

Blackstone River Theatre



Solstice Festival

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2014 Schedule

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JANUARY 2014

- We will continue our popular **Zumba Toning** classes at 5:30 p.m. and **Zumba classes** at 6:30 p.m. with April Hilliker on Mondays starting Jan. 6. We have also added a **Zumba for Beginners/Seniors** class on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. with Lori Senno starting Jan. 9!
- Look for details about another eight-week round of **Irish step dance classes** for beginner children and adults with Erika Damiani beginning Jan. 11 and Jan. 12.
- 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. 14 & Jan. 15.

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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.

Mondays in January starting Jan. 6, \$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 January starting Jan. 6, \$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)

Thursdays in January starting Jan. 9, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM

ZUMBA CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS / SENIORS WITH LORI SENNO

Friday, January 10, 8 PM, \$15.00

THE JAMMIN' DIVAS



The Jammin' Divas are **Aoife Clancy** (Ireland), **Nicole Zuraitis** (USA), **Kath Buckell** (Australia), and **Hadar Noiberg** (Israel). Through stunning three-part harmonies bedded against a lush melodic landscape, The Jammin' Divas draw audiences into an experience that transcends the history of three continents by sharing songs and stories of how each country culturally influence and enrich one another. While each of these talented

women is individually recognized as an accomplished player and vocalist, it is their combined artistry that creates an unparalleled musical dynamic. 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. For the past four years, Aoife has toured extensively doing no less than two hundred dates a year throughout the United States and Europe. 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. Singer/songwriter and pianist Nicole Zuraitis is the group's newest member and has been turning heads with her huge voice and catchy melodies reflecting a broad mixture of jazz, pop, and indie fusion. Having recently returned from a tour of Asia and India, she was recently recognized as a finalist in the 2013 Songdoor International Songwriting Contest. Nicole has opened for jazz legend Dave Brubeck and collaborated with world renowned Indian guitarist and composer Prasanna. Australian counterpart Kath Buckell is a rising Folk/Rock artist in the USA having previously toured Australia and Israel. She has found her roots in a project that is preserving traditional Australian poetry put to her original music called "Faces Do Not Change." 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. Since arriving in New York, the flautist has been one of the leading players in the Cuban and Jazz scenes showcasing at Blue Note, Dizzy's Club, Central Park Summer Stage, and Lincoln Center.

Saturday, January 11

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 12

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 14

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 15

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 18, 8 PM, \$12.00

BLACKSTONE VALLEY BLUEGRASS



Located in the heart of central Massachusetts, exposure to the heavy metal content of the Blackstone River has produced a number of fine bluegrass pickers! Most notably are Bob and Dave Dick from Sutton. Renowned musicians and celebrated recording artists, this brother combo will wow you with their award-winning picking. The Taylor-Nowlan bass/mandolin combo has been together in numerous bands since 1989. With their own distinctive style, these two crank out solid rhythm, and like to have a little fun too. Put these four longtime friends together and you have a group that has excellent musicianship, fine harmonies, high energy and a true love of the music.

Breakdowns and Gospel. Fiddle tunes and a Waltz. This is bluegrass! **Bob Dick** plays guitar and sings lead and harmony vocals for the band. He toured for 12 years with Front Range, with whom he recorded five albums on the Sugar Hill label. Bob plays a solid rhythm and adds some rapid-fire flat picking. **Dave Dick** plays banjo, guitar, and mandolin and he sings harmony and occasionally, lead vocals. He has been a member of several popular bands including Southern Rail, Salamander Crossing and Northern Lights. Although primarily known as a banjo player, Dave also shines on the guitar and mandolin and his imaginative playing style is sure to dazzle the audience. **Dan Nowlan** plays mandolin, guitar and sings lead and harmony vocals. Dan began his musical career playing drums with the Valley Airs Drum and Bugle Corps. Dan helped form Central Turnpike, the "Bluegrass with a Twist" band from central Mass., and also played with Rolling Hills Bluegrass. **Ken Taylor** keeps the band tight with arguably the most solid bass-playing in the New England area. He's also the bass singer in the band. He was one of the founding members of the Central Turnpike Bluegrass Band, also with Rolling Hills Bluegrass and has got a chance to strut his stuff with Blue Union and most recently with Erica Brown, a fine young bluegrass fiddler based in Maine. *Don't miss their BRT debut!*

FEBRUARY 2014

- We will continue our popular **Monday Zumba Toning classes at 5:30 p.m. and Zumba classes at 6:30 p.m.** with April Hilliker. We have also added a **Zumba for Beginners/Seniors class on Thursdays** at 6:30 p.m. with Lori Senno!
- **Irish step dance classes** for with Erika Damiani continue on Saturdays and Sundays in February.
- **Fiddle classes** for beginner, continuing beginner/ intermediate, advanced intermediate and advanced students with Cathy Clasper-Torch continue in February.
- **Aaron Usher's photography exhibit "Ice Abstractions~Equivalentents"** is in the BRT Art Gallery through March 1.

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Class combines Zumba, Zumba Toning and Core Workout

AND

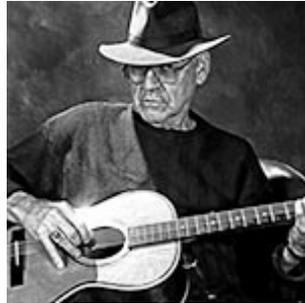
Mondays in February, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM

ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

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

Thursdays in February, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM
ZUMBA CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS / SENIORS WITH LORI SENNO

Saturday, February 1, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show
KEN LYON AND THE MAUI NIGHT HAWKS



In 2012, **Ken Lyon** became the first inductee into the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame. A Lincoln resident, Lyon has recorded for five major labels - Dot, Epic, Decca, MCA, and Columbia - as well as half a dozen independent companies. Whether on the road with the legendary Tombstone Blues Band opening for Queen, Aerosmith, Elton John, Albert Collins, James Cotton and many others, or playing on someone's back porch, Ken has brought his huge repertoire of traditional, blues, and original songs to audiences for more than five decades. Lyon will perform a solo set of acoustic folk and blues before bringing out his new band, The Maui Night Hawks, who perform Americana songs including country, blues, swing, jazz, and bluegrass. Joining Lyon will be **Chris Brooks**, a country, blues, and jazz pedal-steel player, who is a world traveler and a musician of international renown. Like Ken, Chris lived on the Hawaiian Islands for several years, and his Hawaiian pedal-steel guitar talents began while living in the Aloha State. **Mike Gornstein** completes this power trio with driving percussion skills that he honed while playing with national touring bands for 30 years.

Saturday, February 8, 8 PM, \$13.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show
SHEILA FALLS & MARK ROBERTS / NØÍR



Born and raised in Greenville, R.I., **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 15. She was the first from New England to win this title. She went on to earn 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. Falls is also a member of the fiddle-based band Childsplay and released her debut solo fiddle CD, "All In The Timing," in 2009. She is joined by dynamic accompanist **Mark Roberts** (Touchstone, The Sevens, Red Clay Ramblers) on guitar, bouzouki and flute.

NØÍR emerged from the vibrant folk scene of Southeastern Mass. Centered around the admiration each musician has for regional European roots music, NØÍR seeks to create a unique sound by combining the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle, Irish fiddle, and Irish uilleann pipes. Combined with solid rhythmic underpinnings of the bouzouki and guitar, the trio breathes new life into the enduring melodies of their respective traditions. The group features **Mark Oien** on fiddle & Hardanger, **Torrin Ryan** on uilleann pipes and whistle, and **Stuart Peak** on guitar and bouzouki. Torrin Ryan has competed in several Mid-Atlantic Fleadhs 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 Derry and is the 2013 All-Ireland Uilleann Pipes Slow Airs champion, also coming in third place overall.

There will be no concerts Feb. 14-16.

Saturday, February 22, 2-4 PM,
Acoustic Guitar Essentials Workshop with Peter Janson and Tim Farrell
Cost: \$40 for workshop only; \$45 for workshop AND evening concert.

