

# Blackstone River Theatre



## Solstice Festival

about BRT  
what's new  
directions  
ticket info  
schedule  
classes  
volunteer  
art gallery  
contact us  
pendragon



## 2005 Past Schedule

[current schedule](#)   [2013 past schedule](#)   [2012 past schedule](#)   [2011 past schedule](#)  
[2010 past schedule](#)   [2009 past schedule](#)   [2008 past schedule](#)   [2006 past schedule](#)

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

### JANUARY

**Saturday, January 8, 8 PM, \$12.00**

#### Nightingale

We open our Winter season with this great Vermont-based trio consisting of **Jeremiah McLane** on accordion and piano, **Keith Murphy** on guitar, mandolin, vocals and foot percussion, and **Becky Tracy** on fiddle. Their music travels through Quebec, France, Ireland, Newfoundland, Scandinavia and beyond to produce a blend that is unique and compelling. With a core of fiddle, accordion and guitar with the dynamic rhythm of French Canadian foot percussion, Nightingale moves easily from carefully woven song arrangements to driving instrumentals. The trio's third recording, aptly titled, "Three," was released in late 2004 to great acclaim in traditional music circles. McLane, one of the primary musicians responsible for the popularity of the Contra Dance music genre, is also the musical director of Le Bon Vent, a trans-Atlantic sextet that will appear at BRT on April 8th.

**Saturday, January 15, 8 PM, \$15.00**

#### Pendragon - CD Release!

(\$5.00 from every ticket sold will go to the Blackstone River Theatre to support programming.)

This concert will celebrate the release of Pendragon's new CD, "Artistic License." New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Having celebrated their 21st anniversary in 2004, Pendragon has always embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with a contemporary edge. Their music celebrates the lives of generations of New Englanders who brought traditions from Ireland, Scotland, French Canada and other distant shores to the banks of the Blackstone. Pendragon is dynamic step dancer and percussionist **Kevin Doyle**; **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, tenor banjo and bouzouki; **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertinas; **Josh Kane** on flute and whistles; **Ken Lyon** on vocals, guitar and bass; and **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals. Pendragon seamlessly blends lively jigs and reels with Partington's original songs depicting the experiences of the immigrants who settled here and their role in the mill and textile traditions of New England. While drawing on the rich ethnic music of the Blackstone River Valley, Pendragon continues to fashion the music of tradition into the music of tomorrow.

**Thursday, January 20, 6-8 PM, \$5.00**

#### Drum and Dance Circle

BRT's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are welcome... the emphasis is on fun! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

**POSTPONED DUE TO BLIZZARD; RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 14!**

**Saturday, January 22, 8 PM, \$10.00**

#### Fuego Flamenco

Partial funding for this concert was provided by the Rhode Island State Council On The Arts.

Fuego Flamenco performs Spanish dance and music from the region of southern Spain known as Andalucia. The roots of this music trace back to medieval times when the Moors ruled Spain. As centuries passed, Sephardic and Gypsy elements became intertwined with the Spanish and Moorish influences. By the 19th century, some New World Latin and African influences were being incorporated into the flamenco style coming back to Spain from her colonies. Guajiras (from Cuba) and Rumba flamenca are two examples you will see along with the older flamenco styles - Soleares (solitude), Bulerias (from 'burlar,' - to jest or joke), Tangos (quite different from the Argentine dance of the same name), Sevillanas (regional dance from Seville), and Seguiriyas, the darkest of the flamenco rhythms. Fuego Flamenco features musical director/ guitarist **Miguel Dumas** and two Flamenco dancers along with Rhode Island musicians **Lori Lacaille** on vocals and **Steve LaValley** on flute, percussion, and guitar.

**Friday, January 28, 8 PM, \$10.00**

**Rhode Island Songwriters Association Showcase**

This show will showcase some of the very best of Rhode Island's singer-songwriters presented in the round. Featuring **Lori Amey, Mary Ellen Casey, Buddy Cavaleri, Mark Cutler, Marcy Lang, Ed McGuirl and Kari Tieger**. Come and hear some of the best music you may never have heard as artists are presented in "rounds," three performers at a time on stage taking turns performing songs, joining in with each other or trading stories and wit. For more information about the show e-mail [hearinri@ids.net](mailto:hearinri@ids.net) or call 401-949-0757.

- **8-8:20:** Ed McGuirl (solo blues, from Jamestown);
- **Round #1 - 8:25-9:20:** Lori Amey (Newport), Mary Ellen Casey (Cranston), Kari Tieger (Barrington).
- **Round #2 - 9:30-10:30:** Mark Cutler (Providence), Marcy Lang (North Providence), Buddy Cavaleri (North Kingston).

**Saturday, January 29, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults**

**"The Snow Queen" - Clare Vadeboncoeur**

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 4-12. The Snow Queen is an enchanting white-robed character who will enthrall audiences with her tales and songs of the winter season. She is a fairy tale come to life that will warm your heart and make your fondest wishes come true as she brings to life the frozen world of the Arctic, its land and its people. Clare Vadeboncoeur is founder and artistic director of Good Heart Productions where she creates and performs unique, interactive storytelling programs for children. With over 20 years of experience, she is also a certified elementary school teacher with life professional certifications in both theater and dance, grades pre-K through 12.

**Saturday, January 29, 8 PM, \$12.00**

**bohola**

We are thrilled to bring back bohola, a band forged in Chicago by three of Irish music's most innovative musicians - accordion virtuoso **Jimmy Keane**, fiddler extraordinaire **Sean Cleland** and the remarkable bouzouki player/singer **Pat Broaders**. With each regarded as one of the best in his field, the combination provides a powerful, rich and distinctive sound. bohola plays a driving, muscular and yet very emotive style of Irish music with deep roots in the 'pure drop' tradition. bohola's debut album on Shanachie Records is championed by the Irish Voice as "one of the most impressive debut recordings ever by an Irish traditional music group." The Courier News added, "Though most of the tunes bohola plays are well over 150 years old, the music comes across more vibrant than the moribund sounds of much of today's alternative rock. Their sound comes from the Irish version of jam sessions, but bohola puts the noodling of many current jam bands to shame." The Irish Echo captured the essence of bohola when it reviewed their debut CD, "The sum here is greater than the parts, and egos are subordinate to both execution and effect. With essentially just box, fiddle, bouzouki, and voice, bohola have crafted an album of intricate, nearly invisible latticework, relying not on gimmickry but on imagination and vision. What a welcome concept: muse imbuing music."

**FEBRUARY**

- Blackstone River Theatre will be hosting **ESL classes taught by Woonsocket's Project LEARN as part of the Town of Cumberland's adult literacy initiative.** Classes are held every Monday and Wednesday this month from 6:30-8:30 PM.
- **The Cumberland Police Department will be renting the BRT all day and night on February 8, 9 and 10 for a R.A.D. Instructor training session.** The Department has received funding from the Rhode Island Justice Commission, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Act of 2004-05 to fund a unique self-defense training exclusively for woman. The R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) System advocates realistically employable tactics, without the time investment, ceremony or mystical concepts of a martial arts. Applications for those interested in future classes can be picked up at the Cumberland Police Department, Cumberland Town Hall and the Cumberland Public Library. For more information contact Captain Christine Crocker 333-2500.
- **The RiverzEdge Arts Project exhibit** will run through February 13; their meet-the-artists reception has been rescheduled to February 5, 6-7:30 PM due to the blizzard. **Poster artist Jim Draper's show will open on February 18th and run to March 27th in the BRT Art Gallery.**

### **Saturday, February 5, 8 PM, \$12.00**

#### **Aine Minogue**

As traditional Irish music continues to enjoy great success, Aine Minogue has long explored its themes and is an artist who captures its very essence. Her voice reflects the lyricism and richness to be found in Irish music, poetry, and mythology with a style undeniably her own. Born in County Tipperary, Aine discovered her true love - the harp - at age 12. Today, she concentrates on the traditional music of her homeland, taking an ancient art form and adding her own creativity to each piece. Aine will round out this Celtic and original music concert with some songs and tunes that mark Imbolc, the Feast of Bridgit, celebrated on Feb. 1. Aine's harp has entertained former Irish Presidents and Prime Ministers and she is a regular performer at folk festivals and concerts throughout the country. Her recordings include *Were You At the Rock, To Warm the Winter's Night, The Mysts of Time, Between the Worlds and Circle of the Sun*. Numerous tracks of her music appear on compilations for such labels as BMG, Virgin and Putumayo in varying styles including Celtic, World, Folk and New Age. According to the Los Angeles Times, "Aine Minogue proves beyond a reasonable doubt why the harp is indeed the instrument of angels..." while Billboard proclaims that "...Celtic singer Aine Minogue is quickly outstripping any comparisons to Enya." Don't miss a truly enchanting evening with one of BRT's favorite performers!

### **Sunday, February 13, 7 PM, \$10.00**

#### **Laura Cortese and The McKassons**

A rising star, Boston's **Laura Cortese** boasts an energetic performance of driving fiddle, vocals, and step dance with an original blend of Celtic music and contemporary influence. Laura graduated in 2001 from Boston's Berklee College of Music where she studied violin. As a teenager, she spent a few years in the Scottish fiddle club scene before developing a truly driving Scottish fiddle style all her own, winning a number of fiddle competitions and being named the 1998 New England regional Scottish Fiddle Champion. Through her involvement in Boston's varied traditional music scenes, Laura's music has been influenced by Irish and American traditional music, jazz, pop and more. She is also increasingly being recognized as an inspiring vocalist. Also a great step dancer, Laura performs regularly with Maryland's Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble. She will be joined tonight by guitarist/bassist **Zack Hickman**. This split concert will also feature Laura's award-winning West Coast friends, **Ryan McKasson** on fiddle and viola and **Cali McKasson** on harp and piano. In 1993 Ryan attended the Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School for the first time. In 1995, Ryan was winner of the National Junior Championship, and went on a year later to be the youngest winner of the National Scottish Fiddle Open Championship in Loon Mountain, NH. As a fiddler, Ryan has performed with artist Bobby McFerrin and shared the stage with Elvis Costello, Beck, Bjork, and composer Phillip Glass. He is now a violist in the Tacoma (WA) Symphony Orchestra. Cali is an award winning pianist and harpist. She began classical piano studies at the age of three, making her orchestral solo debut at age 13. Her interest in Scottish piano began in 1993 at the Valley of the Moon Scottish fiddling school where she became a student of the Cape Breton pianist, Barbara MacDonald Magone. Cali is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music,

where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in harp performance. Hailed by the Boston Globe as an "expert harpist", Cali has performed as assistant principal harpist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the New World Symphony Orchestra. Cali was twice awarded the fellowship in harp to the Tanglewood Music Festival in MA and was also principal harpist at the National Orchestral Institute in Maryland. She is now the Principal harpist of the Tacoma (WA) Symphony.

