

Blackstone River Theatre



Solstice Festival

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2006 Past Schedule

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

JANUARY

- 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 January 13 to February 25.

Friday, January 13, 8 PM, \$10.00 **Mentalist/Mindbender Rory Raven**

It's Friday the 13th so we decided to kick off BRT's winter season with something completely different! **Rory Raven** can't play a musical instrument... but he CAN read your mind! Rory is a mentalist with over 13 year's experience (there's that number again!) reading minds and astonishing audiences. Neither a psychic nor a magician, he offers a new and compelling kind of entertainment unlike anything you've ever seen. With a few simple props (paper and pencil, a pack of playing cards, some paperback books, and the thoughts of some volunteers) Rory involves the audience in a highly unusual - and unusually entertaining - experience. Thoughts are revealed, predictions come true, and perhaps even the spirits are summoned... **Frequently Asked Questions:** Okay, let's start with that title - what's a mentalist? A mentalist is a theatrical mind-reader; a performer who, using a variety of techniques, is able to produce results that would only seem possible by psychic or paranormal means. And those techniques would be..? They range from a knowledge of subtle psychological principles and the quirks of human behavior, to quick thinking and a good memory. 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 a show, so it was a fool's errand to try and convince people of the validity of one viewpoint or another. So, sit back, concentrate on your mother's maiden name, and enjoy the show...

Saturday, January 14
Irish Step Dance Workshop
Children ages 6 to 14: 10-10:45 AM, \$10.00
Adults ages 15-and-up: 11 AM to 1 PM, \$18.00

Saturday, January 14, 8 PM, \$12.00
Pipeline

Pipeline is an exciting new Celtic duo featuring **Dermot Hyde** on uilleann pipes, whistles, vocals and small pipes, and **Tom Hake** on bouzouki, guitar and harp. The two musicians offer a repertoire which comprises both traditional and new music from Ireland, Scotland, Galicia and Brittany - not forgetting the tunes and songs of the typical "emigration-lands" - America, Canada and Australia. Pipeline is one of the only duos in the business able to combine beautiful music with what audiences have called their "unrivalled and original sense of entertainment." And it's this very mixture which makes the two musicians and their concerts unique. The dance music and songs, as well as the moving airs of all the Celtic lands are represented here, played innovatively on a vast range of instruments. Songs, slow airs as well as high-energy dance music all comes together and Hyde's compositions often draw on the wilder side of Celtic music as well as Balkan and other modal traditions. The Living Tradition describes Pipeline as "a Central European sound, heavy on bagpipes and strings, with whirling melodies and shifting rhythms." Don't miss their first Rhode Island appearance!

Thursday, January 19, 6-9 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

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

Saturday, January 21, 11 AM, \$4.00 kids/\$6.00 adults

Rosalita's Puppets - "The Enchanted Forest"

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 4-and-up. **Rosalita's Puppets** will present this new show which includes many of your favorite puppet characters plus several new ones. Expect plenty of songs and audience participation featuring English puppeteer **Charlotte Dore** and her beautifully hand-crafted marionettes. In "The Enchanted Forest" it is King Leopold's job to protect all the fabulous creatures who live in the woods such as the dragon, the wolf, the fairy and the white horse. But everything goes wrong when the Evil Imp tries to destroy the king and take over the forest... Will Rosalita save the day? Will her friend Simple Simon help her? Or will the evil imp reign victorious? Join us for another fun-filled family show!

Saturday, January 21, 8 PM, \$10.00

The Bohemian Quartet - Gypsy Music

Partial funding provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

The Bohemian Quartet is a four-piece string band composed of two violins, a gypsy guitar and an upright bass. The quartet performs traditional 'gypsy' music as well as traditional Eastern-European folk music. If you saw this group at last year's Homecoming Concert, you know that you do not want to miss a full concert by this dynamic new ensemble! It is sometimes difficult to tell if a tune is 'gypsy' or not for the simple reason that as the Romany musicians moved to the country they would make their homeland, they would pick up the local tunes there and perform these with their personal and unique touch. The Bohemian Quartet is formed around violinist, conductor/arranger **Stan Renard**. Stan is from France and has travelled extensively throughout Europe collecting tunes via diverse sources (records, transcriptions, interviews etc.) He was the pupil of Veda Reynolds (Curtis) and Alexandre Brussilovsky (Moscow) and made gypsy music his area of expertise. **Amanda Burr**, second violin, studied with Marylou Churchill and has extensive experience as a chamber and orchestral musician. **Paul Kolesnikow**, gypsy guitar, teaches at Brown University and performs all over New England with musicians such as Duke Robillard. **John DeBossu**, upright bass, performs in numerous jazz ensembles throughout New England as well as in the Rhode Island Big Band.

Saturday, January 28, 8 PM, \$12.00

The Atwater-Donnelly Trio

Aubrey Atwater and **Elwood Donnelly** return with multi-instrumentalist **Cathy Clasper-Torch** on fiddle, cello and vocals to present an enthralling concert of traditional American and Celtic American folk songs, a cappella pieces, hymns, poetry, dance tunes, and original works. BRT favorites Elwood and Aubrey blend unusual harmonies and play guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, Irish tin whistle, harmonica, banjo, bones, spoons and other musical surprises. Their performance is appealing to all ages, and with humor, audience participation and a highly relaxed stage presence, Aubrey and Elwood also explain song origins to give more relevance to the material. Atwater-Donnelly performs widely in the Northeast and other parts of the United States and Great Britain and their recordings receive international airplay.

They have performed and researched folk music extensively in New England, Ireland, England, Prince Edward Island, the Ozarks, and Appalachia. In addition to nine recordings, Aubrey has written three books of poetry and a song book. Their latest studio CD, "The Blackest Crow," was released in 2004. Their ninth recording, "When Winter Calls," was recorded live at the Blackstone River Theatre and was released in late 2005.

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.
- **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 January 13 to February 25.

Saturday, February 4, 8 PM, \$10.00

An evening of bluegrass with The Pegheads

This high-energy ensemble, featuring **Mike Kropp** on banjo, **Martin Grosswendt** on guitar and vocals, **Jeff Horton** on bass and vocals, **Karl Dennis** on fiddle and vocals, and **Ben Pearce** on mandolin and vocals has been called a "Rhode Island bluegrass supergroup." The Pegheads draw from a wide repertoire of bluegrass standards, obscure and familiar mountain tunes, laments and traditional songs, and present them all with the stunning instrumental skill and tight vocal harmonies that make bluegrass what it is. Mike Kropp is one of the country's premier three-finger-style banjoists. A member of Northern Lights for 17 years, Mike is fluent in all styles of five-string banjo playing, including traditional Scruggs picking and modern newgrass, as well as folk, old time and classical. Martin Grosswendt has been a presence on the folk and traditional music scene for nearly three decades. A musician's musician and singer, he plays guitar, fiddle, bass and dobro. Martin began his career at 17 as a session musician for Philo Records and then established a solo career. In recent years he has pursued his obsession with Cajun and old time music as the bassist with Magnolia. His long-awaited solo release, "Call and Response," is filled with reasons Martin brings blues to bluegrass. Jeff Horton has been playing and singing bluegrass for almost 30 years. A founding member of the Neon Valley Boys, Rhode Island's premiere bluegrass band, Jeff played with Northern Lights for six years, touring nationally and recording three CDs. Fiddler Karl Dennis has long been a fixture in Rhode Island folk and bluegrass circles. Also a founding member of the Neon Valley Boys, he has performed with a number of other bands through the years including The Lost Melody Ramblers. Ben Pearce was originally a marginal concert pianist, and now makes his musical magic on an F-5 mandolin and finds transporting his instrument from gig to gig much easier. Recently relocated from our nation's capitol, he is a long-time student of bluegrass music and a sharp dresser. Join The Pegheads for a great evening of bluegrass, the way it's supposed to be played...

Friday, February 10, 8 PM, \$12.00

Jez Lowe and The Bad Pennies

Jez Lowe is a remarkable songwriter using wit, sensitivity and keen perception to paint colorful portraits of ordinary people with ordinary lives who may be specific to Northeast England, but through Jez's eyes and verse become universal characters. Jez returns to BRT with the Bad Pennies - **Kate Bramley** on fiddle and whistle, **Sean Taylor** on bass and percussion, and **Andy May** on Northumbrian smallpipes, Irish Uilleann Pipes and whistles. By the time Jez recorded his first solo album in 1980, he'd already spent a decade playing and absorbing the traditional music of his native North East England, an area rich in working-class values, with a wealth of songs and music unique to that windswept corner of the British Isles. Born to a coal mining family with Irish roots, Jez was raised and still lives in an area close to the English/Scottish border where coal mining was the dominant occupation. This was to be the substance from which he would create a body of work that would make him one of the most popular and enduring of the many singer songwriters to emerge from Britain in the last 20 years. With 14 full length recordings to his credit, three songbooks and a consistently full international touring calendar, Jez has proven himself as one of the busiest and most respected performers on the international folk scene. His songs have been covered by The Fairport Convention, The Tanahill Weavers, The Dubliners, Cherish the

Ladies, and a host of other acts. He recently released "Doolally," his 14th CD. His previous CD, "The Honesty Box," was heralded as 'one of the top ten albums of 2002' by BBC Radio 2's Folk show. Don't miss one of the world's finest songwriters in an intimate BRT Valentine's weekend performance!

Saturday, February 11

Irish Step Dance Workshop

Children ages 6 to 14: 10-10:45 AM, \$10.00

Adults ages 15-and-up: 11 AM to 1 PM, \$18.00

Thursday, February 16, 6-9 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

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

Saturday, February 18, 11 AM, \$4.00 kids/\$6.00 adults

The Toe Jam Puppet Band's Winter Variety Show

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 4-12. Experience the magic of the winter season Toe Jam style! The Toe Jam Puppet Band's Winter Variety Show features an appearance from an extraordinary puppet creation that blows a snowstorm through its nose! The show also includes a Penguin Line Dance and a variety of Toe Jam's favorite interactive songs, dances and puppet shows that both kids and grown ups adore!