Enjoy a relaxed musical experience as two of the nation's best acoustic guitarists share their vast knowledge of topics and techniques for steel-string guitar in this two-hour workshop. Performance and practice tips, and having fun playing music will be

points of focus. A random small number of attendees will be asked to play excerpts of their best songs, or perhaps something they are struggling with, in order to determine the individual needs of each player. If time allows, right-hand fingerstyle practice patterns designed to build relaxed control and independence will also be covered. **All levels of fingerstyle and flat-pickers are welcome**, and hoped for! Maximum 12-15 students. *Tab reading or standard notation reading helpful but not necessary. Bring your guitar and a recording device!*/TD>

Saturday, February 22, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show

PETER JANSON AND TIM FARRELL



Blackstone River Theatre is proud to present an evening of amazing guitar music, from Celtic to contemporary, with two fingerstyle guitar masters - **Peter Janson** and **Tim Farrell**. BRT favorite Peter Janson brings

world-class solo acoustic guitar music to records and the concert stage with fresh contemporary arrangements of traditional tunes from England, Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, and North America, as well as his own Celtic-inspired compositions. His original and compelling contemporary style is filled with artistry, superb technical mastery, and heartfelt passion. As an artist-faculty member of the Performing Arts Department at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Peter has been hailed as "the perfect combination of instrumentalist and composer, entertainer and educator" (WUMB Music Festival). He has composed and recorded music on 14 national and international CDs including six solo CDs under his name.

With so many guitarists trying to make their mark these days, it's not easy being a "trailblazer." Yet, that perfectly defines Tim Farrell. His fingerstyle playing and original compositions display an elegant simplicity that celebrates the purity of the acoustic guitar. Tim is a rare kind of musician, with the ability to both entertain an audience and inspire future generations of players. Says Billboard magazine, "Tim Farrell stands apart from the numerous guitar slingers out there. He is a guitarist to be heard." His full-length CDs showcase the considerable depth of his composing skills. In addition, Tim has written music for TV and radio shows, multi-media presentations, movie soundtracks, websites and interactive theater productions. Tim's song "Rosewood Alley" earned 1st Place Best Instrumental in the 7th Annual International Acoustic Music Awards. *Tim and Peter will perform tonight in round robin format with both on stage at the same time trading pieces.*

MARCH 2014

- We will continue our popular **Monday Zumba Toning classes at 5:30 p.m. and Zumba classes at 6:30 p.m.** with April Hilliker. We have also added a **Zumba for Beginners/Seniors class on Thursdays** (except 3/6 and 3/27) at 6:30 p.m. with Lori Senno!
- **A new 8-week session of Irish step dance classes** with Erika Damiani begin on Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 9.
- **Beth Johnston will have an exhibit of recent paintings** in the BRT Art Gallery through April 13.

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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)

Thursdays in March (except 3/6 AND 3/27), \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM

ZUMBA CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS / SENIORS WITH LORI SENNO

Saturday, March 1, 2 PM matinee, \$10.00 advance / \$12.00 day of show

CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS WITH 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, **Tom Fee** on banjo, **Bill Kiesewetter**, and band leader **Alan Shapiro** on trumpet. *Don't miss a rare BRT matinee show sure to be fun for all ages!*

Thursday, March 6, 8 PM, \$20.00 advance / \$24.00 day of show

KARAN CASEY BAND



Irish vocalist **Karan Casey** was a founding member of traditional supergroup Solas, a band known for rousing tunes and striking renditions of traditional songs. Since Solas, Casey has carved out a unique and acclaimed place in contemporary Irish and folk music. Karan 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." Karan is touring as a trio behind her new album, "Two More Hours," which features guest appearances by singers Mick Flannery, Abigail Washburn and Aoife O'Donovan and was produced by Niall Vallely. This self-penned album is a first for Karan...contemporary in tone it takes a much more personal approach to her writing and singing. The Boston Globe says, "Casey's voice is among the loveliest in folk music and she's a wonderful interpreter of both contemporary and traditional material." Karan will be joined by **Corey DiMario** on bass and **Grant Gordy** on guitar. *It does not get much better than this for music from Ireland in the month of March... get your tickets early!*

Friday, March 7, 8 PM, \$15.00

JOSEE VACHON, DONNA HEBERT, ALAN BRADBURY & MAX COHEN



Josée Vachon and **Donna Hébert** have embodied traditional and original Franco-American fiddle and song all their lives. Twenty years ago they met and became musical partners, forming Chanterelle with former guitarist Liza Constable and bassist **Alan Bradbury**. Alan returns with Josée, Donna and her guitarist, **Max Cohen**, for another wonderful show celebrating French culture in America. Born in Lac Megantic and raised over the border in Brownville ME, singer-songwriter Josée Vachon is beloved of Franco

audiences, who regularly sing along in French. Her unabashed 'joie de vivre' is infectious. Josée's long stint hosting "Bonjour" on cable in the Northeast brought her to many Franco-American homes, and she has continued to record and tour. A recipient of awards from the keys to the city of Woonsocket, to a spot on NEA traditional touring rosters like "The Women's Singing Traditions," Josée is an icon within the Franco-American culture. Western Mass. fiddler Donna Hébert, named an Artist Fellow in Franco-American fiddling by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, was recognized by Governor Deval Patrick in 2009 for "outstanding artistic achievement." A fiddle instructor at Smith and Amherst Colleges, Donna performs in a fiddle/guitar duo with Max Cohen (who joins them on this tour), Celtic trio Mist Covered Mountains, and the new Panache Quartet with fiddlers Andrea Beaton, Veronique Plasse and Jane Rothfield. Alan Bradbury's Cajun group, Magnolia, are the mainstay of the region's Cajun music and dance scene. Alan's bass, accordion and vocals just make Donna and Josée so happy that it's always a homecoming to play Chanterelle gigs with him. Max Cohen is one of the best kept secrets in the guitar world, the true musician's musician (producer, engineer, arranger), the 'masked man' of accompaniment who makes the singers realize the song's potential. Max also accompanies folksinger Priscilla Herdman, who says, "Max is one of those rare guitarists able to create an atmosphere that supports and cradles the voice with both tenderness and strength." Donna adds that he "rocks like crazy!" *Not to be missed...*

Saturday, March 8, 8 PM, \$15.00

ROBBIE O'CONNELL / CAITLIN NIC GABHANN & CIARAN O MAONAIGH



THIS will be an amazing night of Irish music as we welcome back BRT favorite **Robbie O'Connell** in a rare solo performance as well as present the BRT debut of a dynamic fiddle/concertina duo from Ireland. Singer-songwriter Robbie O'Connell was born in Waterford, Ireland, and grew up in Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary. In 1977, he joined the

legendary Clancy Brothers with whom he recorded 3 albums. With the 1982 release of his first solo album Robbie emerged as an artist of major stature. Soon after, he began touring with Mick Moloney and Jimmy Keane, and also with Eileen Ivers and Seamus Egan in the Green Fields of America. He has earned international acclaim as a singer-songwriter by making it quite clear that there's more to being Irish than filling stereotypes. The Boston Globe describes Robbie as "a writer of timeless-sounding, emotionally powerful and often hilarious songs" and places him "among the most respected guitarists, singer and songwriters in Celtic music."

Says Robbie, "**Caitlín Nic Gabhann** and **Ciarán O Maonaigh** are two of the finest instrumentalists on the Irish traditional scene. Individually they are stunning but together they bring a freshness and excitement to the music that is uniquely their own." Three times winner of the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil on concertina, Caitlín is a regular performer at festivals and in concert halls from North America all the way to Asia. She is also an accomplished dancer and in 2009, joined Riverdance as troupe dancer. Her debut solo CD release, "Caitlín," was voted the 2012 'CD of the Year' award by tradconnect.com as well as being labelled the 'top Irish traditional album of 2012' by The Wall Street Journal. Caitlín is currently concentrating on musical collaborations with the award-winning fiddle player and documentary maker, Ciarán Ó Maonaigh, a nephew of Altan's celebrated fiddle player and lead singer Mairead Ni Mhaonaigh, and a brilliant fiddle player in the Donegal style who released a

remarkable solo CD a few years ago.