**Thursday, February 17, 6-8 PM, \$5.00**  
**Drum and Dance Circle**

BRT's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are welcome... the emphasis is on fun! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

**Friday, February 18, 8 PM, \$10.00**  
**The Polyjesters**

So here's the thing... this band we had never heard of from Canada, who had never played in New England, called looking for a gig. They said they play "high-energy, swingin' folk chunk" and feature ukulele, vocals, stand-up bass and percussion (often played on the side of the bass!) along with infectious charm. After several seconds of silence on my part, they added that they actually guarantee in their contract that "if The Polyjesters do not exceed your expectations for any reason whatsoever, you do not have to pay them." I was sold! But after hearing their CD, I have a feeling we won't be invoking that clause! The Polyjesters are hip in a way that transcends generations. They are skilled and generous entertainers who eagerly share their love of music with anyone they meet because they really love people and they really love music. Brothers **Jason Valleau** (Bass/Vocals) and **Sheldon Valleau** (Baritone Ukulele/Vocals) are the heart of the band. Performing as a quartet that includes **Scott Duncan** on fiddle and **Rob Vulic** on percussion, The Polyjesters were "born" on the streets of Nice, France while Jason and Sheldon earned "adventure" money by performing with an upright bass and two voices. While Jason played the bass, Sheldon sat beside it, playing it as a drum. This neat combination is one of the strongest parts of their show. How often do you go out and try something different anymore? Why not try it tonight!

**Saturday, February 19, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults**  
**The Toe Jam Puppet Band**

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 4-12. Formed in 2000, the Toe Jam Puppet Band offers a special brand of hands-on children's entertainment that grown-ups can actually enjoy. This dynamic group is great with kids, but best when parents are also there having fun with the little ones. The shows are very active, encouraging kids and parents to sing and dance along with the band as they entertain with a unique combination of original songs, masterful shadow puppetry, storytelling and just plain old fun. In December 2003, Toe Jam released their 2nd CD entitled "Toe Jam Dance Party" featuring some of their most popular songs, including Barn Dance, Block Cheese Dance Party and Green Light A-Go-Go. A great time for kids of all ages!

**Sunday, February 20, 5-8 PM, \$6.00/\$3.00 children**  
**Irish Ceili and Set Dance with The Alleged Ceili Band**

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

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. **Laura Travis** will be on hand to teach those new to the tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Josh Kane** on flute and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try out our beautiful dance floor or simply come down to listen to some great music!

**Saturday, February 26, 8 PM, \$10.00**  
**Super Chief Trio - CD Release**

We're excited to host the long-awaited CD release of "The Devil Knows Me Better" by the Super Chief Trio. This hot band features the talents of **Keith Munslow** on piano and vocals, **Pam Murray** on trombone and vocals and **Johnny Coté** on drums. Able to leap seamlessly from New Orleans grooves to smooth, sultry ballads to fun originals, Super Chief Trio proves that big sounds come in small packages!

## MARCH

- Blackstone River Theatre will be hosting **ESL classes taught by Woonsocket's Project LEARN as part of the Town of Cumberland's adult literacy initiative.** Classes are held every Monday and Wednesday this month from 6:30-8:30 PM.
- **Poster artist Jim Draper's exhibit runs through March 27th in the BRT Art Gallery.**

### **Thursday, March 3, 8 PM, \$12.00**

#### **Tommy Sands**

Don't miss a very rare chance to see one of Ireland's most powerful singer-songwriters! From his pioneering days with the Sands Family to his solo career, Co. Down's Tommy Sands has achieved almost legendary status. Sing Out magazine regards him as "the most powerful songwriter in Ireland, if not the rest of the world." Pete Seeger says, "Tommy has achieved that difficult but wonderful balance between knowing and loving the traditions of his home and being concerned with the future of the whole world..." His song, "Co. Down" (as performed by Danú) was voted Best Original Song 2004 by BBC Radio 2. His songs, like There were Roses, and Daughters and Sons, which have been recorded by Joan Baez, Kathy Matthea, Dolores Keane, Sean Keane, Frank Patterson, Dick Gaughan, The Dubliners and many others have been translated into many languages and are currently included in the English language syllabus in German secondary schools. In 2002, The University of Nevada awarded Sands an honorary doctorate for his outstanding work as musical ambassador for peace and understanding. Irish Times calls Sands. "A most gifted songwriter... with an ability to write on serious subjects which come across as songs rather than sermons... he's also well able to be extremely funny in the way he puts words together. Not to be missed!

### **Saturday, March 5, 8 PM, \$12.00**

#### **Inca Son - Music and Dance of The Andes**

Partial funding for this concert was provided by the Rhode Island State Council On The Arts.

Inca Son, an internationally-acclaimed music and dance ensemble, introduces audiences to the beautiful melodies and rhythms of Andean and Latin American music. The group presents traditional music and dance of the Andes Mountains of Peru and Latin America in authentic and colorful Inca attire. Every song and dance has a special importance, meaning or background in Andean folklore, and thus each is briefly described before being performed. Inca Son performs traditional songs, which the musicians rearrange to create a unique style, as well as original compositions. Several of the songs from their last three recordings - including "Ascope, Tierra del Amanecer," "Cholita Tania," "El Abuelito," and "Inti Libertad" by Cesar Villalobos - are hits in Peru. The instruments that are used, with the exception of the stringed instruments, are made by the musicians themselves. The group launched The Year of the World Indigenous People at the United Nations in New York in 1992. In 1993 and 1995 the Boston Music Awards nominated the group for its outstanding accomplishments. The group has shared the stage with many performers, including Tito Puente, and has performed at International Festivals in all the United States, in Canada, Europe and Peru. Inca Son also contributed music for the PBS program Columbus and the Age of Discovery, a series which aired worldwide.

### **Friday, March 11, 8 PM, \$12.00**

#### **Siúcra**

Siúcra, pronounced "shoo-kruh" means sugar in Irish. Siúcra is also a Boston-based trio featuring **Beth Leachman** (lead vocals, bodhran), **Shannon Heaton** (flute, whistles, vocals), and **Matt Heaton** (guitar, vocals). Tonight, Siúcra will be joined by fiddler **Sam Amidon**, one of the most prominent young folk musicians in the Northeast known for his eloquent Irish-style fiddle playing, as well as his experimental work in the avant-folk ensemble Assembly. Formed in 1998, Siúcra has developed a thick, sassy sound that blends vocals, powerfully rhythmic guitar and gutsy Irish flute. Acoustic Guitar says, "A five-piece band would be hard-pressed to match the amount of music these three make." The band is riding high on the release of their second CD, "Here Among Strangers". Sing Out called the album "disarmingly infectious... What this group does best is keep things simple and pure." With artful combinations of

guitar, bodhran, voices, Irish flute and tin whistle, audiences travel from exuberant highs to intimate lows. The music is couched in Siúcra's easy camaraderie, a natural stage presence rooted in deep friendship and years of experience performing together. Their BRT debut last year was one of the best shows of 2004... Don't miss them this time as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day a bit early!

### **NEW ST. PATRICK'S DAY SHOW ADDED!**

**Thursday, March 17, 7 PM, \$12.00**

#### **Pendragon - St. Patrick's Day Concert!**

Pendragon's CD release of "Artistic License" in January sold out and we unfortunately had to turn many folks away as well so we've decided to celebrate St. Patrick's Day this year at BRT! New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Having celebrated their 21st anniversary in 2004, Pendragon has always embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with a contemporary edge. Their music celebrates the lives of generations of New Englanders who brought traditions from Ireland, Scotland, French Canada and other distant shores to the banks of the Blackstone. Pendragon is dynamic step dancer and percussionist **Kevin Doyle**; **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, tenor banjo and bouzouki; **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertinas; **Josh Kane** on flute and whistles; **Ken Lyon** on vocals, guitar and bass; and **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals. Pendragon seamlessly blends lively jigs and reels with Partington's original songs depicting the experiences of the immigrants who settled here and their role in the mill and textile traditions of New England. While drawing on the rich ethnic music of the Blackstone River Valley, Pendragon continues to fashion the music of tradition into the music of tomorrow. Expect some new material and perhaps a surprise guest!

**Friday, March 18, 8 PM, \$25.00**

#### **Celtic Fiddle Festival**

Kevin Burke, Christian Lemaître and André Brunet with Ged Foley Advance payment requested and strongly suggested! Don't miss your chance to see this very special concert in a rare intimate setting! This year's tour, performed in tribute to Johnny Cunningham, features **Kevin Burke**, **Christian Lemaître** and welcomes **André Brunet** of La Bottine Souriante accompanied by **Ged Foley**. In the course of the show, these traditional masters showcase their regional repertoires and together conjure an experience of breathtaking performances. Kevin Burke (Ireland) has played with the Bothy Band, Christy Moore, Jackie Daly, Michael O'Domhnaill and is currently a member of Patrick Street. One of the most celebrated fiddlers of our time, Kevin specializes in the intricately ornamented style of playing from County Sligo in Ireland. Now a resident of Portland, Oregon, Kevin was awarded the National Heritage Award in 2002, America's highest honor in the traditional arts. Christian Lemaître (Brittany) honed his remarkable skills as a fiddler playing for festou-noz (festive night dances) throughout Brittany in northwestern France. He is a master of intricate Breton traditional dance music, and also incorporates influences from southern and eastern Europe. He has toured and recorded with outstanding Breton groups Kornog and Pennou Skoulm. André Brunet (Québec) is a wonderful young fiddle player from the French-Canadian band La Bottine Souriante. He performs a unique blend of folk music originating from France, England, Ireland, and Scotland, imbued over time with a color and rhythm particular to various regions of Québec. André is a warm, dynamic performer, and an excellent musician, with a vast repertoire of French-Canadian jigs and reels. Ged Foley (England) has accompanied the fiddlers on guitar the past two years. Ged is well known in Celtic circles for his seminal work with Battlefield Band; his leadership of the House Band, and his recent membership in Patrick Street. A gifted singer, record producer and instrumentalist, Ged provides a solid and creative approach to rhythm guitar, and pushes the fiddlers to new heights of expression. In concert each fiddler plays a solo set, showcasing their regional musical styles with dexterity and passion, followed by a collaborative set featuring all four musicians. Together, they play with such relentless precision and fire that the tunes transcend all cultural and geographical barriers, leaving the audience with a memorable musical experience.

**Saturday, March 19, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults**

#### **Storyteller Valerie Tutson**

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 5-12. Valerie Tutson graduated from Brown University with a Masters Degree in Theatre Arts and a degree in a self-designed major - Storytelling As A Communications Art. She has been telling stories in schools, churches, libraries, festivals and conferences since 1991, drawing her stories from



around the world with an emphasis on African traditions. Her repertoire includes stories and songs she learned in her travels to South Africa, her experiences in West Africa, and stories from African American history. Randy Robert, Director, New York State Museum, Albany, NY says "Valerie Tutson is an energetic, dynamic performer who leaves the room vibrating when she exits. Her voice, facial expressions, and dance movements make her presentation a delight for children and adults. Her stories range from humorous to frightening to plain fun and they kept the attention of a challenging audience (spanning from about a year and a half to seventy-five)". Valerie also hosts CULTURAL TAPESTRY, an award-winning show for COX 3 celebrating the diverse cultures around us. She has most recently served as the co-Director of the National Black Storytelling Festival in Providence, RI and received a Rhode Island Foundation New Works Grant in 2003.

**Sunday, March 20, 5-8 PM, \$6.00/\$3.00 children  
Irish Ceili and Set Dance with The Alleged Ceili Band**

Partial support provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. **Laura Travis** will be on hand to teach those new to the tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Josh Kane** on flute and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try out our beautiful dance floor or simply come down to listen to some great music!

**Thursday, March 24, 6-8 PM, \$5.00  
Drum and Dance Circle**

BRT's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are welcome... the emphasis is on fun! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

**Saturday, March 26, 8 PM, \$10.00  
Windharp - CD Release**

After a long wait, Windharp's new CD, "Something To Tell You" is finally here! This eclectic group performs traditional and contemporary Celtic music on guitars, harp, mandolin, flute, whistles and bodhran. Windharp is comprised of **John Bean, Bob Coletta, Cathy Jacques, and Katy Roth**. BRT favorites, the group also frequently sets aside their instruments to present soul-stirring, four-part a cappella renditions of Celtic songs.