Formed in 2000, the Toe Jam Puppet Band is great with kids, but best when parents are also there having fun with the little ones. The shows are 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. Toe Jam's latest CD, "Toe Jam Dance Party," features 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!

Saturday, February 18, 8 PM, \$15.00

Mick Moloney, Robbie O'Connell and John Doyle

Three renowned Irish-born singers, **Mick Moloney, John Doyle** and **Robbie O'Connell** along with fiddler **Athena O'Lochlainn** will combine their talents tonight to present a concert of traditional and contemporary Irish and Irish-American Songs. Mick Moloney has been a major figure in Irish music since the 1960s when he was a member of the Johnstons. He moved to Philadelphia in the 1970s where he formed the Green Fields of America and recorded numerous highly acclaimed albums. He combines the careers of folklorist, arts presenter and advocate, professional musician and radio and television personality. In 1999 he was awarded the National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts - the highest official honor a traditional artist can receive in the United States. He recently published a book and companion CD called "Far from the Shamrock Shore." John Doyle was a long-time member of the group Solas but recently has been dividing his time between solo concerts and touring with fiddler Liz Carroll with whom he has recorded a CD, as well as Tim O'Brien. Regarded as the premier guitarist in Irish music, John is also an excellent singer. He has released two solo CDs, the most recent being "Wayward Son." Athena O'Lochlainn grew up in San Francisco where she was surrounded by the finest exponents of traditional fiddling from Scotland, Cape Breton and Ireland. She has since toured with Riverdance and Lord of the Dance. Athena performs regularly with her own band as well as numerous other artists including Clarence Clemons from Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band. Robbie O'Connell has recorded several critically-acclaimed CDs of his own compositions as well as several albums with Mick Moloney and Jimmy Keane. He toured for many years with his uncles The Clancy Brothers with whom he also recorded several albums. These days Robbie mainly performs solo or with his own band. His most recent CDs are "Humorous Songs Live" and "Recollections" a retrospective collection of his earlier recordings. O'Connell has earned international acclaim as a singer-songwriter by making it quite clear that there's more to being Irish than filling stereotypes. Ireland's top music magazine, Hotpress, calls him "a National Treasure."

Sunday, February 19, 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 a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Friday, February 24, 8 PM, \$12.00

Matt & Shannon Heaton/The McKassons

This great split concert will feature two of the most exciting duos in Irish music today - **Ryan McKasson** on fiddle/viola with **Cali McKasson** on piano, and **Matt Heaton** on guitar and vocals with **Shannon Heaton** on flute and vocals. In 1993 Ryan attended the Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School for the first time. In 1995, he won 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, 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 school where she became a student of Cape Breton pianist Barbara MacDonald Magone. Hailed by the Boston Globe as an "expert harpist", Cali has performed as assistant principal harpist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and is now the Principal harpist of the Tacoma (WA) Symphony. They released their first duo CD, "Tall Tales," in 2004. The Boston-based husband-and-wife team of Matt and Shannon Heaton have honed their style in Irish traditional sessions in Chicago, Boston and County Clare and are currently working on finishing their new duo CD, "Blue Skies Above." Matt and Shannon's Irish music pedigree traces back to their former home of Chicago, where they played in the best Windy City sessions and first began performing together back in 1992. They play Irish traditional music that honors the past while giving it a swift American kick into the present and also write lots of dynamic new material. Best-known for their work with Siúcra, the critically-acclaimed trio formed in 1998, they have also been touring of late with singer Aoife Clancy.

Saturday, February 25, 8 PM, \$10.00

Ken Lyon and the Skeleton Crew

Local legend **Ken Lyon** is known as the "godfather of Rhode Island blues." The Lincoln resident will bring his band, the Skeleton Crew, back to BRT for an evening of acoustic blues and originals featuring Lyon on vocals and guitars, joined by **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, banjo and guitar, **"Little Richard" Calitri** on harmonica, and **Justin "Buzz" Lyon** on bass guitar. From electric roadhouse blues with the Tombstone Blues Band to 10 years of performance with Pendragon to acoustic solo and ensemble work, Lyon's musical history is legendary. Through over 44 years of performance, Lyon has recorded 11 singles and 7 albums including his most recent CD, "Old School," released in 2003. Possessing one of blues music's most distinctive and powerful voices, Lyon has worked with Jimi Hendrix and opened for Janis Joplin, Elton John, Aerosmith, and Greg Allman, to name only a few. Authentic blues requires real authority and life experience and Ken Lyon has earned that reputation. Scott Freeman, senior editor at Atlanta Monthly Magazine and author of Midnight Riders: The Story of The Allman Brothers Band, wrote that Ken Lyon "possesses Rhode Island's most authentic blues voice - whiskey-tinged, and as rich as the black Mississippi mud."

MARCH

- Look for details about 8-week beginner and advanced beginner Irish step dance [classes](#) for adults and children starting in 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.
- **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 March 25.

SOLD OUT AS OF MARCH 1ST!

Friday, March 3, 8 PM, \$20.00

Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill

Irish fiddle virtuoso **Martin Hayes** and American guitarist **Dennis Cahill** possess a rare musical kinship, ranking them among the most memorable partnerships of our era. Together they have garnered international renown for taking traditional music to the very edge of the genre, holding listeners spellbound with their slow-building, fiery performances. The duo is opening the doors of traditional Irish music and releasing its pure, distilled beauty, incorporating sensibilities from the worlds of classical, blues and jazz. Hayes has been an All-Ireland fiddle champion six times over, and has taken home a National Entertainment Award, the Irish equivalent to the "Grammy." Born in Ireland and now residing in Seattle, Martin plays in the slow, lyrical style of his native East County Clare. He grew up playing traditional music with his father, P.J. Hayes, leader of the famed Tulla Ceili Band. The younger fiddler has a great reverence for the old players and Martin brings the same intensity to his own playing, rendering it unique with passion and intimacy. Dennis Cahill is a master guitarist, versed as well in classical, blues and rock as he is in traditional music. A native of Chicago, he studied at the city's prestigious Music College before becoming an active member of the local music scene. Cahill's innovative accompaniment is acknowledged as being a major breakthrough for guitar in the Irish tradition. In addition to his work with Hayes, Dennis has performed with such renowned fiddlers as Liz Carroll, Eileen Ivers and Kevin Burke. The musical rapport between Hayes and Cahill is so strong that it is often said they appear to be playing one instrument; while Martin pursues a melody, Dennis explores the harmony and rhythms within the tunes. Their live performances weave tunes that stretch up to thirty minutes long, in what Hayes describes as "a three-way conversation between the two of us and the music." Don't miss this acclaimed duo in a very rare small room performance.

Saturday, March 4, 11 AM, \$4.00 kids/\$6.00 adults

Aubrey Atwater - Traditional music for children

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 5-and-up. **Aubrey Atwater**, half of the acclaimed folk duo Atwater-Donnelly, presents a captivating program of original and traditional folk music for children performed on the guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, Irish tin whistle, and old-time banjo. Drawing her repertoire from original songs, as well as those collected in New England, Ireland, Appalachia and beyond, Aubrey emphasizes participation as she jokes and interacts throughout the show encouraging folks to sing, dance, clap, use body movements, and even play instruments when possible. This fun-filled show answers questions such as What is folk music? What did people do for entertainment before electricity? and How was folk music used in daily life and work?

SOLD OUT

Friday, March 10, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance/\$14 day of show

Chanterelle featuring Josée Vachon

Songs, stories and fiddle music of the French in America

Advance reservations highly recommended - tickets are going quick!

Since 1993, Chanterelle has brought audiences into the heart of New England's warm, lively French culture. Distinctively beautiful voices, virtuoso French fiddling and trademark trio harmonies are hallmarks of Chanterelle performances, taking the listener on an unforgettable journey from Québec to Cajun Country. Invoking their culture in music, story and song, singer **Josée Vachon**, fiddler **Donna Hebert** and guitarist **Liza Constable**, joined by **Alan Bradbury** on accordion and bass, and young Franco-American fiddling tunesmith **Daniel Boucher**, make the audience part of the soirée. Laughter and music will ring together as hands and feet keep time with the music! Born in Quebec and raised in Maine, BRT favorite Josée Vachon loves to share her Franco-American culture through traditional folksongs from Quebec and Acadie featuring her warm voice, guitar, and unrelenting foot percussion. Josée's 12-year stint as host of French-language cable TV show Bonjour made her name a household word to Francos in the northeast. Her mix of traditional ballads, chansons à répondre and humorous originals, plus her warm, engaging stage presence make an immediate connection with any audience. Josée has moved away from New England so we hope you will come out and catch one of her increasingly rare local performances!

SOLD OUT

Sunday, March 12, 3:00 PM, \$25.00

Duke Robillard Guitar Seminar

Legendary Rhode Island guitarist **Duke Robillard** will present a guitar seminar on the blues, jump and swing at Blackstone River Theatre. The 3-hour seminar will concentrate on: Single string soloing on the blues, chord progressions and variations on the blues. From blues to jump and swing - learn to play on changes within the blues and riff jazz progressions. The seminar will touch on popular blues-related guitar styles from the dawn of electric guitar to modern day and participants will learn the importance of the blues on American music. The seminar will conclude with a short concert by Duke and master bassist **Marty Ballou**. There could even be a jam afterwards! Tape or digital recorders welcome. No cameras please during seminar. The event may be filmed and if a DVD is produced, seminar attendees will get a special discount on the DVD when it is released. For questions or to reserve a spot, contact Duke directly at: dukerobillard@cox.net

Thursday, March 16, 6-9 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

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

SOLD OUT

Saturday, March 18, 8 PM, \$15.00

Pendragon - Celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

Advance reservations highly recommended - tickets are going quick!

