

# Blackstone River Theatre



## Solstice Festival

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## 2013 Schedule

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### JANUARY 2013

- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in starting Jan. 7. We will also add a **Zumba Express class** Mondays at 5:30 p.m. starting Jan. 21!
- **Look for details about another eight-week round of Irish step dance classes** for beginner children and adults with Erika Damiani beginning Jan. 12 and Jan. 13.
- **Look for details about another six-week round of fiddle classes** for beginner, continuing beginner/ intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced students with Cathy Clasper-Torch beginning Jan. 15 & Jan. 16.

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

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

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

**Sunday, January 6, 1 PM, Public Invited**  
**INAUGURATION OF MAYOR DANIEL J. McKEE**

**Mondays in January starting Jan. 7, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM**  
**ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**  
*and*

**Mondays in January starting Jan. 21, \$5.00 per class, 5:30-6:15 PM**  
**ZUMBA EXPRESS CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**  
**Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout**  
(Note: \$8.00 if you take both classes on the same day)

**Saturday, January 12**

**9:00 AM: 8-week class in BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE for children 6-10** with Erika Damiani begins

**10:00 AM: 8-week class in CONTINUING BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE for children 6-10** with Erika Damiani begins

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

**Sunday, January 13**

**10:00 AM: 8-week class TIR NA NOG IRISH DANCE (performance troupe)** with Erika Damiani begins

**11:00 AM: 8-week class in INTERMEDIATE IRISH STEP DANCE FOR ADULTS**

(and children age 11-and-up) with Erika Damiani begins  
**NOON: 8-week class in ADVANCED SOFT SHOE and BEGINNER TO INTERMEDIATE HARD SHOE** with Erika Damiani begins  
**1:00 PM: 8-week class TIR NA NOG IRISH DANCE (performance troupe)** with Erika Damiani begins

**Tuesday, January 15**

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

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

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

**Wednesday, January 16**

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

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

**Saturday, January 19, 8 PM, \$13.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show  
FELLSWATER**



We kick off our 2013 season with the return of Fellswater, a dynamic Boston-based Celtic music ensemble. The group was formed in 2008 after band members met during the album recording for "Stormin' the Castle" by the Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums. Fellswater plays a wide range of instrumental music, from traditional to modern compositions, drawing from the heritage of many of the Celtic nations, especially Scotland, Ireland, and Brittany. Fellswater features **Elizabeth Ketudat** on violin, **Sarah MacConduibh** on

whistle and Irish flute, **Jim MacConduibh** on guitar, mandolin and bouzouki, and **Matthew Phelps** on smallpipes and border pipes. 2010 highlights included the release of "Fellswater," the group's first full-length recording, and their performance debut at the New Hampshire Highland Games. 2011 and 2012 saw them play the BRT Summer Solstice Festival and a 2011 "Road to the Scottish Highlands" concert at Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion in Gilford, NH before a crowd of 1,600 people.

**Saturday, January 26, 8 PM, \$15.00  
THE JAMMIN' DIVAS**



The Jammin' Divas - **Aoife Clancy** (Ireland), **Becky Chace** (USA), **Kath Buckell** (Australia), and flutest **Hadar Noiberg** (Israel) - accompanied by Craig Akin on bass, blend stunning renditions of traditional and contemporary folk music and elements of improvisation from each of their cultures. Through stunning three-part harmonies bedded against the plush melodic landscape of the flute and double bass, The Jammin' Divas draw the

audience into an experience that transcends the history of three continents by sharing songs and stories of how each country culturally influenced and enriched one another. Aoife Clancy, from Ireland, is the daughter of Bobby Clancy of the Clancy Brothers. In 1995, Aoife was asked to join the acclaimed group Cherish the Ladies, one of the most sought-after Irish American groups in history. With seven recordings under her belt in the last decade, Aoife has clearly established herself as one of the 'Divas' of Irish and contemporary folk music. Anyone who has seen Becky Chace sing in any setting knows she delivers with passion and conviction every time she takes a stage. Chosen "Best Female Vocalist" five times by the readers of the Providence Phoenix Best Music Poll, Becky has been called "one of the most celebrated singer/songwriters to come out of the Rhode Island area" by Motif Magazine. Their Australian counterpart Kath Buckell is a rising Folk/Rock artist in the USA. She has toured in Australia, Israel and now the USA and has found her roots in a project that is preserving traditional Australian poetry put to her original music. Hadar Noiberg hails from Israel and grew up with its eclectic musical culture. Hadar was surrounded by various musical styles

that are a part of the Israeli melting pot - Middle Eastern, Eastern European, Yemenite and Moroccan Music to name a few. Since arriving in New York, the flautist has been one of the leading players in the Cuban scene and Jazz scenes showcasing at Blue Note, Dizzy's Club, Central Park Summer Stage, and Lincoln Center. Craig Akin is an in-demand upright and electric bass player living in New York City. *Don't miss their BRT debut!*

## FEBRUARY 2013

- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in February. We have also added a Zumba Toning class on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
- **Look for details about a four-week round of classes in clogging, beginner mountain dulcimer, and group singing** on Thursdays with Aubrey Atwater starting Feb. 7.
- **Irish step dance classes continue** on Saturdays & Sundays for beginner children and adults with Erika Damiani throughout February.
- **Fiddle classes continue** on Tuesdays & Wednesdays for total beginner, continuing beginner/intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced students with Cathy Clasper-Torch throughout February.
- **There will be a photography exhibit in BRT's Art Gallery featuring Brooke Hammerle through March 2.**

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**Mondays in February, \$5.00 per class, 5:30-6:15 PM**

**ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

**Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout**

*and*

**Mondays in February, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM**

**ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

(Note: \$8.00 if you take both classes on the same day)

**Friday, February 1**

**PRIVATE ZUMBA EVENT**

**Saturday, February 2, 8 PM, \$15.00 adv. / \$18.00 day of show**

**CATHIE RYAN BAND**



BRT is very pleased to announce the return of Cathie Ryan to our stage! For more than 25 years, including five solo albums, countless musical collaborations, and multiple awards, **Cathie Ryan** has been in the vanguard of Irish music. From 1987 through 1995 she performed as lead vocalist for Cherish the Ladies. She is blessed with a voice of luminous clarity and a gift for unearthing gems from Irish and American song traditions, creating her own heart-stirring originals, and for showcasing writers whose work deserves wider recognition.

Cathie is a captivating performer whose shows are renowned for their intimacy and power, as well as her witty banter. Cathie happily shares the stage, and the show, with her award-winning band featuring **Matt Mancuso** on fiddle (Grada, Lord of the Dance, Mickey Finns) and **Greg Anderson** (Eileen Ivers Band, Whirligig) on guitar and bouzouki who weave subtle arrangements around Cathie's vocals and match her charming repartee with dazzling sets of traditional tunes. The Cathie Ryan Band has been featured on national and public television throughout the world including NPR's

Mountain Stage and Thistle and Shamrock, BBC in England and Northern Ireland, Radio Scotland, and RTÉ in Ireland. Ryan's fifth CD, "Through Wind and Rain," is bringing her music to a much wider audience, but she remains one of the most important voices in Irish music. Irish America Magazine twice named her one of the "Top 100 Irish Americans" and Chicago's Irish American News has twice honored her as "Irish Female Vocalist of the Decade." *Not to be missed!*

### **Tonight's concert has been cancelled due to the blizzard!**

**Friday, February 8, 8 PM, \$15.00**

#### **SWEETHEARTS' NIGHT OUT**

**Musical Couples play (mostly) songs of love for Valentine's Day featuring Darol Anger & Emy Phelps, Hanneke Cassel & Mike Block, and Lissa Schneckenburger & Corey DiMario**



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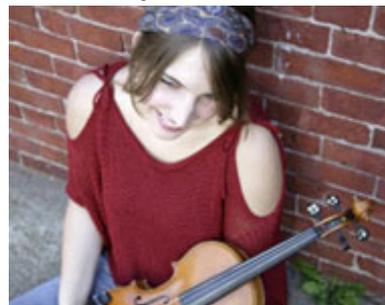
incredible line-up of celebrated roots musicians will present an evening of both the sweet and the scary side of romance, from their perspective as couples, with original songs, mischief, and old favorites from every genre. **Darol Anger** has made a 30+ year career as one of the most influential and innovative fiddlers in the world as the original fiddler from the David Grisman Quartet as well as with the Turtle Island String Quartet, Psychograss, and Republic of Strings. **Lissa Schneckenburger** is one of the best of the young fiddler-singer-songwriters of America's Northeast region. **Hanneke Cassel**, one of the most dynamic and exciting Celtic fiddlers alive today, tours internationally and is a Northeast favorite. Bassist **Corey DiMario**, one of the most sought-after accompanists in the acoustic string world, helped found the phenomenally popular string band Crooked Still. **Emy Phelps**, the "Golden Voice of the Pacific Northwest," has been charming fans out west for 25 years with her phenomenal voice and marvelous songs, and has recently migrated East. Songwriter and virtuoso contemporary cellist **Mike Block** has toured all over the world with Mark O'Connor, Yo-Yo Ma, and numerous others. *This was an incredibly fun show last year featuring some of the top roots players in the world - we hope you'll bring your sweetheart and join us for a romantic and very special evening!*

### **All Irish dance classes for Saturday, Feb. 9 are cancelled due to the blizzard!**

### **Tonight's concert has been cancelled due to the blizzard!**

**Saturday, February 9, 8 PM, \$15.00**

#### **CANTRIP / EMERALD RAE - SOLO CD RELEASE**



**Cantrip** is a trio of Scottish and American traditional musicians that has been stunning audiences on both sides of the Atlantic with its driving blend of fiddles, bagpipes,

mandolin and guitar. The name is an Old Scots word meaning a charm, magic spell or piece of mischief, and it aptly describes the unexpected twists and turns in their musical arrangements. **Dan Houghton** is a Scottish piper, flautist and DADGAD guitarist currently residing in southern Vermont. Winner of many competitions, including the Scottish Lowland and Border Piper's Society Open Borderpipes and New Composition events, he has toured and taught extensively throughout Britain, Europe, Ireland, America, and beyond. At 17, **Eric McDonald** picked up the mandolin and burst onto the Boston folk scene. He was a founding member of Jaded Mandolin, a

teen string band that became a local phenomenon and he spent two years touring with Maine's Dave Rowe Trio. **Jon Bews**, Cantrip's fiddler, lives in Edinburgh, Scotland. Throughout his years as a musician Jon has earned a reputation for himself as a dance fiddler playing for Scottish Country Dance classes and balls all over Europe. As part of this great split concert, BRT also welcomes the return of **Emerald Rae**, an American singer and multi-instrumentalist. She grew up in a musical family where country music and rock 'n roll were prevalent and has spent the last 20 years studying all facets of folk music. With a degree in Film Scoring from Berklee College of Music and a National Scottish Championship under her belt, Emerald has become well-known in the Boston area for her versatility, her dynamic power-house playing style and her unique perspective. She will be releasing her new solo album entitled, "If Only I Could Fly," featuring her solo talents on guitar, fiddle and crwth (ancient Welsh fiddle pronounced "krooth").