## **APRIL**

- Blackstone River Theatre will be hosting **ESL classes taught by Woonsocket's Project LEARN as part of the Town of Cumberland's adult literacy initiative**. Classes are held every Monday and Wednesday this month from 6:30-8:30 PM.
- **The Philip Palombo and Bob Jungels photography exhibit opens April 1 and runs through May 8 in the BRT Art Gallery.**
- **The Cumberland Police Department will be holding another 4-day R.A.D. session at BRT on April 5, 7, 12 and 14 from 6-9 PM.** The Department has received funding from the Rhode Island Justice Commission, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Act to fund this unique self-defense training exclusively for woman. The R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) System advocates realistically employable tactics, without the time investment, ceremony or mystical concepts of a martial arts. Applications for those interested in future classes can be picked up at the Cumberland Police Department, Cumberland Town Hall and the Cumberland Public Library. For more information contact Captain Christine Crocker 333-2500.

**Friday, April 1, 8 PM, \$12.00  
Ed Gerhard - With opening set by Peter Janson**

Guitar lovers rejoice! With musical inspirations ranging from Andrés Segovia to Mississippi John Hurt, **Ed Gerhard** has created a "guitar voice" of his own that is recognized and praised worldwide. Known for his gorgeous tone and compositional

depth, Gerhard can move a listener with a single note. Fingerstyle Guitar magazine calls him "one of the masters of steel string fingerstyle guitar... consistent brilliance." Since his acclaimed debut album *Night Birds* (chosen by Boston Globe Critics' Poll, Top Ten Albums Of the Year) was introduced in 1987, Ed has been noticed far outside the borders of New England. Early on, the music of guitarist John Fahey pointed him toward experimentation with open tunings and inspired him to begin composing guitar music of his own. As a result, what distinguishes Ed's music is his inventive use of open tuning, which allows a variety of color from one composition to the next. Melodic but free from clichés, his playing goes in unexpected directions. "From the top of his silvery hair down to his electric blue socks, Gerhard throws himself completely into every song he plays," says Gail Johnson of the Portsmouth Press. In each performance, whether it be 6-string, 12-string, slide guitar or Hawaiian Lap Steel, Ed blends his musical intensity and sly sense of humor with seasoned aplomb. Ed has just released his seventh CD; he is featured on *Guitar Fingerstyle: A Narada Collection* and the recently released *Masters of Acoustic Guitar* on Narada Records. Ed is also featured on the All-Star Guitar Night by Homespun Tapes video and the recently released *A Fingerstyle Summit* with Martin Simpson and Adrian Legg. Also making his BRT debut is tonight is Peter Janson, whose "folk-new age" fingerstyle playing is reminiscent of Michael Hedges and Leo Kottke. He's a 2-time finalist for Best Album of the Year by the international NAV Music Awards.

**Saturday, April 2, 7-11 PM, \$50.00**

**Fusionworks Caribbean Beach Bash Fund-Raiser**

We are proud to host Fusionworks' annual spring fund-raiser which includes a delicious buffet from Faith's Down Home Cooking, a wine and beer cash bar, raffles, and live music with Planet Groove. For more information visit [www.fusionworksdance.org](http://www.fusionworksdance.org).

**Friday, April 8, 8 PM, \$12.00**

**Le Bon Vent - Connecting the music of France with the music of New England**

Partial funding for this concert was provided by the Rhode Island State Council On The Arts.

Le Bon Vent (The Good Wind) is a trans-Atlantic sextet formed in 2003. The group performs music, both newly-composed and traditional, that highlights the connection between the music of New England and the music of France. The work of Le Bon Vent has been supported by a grant from the Vermont Arts Council, which awarded a grant to accordionist **Jeremiah McLane**, founding member of Nightingale, the Clayfoot Strutters, and Big Table, three pivotal and popular bands with traditional roots, for the creation of new work. In addition to McLane, the members of the group are: **Cristi Catt** (soprano), Cambridge, MA; **Patrick Desaunay** (guitar), Les Rosiers-sur-Loire, France; **Ruthie Dornfeld** (violin), Seattle, WA; **James Falzone** (clarinet), Chicago, IL; and **Taki Masuko** (percussion), Cambridge, MA. Le Bon Vent introduces audiences to traditional French music, and highlights the influence it has had on the music of New England. The group performs music that draws from old manuscripts and field recordings, as well as contemporary sources from both France and New England. Much of this music also incorporates improvisation, which relies on the considerable talents of the musicians involved. About a year ago McLane came up with a rhetorical question, and posed it to the Vermont Council on the Arts (VCA): "The music played for New England contra dances - primarily jigs and reels - has been linked to the music of the British Isles," McLane began. "Similarly, Quebecois jigs and reels, played for quadrilles and dancers, have been tied to both France and the British Isles. But what of the link between the music of New England and the music of France? What of this lost connection and affinity?" In 2003 the VCA awarded McLane a grant to study this question, and further, to create new music related to and inspired by his findings. McLane set off to discover the links between the music of his native New England and the indigenous music of France. Perhaps, instead, he himself became that link... Don't miss an amazing night of music!

**Saturday, April 9, 6-11 PM - PRIVATE EVENT**

**NEW CONCERT ADDITION!**

**Friday, April 15, 8 PM, \$12.00**

**Jamie Laval and Hans York - Scottish fiddle and guitar**

One of the premier Celtic violinists on the international music scene today, **Jamie Laval** consistently engages audiences with his intensely passionate performances that run the gamut from tender and melancholy to wildly jubilant. Winner of the 2002 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Championship, Jamie was recently heralded in Scotland as "A new star for the Old World" (*FiddleOn Magazine*). In the recording arena, Jamie is



widely respected for his solos on the movie soundtracks "Wild America," and "Finding Home," the Emmy-nominated theme for the TV drama "Everwood," and for his participation on Dave Matthews CD "Some Devil." Jamie's solo CD "Shades of Green" has received unanimous critical praise and nationwide radio airplay. Within months of arriving in the U.S. from his native Germany, **Hans York** was immediately recognized by top musicians everywhere for his powerful performance style gleaned from years of professional experience in jazz, alternative rock, Latin music, and American folk music. York's sound is centered around his mastery of DADGAD tuning which enables him to reveal an unusually broad palate of gorgeous harmonies and accompaniment. This promises to be one of the best Celtic fiddle concerts at BRT this year - don't miss a star in the making!

**Saturday, April 16, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults**  
**Marvelous Marvin and Jubilant JD - "Take A Trip In Your Imagination"**

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 5-12. This new performance piece by BRT favorite Marvelous Marvin uses improvisational games to spark audience imagination.

Marvelous Marvin, joined by his rapper friend Jubilant JD, put themselves on the spot, taking audience suggestions and creating the show as they go along. This humorous 45-minute journey includes mini-lessons about the origin of the alphabet, the parts of speech, and effective communication.

**Saturday, April 16, 8 PM, \$12.00**  
**Paddy Keenan with Patsy O'Brien**

**Paddy Keenan**, who has been referred to as "the Jimi Hendrix of the pipes," and "the King of the pipers" is generally acknowledged as the most accomplished, innovative uilleann piper playing today. Paddy was the 2003 recipient of the Irish National Traditional Musician Award. Specializing in a wild, fluid style solely his own, never playing a tune the same way twice, Keenan will be joined tonight by guitarist/singer **Patsy O'Brien** who played with the Eileen Ivers' band Immigrant Soul in Europe last year. A founding member of the Bothy Band, one of the most influential bands of the 1970s, Paddy 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 traditional 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 the most exciting traditional musician 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.

**Sunday, April 17, 5-8 PM, \$6.00/\$3.00 children**  
**Irish Ceili and Set Dance with The Alleged Ceili Band**

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

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. **Laura Travis** will be on hand to teach those new to the tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Josh Kane** on flute and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try out our beautiful dance floor or simply come down to listen to some great music!

**Thursday, April 21, 6-8 PM, \$5.00**  
**Drum and Dance Circle**

BRT's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are welcome... the emphasis is on fun! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

**Friday, April 22, 8 PM, \$15.00**

**John Renbourn and Jacqui Mcshee**

One of the world's foremost fingerstyle guitarists, **John Renbourn's** unique sound is a fusion of British and Celtic folk music with jazz, country blues, ragtime, classical, Middle Eastern and pre-Renaissance music - a style often referred to as "folk-baroque." John has been at the forefront of innovative acoustic guitar playing since the mid-sixties. With fellow guitarist Bert Jansch and singer **Jacqui McShee**, he founded the seminal British folk-rock ensemble Pentangle in 1967. From 1967 through 1978 the group's career spanned six albums, numerous television appearances and three movie soundtracks, as well as several American and world tours. Renbourn continued as a soloist, recording memorable albums like *The Hermit* and *The Black Balloon*, before forming the John Renbourn Group, which integrated Indian tabla with guitar and jazz reeds. A subsequent partnership with Stefan Grossman yielded several albums and world tours. *Ship of Fools*, a return to the ensemble format, explored John's interest in Celtic music, as does his latest recording *Wheel of Fortune*, with Scottish harper and storyteller Robin Williamson. Both *Wheel of Fortune* and the John Renbourn Group's *Live in America* were nominated for Grammy Awards. A John Renbourn concert takes the listener into a rich musical landscape of warm vocals and witty asides about the history of the songs. At the core is a revolutionary guitar style that explores the instrument's potential in unusual and beautiful ways, created and performed by a consummate master. Don't miss an amazing night of beautiful songs and virtuoso guitar!

**Saturday, April 30, 8 PM, \$10.00**

**Ken Lyon and The Shoe-Fly Band - Opening set by John Thibodeau**

BRT favorite **Ken Lyon** will be joined by harmonica player **Richard Calitri** and Pendragon bandmates **Bob Drouin** and **Russell Gusetti** for an eclectic night of folk, acoustic blues, French Canadian and British Isles music, ragtime and more! Ken Lyon's name conjures visions of everything from electric roadhouse blues with the Tombstone Blues Band, to acoustic solo and ensemble work, to nine years of folk performance with the Celtic band, Pendragon. Lyon's voice ranks among the finest on the American blues-folk scene and his musical history is the stuff of legend including albums for Epic, Columbia, Decca and others. Lincoln, RI resident Lyon, celebrating 43 years of performing music this year, released "Old School" on Rogue Island Records last year - his first release as a band leader in 13 years.

## **MAY**

- Blackstone River Theatre will be hosting **ESL classes taught by Woonsocket's Project LEARN as part of the Town of Cumberland's adult literacy initiative**. Classes are held every Monday and Wednesday this month from 6:30-8:30 PM.
- **The Cumberland Police Department will be holding another 4-day R.A.D. session at BRT on May 17, 19, 24 and 26 from 6-9 PM**. The Department has received funding from the Rhode Island Justice Commission, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Act to fund this unique self-defense training exclusively for woman. The R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) System advocates realistically employable tactics, without the time investment, ceremony or mystical concepts of a martial arts. Applications for those interested in future classes can be picked up at the Cumberland Police Department, Cumberland Town Hall and the Cumberland Public Library. For more information contact Captain Christine Crocker 333-2500.
- **The Philip Palombo and Bob Jungels photography exhibit** runs through May 8 in the BRT Art Gallery. **Emily Lisker's painting exhibit from "Dreamer from the Village - the story of Marc Chagall" by Michelle Markel, opens May 14 and runs through June 19**. This local children's book artist will exhibit paintings from her latest picture book and celebrate its opening at a children's show featuring Keith Munslow at 11 AM on May 14. During the show, Emily and Keith will doodle and noodle a few Klezmer tunes together as part of the fun.
- Blackstone River Theatre is proud to participate once again in **Tour Rhode Island - There's No Place Like Home**, with a talk of BRT's history followed by a short performance by Pendragon on Saturday, May 7 at 10:30 AM Visit <http://www.visitrhodeisland.com/tourri/> for more information.