New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Having celebrated their 22nd anniversary in 2005, 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 performing their original songs and dance tunes on an innovative combination of bouzouki, concertina, banjo, guitar, whistle, fiddle, flute, bass and percussion. Pendragon is comprised of **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, bouzouki and tenor banjo; **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertinas; **Josh Kane** on flute and whistles; **Ken Lyon** on vocals, guitar and bass; **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals and 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. Expect some new material and perhaps a surprise guest!

Sunday, March 19, 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 a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

SOLD OUT

Thursday, March 23, 7:30 PM, \$10.00

Genticorum - Traditional Québécois music

Sponsored by the Consulate General of Canada in Boston

6:30 PM reception open to the public!

Genticorum are fast becoming one of the most sought-after proponents of Québécois musical culture, firmly rooted in the soil of their native land. **The band was just nominated for a 2006 JUNO Award** (Canada's equivalent of a Grammy) for "Best Roots & Traditional Group." This energetic and original traditional 'power trio' also incorporates the dynamism of today's North American and European folk cultures in their music. Weaving wooden flute, fiddle, acoustic guitar, jaw harp, bass, foot

percussion with strong vocal harmonies, they produce a brilliant tapestry which gives them their distinctive sound. Since their debut in 2000, Genticorum has forged a solid place for itself on the folk festival circuit, playing concerts and dances throughout Canada and the US. Comprised of **Alexandre de Grosbois-Garand** (wooden flute, electric bass, vocals), **Pascal Gemme** (fiddle, feet, vocals) and **Yann Falquet** (guitar, feet, vocals), Genticorum offers a rich Québécois repertoire of captivatingly-crooked traditional tunes and tongue-in-cheek songs. In addition to scavaging for seldom-heard traditional fare, they integrate an inspired selection of original compositions that render homage to their musical roots. Recently, Genticorum won the Canadian Folk Music Award 2005 in the "Best Ensemble" category for its sophomore album "Malins Plaisirs" (loosely translated: Devilish Pleasures). Don't miss an incredible night of Québécois culture with one of Canada's leading groups!

Friday, March 24, 8 PM, \$12.00

The Wiyos

Opening set by Marjorie Thompson

Named after the toughest street gang of old New York, the Wiyos play old timey American music - vaudevillian ragtime blues, early swing, jugband and old time country. A trio comprised of three vocals, washboard/ harmonica/kazoo, guitar, and upright bass, The Wiyos transport listeners back to a time before TV and mass-media were the main sources of entertainment, to the days when music could be heard on live radio and at community dances, juke joints and house parties. The Wiyos perform in front of two condenser stage microphones to preserve a performance style that is visually stimulating. Incorporating elements of physical comedy and theatricality, The WIYOS create an interactive show in the tradition of vaudevillian performers like Fats Waller, Spike Jones and Uncle Dave Macon. The band is passionate about infusing old-time American music with new blood; carrying this rich musical heritage into the 21st century and having a darn good time doing it. Since forming in New York City in 2002, The Wiyos have toured constantly playing theatres, clubs, coffeehouses, pig roasts, street corners and parks. They have been selected to participate in the Carnegie Hall Neighbourhood Concert Series and have played at notable festivals including The 2004 Newport Folk Festival. Their original compositions draw from both the urbane sounds of Django Reinhardt, the Gershwin Brothers, and Fats Waller, as well as the country styles of Gary Davis, Skip James, and Doc Watson. There will be an opening set by **Marjorie Thompson**, a fine singer/songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist from Providence who plays and sings in the time honored genres of the country blues, rags and roots music characterized by Rev. Gary Davis, Mississippi John Hurt, Dave Van Ronk and many other pioneers.

SOLD OUT AS OF MARCH 1ST!

Saturday, March 25, 8 PM, \$20.00

Lúnasa

Named for an ancient Celtic harvest festival in honor of the Irish god Lugh, patron of the arts, Lúnasa is indeed a gathering of some of the top musical talents in Ireland. Its members have helped formed the backbone of some of the greatest Irish groups of the decade - bassist **Trevor Hutchinson** was a key member of The Waterboys, and later he, with guitarist Donogh Hennessy, would form the dynamic rhythm section of The Sharon Shannon Band. Fiddler **Sean Smyth** is an All-Ireland champion who has played with Donal Lunny's Coolfin. **Kevin Crawford**, considered to be among the finest flutists in Ireland, played with the acclaimed traditional group Moving Cloud and, piper **Cillian Vallely** comes from the same talented musical family as brother Niall Vallely of Nomos). Newest member **Paul Meehan** on guitar and banjo has performed for years as a member of the Karan Casey Band. Folk Roots magazine has rightly termed them an "Irish music dream team." Inspired by legendary Irish group The Bothy Band, Lúnasa uses melodic interweaving of wind and string instruments, pairing flutes, fiddle, whistle and pipes in often breathtaking arrangements. By pinning traditional elements of composition and instrumentation to a fluid rhythmic undercurrent, Lúnasa has achieved a new pinnacle of intricacy. "The Kinnitty Sessions," their last album, returned the band to that immediate style of recording. Cut before a live audience at Kinnitty Castle in Ireland and then refined in a Dublin studio, the recording blends the best elements of a studio recording with the energy and spontaneity of a live album. They have just released a new CD, "Sé" (pronounce "shay") to critical acclaim. Four years of constant touring has elevated the band's already-formidable skill to peak brilliance - don't miss an amazing night of music!

APRIL

- Look for details about **6-week beginner and advanced beginner fiddle classes for adults and children** starting in April!
- **There will be an exhibit of Suzi Cozzens curio boxes** in BRT's Art Gallery through May 6. Rhode Island artist Suzi Cozzens has a fascination for words and "life's tidbits" - spelling primers, game pieces, sewing ephemera, old books, etc. As a former chef and pastry chef, she enjoys combining these antiquated morsels to bring them fresh meaning and to delight children and adults alike with their narratives. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and The Culinary Institute of America, Suzi is the proprietor of Boxmaker, a custom box-making studio in Providence.
- 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.

Saturday, April 1, 7 PM, \$17.00/\$10.00 with student ID

Indian Classical Music Concert

Ustad Irshad Khan on Sitar 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 fourth collaboration with the nonprofit group Raagmaala in the presentation of Indian classical music concerts. **Ustad Irshad Khan**, a 10th generation musician, is a direct descendent in the lineage of musical heritage that dates back 400 hundred years. As the torchbearer of the younger generation of the Imdadkhani Etawa Gharana (school), Irshad Khan is internationally recognized as one of the greatest sitar players and as the leading surbahar (bass sitar) exponent of his generation. Irshad Khan's individual stamp in both these instruments ascends from the distinctiveness of his technique and mental prowess. His dedication to the subtleties of the raga is in bringing out its essence in rendering its pure form of feelings and expressions. His phenomenal control of the intricate "gayaki-ang"(vocal) and "tantra-ang"(instrumental) styles makes Irshad Khan one of the world's most dynamic musicians. This remarkable versatility allows Irshad Khan to transcend cultural barriers and turn each performance into a spellbinding and unforgettable experience for audiences everywhere. Having emerged as a child prodigy, Irshad Khan gave his first public performance at age 7. His international debut was at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, England when he was only 13. At 18, he made history by becoming the youngest soloist to perform at one of the most prestigious international music festivals held in London. Irshad has performed in over 30 nations globally and has given 2,500 concerts while recording over 20 internationally-released albums. **Nitin Mitta** will accompany Irshad on tabla (a popular North Indian Percussion instrument). His performances are always energetic displaying outstanding improvisational skills. He started his training in tabla at the age of 9. Honors include the National Scholarship in Music awarded by the department of culture, New Delhi; first prize winner in the All India competition and most recently a 2003 Master's grant received by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. He performed with Pundit Ramesh Mishra at BRT in June 2005.

Saturday, April 8, 8 PM, \$15.00

Bellevue Cadillac - Unplugged Show

By taking elements from the big band swing era of the '40s, adding '60s Memphis R&B soul, infusing the sound with modern lyrics, then adding incredible amounts of energy, Bellevue Cadillac has created a fresh new sound that echoes decades and generations. Bellevue is celebrating its 15th year playing various stages around the world and you've heard their music in major motion pictures like "Shallow Hal" and the tv shows The Sopranos, Sex and the City, and Touched by an Angel. On stage, the band wears suits, fedoras and two-toned shoes while singing about prozac, aging baby boomers, greed, coffee and other social matters, all the while performing their electrifying brand of swinging jump blues. Their new CD released in 2004 is called "Love Allways, Picasso." The "Unplugged" format is designed as an intimate show that allows the audience a backstage look at Bellevue Cadillac and the songs written by the Professor, Doug Bell. During the concert, the band will explain how their songs were used on television shows and in movies and how the influences of the musical journey from New Orleans through delta blues and Philly soul, and Memphis and Motown were melded together to create a fresh new sound. The concert is also an opportunity for

the audience to ask questions, join in and sing along and learn the stories behind the songs and characters like "Ja Ja Opobo," the deposed Nigerian king; "Can't Win for Losin'" about the boxer who won and lost the most fights as recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records; "Havana Moon" when the CIA, Mafia, and JFK fought it out over Cuba; "Hollywood Jack", written for Jack Nicholson and inspired by the time Nicholson was chauffeur for Bellevue Cadillac; and "Black and White," the song that Rolling Stone magazine called the "best neo swing song of the decade." Bellevue's "unplugged" show features **The Professor Doug Bell, The Count Charlie Sorrento, Andy B, Joey Stix, and Jimmy2Suits** and allows them the opportunity to also show how specific instruments are chosen to give the songs different flavors (such as a washboard, kazoo, ukulele, resonator guitar, flamenco guitar, accordion, slide, djembe, and various percussion.)

