

DEFFA NEWSLETTER

DOWN EAST FRIENDS OF THE FOLK ARTS

2010

MAINE FOLK ARTISTS,
MUSICIANS, &
PERFORMERS



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Armstrong, Jennifer

I am a piper, fiddler, singer, storyteller and family dance caller. I am available for lessons, workshops, weddings, concerts, festivals! I will host the eighth annual Pie and Story Festival in Belfast on Sunday September 19, 2010. Please give a call about getting involved in putting on the festival, for lessons, for concerts, whatever!! Contact: Jennifer Armstrong, 338-6616, jennifer@jenniferarmstrong.com, website www.jenniferarmstrong.com.

Abbott Hill Ramblers

Teacher Chris Prickitt directs this group of talented young musicians from the Dexter Middle and High Schools. The Ramblers have produced five recordings; the most recent called "It Can't be Stopped." Their music — bluegrass and American roots — is pretty darn good. Instrumentation includes banjo, bass, guitar, mandolin, fiddles, piano, accordion, hammered dulcimer, and percussion. Very reasonable rates for an entertaining and uplifting show. Contact Chris Prickitt, 277-3961, chrisprickitt@gmail.com, website: www.abbotthillramblers.com.

Belfast Shape Note Singing

An informal group singing traditional shape note songs, a full-spirited style of four-part a cappella singing that began in New England in the mid 1700's. We use The Sacred Harp and Northern Harmony books, and are connected to other groups in New England, the rest of the country, and the world. Beginners are most welcome; books are available for loan and purchase. We meet in Belfast the 2nd Monday of the month, from 7 to 9 pm, at the 1st Church Parish Hall, corner of Spring and Court Streets. Contact: Sumner, 338-1265, or Bobbie, 594-5743, rgoodell@gwi.net.

Big Moose

Fourth Saturday (January through July, September through November) contra dances at College of the Atlantic's Gates Center on Rt 3 in Bar Harbor. Regular band members are Ruth Grierson (fiddle), Emma Walsh (fiddle), Jim Vekasi (mandolin), David Towle (accordion, fiddle), Charlie Richardson (fiddle), David Quinby (standup bass), Bob McCormick (bohdran, step), Keith Davis (guitar), and Judith Chittenden (fiddle). Frequent guests musicians. Contact Keith Davis at 288-5620 or KDavis@harborbars.com.

Boréal Tordu

Maine's premier Acadian Band, featuring Robert Sylvain, Steve Muise, Andy Buckland, and Pip "Bonneau" Walter. Boréal Tordu offers great music for concert settings: old Acadian ballads, rousing Cajun tunes, and a slew of new originals playing homage to our French-American roots. Please contact Robert Sylvain, sylvain@maine.rr.com, 761-3931, or Andy Buckland, andybuckland@borealtordu.com, web site www.borealtordu.com.

Bowdoinham String Band

Traditional acoustic music for weddings and community events. Styles range from lyrical waltzes to toe-tapping tunes and include Irish and Scottish, French Canadian, American roots from the South and West, English and Welsh, and Scandinavian. Available as solo violin or fiddle, guitar-fiddle duet, mandolin-guitar-fiddle trio, four or five piece band with two fiddles, guitar, mandolin, banjo and other combinations. Contact Hope, P.O. Box 171, Bowdoinham ME 04008, 332-3459, e-mail via www.hopehoffman.org.

Bustopher Jones

Greg Boardman-fiddle, Anthony Shostak-uilleann pipes, John Cote-guitar, Alfred Lund-percussion. Regular Bates College dance second Fridays September-May. Booking: Anthony Shostak 946-3517 ashostak@bates.edu, John Cote 232-8656 John_Cote@umit.maine.edu.

Catharsis

Catharsis is both the title of a driving classic contradance tune and the namesake of this band of nicely aged professional and paraprofessional musicians who love working up a good rhythm as well as a good lather. Catharsis is Michele Roy (fiddle), Fred White (guitar, percussion), and Zeba Weidler (piano -- keyboard only when a piano is unavailable). The band is often joined by Glen Loper, John Pranio, and /or Paul D'Alessio, making for a very rich (we do it only for the money) experience. Catharsis has been making music together for nearly twenty years, and is a big favorite at the annual Downeast Festival in Maine. Catharsis is available for contradances, barn dances, store openings, weddings, parties, summer camps, preschool graduation ceremonies, art shows, farmers markets, family reunions, wakes, corporate functions....Fiddle, guitar, and piano lessons and workshops also available. Contact: Michele Roy, 582-4817; Fred White, 622-6201, frigate1@roadrunner.com; Zeba Weidler, 783-7738.

Crooked Stovepipe

Available for parties, dances, junkets etc. Still pumping out the tunes in the Portland area (and elsewhere when called upon). Members: John Carroll (flute), Chris Colson (squeezebox & piano), Dave Colson (guitar, mandolin & triangle), Mike Connolly (piano & guitar), Paul Krakauske (melodeon & banjo-mandolin), Tom Wilsbach (fiddle & whistle) and occasionally Jeremy Colson (fiddle.) Paul, Dave & Mike are our callers (not all at once). For bookings contact: Tom Wilsbach, 797-5905, twilsbac@maine.rr.com.