Saturday, March 15, 8 PM, \$13.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show
DAVID FRANCEY



David Francey is a Scottish-born Canadian carpenter-turned-songwriter, who has become known as "one of Canada's most revered folk poets and singers" (Toronto Star). Born in Ayrshire, Scotland to parents who were factory workers, he moved to Canada when he was twelve. For decades, he worked across Canada in rail yards, construction sites, and in the Yukon bush, all the while writing poetry, setting it to melodies in his head and singing it to himself as he worked. A truly authentic folk singer, Francey is a documentarian of the working person who never imagined earning a living from his music. But when he was in his forties, his wife, artist Beth Girdler, encouraged him to share his songs and sing in public. The reaction was instant. His first album "Torn Screen Door" came out in 1999 and was a hit in Canada. Since then, he has released 10 albums, won three Juno Awards and has had his songs covered by such artists as The Del McCoury Band, The Rankin Family, James Keelaghan and Tracy Grammer. Francey also had the honour of receiving the prestigious SOCAN Folk Music Award as well as taking home the Grand Prize in both the International Acoustic Music Award and in the Folk category for the John Lennon Songwriting Award. In concert David is a singer and a storyteller. His wry humor and astute observations combined with his openhearted singing style have earned him a loyal following. His new album reflects his own journey through a period of struggle. "The lesson learned," he says, "was to celebrate every day spent on this side of the soil and to keep marching no matter what comes our way." *Don't miss this show if you appreciate excellent songwriting!*

Sunday, March 16, 7 PM, \$15.00 advance / \$18.00 day of show
CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH PENDRAGON - CD release!



New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. Releasing their first live CD tonight, recorded at last September's 30th anniversary concert, 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 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.

Saturday, March 22, 8 PM, \$15.00
LEGENDS OF THE CELTIC HARP

featuring PATRICK BALL, LISA LYNNE and ARYEH FRANKFURTER



Three of the premier Celtic harpers in the world will take you deep into the myths, magic and fabled history of this most captivating instrument. **Patrick Ball** is one of the premier Celtic harp players in the world and a captivating spoken word artist. In playing the ancient, legendary brass-strung harp of Ireland with its crystalline, bell-like voice, and in performing marvelous tales of wit and enchantment, he not only brings new life to two cherished traditions, but blends them to create "a richly theatrical and hauntingly beautiful performance." He has recorded nine instrumental and three

spoken word albums which have sold well over a half million copies internationally, winning national awards in both the music and spoken word categories. **Lisa Lynne** plays Irish bouzouki, Celtic harp and mandolin. She has gained worldwide recognition for her original music featuring her Celtic Harp and for composing heartwarming melodies on the Windham Hill / Sony music labels that have repeatedly placed in the Top 10 & Top 20 on the Billboard New age music charts. Lynne's work in Therapeutic music has gained recognition from NBC, CNN, Fox News Atlanta and numerous newspaper and magazine articles including Wall Street Journal. **Aryeh Frankfurter** plays the Swedish nyckelharpa, cittern and Celtic harp. A renowned Celtic harper and world traveling multi-instrumentalist, he has gone from virtuosic progressive rock violin to intricate Swedish folk and Celtic Music. Aryeh's uncommon approach to the Celtic harp and folk harp repertoire, and his numerous critically and commercially successful albums have earned him credit as a musician, recording and performance artist of extraordinary abilities.

**Saturday, March 29, 2 PM, \$12.00 (\$7.00 children)
EASTERN MEDICINE SINGERS**

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union



The **Eastern Medicine Singers** are an Algonquin drum group from Providence, RI, dedicated to keeping the eastern woodlands native american culture alive. The drum group is made up of RI, NY, NJ & Southeastern Massachusetts Tribes and they take pride in drumming and singing in the language of Massachusett & Wampanoag dialect. The Eastern Medicine Singers create new music and combine stories and culture into the drum experience. Eastern Medicine Singers started in 2008 to support the NAPEWA Native Youth

Program at the RI Indian Council in Providence. They have played at the 2013 Summer Solstice Festival, the Providence Art Club, RI Department of Tourism, RI State Council on the Arts, NH Intertribal Council Powwows, Ramapough Nation, Mashantucket Pequot Nation, Nipmuc Nation, Woonsocket Autumnfest, and many others. *A great afternoon of drumming, song, stories and culture for the whole family!*

**Saturday, March 29, 8 PM, \$12.00
THE JOBE / REDFEARN PROJECT**



The Jobe/Redfearn Project brings together the aesthetics of two contrasting but complementary Rhode Island composers: **Steven Jobe** and **Alec Redfearn**. Jobe spends most of his time writing operas, his current work being "The Legend of the Fairy Melusine," presented at BRT in 2012. He also presented his opera "Joan of Arc" at BRT in 2010. Redfearn (leader of the band The Eyesores) is recognized on both sides of the Atlantic for his prolific originality. The Jobe/Redfearn Project features colorful instrumentation - accordion,

violin, viola, cello, hurdy-gurdy and percussion - performing music that is eclectic and extremely hard to classify, the influences too many to name. Selections range from a Satie-like melody by Jobe entitled "O'Reilly's Waltz," to a characteristically twisted selection by Redfearn, "Tramadoliday." Tonight's show will see featured guest vocalists **Ellen Santaniello** and **Gillian Chadwick**, and three other amazing musicians - **Laura Gulley** on violin, **Rob Bethel** on cello, and **Matt McLaren** on drums in addition to the large hurdy-gurdys that Jobe has become known for. This is sure to be an evening of extraordinary music, featuring two innovative composers, a host of talented musicians, and a wild assortment of "big instruments," including the amazing Bosch Hurdy-Gurdy. The hurdy-gurdy is a medieval stringed instrument played by turning a rosined wheel with a crank and depressing keys connected to tangents on the strings. The design and construction of the giant 10-foot long Bosch Hurdy-Gurdy was funded by a New Works grant from the Rhode Island Foundation in 2002. It is based on an image from a painting by Hieronymus Bosch, "The Garden of Earthly Delights." With a full range of sounds in the bass and contrabass range, the instrument has been integral to Steve Jobe's work since its completion in 2006. This is sure to be an evening of extraordinary music, featuring two innovative composers, a host of talented musicians, and a wild assortment of "big instruments." *Join us for something completely different!*

APRIL 2014

- **We will continue our popular Monday Zumba Toning classes** at 5:30 p.m. and Zumba classes at 6:30 p.m. with April Hilliker. We have also **added a Zumba for Beginners/Seniors** class on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. with Lori Senno!
- Irish step dance classes with Erika Damiani continue on Saturdays and Sundays in April (except 4/20 and 4/26)
- **An 8-week session of five levels of fiddle classes** with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins April 1 and April 2 (no class 4/22 and 4/23)
- **A clogging workshop** will be held April 12 for all levels with Aubrey Atwater.
- **A three-week session of two-hour classes for both beginner and continuing mountain dulcimer players** will be offered April 5, April 19, and May 3 with Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly.
- **Beth Johnston will have an exhibit of recent paintings** in the BRT Art Gallery through April 13.
- **Bruce Kaplan will have a photography and painting exhibit in the BRT Art Gallery April 19 through May 31.**

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.

ONGOING

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)

Thursdays in April, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM
ZUMBA CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS / SENIORS WITH LORI SENNO

Friday, April 4, 6:30-9 PM
PRIVATE ZUMBA EVENT

Saturday, April 5, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show
MATT & SHANNON HEATON / LISSA SCHNECKENBURGER - Double CD release!



Boston's powerhouse duo and BRT favorites **Matt and Shannon Heaton** have once again assembled an album of smartly-arranged traditional ballads with deep Irish roots and fresh, modern sensibilities. "Tell You in Earnest" is their fifth duo CD and features well-traveled "dialogue ballads" (each song is a conversation between two people, fitting for a husband-and-wife duo). As always, there is bright instrumental work and traditional-style singing from the Heatons. Unexpected additions include

mild Thai spices (from the Thai music Shannon learned in school in Suphanburi), a whisper of reverb-drenched electric guitar (from Matt's work with The Electric Heaters) and harmony singing and rootsy Americana rhythms. Shannon (Live Ireland's Female Musician of the Year 2010 and 2011) has been compared to Alison Krauss and Altan's Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh for her combination of vocal grace and instrumental prowess

(Irish flute, button accordion). Matt is a 2013 Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant recipient and provides a firm foundation on the guitar and bouzouki. Like Richard Thompson, Donal Lunny and Bill Frisell, he's always searching for the perfect chord. Since their move to Boston in 2001, the Heaton's have become an integral part of Boston's vibrant Irish music and neo-Celtic Acoustic scenes.