**Saturday, May 7, 8 PM, \$15.00**

**Craobh Rua**

Craobh Rua (pronounced Crave Roo-ah) translates from Irish to "Red Branch" and is a name that is well known in Celtic history from The Red Branch Knights of Ulster. This Belfast-based band has given concert and festival performances in the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, Poland, England, Scotland, Wales and beyond and their music has earned them wide acclaim and recognition; they are now regarded around the world as one of the finest ambassadors of Irish Traditional Music. Craobh Rua utilizes a wide array of instruments such as banjo, mandolin, fiddle, uilleann pipes, flute, tin whistle, guitar and vocals. Members include **Brian Connolly** (Banjo, Mandolin); **Michael Cassidy** (Fiddle); **Jim Rainey** (Guitar and vocals); and **Brendan Mulholland** (Flute, Tin Whistle). On New Year's Day 2004 the band performed live from Belfast on BBC Radio 3 in World Music Day along with a host of artists from around the world. The band has performed at the Millenium Stage Live Internet Broadcast concert series from the Kennedy Center, Washington, DC. and their performance for the Smithsonian Concert Series, Washington, DC was recorded and broadcast worldwide on Voice of America. Craobh Rua has released five albums to date; their most recent CD is called "If Ida Been Here Ida Been There."

**Thursday, May 12, 6-9 PM, \$5.00**

**Drum and Dance Circle**

BRT's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are welcome... the emphasis is on fun! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet! Visit <http://snedrumcircles.tribe.net/> to see pictures of past drum circles at BRT.

**Friday, May 13, 8 PM, \$10.00**

**Rory Raven Mentalist Show**

And now for something completely different! Rory can't play a single musical instrument...but he CAN read your mind! We were looking for something a little different for Friday the 13th and we think we've found it! **Rory Raven** is a mentalist with over 12 year's experiece reading minds and astonishing audiences. Neither a psychic nor a magician, he offers a new and compelling kind of entertainment unlike anything you've ever seen. With a few simple props (paper and pencil, a pack of playing cards, some paperback books, and the thoughts of some volunteers) Rory involves the audience in a highly unusual - and unusually entertaining - experience. Thoughts are revealed, predicions come true, and perhaps even the spirits are summoned... Frequently Asked Questions: **Okay, let's start with that title - what's a mentalist?** A mentalist is a theatrical mind-reader; a performer who, using a variety of techniques, is able to produce results that would only seem possible by psychic or paranormal means. **And those techniques would be...?** They range from a knowledge of subtle psychological principles and the quirks of human behavior, to quick thinking and a good memory. I'm also interested in things like suggestion, non-verbal communication, and the so-called trance state. And I don't hesitate to borrow ideas from the stage magician, either. **So are you psychic or what?** No. Not everyone believes me when I say that, but there's not much I can do about it. People who believe in the paranormal will believe no matter what I tell them, and those who don't believe won't believe no matter what I show them. But a long time ago I realized that everybody's mind is pretty much made up before they came to the show, so it was a fool's errand to try and convince people of the validity of one viewpoint or another. So, sit back, concentrate on your mother's maiden name, and enjoy the show...

**Saturday, May 14, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults**

**Keith Munslow Children's Show**

Words, Music and Pictures Ideal for families with children ages 5-and-up. BRT favorite **Keith Munslow** returns with a 45-minute show of original songs, way-cool stories, tongue-tangling poems and quick-as-a-wink cartoons. Keith's guitar or piano playing, skillful cartoon drawing, and quick wit combine for an upbeat, positive experience with plenty of chances for audience participation. It's a fast-paced ride so hang on and don't blink - you might miss something! Multi-talented performer Keith Munslow has entertained thousands of children at shows throughout New England and beyond for 15 years. Keith can often be seen in a hilarious duo show with storyteller Bill Harley, and also with Big Nazo, an award-winning mask and puppet touring company. This show is lots of fun for adults too! Keith's friend, children's book illustrator Emily Lisker, will also be having her children's book painting exhibit open today and she'll join Keith

for a few Klezmer tunes.

**Saturday, May 14, 8 PM, \$10.00**

**Fuego Flamenco (rescheduled from January snow-out)**

Partial funding for this concert was provided by the Rhode Island State Council On The Arts.

Fuego Flamenco performs Spanish dance and music from the region of southern Spain known as Andalucia. The roots of this music trace back to medieval times when the Moors ruled Spain. As centuries passed, Sephardic and Gypsy elements became intertwined with the Spanish and Moorish influences. By the 19th century, some New World Latin and African influences were being incorporated into the flamenco style coming back to Spain from her colonies. Guajiras (from Cuba) and Rumba flamenca are two examples you will see along with the older flamenco styles - Soleares (solitude), Bulerias (from 'burlar,' - to jest or joke), Tangos (quite different from the Argentine dance of the same name), Sevillanas (regional dance from Seville), and Seguiriyas, the darkest of the flamenco rhythms. Fuego Flamenco features musical director/guitarist **Miguel Dumas and three Flamenco dancers** along with Rhode Island musicians **Lori Lacaille** on vocals and **Steve LaValley** on flute, percussion, and guitar.

**Sunday, May 15, 5-8 PM, \$6.00/\$3.00 children**

**Irish Ceili and Set Dance with The Alleged Ceili Band**

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

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. **Laura Travis** will be on hand to teach those new to the tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Josh Kane** on flute and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try out our beautiful dance floor or simply come down to listen to some great music!

**Saturday, May 21, 8 PM, \$15.00**

**The Karan Casey Band**

**Advance ticket purchase recommended!**

**Karan Casey** is one of the most instantly recognizable, alluring and original voices in all of world music. She will be releasing a new CD in April entitled "Chasing the Sun" which will include quite a few of Karan's own songs, alongside some traditional songs and a few new songs by Barry Kerr, a great young writer from Co. Armagh. Karan is joined on the album by her long standing band - **Niall Vallely** (with whom she co-produced the album) on concertina, **Robbie Overson** on guitar, and **Paul Meehan** on mandolin and bouzouki. "People have been asking me for the last few years for an album that reflects the gigs, so here it is. This has just the lads and myself on it with no frills other than a few harmonies and a bit of percussion," says Karan. Her previous recording, "Distant Shore," is a collection of potent and beautiful Irish and contemporary ballads. The subtle and sensitive instrumentation and arrangements on all of her CDs illuminate Casey's voice and illustrate just what she can do with her magical instrument. The former longtime lead vocalist with the Irish supergroup Solas exhibits the grace, pacing and richness of an old soul. The Wall Street Journal says Karan Casey is "one of the true glories in Irish music today", while The Associated Press says Casey has "...a voice so beautiful, it's almost impossible to avoid falling under her spell." "The Winds Begin to Sing" (Shanachie Records) won Irish Music Magazine's Best Folk Album award in 2001.

**Saturday, May 28, 8 PM, \$15.00/\$7.00 with student ID**

**Indian Classical Music Concert with Violin Maestro Dr. Sangeeta Shankar**

Partial funding for this concert was provided by the Rhode Island State Council On The Arts.

We are very pleased to offer this first collaboration with the nonprofit group Raagmaala in the presentation of Indian classical music concerts. **Dr. Sangeeta Shankar**, daughter of the great Hindustani violinist Dr. N Rajam, is one of the most important young Hindustani violinists performing today. Sangeeta comes from a very illustrious family of violinists. Her grandfather was Vidhwan Narayana Iyer, a unique violinist and master of both Carnatic (South Indian) and Hindustani (North Indian) traditions. Her uncle is the Carnatic violin maestro Prof. T N Krishnan, and she was trained by her mother, Dr N Rajam, from who she inherited her Gayaki style of playing. Starting at age 4, she was a prodigy, quickly learning and mastering the art,

and giving her first concert when she was just 13. She was also a brilliant student, studying music in Benaras Hindu University and completing her doctoral thesis there - a detailed and dedicated research on the contribution of violin and violinists to Indian music. Sangeeta Shankar has collaborated with Grammy winners Bela Fleck and Vishwamohan Bhatt on the well-received album "Tabula Rasa." She has produced a music-based series, Sur Sadhana, for Indian National Television and has several CDs. She is also co-founder of a music company "Legendary Legacy," that has made available recordings of the masters of Indian Music and promising newcomers alike. **Vinayak Netke**, a noted Tabla (Indian percussion) player will accompany Dr. Sangeeta Shankar. He has accompanied several musicians in India and abroad and represents the famous Farrukhabad percussion tradition of India.

## JUNE

- Blackstone River Theatre will be hosting **ESL classes taught by Woonsocket's Project LEARN as part of the Town of Cumberland's adult literacy initiative.** Classes are held every Monday and Wednesday this month from 6:30-8:30 PM.
- **The Cumberland Police Department will be holding another 4-day R.A.D. session at BRT on June 4, 5, 11 and 12 from 9 AM-Noon.** The Department has received funding from the Rhode Island Justice Commission, Neighborhood Crime Prevention Act to fund this unique self-defense training exclusively for woman. The R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) System advocates realistically employable tactics, without the time investment, ceremony or mystical concepts of a martial arts. Applications for those interested in future classes can be picked up at the Cumberland Police Department, Cumberland Town Hall and the Cumberland Public Library. For more information contact Captain Christine Crocker 333-2500.
- **Emily Lisker's painting exhibit** from "Dreamer from the Village - the story of Marc Chagall" runs through June 19. **An illustration exhibit by Stefan Couture begins June 20** and runs throughout July and August.
- **There will be no Irish ceili and set dances or children's shows in June.**

### Sponsored in part by MOTIF

#### The most comprehensive publication supporting local music

**Saturday, June 4, 8 PM, \$12.00**

#### **Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem**

So, what's a daisy mayhem? Wicked percussion, sublime lead singing, great harmonies, sparkling original songs and a deep repertoire. Four people who share an irresistible chemistry on stage. A young, hip, crackerjack string band in love with American music. The Boston Globe described their music as "neo old-timey with cosmopolitan splashes of contemporary pop and jazz." It's an exuberant mix of musical idioms, held together by superb musicianship, impeccable taste, and the band's charismatic vocals. A stage show dips into country blues, vintage swing, modern songwriter fare, and Appalachian fiddle tunes and songs. Their energetic program - backed by rich four-part harmonies and instrumental wizardry - is not to be missed. The group is led by lead vocalist/fiddler **Rani Arbo** who first came to the public's attention as part of Salamander Crossing, the premier roots band of the 1990s. The other members of daisy mayhem are **Andrew Kinsey** (upright bass, vocals, banjo, ukulele & whistle), Anand Nayak (vocals, guitar), and **Scott Kessel** (percussion). A Daisy Mayhem performance is a guaranteed great night out... don't miss it!

