass specializes in music of the "Romany" or "Gypsy" tradition, along with related Eastern European folk styles. The Bohemian Quartet was formed in 2005.

Violinist **Stan Renard**, a composer and virtuoso

player with an impressive list of credentials, assembled the group with the idea of preserving the tradition and indulging in the virtuosic playing of classic gypsy music. Renard recruited like-minded and ambitious friends: **Christine Harrington** on cello, **Nancy Richardson** on viola, and **John DeBossu** on upright bass. Together, they've made a commitment to the genre, and aspired to performing it with both reverence and adventure. Indeed, like every good curator, the ensemble embraces tradition, and still wanders off in newer, unpredictable directions. The name "Bohemian Quartet" was borrowed from the original Bohemian Quartet (also known as the Czech Quartet after 1918), a string quartet of international repute that was founded in 1891 and disbanded in 1934. Both groups share a passion for the deep-rooted authenticity of the Romany tradition, as well as the ability to play that historic repertoire with extraordinary joie de vivre. On the aptly titled "Beyond Tradition," the quartet's 2010 recording, the group's intentions are on full display. The project was recorded live at Blackstone River Theatre and St. Paul's Church in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Produced by Harrington and the quartet, the recording is a journey through the musical vernacular of gypsy life, with zippy tempos, virtuosic playing, and above all the flair of performance that makes this music so utterly riveting. *Don't miss it!*

Thursday, January 26

6:00 PM: 6-week class in CLOGGING with Aubrey Atwater begins

7:00 PM: 6-week class in IRISH TIN WHISTLE FOR BEGINNERS with Aubrey Atwater begins FULL!

8:00 PM: 6-week class in 5-STRING BANJO FOR BEGINNERS with Aubrey Atwater begins FULL!

Thursday, January 26

6:00 PM: 4-week class in BEGINNER BODHRAN with Aoife Clancy begins FULL!

7:00 PM: 4-week class in CONTINUING BEGINNER BODHRAN with Aoife Clancy begins

8:00 PM: 4-week class in CONTINUING BEGINNER BODHRAN with Aoife Clancy begins

Saturday, January 28, 8PM, \$13.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show

FELLSWATER



Fellswater is a new, dynamic Boston-based Celtic music ensemble. The group was formed in 2008 after band members met during the album recording for "Stormin' the Castle" by the Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums. Fellswater plays a wide range of instrumental music, from traditional to modern compositions, drawing from the heritage of many of the Celtic nations, especially Scotland, Ireland, and Brittany. Fellswater features **Elizabeth Ketudat** on violin, **Sarah MacConduibh** on whistle and Irish flute,

Jim MacConduibh on guitar, mandolin and bouzouki, and **Matthew Phelps** on smallpipes and border pipes. 2010 highlights included the release of "Fellswater," the group's first full-length recording, and their performance debut at the New Hampshire Highland Games. 2011 saw them play the BRT Summer Solstice Festival and their "Road to the Scottish Highlands" concert at Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion in Gilford, NH before a crowd of 1,600, the band's largest audience yet. *Fellswater really drew some attention at the 2011 Solstice Festival... don't miss their BRT debut concert!*

Sunday, January 29, 12:30-3:30 PM, \$8 adults/\$6 students/\$4 for children 3-12

**Cumberland Feels the Cold... Help Keep Our Neighbors Warm
"Frank Santos Jr. Hypnotizes for Heat" Oil Project Fundraiser**

The Cumberland Youth Commission is raising funds for its 4th annual Oil Project. The Youth Commission works with the Office of Children, Youth & Learning (OCYL) to create civic engagement opportunities for high school students while working to improve issues facing Cumberland. The Oil Project began when the youth commission recognized the growing number of local families unable to afford heat for their homes. Today's program is a fundraiser to help families who cannot keep their homes warm by partnering with local oil companies: McKee Oil and TH Malloy and Sons. "Frank Santos Jr. Hypnotizes for Heat" is a comic hypnotist show for all ages featuring audience participation. Also featured will be participatory drumming with The Rhythm Room, raffle prizes, and snacks available for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the Oil Project. Purchase advance tickets at the Office of Children Youth and Learning or buy them at the door. Individuals and local businesses who cannot attend are encouraged to help keep our neighbors warm by contributing directly to the oil fund. Questions? For more information, call 401-475-0929 or e-mail info@ocyl.org

FEBRUARY 2012

- **Fiddle classes for beginner, continuing beginner/intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced students with Cathy Clasper-Torch continues** through Feb. 14 and Feb. 15.
- **Irish step dance classes for beginner children and adults and advanced beginners with Erika Damiani continues** on Saturdays throughout February (but no class Feb. 18).
- **Clogging, beginner tin whistle, and beginner 5-string banjo with Aubrey Atwater continues** on Thursdays in February (but no class Feb. 16).
- **Beginner and continuing beginner bodhran (Irish drum) classes with Aoife Clancy continue** on Thursdays through Feb. 16.
- **We will continue our popular Zumba and Zumba Tone classes** with April Hilliker on Monday evenings and on Sunday mornings.
- The RiverzEdge Arts Project student exhibit in BRT's Art Gallery runs through Feb. 19. **Starting Feb. 25, BRT will host an exhibit of pastel landscapes and still lifes by local artist Karole Nicholson** through March 31.

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AND

**Every Sunday, \$5.00 per class
9:30-10:30 AM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

**Saturday, February 4, 8 PM, \$12.00
BLUE AROUND THE EDGES / THREE TALL PINES**



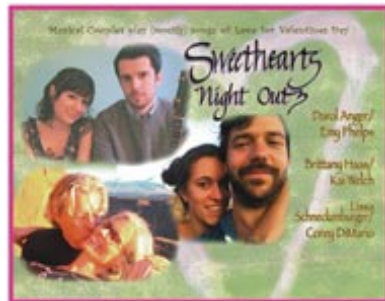
Blue Around the Edges is **Dianna Fallon** (vocals, guitar, banjo) and **Carol Campbell** (vocals, mandolin, guitar) joined

by **Jackie Vinacco** on upright bass and vocals. Dianna and Carol came together in 2005 performing acoustic old-timey country, gospel, and traditional music, with a hint of bluegrass. Their simple and beautiful harmonies tell stories of struggle, hope and compassion that touch the mind, heart, and spirit. Blue Around the Edges has opened for Ginny Hawker & Tracy Schwartz, and The Lonesome Sisters and their music has graced the main stage (2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011) of the Blistered Fingers Bluegrass Festival, in Litchfield, Maine. They also performed on the Showcase Stage at the Joe Val Bluegrass Festival and the New England Folk Festival in 2011. They have been hits at the 2010 and 2011 BRT Homecoming concerts and are recipients of Motif Magazine Music Award nominations for 2009-11 Best Bluegrass Band in the Folk genre. **Three Tall Pines** is an award winning quartet playing bluegrass and Americana from the heart of New England. Though their faces are young, the group's timeless originals and interpretations of traditional songs persuade listeners that bygone eras were just a short while ago. Impressive instrumentalists in their own right, they transcend their diverse musical backgrounds to achieve soulful harmonies and sensitive performances that draw audiences in and leave plenty of space for the story to shine through. Named 2011 Bluegrass Band of the Year by the Motif Magazine and winner of the Ossipee Valley Bluegrass Festival band competition, the group's new CD, "All That's Left" was released in late 2011. Three Tall Pines features **Dan Bourdeau** on guitar, **Joe Lurgio** on mandolin, **Conor Smith** on fiddle, and **Gian Pangaro** on acoustic bass.