**Concert postponed due to forecasted snow;  
make-up date to be announced soon!**

**Sunday, February 17, 2 PM matinee, \$10.00 adv / \$12.00 day of show  
THE DIXIE DIEHARDS JAZZ BAND**



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

established jazz as "America's music" and set the direction for much of subsequent pop culture. The term "Dixieland" refers to a form of small group jazz which typically includes a trumpet, a clarinet and a trombone and often a tuba combined with a rhythm section that may include a banjo, percussion or bass player as well as a piano. In most arrangements, the trumpet plays the melody while other elements freely improvise around it or paraphrase the melody in creative solos. The Dixie Diehards have won an enthusiastic reception across southern New England for bringing an irrepressible sense of fun and frolic to their shows. That attitude almost always includes audience sing-alongs, spontaneous dance outbursts (remember the Charleston?) and a spirit of "wonderful nonsense." The lineup includes: **Rick Foster** on trumpet & vocals, **Dolly Fruzzetti** on vocals, **Bill Dube** on reeds, **Dale Ellenberg** on drums, **Paul Peterson** on reeds, **Steve Shaw** on tuba, **John Zawislak** on trombone, **Chris Wadsworth** on banjo, and band leader **Alan Shapiro** on trumpet. *Don't miss a rare BRT matinee show sure to be fun for all ages!*

**SOLD OUT!**

**Sunday, February 24, 7 PM, \$22.00 adv. / \$25.00 day of show  
LUNASA**



Named for a 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 formed the backbone of some of the greatest Irish groups of the decade. Bassist **Trevor Hutchinson** was a key member of The Waterboys. **Kevin Crawford**, considered to be among the finest flutists in Ireland, played with Moving Cloud and piper **Cillian Vallely** comes from the same talented musical family as

brother Niall, of Buille and the Karan Casey Band. **Sean Smyth** is an All-Ireland champion on both fiddle and whistle and this tour sees new guitarist **Ed Boyd**. Inspired by the legendary Irish group The Bothy Band, Lúnasa uses melodic interweaving of wind and string instruments pairing flutes, fiddle, whistle and pipes in breathtaking arrangements. Their newest CD, Lá Nua (Irish for 'new day') was released to incredible critical acclaim. *Don't miss an amazing night of Irish music in an intimate theatre setting!*

## MARCH 2013

- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in March. We have also added a Zumba Toning class on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
- **Irish step dance classes begin** again on Saturdays & Sundays with Erika Damiani starting March 16 and March 17.
- **There will be a photography exhibit in BRT's Art Gallery featuring Brooke Hammerle through March 17.**

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**Mondays in March, \$5.00 per class, 5:30-6:15 PM**  
**ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**  
**Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout**  
*and*

**Mondays in March, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM**  
**ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

(Note: \$8.00 if you take both classes on the same day)

**Saturday, March 2, 8 PM, \$15.00**

**LONG TIME COURTING / SHEILA FALLS & MARK ROBERTS**



Boston-based band **Long Time Courting** offers an extraordinary blend of neo-traditional Celtic Roots music. Exquisite vocal harmonies combine with the formidable instrumental prowess of **Sarah Blair** (fiddle), **Valerie Thompson** (cello), **Shannon Heaton** (flute), and **Liz Simmons** (guitar) to create music that is both playful and richly satisfying. This high-

energy band brings heavenly harmonies to old and new ballads and also serves up a zesty side of high-energy dance tunes. This all-women group shares a love of traditional Irish music and blends it seamlessly with music from the Scottish and American traditions and more, updating it in a way that is tasteful, somewhat eclectic, but true to its roots. The Boston Irish Reporter says, "Enchanting vocals, top-rank musicianship, and well-conceived, intelligent arrangements." **Sheila Falls** began as an Irish step dancer at the age of five and took violin lessons at age eight. As quickly as her skills developed, fiddle tunes emerged naturally from her playing. By age ten, under the tutelage of Seamus Connolly, Sheila became a North American Fiddle Champion and went on to capture the All-Ireland Fiddle Championship at the age of fifteen. She was the first from New England to win this title. She earned a Bachelor of Music Degree from the New England Conservatory where she was awarded a fellowship to attend the Tanglewood Music Center. Sheila later joined the music faculty at Wheaton College and in addition to her violin studio, she is Director of the World Music Ensemble. For several years, Falls taught for the Hanafin-Cooley Branch of Comhaltas at Boston College. Sheila is also a member of the fiddle-based band Childsplay. She released her debut solo fiddle CD, "All In The Timing," in 2009. Joining Sheila tonight will be **Mark Roberts** (Touchstone, The Sevens, Red Clay Ramblers) on guitar and flute. *Don't miss a great night of high-energy Irish music!*

**Friday, March 8**  
**PRIVATE ZUMBA EVENT**

**SOLD OUT!**

**Sunday, March 10, 7 PM, \$22.00 adv. / \$25.00 day of show**  
**KARAN CASEY AND JOHN DOYLE**

*Advance ticket purchase strongly recommended!*



Irish vocalist **Karan Casey** and guitar virtuoso **John Doyle** were founding members of traditional supergroup Solas, a band known for rousing, furious tunes and striking renditions of traditional songs. In "Exile's Return," the two former bandmates reunited to create a stripped-down CD that showcases the power of those songs. Since Solas, each has carved out a unique and acclaimed place in contemporary Irish and folk music. Karan Casey has recorded five solo albums, has won Best Irish Female Vocalist twice, Best Irish Folk album and a GRAMMY for her collaboration with Paul Winter. She has been nominated for the BBC Folk Awards and has performed with Peggy Seeger, Liam Clancy, James Taylor, and Tim O'Brien. *USA Today* has called her work "shiver-inducingly excellent." John Doyle's rhythmic guitar chops and effortless harmonies make him much in demand as a musical partner. He currently tours with Joan Baez as her musical director, and with virtuoso fiddler Liz Carroll. Doyle and Carroll played for President Obama in March 2009, and their CD "Double Play" received a 2010 GRAMMY nomination. Doyle also received a nomination for the 2009 "Tommy Makem Award" by the Irish Music Association. He's played with Kate Rusby, Alison Brown, Mick Moloney and Linda Thompson, among others, and worked as a producer for Billy McComiskey. *Irish Edition* calls him a "dream guitarist."

### **SOLD OUT!**

**Sunday, March 17, 7 PM, \$15.00 adv. / \$18.00 day of show**  
**CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH PENDRAGON!**



New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Looking forward to their 30th anniversary in September, Pendragon has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. Pendragon is step dancer and percussionist **Kevin Doyle**, **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, bouzouki and tenor banjo, **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertina; **Josh Kane** on flute and whistles and **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals. They will be joined by guest dancer **Erika Damiani**. Pendragon's music celebrates the lives and lore of generations of New Englanders who brought traditions from Ireland, Scotland, French Canada and other distant shores to the banks of the Blackstone River. The band performs their original songs and dance tunes on an exciting combination of fiddle, flute, bouzouki, concertina, banjo, guitar, whistle, and percussion. Past tributes include three straight Boston Music Award nominations for Outstanding Celtic Act and a Governor's Tourism Award. Pendragon was voted Rhode Island's Best Celtic Act in the 2005-2011 Motif Magazine's Best Music Poll. Pendragon has also been voted Best Local Folk Act of the Year in the Providence Phoenix' Best Music Poll eight times.