#### **Thursday, June 9, 6 PM, FREE and Open to the Public** **Valley Breeze Good Neighbors Award Night**

The Valley Breeze will honor its first ever Good Neighbors Award winners, two persons to be honored for their community service and for improving the quality of life in the Blackstone Valley. You can also meet Valley Breeze writers, editors and columnists as they honor award winners and their first Journalism Scholarship winner. Call 334-9555 for further information.

**Friday, June 10, 8 PM, \$12.00**

#### **Wilson Montuori and Livio Guardi** **Acoustic duo from Italy**

**Livio Guardi and Wilson Montuori** are an acoustic duo from Florence who has found their unique musical blend after ten years of performing together. Their repertoire includes songs in English and Italian, and they play instrumental pieces that draw from Mediterranean, Blues, Old-Time, Jazz, Latin and Irish music. While mostly performing new compositions of their own, the songs definitely have a sound drawn from the past - from Medieval times through the Renaissance. Montuori plays acoustic guitar and mandolin; Guardi plays banjo, guitar, ukelele, bouzouki and harmonica. This mix of instruments and the duo's touch of Italian humor makes their performances an incredible musical journey. Their latest CD "Diomedee," a collection of songs inspired by the Mediterranean Sea, is a cultural bridge between traditional and contemporary sounds from Italy, but it is also influenced by other cultural idioms, including American and Celtic atmospheres.

**Thursday, June 16, 6-9 PM, \$5.00**

**Drum and Dance Circle**

BRT's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are welcome... the emphasis is on fun! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet! Visit <http://snedrumcircles.tribe.net/> to see pictures of past drum circles at BRT.

**Friday, June 17, 8 PM, \$15.00**

**Battlefield Band**

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. The band has broken down barriers and pioneered many new directions which others have followed. Angry, joyful, raucous, contemplative, their music is most importantly, accessible to all. After 30 years they still lead the way for Scottish music - all the time introducing new musicians, new music; always involving their ever widening audience, as they travel the world. This tour sees the release of a new album "Out For The Night." The current line-up features: **Mike Katz** (Highland pipes/small pipes/various whistles/bass guitar) the unmistakable piper who joined the line-up in late 1997 and has contibuted massively to the music and accessibility of the band; **Alan Reid** (keyboards/guitar/vocals) from Glasgow, one of the founder members of the band, does much of the bands singing and songwriting, particularly on contemporary Scottish themes; **Alasdair White** (fiddle/whistle/banjo/bazouki/Highland and small pipes/bodhran), is the most recent addition to the band. Already a superb fiddle player and multi-instrumentalist, Alasdair hails from the island of Lewis, one of the Gaelic speaking Outer Hebrides; and **Pat Kilbride** (vocals/guitar/cittern), who played in the band for a couple of years in the mid 70's and has returned to the fold after over 20 years earning a name for himself as a solo artist.

**Due to a problem processing Gráda's visa application, this concert and their entire June tour has had to be cancelled. We hope to have them back in the Fall.**

**Saturday, June 18, 8 PM, \$12.00**

**Gráda**

"The Landing Step" is the second album from the innovative young Irish ensemble Gráda, a Dublin-based band poised at the brink of international recognition for their multi-faceted take on traditional Celtic music. Taking their influences from Irish, Breton, eastern European and other diverse regional styles, Gráda (Irish for illustrious) compliment their instrumental virtuosity with an elegant, timeless vocal style. Produced and engineered by Lúnasa bassist Trevor Hutchinson, "The Landing Step" brilliantly balances original, contemporary, and traditional elements to create a sound that is at once accessible and refreshingly distinct. "The Landing Step" was selected by the Indie Acoustic Project awards as the best celtic CD of 2004. It was also voted as being among the top five folk CDs of 2004 by the Irish Music Magazine. In the three years since the release of their debut album, Gráda - both collectively and individually - continue to win new fans via an intense concert schedule and numerous appearances as sidemen. Flautist Alan Doherty is now being widely heralded for his solo performance on the film score of The Lord of the Rings trilogy. Gráda is: **Alan Doherty** - flutes and vocals, **Andrew Laking** - Double Bass and vocals, **Anne Marie**



**O'Malley** - vocals and bodhrán, **Brendan O'Sullivan** - fiddle, violas & vocals, and **Gerry Paul** - acoustic and electric guitars, bouzouki and vocals.

**Saturday, June 25, 8 PM, \$15.00/\$7.00 with student ID**  
**Indian Classical Music Concert with Sarengi Master Pandit Ramesh Misra and Shri Nitin Mitta On Tabla**

Partial funding for this concert was provided by the Rhode Island State Council On The Arts.

We are very pleased to offer this second collaboration with the nonprofit group Raagmaala in the presentation of Indian classical music concerts at BRT. **Pandit Ramesh Misra** represents the 21st generation of his family of musicians. Ramesh Misra is a phenomenon in the field of Indian classical Music mastering one of the most difficult and unique string instruments, the bowed Sarengi - its three main strings and forty sympathetic strings give it a rich and complex sound. Son of great sarengi maestro Pt. Ramnath Misra, Ramesh is presently under the tutelage of the legendary maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar. Unlike the finger technique on other string instruments, sarengi players use the back of the nails, close to the cuticles, against the strings. Ramesh's high aesthetic sense and artistic sensibilities have earned him recognition both at home and abroad. Today he is hailed as one the few living Masters of this art and he is a recipient of the most prestigious Sangeet Natak Academy award. **Nitin Mitta** is a brilliant tabla artist, recognized for his creative tabla solos and as an accomplished accompanist. He is a disciple of the late Shri Satyanarayan and the distinguished Tabla Maestro Pandit Arvind Mulgaonkar of the leading Farukhabad tabla tradition. Both of his teachers were the disciples of Late Tabla Giant Ustad Amir Khan. Nitin has performed with Indian musicians like Pt. Jasraj, Pt. Rajan-Sajan Mishra, Grammy winner Pt. Vishwamohan Bhatt, Swarshree Dr. Prabha Atray, Dr. Veena Sahrabuddhe, and many others. Nitin won first place in the All India Tabla Competition in 1999. He was the recipient of a National Scholarship in India and also received a RISCA master grant in 2003.

**The sarengi** is a small instrument, no more than two and a quarter feet high. Carved out of a single piece of wood, it has a hollow body, with a one-inch thickness at the upper and lower surfaces, and less than half-an-inch thickness at the sides. There is a parchment-covered belly usually with holes and 'waist'. The three main playing strings (made of gut) and one brass sympathetic string are tuned by the four pegs in the lower part of the peg-box on the side. The upper part of the peg-box has eleven tuning pegs for the other sympathetic strings which may be from thirty-five to forty in number. The sarengi is conspicuous by the absence of frets. The strings are suspended by four bone bridges: one bridge carries the playing and the sympathetic strings through different notches, the second bridge raises the main playing strings approximately half-an-inch above the instrument; two bridges carry five or six sympathetic strings each. The bow (made of horsehair) is held in the right hand while the left hand is used to stop the strings. A distinctive style emerges through the 'fingering' technique: the strings are stopped by bending the finger and working with the nail next to the cuticle. The third finger is used most often while playing, the middle and index fingers next. Interestingly enough, the music produced by the sarengi, more than that of any other instrument, is believed to resemble the human voice. It is thus the ideal instrument for musical accompaniment, and allows the singer to pause without causing a break in the singing. It can be played simultaneously with the singing, it can fill in gaps, or 'shadow' the song by being played just a little behind it. The sarengi requires mastery (of playing and tuning) and maturity (in understanding the raga and not intruding on the vocalist).

## **JULY AND AUGUST**

### **Looking Glass Theatre Offers Summer Performing Arts Camp for Children at Blackstone River Theatre**

Looking Glass Theatre of Providence, New England's premier touring company for Academic Children's Theater, will offer "Summer Stage Camp," a comprehensive Performing Arts Camp for children ages 8-16, to be held at the Blackstone River Theatre. Three two-week sessions will be offered: July 11-22, July 25-August 5 and August 8-19. The Camp will run Monday through Friday, from 9 AM-3 PM, and will offer children training in acting, singing, dance and improvisational skills under the direction of the Looking Glass Theatre Acting Company.

While first and foremost a Performing Arts Camp, the emphasis of the program will be

the development of self-confidence as well as working together as a cast toward a common goal. The camp will culminate in a public performance at 7 PM on the last Friday of each session. This public show will consist of performances of popular music, Broadway favorites, dancing and skits featuring campers acting in Looking Glass Theatre's acclaimed adaptations of scenes from children's literature. The "Summer Stage Camp" is part of a new initiative by Looking Glass Executive Director Fred Sailer to make the company a year-round operation and increase outreach to the community. "It is my experience, in running a similar program for over 10 years in Connecticut, that the friendships forged over the two weeks of camp last far beyond the summer and the skills learned here will be used later in life, no matter what career path the camper may choose." The Blackstone River Theatre, a community-minded cultural arts center located in Cumberland, offers the perfect setting for the "Summer Stage Camp" as it's conveniently located 15 minutes from Providence with easy highway access and offstreet parking.

For further information, call Pat McDougal at Looking Glass Theatre at (401) 331-9080. Enrollment is limited to 75 per session to ensure that each child receives the attention they deserve. The cost is \$400 per two-week session. You can visit Looking Glass Theatre's Web site to download registration forms at <http://www.lookingglasstouringtheatre.org>.

## SEPTEMBER

- **September marks the 5-year anniversary of the reopening of Blackstone River Theatre** after four years and two months of volunteer renovation efforts from July 1996 to September 2000. Since reopening, BRT has presented 415 events in front of over 30,000 audience members! Thank you for your support and we hope to see you soon!
- **Erminio Pinque, creator of Big Nazo Puppets, will have his drawings, sketches and more on display in the BRT Art Gallery September 12 through October 9.**

**Friday, September 16, 8 PM, \$12.00**

**Ditt Ditt Darium - Music from Sweden**

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

Four parts, four stories, Ditt Ditt Darium works with two sung and two bowed voices. Out of unison grows a texture of sounds and contrasting melodies - from the simple, the complex. In the fertile field of Scandinavian traditional music, something new and fascinating has been growing in Sweden. Ditt Ditt Darium consists of singers **Johanna Bölja Hertzberg** and **Ebba Jacobsson**, each deeply rooted in the Swedish vocal tradition of Hälsingland in the north and coastal Bohuslän in the west, and fiddlers **Emma Reid** and **Alicia Björnsdotter Abrams**, both with broad musical backgrounds in the traditions of Sweden, Shetland and England. All four are graduates of the program for traditional Swedish music at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm and are also active with other musical projects. "We want to find the common points of cultures around the Baltic and North Seas, cultures that for ages have been connected by the sea," they say. "We want to bring out the essentials in this music: the richly ornamented melodies and the quirky yet poetic lyrics of old Swedish hymns, ballads and drinking songs. Therefore our music is raw or perhaps transparent... melodies are stories, words are rhythm." Don't miss this great evening of traditional vocal and fiddle music. This will be the group's only New England show outside of Vermont.

**Saturday, September 17, 8 PM, \$12.00**

**North Sea Gas - Folk Music from Scotland**

Scotland's North Sea Gas have now been performing for 25 years, from national theatres to oil rigs, folk clubs to open air concerts. Over the years they have played to audiences all over Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, the U.S. and Canada. With a combination of guitar, mandolin, bodhran, banjo, whistle and bouzouki, complementing strong vocal harmonies and a keen sense of humor, an entertaining evening is always guaranteed! With 2005 marking the 25th anniversary of the band, their new CD "Lochanside" was released in May and a compilation CD, encompassing the music of the past 25 years, is also expected out in the fall. The band is led by founder **Dave Gilfillan** on lead vocals, guitar and banjo, well-known for his tongue-in-cheek humor. **Ronnie MacDonald** on lead and harmony vocals, guitar and bouzouki is

joined by newest member **Cameron Gaskell** on fiddle, mandola and vocals. Together, they will entertain you with poignant and rousing songs, great instrumentals, history and more!