Sunday, February 12, 7 PM, \$15.00

SWEETHEARTS' NIGHT OUT

Musical Couples play (mostly) songs of love for Valentine's Day featuring Darol Anger & Emy Phelps, Lissa Schneckemberger & Corey DiMario, and Brittany Haas & Kai Welch



Celebrated roots musicians Darol Anger and Emy Phelps, along with Lissa Schneckemberger and Corey DiMario, and Brittany Haas and Kai Welch will present an evening of both the sweet and the scary side of romance, from their perspective as couples, with original songs and old favorites from every genre. **Darol Anger**, making his BRT debut, has made a 30+ year career as one of the most influential and innovative fiddlers in the world as the original fiddler from the David Grisman Quartet as well as with the Turtle Island String Quartet, Psychograss, and

Republic of Strings. **Lissa Schneckemberger** is one of the best of the young fiddler-singer-songwriters of America's Northeast region. **Brittany Haas**, one of the most dynamic fiddlers alive, currently tours internationally with Crooked Still, which also features the amazing bassist **Corey DiMario**. **Emy Phelps**, the "Golden Voice of the Pacific Northwest," has been charming fans for 20 years with her deep and insightful songs and multi-instrumentalist and esteemed producer **Kai Welch** is well-known to Abigail Washburn fans. *We hope you'll bring your sweetheart and join us for a lovely, romantic and very special evening!*

Saturday, February 18, 8 PM, \$15.00

KIMBERLEY FRASER and BRIAN CONWAY with MARK SIMOS



Kimberley Fraser was born on Cape Breton Island and nurtured within its rich musical heritage. She first began to impress audiences at the age of three with her step-dancing talents. Soon after that she took up both the fiddle and the piano. Like many in Cape Breton, music is not new to Kimberley's family... she proudly owns the fiddle of her great great grandfather, spanning the musical tradition within her family over a hundred years. Though still in her early twenties, Kimberley's career is already a distinguished one

having played with Ashley MacIsaac, Natalie MacMaster, Alasdair Fraser, Lunasa and Martin Hayes. A master at the trio of fiddling, step dancing and piano, Kimberley is a much sought after teacher for all three and has been a long-time instructor at the renowned Gaelic College in Cape Breton. Fraser is continuing her music education by attending the acclaimed Berklee College of Music in Boston. Her CD "Falling on New Ground" won the 2008 East Coast Music Award for best "Roots/Traditional Album of the Year." New York-born fiddler **Brian Conway** is a leading exponent of the highly ornamented Sligo fiddling style made famous by the late Michael Coleman. The winner of two All-Ireland junior titles in 1973-1974 and the All-Ireland senior championship of 1986, Brian learned from legendary fiddler Martin Wynne and later befriended the great Andy McGann, a direct student of Michael Coleman, who further shaped his precision and skill on the instrument. He released his debut solo CD, "First through the Gate," on the Smithsonian-Folkways label in 2002. This CD was voted the prestigious Album of the Year by the Irish Echo. Brian remains faithful to the rich tradition handed down to him. The distinctness of his tone, the lift of his playing, and the deft ornamentation he brings to the tunes have placed him among the finest Irish fiddlers of any style, Sligo or otherwise. The musical imagination of guitarist **Mark Simos** weaves a lifetime love of many traditions into innovative musical forms. As songwriter and composer, fiddler, and accompanist, Mark draws on a wide variety of genres-Irish, Southern old-time, New England, Québécois, bluegrass, and Klezmer among others-creating a musical language grounded in traditional forms, yet uniquely his own. *Don't miss an amazing evening with two of the top fiddle players performing today!*

Sunday, February 19, 2 PM, \$10.00 adv / \$12.00 day of show
DIXIE DIEHARDS JAZZ BAND



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: **Rick Foster** on trumpet & vocals, **Dolly Fruzzetti** on vocals, **Bill Dube** on reeds, **Dale Ellenberg** on drums, **Paul Peterson** on reeds, **Steve Shaw** on tuba, **John Zawislak** on trombone, **Chris Wadsworth** on banjo, and band leader **Alan Shapiro** on trumpet. *Don't miss a rare BRT matinee show sure to be fun for all ages!*

Saturday, February 25, 8 PM, \$15.00
ÁINE MINOGUE - CD release



As traditional Irish music continues to enjoy phenomenal success both here and in Ireland, **Áine Minogue** is an artist who has long explored its themes and who captures its very essence. Her singing reflects the lyricism and richness to be found in Irish music, mythology and poetry with a voice undeniably her own. Born in County Tipperary, Áine's family encouraged her to pursue a number of instruments but it was at age 12 that Áine discovered her true love - the harp - which she decided to pursue in lieu of the others. Áine takes this ancient art form, exploring its underpinnings but adding her own creativity to each piece. With a combination of harping, singing and storytelling with a touch of poetry, her concerts

have an intimate "getting away from it all" feel. Tonight is the CD release for her new project, "Close Your Eyes, Love." Áine's latest album is a collection of mostly traditional lullabies from the Celtic Lands. In the ancient Irish harping tradition, there were three primary genres of music, *geantraí* (songs of laughter), *goltraí* (songs of sorrow), and *suantraí* (songs of sleep). These lullabies are among the most beautiful in the tradition and were created for people of all ages. Says Áine "Faith systems are always fascinating. Today, we believe medicine is the answer to falling asleep. Back then, they truly believed in the power of a melody to put you under. That's a powerful thing, to have that kind of faith in music." *Don't miss this fascinating evening of Irish harp music, ethereal vocals, poetry and storytelling by one of BRT's favorite artists!*

MARCH 2012

- **A six-week session of fiddle classes** for continuing beginner/intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced students with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins March 20 and March 21.
- **Irish step dance classes** for beginner children and adults and advanced beginners with Erika Damiani continues on Saturdays on March 3 and March 10. After skipping March 17, **BRT will begin another 8-week session of classes on March 24.**
- **Clogging, beginner tin whistle, and beginner 5-string banjo classes** with Aubrey Atwater continues on Thursdays on March 1 and March 8.
- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Monday evenings and Sunday mornings.
- **Karole Nicholson's pastel still life and landscape exhibit continues** in BRT's Art Gallery runs through March 31.

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Every Monday in March, \$5.00 per class

6:30-7:30 PM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

AND

Every Sunday in March, \$5.00 per class

9:30-10:30 AM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

Saturday, March 3, 8 PM, \$15.00

SUGAR RAY AND THE BLUETONES



We are thrilled to present the BRT debut of **Sugar Ray and the Bluetones**, hot off FIVE Blues Music Awards nominations! Their latest CD, *Evening*, has garnered nominations as "Album of the Year" and "Traditional Blues Album"; the band is up for "Band of the Year," and **Sugar Ray Norcia** for "Instrumentalist - Harmonica" and Michael "Mudcat" Ward as "Instrumentalist - Bass." Norcia's career kicked into high gear in 1979 when he formed the original Sugar Ray and the Bluetones line-up with guitar giant Ronnie

Earl, and it's stayed there ever since. The elegant singer has appeared on more than 50 albums including discs with the Bluetones, Ronnie Earl, Roomful of Blues, Otis Grand, Michelle Willson, J. Giels, Duke Robillard, Pinetop Perkins, and his 1999 "Best Traditional Blues" Grammy-nominated collaboration with fellow harmonica virtuosos James Cotton, Charlie Musselwhite and Billy Branch called *Superharps*.

In the '90s Norcia spent seven high-profile years with the legendary Roomful of Blues cutting five albums with the group including 1996's *Turn It On, Turn It Up*, which also received a "Best Traditional Blues" Grammy nod. Now, Sugar Ray has led the Bluetones - guitarist "**Monster**" **Mike Welch**, drummer **Neil Gouvin**, bassist **Michael "Mudcat" Ward** and pianist **Anthony Geraci** - back into the studio to cut their new CD, *Evening*. "We approached this one like Hank Williams made records," Norcia says. "I went in with my lyrics, just rough sketches of the songs, and the great musicians in the Bluetones, who always play something exciting. The album's about 90 percent originals and mostly in the Chicago blues vein. And Norcia continues to expand his territory. He's recently recorded a pair of albums with Italian blues guitarist Maurizio Pugno and sang on a tribute album to Texas swing master Bob Wills called *Goodbye Liza Jane*. "Projects like those let me step outside of my own box and help me stay fresh," Norcia says. "But my first love is always going to be die-hard, real-deal blues."

Saturday, March 10, 8 PM, \$15.00

PADDY KEENAN



Paddy Keenan, who has been referred to as "the Jimi Hendrix of the pipes," and "the King of the pipers," is generally acknowledged as one of the most accomplished, innovative uilleann pipers playing today. Paddy was the 2003 recipient of the Irish National Traditional Musician Award. Specializing in a wild, fluid style solely his own, Paddy was a founding member of the Bothy Band, one of the most influential Celtic bands of the 1970s. Keenan continues to tour in Europe and the U.S. and has released several solo albums including his most recent CD "The Long Grazing Acre." Paddy was born in Trim, Co. Meath, to John Keenan and the

former Mary Bravender. The Keenans were a Travelling family (the wanderers of Ireland known amongst themselves as Pavees) steeped in traditional music; both Paddy's father and grandfather were uilleann pipers. Taking up pipes at age 10, Keenan moved to America at age 17 to play blues and rock and roll only to return to Ireland in the seventies. After several member changes, Paddy soon found himself with musicians who would go on to change the face of traditional Irish music. The Bothy Band forever changed Irish music, merging a driving rhythm section with traditional Irish tunes in ways that had never been heard before. Paddy's virtuosity on the pipes combined with the ferocity of his playing made him, in the opinion of many, its driving force. Paddy's style has continued to mature in the intervening years since the break-up of The Bothy Band as he has pursued a solo career. Keenan is certainly one of the most brilliant musicians of his generation. In a live situation, Keenan is possibly one of the most exciting traditional musicians in the world. His inventiveness and willingness to take risks most players wouldn't even think of and pull them off, make his playing an endless source of fascination for traditional music lovers and pipers in particular. *Don't miss a rare Rhode Island appearance by a true Irish music legend!*

Sunday, March 18, 7:00 PM, \$15.00

PENDRAGON - Celebrate St. Patrick's Day!