**Sunday, April 9, 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 a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

**Saturday, April 15, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance/\$14.00 day of show
Jamie Laval - Scottish fiddle**

Jamie is just back from a 28-show concert tour of Scotland where he was hailed as "A New Star for the Old World" (FiddleOn Magazine) and "the next Alasdair Fraser." One of the premier Celtic performers on the international music scene today, violinist/fiddler **Jamie Laval** renders the ancient music of Scotland, Ireland and Brittany with a modern, innovative expression all his own. Jamie has performed for the Queen of England, on numerous movie sound tracks, on Dave Matthews' CD "Some Devil" and has received unanimous critical praise for his CD "Shades of Green" which is aired regularly on NPR. In 2002 Jamie won the U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Championship. Collaborating tonight with **Ashley Broder**, their concerts span the gamut from the hottest fiddle grooves to heartbreaking laments. Ashley hails from California and is a two-time winner of the Western Open Master Picker Championship. Whether it be a virtuoso mandolin solo break, a languorous cello line, or a clear-toned tune from her fiddle, her music spins out like a sinuous ribbon of pure fun. She has been an instructor at the Mandolin Symposium and in 2004 collaborated with world-reknown Mike Marshall in the creation of his Mandolin Method books. This promises to be one of the best Celtic fiddle concerts at BRT this year - don't miss a star in the making!

**Thursday, April 20, 6-9 PM, \$5.00
BRT Drum and Dance Circle**

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

**Saturday, April 22, 8 PM, \$12.00
Yarina - Music and Dance of the Andes
Partial funding provided by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts**

Yarina (which means "remembrance" in the native Quichua language of the Incas) has, since 1984, been dedicated not only to musical excellence, but also to the preservation and sharing of the beauty, courage and survival of the ancestral traditions and culture of the indigenous peoples of the Andes. This seven-member Ecuadorian group of musicians and dancers brings the vibrant culture of the Andes to BRT playing traditional instruments and singing in their native language, Kichwa. Yarina recently won a NAMMY for "Best World Music" at the 7th Annual Native American Music Awards. Their wholehearted and passionate dedication to musicianship, excellence and cultural expression has earned them the honor of being named "Ambassadors for Indigenous Ecuadorial Performers" by the Department of Culture, Quito, Ecuador. Originally founded in Ecuador by four brothers, Yarina's extensive travel throughout Europe and the Americas has resulted in a unique creativity and versatility of styles that is at once spellbinding and highly original. The pure and hauntingly beautiful sensual music of the Andes captivates all ages and

audiences, while their imaginative repertoire incorporating jazz, blues, Latin and western classical masterpieces serves to surprise and delight the most jaded of listeners.

Sunday, April 23, 7:00 PM, \$12 advance/\$14 at the door

Beolach

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

Saturday, April 29, 8 PM, \$15.00

Patty Larkin

A guitar focused singer/songwriter, **Patty Larkin** has immersed herself in a musical world that knows no borders. Her most recent solo release, "Red=Luck," showcases a world where the ancient strains of modal folk meet brooding ambient noise, where joyous pop, somber reflection, and naked soul searching entwine. "Red=Luck" is the supremely assured work of an artist whose influence becomes clearer with each passing season. While Larkin's fine guitar work has been recognized since her emergence on the acoustic music scene, it is her skills as a soundscape artist and songwriter that have garnered accolades from fans and critics alike. Larkin's newest project is a compilation of women guitarists from around the world... "La Guitara, Gender Bending Strings," is the brainchild of Patty Larkin and Bette Warner. A guitar crazed songwriter herself, Patty had often been asked about women's ability to play and perform on an instrument that is known as the bastion of male musicians. "It's a man's world when it comes to the guitar, but we're concentrating on using the word in the feminine form. La Guitara. We want audiences to know of the contributions that women have made to the instrument, and continue to make in increasing numbers." For this talented artist, it has been a remarkable journey - originally hailed for her guitar wizardry and blazing wit, Larkin has never hesitated to expand her musical horizons. She has received multiple awards and an honorary doctorate from Berklee College of Music. Patty is gratified by these accolades, but her eye is on the bigger picture. Like many a master artist, she has made the brave decision to keep growing, to keep expanding, rather than to rest on her previous accomplishments. "I look at each new album as an art opening - where the visual artist must create a show that is cohesive and dynamic, one that reflects the time in which the work was made. I am inspired by change - it defines me, and it can be subtle or radical. It captures my imagination." Let her capture yours...

Sunday, April 30, 3:00 PM, \$6 children/\$8.00 adults

Bill Harley - Family Show

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 5-and-up. Trying to describe **Bill Harley** is often as funny as attending one of his concerts. One person will call him a singer/songwriter, another a storyteller. People know Bill from his books, his plays, his concerts or maybe even as a keynote speaker at a conference. With 25 recordings of songs and stories and five children's books to his credit, Bill's humorous yet meaningful work chronicles the lives of children at school and at home. Armed with his guitar, songs, stories and slightly off center mind, Bill is the kind of performer you just have to see in person! As a storyteller, Bill has appeared numerous times at the prestigious National Storytelling Festival, and at dozens of other regional festivals from California to Florida. You'll find Bill's stories and off-beat observations in numerous anthologies and magazines. He also shows up on your car radio as a regular commentator for National Public Radio's "All Things Considered". His commentaries are filled with his trademark humor and wisdom on topics ranging from T-ball game strategy to first jobs to dead groundhogs. The reasons for Harley's success are obvious - his songs are direct and honest, his stories are filled with the details of daily life, and everything he does has a refreshing

dose of fantasy mixed with a healthy breath of reality. Bill is winner of two Grammy nominations and numerous other national awards including Parent's Choice, ALA (American Library Association), NAPPA (The National Parenting Publications Award) and AFIM (Association for Independent Music). Bring the whole family and experience the magic that is the wit and wisdom of Bill Harley!

MAY

- **There will be an exhibit of Suzi Cozzens curio boxes** in BRT's Art Gallery through May 6. From May 12 through June there will be **an exhibit of oil paintings by Sheila O'Malley** in BRT's Art Gallery. Sheila O'Malley's foray into the world of painting was a result of a gift from her eldest daughter of a set of watercolor paints 8 years ago. This led to studies at South County Art Association, Wickford Art Association, RISD, and Lyme Academy of Art. Her ongoing love and fascination with the challenges of watercolor and the art of oil painting are the perfect vehicles for her commitment to capture through Alla Prima painting, RI landscapes, portraits and still lifes.
- 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.
- 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 members of Pendragon on Saturday, May 6 at 11:00 AM For more information, call AAA at (877) 874-7845.

Saturday, May 6, 8 PM, \$12.00

Áine Minogue

As traditional Irish music and dance continue to enjoy phenomenal success both here and in Ireland, **Áine Minogue** is an artist who has long explored its themes and who captures its very essence. Her singing reflects the lyricism and richness to be found in Irish music, mythology and poetry with a voice undeniably her own. Born in County Tipperary, Áine's musical family encouraged her to pursue a number of different instruments during her youth but it was at age 12 that Áine discovered her true love - the harp - which she decided to pursue in lieu of the others. After completing school she spent three years developing her talent as a harpist at Bunratty Castle, County Clare - the perfect setting to emphasize the harp's lyrical connection to Irish history. Like so many Irish before her, Áine moved to the United States and settled in New England and continues to concentrate on the traditional music of her homeland. Áine takes the ancient art form, extensively explores its underpinnings but adds her own creativity to each piece. With her combination of harping, singing and storytelling with a touch of poetry to suit the time of year, her concerts have an intimate "getting away from it all" feel. Her leaning is very much toward the philosophy around the music and she veers towards ethereal, spiritual and ancient themes and ideas. She is a regular performer at folk festivals and concerts throughout the country. With seven full length CDs to her credit, numerous tracks also appear on compilations for such labels as BMG, Virgin and Putumayo in styles including Celtic, Folk and New Age.

NEW SHOW JUST ADDED!

Friday, May 12, 8 PM, \$12.00

Hanneke Cassel - CD release

U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion **Hanneke Cassel**, guitarist **Christopher Lewis**, and cellist **Ariel Friedman** will celebrate the release of Cassel's newest album, "Silver," at BRT tonight! "Silver," Cassel's third solo release, ventures further into the contemporary world of Scottish and Cape Breton music. Produced by Laura Risk and Hanneke Cassel, "Silver" features several new compositions, performed by Hanneke, cello phenom Rushad Eggleston, Nashville fiddle star Casey Driessen, Nightingale guitarist Keith Murphy, pianist Dave Wiesler, and many more. Since her last recording, "Some Melodious Sonnet," Hanneke has done extensive touring... both in the United States and to countries all over the world, solo and as part of Cathie Ryan's band. Influences from China to New Zealand, along with grooves and musical innovations from the hip Boston bluegrass/Americana scene, fuse together to create a uniquely American approach to Celtic music in Hanneke's playing. She creates sounds on the cutting edge of the acoustic tradition, while retaining the integrity and soul of

traditional Scottish music. The intimate nature and gorgeous acoustics of the Blackstone River Theatre will serve as the perfect environment for Hanneke's lively strathspeys and reels, and soulful ballads. "...The rhapsodic quality of Cassel's ballads or slow airs evinces a soul's fully expressed quest ...Cassel's rhythms are tenacious, and they weave through a set of reels with serpentine grace." - *The Boston Herald*

Saturday, May 13, 11 AM, \$4 children/\$6.00 adults

Turtle Talk

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Recommended for families with children ages 5-12. 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 was developed by "the Turtle Lady," **Ellen Gauthier**, and lasts 75 minutes offering fascinating, detailed descriptions of the unusual differences between turtles and tortoises as well as a question and answer period after viewing seven different varieties up close! You'll also see turtle races (no wagering!) 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.