**Saturday, March 23, 8 PM, \$15.00**

**TIM ERIKSEN and the TRIO de PUMPKINTOWN**

**Multicultural folksong from an imaginary New England village**



**Tim Eriksen** is acclaimed for transforming American tradition with his startling interpretations of old ballads, love songs, shape-note gospel and dance tunes from New England and Southern Appalachia. He combines hair-raising vocals with inventive accompaniment on banjo, fiddle, guitar and bajo sexto - a twelve string Mexican acoustic bass - creating a distinctive hardcore Americana sound that ranges from the bare bones of solo unaccompanied singing to the lush, multi-layered arrangements on "Josh Billings Voyage," the new album of multicultural American folksongs from the imaginary New England village of Pumpkintown. Much of the music on "Josh Billings

Voyage" comes from Pumpkintown's diverse early inhabitants: Yankees, Africans, Native Americans, Irish, Scottish, and Germans. Also influential are the sounds of the cotton trade, which brought many of the town's youth to Southern India via Zanzibar and back, and there is a good dose of originals about mice, lovers, and the apocalypse. Tim is joined by **Peter Irvine** on hand percussion and **Zoe Darrow** on fiddle. Best known for his haunting music for the film "Cold Mountain," Tim helped ignite the string band revival with his darkly quirky Western Mass. group Cordelia's Dad, and focused fresh attention on 19th-century shape note singing with Northampton Harmony. A former punk-rocker, his musicianship is confidently state-of-the-art, but his intent is never to modernize or gussy up the old music. Instead, he uses savvy arrangement and recording techniques to focus modern ears on what is most raw, earthy, and above all, human in ancient ballads and fiddle tunes. Eriksen is the only musician to have shared the stage with both Kurt Cobain and Doc Watson, and his media appearances have ranged from Prairie Home Companion to the Newport Folk Festival to the Academy Awards. *Don't miss his BRT debut!*

**Wednesday, March 27, 7 PM, FREE ADMISSION!**  
**Introduction of R.I. Music Hall of Fame's TUNE IN TUNE UP program**  
**and announcement of their new partnership with the ABC Initiative**



Blackstone River Theatre is proud to host the public debut of a new initiative of the **Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame** - a program called **TUNE IN TUNE UP** that is specifically geared towards Rhode Island's music community... current and retired professional musicians as well as music industry professionals. A description of the program will be given followed by a question and answer session. Following that, we will be joined by **Dr. Zaheer A. Shah, MD** who will discuss his existing **Access Basic Care Initiative** - an innovative health care

program that provides easy access to affordable primary, urgent, and preventative health care. The ABC Initiative is an alternative to health insurance; it is a membership-based health care program ideal for individuals and employers who cannot afford health insurance benefits or wish to supplement their high deductible health plan or catastrophic insurance. It is the goal of the R.I. Music Hall of Fame to introduce both of these initiatives and announce a partnership that will actively encourage Rhode Island musicians to access basic health care that is affordable. ***IF YOU ARE A RHODE ISLAND MUSICIAN OR INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL, please join us tonight to hear about this important program!***

**Saturday, March 30, 8 PM, \$13 advance / \$15.00 day of show**  
**EMERALD RAE (CD release) / ED and NEIL PEARLMAN**



BRT welcomes the return of **Emerald Rae**, an American singer and multi-instrumentalist. (This is rescheduled from February snow cancellation!) She grew up in a musical family where country music and rock 'n roll were prevalent and has spent the last 20 years studying all facets of

folk music. With a degree in Film Scoring from Berklee College of Music and a National Scottish Championship under her belt, Emerald has become well-known in the Boston area for her versatility, her dynamic power-house playing style and her unique perspective. She will be releasing her new solo album entitled, "If Only I Could Fly," featuring her solo talents on guitar, fiddle and crwth (ancient welsh fiddle pronounced "krooth"). Sharing this great split bill will be **Ed and Neil Pearlman** - a father-son duo that will envelop you with powerful tunes from Scotland and Cape Breton. Ed's rich and expressive fiddling taps deep into tradition, while Neil's piano playing weaves an astonishing tapestry of innovative harmony and rhythm. Based in Boston and Maine, Ed has been a pillar of the American Scottish music scene for more than 30 years. He has performed and taught throughout the USA, in Canada and in Scotland, working with almost every major name in Scottish and Cape Breton music. Neil grew up with this legacy and has infused it with jazz, Latin, and pipe band rhythms - an expression of America, the crossroads of cultures. Neil tours and teaches in his own

right, in the USA, Canada, Scotland and Galicia. Together they represent the flow of tradition from one generation to the next, playing music that speaks to us all.

## APRIL 2013

- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in April. We have also added a Zumba Toning class on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.
- **Irish step dance classes continue** on Saturdays & Sundays with Erika Damiani in April.
- **Fiddle classes with Cathy Clasper-Torch begin** on April 2 and April 3.

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**Mondays in April, \$5.00 per class, 5:30-6:15 PM**  
**ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**  
**Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout**  
*and*

**Mondays in April, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM**  
**ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

(Note: \$8.00 if you take both classes on the same day)

**Friday, April 5, 7 PM, \$10.00 (will be available at the door)**

### SHOWCASE DANCE PRODUCTIONS - STUDENT CHOREOGRAPHY SHOWCASE

The Student Choreography Showcase is a performance where students choreograph their own routines without the help of instructors or coaches. The dancers may work alone as a solo or invite any number of dancers to join them. They select their own music, style of dance, and costumes and it's a fun way to showcase their creative/artistic side by performing in front of an audience. For more information call (508) 384-7875 or visit [www.showcasedanceproductions.com](http://www.showcasedanceproductions.com)

**Saturday, April 6, 8 PM, \$13.00 adv./\$15.00 day of show**  
**THE BEE EATERS**

*Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union*



We are excited to welcome back this groundbreaking fiddle/cello/hammer dulcimer trio featuring brother-sister duo **Tristan** and **Tashina Clarridge** joined by hammer dulcimer wizard **Simon Chrisman**. The Boston Globe writes "The Bee Eaters combine chamber music's finely calibrated arrangements with bluegrass's playful virtuosity and pop music's melodic resourcefulness." Together Tristan, Tashina and Simon weave a tapestry of sound all their own, drawing on roots in bluegrass,

Celtic, jazz and old-time traditions. While today's new breed often produces an amalgamation of sounds and styles based on a distant view, The Bee Eaters were raised embedded in these traditions... raised to mold, meld, shape them and carry them forward, leaving their own indelible marks in the process. With Tashina's delicate fiddle and Tristan's grounding cello wrapped around Simon's ethereal dulcimer, they have created a never-before-heard sound in American music. Three instrumental voices, united in their musical exploration. They parry and thrust, challenging each other at every moment. Their melodic lines and rhythmic phrases dance over, under and around each other. Perhaps Tony Trischka said it best: "Their impressive ensemble work... leaves me breathless. Their music excites, heals and enriches. Listen often." Grand National Fiddle Champion Tashina Clarridge has toured with Mark O'Connor,

Tony Trischka and Laurie Lewis and has performed at Carnegie Hall as a part of MacArthur Fellow/Grammy-winning bassist Edgar Meyer's Young Artists program. Multi-instrumentalist brother Tristan Clarridge is a 5-time Grand National Fiddle Champion and a pioneering cellist, synthesizing traditional folk influences with rhythmic vocabulary from jazz, rock and pop music, and leading a revolution among adventurous young cellists throughout the country. He has toured the world with bluegrass/nu-folk sensation Crooked Still and Darol Anger's Republic of Strings, as well as Mike Marshall, Bruce Molsky and Cape Breton fiddle phenomenon Natalie MacMaster. Hammer dulcimer virtuoso Simon Chrisman brings a whole new approach to an instrument that has previously been thought to have limited range and technique. His inventive virtuosic touch and sophisticated rhythmic sensibilities are redefining the instrument and earning the attention of musicians from all over the world.

**Friday, April 12, 8 PM, \$13.00 adv./\$15.00 day of show**  
**TEMPEST - CELTIC ROCK**



Since forming in 1988, Tempest has delivered a globally-renowned hybrid of high-energy Folk Rock fusing Irish reels, Scottish ballads, Norwegian influences and other world music elements. The last 24 years have seen the San Francisco Bay Area based act release 15 critically-acclaimed CDs and play more than 2,000 gigs. The band has also enjoyed an evolving line-up that's enabled musicianship and creativity to rise with each new member. *This will be their only New England show!*

Hailing from Oslo, Norway, founding member and lead singer/electric mandolinist, **Lief Sorbye** is recognized as a driving force in the modern folk-rock movement. He started Tempest after years of touring and recording on the folk circuit. San Francisco fiddler **Kathy Buys** brings her international award-winning playing to the Tempest stage. Her experience performing world-fusion music with high energy dance bands combined with many years of playing Irish traditional music in America and Ireland makes her a perfect fit for Tempest. Newcomer **Caith Threefires** is from Boston. He's an old friend of the band, with a strong background in both Rock-n-Roll and Traditional Folk Music. Born in Colorado and brought up in small town Missouri, **Gregory Jones** is the latest in a long line of Tempest guitar greats. His fiery licks and hard-rocking approach to the instrument, combined with his experience and understanding of Celtic music is a fast favorite with fans, new and old alike! Cuban-born drummer **Adolfo Lazo**, an original Tempest member, colors the band's sound with inventive rhythms, and rock-steady drumming. Tempest is regularly featured at prestigious festivals including The Philadelphia Folk Festival, Denmark's Skagen Festival, Britain's Cropredy Festival and The Winnipeg Folk Festival in Canada. The band is also a mainstay at countless American Celtic festivals.

**Saturday, April 13, 11 AM**  
**In advance: Kids \$8, adults \$12 / Day of show: Kids \$10, adults \$15**  
**BILL HARLEY AND KEITH MUNSLOW FAMILY CONCERT**

*CD release of "It's Not Fair to Me"*



"It's Not Fair to Me" is the long-awaited collaboration between two award-winning veterans of the children's music scene. **Bill Harley** and **Keith Munslow** bring years of performing and friendship to a wacky collection of songs that range from the spooky "Stinkeye" to the blues send-up "Give Me Back My Hat." Bill and Keith co-wrote the title song after a contest last spring hosted by Mindy Thomas of SiriusXM's Kids Place Live. After considering hundreds of kids' song title suggestions, Keith and Bill chose

the perennial issue of sibling rivalry with "It's Not Fair to Me." Other songs on the album, about misbehaving dogs, whining little brothers, and ugly sweaters, showcase a wide range of styles and topics that find Harley and Munslow at their songwriting and performing best. Bill Harley has two GRAMMY awards and multiple nominations and was honored with a Rhode Island Council for the Humanities Lifetime Achievement Award "for his use of music, song, and story in building community; promoting our common humanity; and encouraging lifelong learning, exploring and growing." Keith Munslow is also an award-winning performer who combines music, storytelling, visual

art, and improvisation. In addition to his one-man show for kids and families, he performs with the New Orleans-flavored blues band, Superchief Trio. He says that he and Bill had "more fun than should be allowed... We both love a good joke and a great story, and making music together is always a hoot. As for the bickering, well, that can neither be helped or avoided - so we just embrace it!" *The Providence Journal* says "The pair have the superb timing and chemistry of old-time vaudevillians, and a finely honed sense of what makes kids laugh."