New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Having celebrated their 28th anniversary in September, 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. They will be joined by guest dancer **Erika Damiani**.

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 2005-2011 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.

Saturday, March 24, 8 PM, \$15.00
RUNA - Contemporary Celtic music



RUNA burst onto the music scene during the summer of 2008 and has been taking audiences by storm ever since! Drawing on the diverse musical backgrounds of its band members, RUNA brings a contemporary and refreshing experience to traditional and more recently composed Celtic material. Through their repertoire of both highly energetic and graceful, acoustic melodies, along with their fusion of music from Ireland, Scotland, the Shetland Islands, Canada, and the U.S., this

vocal and instrumental ensemble gives its arrangements of traditional songs and tunes a fresh sound. RUNA consists of vocalist **Shannon Lambert-Ryan** of Philadelphia, Dublin-born guitarist, **Fionán de Barra**, **Cheryl Prashker**, of Canada, on percussion, and **Tomoko Omura**, of Japan, on fiddle. Members of RUNA have played with Solas, Riverdance, Clannad, Fiddlers' Bid, Moya Brennan, Eileen Ivers, Full Frontal Folk, and the Guy Mendilow Band. They released a new CD, "Stretched on Your Grave," in 2011 and are hard at work on a new project. *Don't miss this amazing young band... they'll also appear at BRT's Summer Solstice Festival!*

Saturday, March 31, 8 PM, \$13.00 adv / \$15.00 day of show
MIST COVERED MOUNTAINS featuring **Donna Hébert, Max Cohen & Molly Hebert-Wilson**
and ATLANTIC BRIDGE featuring **Jane Rothfield and Allan Carr**



Mist Covered Mountains draws from Celtic and French-Canadian roots, creating vignettes of New England's mill towns' Irish and French communities at the height of the Industrial Revolution. **Donna Hébert's** fierce fiddle rhythms and **Max Cohen's** impeccable groove guitar link to create an orchestra of sound from a simple fiddle-guitar duet. Said

Irish fiddle master Seamus Connolly at their recent Boston College concert, "Donna is a gem - one of the best!" Their amazing musical chemistry catches fire when Donna's daughter, singer **Molly Hebert-Wilson** joins them. Fiddle master Donna Hébert is a state Artist's Fellow in the Folk Arts with eight NEA-funded Master-Apprenticeship grants. The ultimate accompanist, Max Cohen finds himself an essential member of several groups with Hébert, Irish accordionist John Whelan, singer Priscilla Herdman and more. Bringing a decade of theater and singing experience to her performances, Molly Hebert-Wilson's songs in French, Irish Gaelic and English are a highlight of the

group's performances. **Jane Rothfield** and **Allan Carr** have been playing together since meeting in Aberdeen Scotland in 1978 and have forged their unique combination of Allan's Scottish Traditional music roots with Jane's Appalachian-style fiddle and banjo playing. The result is a style of New Roots music that combines the best of both sides of the Atlantic - traditional and original and always fun!

APRIL 2012

- **A six-week session of fiddle classes** for continuing beginner/intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced students with Cathy Clasper-Torch continues on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in April.
- **Irish step dance classes** for beginner children and adults and advanced beginners with Erika Damiani continues on Saturdays, April 7 and April 21 (*no classes April 14 and April 28*). Classes continue in May.
- **Clogging, continuing beginner tin whistle, and continuing beginner 5-string banjo** classes with Aubrey Atwater take place on Thursdays, April 12 and April 19.
- We will continue our popular **Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and also on Sunday, April 22, 9:30 a.m.
- **Femfocus, a group of Rhode Island women photographers, will exhibit their work in BRT's Art Gallery April 7 through May 15.** *There will be an artist's opening on April 14, 6-7:15 p.m.*
- **Cumberland's Time For You Yoga will present a Svaroopaa Yoga Weekend Workshop** April 28-29 at BRT. For more info and to register visit: www.timeforyouyoga.com

NOTE: If a show at BRT has an advance price & a day-of-show price it means: If you pre-pay OR call in your reservation any time before the show date, you get the advance price. *If you show up at the door with no reservations OR call in your reservations on the day of the show, you will pay the day of show price.*

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, CALL BRT AT: 401-725-9272

Leave your name, number of tickets desired, for which show, your phone number and please let us know if you would like a confirmation phone call.

Every Monday in April, \$5.00 per class

6:30-7:30 PM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER
AND

Sunday, April 22 (NO other Sundays in April!), \$5.00 per class
9:30-10:30 AM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

SOLD OUT!

Saturday, April 7, 8 PM, \$10.00 advance / \$12.00 day of show
SUPERCHIEF TRIO - CD release!



Pianist/vocalist **Keith Munslow** met trombonist **Pam Murray** at Providence's AS220 in the early 1990s, where they performed together in the Smoking Jackets and the Neo 90s Dance Band. Keith and drummer Johnny Cote played together in the Big Nazo band, and Johnny later became the drummer for the Neo 90s. Having cut their teeth on rough-and-tumble dance blues with the Smoking Jackets, Keith and Pam began playing gigs at a dim and smoky basement bar (now defunct) called The

East Bay Regatta Club. Owing to safety in numbers, **Johnny Cote** was recruited and **Superchief Trio** was born circa 2000. The casual nature of the place and its heckling denizens encouraged recklessness and experimentation with new songs, new arrangements and inspired a higher level of daredevil musical abandon. Emerging from this subterranean honky-tonk, Superchief Trio continues the tradition of good-time music and barrelhouse hijinks. In 2008, Superchief Trio grew to five members when they added guitarist **Tom Ferraro** and bassist/vocalist **Steve Bigelow**. Tom has been a staple in many RI bands including The High Rollers and Stormin' Norman & The

Hurricanes. Steve has also been with numerous bands throughout New England including Sleepy LaBeef and Young Neal & the Vipers. With the addition of these great players, Superchief finds itself careening down new musical highways and back roads, amassing an ever-expanding repertoire of tasty original songs and cool cover tunes. In more ways than one, Superchief Trio has truly become the largest trio in Rhode Island... and beyond! *Tonight will be the CD release of 'Magnetic' and there will be seating as well as a dance floor area!*

Friday, April 13, 8:00 PM, \$10.00

RORY RAVEN - Mentalist and Mindbender



Rory Raven is a mentalist with 16 years of experience reading minds and astonishing audiences. Neither a psychic nor a magician, he offers a 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 well-known for leading people on his Providence Ghost Walk; he has also released three great books, "Haunted Providence: Strange Tales from the Smallest State,"

"Wicked Conduct," and "The Dorr War: Treason, Rebellion and the Fight for Reform in Rhode Island." **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 says 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...*

Saturday, April 14, 8 PM, \$12.00

THE PEGHEADS



The Pegheads, who have been called a "Rhode Island Bluegrass Supergroup," draw on a wide repertoire of bluegrass standards, obscure and familiar mountain tunes, laments, and traditional songs, presenting them all with the stunning instrumental skill and tight vocal harmonies that make bluegrass what it is. This fine ensemble features 17-year Northern Lights veteran **Mike Kropp** on banjo, multi-instrumentalist blues/folk artist **Martin Grosswendt** on guitar, former Neon Valley Boys and Northern Lights member **Jeff**

Horton on bass, former "Neon" **Karl Dennis** on fiddle, and the ever tasteful **Ben Pearce** playing mandolin. So what has brought these five together? A love of traditional bluegrass; respect for each other's musicianship... and besides, no one else would put up with them! Join The Pegheads for a great evening of bluegrass, the way it's supposed to be played.

Saturday, April 21, 8PM, \$12.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show

OCCIDENTAL GYPSY



Occidental Gypsy is pioneering the sound of Gypsy Pop. Their combination of uptempo, high-energy rhythms of Gypsy music, melded with the catchy hooks of Pop music delivers a thrilling experience to listeners. Occidental Gypsy's debut album, "Over Here," was released in 2011. In many ways the heart of Gypsy Pop embodies the essence and spirit of what jazz was in its infancy:

developing, improvising, and arranging, with contemporary music as a foundation. Occidental Gypsy was originally formed by brothers **Brett Feldman** (lead guitar) and **Jeff Feldman** (bassist) as a straight-ahead Gypsy Jazz Quartet. With the release of "Over Here" and the addition of new members, the band has taken on a more diverse, sophisticated, and eclectic sound. The group is fronted by Berklee-trained singer and rhythm guitarist **Scottie Kulman**, and supported by two Berklee students - violinist **Jakub Trasak**, from the Czech Republic, and percussionist **Francisco Vielma**, from Venezuela. An Occidental Gypsy performance includes so much more than just music. Scottie, Jakub, Brett, Jeff, and Francisco are energetic and charming entertainers who interact with fans on a personal level, and incorporate audience participation into every show. On stage, the dialog between band members is never less than entertaining, especially between the quick-witted Scottie and Brett who playfully tease one another to no end. Live, the band compliments original material with expertly arranged gypsified covers. Occidental Gypsy's unique approach to pop, jazz, and dance music stems from the influence of Gypsy Swing founders, Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. The members of the group possess a deep knowledge and reverence for the Gypsy style and feel honored to bring their music to the ears of new audiences. The name Occidental Gypsy (Western gypsy) embodies the concept behind Gypsy Pop. The group has taken the Gypsy sound that originated in Eastern Europe and brought it 'Over Here' to blend it seamlessly with contemporary American music. Interestingly, Gypsy Swing was created by taking American Jazz to the East and blending it with the Gypsy Folk tradition. Now almost a century later Occidental Gypsy is bringing the music back home.