Saturday, May 13, 8 PM, \$10.00

Superchief Trio

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

Thursday, May 18, 6-9 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

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

Friday, May 19, 8 PM, \$17.00/\$10.00 with student ID

Indian Classical Music Concert

Three generations of Indian violinists

Dr. N. Rajam, Dr. Sangeeta Shankar, and grand daughters Ragini and Mohini with Vinayak Netke 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 fifth collaboration with the nonprofit group Raagmaala in the presentation of Indian classical music concerts. The biggest difference between Indian and Western Classical music is that the former is based very largely on improvisation, with emphasis on the creativity of the performer rather than on the exact reproduction of a composer's work. To the ear of the western violin player, Indian music, and perhaps the Indian violin in particular, is one of the most exotic and mysterious of sounds. **Dr. N. Rajam's** family boasts generations of talented violinists. Dr. Rajam incorporates vocal music and the ancient veena into her playing. Her yearning for self-development took her to the holy city of Benares, on the banks of the River Ganges, where she embarked on 15 years of rigorous musical journey under the guidance of legendary singer Omkarnath Thakur. As a devoted disciple, Dr. Rajam's technique is the envy of violinists worldwide, especially in India. 1998 was a milestone in the history of music when Dr N Rajam developed a technique of reproducing the finer nuances of human voice on the violin. "The satisfaction of having created a new style has always made me feel that I have done my bit for

music," says the maestro of Hindustani classical music. She holds a Master of Arts degree in Sanskrit, and a PhD degree in Music and is a noted scholar at Banares Hindu University for four decades as Professor and Dean of the department. **Dr. Sangeeta Shankar**, daughter of the great Hindustani violinist Dr. N Rajam, is one of the most important young Hindustani violinists performing today. 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 has collaborated with Grammy winners Bela Fleck and Vishwamohan Bhatt on the well-received album "Tabula Rasa" and has produced a music-based series, Sur Sadhana, for Indian National Television. 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 the violinists. He has accompanied several musicians in India and abroad and represents the famous Farrukhabad percussion tradition of India. Also performing on violin will be Dr. Rajam's granddaughters **Ragini and Mohini**.

Saturday, May 20, 8 PM - \$10.00

Bill Petterson and Mark Cutler

For our money, this split concert features two of the most gifted songwriters to ever come out of the Ocean State. For the past 20 years, **Bill Petterson** has traveled from California to Canada to Texas and the East Coast sharing the stage with such artists as Livingston Taylor, Emmylou Harris, Jonathan Edwards and even comedian Jeff Foxworthy. Petterson's first CD, "This Guy Walks Into a Bar," followed by "Angell Road," and his great new solo CD, "Parts and Labor" have consistently brought him critical acclaim. "He can turn the heartfelt phrase without being hokey, and makes crystalline melodies come to life with tasteful arrangements," said The Providence Phoenix. "Definitely one of the truest voices in contemporary folk, Bill's songs are alternately tender and tough with a strong R&B influence," noted Jody Heck, Tryworks Coffeehouse. The past 12 months in the witness protection program (actually, he just decided to finally stop playing out at bars) has given Bill time to focus on some new tunes and also begin writing his first book. **Mark Cutler** is perhaps the quintessential singer/songwriter, performing solo or with his roots-rock band The Dino Club, combining powerful lyrics with catchy melodies and strong rhythm. Cutler has been excruciatingly close to rock stardom for nearly 20 years managing to land two major label recording contracts, one with his early '80s group The Schemers (winners of the WBCN Rock 'n Roll Rumble) and again in the early '90s with The Raindogs. He has tasted the life of rock on the road having opened tours for Bob Dylan, Warren Zevon and Don Henley. A prolific songwriter and a dynamic performer, characters in Cutler's songs work for a living. They've been through some tough times. They've seen a few dreams go up in smoke. And he makes you care about them... Mark and Bill are old friends who used to play together so don't be surprised if they join up for a few songs as well!

Sunday, May 21, 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 a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

JUNE

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

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

Ongoing classes in Irish step dancing for advanced beginners/intermediate will continue on Tuesdays through June 20. Ongoing classes in advanced beginner fiddle will continue on Wednesdays through July 28 (no class on July 21.) Ongoing English as a second language classes will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays through June 21.

Thursday, June 15, 6-9 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

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

Saturday, June 17 AND Sunday, June 18, 9:30 AM-4:00 PM
Celtic Relief Stonecarving in Limestone for Beginners Class

Sunday, June 25, 1-3 and 4-6 PM

Blues guitar lessons with Duke Robillard

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

JULY

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

- We encourage everyone to go to the **4th annual Blackstone Valley Celtic Festival** to be held at King Farm in Sutton, MA July 22 AND 23, 2006 (yes, it's two days this year!) It's a great festival and you'll be able to catch many of your favorite Celtic performers there including Robbie O'Connell & Aoife Clancy, Pendragon, Teada, Halali, Enter The Haggis, The Jennifer Roland Band, Jerry O'Sullivan and many, many more! Please visit: www.blackstonevalleycelticfestival.com for more information.

Tuesdays, July 11 through August 15

6-Week Beginner Fiddle Class Age 14+ through adult (CLASS FULL!)

6-Week Fiddle Class - Advanced Beginners (CLASS FULL!)

Wednesdays, July 12 through August 16, 7-8:00 PM

Saturdays, July 15 through August 19, 8:30-9:30 AM

Yoga Flow Classes

This "all levels" class is a Vinyasa Yoga class designed to awaken your spirit, clear your mind, and rejuvenate your body. Come flow from one posture to the next in an encouraging, inclusive Hatha Yoga class. \$10.00 per class, drop in anytime; bring own mat and water.

AUGUST

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

Wednesdays, August 2 through August 16, 7-8:00 PM

Saturdays, August 5 through August 19, 8:30-9:30 AM

Yoga Flow Classes

This "all levels" class is a Vinyasa Yoga class designed to awaken your spirit, clear your mind, and rejuvenate your body. Come flow from one posture to the next in an encouraging, inclusive Hatha Yoga class. \$10.00 per class, drop in anytime; bring own mat and water.

Saturday, August 12

10-10:45 AM Children advanced beginners ages 6-12

11:00 AM-1:00 PM Adult (or 13+) advanced beginners
Irish step dance workshop for advanced beginner dancers

SEPTEMBER

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

- **THANK YOU! Blackstone River Theatre had our best attended 5-month period ever with over 3,500 audience members attending events January-May 2006.** March was a high point with six sold out events! **September marks the 6-year anniversary of the reopening of Blackstone River Theatre** after over four years and two months of volunteer renovation efforts from July, 1996 to September, 2000. Since reopening, BRT has presented 485 events in front of over 35,000 audience members!
- **BRT is looking for 5-8 new volunteers for the Fall 2006 season** (and beyond we hope!) If you are interested, please email volunteer@riverfolk.org. We will be holding a new BRT Volunteer orientation session on September 17 so please let us know if you are interested so we can be in touch!
- **There will be a very special double exhibit by artist/musicians in BRT's Art Gallery September 8 through October 7. Local blues pianist Mark Taber** is also a tremendous visual artist; he has been creating unique sculpture "assemblages" from found objects for over 15 years. On the gallery walls are 25 **illustrations by George Frayne, a.k.a. Commander Cody** himself of "Hot Rod Lincoln" fame! This fun exhibit consists entirely of drawings George has done over the years of his musical friends and heroes, all done in a very distinctive style using only colored Sharpie markers!
- Look for details about another round of **8-week beginner and advanced beginner/intermediate Irish step dance classes for adults and children** starting in late September with Terry Houlihan Songini!

Friday, September 8, 8 PM, \$12.00 **The Deltabilly Duo/Michael Pickett**

We kick off our Fall season with a great evening of delta blues from both the south and north! For the past 8 months, New England has been able to enjoy the Delta blues of New Orleans musicians (and post-Katrina transplants) **Jeremy Lyons and Greg Schatz**. Fleet fingerpicking, stinging slide guitar, and compelling vocals churn out rock-solid, caffeinated swing rhythms. A favorite of the Crescent City club scene, Lyons and Greg Schatz on bass and vocals (2/3 of the Deltabilly Boys) have toured the US and Europe becoming a mainstay of the world-famous New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival with 7 straight appearances. Jeremy studied country blues guitar with virtuoso Martin Simpson and in 1992, Lyons landed in New Orleans. He was soon playing his National guitar in an established group on the streets of the French Quarter, performing acoustic blues, swing and classic country. The Times-Picayune, New Orleans calls Lyons "A top-drawer interpreter of blues and rockabilly classics, an engaging storyteller in his own right, and one of the most mesmerizing slide guitarists on the circuit." Toronto's **Michael Pickett**, a two-time Juno Award nominee, is one of Canada's most popular blues artists. Pickett has a natural blues voice blessed with an unbridled intensity that hooks you from the first note; he is also an award-winning instrumentalist who performs on National Steel guitar and rack harmonica and delivers charismatic, passionate performances that are charged with electricity and filled with authenticity and a unique style. Pickett puts his own spin on obscure tunes of legendary icons such as Robert Johnson, Mississippi John Hurt, and Sonny Terry & Brownie McGhee while also showcasing his own potent material. A great night of acoustic blues!

Saturday, September 9, 8 PM, \$12.00 **Nightingale**

We are excited to welcome back 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. Nightingale's 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. From a Newfoundland ballad to a blazing set of Irish reels, from a rollicking Quebecois chanson-a-repondre to a lilting bourree from Central France, their song and tune arrangements find the perfect balance between tradition and innovation. The trio's third recording, aptly titled, "Three," was released in 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 the French ensemble, Le Bon Vent.

TWO WEEKEND SHOWS!

Friday, September 15, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$20.00 day of show

AND Saturday, September 16, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$20.00 day of show
The Highwaymen (Recording Live CD!)