**Saturday, April 13**  
**PRIVATE ZUMBA EVENT**

**Saturday, April 20, 8 PM, \$13.00 adv./\$15.00 day of show**  
**ANNALIVIA/NØIR**



At the cutting edge of acoustic and traditional music, **Annalivia** fuses old and new world sounds to create an authentic new sound, both steeped in tradition and alive with new energy, innovation and originality. Annalivia - who will be appearing in trio format with **Liz**



**Simmons** (vocals, guitar), **Flynn Cohen** (vocals, mandolin, guitar), and **Bronwyn Keith-Hynes** (fiddle) - are masterful musicians and have long histories with traditional music, ranging from Old Time to bluegrass to Irish music. These styles play a large role in the interpretations of their material, which include inventive, quirky fiddle tunes and lushly arranged songs performed on fiddle, guitars, mandolin and vocals. The members of Annalivia have toured with Halali, Cathie Ryan, Aoife Clancy,

John Whelan, Ruth Moody, and Adrienne Young. *Irish Music Magazine* says "With a wealth of individual talent on display and so much to absorb, there is no doubt that Annalivia will be listened to again and again." **NØIR** emerged from the vibrant folk scene of Southeastern Mass. Centered around the admiration each musician has for regional European roots music, NØIR sought to create a unique sound by combining the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle (Hardingfele), Irish fiddle, and Irish uilleann pipes. This new voice, combined with solid rhythmic underpinnings of the bouzouki and guitar, breathes new life into the enduring melodies of their respective traditions.

**Mark Oien** on fiddle & Hardanger is originally from the Midwest, where he was surrounded by his father's Norwegian-American culture. Through the years, Mark has refined his style by utilizing the long bow strokes and agile fingerwork of the Boston-Galway and New York-Sligo musicians. Mark is an active member of both the Boston Spelemannslag and the Hardanger Fiddle Association of America. After seeing Lúnasa piper Cillian Vallely in action at the age of twelve, **Torrin Ryan** picked up a set of uilleann pipes and has been piping ever since. He has competed in several Mid-Atlantic Fleadhs in NY where he's won first place on both whistle and pipes. In Ireland, he has competed at the All-Ireland Fleadh held in Tullamore and has attended the Scoil Éigse music school. **Stuart Peak** on guitar and bouzouki is an accomplished multi-instrumentalist and a highly sought-after session leader, performer, and teacher of Irish music. He has performed all over the US, Canada, and Ireland and is considered one of the South Shore's premiere Irish musicians.

**Friday, April 26, 8 PM, \$35.00**  
**A to Z's BROADWAY AT THE BLACKSTONE!**



This April, Broadway comes to the Blackstone with Arundale, Zolli and friends! A to Z Theatrical Productions, a professional non-profit musical theatre company, continues their fund-raising concert series with an exclusive evening featuring a three-piece band. Stars of A to Z will be performing hit songs they have sung on Broadway, on tour, and more! You'll hear stunning vocal renditions of some of the most popular classic and contemporary musical theatre songs including pieces from "The Music

Man" and "Man of La Mancha" to "Les Miserables," "Mamma Mia" and more! *Don't miss this exciting one night only event!* Currently scheduled to appear with co-founders **Susan Arundale** (from the national tour of Columbia Artist's Of *Mice and Men*, and **Robert Zolli** (from the premiere company of *Jekyll & Hyde*, the national tour of *Les Miserables* and featured on the original Broadway recording of "Starmites" as Space Punk) will be: television personality, actor/singer **Scott Wahle**, RI Baritone **Terry Donilon**, Manhattan Cabaret Bistro award winner for outstanding entertainer of the year **Loli Marquez-Sterling**, and Broadway Tenor **John Antony** from the Broadway and National tour companies of the recent revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Passion, Dirty Dancing, Sunset Boulevard, White Christmas, 42nd Street, Titanic, Annie Get Your Gun, Pal Joey* and *High School Musical*. **For reservations, please call A to Z at: (401) 721-5304.**

**Saturday, April 27, 8 PM, \$13.00 adv./\$15.00 day of show**  
**BRIAN PETERS & JEFF DAVIS**



**Brian Peters** is, according to the UK's Living Tradition magazine, "a top-notch singer and player, also one of the best-researched performers currently doing the rounds, and master of several crafts" while the US folk music magazine Dirty Linen described him as "one of the very best performers in the field of English traditional song and music." Brian is indeed a great all-rounder, on the one

hand a highly-respected singer, and on the other a multi-instrumentalist acknowledged as one of England's leading exponents of the anglo concertina and melodeon (button accordion) and a skilled guitarist as well. Described as "one of British folk music's finest ambassadors," he has taken his music to stages all over the world, touring regularly in America, Europe and Australia. Brian believes strongly in the power and relevance of the old songs, specializing particularly in the great ballads of the British Isles. He has a particular skill in crafting song accompaniments on each of his instruments, giving a wide range of musical textures, and he's not a traditional diehard, being happy to include modern songs of struggle or comedy. On the instrumental side, Brian is a skilled player and researcher of old Northern English dance music, unearthing tunes from centuries-old manuscripts, at the same time composing many new tunes in traditional style. He's also known for daring forays into ragtime, blues and rock'n'roll on his squeezeboxes, making for a repertoire of sometimes startling variety. Brian presents his material with energy, informality and dry humour. **Jeff Davis** is one of America's most respected collectors and interpreters of traditional music. An event with Jeff includes New England ballads sea songs, African-American banjo tunes, cowboy ditties, rare Yankee fiddle tunes and more. You will "meet" singers and players from the North Carolina mountains and coast, Nova Scotia farmers, African-American sailors, New York loggers and many others. Jeff plays fiddle, banjo, mandocello, guitar, spoons, jaw's harps and a few instruments hand-made by folk craftsmen. He has toured extensively throughout the United States and to festivals in Canada, England, Ireland, The Netherlands, and Norway. His latest CD is a collection of thirteen Civil War Naval Songs with an all-star crew of singers and musicians.

**MAY 2013**

- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays

at 6:30 p.m. in April. There is also a Zumba Toning class on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

- **Irish step dance classes continue** on Saturdays & Sundays with Erika Damiani through May 19
- **Fiddle classes with Cathy Clasper-Torch continue** throughout May.
- **There are one-day workshops in continuing beginner dulcimer and group singing** with Aubrey Atwater on May 18.

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

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

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

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

**Mondays in May, \$5.00 per class, 5:30-6:15 PM**

**ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

**Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout**

*and*

**Mondays in May, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM**

**ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

(Note: \$8.00 if you take both classes on the same day)

**SOLD OUT!**

**Friday, May 3, 8 PM, \$20.00 adv. / \$24.00 day of show**

**TEETOTALLERS - MARTIN HAYES, KEVIN CRAWFORD & JOHN DOYLE**



Teetotallers is an alliance of three trad superstars: fiddler Martin Hayes (The Gloaming, Masters of Tradition, Dennis Cahill), flautist Kevin Crawford (Lúnasa, Moving Cloud), and guitarist John Doyle (Joan Baez, Solas, Liz Carroll, Green Fields of America). **Martin Hayes** is one of the most extraordinary talents to

emerge in the world of Irish traditional music. His unique sound, his mastery of the violin, and his sense of the music's past and future combine to create an astonishing and formidable artistic intelligence. He has received major national and international awards including the prestigious Gradam Ceoil, Musician of the Year, 2008 from the Irish language television station TG 4; a National Entertainment Award (the Irish Grammy), and earlier, before the age of nineteen, six All-Ireland fiddle championships. In 1994, **John Doyle** brought his brilliant and innovative guitar stylings to the Irish super-group Solas, which soon took the folk and Celtic music worlds by storm. In the years since, emerging as a solo artist, John has recorded two albums and has become a highly sought-after accompanist and session player for the likes of Joan Baez, Eileen Ivers, Tim O'Brien, Linda Thompson, Seamus Egan, Kate Rusby, and Karan Casey. **Kevin Crawford** is a virtuoso flute player and founding member of the influential Irish band Lúnasa. He was a member of Moving Cloud, the Clare-based band who recorded such critically-acclaimed albums as "Moving Cloud" and "Foxglove." His sly and often hilarious commentaries provide an added bonus to every show. *Don't miss this rare concert featuring three masters of Irish traditional music!*

**Sunday, May 5, 7 PM, \$13.00 adv. / \$15.00 day of show**

**MAEVE GILCHRIST TRIO**



**Maeve Gilchrist** was born and raised in Edinburgh, Scotland. Daughter to an Irish mother and Scottish father, she grew up immersed in traditional folk music. At an early age Maeve was accepted into the City of Edinburgh Music School where she spent seven years studying classical piano, clarsach (Celtic harp) and vocals. From her early teens, Maeve was an in-demand member on the traditional music scene in Scotland where she performed at events such as the opening of the Scottish Parliament, the Celtic Connections Festival

and the International Edinburgh Harp Festival. At seventeen Maeve received a full scholarship from the Berklee College of Music in Boston where she studied jazz and world music, alongside a colorful career as a professional musician and teacher. Still in her mid-twenties, Gilchrist has been credited as an innovator on her native Celtic Harp. With her distinct vocal sound and exquisite harp playing, Gilchrist has brought audiences to their feet all over Europe and North America. Gilchrist put together her alternative string trio after being inspired by the rich and innovative string sounds that the northeast new-acoustic scene had to offer. Along with her regular collaborator, bassist **Aidan O'Donnell** (Scottish Jazz Awards recipient), Maeve is joined by fiddler **Duncan Wickel** (of the John Doyle Band) to form a unique and colorful string sound drawing deeply on Maeve's traditional music background while also including elements of improvisation. Her solo project is called THE OSTINATO PROJECT, an exploration of the harp with a focus on each hand working as an individual voice. The Maeve Gilchrist trio performs exciting original music and breathes life into traditional songs. *Don't miss their BRT debut!*

### **Postponed due to unforeseen circumstances; to be rescheduled in Fall as a CD release event!**

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

#### **FLYNN COHEN & THE DEADSTRING ENSEMBLE**



Guitarist/composer/singer **Flynn Cohen** leads his own band of string geniuses performing original multi-genre acoustic music. Primarily instrumental, they combine influences ranging from Irish traditional music, old-time appalachian, bluegrass, folk-rock, and early music. The band consists of some of the finest and most experienced acoustic plucked-string players in America. **Matt Heaton**, on Irish guitar & bouzouki, is known for his world-wide performances with wife Shannon Heaton. He has accompanied many traditional musicians of note including the Boys of the Lough, has a Master's degree in classical guitar, and also performs on electric guitar in his Surf band Matt Heaton & the Electric Heaters. **Danny Noveck**, on guitar/fiddle, is a noted multi-instrumentalist and well-known DADGAD guitar accompanist. They will be joined by special guest vocalist **Liz Simmons** of Long Time Courting and Annalivia.