Friday, April 27, 6:00 to 9:00 PM, \$20 per person, \$35 for two tickets
Cumberland High School PTO Wine & Beer Tasting Fundraiser
to support Academic Enrichment for CHS students

Saturday, April 28 AND Sunday, April 29, 9 AM to 5 PM
Time For You Yoga presents a Svaroopa Yoga Weekend Workshop
For more info and to register visit: www.timeforyouyoga.com

Saturday, April 28, 8PM, \$13.00 adv / \$15.00 day of show
LISSA SCHNECKENBURGER / CANTRIP



Join us for the return of a BRT favorite and the BRT debut of an exciting new trio! The traditional music of New England can be as warm and comforting as a winter fire or as potent and exhilarating as a summer thunderstorm. Fiddler and singer **Lissa**

Schneckeburger is a master of both moods, a winsome, sweet-voiced singer who brings new life to old ballads and a skillful, dynamic fiddler who captures

the driving rhythm and carefree joy of dance tunes old and new. Lissa's fiddling is uplifting and lively, and her singing is gentle and evocative. Both in concert and in the studio she is regularly accompanied by some of New England's best musicians, including guitarist **Bethany Waickman** who joins Lissa tonight. In 2001 Lissa graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music with a degree in contemporary improvisation, and since then has been performing around the US and internationally for a growing audience of enthusiastic listeners. "Schneckeburger's playing is... quietly virtuosic... her voice is pure and clear, full of simple emotion" says the All Music Guide. **Cantrip** is a trio of Scottish and American traditional musicians that has been stunning audiences on both sides of the Atlantic with its driving blend of

fiddles, bagpipes, mandolin and guitar. The name is an Old Scots word meaning a charm, magic spell or piece of mischief, and it aptly describes the unexpected twists and turns in their musical arrangements. **Dan Houghton** is a Scottish piper, flautist and DADGAD guitarist currently residing in southern Vermont. Winner of many competitions, including the Scottish Lowland and Border Piper's Society Open Borderpipes and New Composition events, he has toured and taught extensively throughout Britain, Europe, Ireland, America, and beyond. At 17, **Eric McDonald** picked up the mandolin and burst onto the Boston folk scene. He was a founding member of Jaded Mandolin, a teen string band that became a local phenomenon and he spent two years touring with Maine's Dave Rowe Trio. **Jon Bews**, Cantrip's fiddler, lives in Edinburgh, Scotland. Throughout his years as a musician Jon has earned a reputation for himself as a dance fiddler playing for Scottish Country Dance classes and balls all over Europe.

MAY 2012

- **A six-week session of fiddle classes** for continuing beginner/intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced students with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins on Tuesdays and Wednesdays on May 1 and May 2 (no class May 15).
- **Irish step dance classes** for beginner children and adults and advanced beginners with Erika Damiani continues on Saturdays, May 5, 12, and 19.
- **Clogging, continuing beginner tin whistle, and continuing beginner 5-string banjo classes** with Aubrey Atwater take place on Thursdays, May 3 and May 10.
- We will continue our popular **Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and also on Sundays, at 9:30 a.m.
- **Femfocus**, a group of Rhode Island women photographers, will exhibit their work in BRT's Art Gallery through May 15.

NOTE: If a show at BRT has an advance price & a day-of-show price it means:
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TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, CALL BRT AT: 401-725-9272

Leave your name, number of tickets desired, for which show, your phone number and please let us know if you would like a confirmation phone call.

Every Monday in May, \$5.00 per class

6:30-7:30 PM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

AND

Every Sunday in May, \$5.00 per class

9:30-10:30 AM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

Saturday, May 5, 1-4 PM, FREE!

DISCOVER THE CREATIVE SIDE OF CUMBERLAND

The arts organization BAAM (Because Art Always Matters) will sponsor this first in a continuing series of arts showcase events titled, "**Discover the Creative Side of Cumberland**" on Saturday, May 5, at Blackstone River Theatre. All are invited to this free event designed to showcase some of the fine and performing arts organizations that exist within our own Cumberland community. Artwork in an array of media will be exhibited by the **Cumberland Artists Alliance** along with music provided by **Rick's Musical Instruments** and **Blackstone River Theatre**. Presentations will be given by **Second Stage Studios**, and **Blackstone Valley Tourism Council's Broad Street Regeneration Initiative**. Also participating will be the **Office of Children Youth and Learning** (OCYL), and **Because Arts Always Matters** (BAAM). For more information, e-mail baamcumberland@cox.net or visit BAAM's website at www.baamcumberland.org

Saturday, May 5, 8 PM, \$15.00

ATWATER-DONNELLY & FRIENDS

with Cathy Clasper-Torch and John and Heidi Cerrigione



A mile marker for Atwater~Donnelly's 25-year span, "Each Other's Story," their most recent recording, is consistent with their appreciation for traditional music. "A 'Story' well sung," according to the Sun Chronicle, these original pieces "are songs of home and hearth, which for a generation has bridged the 20th and 21st centuries." The highly acclaimed husband-wife duo, **Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly**, who present

delightful programs of traditional American and Celtic folk songs, and original works, will blend gorgeous and unusual harmonies with violinist, cellist and pianist **Cathy Clasper-Torch**. Friends **John and Heidi Cerrigione**, an acoustic duo from Ellington, CT, will offer a simple brand of old-time music on acoustic bass and autoharp. They have three solo recordings and have collaborated with Atwater~Donnelly on their three most recent CDs. Atwater~Donnelly & friends offers an exciting journey down crooked trails and along troublesome creeks, where songs are part of everyday chores, and the promise of commitment to family, friends and community is assured.

Sunday, May 6, 7 PM, \$16.00 dvance / \$20.00 day of show
TEADA



One of Irish traditional music's leading exponents, **Téada** is driven by a fascination for the timeless, expressive force of music inherited from previous generations of musicians. An Irish band with a truly worldwide reach, Téada has appeared as a frequent headliner at major music festivals throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Africa, Israel and Australia. Winner of 'Best Young Irish Traditional Act' at Ireland's Music Awards,

Téada released a long awaited fourth album, "Ceol & Cuimhne / Music & Memory" in 2010 described by The Irish Echo's Earle Hitchner as "the best album of Irish instrumental music I've heard so far this year." 2011 saw Téada mark its 10th anniversary with a busy season of touring and other special projects. Founded by Sligo fiddler **Oisín Mac Diarmada**, Téada means "strings" in the Irish language and the group revels in the vibrant traditional music of Ireland. Deftly playing up its structural intricacies while preserving the contagious energy inherent in the repertoire, the group strives to capture a sense of the rawness and individuality of the solo artist, within a modern group context. Téada is **Sean Mc Elwain** on guitar, **Sean Gavin** on flute, newest member **Seamus Begley** on accordion/vocals and **Jack Talty** on concertina.

Saturday, May 12, 8 PM, \$12.00
JC-DC featuring Joel Cage and Don "DC" Culp
with guest Gary "Guitar" Gramolini and Opening Act: Longshot Voodoo
[Concert to benefit the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame](#)



JC-DC, a newly-formed musical duo

consisting of guitarist-vocalist **Joel Cage** and percussionist **Don "DC" Culp**, will make its debut tonight in a performance benefitting the recently-opened Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame located in Pawtucket. Joel Cage is an award winning veteran singer/songwriter from Boston. A one-time member of Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes, he has been performing as a soloist for the past 15 years at some of the most prestigious folk venues and festivals in the country including the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas. He has been awarded the top folk prize in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest and three times in the USA Songwriter's Competition. A virtuoso guitarist and an impassioned vocalist, Joel's music is both evocative and raucous; as a solo

performer, he spans the gamut from sounding like a full rock band to "hear your own heartbeat" intimacy. For more than 30 years, Don "DC" Culp has been an in-demand drummer performing with some of the top acts in southern New England including Steve Smith & The Naked, The James Montgomery Blues Band, John Cafferty & The Beaver Brown Band, and Ken Lyon & Tombstone. He later expanded his musical palette to include the exotic sounds of percussion instruments from around the world, with a particular interest in hand drums. There will be a guest appearance by Joel Cage's brother, **Gary "Guitar" Gramolini**, lead guitarist for John Cafferty & The Beaver Brown Band. The duo has chosen to mark their debut concert by donating the proceeds to The Rhode Island Music Hall Of Fame, a non-profit organization whose mission is to document, preserve and promote the rich legacy of music originating from the state of Rhode Island. An opening set will be performed by the recently-formed **Longshot Voodoo**, a quartet which also features Don Culp. The group was born in the fall of 2011 when The West-Eddy Trio (guitarist **Carl Eddy**, bass guitarist **Matt West** and vocalist **Adrienne West**) asked Culp to join them on a permanent basis. The trio had become known for its unique acoustic interpretations of Hard Rock and Heavy Metal material. In 2011, they decided it was time take their sound to another level and enlisted Don Culp to help them get there. The new quartet has melded together the best elements of its diverse musical influences. Their hard rockin' but acoustic sound, combined with a repertoire of carefully chosen covers and original material, quickly put them on the map.