Vermont fiddler and singer **Lissa Schneckenburger** returns to BRT as a solo act tonight and she is also celebrating the release of a new CD. The traditional music of New England can be as warm and comforting as a winter fire or as potent and exhilarating as a summer thunderstorm. Lissa is a master of both moods, a winsome, sweet-voiced singer who brings new life to old ballads and a skillful, dynamic fiddler who captures the driving rhythm and carefree joy of dance tunes old and new. Lissa's fiddling is uplifting and lively, and her singing is gentle and evocative. Both in concert and in the studio she is regularly accompanied by some of New England's best musicians. In 2001 she graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music with a degree in contemporary improvisation, and since then has been performing around the US and internationally for a growing audience of enthusiastic listeners. *"Schneckenburger's playing is... quietly virtuosic... her voice is pure and clear, full of simple emotion" says the All Music Guide.*

Friday, April 11, 8 PM, \$13.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show
CELTIC ROCK WITH TEMPEST - 25th anniversary tour!



Since forming in 1988, Tempest has delivered a hybrid of high-energy Folk Rock fusing Irish reels, Scottish ballads, Norwegian influences and other world music elements. The last 25 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 and features their newly-released live CD, 'The 25th Anniversary Concert,' dedicated to all the fans and friends who have faithfully supported the band for over a quarter of a century. 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 has a strong background in both Rock-n-Roll and traditional folk music. **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 has made him 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.

Saturday, April 12, 8 PM, \$12.00
MARJORIE THOMPSON and CHRIS MONTI



When **Marjorie Thompson** takes the stage, tiny and blonde and bearing a smile that carries just a hint of shyness, her demeanor scarcely prepares her audience for what comes next. The audience can be forgiven for wondering almost at once how so much power - in guitar playing, in singing, in the songs themselves - could erupt from such a small package. Touring has taken her around the U.S., as well as Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Though she usually headlines her own performances, she has shared the stage with Acoustic Hot Tuna, Chris Smither, Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, Geoff

Muldaur, Jorma Kaukonen, Lori McKenna, Paul Geremia, Richard Shindell, and numerous others. She has appeared on numerous radio and television programs, perhaps most notably being featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show, and her CDs have

found an audience on scores of radio stations. Much has been made of the fact that in addition to her musical accomplishments, Marjorie has her academic career and is the mother of seven children. But with a modest smile she downplays those things. "People don't come to see the singing dean, or the mother who writes songs," she says. "They come to hear... and I owe them good music. The music has to succeed or fail on its own. I think it's succeeding." **Chris Monti** is a singer/songwriter, guitarist and harmonica player whose original songs are influenced by Rock and Roll, Country-Blues and Old-Time Fiddle Music as well as music from West Africa, Egypt and India. Chris has toured the East Coast, opened many times for country-blues great Paul Geremia, played with Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, and recently played the world's largest hurdy gurdy for "Hurdy Gurdy Palloozza 2014." *Marjorie and Chris will both do solo sets and also join together on a few songs.*

Friday, April 18, 7:30-10 PM
PRIVATE PIPING EVENT

APRIL 2014

- **We will continue our popular Monday Zumba Toning classes** at 5:30 p.m. and Zumba classes at 6:30 p.m. with April Hilliker. We have also **added a Zumba for Beginners/Seniors** class on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. with Lori Senno!
- Irish step dance classes with Erika Damiani continue on Saturdays and Sundays in April (except 4/20 and 4/26)
- **An 8-week session of five levels of fiddle classes** with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins April 1 and April 2 (no class 4/22 and 4/23)
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- **A three-week session of two-hour classes for both beginner and continuing mountain dulcimer players** will be offered April 5, April 19, and May 3 with Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly.
- **Beth Johnston will have an exhibit of recent paintings** in the BRT Art Gallery through April 13.
- **Bruce Kaplan will have a photography and painting exhibit in the BRT Art Gallery April 19 through May 31.**

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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.

ONGOING

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)

Thursdays in April, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM
ZUMBA CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS / SENIORS WITH LORI SENNO

Saturday, April 26, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show
INTERNATIONAL STRING TRIO



The International String Trio was founded in 1999 by its musical director and guitarist, **Slava Tolstoy**. The band also features **Ippei Ichimaru** on acoustic bass and **Ben Powell** on violin. During the last 10 years the group has performed at more than 1000 venues across the USA and has gained national recognition for its distinct sound and stylistic diversity. The International String Trio is a group of exceptionally talented musicians, all alumni of Berklee College of Music, Boston,

Mass. The group prides itself on its stylistic diversity, delivering Gypsy jazz, Appalachian folk, acoustic world music (Irish, Klezmer, Russian, Italian, French, Bluegrass, and more), virtuosic classical arrangements and popular songs from movie sound tracks. The International String Trio enjoys using the diverse cultural backgrounds of its members - hailing from Russia, Japan and England - to influence its stylistic diversity and unique performance aesthetic. The group's latest CD release, "Appalachia," is an acoustic collection of refined and articulate arrangements, exclusive to this rare instrumentation. Such collective proficiency, both instrumental and conceptual, is seldom seen or heard in today's ever growing market of gimmicks and one dimensional music making. *Don't miss their BRT debut!*

MAY 2014

- **We will continue our popular Monday Zumba Toning classes** at 5:30 p.m. and **Zumba classes** at 6:30 p.m. with April Hilliker. We have also **added a Zumba for Beginners/Seniors** class on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. with Lori Senno!
- **Irish step dance classes** with Erika Damiani continue on Saturdays and Sundays through May 10 and 11.
- **Fiddle classes** with Cathy Clasper-Torch continues on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in May.
- **Bruce Kaplan will have a painting exhibit called Project: SPLAT!** in the BRT Art Gallery through May 31.

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.*

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ONGOING

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)

Thursdays in April, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM

ZUMBA CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS / SENIORS WITH LORI SENNO

Saturday, May 3, 8 PM, \$15.00

THE ATWATER-DONNELLY BAND



BRT favorites **Aubrey Atwater** and **Elwood Donnelly** return with **Cathy Clasper-Torch** on fiddle, cello and vocals and percussionist and step dancer **Kevin Doyle** to present an engaging concert of traditional American and Celtic American folk songs, a cappella pieces, hymns, poetry, dance tunes, and original works. Elwood and Aubrey blend unusual harmonies and play guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, Irish tin whistle, harmonica, old-time banjo, bones, limberjacks

and other musical surprises. Their performance is appealing to all ages, and with humor, audience participation and a highly-relaxed stage presence, Aubrey and Elwood also explain song origins to give more relevance to the material. Atwater-Donnelly performs widely in the Northeast and other parts of the United States and Great Britain and their recordings receive international airplay. They have performed and researched folk music extensively in New England, Ireland, England, Prince Edward Island, the Ozarks, and Appalachia. Clasper-Torch plays regularly with The Gnomes and is the fiddle instructor at Blackstone River Theatre. Doyle is a long-time member of the band Pendragon and also tours nationally with the group Atlantic Steps.

Friday, May 9, 7-8 PM, \$10 in advance only!

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

Saturday, May 10, 8 PM, \$20.00 advance / \$24.00 day of show

MARTIN HAYES and DENNIS CAHILL



Irish fiddle virtuoso **Martin Hayes** and American guitarist **Dennis Cahill** possess a rare musical kinship, ranking them among the most memorable partnerships of our era. Together they have garnered international renown for taking traditional music to the very edge of the genre, holding listeners spellbound with their slow-building, fiery performances. Hayes has been an All-Ireland fiddle champion six times over and has taken home a National Entertainment Award, the Irish equivalent to

the "Grammy." Possessing the slow, lyrical style of his native East County Clare, Martin grew up playing traditional music with his father, P.J. Hayes, leader of the famed Tulla Ceili Band. Dennis Cahill is a master guitarist, as well versed in classical, blues and rock as he is in traditional music. A Chicago native, Cahill's innovative accompaniment is acknowledged as being a major breakthrough for guitar in the Irish tradition. The musical rapport between Hayes and Cahill is so strong that it is often said they appear to be playing one instrument; while Martin pursues a melody, Dennis explores the harmony and rhythms within the tune. Their live performances can weave tunes that stretch up to thirty minutes long, in what Hayes describes as "a three-way conversation between the two of us and the music." *Not to be missed!*

Sunday, May 18, 10 AM-3:30 PM

PRIVATE ZUMBA EVENT

MAY 2014

- **We will continue our popular Monday Zumba Toning classes at 5:30 p.m. and Zumba classes at 6:30 p.m. with April Hilliker. We have also added a Zumba for Beginners/Seniors class on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. with Lori Senno!**
- **Irish step dance classes with Erika Damiani continue on Saturdays and Sundays through May 10 and 11.**
- **Fiddle classes with Cathy Clasper-Torch continues on Tuesdays and**

Wednesdays in May.