**Saturday, May 11, 8 PM, \$15.00**

#### **THE BOHEMIAN QUARTET**

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union



Experience an amazing performance of gypsy music! The mission of keeping a rare musical flame alight is a noble and often challenging one, but **The Bohemian Quartet** is more than up to the task. In this case, the acclaimed Providence, Rhode Island-based ensemble featuring violin, viola, cello, and bass specializes in music of the "Romany" or "Gypsy" tradition, along with related Eastern European folk styles. The Bohemian Quartet was formed in 2005. Violinist **Stan Renard**, a composer and virtuoso player with an impressive list of credentials, assembled the group with the idea of preserving the tradition and indulging in the virtuosic playing of classic gypsy music. Renard recruited like-minded and ambitious friends: **Christine Harrington** on cello, **Nancy Richardson** on viola, and **Dave Zinno** on upright bass. Together, they've made a commitment to the genre, and aspired to performing it with both reverence and adventure. Indeed, like every good curator, the ensemble embraces tradition, and still wanders off in newer, unpredictable directions. The name "Bohemian Quartet" was

borrowed from the original Bohemian Quartet (also known as the Czech Quartet after 1918), a string quartet of international repute that was founded in 1891 and disbanded in 1934. Both groups share a passion for the deep-rooted authenticity of the Romany tradition, as well as the ability to play that historic repertoire with extraordinary joie de vivre. On the aptly titled "Beyond Tradition," the quartet's 2010 recording, the group's intentions are on full display. The project was recorded live at Blackstone River Theatre and St. Paul's Church in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Produced by Harrington and the quartet, the recording is a journey through the musical vernacular of gypsy life, with zippy tempos, virtuosic playing, and above all the flair of performance that makes this music so utterly riveting.

### **SOLD OUT!**

**Friday, May 17, 8 PM, \$38.00 adv. / \$42.00 day of show**

**DOUGIE MACLEAN**

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



It simply does not get much better than this! This very rare small-venue show sees **Dogie MacLean** returning to Blackstone River Theatre for the third time on his only U.S tour in 2013... do NOT miss your chance to see this legendary artist in an intimate theater setting! Dogie MacLean is considered by many to be Scotland's pre-eminent singer-songwriter and is certainly one of the country's greatest musical treasures. Dogie was thrilled to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award for Songwriting at the BBC Folk Awards 2013! From his home base in Butterstone near Dunkeld, MacLean tours the world with his unique blend of lyrical, 'roots based' songwriting and

instrumental composition. He has built an international reputation as songwriter, composer and extraordinary performer which has led to concerts and festivals worldwide including New York's Carnegie Hall. His songs have been covered by hosts of artists and his "Caledonia" has become one of Scotland's most popular contemporary songs. His music has been used in Hollywood films ("Last of the Mohicans") and he has been the subject of three BBC TV music-documentaries. Described as "...a musical hero" (Wall Street Journal) MacLean is renowned for his meaningful, haunting and emotion-filled music. His innovative work has created a modern interpretation of this music but its fundamental values remain rooted in the ancient Scots culture. *Buy tickets soon so you won't be disappointed!*

**Sunday, May 19, 7 PM, \$20 adults, \$15 seniors, \$10.00 children 12-and-under**  
**BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE REBUILDING OF ST. MICHAEL'S UKRAINIAN**

**ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**featuring JULIAN KYTASTY**



**Julian Kytasty** is one of the world's premier bandura (Ukrainian lute-harp) players, and the instrument's leading North American exponent. A singer, conductor, composer, and multi-instrumentalist, he has concertized and taught Ukrainian instrumental and choral music throughout the Americas and Europe. In 1989-1990 Kytasty was one of the first North American-born bandurists

to tour Ukraine, performing more than 100 concerts. Kytasty is a third-generation bandurist, carrying on the tradition of a musical family, and a consummate exponent of time-honored folk styles. He is also known for his original compositions, innovative reinterpretations of traditional music, and his development of the bandura as a contemporary concert instrument. Kytasty has collaborated with outstanding musicians from many nations, cultures, and traditions, performing and recording with artists ranging from Chinese pipa virtuoso Wu Man and Mongolian master musician Battuvshin to saxophonist John Zorn and New Yiddish Music pioneer Michael Alpert, as well as with the acclaimed Canadian ensemble Paris to Kyiv and also with his own Experimental Bandura Trio. *The fire occurred the day before Thanksgiving in 2012 on the Feast Day of Saint Michael the Archangel (Julian Calendar). A passerby at 4:30 a.m. called the Woonsocket FD and the fire was extinguished within a few hours. While the fire was raging, members of the WFD raced into the building repeatedly to salvage anything they could. The parish hopes to start rebuilding this year. One interesting note: a large icon of Saint Michael on the ceiling, where damage was*

extensive, was untouched. The damage came right up to the icon, then stopped.

## JUNE 2013

- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in June. There is also a Zumba Toning class on Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

**Mondays in June, \$5.00 per class, 5:30-6:15 PM**  
**ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**  
**Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout**  
*and*

**Mondays in June, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM**  
**ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

(Note: \$8.00 if you take both classes on the same day)

**Saturday, June 1, 10 AM**  
**PRIVATE EVENT - PAINTBOX PRESCHOOL GRADUATION**

**Saturday, June 16, 2 PM**  
**PRIVATE EVENT - KRISSY'S DANCE & FITNESS STUDIO RECITAL**

**Saturday, June 22, 11 AM to 7 PM, (Rain date: Sunday, June 23)**  
**3rd annual BLACKSTONE RIVER THEATRE SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL**

at Diamond Hill Park, Rte. 114, Cumberland, RI

**BLACKSTONE  
RIVER  
THEATRE  
SUMMER  
SOLSTICE  
FESTIVAL**

Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, children \$5, kids under-5 free!

Five entertainment stages plus food and craft vendors!  
Atwater-Donnelly Trio • Cantrip • Aoife Clancy • Core 4  
• Sheila Falls & Mark Roberts • Genticorum • The Gnomes • Paddy Keenan • Cassie & Maggie MacDonald  
• Robbie O'Connell • Pendragon • Irish step dance featuring Tir Na Nog Irish Dance and Showcase Dance Productions and more!

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

**Thursday, June 27, 6 PM**  
**VALLEY FALLS FIRE ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sunday, June 30, 4-5:30 PM**  
**ZUMBA RENTAL EVENT**

## JULY 2013

- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in July. There is also a Zumba Toning class on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. *AND, for the summer we are adding classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays!*
- **A 5-week session of Irish step dance classes** with Erika Damiani will begin on both July 27 and July 28
- **There will be an Irish step dance summer camp for children** the week of July 29 through August 2.

**Mondays in July, \$4.00 per class, 5:30-6:15 PM**

**ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**  
Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout  
*and*

**Mondays in July, \$4.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM**

**ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

(Note: \$7.00 if you take both classes on the same day)

**Tuesdays in July, \$4.00 per class, 6:30-7:15 PM**

**ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout

**Wednesdays in July, \$4.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM**

**ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

**Sunday, July 21, 8 AM to 6 PM**

**ZUMBA RENTAL EVENT**

**Friday, July 26, 6-9 PM**

**ZUMBA RENTAL EVENT**

**Saturday, July 27**

**5-week session of Irish step dance classes begins**

**Sunday, July 28**

**5-week session of Irish step dance classes begins**

## **AUGUST 2013**

- **We will continue our popular Zumba classes** with April Hilliker on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in August. There is also a Zumba Toning class on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. *AND, for the summer we are adding classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays!*
- **A 5-week session of Irish step dance classes** with Erika Damiani will continue.

**Mondays in August, \$4.00 per class, 5:30-6:15 PM**

**ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout

*and*

**Mondays in August, \$4.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM**

**ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

(Note: \$7.00 if you take both classes on the same day)

**Tuesdays in August, \$4.00 per class, 6:30-7:15 PM**

**ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout

**Wednesdays in August, \$4.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM**

**ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

## **SOLD OUT!**

**Saturday, August 3, 8:00 p.m., \$30.00 advance/\$35.00 day of show**

**CHERISH THE LADIES**

*Advance ticket purchase recommended! This WILL sell out quickly!*



They have grown from a one-time concert concept to an Irish traditional music sensation, literally the most successful and sought-after Irish-American group in Celtic music. Organized by folklorist/musician Mick Moloney and sponsored by the Ethnic Folk Arts Center and the National Endowment for the Arts, Cherish the Ladies began as a concert series featuring the brightest lights in Irish traditional music. Taking their name from the name of a traditional Irish jig, the group initially won recognition as the first and only all-women traditional Irish band.