Friday, May 18, 6:30-9:30 PM, Tickets \$20 each, two for \$35

CUMBERLAND HIGH SCHOOL PTO WINE & BEER TASTING FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by Mendon Wines and More. Proceeds to help support student events and resources including: guest speaker and author, Chris Herron; the CHS 50th Anniversary School-wide celebration; student agendas and art equipment. To purchase tickets, please send check to "CHS PTO" Cumberland High School, 2600 Mendon Rd., Cumberland, RI 02864. To donate or volunteer, contact Kathy 334-5938 or April 333-1340.

Sunday, May 27, 2-5 PM

PRIVATE EVENT

JUNE 2012

Saturday, June 16, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Rain date: Sunday, June 17th)

2nd annual BLACKSTONE RIVER THEATRE SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL

**BLACKSTONE
RIVER
THEATRE
SUMMER
SOLSTICE
FESTIVAL**

at Diamond Hill Park, Rte. 114, Cumberland, RI
Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, children \$5, kids
under-5 free!

Five entertainment stages plus food and craft vendors!

**Aoife Clancy • Fellswater • Archie Fisher • The
Forge • Girsra • The Gnomes • Matt & Shannon
Heaton • Kieran Jordan & Laurel Martin • NØIR •
Robbie O'Connell • Pendragon • RUNA** and more to
be announced!

Call (401) 725-9272 for information. or visit
<http://www.riverfolk.org/brtssf/>

We are looking for volunteers, crafters and food vendors!

JULY 2012

- **Irish step dance classes** with Erika Damiani continues on Saturdays and Sundays in July (no classes July 14 or July 15)
- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and also on Sundays, at 9:00 a.m. (**new time!**) with Tanya Pelosi

**Every Monday in July, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM
ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

**Every Sunday in July, \$5.00 per class, NEW TIME! 9:00-10:00 AM
ZUMBA CLASSES WITH TANYA PELOSI**

AUGUST 2012

- **Irish step dance classes** with Erika Damiani continues on Saturdays and Sundays August through August 18 and August 19
- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and also on Sundays, at 9:00 a.m. (new time!) with Tanya Pelosi

**Every Monday in August, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM
ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

**Every Sunday in August, \$5.00 per class, NEW TIME! 9:00-10:00 AM
ZUMBA CLASSES WITH TANYA PELOSI**

Friday, August 24, 8 PM, \$35.00

A to Z Theatrical Productions, Inc. presents "Broadway at the Blackstone!"



This August, Broadway comes to the Blackstone with Arundale, Zolli and friends! A to Z Theatrical Productions, a professional non-profit musical theatre company, kicks off their fund-raising concert series with a bang at the Blackstone River Theatre. This exclusive evening will feature a four-piece band, under the direction of Todd Gordon, with the stars of A to Z performing hit songs they have sung on Broadway, on tour, and more! Scheduled to appear with co-founders **Susan Arundale Zolli** and **Robert Zolli** are: **Catherine Hughes Black**, **Carolyn**

Saxon, Manhattan cabaret entertainer of the year Bistro award winner **Loli Marquez Sterling**, **Eileen Tepper**, and Boston television anchor **Scott Wahle**, who will be joined by local favorites **Janet Ferreri** and **Terrence Donilon**. *Don't miss this exciting one night only event!* Upcoming performances of "Broadway at the Blackstone!" will be on October 26 (The Halloween Edition) and on February 15 (The Valentine's Edition.)

SEPTEMBER 2012

NOTE: If a show at BRT has an advance price & a day-of-show price it means:

If you pre-pay OR call in your reservation any time before the show date, you get the advance price. *If you show up at the door with no reservations OR call in your reservations on the day of the show, you will pay the day of show price.*

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, CALL BRT AT: 401-725-9272

Leave your name, number of tickets desired, for which show, your phone number and please let us know if you would like a confirmation phone call.

**Every Monday in September (except 9/3!), \$5.00 per class
6:30-7:30 PM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER
AND**

**Every Sunday in September (except 9/2!), \$5.00 per class
9:00-10:00 AM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH TANYA PELOSI**

Tuesday, September 11

**5:30 PM: 5-week class in BEGINNER FIDDLE with Cathy Clasper-Torch
(begins SEPTEMBER 18!)**

6:30 PM: 6-week class in CONTINUING BEGINNER FIDDLE with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins

7:30 PM: 6-week class in ADV. BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE FIDDLE with Cathy

Clasper-Torch begins

Wednesday, September 12

6:30 PM: 6-week class in ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE FIDDLE with Cathy

Clasper-Torch begins

7:45 PM: 6-week class in ADVANCED FIDDLE with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins

Saturday, September 15

9:00 AM: 8-week class in BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE FOR CHILDREN 6-10 with Erika Damiani begins

10:00 AM: 8-week class in CONTINUING BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE FOR CHILDREN 6-10 with Erika Damiani begins

11:00 AM: 8-week class in BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE FOR ADULTS (and children age 11-and-up) with Erika Damiani begins

Saturday, September 15, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show

BRENDA BENNETT: MUSICAL RETROSPECTIVE & CD RELEASE



After reaching the heights of success in the music business - first with Rhode Island's own **Ken Lyon & Tombstone** on Columbia Records, followed by a Gold Album with **Vanity 6** and a Platinum Album with **Apollonia 6** (both produced by Prince for Warner Bros. Records) - **Brenda Bennett** disappeared for 20 years to raise a family. *But now she's back!* Brenda has recently released her first solo CD, "a capella" which she composed, produced and arranged herself. The program for this performance will not only feature the new material,

but it will encompass and celebrate her accomplishments with performances of songs from throughout her career. After launching her career in 1973 with an album for Columbia Records as a founding member of legendary Rhode Island band Ken Lyon & Tombstone, Brenda signed on with Prince's production company and enjoyed a decade-long run at the top. As a featured vocalist and songwriter with Vanity 6, she recorded an album for Warner Brothers Records and toured the world. The album was certified as a Gold Record by the RIAA. When Vanity left the group, she was replaced by Apollonia Kotero and the new lineup, dubbed Apollonia 6, recorded an album which was another smash hit, ultimately achieving Platinum Record status. Along with A6, Brenda had a speaking part and was featured as a performer in Prince's highly-acclaimed movie **"Purple Rain."** As well as recording and touring with her own group, Brenda somehow found the time to record behind and tour the world with other key players in the Prince organization including **The Time, Sheila E,** and **Prince** himself. Despite all of her success and the whirlwind ride she was on, Brenda's deep sense of family values kicked in when she found herself facing motherhood. She walked away from it all in 1992 and disappeared from the music scene for 20 years to raise her son. Ms. Bennett will be accompanied by a group of Rhode Island musicians that she has hand-picked for the event: **Mark Taber** on piano; **Rick Bellaire** on guitar and mandolin; **Don "D.C." Culp** on percussion; **Lori Lacaille** and **Adrienne West** on backing vocals, and **Betsy Listenfelt** on guitar and backing vocals. Ms. Listenfelt is also an acclaimed singer-songwriter whose recent composition "Freedom Song" has been performed by the United States Air Force Band & Choir and has become the anthem for the veterans rights movement. *Betsy will kick off the evening with an acoustic set of her original material.*

Sunday, September 16

11:00 AM: 8-week class in Irish step dancing for INTERMEDIATE ADULTS (and children age 11-and-up) with Erika Damiani begins

NOON: 8-week class in Irish step dancing for ADVANCED BEGINNER ADULTS with Erika Damiani begins