- **Bruce Kaplan will have a painting exhibit called Project: SPLAT! in the BRT Art Gallery through May 31.**

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ONGOING

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)

Thursdays in April, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM

ZUMBA CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS / SENIORS WITH LORI SENNO

Saturday, May 24, 8 PM, \$15.00

CHORO DAS 3 - Music of Brazil



Choro das 3 is a Brazilian instrumental group of three sisters and their father that first started to play as a band in 2002. **Corina** plays flute and piccolo, **Lia** plays 7-string guitar, **Elisa** plays mandolin, banjo, and clarinet, and their father, **Eduardo**, plays pandeiro (the Brazilian tambourine.) The music they play is called Choro which is a form of urban jazz native to Brazil that shares a similar feel with New Orleans jazz or ragtime or bluegrass. Choro das 3's mission is to revive the Choro tradition in Brazil, where they join several other young people in rediscovering this music, hoping to spread Choro around the world.

The sisters have 3 albums and have played for millions of people, including Brazil's Presidents, Governors and Ministers. In 2002 they played for more than one million people during their performance at Reveillon at Paulista Avenue, a public New Years Eve Party, in Sao Paulo. They also had an unforgettable experience playing at the Mass for Peace in the presence of 70,000 people at the Morumbi Stadium, in the city of Sao Paulo. Choro ("cry" or "lament" in English) is a Brazilian Popular music. In spite of the name, the style often has a fast and happy rhythm, characterized by virtuosity and improvisation. This instrumental music is considered the first urban music of Brazil. Like the Jazz in USA, Choro had influenced all the Brazilians genres, including Samba, Forró and Bossa Nova. Choro has some characteristics of Baroque music, with its extremely creative and melodic counterpoints. 2008 became a landmark year for Choro das 3 with the release of their first CD, entirely recorded, produced and mixed by the sisters. The CD brings the very informal feel that is characteristic of the Rodas de Choro in which the trio participates in Sao Paulo. Rodas de Choro are public jamming sessions where the best choro musicians get together and play for hours. They are usually held on weekends, in musical instrument stores downtown Sao Paulo.

TODAY'S EVENT IS SOLD OUT! There will be no tickets at the door!

Saturday, May 31, 4-8 PM, \$20 for music & craft beer tasting at BRT

BIKE AND BLUES THE BLACKSTONE

A "Fun-Raising" Festival to celebrate the Blackstone!

Blackstone River Valley
National Heritage Corridor, Inc.
presents
**Saturday
MAY 31 2014**



If you join us as a bicyclist, you'll be departing at 2:30 pm from the Woonsocket Depot, One Depot Square, Woonsocket, RI and ending at Blackstone River Theatre, 549 Broad Street, Cumberland, for an afternoon of



live music and a Taste of Regional Breweries from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Join the staff and partners of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor at 2:30 p.m. for a festive ten-mile ride on the Blackstone River Bikeway, departing from Woonsocket Depot. When you arrive at BRT, there will be performances by **Pendragon** and **Ken Lyon** outside, and **Chris Monti** and **SuperChief Trio** inside. In addition to the live music there will be a **Craft Beer Tasting hosted by Mendon Wines and More!** At 8 p.m., bicyclists will end the day with a guided twilight

ride from the Blackstone River Theatre back to the Woonsocket Depot. For more information, contact Barbara Dixon at 401-762-0250 ext. 5503 or email

barbara_dixon@partner.nps.gov

JUNE 2014

Saturday, June 7, 10 AM

PRIVATE EVENT - PAINTBOX PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

Saturday, June 21, 11 AM to 7 PM, (Rain date: Sunday, June 22)

4th 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!
Burning Bridget Cleary • Cantrip • Aoife Clancy • Eastern Medicine Singers • The Gnomes • Matt & Shannon Heaton • Laurel Martin, Mark Roberts & Kieran Jordan • Robbie O'Connell • Panache Quartet • Pendragon • Harvey Reid & Joyce Andersen • Torrin Ryan & Mark Oien • Irish step dance featuring Tir Na Nog Irish Dance and Showcase Dance Productions • Debbie O'Carroll • Mary King & Phil Edmonds • Marvelous Marvin

Circus Arts

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

JULY 2014

- We will continue our popular Monday Zumba classes at 6:30 p.m. with April Hilliker. (Zumba Toning will resume in September!)
- Irish step dance classes with Erika Damiani continue on Saturdays and Sundays starting July 12 with a new hard shoe for beginners class Fridays, July 18 and 25, and Aug. 8 and 15, from 5-6 p.m.

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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.

ONGOING

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

**Monday, July 28 through Friday, August 1, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
TIR NA NOG IRISH DANCE CAMP**

AUGUST 2014

- We will continue our popular Monday Zumba classes at 6:30 p.m. with April Hilliker. (Zumba Toning will resume in September!)
- Irish step dance classes with Erika Damiani continue on Saturdays and Sundays through August 17 with a new hard shoe for beginners class Fridays, Aug. 8 and 15, from 5-6 p.m.

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.

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ONGOING

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

**Monday, August 11 through Wednesday, August 13, 8:30 a.m. to noon
TIR NA NOG IRISH DANCE - HARD SHOE CAMP**

Saturday, August 16, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance / \$18.00 day of show

BROCK MCGUIRE BAND

Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union



BROCK MCGUIRE BAND, named "**Traditional Irish Band of the Decade**" by *Irish American News*, is fronted by Moving Cloud founding members **Paul Brock** and **Manus McGuire**. Residing in County Clare, button accordionist and melodeonist Paul Brock and fiddler Manus McGuire are two of Ireland's most celebrated traditional musicians and have been at the forefront of Irish music for many years through their joint work with Moving Cloud. Manus is also a founding member of Buttons & Bows,

and both bands, ranking among Ireland's finest, have helped to introduce international audiences to the virtuosity of their playing. Performing with the BROCK MCGUIRE BAND are two other outstanding musicians: Dublin-based **Garry O'Meara**, a brilliant banjo, mandolin player & vocalist; and **Denis Carey**, an acclaimed pianist, composer and arranger from County Tipperary. Passion and precision, authenticity and diversity are the hallmarks of the BROCK MCGUIRE BAND in concert. They are steeped in

tradition and perform it with abiding respect and creativity. The band's repertoire runs wide and deep; their tight, tenacious blend of instruments emphasizing mostly Irish music but also sprinkling in impressive arrangements of American Old Timey, Bluegrass, French-Canadian, and other Celtic traditions. Their new CD collaboration "GREEN GRASS BLUE GRASS" with 14-time Grammy Award Winner Ricky Skaggs has been hailed as "A Masterpiece" by American Music critic Bill Margeson.

SEPTEMBER 2014

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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 SEPTEMBER, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM (except 9/1 at 9:30 a.m.)

ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

Free class after you take 10!

Friday, September 5, 6-week session begins

4:30-5:30 PM - Tir Na Nog Little Troupe

5:30-6:30 PM - Beginner Hard Shoe for children

6:30-7:30 PM - Advanced Beginner Hard Shoe for children

Saturday, September 13

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

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

11:00 AM: 8-week session BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE FOR ADULTS, TEENS, 11-AND-UP with Erika Damiani begins

Sunday, September 14

9:00-10:00 AM: 8-week session TIR NA NOG PERFORMANCE TROUPE (Beginner to Intermediate) with Erika Damiani begins

10:00-11:00 AM: 8-week session INTERMEDIATE SOFT SHOE with Erika Damiani begins

11:00 AM: 8-week session TIR NA NOG PERFORMANCE TROUPE (Intermediate to Advanced) with Erika Damiani begins

NOON: 8-week session ADVANCED SOFT SHOE & INTERMEDIATE HARD SHOE COMBO CLASS with Erika Damiani begins

1:00-2:30 PM: 8-week session TIR NA NOG PERFORMANCE TROUPE (Advanced) with Erika Damiani begins

Tuesday, September 16

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 17

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

Sunday, September 14, 7 PM, \$15.00

CASSIE & MAGGIE MACDONALD / BRENDAN CAREY BLOCK BAND



What an amazing split concert to kick off our Fall season!
Cassie and Maggie MacDonald encompass everything you could ask

for in a musical act. Their talent is only surpassed by the joy with which they so generously share it as was witnessed when they played at the 2013 BRT Summer Solstice Festival. Exciting and innovative, they have found the perfect balance between musical integrity, and sheer entertainment. While still staying true to their Celtic roots, they explore and test the boundaries of traditional music, bringing a breath of fresh air to the genre with their original compositions and arrangements. Sisters, cohorts and collaborators, Cassie and Maggie have been enchanting audiences far and wide with their infectious energy, driving rhythms and lilting melodies. Born to a family with a rich musical heritage and raised in Nova Scotia, the girls have used their unique upbringing as a springboard for their own brand of Celtic Roots music. Galaxie Radio Rising Star award winners, Canadian Folk Music Award nominees for "Young Performers of the Year," East Coast Music Award nominees for "Traditional Album" and double Music Nova Scotia Award nominees for "New Artist" and "Roots Album of the Year," their accolades and awards speak of a young duo that will surely continue to do great things. They are celebrating the release of their new CD, "Sterling Road."