Advance reservations recommended

We are proud to welcome back the original Highwaymen, one of the seminal folk groups of the '60s, who rejoined in 2004 to play the classic tunes of the '60s revival and their interpretations of popular music since then. Unlike some folk revival groups, The Highwaymen who play today are all the original members of the group that recorded and performed in the 1960s (**Steve Butts, Dave Fisher, Steve Trott and Bob Burnett**. Chan Daniels passed in 1974; their friend **Johann Helton** now plays bass). The group appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, the Johnny Carson Show, and released 8 albums. In 1961, their first single, "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," shot to the top of the charts and sold over 3 million copies, followed by "Cotton Fields," which sold over one million. They also contributed a couple of future standards to the folk repertory ("Big Rock Candy Mountain," "All My Trials"), played a key role in the unearthing of a major, overlooked Leadbelly song, which later became a major addition to the repertoires of both Creedence Clearwater Revival and the Beach Boys, and also made the first American recordings of important songs by Buffy St. Marie and Ewan McColl. Recent appearances include the PBS special "This Land Is Your Land," and at Milwaukee's Irish Fest as the only not-strictly-Irish group to appear. "The Best of The Highwaymen" CD is part of the Legendary Masters Series released by EMI Records and the band has also produced a CD of recent concerts entitled "On the Road." Don't miss a chance to be part of a live CD recording by one of the '60s most popular folk ensembles! Their shows sold out the past two years... don't miss out!

Sunday, September 17, 7 PM, \$15.00

Craobh Rua - Music from Ireland

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 founding member **Brian Connolly** (banjo, mandolin); **Jim Rainey** (guitar and vocals); **Conor Lamb** (uilleann pipes and tin whistle) from Crumlin, Co. Antrim who has toured Australia, Denmark and Portugal with the Rhythm of the Dance; and **Claire Mann** (flute, fiddle and vocals.) Claire has won numerous All-Ireland Championships on flute, whistle and fiddle and has toured extensively worldwide with bands Tabache, Craobh Rua and Christy O'Leary. (Members Michael Cassidy and Brendan Mulholland are staying home on this tour as they are both awaiting the birth of their first children.) On New Year's Day 2004, Craobh Rua 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 also 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." Craobh Rua takes a refreshing, unpretentious but uncommonly skilled run at some of the greatest music in the world and always put on a great show.

Thursday, September 21, 7-10:00 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

Blackstone River Theatre's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are always welcome... the emphasis is on fun and learning! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet! We are trying a slightly later time structure this Fall in response to many requests... we hope to see you!

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

Marvelous Marvin's "The Magic of Science"

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Recommended for K- through 6th grade. Behold the twirling perpetual! Marvel at the eight-foot tall photo collage! Thrill to the billiard-ball spinning sculpture! This funny and exciting 45-minute show, done entirely in rhyme, explains the scientific process, from the art of experimenting to the creation of an invention. With simple experiments that kids can try at home, Marvelous Marvin teaches about air pressure, carbon dioxide and the invention of the wheel while incorporating fun-filled circus tricks. "The Magic of Science" also draws a link between the work of artists and scientists, encouraging persistence and exploration. Don't miss an increasingly rare chance to see this fun-filled and educational children's show! Marvin has recently moved to New York so local performances will be much harder to find!

Saturday, September 23, 8 PM, \$15.00

Pendragon

Celebrating Blackstone River Theatre's 6-year anniversary!

Advance reservations strongly recommended

New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Celebrating their 23rd anniversary tonight, Pendragon has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. The band released their 7th album, "Artistic License," on Blackstone River Theatre's RiverFolk Productions label in 2005. Pendragon's music celebrates the lives and lore of generations of New Englanders who brought traditions from Ireland, Scotland, French Canada and other distant shores to the banks of the Blackstone River. While drawing on the ethnic music of the Blackstone River Valley, Pendragon fashions the music of tradition into the music of tomorrow. The band composes and performs their original songs and dance tunes on an innovative combination of bouzouki, concertina, banjo, guitar, whistle, fiddle, flute, bass and percussion. Pendragon is comprised of step dancer and percussionist **Kevin Doyle**, a U.S. champion dancer who has performed throughout the New England area for over 30 years; **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, bouzouki and tenor banjo; **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertinas; **Josh Kane**, (just back from a 5th-place finish in the All-Ireland flute competitions!) on flute and whistles; **Ken Lyon** on vocals, guitar and bass; and **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals. Past tributes include three straight Boston Music Award nominations for Outstanding Celtic Act and a Governor's Tourism Award. Pendragon was voted Rhode Island's Best Celtic Act in the 2006 and 2005 MOTIF Magazine Music Poll as well as 2005 Best Local Folk Act of the Year in the Providence Phoenix' Best Music Poll, the 8th time they have gained that recognition.

Sunday, September 24, 11 AM-3 PM

Blues guitar lessons with Duke Robillard

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

Sunday, September 24, 5-8:00 PM, \$6.00 adults/\$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 taught by Barry and Pat Callahan will alternate with ceili dances and waltzes over the course of the entire dance. Laura Travis will be on hand to teach those new to the ceili tradition or for complete beginners from 4:30-5:00 PM. The Band features **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, **Ron Lister** on concertina, **Chuck Papini** on tenor banjo, **Jay Gilbert** on guitar, **Josh Kane** on flute and **Marianne Kane** on bodhran. The emphasis is on fun... learn by doing! No partners are necessary. Try a dance or simply come down to listen to some great music!

Friday, September 29, 8 PM, \$17 adults/\$10 college students

North Indian Classical vocal music featuring Shruti Sadolikar-Katkar

Partially funded by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

and co-sponsored by Kabob-n-Curry and Indian organizations and Businesses of RI

We are very pleased to offer this sixth collaboration with the nonprofit group Raagmaala in the presentation of Indian classical music concerts. The biggest difference between Indian and Western Classical music is that the former is based very largely on improvisation, with emphasis on the creativity of the performer rather

than on the exact reproduction of a composer's work. **Mrs. Shruti Sadolikar-Katkar** is among the top-ranking Hindustani vocalists of India today. She is a consummate "Khayal" singer, the most popular form of North Indian Classical Vocal Music. Khayal in the context of Indian Classical music means "imagination" and offers the performer a great flexibility and freedom in improvisation within the framework. In Khayal singing, the focus is primarily on the abstract and creativity rather than the prose. A Khayal concert is replete with ornamentation, complex rhythmic improvisation, and intricate melodic patterns. Shruti Sadolikar-Katkar has been a visiting professor at the Rotterdam Conservatorium, Netherlands and has many CDs to her credit. Her superb vocal range sets a standard for women Hindustani singers. Joining her this evening will be **Pundit Anandagopal Bandopadhyay**, a master tabla player in the Banaras tabla style. Some of his global performances have been at World Youth Festival (Berlin) and Festival of India (Maryland, Boston, New York, San Francisco). He has performed with virtually every famous musician of India. **Shri Jyoti Goho** is a Harmonium player who has enthralled audiences in the US during his tours with ITC-SRA. He is a popular accompanist with the leading vocalists of India.

Saturday, September 30, 8 PM, \$10.00

The Bohemian Quartet

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

OCTOBER

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

- The double exhibit by artist/musicians Mark Taber and George Frayne, a.k.a. Commander Cody, continues in BRT's Art Gallery through October 7. **From October 13 to November 11, the BRT Art Gallery will showcase the photography of Ken Roberts.** This East Greenwich photographer has had a home in Nova Scotia for 36 years, giving him the opportunity to take many photographs which are marine and ocean subjects.
- **Look for details about another round of 6-week advanced beginner/intermediate fiddle classes** for adults starting October 4 with Cathy Clasper-Torch!

Sunday, October 1, 7 PM, \$20.00

The Tannahill Weavers

Advance reservations suggested

The Tannahill Weavers are one of Scotland's premier traditional bands. Their diverse repertoire spans the centuries with high-energy instrumentals, topical songs, and original ballads and lullabies. Their music demonstrates to old and young alike the rich and varied musical heritage of the Celtic people. These versatile musicians have received worldwide accolades consistently over the years for their exuberant performances and outstanding recordings that seemingly can't get better... yet continue to do just that. The Tannahills turn their acoustic music loose on audiences

with an electrifying effect featuring a unique combination of traditional melodies, driving rhythmic accompaniment, and rich vocals that make their performances unforgettable. As the Winnipeg Free Press notes, "The Tannahill Weavers - properly harnessed - could probably power an entire city for a year on the strength of last night's concert alone. The music may be old time Celtic, but the drive and enthusiasm are akin to straight ahead rock and roll." Born of a session in Paisley, Scotland and named for the town's historic weaving industry and local poet laureate Robert Tannahill, the group has made an international name for its special brand of Scottish music, blending the beauty of traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms. Over the years, the Tannies have been trailblazers for Scottish music, and their tight harmonies and powerful, inventive arrangements have won them fans from beyond the folk and Celtic music scenes. Members are **Roy Gullane** on vocals and guitar, **John Martin** on fiddle and vocals, **Phil Smillie** on flute, whistles and bodhran, **Les Wilson** on bouzouki and guitar, and **Colin Melville** on Highland bagpipes and Scottish small pipes. They are firmly established as one of the premier groups on the concert stage; from reflective ballads to footstomping reels and jigs, the variety and range of the material they perform is matched only by their enthusiasm. "An especially eloquent mixture of the old and the new." - New York Times

FOOTSTEPS IN HISTORY EVENT

Saturday, October 7, 8 PM, \$12.00

Inca Son - Music and Dance of The Andes

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, October 13, 8 PM, \$10.00

Mentalist and mindbender Rory Raven

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

Saturday, October 14, 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 and this marks their fourth appearance at BRT. With a combination of guitar, mandolin, bodhran and bouzouki, complementing strong vocal harmonies and a keen sense of humor, an entertaining evening is always guaranteed! With 2005 having marked the 25th anniversary of the band, their newest CD "Lochanside" was also released. The band is led by founder **Dave Gilfillan** on lead vocals, guitar and banjo, well-known for his tongue-in-cheek humor. **Ronnie MacDonald** on lead and harmony vocals, guitar and bouzouki is joined by newest member **Grant Simpson** on high-energy fiddle and vocals. Together, they will entertain you with poignant and rousing songs, great instrumentals, history and more!