1:00-2:30 PM: 8-week class BRT IRISH STEP DANCE TROUPE with Erika Damiani begins

Saturday, September 22, 8 PM, \$15.00

TRIPTYCH / CASSIE AND MAGGIE MacDONALD



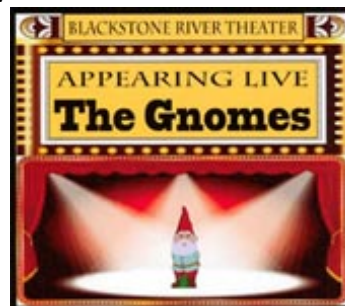
Triptych is a three-part ensemble featuring fiddler **Laura Risk**,

guitarist/percussionist/vocalist **Paddy League**, and dancer **Kieran Jordan**. This remarkable trio delivers elegant and soulful renderings of traditional music and step dance from Irish, Scottish, and French-Canadian traditions. Triptych formed in 2006, but prior to that, Laura and Paddy were already touring as a duo, while Laura and Kieran were living as neighbors in Somerville, MA. Their friendship - and their inventive fiddle-and-dance collaborations - took root in the fertile stomping ground of Boston's thriving Celtic music scene. Laura has toured with Cordelia's Dad, Ensemble Galilei, Greenfire, and the John Whelan Band. She has 10 albums to her credit, and her music was recently included on the soundtrack to the PBS series "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." Paddy's accompaniment style - on bodhran, guitar, and bouzouki - provides irresistible rhythm and a distinctive Triptych sound. Paddy has performed throughout North America, Brazil, Greece, Turkey, and Europe, and been featured on more than 100 recordings. Kieran's step dancing adds energy and sensuality on stage, as well as another component of rhythm and sound. Kieran trained for many years in traditional Irish step dancing (starting at age five) and later immersed herself in Cape Breton step dance, modern dance, and especially sean-nós (old style) Irish dance. Kieran has toured as a solo dancer throughout North America and Europe, and holds a Master's Degree in Contemporary Dance from University of Limerick, Ireland. In Boston, she has served as Dance Director for "A Christmas Celtic Sojourn" since 2004.

Making their Rhode Island debut, **Cassie and Maggie MacDonald** are a dynamic Celtic sister duo who have turned heads wherever they play. Born in Halifax, with strong roots in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, the girls have been wowing audiences across Canada with their unique blend of original and traditional Celtic music. Cassie's fiddle playing has been described as "sweet and elegant with just the right amount of raw power" while Maggie's piano playing has an irresistible drive that will leave your foot incapable of staying still while complementing Cassie's playing perfectly. Together these sisters bring more than your average fiddle and piano duo: Cassie is an award-winning highland and step dancer and also sings harmony for Maggie. In addition to her piano playing, Maggie sings lead, plays guitar, banjo, accordion and is also an accomplished step dancer. Their music fits together seamlessly encompassing various styles from Cape Breton reels to Antigonish polkas, Quebecois fiddling and footwork, to down east standards. Their debut album, "Fresh Heirs" was released in 2011 and was nominated for Traditional Recording of the year, and New Artist Recording of the year at the 2011 Nova Scotia Music Awards. *Don't miss an amazing night of music and step dancing!*

**Friday, September 28
PRIVATE ZUMBA EVENT**

**Saturday, September 29, 8 PM, \$13.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show
THE GNOMES - CD release party!**



Come and enjoy the World Folk Fusion of **The Gnomes** and also celebrate the release of their new CD, recorded live at Blackstone River Theatre last year! As always, The Gnomes special brand of music is sure to get

you on your feet and dancing! The band features **Phil Edmonds, Cathy Clasper-Torch, Peter Breen, Mike Fischman** and **Ron Schmitt** who combine their varied and extensive musical backgrounds into arrangements that have been described as

"exotic, fresh, and unique." Instrumentation includes fiddle, Irish whistles, erhu, accordion, guitar, mandolin, bass, percussion, keyboard, and vocals. Their spirited music takes you around the world, encompassing Celtic, klezmer, Scandinavian, Carribean, Asian and Latin styles. Winners of the 2012 Motif Magazine Music Award for Americana Act of the Year, you can't help but "Get Gnomed" when you hear them play!

OCTOBER 2012

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If you pre-pay OR call in your reservation any time before the show date, you get the advance price. *If you show up at the door with no reservations OR call in your reservations on the day of the show, you will pay the day of show price.*

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, CALL BRT AT: 401-725-9272

Leave your name, number of tickets desired, for which show, your phone number and please let us know if you would like a confirmation phone call.

Every Monday in October (except 10/8!), \$5.00 per class

6:30-7:30 PM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

AND

Every Sunday in October (except 10/7!), \$5.00 per class

9:00-10:00 AM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH TANYA PELOSI

Thursday, October 4

6:00 PM: 6-week class in CLOGGING with Aubrey Atwater begins

7:00 PM: 6-week class in MOUNTAIN DULCIMER FOR CONTINUING BEGINNERS with Aubrey Atwater begins

8:00 PM: 6-week class in GROUP SINGING FOR ALL LEVELS with Aubrey Atwater begins

Saturday, October 6, 8 PM, \$15.00

NORTH SEA GAS - Music from Scotland



North Sea Gas is a folk band from Scotland who have been performing their blend of poignant and rousing songs and high-energy instrumentals for three decades. With a combination of fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bodhran and bouzouki, complementing strong three-part vocal harmonies and a keen sense of humor, an entertaining evening is always guaranteed! North Sea Gas has now recorded 15 albums and played to audiences all over Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, the U.S. and Canada; this marks their eighth appearance at BRT as they tour behind their latest CD, "Tak a dram afore ye go." 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 **Grant Simpson** on high-energy fiddle and vocals. 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." *Always a great show - don't miss it!*

Sunday, October 7, 7 PM, \$15.00

CILLIAN AND NIALL VALLELY

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union





This Sunday concert will prove to be extraordinary evening of Irish traditional music featuring brothers **Niall** and **Cillian Vallely** joined by Scottish guitarist **Alan Murray**. Niall and Cillian Vallely learned their music the old-fashioned way - from their parents who founded the Armagh Pipers' Club, a group that for more than three decades has fostered the revival of traditional music in Ireland's north. Cillian took up his father's instrument, the uilleann pipes, at an early age. His mastery of chanter, drones and regulators, and of all the accents and moods of the traditional piping idiom, place him in the first rank of today's Irish pipers. Cillian, also a great whistle player,

has toured and recorded as a member of the group Lúnasa with whom he has recorded six CDs and played all over the world since 1999. Niall instead took up the concertina, an instrument not usually associated with music from Ulster. His fearless exploration of the concertina's undiscovered capabilities has helped redefine its role in Irish music. Based since 1988 in Cork City, Niall was a founding member of the well-known group Nomos. Niall has been acclaimed as "one of the most original and virtuosic concertina players in the history of Irish music" by Don Meade of Irish America Magazine. He has performed the past ten years with acclaimed singer Karan Casey, his partner in life as well as music.

Monday, October 8, 7 PM, \$15.00 advance / \$17.00 day of show

WIND ON THE BAY CONCERT

featuring **SKIP HEALY** and **SEAMUS O'KANE**

Visit <http://www.windonthebay.com> for information.

Saturday, October 13, 8 PM, \$15.00 (instruction begins at 7:30 PM)

A CAJUN DANCE PARTY WITH MAGNOLIA



Known throughout New England for their irresistible Cajun two-steps and sultry waltzes with French lyrics, **Magnolia Cajun Band** 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 Cajun Band is **Alan Bradbury, Michelle Kaminsky, Chris Ash, Martin Grosswendt, Maggie Moniz, Richard Moniz and Jack Ezikovich**. *Includes a half hour of dance instruction at 7:30 PM.*

Saturday, October 20

PRIVATE EVENT

Sunday, October 21, 7 PM, \$12.00 advance / \$14.00 day of show

JEZ LOWE

Opening set by Allysen Callery



Jez Lowe is a remarkable songwriter using wit, sensitivity and keen perception to paint colorful portraits of ordinary people with ordinary lives who may be specific to North East England, but through Jez's eyes and verse become universal characters. Jez hails from Northeast England, an area rich in working-class values, with a wealth of songs and music unique to that windswept corner of the British Isles. Born to a coal mining family with Irish roots, Lowe was raised and still lives in an area close to the English/ Scottish border

where coal mining was the dominant occupation. This was to be the substance from which he would create a body of work that would make him one of the most popular and enduring of the many singer songwriters to emerge from Britain in the last 25

years. His songs have been covered by Fairport Convention, The Tanahill Weavers, The Dubliners, Cherish the Ladies, and a host of other acts. Lowe was nominated for the 2008 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards as 'Folksinger of the Year' and he was an Indie Acoustic Project USA "Album of the Year" finalist in 2008 for his solo CD, "Jack Common's Anthem." *Do not miss a BRT favorite and one of folk music's best songwriter!*

Allysen Callery is an acclaimed R.I. singer-songwriter who has just released a new CD, "The Summer Place" and is just back from a tour in Germany and Switzerland.