Constantly in pursuit of the boundaries of the violin, and in turn pushing them as far as he can, **Brendan Carey Block** has been compiling honors on the fiddle since the age of ten. For five summers he received scholarships from the New Hampshire Highland Games and the Saint Andrews Society of New Hampshire enabling him to travel to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, where the native music and its players greatly influenced Brendan's style. In 2001 he became the US National Junior Scottish Fiddle Champion, and is a three-time New England champion. He has been a member of many bands, including The Glengarry Bhoys and Annalivia. The Brendan Carey Block Band includes New England veterans **Eric McDonald**, of Cantrip, on guitar and vocals and **Stuart Kenney** on upright bass and banjo. Together they released Brendan's debut CD in September, 2013. Joining them tonight will be Cantrip fiddler **Jon Bews** as a special guest. A prizewinning graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 1994, Jon has performed and recorded with such diverse artists as Malinky, Deaf Mutes and Samling. In addition to his band Cantrip, he currently performs with renowned Edinburgh ceilidh band Callanish.

Saturday, September 20, 8 PM, \$16.00 advance / \$20.00 day of show
THE ALT (JOHN DOYLE, NUALA KENNEDY and EAMON O'LEARY)



Grammy nominee **John Doyle** returns to Blackstone River Theatre as part of the exciting new trio **The ALT**. Doyle, a founding member of the group Solas, is one of the most influential and important musicians in Irish music today. He is joined by flute player/vocalist **Nuala Kennedy**, squarely part of the new generation of singers crossing between Irish, Scottish and contemporary music, and **Eamon O'Leary**, one half of the Murphy Beds. Each member is

an instrumentalist and singer of the highest caliber, and together the alchemy is unmatched. For one-night-only, the trio will perform their brand of traditional Irish, Scottish, English and American song with stellar singing and exquisite musicianship in support of their new CD "The ALT." Recorded in Madison County, NC and Asheville, "The ALT" is a stunning collection of songs (and a few tunes) performed by three of the most evocative voices in traditional British Isles/Celtic music today. Mick Moloney wrote the following for the liner notes: ...John Doyle and Eamon O'Leary, both natives of Dublin, and Dundalk-born Nuala Kennedy are well-known Irish musicians and singers. Indeed they might be described as veterans as they have they been contributing for decades to various groups and ensembles, and have participated in many recordings with a variety of musicians. A couple of years ago, out of the blue,

they decided to come together to do occasional performances and then finally a recording. All three are known as virtuoso musicians and fine singers with huge repertoires of songs and tunes, new and old, and they could have gone in a variety of musical directions with this album. What they chose to do was return to the beautiful old songs that constitute the core of the tradition. In fact the name of the album is associated with mythological traditions rooted in the Northwest of Ireland and underlines the focus on the trusted and timeless. And this recording is similarly rooted. The songs are delivered with great flair and sensitivity, adorned with beautiful harmonies, and accompanied with consummate understated virtuosity where flute, guitar, and various members of the bouzouki and mandolin families weave a delightful tapestry of subtle musical textures that are just perfect for every song. For the tune lovers there are a few lovely selections thrown in as well. What a great first album from three of our finest. It is nothing short of a musical delight." *Russell says: This new CD is one of the finest I have heard in years... great songs, amazing harmonies and fantastic musicianship. Not to be missed!*

Sunday, September 21, 7 PM, \$22.00 advance / \$26.00 day of show
ALASDAIR FRASER & NATALIE HAAS



The musical partnership between **Alasdair Fraser**, long regarded as Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador, and the sizzingly-talented young California cellist **Natalie Haas** may not seem an obvious one. Fraser, acclaimed by the San Francisco Examiner as "the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling," has a concert and recording career spanning 30 years, with a long list of awards, accolades, television credits, and feature performances on top movie soundtracks (Last of the Mohicans, Titanic). Fraser has been

sponsored by the British Council to represent Scotland's music internationally, and received the Scottish Heritage Center Service Award for outstanding contributions to Scottish culture and traditions. Natalie Haas, a graduate of the Juilliard School of Music, wasn't even born when Alasdair was winning national fiddle competitions on the other side of the Atlantic. But this seemingly unlikely pairing is the fulfillment of a long-standing musical dream for Fraser, whose cutting-edge musical explorations took him full circle to find a cellist who could help him return the cello to its historical role at the rhythmic heart of Scottish dance music. "Going back to the 1700s, and as late as the early 20th century," Fraser says, "fiddle and cello made up the dance band of choice in Scotland, with the cellist bowing bass lines and driving the rhythm. Pianos and accordions elbowed out the cello, relegating it to an orchestral setting. I've been pushing to get the cello back into the traditional music scene for years, always on the lookout for a cellist with whom I could have a strong musical conversation, one that incorporated not just the cello's gorgeous melodic tones, but also the gristly bits-the rhythmic, percussive energy that makes the wee hairs on the back of the neck stand up." Natalie Haas was just 11 when she first attended Fraser's Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School in California. She responded to Fraser's challenge to find and release the cello's rhythmic soul, and four years later, when Natalie was just 15, Fraser and Haas played their first gig together. Now regularly touring with Fraser and creating a buzz at festivals and in concert halls throughout Europe and North America, Natalie is in the vanguard of young cellists who are redefining the role of the cello in traditional music. One of the inspirations is the duo's debut recording, "Fire & Grace," which displays dazzling teamwork, driving, dancing rhythms, and the duo's shared passion for improvising on the melody and the groove of Scottish tunes. The two instruments duck and dive around each other, swapping melodic and harmonic lines, and trading rhythmic riffs. The recording won not only critical acclaim, but also the coveted the Scots Trad Music "Album of the Year" award, the Scottish equivalent of a Grammy. "Fire & Grace," "In the Moment" "Highlander's Farewell" and Fraser's many other recordings are on his own Culburnie Records label.

Saturday, September 27, 8 PM, \$15.00
THE BOHEMIAN QUARTET

Pre-Concert presentation on Romani culture/musical styles at 7:30 p.m.; doors open 7:15 p.m. tonight



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. *The pre-concert presentation tonight is made possible in part by a grant from the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, through an appropriation by the Rhode Island General Assembly and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.*

OCTOBER 2014

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, 6:30-7:30 PM

ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

Free class after you take 10!

Saturday, October 4, 8 PM, \$15.00

NORTH SEA GAS - Music from Scotland



North Sea Gas is a folk band from Scotland who have been performing their blend of poignant and rousing songs and high-energy instrumentals for three decades. With a combination of fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bodhran and bouzouki, complementing strong three-part vocal harmonies and a keen sense of humor, an entertaining evening is always guaranteed! North Sea Gas has now recorded 16 albums and played to audiences all over Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, the U.S.

and Canada. This marks their 10th appearance at BRT as they tour behind their new CD, "The Fire And The Passion Of Scotland," which won the 2013 Album of the Year award from Celtic Radio in the U.S. as well as first place in the "Jigs and Reels" category for a set of tunes on the album. 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!*

Saturday, October 11, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance / \$18.00 day of show
TANNAHILL WEAVERS - Music from Scotland



The Tannahill Weavers are one of Scotland's premier traditional bands. Their diverse repertoire spans the centuries with fire-driven instrumentals, topical songs, and original ballads and lullabies demonstrating to old and young alike the rich and varied musical heritage of the Celtic people. These versatile musicians have received worldwide accolades consistently over the years for their exuberant performances and outstanding recording efforts that seemingly can't get better.. yet

continue to do just that. The Tannahills have turned their acoustic excitement loose on audiences with an electrifying effect. Says The Boston Globe, "Scotland's Tannahill Weavers play acoustic instruments, but the atmosphere at their shows is electric. The quintet is as tight and as versatile as any band in the Celtic music revival. They can summon rock 'n' roll intensity or haunting introspection." Born of a session in Paisley, Scotland, and named for the town's historic weaving industry and local poet laureate Robert Tannahill, the group has made an international name for its special brand of Scottish music, blending the beauty of traditional melodies with the power of modern rhythms. Members are **Roy Gullane** on vocals and guitar, **John Martinon** fiddle and vocals, **Phil Smillie** on flute, whistles and bodhran, and newest member **Lorne MacDougall**. Three times BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the year finalist and nominee for Instrumentalist of the Year in the 2012 Scots Trad Music Awards, MacDougall is one of Scotland's leading young pipers. He has vast experience in composing, arranging and performing for various groups including the Red Hot Chili Pipers, as well as for film and television productions including "Brave" and "How to Train Your Dragon 2."