Sunday, October 15, 4:30-8 PM, \$6.00 adults/\$3.00 children
Irish Ceili and Set Dance with The Alleged Ceili Band
Sponsored by Open MRI of New England

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

Thursday, October 19, 8 PM, \$12.00
David Francey

There's not many acts we present on a Thursday but Canadian songwriter **David Francey** is simply that good and we could not turn down the only available date we both had! David, accompanied now by guitarist **Craig Werth**, is an amazing storyteller who establishes a personal rapport with his audience in minutes. His wry humor and astute observations combined with his openhearted singing style have earned him a loyal following across Canada and now into the US. Francey seemed to come out of nowhere when he released "Torn Screen Door" in 1999. Although the album was hailed by critics everywhere, good old-fashioned word-of-mouth has made Francey one of the most exciting traditional folksingers around. "Far End of Summer" picked up where "Torn Screen Door" left off and received a 2002 JUNO Award in the Best Roots and Traditional Album solo category. His third acclaimed CD, "Skating Rink," was the 2004 JUNO winner and was followed by "The Waking Hour" which was nominated for a 2005 JUNO award. His new CD is called "The First Set - Live From Folk Alley." Says the Toronto Star, "His songs are beautifully crafted pieces that have made him something of a latter-day Canadian poet laureate." Don't miss a great night of stories and songs!

Saturday, October 21, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance/\$14.00 day of show
Crasdant - Music and dance from Wales

Renowned Welsh triple harpist **Robin Huw Bowen** has brought together the most exciting new folk band to come out of Wales in the last 20 years. He is joined by **Stephen Rees**, a fiddler known from his work with the premier Welsh folk band Ar Log, **Andy McLauchlin**, a flute player and a multi-instrumentalist, and the clogging and guitar of **Huw Williams**, who is known as part of the singer/songwriter duo Huw & Tony Williams. Huw Bowen, a BRT favorite, is probably the best known Welsh folk musician who tours regularly in North America. Like the Irish, the Welsh have their own style of percussive tap dance or clogging and in Wales the band traditionally includes the triple harp. Crasdant concerts are an exciting opportunity to explore the music and dance of one of the lesser-known Celtic cultures. Crasdant mixes the traditional harp of Wales - the unique triple harp - with flutes, fiddle, accordion, guitar and a Welsh reed instrument called a pibgorn. Added to the mix is the flamboyant step-dancing of a champion clogger. Welsh step dancing (or clogging, the term that is more popular in Wales) is the only type of Welsh dance which has continued in an unbroken tradition. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the puritanical revivals in Wales almost wiped out many forms of folk culture, especially traditional dance. However the popularity of clogging's combination of infectious rhythms with dynamic style kept this tradition alive and it continues to thrive and evolve. (The main difference between Welsh clogging and other Celtic and American styles of solo percussive dance is that Welsh dancers wear wooden clogs, and not merely hard shoes.) Don't miss this very rare opportunity to see and hear Welsh music and dance!

Thursday, October 26, 7-10:00 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

Blackstone River Theatre's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are always welcome... the emphasis is on fun and learning! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet! We are trying a slightly later time structure this Fall in response to many requests... we hope to see you!

SPONSORED IN PART BY MOTIF MAGAZINE

Friday, October 27, 8 PM, \$18.00 advance/\$20.00 day of show

Roomful of Blues

Advance reservations recommended

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

Saturday, October 28, 8 PM, \$12.00

The McKassons (CD release)/ Laura Cortese & Friends

This great split concert will feature two of the most exciting acts in Celtic music today - The McKassons and Laura Cortese & Friends. The first time you experience the melodic force that is **The McKassons** you vow it won't be your last! **Ryan and Cali**, a brother/sister band from the Pacific Northwest, perform their Celtic music on an intuitive level. Since 2004's release of their superb debut album, "Tall Tales," The McKassons have been turning heads in the American Celtic music scene. Ryan, fiddler, and pianist, Cali, bring an exciting edge to the treasured Scottish fiddle tradition, creating constantly evolving textures within a powerful mix of contemporary and traditional influences. On tour this year, The McKassons are bringing percussionist **Matthew Jerrell** who tastefully employs an assortment of percussion instruments with admirable subtlety, heart-pounding power, and compelling dynamism. Also joining them for their CD release is **Dave Corey** on banjo and **Brooke McKasson** on vocals. Ryan, winner of the National Junior Scottish Fiddle Championship in 1995, went on a year later to be the youngest winner of the National Scottish Fiddle Open Championship in Loon Mountain, New Hampshire. With a repertoire that includes beautiful arrangements of classic tunes as well as their own compositions, The McKassons have audiences across America captivated by the energy and drama of their performances. Tonight is the release of their new CD, "Tripping Maggy." 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 and was named the 1998 New England regional Scottish Fiddle Champion. Her latest release, "Even the Lost Creek" (Feb. 2006) couples the groove and polish of urban music with universal themes of the old world. Through her involvement in Boston's varied traditional music scenes, Laura's fiddling 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.

Sunday, October 29, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults

Toe Jam Puppet Band Halloween Spooktacular

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

Ideal for families with children ages 4-12. Trick or treat with Toe Jam's all-original Halloween songs, puppets and stories featuring: Frankenstein, The Blob, Slime Monster, Wolfey the Werewolf, Invisible Man and Skeleton Man. Dance to the Frankie Shuffle, the Boo Bop Beat and Disco Halloween! And prepare to do the monster limbo to the perennial favorite, Monster Mash... and watch out for that silly string! Formed in 2000, the Toe Jam Puppet Band is great with kids, but best when parents are also there having fun with the little ones. The shows are very active, encouraging kids and parents to sing and dance along with the band as they entertain with a unique combination of original songs, puppetry, storytelling and just plain old fun!

NOVEMBER

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

- The photography exhibit by Ken Roberts continues in BRT's Art Gallery through November 11. **From November 16 to December 10, the BRT Art Gallery will showcase the watercolors and silk paintings of Kari Kline.**
- **Blackstone River Theatre will hold its annual Homecoming Concert and Silent Auction fund-raiser on November 25th this year.** As always, we welcome any donations of artwork, goods or services, or gift certificates from local businesses and individuals who support our mission. Contact russell@riverfolk.org if you'd like to help!

Sunday, November 5, 7 PM, \$12.00

The New England Mandolin Ensemble/The Pioneer Consort

The New England Mandolin Ensemble is dedicated to revitalizing this traditional American format by exploring new directions as well as the old. Its members come from diverse musical backgrounds, from jazz and classical to bluegrass and world folk music traditions. All are seasoned performers and teachers who are exploring contemporary paths for mandolin, as well as maintaining meaningful connections to tradition. The NEME features **August Watters**, director, on mandolin, mandola, and octave mandolin; **Jim Dalton** on mandolin; **Marilynn Mair** on mandolin and mandola, and **Mitch Nelin** on mandocello. As director of the NEME, August Watters showcases his arranging and composition skills as well as his interest in improvisational forms such as bluegrass and jazz. August is an Emmy-award winning composer, mandolinist and guitarist with more than 25 years of performance and composition experience. Multi-instrumentalist and international-award-winning composer Jim Dalton specializes in historical and ethnic styles on mandolin, mandocello, Renaissance lute and other instruments. He is expert at diverse styles including classical, jazz, celtic, blues, and klezmer. His primary performing partnership is with his wife, soprano and guitarist Maggi Smith-Dalton with whom he tours nationwide. Marilynn Mair is a mandolinist who, through her technical mastery and artistic interpretation, has established the classical mandolin in chamber music circles worldwide. She has given hundreds of recitals, including performances at Carnegie Hall, the White House, the Newport Music Festival, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center. She has also represented the US at international music festivals in Italy, France, Spain, England, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Japan, earning the title, "First Lady of the American Mandolin." Ms. Mair has released 8 highly acclaimed CDs of mandolin music and, in addition to her solo career, founded and directs Enigmatica, a mandolin octet specializing in Baroque, Brazilian, and contemporary music. Marilynn is also the Artistic Director of the American Mandolin & Guitar Orchestra, a group whose membership spans North America. Mitch Nelin has been performing on mandocello since the mid-80s with banjoist Peter LaBau in The Titanic String Band, a duo specializing in classic-style banjo music. Mitch has evolved a unique method of using the mandocello's lower range to provide bass lines while the upper range provides chording and melody lines. This bass/chord/melody concept is a cutting edge approach to mandocello. **The Pioneer Consort** performs composed and improvised chamber music for Violin, Cello, Guitar, Mandolin, and the Banjar - a seven string classical banjo. Their programs explore unique and colorful arrangements of traditional classical repertoire- Argentine Tango, Brazilian Choro, Classical Neapolitan Mandolin music, American Banjo music, jazz, and multi-genre original compositions with works by Haydn, Mozart, Piazzolla,

Gershwin, Abreu, O'Carolan, and Nix. Based in the culturally rich Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts, The Pioneer Consort is comprised of three exceptional musicians - **Chris Devine**, **Michael Nix**, and **Greg Snedeker** - who bring together years of concert touring, recording, and composing in many genres.

**Friday, November 10, 8 PM, \$10.00 and a nonperishable canned food item
Jay Bolotin - CD release concert and film showing**

Opening solo set by Ken Lyon

Benefit for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank

A native of Kentucky and an acclaimed musician and visual artist, **Jay Bolotin** has combined his twin pursuits of art and music in a highly original twist on the story of Adam and Eve in a film called "The Jackleg Testament" in which he has animated his woodcuts and set them to his original score. "The Jackleg Testament" collides centuries-old with cutting-edge. Bolotin takes his Appalachian practice of woodcut printmaking and his interest in leather-bound literary landmarks - in this case the story of Adam and Eve and the poetry of William Blake, among others - and makes them into a 70-minute motion picture with the technology of an Apple computer. Previous productions include "The Hidden Boy" which had its American premiere in New York City's City Center Theater, and "Limbus: A Mechanical Opera," under the direction of world-renowned opera director Jonathan Eaton, which incorporates performers and the artist's giant mechanical sculptures. Bolotin's woodcuts are in the collections of The New York Public Library, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (under collections), The Cincinnati Art Museum and many other public and private collections. As a musician and songwriter, Bolotin has worked with Kris Kristofferson, Merle Haggard and Dan Fogelberg. Kristofferson named Bolotin "one of the three best songwriters in the country." Tonight's evening will feature an opening solo set of blues by Ken Lyon, a set of music by Jay Bolotin - this will be his first record released in 30 years! - and the RI premiere of his updated film, "The Jackleg Testament." (Note: This film is not geared towards children.)