In a relatively short time, they soon established themselves as musicians and performers without peer and have won many thousands of listeners and fans of their music. With their spectacular blend of virtuosic instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements and stunning step dancing, this powerhouse group combines all the facets of Irish traditional culture and puts it forth in an immensely humorous and entertaining package. Cherish the Ladies - **Joannie Madden, Mary Coogan, Grainne Murphy, Mirella Murray and KT Boyle** - have been named Best Musical Group of the Year by the BBC, Entertainment Group of the Year by the Irish Voice Newspaper, chosen as the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall's International Group of the Year Award at the Celtic Connections Festival in Scotland, and voted the Top North American Celtic act by NPR Radio's "Thistle and Shamrock." *Do not miss a VERY rare small room appearance by this amazing group!*

## SEPTEMBER 2013

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

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

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

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

**Every Monday in SEPTEMBER, \$5.00 per class**

**5:30-6:15 PM - ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

*AND*

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

*Take both classes on same night for \$8.00! Free class after you take 10!*

**Saturday, September 7**

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

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

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

**Sunday, September 8**

**10:00-11:00 AM: 8-week class TIR NA NOG IRISH DANCE with Erika Damiani begins**

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

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

**1:00-2:30 PM: 8-week class TIR NA NOG IRISH DANCE with Erika Damiani begins**

**Tuesday, September 10**

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

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

**7:30 PM: 6-week class in INTERMEDIATE FIDDLE with Cathy Clasper-Torch**

## begins

**Wednesday, September 11**

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

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

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

### **MENTALIST AND MINDBENDER RORY RAVEN**



Rory Raven is a mentalist with 17 years of experience reading minds and astonishing audiences. Neither a psychic nor a magician, he offers a compelling kind of entertainment unlike anything audiences have ever seen. With a few simple props (paper and pencil, a pack of playing cards, some paperback books, and the thoughts of some volunteers) Rory involves the audience in a highly unusual - and unusually entertaining - experience. Thoughts are revealed, predictions come true, and perhaps even the spirits are summoned... Rory is well-known for leading people on his Providence Ghost Walk; he has also released three great books, "Haunted Providence: Strange Tales from the Smallest State,"

"Wicked Conduct," and "The Dorr War: Treason, Rebellion and the Fight for Reform in Rhode Island." **Frequently Asked Questions:** Okay, let's start with that title - what's a mentalist? A mentalist is a theatrical mind-reader... a performer who, using a variety of techniques, is able to produce results that would only seem possible by psychic or paranormal means. And those techniques would be...? They range from a knowledge of subtle psychological principles and the quirks of human behavior, to quick thinking and a good memory. Rory is also interested in things like suggestion, non-verbal communication, and the so-called trance state. And he doesn't hesitate to borrow ideas from the stage magician, either! So is he psychic or what? No. Not everyone believes him when he says that, but there's not much he can do about it he explains. People who believe in the paranormal will believe no matter what he tells them, and those who don't believe won't believe no matter what he shows them. But a long time ago Rory realized that everybody's mind is pretty much made up before they came to a show, so it was a fool's errand to try and convince people of the validity of one viewpoint or another. *Come on down as we start off our season with something a little different for a Friday the 13th!*

### **SOLD OUT!**

**Saturday, September 21, 8 PM, \$18.00 adv. / \$20.00 day of show**

### **PENDRAGON - 30TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW!**



New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. **Celebrating their 30th anniversary tonight**, Pendragon has embraced that tradition and created a timeless sound of its own, performing roots music with an unmistakable contemporary edge. Pendragon is step dancer and

percussionist **Kevin Doyle**, **Bob Drouin** on fiddle, bouzouki and tenor banjo, **Russell Gusetti** on guitar and concertina, **Josh Kane** on flute and whistles, and **Mary Lee Partington** on vocals. They will be joined by guest dancer **Erika Damiani** as well as guest appearances by former members **Doug Brunelle**, **Phil Edmonds**, and **Ken Lyon**. Pendragon's music celebrates the lives and lore of generations of New Englanders who brought traditions from Ireland, Scotland, French Canada and other distant shores to the banks of the Blackstone River. The band performs their original songs and dance tunes on an exciting combination of fiddle, flute, bouzouki, concertina, banjo, guitar, whistle, and percussion. Past tributes include three straight Boston Music Award nominations for Outstanding Celtic Act and a Governor's Tourism Award. Pendragon was voted Rhode Island's Best Celtic Act in the 2013 and 2005-2011 Motif Magazine's Best Music Poll. Pendragon has also been voted Best Local Folk Act of the Year in the Providence Phoenix' Best Music Poll eight times.

**Friday, September 27, 8 PM, \$16.00 adv. / \$18.00 day of show**

### **ARCHIE FISHER**



Master guitarist, singer and songwriter **Archie Fisher** is Scotland's foremost troubadour and is known throughout the country as the host of BBC Radio Scotland's award-winning "Travelling Folk" show, which he has presented for more than 25 years. Recognized for his contributions to Scottish folk music, he was inducted into the Scots Traditional Music Hall of Fame and in 2006 was awarded an MBE, (Distinguished Member of the British Empire), a prestigious honor nominated by his peers and bestowed by

Queen Elizabeth for services to traditional music in 2007. Archie was born in Glasgow into a large singing family, which yielded three professional singers - Archie and his sisters Ray and Cilla Fisher. Fisher's first self-titled album was recorded in 1968. During the mid-1970s he formed a long-term partnership with Dundee musician Allan Barty, and later joined the revived pairing of Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy. As well as performing as a backing musician and arranger for Makem & Clancy, he also produced a series of albums with them and got involved in record production with the dynamic Scottish band Silly Wizard. His current "Windward Away" release on Red House, a collection of introspective ballads that evoke the wild and rough beauty of the Scottish Border country, has already achieved widespread acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic. *Always a BRT favorite, don't miss out!*

**Saturday Sept. 28 AND Sunday, Sept. 29**  
**TWO-DAY CLASS IN CELTIC RELIEF STONECARVING with Laura Travis**



**OCTOBER 2013**

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

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

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

**Every Monday in OCTOBER, \$5.00 per class**

**5:30-6:15 PM - ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

*AND*

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

*Take both classes on same night for \$8.00! Free class after you take 10!*

**Saturday, October 5, 8:00 PM, \$15.00**

**A CAJUN DANCE PARTY WITH MAGNOLIA**



Known throughout New England for their irresistible Cajun two-steps and sultry waltzes with French lyrics, Magnolia Cajun Band is sure to make you feel welcomed whether you are an experienced dancer or have always wanted to learn. Since 1989, Magnolia has been New England's hometown Cajun band. Learning their music from Louisiana's finest has earned them a solid reputation at home and recognition in the Cajun heartland. Their dance lessons and music have helped build a strong sense of

community at festivals and fais-do-dos all over Northeast. Playing high-energy two steps and waltzes, the band's twin fiddles, accordion, guitar, bass, and rich vocals keep the audience on its feet long into the night. And true to the tradition, Magnolia's seven members create a party wherever they perform! Magnolia Cajun Band is **Alan Bradbury, Michelle Kaminsky, Chris Ash, Martin Grosswendt, Maggie Moniz, Richard Moniz and Jack Ezikovich**. *Includes a half hour of dance instruction at 7:30 PM.*

**Sunday, October 6, 7 PM, \$28.00 advance / \$32.00 day of show**  
**MEDIAEVAL BAEBES**



*Combining 14th century poetry with the talents & sensibilities of 21st century women*  
*Limited seating; advance ticket purchase highly recommended!*

The allure is undeniable... Six talented, attractive women breathe renewed life into the rich texts of medieval songs and poetry and their hauntingly beautiful music captures the imagination and devotion of modern audiences. They are the **Mediaeval Baebes**, the UK's number one selling classical vocal group, and in 17 years they have placed three albums into the top of the UK classical charts and performed before enthusiastic audiences in the UK, Canada, Europe and the U.S. Yet their music defies any traditional classification and people of all ages, backgrounds and musical tastes become fans of the Baebes. Originally formed in 1996, the all-female Mediaeval Baebes lineup has evolved over the years and currently consists of musical director **Katharine Blake, Emily Ovenden, Esther Dee, Sarah Kayte Foster, Clare Edmondson, and Josephine Ravenheart**. The Baebes sing in a variety of medieval languages including French, Spanish, English, Italian, Gaelic, and Swedish. Their original music evokes an earlier time, but is accessible to a modern audience as the medieval themes of nature, the life cycle, love and longing are as relevant in 2013 as they were in 1413. Pulling lyrics from medieval texts and setting them to original scores using medieval and classical instruments, the Baebes truly offer a sound that is unique. Their first album, "Salva Nos," became Virgin Classics' fastest selling debut album. Their 1998 follow-up, "Worldes Blysse," blazed to number one in the Classical charts and their contribution to the BBC production of "The Virgin Queen" (composed by Martin Phipps) resulted in a 2007 Ivor Novello award for best television soundtrack. Their most recent studio album 'Illumination' takes a fresher contemporary direction while retaining the ethereal beauty of the Baebes' historical and musical influences. In a 2002 NPR interview, host John Nielsen asked Blake what specifically drew them to the medieval texts. Blake replied, "I think it was one of the last periods in Western history where mythology and history were inextricably bound. The people lived in a world where you thought fairies and dragons were real... that so much fantasy was hardwired into everyone's daily thinking intrigues me. It's that combination of fantasy and a very gritty, mundane existence which is a fascinating juxtaposition."