POSTPONED: One of Vasen's members has had a family emergency back home in Sweden; BRT has decided to postpone our date until the band can perform as the full trio and are in the New England area again.

Friday, October 17, 8 PM

Väsen - 25th Anniversary Tour!



Väsen is a band people rave about - mere praise doesn't seem to be enough. According to the Utne Reader, the band "treads an enchanted territory between classical, folk, and pop." National Public Radio's All Things Considered puts it this way: "The absurdly broad term world music is rendered useless in the face of these musicians who play with such genuine passion and glee that everything on the globe seems to disappear except their hometown fires. This is local music in the best sense of the term - believable, human-scaled, and fluent in the international language of musical interplay." The musicians of Väsen take the traditional music of their native Sweden and blend it into a delicious mixture of

distinctive rhythms, gorgeous melodies, and unstoppable grooves. **Mikail Marin** plays viola, **Roger Tallroth** plays 12-string guitar, and **Olov Johansson** plays nyckelharpa, a bowed, 16-string instrument related to both the hurdy-gurdy and the fiddle. In 1990, Olov became world champion of both the modern chromatic and older historical nyckelharpas at the first-ever Nyckelharpa World Championships at Österbybruk, Sweden. The trio has been performing and recording together ever since. They've appeared on A Prairie Home Companion, won the Swedish equivalent of a Grammy, worked with Mike Marshall and Darol Anger, as well as with the Kronos Quartet, and

recorded 15 albums, including their latest, "Mindset," which the website about.com calls "the best they've ever released." That same reviewer calls Väsen "one of the best bands in the world." Not one of the best Swedish bands or one of the best traditional bands, just one of the best bands, period. The word väsen has several meanings - spirit, essence, noise. *This talented Swedish trio conveys the essence of Swedish traditional music with a joyful noise that is very likely to raise your spirits... don't miss their BRT debut!*

Saturday, October 25, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance / \$18.00 day of show

PADDY KEENAN



Paddy Keenan, who has been referred to as "the Jimi Hendrix of the pipes," and "the King of the pipers," is generally acknowledged as one of the most accomplished, innovative uilleann pipers playing today. Paddy was the 2003 recipient of the Irish National Traditional Musician Award. Specializing in a wild, fluid style solely his own, Paddy was a founding member of the Bothy Band, one of the most influential Celtic bands of the 1970s. Keenan continues to tour in Europe and the U.S. and has released several solo albums including his most recent CD "The Long Grazing Acre." Paddy was born in Trim, Co. Meath, to John Keenan and the former Mary Bravender. The Keenans were a Travelling family (the wanderers of Ireland known amongst themselves as Pavees) steeped in traditional music; both Paddy's father and grandfather were uilleann

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

NOVEMBER 2014

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

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

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

Every Monday in NOVEMBER, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM

ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER

Free class after you take 10!

Saturday, November 1, 8 PM, \$12.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show

FLYNN COHEN & THE DEADSTRING ENSEMBLE / KATHLEEN CONNEELY & MARK ROBERTS

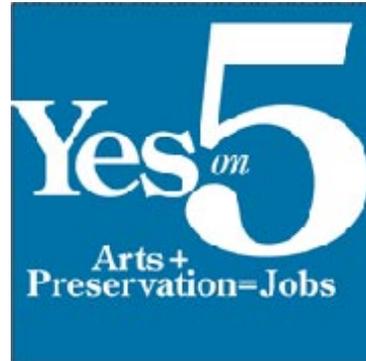


Guitarist/composer/singer **Flynn Cohen** leads his own band of string geniuses performing original multi-genre acoustic music. Primarily instrumental, they combine influences ranging from Irish traditional music, old-time appalachian, bluegrass, folk-rock, and early music. The band consists of some 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 The Electric Heaters. **Danny Noveck**, on guitar/fiddle, is a noted multi-instrumentalist and well-known DADGAD guitar accompanist.

Tin whistle player **Kathleen Conneely** was born in Bedford, England to parents from Galway and Longford. The Conneely home itself was filled with music from records, tapes and live tunes and she grew up playing music with her brother and sisters. Kathleen spent 1986-1993 living both in Dublin and London and was heavily involved in the very lively music scene in both cities. In 1991, she appeared with her father and brother (Mick Sr. and Jr., both fiddlers), John Carty (banjo) and Roger Sherlock (flutist) on RTE's "The Pure Drop." She moved to Chicago in 1993 and enjoyed sessions with Windy City musicians living there at the time such as Liz Carroll and Martin Hayes. She moved to Boston in 1997 and now lives in Rhode Island. Kathleen has taught at Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann in both Dublin and Boston, at the Boston College Irish Studies Program, The Catskills Irish Arts Week and at the Swananoa Gathering near Asheville, NC. She is joined tonight by dynamic accompanist **Mark Roberts** (Touchstone, The Sevens, Red Clay Ramblers) on guitar, bouzouki and flute.

**Tuesday, November 4 ...GET OUT AND VOTE!
and... PLEASE VOTE YES ON 5!**



**Saturday, November 8, 8 PM, \$15.00
PEPPINO D'AGOSTINO**



Contemporary fingerstyle guitarist **Peppino D'Agostino** emerged on the musical scene in the late 1980s and helped redefine the boundaries of the acoustic guitar. His virtuosic technique, penchant for open tunings, and percussive effects are the basis of his unique compositional style which has been inspiring musicians and audiences alike for years. Add to that his natural warmth, playfulness, and broad musical tastes and you have the recipe for what he calls "minestrone music." Hailed as "a

guitarist's guitarist" by *Acoustic Guitar* magazine and "a giant of the acoustic guitar" by the *San Diego Reader*, D'Agostino was voted "Best Acoustic Guitarist" by *Guitar Player* magazine readers in 2007. D'Agostino continues to evolve and grow in ways that would have been hard to predict when he was first showcasing his melodic yet emotionally intense style on his first recordings. "Every Step of the Way" was named one of the top three acoustic guitar albums of all time by *Acoustic Guitar* magazine readers in 2008. D'Agostino's simultaneous immersion in the classical guitar and rock worlds, has culminated in his most recent solo recording, "Penumbra." Combining a

keen sense of melody with virtuoso technique, D'Agostino has created a style that is as likely to charm casual listeners as to stun fellow guitar pickers.