Saturday, October 27, 8 PM, \$13.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show

PATRICK BALL - The Flame of Love: The Legend of Tristan & Iseult

A solo musical theater piece written and performed by Patrick Ball

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union



Patrick Ball is one of the premier Celtic harp players in the world and a captivating spoken word artist. In playing the ancient, legendary brass-strung harp of Ireland with its crystalline, bell-like voice, and in performing marvelous tales of wit and enchantment, he not only brings new life to two cherished traditions, but blends them to create "a richly theatrical and hauntingly beautiful performance." The long, dark nights of Medieval Europe were rich with stories. But one legend was told and beloved beyond all others - The Romance of Tristan and Iseult. Filled with love, passion, magic, and death, it

captivated the listeners because it was the very mirror of their own hearts, minds and souls. And to raise the telling beyond the power of words there was music. All this made for evenings of brilliance and enchantment throughout the Middle Ages. In "The Flame of Love," Patrick Ball brings this same enchantment into our own time and place. In Medieval times a storyteller looked into the eyes of his audience and told a tale. He used no props or scenery. He used only words and music and the limitless imagination of his listeners to create the world of Tristan and Iseult. *Don't miss this amazing one-man performance!*

NOVEMBER 2012

NOTE: If a show at BRT has an advance price & a day-of-show price it means:

If you pre-pay OR call in your reservation any time before the show date, you get the advance price. *If you show up at the door with no reservations OR call in your reservations on the day of the show, you will pay the day of show price.*

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, CALL BRT AT: 401-725-9272

Leave your name, number of tickets desired, for which show, your phone number and please let us know if you would like a confirmation phone call.

Every Monday in November, \$5.00 per class

**6:30-7:30 PM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER
AND**

**Sundays in November through Nov. 18, \$5.00 per class
9:00-10:00 AM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH TANYA PELOSI**

Saturday, November 3, 8 PM, \$15.00

SUGAR RAY AND THE BLUETONES



We are thrilled to bring back the dynamic **Sugar Ray and the Bluetones!** Their latest CD, Evening, has garnered nominations as "Album of the Year" and "Traditional Blues Album"; the band is up for "Band of the Year," and **Sugar Ray Norcia** for "Instrumentalist - Harmonica" and Michael "Mudcat" Ward as "Instrumentalist - Bass." Norcia's career kicked into high gear in 1979 when he formed the original Sugar Ray and the Bluetones line-up with guitar giant Ronnie

Earl, and it's stayed there ever since. The elegant singer has appeared on more than 50 albums including discs with the Bluetones, Ronnie Earl, Roomful of Blues, Otis Grand, Michelle Willson, J. Giels, Duke Robillard, Pinetop Perkins, and his 1999 "Best Traditional Blues" Grammy-nominated collaboration with fellow harmonica virtuosos James Cotton, Charlie Musselwhite and Billy Branch called *Superharps*.

In the '90s Norcia spent seven high-profile years with the legendary Roomful of Blues cutting five albums with the group including 1996's *Turn It On, Turn It Up*, which also received a "Best Traditional Blues" Grammy nod. Now, Sugar Ray has led the Bluetones - guitarist "**Monster**" **Mike Welch**, drummer **Neil Gouvin**, bassist **Michael "Mudcat" Ward** and pianist **Anthony Geraci** - back into the studio to cut their new CD, *Evening*. "We approached this one like Hank Williams made records," Norcia says. "I went in with my lyrics, just rough sketches of the songs, and the great musicians in the Bluetones, who always play something exciting. The album's about 90 percent originals and mostly in the Chicago blues vein. And Norcia continues to expand his territory. He's recently recorded a pair of albums with Italian blues guitarist Maurizio Pugno and sang on a tribute album to Texas swing master Bob Wills called *Goodbye Liza Jane*. "Projects like those let me step outside of my own box and help me stay fresh," Norcia says. "But my first love is always going to be die-hard, real-deal blues."

Saturday, November 10, 8 PM, \$15.00
JOSEE VACHON, DONNA HEBERT, MAX COHEN & ALAN BRADBURY



Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union



Well known in communities throughout the Northeast, BRT favorite **Josée Vachon** has been making a name for herself for more than 25 years. A Québec native transplanted to central Maine as a child, Vachon's traditional and original songs in French are performed with guitar, spoons, foot percussion, energy and charm. She has performed hundreds of traditional, educational and holiday concerts for audiences of all ages. Fellow Chanterelle

bandmate **Donna Hébert's** fierce fiddle rhythms and **Max Cohen's** impeccable groove guitar link to create an orchestra of sound from a simple fiddle-guitar duet. Said Irish fiddle master Seamus Connolly at a recent Boston College concert, "Donna is a gem - one of the best!" They will be joined by **Alan Bradbury**, of Magnolia and Chanterelle fame, on accordion, bass and vocals. *Don't miss this great evening celebrating French culture in America!*

Sunday, November 11, 7 PM, \$20.00 advance / \$24.00 day of show
ALASDAIR FRASER AND NATALIE HAAS



The musical partnership between **Alasdair Fraser**, long regarded as Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador, and the sizzingly-talented young California cellist **Natalie Haas** may not seem an obvious one. Fraser has a concert and recording career spanning 30 years, with a long list of awards, accolades, television credits, and feature performances on top movie soundtracks (Last of the Mohicans, Titanic). He has been sponsored by the British Council to represent Scotland's music internationally, and received

the Scottish Heritage Center Service Award for outstanding contributions to Scottish culture and traditions. Haas, a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, wasn't even born when Alasdair was winning national fiddle competitions on the other side of the Atlantic. But this seemingly unlikely pairing is the fulfillment of a long-standing musical dream for Fraser, whose cutting-edge musical explorations took him full circle to find a cellist who could help him return the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of Scottish dance music. "Going back to the 1700s, and as late as the early 20th century," Fraser says, "fiddle and cello made up the dance band of choice in Scotland, with the cellist bowing bass lines and driving the rhythm. Pianos and accordions elbowed out the cello, relegating it to an orchestral setting." Haas was just 11 when she first attended Fraser's Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School in California. She responded to Fraser's challenge to find and release the cello's rhythmic soul, and

four years later, when Natalie was just 15, Fraser and Haas played their first gig together. Now regularly touring with Fraser and creating a buzz at festivals and in concert halls throughout Europe and North America, Natalie is in the vanguard of young cellists who are redefining the role of the cello in traditional music. "Cellists are coming out of the woodwork to study with Natalie, to learn how she creates a groove and a whole chunky rhythm section," says Fraser. "It's inspiring to hear the cello unleashed from its orchestral shackles!" Their previous CD "Fire & Grace" won not only critical acclaim, but also the coveted the Scots Trad Music "Album of the Year" award, the Scottish equivalent of a Grammy. The duo's new CD, "In the Moment," continues their incredible musical journey together. *Do not miss this show...it WILL sell out!*

Friday, November 16, 7-10 PM, \$20.00 per person
6th annual CUMBERLAND LAND TRUST WINETASTING FUNDRAISER
 Wine served by Mendon Wines and More, Cumberland along with appetizers.
 For tickets call Joe Pailthorpe at 401-374-7857.

Sunday, November 18, 7 PM, \$15.00
WINIFRED HORAN, MICK MCAULEY & COLM O CAOIMH



Long-time SOLAS members **Mick McAuley** and **Winifred Horan** have joined forces with the amazing Kilkenny-born guitarist **Colm O Caoimh** to bring audiences a new CD, "Sailing Back To You." ***This will be their only New England date on this tour!*** Solas has long been heralded as one of the most innovative and exciting bands to emerge on the Irish music scene over the last two decades and have been cited "the best traditional band in the world" by the Boston Herald. So when McAuley and Horan released their first duet album, "Serenade," in

2006, it was received with much anticipation and widespread critical acclaim being voted into the Top 5 Irish albums of 2006 by The Irish Times. Now Mick and Winifred have teamed up with a dynamic young guitarist, Colm, a founding member of the steadily rising Irish group Caladh Nua who has spent the last few years touring extensively throughout Europe and Canada. A musician of supreme talent and versatility, Colm brings to the project his own unique style of tune backing while complimenting the gentler vocal numbers and enhancing the subtleties of Winifred's unmistakable fiddle sound. Throw in Mick's vocal and instrumental talents and it all goes to make for a beautiful musical journey, sometimes haunting and soulful, other times joyful and exhilarating. Born and raised in New York of Irish parents, Winifred immersed herself in the music and dance scene and later earned a degree in Music from the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. This combination of both classical and traditional backgrounds helps to define the style that is so identifiable and associated with Winifred's playing. Mick McAuley has recorded and toured with Niamh Parsons' Loose Connections and has also recorded or toured with Patti Griffin, Susan McKeown, Karan Casey, and more joining the band Solas in the mid-90s.