Saturday, November 11, 8 PM, \$12.00

Paddy Keenan & Friends

Paddy Keenan, who has been referred to as "the King of the pipers," is generally acknowledged as one of 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 **Billy Kelly** whose resonant voice, intuitive guitar playing and good humor have delighted audiences worldwide. Originally from County Down, Northern Ireland, Kelly now lives in Boston. They will be joined by **Peter Molloy**, son of Paddy's legendary Bothy bandmate Matt Molloy, on flute. A founding member of the Bothy Band, one of the most influential bands of the 1970s, Paddy continues to tour in Europe and the U.S. and has released several solo albums including his most recent CD "The Long Grazing Acre." Paddy was born in Trim, Co. Meath, to John Keenan and the former Mary Bravender. The Keenans were a Travelling family (the wanderers of Ireland known amongst themselves as Pavees) steeped in traditional music; both Paddy's father and grandfather were uilleann pipers. Taking up pipes at age 10, Keenan moved to America at age 17 to play blues and rock and roll only to return to Ireland in the seventies. After several member changes, Paddy soon found himself with musicians who would go on to change the face of traditional Irish music. The Bothy Band forever changed Irish music, merging a driving rhythm section with traditional Irish tunes in ways that had never been heard before. Paddy's virtuosity on the pipes combined with the ferocity of his playing made him, in the opinion of many, its driving force. In a live situation, Keenan is one of 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.

Thursday, November 16, 7-10 PM, \$5.00

BRT Drum and Dance Circle

Blackstone River Theatre's open drum circle focuses on tribal and multi-ethnic rhythms. Beginners and novices are always welcome... the emphasis is on fun and learning! Bring your own hand drum or rhythm instrument or just your dancing feet! We are trying a slightly later time structure this Fall in response to many requests... we hope to see you!

Friday, November 17, 8 PM, \$10.00

"An Evening of Ocean State Songwriters" featuring

members of the RI Songwriters Association (RISA)

This is the 4th annual show at BRT where audiences get to hear eight songwriters performing in an "in the round" format. Each set consists of four songwriters taking turns performing their original songs with the other songwriters on stage occasionally joining in with harmonies or guitar to provide an even more memorable performance. Casual banter between the performers usually gives a comedic edge to the sets, making the shows even more fun and enjoyable. This will be some of the best music you may have never heard - catch these local songwriters while they are still local! Scheduled for the show are: **Corrinne Wahlberg, Frank Martyn** and six more artists to be announced. For a complete lineup and more info about RISA and the artists, please visit www.risongwriters.com.

Saturday, November 18, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults

Keith Munslow - Words, Music and Pictures

Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

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 piano playing, skillful cartoon drawing, and quick wit always 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 worked previously with Big Nazo, an award-winning mask and puppet touring company. His newest CD, "Accidently (On Purpose)," winner of a Parent's Choice Recommended Award, serves up silliness and fun with a perceptive kids-eye view of life where a cardboard box is the ultimate fantasy toy, "Fried Baloney" is the ultimate treat, the swing-style "Dancin' in the Kitchen (in my footie pajamas)" jazzes up a cold winter day and a scary "Bad Robot" pays tribute to the creative territory of a kid's vivid imagination. Keith's show is lots of fun for adults too!

Saturday, November 18, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance/\$18.00 day of show

The Duke Robillard Band

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. On Duke's newest CD, "Guitar Groove-A-Rama," Robillard proceeds to tear up the strings on his collection of amazing guitars to show who's the real boss of the blues. "This new CD is an answer to the people who want to hear more of my guitar playing." Consider this CD not only an answer, but also a definitive statement from this guitarist, singer, producer, session musician and one-man cheering section for the blues. A salute to the many influences that have informed his guitar work, "Guitar Groove-A-Rama" is perhaps his most ambitious album yet in a career that spans almost 40 years. Duke's musical resume is incredible... He founded Roomful of Blues in 1967 and was its leader for 12 years. He recorded two albums with the Legendary Blues Band, and shared guitar duties with Danny Gatton on tour with Robert Gordon. He replaced Jimmie Vaughan in a 2 1/2 year stint with the Fabulous Thunderbirds, before returning to the solo career he had begun with the Pleasure Kings and now continues with The Duke Robillard Band. Expect the unexpected as Duke moves from jazz, to blues to swing joined by his band **Doug James** on baritone sax, **Mark Teixeira** on drums and **John Packer** on bass.

Sunday, November 19, 5-8:00 PM, \$6.00 adults/\$3.00 children

Irish Ceili and Set Dance with The Alleged Ceili Band

Sponsored by Open MRI of New England

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

Saturday, November 25, 8 PM, \$15.00

BRT Homecoming Concert and Silent Auction

With family and friends in town for Thanksgiving, Blackstone River Theatre's 7th annual fund-raiser features some of the best of Rhode Island's homegrown talent as well as others who now live in the Ocean State. **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 also be over 10 pieces of original artwork this year at our silent auction, donated by artists who have exhibited in BRT's Art Gallery. 100% of the proceeds from both the concert and the silent auction will go to support Blackstone River Theatre's programming and operating expenses. Members of the band **PENDRAGON** will act as hosts this evening and will perform a set of their Celtic-inspired music. Featured performers include celebrated Irish singer-songwriter **ROBBIE O'CONNELL**, the original music of singer-songwriters **FUZEK-ROSSONI** (John Fuzek and Mary Ann Rossoni) and **THE ATWATER-DONNELLY TRIO** featuring Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly joined by fiddler Cathy Clasper-Torch performing Appalachian and Celtic-inspired folk music. **DUKE ROBILLARD, MARTIN GROSSWENDT and BERTRAND LAURENCE** will all perform solo acoustic blues and **BILL PETTERSON** will also be on hand to perform a set of original music.

DECEMBER

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

- **The exhibit of watercolor and silk paintings by Kari Kline continues** in BRT's Art Gallery through December 10.
- **Blackstone River Theatre will shut down for the holiday season starting December 11 and will reopen again on January 13.** We wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season with best wishes for a peaceful new year!

Saturday, December 2, 8 PM, \$12.00

Paul Geremia and Martin Grosswendt

We kick off the holiday season with a hot concert of winter blues and the latest word is that this will be Paul Geremia's last Rhode Island gig for quite awhile as he is relocating to Texas... so make sure to catch this legendary Rhode Island musician in his last Ocean State appearance! Acoustic Guitar magazine calls **Paul Geremia** "One of the best country blues finger-pickers ever." Paul is a riveting performer, offering not only some fantastic interpretations of older acoustic blues songs and original material, but also providing a great deal of history and insight into the music he plays. His newest CD is the critically-acclaimed "Love, Murder and Mosquitoes." For almost 40 years, Paul has survived solely by the fruit of his musical labors. Combining his interpretation of the earlier music of people like Blind Lemon Jefferson, Robert Johnson, Blind Willie McTell, and Blind Blake with his original compositions, he has created a style which is very much his own. With his six and twelve-string guitars, harmonica and a husky soulful voice - and with an innate sense of the humor as well as the drama of the music - Geremia keeps traditional blues fresh and alive with his performances. **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. In late 2004, 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. And oh yeah, Paul and Martin are old friends so expect a few songs played together as well!

Friday, December 8, 8 PM, \$12.00

Harvey Reid and Joyce Andersen Holiday Show

Alright... we're going to try this concert again! After a nine-hour, whiteout-conditions car ride from Maine last December (with their new baby along for the ride!) Harvey and Joyce celebrated their Christmas CD release at BRT in front of 40 or so hearty fans who still came out despite the horrible snowstorm. We're going to try it again this year and hope the weather allows the full house we usually get for this fantastic seasonal show. **Harvey Reid** is a former national acoustic guitar and autoharp

champion as well as an amazing multi-instrumentalist. He 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 musicians out there today. Don't miss a night of rare, beautiful seasonal music!

Saturday, December 9, 11 AM, \$4.00 children/\$6.00 adults
Rosalita's Puppets - Mrs. Claus and the Ice Queen
Sponsored by Credit Union Central Falls

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

Sunday, December 10, 5-9 PM at BRT
Fezziwig's House Party and Hearthside Candlelight Tour
\$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

This holiday season, Cumberland's Blackstone River Theatre on Broad Street has again partnered with Lincoln's Hearthside, located just five minutes away from the theater on Rte. 123 in Lincoln, to offer a Victorian Christmas Celebration. While both venues will be open as a single destination, guests are encouraged to make a night of it by enjoying a visit at Hearthside, and then proceeding to the festivities at Fezziwig's House Party or by starting at the Theatre and then heading over to Hearthside. The event is designed as a great way to celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas in the Blackstone Valley! This 3rd annual holiday event celebrates Christmas in true Dickensian fashion... Come dressed in Victorian costume or simply in your Christmas best and take a step back in time! The event incorporates **a candlelight tour at Lincoln's historic (1810) Hearthside homestead, open 4-8 PM.** Guests are invited to step back in time with a tour through the lavishly-decorated, 10-room mansion, recalling the traditions of Christmas at the turn of the century. Hearthside will also offer caroling, a Wassail Bowl and hot hors d'oeuvres. **From 5:00-9:00 p.m., Cumberland's Blackstone River Theatre will offer "Fezziwig's House Party."** At BRT, guests will enjoy Victorian carols, roving musicians including members of Pendragon, demonstrations of period dancing with live music provided by The Alleged Ceili Band, complementary cold hors d'oeuvres, and more. Call 401-725-9272 to purchase tickets for Fezziwig's House Party or the combination event. Visit www.hearthsidehouse.org for more information or call 401-726-0597 to purchase tickets for the Hearthside Candlelight Tour.