Sunday, November 9, 4-6 PM, \$10.00
A CONTRA DANCE WITH WHITE SQUALL



We hope you'll join us as we bring back contra dances to BRT! Today's dance will feature the Providence-based band **White Squall** comprised of **Andrew Grover** on fiddle, **Ned Quist** on guitar and **Alice Pace** on percussion. The band has been together since 2003 and are currently the house band for the Brown University contra dances. The caller will be **Paul Wilde**. Contra dancing is a fun, informal event featuring easily learned dance steps such as those experienced in traditional square dancing. No experience is necessary and you do not need to bring a partner with you as it is customary to switch partners many times over the course of the evening. All dances are taught by the caller, each dance lasts about 10 minutes, and the dancers are often in constant movement.... *join us for what we hope will become a bi-monthly dance tradition at BRT!*

Friday, November 14, 7 PM, \$20.00 or two for \$35.00
8th annual CUMBERLAND LAND TRUST WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER



For tickets, call Joe at 658-1766 or if paying by credit card visit: 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

Saturday, November 15, 8 PM, \$15.00
KIMBERLEY FRASER & TROY MACGILLIVRAY



Kimberley Fraser was born on Cape Breton Island and nurtured within its rich musical heritage. She first began to impress audiences at the age of three with her step-dancing talents. Soon after that she took up both the fiddle and the piano. Like many in Cape Breton, music is not new to Kimberley's family... she proudly owns the fiddle of her great great grandfather, spanning the musical tradition within her family over a hundred years. Though still in her early twenties, Kimberley's career is already a distinguished one having played with Ashley MacIsaac, Natalie MacMaster, Alasdair Fraser, Lunasa and Martin Hayes. A master at the trio of fiddling, step dancing and piano, Kimberley is a much sought after teacher for all three and has been a long-time instructor at the renowned Gaelic College in Cape Breton. Her CD "Falling on New Ground" won the 2008 East Coast Music Award for best "Roots/Traditional Album of the Year." *Having moved back to Cape Breton two years ago, we are thrilled to have Kimberley return!*

Raised in Lanark, Nova Scotia, fiddler, pianist, stepdancer **Troy MacGillivray's** musical prowess can be attributed to an especially rare combination of commitment and bloodline. By the age of six, Troy was already impressing audiences with his step dancing skills. By 13 he was teaching piano at the renowned Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts in St. Anne's, Cape Breton. He has completed grade seven of the Toronto Conservatory of Music for classical piano, has spent four years in a stringed orchestra and has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in music from St. Francis Xavier University. For generations, the MacGillivrays on his father's side and the MacDonalds on his mother's side have been proprietors of the Scottish Gaelic tradition in his home province of Nova Scotia. With 5 CDs to his credit, Troy balances traditional Celtic tunes with his own internationally-acclaimed compositions. His CD, "Live At The Music Room" was the 2008 East Coast Music Association's Instrumental Recording of the Year and the 2008 Music Nova Scotia Traditional/Roots Recording of the Year. His recording, "When Here Meets There" was a unique collaboration with Canadian & US National Fiddle Champion Shane Cook and won the 2009 East Coast Music Association's Award for Roots/Traditional Group Recording of the Year.

Thursday, November 20, 7 PM, FREE

Ajax - A Greek tragedy by Sophocles

presented by Providence College and Salve Regina University



This free play, set during the Trojan War, will be followed by a community forum on veterans' issues and seeks to bring audiences face-to-face with the emotional scars faced by soldiers who must relive their experiences on the battlefield. The goal is to bring together recent veterans, future soldiers (e.g., ROTC cadets), faculty, students, and the larger community in the region for conversations about how best to assist soldiers returning from multiple tours of duty. The performances are free and open to the public. To register, please visit the Eventbrite page on

AjaxInRI.eventbrite.com. "Ajax" in Rhode Island is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of NEH's "Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War" special initiative, which supports veterans-related programming within each state and encourages a national network of humanities programming for America's military, veterans, and their communities.

Saturday, November 22, 8 PM, \$15.00

CHANTERELLE - Music of the French in America

JOSEE VACHON, DONNA HEBERT, ALAN BRADBURY & MAX COHEN



Josée Vachon and **Donna Hébert** have embodied traditional and original Franco-American fiddle and song all their lives. Twenty years ago they met and became musical partners, forming Chanterelle with former guitarist Liza Constable and bassist **Alan Bradbury**. Alan returns with Josée, Donna and her guitarist, **Max Cohen**, for another wonderful show celebrating French culture in America. Born in Lac Megantic and raised over the border in Brownville ME, singer-songwriter Josée Vachon is beloved of Franco-

audiences, who regularly sing along in French. Her unabashed 'joie de vivre' is infectious. Josée's long stint hosting "Bonjour" on cable in the Northeast brought her to many Franco-American homes, and she has continued to record and tour. A recipient of awards from the keys to the city of Woonsocket, to a spot on NEA traditional touring rosters like "The Women's Singing Traditions," Josée is an icon within the Franco-American culture. Western Mass. fiddler Donna Hébert, named an Artist Fellow in Franco-American fiddling by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, was recognized by Governor Deval Patrick in 2009 for "outstanding artistic achievement." A fiddle instructor at Smith and Amherst Colleges, Donna performs in a fiddle/guitar duo with Max Cohen (who joins them on this tour), Celtic trio Mist Covered Mountains, and the new Panache Quartet with fiddlers Andrea Beaton, Veronique Plasse and Jane Rothfield. Alan Bradbury's Cajun group, Magnolia, are the mainstay of the region's Cajun music and dance scene. Alan's bass, accordion and vocals just make Donna and Josée so happy that it's always a homecoming to play Chanterelle gigs with him. Max Cohen is one of the best kept secrets in the guitar world, the true musician's musician

(producer, engineer, arranger). Max also accompanies folksinger Priscilla Herdman, who says, "Max is one of those rare guitarists able to create an atmosphere that supports and cradles the voice with both tenderness and strength." Donna adds that he "rocks like crazy!" *Not to be missed...*

SOLD OUT!

Saturday, November 29, 7:30 PM, \$20.00

BRT HOMECOMING CONCERT AND SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

featuring Atwater-Donnelly, Eastern Medicine Singers, Phil Edmonds, Bertrand Laurence, Robbie O'Connell, Pendragon, Mary Ann Rossoni & Rick Bellaire



With family and friends in town for Thanksgiving, BRT's 14th annual fundraiser features some of the best of Rhode Island's homegrown talent as well as others who now live in the Ocean State. *Starting 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 seven 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**. 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 musician **Bertrand Laurence**, whistle and accordion player **Phil Edmonds** of the Gnomes, and celebrated Irish singer-songwriter **Robbie O'Connell**. **Mary Ann Rossoni and Rick Bellaire** will perform a set of original folk/pop/rock music and the **Eastern Medicine Singers** will present Algonquin and Native American song, drumming and dance.

Saturday, December 6, 9 AM to 3 PM, Free admission!

7th annual BRT HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR AND FESTIVAL



Blackstone River Theatre invites the community to our 7th 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 will include: **SoulQuest Designs** (handcrafted jewelry), **Scentsy** (warmers, aromatic wax and personal care items), **Shaker Shoppe** (beautiful wooden goods), **The Opulent Squid** ("posh and peculiar handmade jewelry"), **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), **Sandra-Lynn Custom Jewelry Designs & The Apron Cupboard**, **BoydHolms** (whimsical handmade birdhouses and sculptures), **Mary Kay Cosmetics**, **Ducharme Creations in Wood** (handmade wooden ornaments and more), **SilverLeaf Studios** (handcrafted jewelry in Sterling silver and copper and repurposed vintage items), **Tree's Creations** (cancer awareness earrings and bracelets), **Starlite Jewelry Designs**, **Relectic Design** (handmade sterling silver jewelry with natural stone and sea glass and silk and hemp hand bags), **The Glass Heron** (hand crafted stained glass), **Pretty Useful Things** (fabric jewelry), **Bright Edge Candles & Photography**, **Tom & Alice Apiaries** (honey and related products), **Moosup Valley Design** (custom jewelry, scrimshaw, artwork and more), **3U Design Studios** (custom bracelets), **Doodle Paintings**, **Uncle J's Monsters** (prints of "monsters who don't know they are monsters" mounted on wood panel boxes), **LnKDesigns** (hand-carved wooden LED Star Lights,

crystal jewelry, novelty soaps), and **Xeph Ink** (Original Celtic tapestries, cloaks & more).

**BOTH THE 2 PM AND 5 PM SHOWS ARE COMPLETELY SOLD OUT!
THANK YOU!**

**Sunday, December 7, 2 PM and 5 PM, \$12.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show
3rd annual IRISH DANCE CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR featuring TIR NA NOG
IRISH DANCE**

Both performances are fundraisers for the 2015 BRT Summer Solstice Festival



We hope you'll join us for what has

become a tradition at BRT 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 she did the past two years, Erika has chosen to make these shows a fundraiser for the 2015 Blackstone River Theatre Summer Solstice Festival where Tir Na Nog Irish Dance 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! 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

BOTH SHOWS ARE SOLD OUT!

Two Holiday performances!

Saturday, December 13, 8 PM, \$18.00 advance / \$20.00 day of show

AND

Sunday, December 14, 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 7th annual Christmas Celebration featuring **Aubrey Atwater, 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 things 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, award winning 20-year-old Irish bagpiper Torrin Ryan, from Attleboro, and music and step dancing by the dynamic Miller Family - Ruby May, Evelyn and Samuel.