Saturday, November 24, 7:30 PM, \$20.00
BRT HOMECOMING CONCERT AND SILENT AUCTION
featuring Atwater-Donnelly, Stefan Couture, Fellswater, John Fuzek, Robbie O'Connell & Aoife Clancy, Pendragon, and Kim Trusty



At 6:30 p.m. and during intermission, Blackstone River Theatre will also hold a silent auction featuring CDs, jewelry, original artwork, Christmas items and gift certificates. With family and friends in town for Thanksgiving, BRT's 12th 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 12th anniversary in

September, Blackstone River Theatre has now presented more than 1,450 concerts, festivals, dances, arts classes and children's events in front of 82,000 people. **Pendragon** will act as hosts this evening and will perform a set of their Celtic-inspired music joined by prize-winning step dancer **Erika Damiani**. Other featured performers, who are all donating their time, include celebrated Irish singer-songwriters **Robbie**

O'Connell & Aoife Clancy, Atwater-Donnelly, featuring Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly, who will perform Appalachian, original and Celtic-inspired folk music and clogging, **John Fuzek, Stefan Couture** and **Kim Trusty**, who will all perform their unique style of original music, and the dynamic group **Fellswater** performing high-energy instrumental Celtic music. *Don't miss this great night of music as you help support BRT's programming!*

Friday, November 30

McCOURT MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO WINETASTING FUNDRAISER

DECEMBER 2012

- **There will be no BRT classes offered in December** except for Zumba on Mondays.
- **Blackstone River Theatre will shut down for the holiday season starting December 17 and will reopen again on January 12.** *We wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season with best wishes for a peaceful new year!*
- *Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to BRT before the year ends!*
- **Blackstone River Theatre gift certificates make a great gift for friends and family!**

NOTE: If a show at BRT has an advance price & a day-of-show price it means:

If you pre-pay OR call in your reservation any time before the show date, you get the advance price. *If you show up at the door with no reservations OR call in your reservations on the day of the show, you will pay the day of show price.*

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, CALL BRT AT: 401-725-9272

Leave your name, number of tickets desired, for which show, your phone number and please let us know if you would like a confirmation phone call.

Every Monday in December (except Dec. 24 and 31), \$5.00 per class

6:30-7:30 PM - ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

SOLD OUT!

Saturday, December 1, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$18.00 day of show

A CLANCY LEGACY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION featuring

Aoife Clancy, Robbie O'Connell, George Keith and Erik Wendelken



This celebration of the mid-winter season has a distinct Celtic flavor and extends from the little-known Kilmore carols of Wexford to the Irish-American vaudeville stage. The group explores both the Christian and Pagan traditions surrounding the Winter Solstice in a wonderful mixture of songs, poetry and instrumental pieces featuring **Robbie O'Connell** on guitar and vocals, **Aoife Clancy** on vocals and bodhran, **George Keith** on fiddle and concertina and **Erik Wendelken** on bass. Aoife and Robbie will also share stories of family Christmases

while growing up in Ireland along with songs that were passed down to them.

Aoife (pronounced Eefa) comes from the small town of Carrick-on-Suir in Co. Tipperary Ireland, where her musical career began at an early age. Her father, Bobby Clancy of the legendary Clancy Brothers, placed a guitar in her hands when she was 10. By age 14, she was playing with him in nearby folk clubs. In 1992, she moved to the States and toured for six years with the acclaimed group Cherish the Ladies, performing more than 200 dates a year. Clancy has also been a featured soloist with the Boston Pops and has three solo recordings along with a CD, "The Clancy Legacy," with cousins O'Connell and Donal Clancy. Robbie, who grew also up in Co. Tipperary, was asked in 1977 to join his uncles, The Clancy Brothers, with whom he recorded three albums. He is also a prolific songwriter and has had many artists record his material. Every May and September, he runs a successful tour to Ireland with Celtica tours and he teaches songwriting workshops all over the United States and Europe.

Saturday, December 8, 9 AM to 3 PM, Free admission!
HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR AND FESTIVAL



Blackstone River Theatre invites the community to our 5th annual Holiday Craft Fair and Festival fundraiser! Please come out and support BRT programming as well as area craft vendors and home-based businesses while you **do your holiday shopping locally!** We will have 24 vendors on site and the event will also feature continuous live music by **members of Pendragon, The Broad Street Fiddlers,** and others, plus raffle prizes, a bake sale table, refreshments and more. *Door prizes will be*

raffled off from each vendor with the raffle proceeds to benefit BRT's programming. Think out of the box (store!) Vendor/crafters/artisans include: **SilverLeaf Studios, Scentsy Wickless Candles, Divine Designs, Shaker Shoppe, The Opulent Squid's Posh and Peculiar Handcrafted Jewelry, Swisse Just, Merry Blacksmith Studio, 3U Design Studios, Mary Kay, Sean Harrington Sculptures, Tastefully Simple, Ann Lilley Recycled Tote Bags, Arbonne, BoydHolms, The Leather Pit, Ducharme Creations in Wood, Kathleen Regan Portraits, Bright Edge Candles, Mayfair T. Hall Ribbon Weaving, Tree's Creations, Erin X. Smithers Photography, Starlite Jewelry Designs, Thirt-One Gifts, Pretty Useful Things, The Drum and Whistle,** and more!

Sunday, December 9, 2 PM (SOLD OUT!) and 5 PM performances
\$12.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show

IRISH DANCE CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR featuring
SHOWCASE DANCE PRODUCTIONS AND TIR NA NOG IRISH DANCE

Both performances are fundraisers for the 2013 BRT Summer Solstice Festival



We hope you'll join us for the beginning of a new tradition as BRT presents a fun afternoon and

evening of Irish dance, and live Celtic and Christmas music from some of the members of Pendragon. All 17 dances have been choreographed and taught by instructor **Erika Damiani** and will be performed by dancers from **Tir Na Nog Irish Dance** based out of Blackstone River Theatre, as well as some of Erika's Irish dance students from **Showcase Dance Productions**, located in Wrentham Mass. Both Erika and **Sheryl Simons**, the director of Showcase Dance Productions, decided to make these shows a fundraiser for the 2013 Blackstone River Theatre Summer Solstice Festival where both groups will perform. The shows will be filled with Christmas cheer, beautiful traditional and modern Irish dancing, live Celtic music, guest performers, and will conclude with a visit from our friend from the North Pole and a helper or two! The show will be sprinkled with the magic of Christmas and the love of Irish dance demonstrated by all of the dedicated dancers and their parents. Tir Na Nog Irish Dance is run under the direction of Erika Damiani and is based at Blackstone River Theatre. Tir Na Nog Irish dancers are very dedicated to learning Irish dance traditions and have a great deal of fun while doing it! Erika has placed nationally the past three years at Prizewinner level and continues to study Irish dance as well as teach it in many venues. She wants Tir Na Nog to grow so she can continue to spread her love of Irish dance to many students for years to come! If you are interested in Irish Dance classes at Blackstone River Theatre, call 401-725-9272. Showcase Dance Productions was established in 1995 in Brockton, Mass., under the direction of Sheryl Simons. The studio moved its location to Wrentham, Mass. in 1992. The organization provides a strong foundation of dance education and offers unique performing opportunities for all types of talent and ages. Showcase Dance Productions offers many styles of dance including Tap, Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Musical Theater, Modern, and Irish Step. The Irish Step program was introduced in 2006 under the direction of Terry Houlihan Songini (who also taught at BRT for four years) and Sheryl Simons. The students of Showcase

Dance Productions have performed at many events, festivals, and fundraisers around the area. For more information call (508) 384-7875 or visit

www.ShowcaseDanceProductions.com

Two Holiday performances!

Saturday, December 15, 8:00 PM, \$18.00

advance/\$20.00 day of show

AND

Sunday, December 16, 7:00 PM, \$18.00 advance/\$20.00

day of show

A BLACKSTONE RIVER THEATRE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sponsored in part by Navigant Credit Union



Blackstone River Theatre will present our 5th annual Christmas Celebration featuring **Aubrey Atwater, Cathy Clasper-Torch, Erika Damiani, Elwood Donnelly, Bob Drouin, Kevin Doyle, Russell Gusetti, Josh Kane, The Miller Family, Mary Lee Partington, Torrin Ryan, and the Swamp Meadow Victorian Carolers**. Audiences can expect the unexpected - familiar and unfamiliar songs, high energy clogging and step dancing, ancient carols, spoken word, jokes and more - as musicians and dancers perform in varied

combinations or join together on beautiful Christmas and winter-themed pieces.

"That's one of the nicest thing about this show," explains Russell Gusetti, BRT executive director. "We all get a chance to perform with each other in several different configurations, something audiences simply do not get to see at any other point in the year." Special guest performers will include the **Swamp Meadow Victorian Carolers** from Foster, BRT's Irish step dance instructor **Erika Damiani**, acclaimed 17-year-old Irish bagpiper **Torrin Ryan**, from Attleboro, and music and step dancing by the dynamic **Miller Family - Ruby May, Evelyn and Samuel**.