**Sunday, September 18, 5-8 PM, \$6.00/\$3.00 children  
Irish Ceili and Set Dance with The Alleged Ceili Band**

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. **Laura Travis** will be on hand to teach those new to the tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Josh Kane** on flute and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try out our beautiful dance floor or simply come down to listen to some great music!

**Heritage Arts Studio Classes Begin (See Classes link for more info)**

September 20: 6-Week Beginner Adult Irish Step Dance: 6:30 and 7:45 PM  
October 1: 6-Week Beginner Children Irish Step Dance: 9:00 and 10:00 AM

**Thursday, September 22, 6-9 PM, \$5.00  
Drum and Dance Circle**

BRT's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are welcome... the emphasis is on fun! This community event has regularly attracted 30-45 drummers and dancers of all ages since its inception. Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

**Celebrate the 5-Year Anniversary of the Blackstone River Theatre  
This Weekend!**

**Friday, September 23, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$18.00 day of show  
Advance reservations strongly recommended!  
The Duke Robillard Band - DVD release**

This special concert will celebrate the release of Duke's new DVD, recorded live last October at the Blackstone River Theatre! Awarded the 2004 W.C. Handy Award for "Best Guitarist" for the 4th time in five years, **Duke Robillard** has been called "one of the great players" by the legendary B.B. King. In the 25 years of Handy awards, only Buddy Guy has won more awards in the guitar category (6), and only Albert Collins is tied with Duke for 4 awards for Best Blues guitarist. Since founding Roomful of Blues in 1967, Duke's guitar work has seamlessly spanned the worlds of jazz, blues and swing. Expect the unexpected as Duke moves from acoustic blues and jazz to full band blues, swing, R&B and rock and roll! Duke will be joined by his band **Doug James** on baritone sax, **Mark Teixeira** on drums, **Matt McCabe** on piano and **Marty Ballou** on bass joined by special guests **Billy Novick** on clarinet and alto sax, **Paul Kolesnikow** on guitar, and **Al Basile** on cornet.

**Saturday, September 24, 11 AM, \$6.00 children/\$8.00 adults  
Big Nazo Band**

Recommended for K- through 6th grade. Don't miss this mind-blowing visual and musical extravaganza! Quasimodo, the big, green-nosed leader of the BIG NAZO BAND and his outrageous masked and puppet-like musicians play foot-stomping rock & roll, soulful rhythm & blues and involve the audience in comic theatrical scenarios to create the most unforgettable event you'll ever experience! This family show coincides with an exhibit in the BRT Art Gallery of Big Nazo creator Erminio Pinque's drawings and plans for his creations. The Big Nazo puppets, created of foam, nylon and latex, are all individually crafted by Pinque and his colleagues in the troupe's Providence studio. Pinque calls his method a "low-tech" approach, and adds that all he needs to craft a puppet is a stapler, glue, scissors, foam and a Sharpie pen.

**Saturday, September 24, 8 PM, \$15.00  
Advance reservations strongly recommended!  
Pendragon**

**Celebrating the 5-year anniversary of BRT's re-opening!**

New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Celebrating their 22nd anniversary tonight, Pendragon has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. The band released their 7th album, "Artistic License," on Blackstone River

Theatre's RiverFolk Productions label in early 2005. Pendragon's music celebrates the lives and lore of generations of New Englanders who brought traditions from Ireland, Scotland, French Canada and other distant shores to the banks of the Blackstone River. While drawing on the ethnic music of the Blackstone River Valley, Pendragon fashions the music of tradition into the music of tomorrow. The band composes and performs their original songs and dance tunes on an innovative combination of bouzouki, concertina, banjo, guitar, whistle, fiddle, flute, bass and percussion. Pendragon is comprised of **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, bouzouki and tenor banjo; **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertinas; **Josh Kane** on flute and whistles; **Ken Lyon** on vocals, guitar and bass; **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals and step dancer and percussionist **Kevin Doyle**, a U.S. champion dancer who has performed throughout the New England area for over 30 years. Past tributes include three straight Boston Music Award nominations for Outstanding Celtic Act and a Governor's Tourism Award. Pendragon was voted 2005 Best Local Folk Act of the Year in the Providence Phoenix' Best Music Poll, the 8th time they have gained that recognition. They were also voted Rhode Island's Best Celtic Act in the 2005 MOTIF Music Poll.

**Sunday, September 25, 12-5 PM - Private Event**

## **OCTOBER**

- **Judy Beauchemin will have her photographs and photographic restorations** on display in the BRT Art Gallery October 15 through November 12.
- **BRT will be participating in the weekend-long event "Footsteps in History"** being sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council on Columbus Day Weekend, Oct. 8-10. In addition to BRT events, Pendragon will be performing acoustically at the Hearthside in Lincoln on Saturday and will also be in concert at Woonsocket's Chan's Restaurant on Sunday, Oct. 9 at 7 PM. Please visit <http://www.footstepsinhistory.com> for information on other valley events.

**Saturday, October 1, 8 PM, \$14.00**

**Paul Rishell & Annie Raines/Martin Grosswendt**

This promises to be a great evening of acoustic blues as we welcome back an old friend and also present one of blues music's most acclaimed duos for the first time. Blues performers can be forgiven if they occasionally fall into a rut: it isn't easy to make simple eight- and 12-bar forms sound new and exciting. But "Goin' Home," country blues duo **Paul Rishell and Annie Raines'** third collaboration together, is full of surprises and revelations. After a dozen years working together, Cambridge, MA-based singer/guitarist Rishell and singer/harmonica player Raines have perfected the sort of intuitive musical connection that turns a collaboration into a band, filling in the spaces between each other's notes with just the right improvisations and flairs. They won a W.C. Handy Award for the best acoustic blues recording of 2000, and they've just been nominated for two more for "Goin' Home." The Boston Globe says, "Raines is the perfect foil for Rishell. Both are sincere lovers of the older masters, and though they have chops to spare, they keep their playing straight and simple, going to the heart of the material... atmospheric late-night music, played with real grit and soul." **Martin Grosswendt** has been a blues performer and teacher for more than three decades. A multi-instrumentalist and singer, Martin is equally at home playing the old-time music of the Southern Appalachians or the Cajun and Creole music of Southwest Louisiana. He plays six- and twelve-string guitar, five-string banjo, mandolin and fiddle. Last year, Martin released his first solo recording in 24 years entitled "Call and Response" at Blackstone River Theatre. It features solo performances of songs from the Golden Age of blues, the late 1920s and '30s. While his name is not a household word, amongst musicians and fans of country, blues and folk, Martin is sort of an underground legend. Come see why...

**Sunday, October 2, 7 PM, \$15.00**

**Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas**

Master Scottish fiddler **Alasdair Fraser**, long regarded as one of Scotland's premier musical ambassadors, presents the music of his homeland with unsurpassed eloquence, passion and energy. He links bows with vibrant young cellist **Natalie Haas** in an exciting weave of rocking, reeling rhythms, poignant melodies, and exquisite

musicianship. The duo has created a buzz among Celtic music lovers at festivals and concerts across the US and Europe. Fraser and Haas met when, at age 11, Natalie first attended Alasdair's Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School in California. As a student at the Juilliard School in New York, Natalie regularly performs throughout the US and Europe with Fraser, and is a member of American fiddler Mark O'Connor's Appalachian Waltz Trio. She also performs on Alasdair's Legacy of the Scottish Fiddle series of CDs. Fraser is recognized throughout the world as one of the finest fiddle players Scotland has ever produced. His name is synonymous with the vibrant cultural renaissance which is transforming today's Scottish musical scene. His richly expressive playing transports listeners across a broad musical spectrum, ranging from haunting laments from the Gaelic tradition to classically-styled airs, raucous dance tunes, and improvisations based on traditional themes. The duo's latest CD, "Fire & Grace," was awarded the honor of Scots Trad Music Album of the Year for 2004. Don't miss this incredible night of Scottish music!

#### **Footsteps in History Event**

**Saturday, October 8, 8 PM, \$12.00**

#### **Aoife Clancy**

Aoife Clancy (pronounced "Eefa") brings a refreshing new voice to folk music, one that ranges from traditional Irish songs to ballads and contemporary folk. She will be joined tonight by dynamic guitarist **Flynn Cohen**. Aoife 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 at age ten, and by age fourteen was playing with her father in nearby pubs. She later moved to Dublin, where she studied drama at the Gaiety School of Acting. After a season at the Gaiety, Aoife was invited to do a tour of Australia. There she performed at festivals and concerts sharing the stage with some of Ireland's greatest performers, including Christy Moore and the Furey Brothers. In 1995 Aoife was asked to join the acclaimed group "Cherish the Ladies," one of the most sought-after Irish American groups in history. Since 1999, Aoife has pursued a solo career and clearly established herself as one of the divas of Irish and contemporary Folk Music. Scott Alarik of the Boston Globe says, "Whether she's delivering an ancient Irish ballad, an American folk classic, or an urgent contemporary song, Aoife sings with the same gorgeous naturalism as if she were experiencing the emotions in the songs for the first time."

#### **Footsteps in History Event**

**Sunday, October 9, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults**

#### **Turtle Talk**

Recommended for K- through 6th grade. Seating is limited to only 50 people so reservations are strongly recommended! Did you know that there are over 250 species of turtles in the world or that the Soviets used Russian tortoises in their space program? This interactive "show-and-tell" program lasts 75 minutes and offers fascinating, detailed descriptions of the unusual differences between turtles and tortoises as well as a question and answer period. You'll also see turtle races and have a chance to try and crawl around in a huge "turtle shell" to find out what "life in a shell" may feel like. Some follow-up activity sheets maximize the experience as this unique field trip comes to YOU!

#### **Sponsored in part by MOTIF**

**The most comprehensive publication supporting Rhode Island's arts scene**

**Saturday, October 15, 8 PM, \$18.00**

**Advance reservations strongly recommended!**

#### **Roomful of Blues**

Here's a VERY rare chance to hear this amazing band in an intimate listening room setting! USA Today says Roomful of Blues plays "marvelous wall-to-wall grooves"... between the wicked guitar work and the brassy horn section, things never stop swinging." With their masterful combination of jumping, hard-edged blues and R&B, it's no wonder why the great Count Basie called them "the hottest blues band I've ever heard." DownBeat said the band is "in a class by itself." Without a doubt, Roomful of Blues is all this and more. Since 1967, the band's deeply rooted, horn-driven blend of swing, rock 'n' roll, jump, blues and soul has earned it five Grammy Award nominations and a slew of other accolades, including four W.C. Handy Blues Awards. The band has always boasted great musicianship featuring a stellar horn section - they won two W.C. Handy Blues Awards in 2004: Instrumentalist of the Year - Horns, as well as the coveted Blues Band of the Year. Remaining together for so long is not



simply a matter of survival, but rather a testament to Roomful of Blues' commitment to its originality and its ability to evolve. Over the years, Roomful's lineup has changed but the band has always been one of the tightest, most joyful blues ensembles in the world. Currently an eight-piece unit led by guitarist **Chris Vachon**, the band has never sounded fresher or stronger. With vocalist/harpist **Mark DuFresne**, bassist **Brad Hallen**, drummer **Jason Corbiere**, keyboardist **Travis Colby**, and baritone and tenor saxophonist **Mark Earley** along with long-time members tenor and alto saxophonist **Rich Lataille** (the longest-standing member of the group) and trumpeter **Bob Enos**, their new CD "Standing Room Only" swings with urgency and purpose. They will just be returning from a week-long trip to Russia!