**Thursday, October 10**  
**ZUMBA EVENT**

**Saturday, October 12, 2 PM MATINEE, \$10.00 adv. / \$12.00 day of show**

**DIXIE DIEHARDS JAZZ BAND**

*Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union*





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

established jazz as "America's music" and set the direction for much of subsequent pop culture. The term "Dixieland" refers to a form of small group jazz which typically includes a trumpet, a clarinet and a trombone and often a tuba combined with a rhythm section that may include a banjo, percussion or bass player as well as a piano. In most arrangements, the trumpet plays the melody while other elements freely improvise around it or paraphrase the melody in creative solos. The Dixie Diehards have won an enthusiastic reception across southern New England for bringing an irrepressible sense of fun and frolic to their shows. That attitude almost always includes audience sing-alongs, spontaneous dance outbursts (remember the Charleston?) and a spirit of "wonderful nonsense." The lineup includes: **Rick Foster** on trumpet & vocals, **Dolly Fruzzetti** on vocals, **Bill Dube** on reeds, **Dale Ellenberg** on drums, **Paul Peterson** on reeds, **Steve Shaw** on tuba, **John Zawislak** on trombone, **Chris Wadsworth** on banjo, and band leader **Alan Shapiro** on trumpet. *Don't miss a rare BRT matinee show sure to be fun for all ages!*

**Sunday, October 13, 7 PM, \$15.00**  
**NORTH SEA GAS - MUSIC FROM SCOTLAND**  
**CD Release Concert!**



North Sea Gas is a folk band from Scotland who have been performing their blend of poignant and rousing songs and high-energy instrumentals for three decades. With a combination of fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bodhran and bouzouki, complementing strong three-part vocal harmonies and a keen sense of humor, an entertaining evening is always guaranteed! North Sea Gas has now recorded 17

albums and played to audiences all over Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, the U.S. and Canada; this marks their 9th appearance at BRT as they tour behind their new CD, "The Fire And The Passion Of Scotland." The band is led by founder **Dave Gilfillan** on lead vocals, guitar and banjo, well-known for his tongue-in-cheek humor. **Ronnie MacDonald** on lead and harmony vocals, guitar and bouzouki is joined by **Grant Simpson** on high-energy fiddle and vocals. The band received a Gold Disc award from the Scottish Music Industry for their album "Caledonian Connection," which American author, Diana Gabaldon, writer of Scottish historical novels, referenced as one of her sources when researching Scottish speech patterns for her books. Additionally, Silver Disc awards have been received for "Keltic Heritage," "Live from Edinburgh," "Scottish Destiny," "Spirit of Scotland" and "Dark Island." *Always a great show - don't miss it!*

**Saturday, October 19, 8 PM, \$15.00**  
**SUGAR RAY AND THE BLUETONES**



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

singer has appeared on more than 50 albums including discs with the Bluetones, Ronnie Earl, Roomful of Blues, Otis Grand, Michelle Willson, J. Giels, Duke Robillard, Pinetop Perkins, and his 1999 "Best Traditional Blues" Grammy-nominated collaboration with fellow harmonica virtuosos James Cotton, Charlie Musselwhite and

Billy Branch called *Superharps*.

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

## **THIS CONCERT IS CANCELLED FOR TONIGHT AND WILL BE RESCHEDULED IN SPRING, 2014.**

**Saturday, October 26, 8 PM, \$12.00**

**FLYNN COHEN & THE DEADSTRING ENSEMBLE**



Guitarist/composer/singer **Flynn Cohen** leads his own band of string geniuses performing original multi-genre acoustic music. Primarily instrumental, they combine influences ranging from Irish traditional music, old-time appalachian, bluegrass, folk-rock, and early music. The band consists of some of the finest and most experienced acoustic plucked-string players in America. **Matt Heaton**, on Irish guitar & bouzouki, is known for his world-wide performances with wife Shannon Heaton. He has accompanied many traditional musicians of note including the Boys of the Lough, has a Master's degree in classical guitar, and also performs on electric guitar in his Surf band Matt Heaton & the Electric Heaters. **Danny Noveck**, on guitar/fiddle, is a noted multi-instrumentalist and well-known DADGAD guitar accompanist. They will be joined by special guest vocalist **Liz Simmons** of Long Time Courting and Annalivia.

## **NOVEMBER 2013**

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

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

**Every Monday in NOVEMBER, \$5.00 per class**

**5:30-6:15 PM - ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

*AND*

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

*Take both classes on same night for \$8.00! Free class after you take 10!*

**Saturday, November 2, 8 PM, \$12.00**

**THE KROPPDUSTERS / BLUE AROUND THE EDGES**



**The KroppDusters** are a group of veteran musicians featuring banjo master **Mike Kropp**, guitarist and singer **Bill Henry**, bassist and vocalist **Jeff Horton**, mandolin man and singer **Monty McClanahan**, and

claw-hammer banjo player **Lisa Schmitz**. Henry, Kropp, and Horton are all former members of Northern Lights. The band's vocal blend culminates in some beautiful 4-part harmonies augmented by some impressive instrumental chops. **Blue Around the Edges** began as **Dianna Fallon** (vocals, guitar, clawhammer banjo) and **Carol Campbell** (vocals, mandolin, guitar, fiddle). The duo came together in 2005 performing acoustic old-timey, gospel, and traditional music with just a hint of bluegrass. They are now joined by **Oliver Reid** on upright bass. Their simple and beautiful, lonesome harmonies tell stories of struggle, hope and compassion that touch the mind, heart, and spirit. They have performed on the Showcase stage of the Joe Val Bluegrass Festival and at many other venues throughout New England and New York. They are recipients of RI's Motif Magazine Music Award nominations for Best Female Vocalist (Dianna Fallon) in the Americana genre, and for Best Bluegrass Band. They released their latest CD in June, 2013, titled "Jugo Verde."

**Saturday, November 9, 8 PM, \$15.00 adv. / \$18.00 day of show**  
**HANNEKE CASSEL, KEITH MURPHY & JEREMY KITTEL**



Former  
U.S.

National Scottish Fiddle Champions Hanneke Cassel and Jeremy Kittel will team up with Keith Murphy to bring you a night of innovative Scottish and Irish fiddle music and songs from Eastern Canada and Quebec. Both Hanneke and Jeremy are at the forefront of the contemporary fiddle scene in America... playing and composing new tunes that retain the integrity and soul of traditional music. "Exuberant and rhythmic, somehow both wild and innocent, delivered with captivating melodic clarity and an irresistible playfulness," says the Boston Globe about **Hanneke Cassel's** playing. Such charismatic fiddling has brought the native Oregonian many honors and awards. She is the 1997 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, she holds a Bachelors of Music in Violin Performance from Berklee College of Music, and she has performed and taught across North America, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and China. Hanneke's latest release, "For Reasons Unseen," features an all-star cast of musicians including Alasdair Fraser, Natalie Haas, Rushad Eggleston, and Aoife O'Donovan. Influences from Scotland to China, along with grooves and musical innovations from the hip Boston bluegrass/Americana scene, fuse together to create a uniquely American approach to Scottish music. A native of Newfoundland, singer/guitarist **Keith Murphy**, known for his work with Nightingale, Childsplay and Assembly, has a sophisticated approach to old ballads and songs, and fills out fiddle tunes with his grooving guitar style as well as contributing great songs. Currently touring internationally with his name-sake group, the Jeremy Kittel Band, **Jeremy Kittel** leads audiences into exciting new-acoustic music territory. He also maintains an active schedule of collaborations with some of today's most innovative and influential artists, from genres diverse as folk, jazz, classical, and pop music. Recently completing a five-year position as a full-time member of the Grammy-winning Turtle Island Quartet, Kittel has also toured and recorded with such musical giants as Mark O'Connor, Bela Fleck, Edgar Meyer, Paquito D'Rivera, My Morning Jacket, and Abigail Washburn. *Don't miss this amazing night of music with three master musicians!*

**Friday, November 15, 7 PM, \$20.00 or two for \$35.00**

**7th annual CUMBERLAND LAND TRUST WINE TASTING**

For tickets, call Joe at 658-1766 or if paying by credit card visit: [www.razoo.com](http://www.razoo.com), enter "Cumberland Land Trust" and open the Wine Event Window. Your email acknowledgement will be your ticket. Wines will be provided by MENDON WINES AND MORE, Cumberland. Winetasting event includes raffles and cheeses and light appetizers. The Cumberland Land Trust is a private, non-profit, charitable conservation organization run by a dedicated group of volunteers. Their mission is to preserve the natural resources of Cumberland for present and future generations by preserving land for open space. Since incorporation in 1989, CLT has protected 354 acres of land acquired through purchase, donation and conservation easements. The Land Trust applies for grants from private foundations and organizations and from government sources to help acquire select properties including streams, ponds, wetlands, open space, working farms, scenic and natural sites and historically significant properties. For more information visit [www.cumberlandlandtrust.org](http://www.cumberlandlandtrust.org)

**Saturday, November 16, 8 PM, \$13.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show**  
**THE GNOMES**



Come and enjoy the World-Folk-Fusion of The Gnomes...as always, The Gnomes' special brand of music is sure to get you on your feet and dancing! The band features **Phil Edmonds, Cathy Clasper-Torch, Peter Breen, Mike Fischman and Ron Schmitt** who combine their varied and extensive musical backgrounds into arrangements that have been described as "exotic, fresh, and unique." Instrumentation includes fiddle, Irish whistles, erhu, accordion, guitar, mandolin, bass, percussion, keyboard, and vocals. Their spirited music takes you around the world, encompassing Celtic,

klezmer, Scandinavian, Carribean, Asian and Latin styles. Winners of the 2012 Motif Magazine Music Award for Americana Act of the Year, you can't help but "Get Gnomed" when you hear them play! Tonight is also a celebration of Phil's newest book: "On the Grey Dog in the Sea of Humanity" about his 5,500 mile Greyhound bus adventure through the American south... *With guest performance by the Broad Street Fiddlers & friends!*

**Saturday, November 23, 8 PM, \$15.00**  
**COMAS**



When you hear Comas you'll know that their choice of name was no mere coincidence. Translating from Irish Gaelic as "power," that is exactly what this band is all about! Born of Irish parents, **Aidan Burke** was brought up in the Irish culture of music, dance, and song. Having Kevin Burke (Patrick Street, Bothy Band) as his cousin, he was destined to play the fiddle. *Aidan has won more than 20 All-Ireland championships on the fiddle!* The mastery of **Philip Masure**, from Belgium, on

guitar is also evident as he has become one of the most sought-after guitarists on the Celtic scene and is also in demand as a studio musician. Having studied with some of the greatest names in traditional music, **Isaac Alderson**, on flutes and uilleann pipes, has quickly become known as a skilled performer and teacher playing with such noted musicians as Dennis Cahill, Brendan Bulger, Jerry O'Sullivan and many more. At the 2002 Fleadh Cheoil in Listowel, Isaac was named the All-Ireland Senior Champion on no less than three instruments (uilleann pipes, flute, and whistle). *He is the first American ever to win such "hat trick" victory, and he is also the first American to win either competitions for the flute and pipes.* Joining them on this tour will be **Anna Colliton**, one of America's leading exponents of the bodhrán, the traditional Irish frame drum. From Chicago, Anna plays a highly intricate style of drumming with masterful tonal and rhythmic variation. She has taught and performed at festivals across the country, including Milwaukee Irish Fest, Chicago Celtic Fest, and the New York Irish Dance Festival. Comas is a band firmly rooted in Irish music, but with enough space to mix in original compositions. Open to new influences but with a respectful eye on the past is what brings Comas to the forefront of what traditional music is all about today.