**Sunday, October 16, 5-8 PM, \$6.00/\$3.00 children**

**Irish Ceili and Set Dance with The Alleged Ceili Band**

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. **Laura Travis** will be on hand to teach those new to the tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Josh Kane** on flute and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try out our beautiful dance floor or simply come down to listen to some great music!

**Thursday, October 20, 8 PM, \$15.00**

**Liz Carroll and John Doyle**

**Dazzling Irish fiddle and guitar virtuosity**

Separately, they are geniuses of their instruments - exciting performers and composers who take the tradition of Irish music in daring, inventive, new directions. Together, **Liz Carroll & John Doyle** have combined their talents into dynamic live stage shows and recordings - including their first as a duo, which is scheduled for release in Fall 2005 on Compass Records. One of the masters of traditional Irish music living in America today, Chicago-born Liz Carroll has been amazing audiences with her fiddle ever since she won the Senior All-Ireland Championship at the age of 18. An award-winning recording artist known for her fiery performances full of inventiveness and intense emotion, Liz was awarded a Heritage Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts for her ongoing influence on Irish music in the US. John Doyle is among the most talented and innovative musicians to come out of Ireland in recent years. An extraordinary acoustic guitarist as well as an accomplished singer and songwriter, John can be heard accompanying many top Irish artists and has performed on such film and TV soundtracks as "The Brothers McMullen" and "Out of Ireland." An original member of the acclaimed group Solas, John's turns as a record producer have created critically successful CD's by Heidi Talbot (Cherish the Ladies), Liz Carroll, and his father, Sean Doyle. John's second solo recording, "Wayward Son," was released in July on Compass Records. Don't miss two of the very best in Irish traditional music!

**Saturday, October 22, 8 PM, \$12.00**

**Wildest Dreams**

Partial support provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. We're very excited to present this high-energy Boston-based group for the first time... With a range of African, African-American and Latin-American percussion instruments joined with the trademark vocals of Alice Johnson, Wildest Dreams takes audiences on a rhythmic journey from the African continent to the Caribbean to the United States exploring Afro-pop, reggae, calypso, and Rhythm & Blues. Wildest Dreams, co-founded by **Alice Johnson** (lead vocals) and **Andy Holiner** (leader and keyboardist), feature the hot rhythm section of **Luis Blanco** on drums, **Daniel Day** on bass, **Masashi Nakamura** on guitar and **Ana Norgaard** on percussion. For years, the group has blended their diverse music and cultural experiences into an exciting world beat style with a message of harmony. They have performed at Amnesty International, the Oxfam World Fest, Reebok Human Rights Awards, World Cup USA, Berklee Performance Center and the Boston Globe Jazz festival. Their two CDs, "One Voice" and "Peace Planet," have also garnered excellent reviews and airplay throughout New England. Not to be missed!

**Thursday, October 27, 6-9 PM, \$5.00**

**Drum and Dance Circle**

BRT's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are welcome... the emphasis is on fun! This community event has regularly attracted 30-45 drummers and dancers of all ages since its inception. Bring your own



hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

**Friday, October 28, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$20.00 day of show  
Advance reservations strongly recommended!**

### **The Highwaymen**

We are proud to welcome back the original Highwaymen, one of the seminal folk groups of the '60s, who rejoined last year to play the classic tunes of the '60s revival and their interpretations of popular music since then. Unlike some folk revival groups, The Highwaymen who play today are all the original members of the group that recorded and performed in the 1960s (**Steve Butts, Dave Fisher, Steve Trott and Bob Burnett**). Chan Daniels passed in 1974; their friend **Johann Helton** now plays bass). The group appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, the Johnny Carson Show, and released 8 albums. In 1961, their first single, "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," shot to the top of the charts and sold over 3 million copies, followed by "Cotton Fields," which sold over one million. They also contributed a couple of future standards to the folk repertory ("Big Rock Candy Mountain," "All My Trials"), played a key role in the unearthing of a major, overlooked Leadbelly song, which later became a major new addition to the repertoires of both Creedence Clearwater Revival and the Beach Boys, and also made the first recordings, or the first American recordings, of seminally important songs by Buffy St. Marie and Ewan McColl, respectively. Recent appearances include the PBS special "This Land Is Your Land," and at Milwaukee's Irish Fest as the only not-strictly-Irish group to appear. "The Best of The Highwaymen" CD is part of the Legendary Masters Series released by EMI Records and the band has also produced a CD of recent concerts entitled "On the Road." Don't miss a rare appearance by one of the '60s most popular folk ensembles! This show sold out last year... don't miss it this time!

**Saturday, October 29, Advance reservations necessary for all events!  
Middle Eastern Drum and Dance Festival featuring Raquy and the Cavemen  
And afternoon workshops with Raquy Danziger**

- Riq and Frame Drum Workshop: 11AM - 2 PM - \$30
- Intermediate Dumbek Workshop: 3 PM - 6 PM - \$30
- Both Workshops for \$50
- Halloween Hafla featuring Raquy and the Cavemen: 7 PM - \$12.00.  
This will be a Samhain celebration! Appropriate attire - tribal and festive - is encouraged!
- Both Workshops and the Hafla - Only \$60.00
- What is a hafla you ask? A drum and dance experience! This evening event will feature a dance concert by Raquy and the Cavemen as well as several featured bellydancers/troupes performing to pre-recorded music before the show.

This event will be a great opportunity to study with the talented **Raquy Danziger**, an accomplished musician and experienced instructor. The Blackstone River Drum & Dance Circle was formed to bring together the Drum and Dance communities of Rhode Island, CT and MA. Register Today! Workshop registration and ticket purchase is an easy two-step process. (A person is not registered or guaranteed a ticket until their check is received.) The workshops are filling fast and this will sell out so please act soon!

1. Email Russ at [russell@riverfolk.org](mailto:russell@riverfolk.org) with your name, phone number and email address. Indicate which workshop(s) you will be taking and/or number of hafla tickets needed.

2. Then, send a check or money order payable to: The Blackstone River Theatre and mail to: Blackstone River Theatre, 549 Broad Street, Cumberland, RI 02864

**Raquy Danziger** is one of the most popular performers, teachers and composers of Middle Eastern Drumming today. Audiences worldwide are not only surprised by this young woman from America, but captivated by her virtuosity, profound musicality and the passion she brings to performances. Her varied repertoire includes traditional Middle Eastern music as well as her own compositions. In March 2005, Raquy was invited by the most famous drummer in Egypt, Saiid El Artist, to perform as a soloist with his troupe. Also a classically trained pianist, Raquy first discovered hand drumming during her travels in India where she immersed herself in the study of Indian rhythmic cycles. Later, in Israel, Raquy was drawn to the dumbek and the groove of Middle Eastern music. She recently formed Raquy and the Cavemen, a group in which she also plays the Iranian kemenche, a rare and exotic bowed instrument. Her infectious enthusiasm for Middle Eastern music has made her one of

the most sought after teachers of Middle Eastern drumming in NYC.

## NOVEMBER

- Blackstone River Theatre will be hosting **ESL classes taught by Woonsocket's Project LEARN as part of the Town of Cumberland's adult literacy initiative**. Classes are held every Monday and Wednesday this month from 6:30-8:30 PM.
- **There will be the first public photographic exhibit depicting the four-year renovation efforts at Blackstone River Theatre** between 1996 to 2000 in BRT's Art Gallery November 17 through January 1.

### **Saturday, November 5, 8 PM, \$12.00**

#### **Joyce Katzberg and The Kat'z Meow**

For over 35 years, Joyce has been singing her unique blend of topical and traditional, historical and hysterical songs, combining passion, wit, hilarity and tenderness, while weaving an unforgettable tapestry of human experience. The Kat'z Meow is an ensemble of Rhode Island musicians whose collective performing experience covers everything from traditional Celtic tunes to progressive jazz, stopping along the way to a peace rally for a bit of gospel inspiration. **Joyce Katzberg** plays rhythm guitar and sings lead vocals. **Phil Edmonds**, a native of County Clare, Ireland, is well known for his mastery of the Irish whistle and he knows his way around a tango on the button accordion too. **Cathy Clasper-Torch** is much in demand these days as a violinist with classical training and a jazz pianist with spirited improvisation and rich instrumental and vocal harmony. **Otis Read** plays guitar and shares his talents with scores of students. A bandleader himself, Otis graces the region with his own original songs and pulls together ad hoc ensembles of musicians to play the greatest hits of the past three centuries. The rhythm section is solidly held together by **Peter Breen** on bass and **Ronald Schmitt** on percussion.

### **NEW CONCERT EVENT**

#### **Monday, November 7, 8 PM, \$15.00 donation**

##### **Eric Bogle**

Eric Bogle is performing this concert as a benefit for Irish musician Danny O'Flaherty (whose pub and concert venue in New Orleans, O'Flaherty's Irish Channell, was devastated by hurricane Katrina.) Several musicians around the country are running benefits to help him get back on his feet and we are very pleased to offer our space for this purpose after being contacted by our friend Robbie O'Connell. Eric has been described as a bit of a living legend, a label which he is uncomfortable with, but, as he says, "it's marginally better than being a dead legend..." According to his web site, Eric Bogle is roundish, shortish, baldish, fiftyish and Scottish. An Australian resident for 35 years, and an Australian citizen since 1982, he truly is an internationally known and respected singer/songwriter and has been taking his music around the world for the last 25 years or so, in spite of warnings to "stop it or you'll go blind..." Eric is a warm and engaging performer, and his songs (including "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda") have the knack of getting straight to the heart of the matter with intelligent and well-crafted lyrics. His songs have been recorded by many other artists ranging from Joan Baez and Donovan to The Pogues and Mary Black. Don't miss a great artist and a great cause!

### **Saturday, November 12, 7:30 PM, \$15.00/\$7.00 with student ID**

#### **Indian Classical Music Concert - Dhrupad concert by Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar**

Partial funding for this concert was provided by the Rhode Island State Council On The Arts.

We are very pleased to offer this third collaboration with the nonprofit group Raagmaala in the presentation of Indian classical music concerts at BRT. This concert (which will begin at 8 PM but be preceded by a discussion of the history and styles of vocal music of India) will be a Dhrupad concert by **Ustad Wasifuddin Dagar**. Dhrupad is the oldest classical vocal music of India and is known for inspiring a meditative, mystical evening of music. Wasifuddin Dagar represents the 20th unbroken generation of dhrupad singers in the Dagar family. Typically in his alaap, he fills every note with space and colour, and travels extensively across three octaves delineating the personality of the raga in all clarity. His powerful gamaks, are fast and sonorous, yet retain the softness and sweetness of the raga. Over the years he

developed a liking for numerous subtle variations and musical improvisations on a single phrase bringing out - through modulations in volume and sound application - many diverse shades of meaning. He is very popular with young listeners for his lively lecture-demonstrations illustrating Vedic-old technicalities through metaphors from daily life. Wasifuddin will perform with **Pundit Shyam Mohan Sharma** on Pakhawaj, a two-sided drum, and two (tanpura) drone instrument players, his sister **Kamar Dagar** and family friend, **Lauren Bastit**.

**Thursday, November 17, 6-9 PM, \$5.00**

**Drum and Dance Circle**

BRT's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are welcome... the emphasis is on fun! This community event has regularly attracted 30-45 drummers and dancers of all ages since its inception. Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet!

**Friday, November 18, 8 PM, \$10.00**

**An Evening of Ocean State Songwriters**

**featuring members of the RI Songwriters Association (RISA)**

This will be the 3rd annual RISA show at BRT featuring 8 songwriters who will perform in an "in the round" format. Each set will consist of 4 songwriters taking turns performing their original songs while the other songwriters on stage will occasionally join in with vocal harmonies or guitar. Witty banter between the performers usually gives a comedic edge to the sets, making the shows even more fun and enjoyable. This will be some of the best music you may have never heard. Catch these local songwriters while they are still local! Scheduled for the show are: **Kristi Martel** - piano and vocals, **Anna's House** - husband and wife guitar and vocals duo, **Jackie O'Brien** - lead singer of Illustrious Day, guitar and vocals, **Jacqueline Bartlett** - guitar and vocals, **Ray Jorgenson** - guitar and vocals, **Michelle Cruz** - guitar and vocals, **Heather Rose** - guitar and vocals and **Keith White** - guitar and vocals. For a complete line up and info about RISA and the artists, please visit [www.risongwriters.com](http://www.risongwriters.com).

**Saturday, November 19, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults**

**Keith Munslow Children's Show - Words, Music and Pictures**

Ideal for families with children ages 5-and-up. BRT favorite **Keith Munslow** returns with a 45-minute show of original songs, way-cool stories, tongue-tangling poems and quick-as-a-wink cartoons. Keith's guitar or piano playing, skillful cartoon drawing, and quick wit combine for an upbeat, positive experience with plenty of chances for audience participation. It's a fast-paced ride so hang on and don't blink - you might miss something! Multi-talented performer Keith Munslow has entertained thousands of children at shows throughout New England and beyond for 15 years. Keith can often be seen in a hilarious duo show with storyteller Bill Harley, and also with his exciting band, Superchief Trio. This show is always lots of fun for adults too!

**Saturday, November 19, 8 PM, \$10.00**

**Superchief Trio**

Children's performer by day, blues band leader by night... it's a bird, it's a plane, it's Super... well, it's Superchief Trio actually, led by the amazing **Keith Munslow** on piano and vocals and joined by the equally fabulous **Pam Murray** on trombone and vocals and **Johnny Coté** on drums. We were happy to host the CD release of "The Devil Knows Me Better" back in February and since then, Superchief Trio has continued to gain notoriety being voted Best Local Roots Act in the Motif Best Music Poll and Best Local Jazz Act in the Providence Phoenix Best Music Poll. Able to leap seamlessly from New Orleans grooves to smooth, sultry ballads to fun originals, Super Chief Trio proves that big sounds come in small packages!

**Sunday, November 20, 5-8 PM, \$6.00/\$3.00 children**

**Irish Ceili and Set Dance with The Alleged Ceili Band**

The Alleged Ceili Band plays a variety of traditional Irish dance music while mixing in occasional waltzes and Irish songs. Irish set dances will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. **Laura Travis** will be on hand to teach those new to the tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Josh Kane** on flute and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try out our beautiful dance floor or simply come down to listen to some great music!

**Saturday, November 26, 8 PM, \$15.00**  
**BRT Homecoming Concert and Silent Auction**

Blackstone River Theatre will present their 6th annual Homecoming Concert featuring **Robbie O'Connell, The Atwater-Donnelly Trio, The Bohemian Quartet, John Fuzek, Martin Grosswendt, Rory Raven, Ken Lyon and the Skeleton Crew, and Pendragon**. At 7:00 PM and during intermission, Blackstone River Theatre will hold a silent auction featuring CDs, jewelry, original artwork, Christmas items and gift certificates. **There will be over 10 pieces of original artwork this year at our silent auction, donated by artists who have exhibited in BRT's Art Gallery. The bidding on these items will begin during events starting November 18 and continue through December 10.**

With family and friends in town for Thanksgiving, BRT's 6th 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. 100% of the proceeds from both the concert and the silent auction will go to support Blackstone River Theatre's programming and operating expenses. Members of the band PENDRAGON will act as hosts this evening and will perform a set of their Celtic-inspired music. Featured performers include celebrated Irish singer-songwriter ROBBIE O'CONNELL, the gypsy music of THE BOHEMIAN QUARTET featuring two violins, guitar, and bass, and original music by singer-songwriter JOHN FUZEK, the driving force behind Hear in Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Songwriters Association. THE ATWATER-DONNELLY TRIO features Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly joined by fiddler Cathy Clasper-Torch performing Appalachian and Celtic-inspired folk music. MARTIN GROSSWENDT will perform solo acoustic blues on guitar, fiddle and mandolin and mentalist/mindbender RORY RAVEN will amaze the audience by reading their minds. KEN LYON AND THE SKELETON CREW will also be on hand to perform a set of acoustic blues and folk music.

## **DECEMBER**

- Blackstone River Theatre will be hosting ESL classes taught by Woonsocket's Project LEARN as part of the Town of Cumberland's adult literacy initiative from January through May. Classes will be held every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 PM. Two December registration sessions will be announced.
- There will be the first public photographic exhibit depicting the four-year renovation efforts at Blackstone River Theatre between 1996 to 2000 in BRT's Art Gallery through February 10.

**Saturday, December 3, 8 PM, \$12.00**  
**The Howard Fishman Quartet**

Howard Fishman has been called "an important force in creative music" by The All Music Guide and continues to be an under-the-radar favorite of critics everywhere, from The New York Times to The New Yorker, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, Downbeat and Rolling Stone. Simply put, he's a musician that happily transcends labeling. Following on the heels of their critically acclaimed second album "I Like You A Lot" (Four Stars from The All-Music Guide, #3 on rollingstone.com's Top Ten albums of 2001), the Howard Fishman Quartet returns to BRT with their new CD, "Do What I Want." **Howard Fishman** (guitar/vocals) fronts this highly improvisational band consisting of **Kevin Louis** on trumpet, **Mazz Swift** on violin, and **Ian Riggs** on bass. His music and live shows are darkly humorous, unpredictable, romantic and intense, inspiring a legion of fans at the grassroots level. The name may suggest a jazz group, and its players are indeed well versed in the rhythms and harmonies of jazz, from swing to bebop and beyond. But Fishman's hyper-quirky, genre-confounding songs are equally informed by obscure folk, country, blues, Texas swing, Hot Club swing, standards, and what is known simply as "old-time music." In his hillbilly cap, playing a small, beat-up Gibson acoustic and singing in a plain, disarmingly sincere style, Fishman cultivates what might be called an anti-image.

**Friday, December 9, 8 PM, \$12.00**

**Harvey Reid and Joyce Andersen Holiday Show/Christmas CD release**

**Harvey Reid** is a former national acoustic guitar and autoharp champion as well as an amazing multi-instrumentalist. Harvey began performing and recording with fiddler/singer/songwriter **Joyce Andersen** in 2000, and in addition to pursuing their solo careers they have done a great deal of touring and have released two highly-

acclaimed CDs together. After a busy season of Christmas concerts in 2004, they got up on Christmas morning and spent all day and much of the Holidays recording the CD "Christmas Morning" while the snows whirled around their old Victorian house in Maine. The 10 songs and 8 instrumentals are mostly Christmas classics, but they have dug up some unknown gems and written a few of their own, and their razor-sharp harmonies and brilliant instrumental work shine throughout. Andersen's fiddle weaves around Reid's masterful fingerstyle and flatpicked guitar work, and his amazing autoharp playing is well represented also. Reid & Andersen deliver songs with the power of good folk singers, yet they play their instruments with the skill level of the best pickers. Don't miss a night of rare, beautiful seasonal music!

**Saturday, December 10, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults**  
**Storyteller Mark Binder - Holiday Tales**

Ideal for ages 6-and-up. Mark Binder's stories make people smile and laugh. He loves to write and tell tall tales, whoppers and stories of fools and wise folk that entertain and educate audiences of all ages. Mark is the author of four books, including "The Everything Bedtime Story Book," a collection of 100 stories for kids of all ages. He has recorded three CDs, including the award-winning "Classic Stories for Boys and Girls." He's also a trained actor, a Trinity Rep Conservatory Graduate, and holds a third degree black belt in Aikido. (He promises not to throw anybody across the room.) Mark is the founder of the American Story Theater and a member of the League for the Advancement of New England Storytelling and has told stories and given workshops at preschools, elementary schools, junior high schools, high schools, libraries, churches and synagogues. He has performed at the New England Folk Festival, the L.A.U.G.H.S. Festival, the Jonnycake Festival, Bright Night, and Sharing the Fire.

**Saturday, December 10, 8 PM, \$12.00**  
**Lissa Schneckenburger & Friends/Late Bloomers**

New England fiddler and folk singer **Lissa Schneckenburger** grew up in Maine as an active member of the folk music and dance community, where she cut her teeth as a musician at a very young age. She has continued to explore music throughout her life, leading to her graduation from The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston in 2001. While embracing a diverse pallet of musical influences, she still stays true to her New England roots. She'll be joined by **Paddy League** on guitar and **Corey DiMario** on bass providing rock solid backup, letting Lissa go to town on all her favorite fiddle tunes. Lissa's new self-titled CD is a rich and cohesive mix of traditional and original material brought together by the warm tones of her fiddle and sweet vocals throughout. It follows her previous two solo albums, "Different Game" and "The Mad Hatter" as well as three band collaborations with the groups Spin, Halali, and Phantom Power. (See a great article on Lissa in the latest edition of Dirty Linen.) **Randy Browning** and **Brett Kinney** are **Late Bloomers**, an acoustic guitar duo from Maine playing an original blend of folk, blues, jazz and ragtime. Former Berklee College of Music grads and hot off a performance at the Falcon Ridge Festival (Randy won a "New Folk" award at this year's festival), their newest CD, "Sneakin' in the Back Door" showcases impressive picking, endearing gravelly vocals, and insightful and humorous lyrics. This marks their return to BRT after a great 2004 split concert with Bill Petterson. Don't miss two great acts on the rise!

**Sunday, December 11, 5-9 PM at BRT**  
**\$15.00 per person: Fezziwig's House Party only**  
**\$12.00 per person: Hearthside Candlelight Tour only**  
**\$25.00 per person: Fezziwig's House Party AND Hearthside Tour**  
**Fezziwig's House Party and Hearthside Candlelight Tour**

Blackstone River Theatre's 2nd annual holiday event in conjunction with Hearthside celebrates Christmas in true Dickensian fashion... Come dressed in Victorian costume or simply in your Christmas best and take a step back in time! The event incorporates a candlelight tour at Lincoln's historic (1810) Hearthside homestead, open 4-8 PM, and just five minutes away from BRT. Hearthside will also offer caroling, a Wassail Bowl and hot hors d'oeuvres. At BRT you can enjoy Victorian carols, roving musicians, period dancing with live music by The Alleged Ceili Band, complementary cold hors d'oeuvres, and more. This is a great and unique way to celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas in the Blackstone Valley!

**Blackstone River Theatre Wishes Everyone A Safe and Happy  
Holiday Season and A Peaceful New Year**

|