**Saturday, November 30, 7:30 PM, \$20.00**

**BRT HOMECOMING CONCERT & SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER**

**Featuring Atwater~Donnelly, Eastern Medicine Singers, Peter Janson, Ken Lyon, Torrin Ryan and Mark Oien, Marjorie Thompson and Chris Monti, Tir Na Nog Irish Dance, and Pendragon!**



With family and friends in town for Thanksgiving, BRT's 13th annual fundraiser features some of the best of Rhode Island's homegrown talent as well as others who now live in the Ocean State. **At 6:30 p.m. and during intermission, Blackstone River Theatre will also hold a silent auction featuring CDs, jewelry, original artwork, Christmas items and gift certificates.** *100% of the proceeds from both the concert and the silent auction will go to support Blackstone River Theatre's programming and operating expenses.* Says BRT executive director Russell Gusetti, "this is not only BRT's one big fundraiser for the year but it also serves as an excellent sampler as audiences get to see eight different acts in one evening, all who will be performing full concerts in the coming months." Pendragon will act as hosts this evening and will perform a set of their Celtic-inspired music joined by Irish step dancer Erika Damiani and members of Tir Na Nog Irish Dance, a troupe based out of Blackstone River Theatre. Other featured performers, who are all donating their time, include Atwater-Donnelly who will perform Appalachian, original and Celtic-inspired folk music and clogging, acoustic blues musicians Marjorie Thompson and Chris Monti, fingerstyle guitarist Peter Janson, who recently released a CD of Celtic instrumental music, and bluesman Ken Lyon who will perform a solo set of 12-string folk and blues. Torrin Ryan and Mark Oien will perform a set of Irish traditional and Norwegian music and the Eastern Medicine Singers present Algonquin and Native American song, drumming and dance.

**DECEMBER 2013**

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

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

- **There will be no BRT classes offered in December except for Zumba on Mondays.**
- **Blackstone River Theatre will shut down for the holiday season starting December 16 and will reopen again on January 11.** *We wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season with best wishes for a peaceful new year!*
- **Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to BRT before the year ends!**
- **Blackstone River Theatre gift certificates make a great gift for friends and family!**

**Every Monday in DECEMBER, \$5.00 per class**

**5:30-6:15 PM - ZUMBA TONING CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

*AND*

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

*Take both classes on same night for \$8.00! Free class after you take 10!*

**Saturday, December 7, 9 AM to 3 PM, Free admission!**

**BRT HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR AND FESTIVAL**



Blackstone River Theatre invites the community to our 6th annual Holiday Craft Fair and Festival fundraiser! Please come out and support BRT programming as well as area craft vendors and home-based businesses while you do your holiday shopping locally! We will have 26 vendors on site and the event will also feature continuous live music by **members of Pendragon, The Broad Street Fiddlers, and The Swamp Meadow Victorian Carolers** plus raffle prizes, a bake sale table,

refreshments and more. Door prizes will be raffled off from each vendor with the raffle proceeds to benefit BRT's programming. Think out of the box (store!)

*Vendors include:* **SilverLeaf Studios** (handcrafted jewelry in Sterling silver and copper with natural stones, and repurposed vintage items), **Scentsy** (warmers, aromatic wax and personal care items), **The Cozy Rhode** ("hand knit comforts" such as hats, cowls, animal hoods & boot cuffs), **Shaker Shoppe** (beautiful wooden goods), **The Opulent Squid** ("posh and peculiar handmade jewelry"), **SwissJust** (all natural wellness products from Switzerland), **Merry Blacksmith Studio** (books, prints, original artwork & more), **Ann Lilley Designs** (bags & totes made from recycled materials/seasonal decor), **Thirty-One Gifts** (organizational items for home and accessories for on the go), **Laura Travis Carving** (Celtic stone carving, rubbings, and Brigid Crosses), **Tastefully Simple** (Easy-to-prepare foods to help people spend less time in the kitchen and more time enjoying the rest of their lives), **3U Design Studios** (custom handmade bracelets), **BoydHolms** (whimsical handmade birdhouses and sculptures), **Jalette Boxwood Trees, Ducharme Creations in Wood, Mary Kay, Bright Edge Candles, Moosup Valley Designs** (Prints, original scrimshaw, jewelry and ornaments), **mpic studios** (vinyl decals & more), **Opulence in Motion** (leather novelty animal purses, jewelry, and american made 100% recycled socks), **Tree's Creations** (cancer awareness earrings and bracelets), **Erin X. Smithers Photography, Starlite Jewelry Designs, Sean James Harrington Sculptures, Pretty Useful Things** (beautiful handcrafted fabric jewelry), **Avery Muir Creations** (crocheted scarves, blankets, and etched glassware).

**Saturday, December 7, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance / \$18.00 day of show**  
**A CLANCY LEGACY CHRISTMAS CONCERT featuring**  
**Aoife Clancy, Robbie O'Connell, George Keith and Erik Wendelken**



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

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

**Sunday, December 8, 2 PM and 5 PM, \$12.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show**  
**BOTH THE 2 PM & 5 PM SHOWS ARE COMPLETELY SOLD OUT!**  
**THANK YOU!**

**2nd annual IRISH DANCE CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR featuring  
TIR NA NOG IRISH DANCE and SHOWCASE DANCE PRODUCTIONS**

*Both performances are fundraisers for the 2014 BRT Summer Solstice Festival*



We hope you'll join us for what became a new tradition at BRT last year as we again will

host a fun afternoon and evening of Irish dance, and live Celtic and Christmas music from members of Pendragon. All dances have been choreographed and taught by instructor **Erika Damiani** and will be performed by dancers from **Tir Na Nog Irish Dance**, based out of Blackstone River Theatre, as well as Erika's Irish dance students from **Showcase Dance Productions**, located in Wrentham Mass. As they did last year, both Erika and Sheryl Simons, the director of Showcase Dance Productions, have chosen to make these shows a fundraiser for the 2014 Blackstone River Theatre Summer Solstice Festival where both groups will perform. The shows will be filled with Christmas cheer, beautiful traditional and modern Irish dancing, live Celtic music, guest performers, and will conclude with a visit from our friend from the North Pole and a helper or two! The show will be sprinkled with the magic of Christmas and the love of Irish dance demonstrated by all of the dedicated dancers and their parents. **Tir Na Nog Irish Dance** is run under the direction of Erika Damiani and is based at Blackstone River Theatre. Tir Na Nog Irish dancers are very dedicated to learning Irish dance traditions and have a great deal of fun while doing it! Erika wants Tir Na Nog to grow so she can continue to spread her love of Irish dance to many students for years to come! If you are interested in Irish Dance classes at Blackstone River Theatre, call 401-725-9272 or visit [http://tirnanogirishdanceri.com/RI\\_Irish\\_Dance.html](http://tirnanogirishdanceri.com/RI_Irish_Dance.html). Showcase Dance Productions was established in 1995 under the direction of Sheryl Simons. The studio moved its location to Wrentham, Mass. in 1992. The organization provides a strong foundation of dance education and offers unique performing opportunities for all types of talent and ages. **Showcase Dance Productions** offers many styles of dance including Tap, Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Musical Theater, Modern, and Irish Step. The students of Showcase Dance Productions have performed at many events, festivals, and fundraisers around the area. For more information call (508) 384-7875 or visit [www.ShowcaseDanceProductions.com](http://www.ShowcaseDanceProductions.com)

**Two Holiday performances!**

**Saturday, December 14, 8 PM, \$18.00 advance / \$20.00 day of show**

**AND**

**Sunday, December 15, 7 PM, \$18.00 advance / \$20.00 day of show**

**BLACKSTONE RIVER THEATRE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

*Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union*



Blackstone River Theatre will present our 6th annual Christmas Celebration featuring **Aubrey Atwater, Cathy Clasper-Torch, Erika Damiani, Elwood Donnelly, Bob Drouin, Kevin Doyle, Russell Gusetti, Josh Kane, The Miller Family, Mary Lee Partington, Torrin Ryan, and the Swamp Meadow Victorian Carolers**. Audiences can expect the unexpected - familiar and unfamiliar songs, high energy clogging and step dancing, ancient carols, spoken word, jokes and more - as musicians and dancers perform in varied

combinations or join together on beautiful Christmas and winter-themed pieces. "That's one of the nicest thing about this show," explains Russell Gusetti, BRT executive director. "We all get a chance to perform with each other in several different configurations, something audiences simply do not get to see at any other point in the year." Special guest performers will include the Swamp Meadow Victorian Carolers from Foster, BRT's Irish step dance instructor Erika Damiani, acclaimed 19-year-old Irish bagpiper Torrin Ryan, from Attleboro, and music and step dancing by the

dynamic Miller Family - Ruby May, Evelyn and Samuel.