Crowfoot

This trio, with Adam Broome, Jaige Trudel and Nicholas Williams ranges from blazing hot contras to dynamic concerts. From Maine and Montreal, these musicians have a knack for blending timeless musical heritage with their own innovations. To contact for booking or CDs, phone 207-272-8486 or e-mail crowfootmusic@gmail.com. Website: www.crowfootmusic.com.

Ellen and Maggie

These two dance music scene veterans create a vibrant sound that rocks the dance hall! Ellen (fiddle) and Maggie (guitar, vocals) meld authentic dance tunes in the New England, Quebecois, Irish, Scottish and Maritime traditions. Ellen has traveled to Ireland, Britain and the Shetland Islands to collect tunes, has toured in the U.S. and Europe and recorded with a number of groups. An experienced Suzuki violin / fiddle teacher, she teaches at fiddle workshops, at music camps and at her home in Belfast. Maggie Ericson is a singer and instrumentalist equally at home with ballads and the blues. She has been performing an eclectic mix of traditional music since the late 1970s. Contact: Ellen Gawler, 495-2928, ellengawler@aol.com or Maggie Ericson, 547-3977.

Evergreen

Maine's premier American roots music ensemble. Their eclectic acoustical style blends elements of folk, bluegrass, country and blues with jazz, swing, rock and ethnic traditions featuring tight harmonies, solid instrumentation, original interpretations and strong songwriting. They perform around a single microphone, taking turns fronting the band and letting the audience get acquainted with each of them. Members are: Chris Prickett (banjo, fiddle, accordion, mandolin, bass), Steve Chiasson (guitar, bass), Nellie Kennedy (bass, guitar, mandolin, autoharp), and Joe Kennedy (harmonicas, bass). The band has four recordings. Contact: Joe, 277-3733, joekennedy@tds.net, info@evergreenmaine.com, www.evergreenmaine.com.

Fabian, Joseph

I am a caller in mid-Maine available for fun dances, family events, contras, waltz, and beginning square dances. Square and fun dances for all ages are my specialty. I am available to put a tap in your toes and a smile on your face. Also eager to teach square, contra, or patten calling ("patten" = no note cards). Calling dances and teaching have been my passion and joy. I do not charge for calling dances, teaching dances, or educating new callers. Certified Teacher, BMI / ASCAP licensed and insured. Contact 525-3010, fabfivefavo@yahoo.com.

Fiddlehedz

Fiddlehedz is your one-stop band in a box, available for dances, community and family events, weddings, parties, school and educational programs, and all festive occasions. Everything you need to add that special touch to any gathering. You provide the setting, and leave the rest to us! Our dance and music programs are tailored to your needs. We teach and call dances for all ages and experience levels, from total beginners to seasoned dancers. Fiddlehedz is Richard Green (caller, upright bass, fiddle, and piano), Pamela Davis Green (fiddle, bodhran, caller) and Paul Baines (guitar.). Make your next event even more special! Contact Richard at (207) 685-8141, richard.a.green@roadrunner.com, website: www.fiddlehedz.org.

Flowing Tide

Lively arrangements of traditional acoustic music for country dances, weddings, receptions, private parties, concerts, and other festive occasions. Our quintet is comprised of Tamora Goltz (fiddle, mandolin), Sandy Davis (pennywhistles, wooden flute, English concertina, 5-string banjo, C-melody saxophone, spoons), David Stimson (guitar, tenor banjo, fiddle, piano), Abraham Stimson (fiddle, piano, fretless electric bass), and Nathaniel Stimson (recorders, shawm, crumhorn, natural horn, foot percussion). We weave tapestries of jigs, reels, waltzes, and other zesty dance tunes that will keep your feet tapping and your heart smiling. For more info and bookings, contact: Sandy Davis, 563-7263, flowingtide@zilly.me or Tamora Goltz, 633-6148, curlewmusic@gwi.net.

Fowler, Chrissy

Caller for contras, family dances, weddings and other joy-filled occasions. School residencies, camps, and community groups, too. Phone 338-0979, cell 603-498-3506, ktaadn_me@hotmail.com, website www.chrissyfowler.com.

Frigate

Traditional and Americana music with Irish, Scots, and French roots for all occasions on land and sea. Glen Loper (mando, banjo), Steve Muise (fiddle, accordion), and Fred White (guitar, percussion). A whole shipload of fun with a wicked-good pulse for dancing. Available with the best callers in New England. Contact Fred White, PO Box 2167, Augusta ME 04338, 622-6201, frigate1@roadrunner.com.

Gawler Family

John and Ellen Gawler are joined by daughters Molly, Edith and Elsie, to bring you an eclectic assortment of old and new songs from many folk traditions. They accompany their warm interweaving family harmonies with fiddle, banjo, wooden banjo, cello, guitar and piano. With one CD to their credit, this family has earned a place in the hearts of audiences for its infectious spirit and sparkling musicianship. For 25 years the Gawlers have hosted the annual Buttermilk Hill Old Time Music Festival on their family farm in Belgrade. Available for school residencies that include music, dancing, and stories, which are often culminated with an evening dance aimed at bringing together the whole community. Available for school residencies that include songs, dancing, instrumentals and stories. Contact: Ellen or John, 495-2928, ellengawler@aol.com or johnbones@aol.com

Gillman, Jackson “Stand-Up Chameleon”

Offers various music/comedy shows that are an interactive mixture of song parodies, originals, musical sketches, dance, stories, and sing-alongs. Family shows include: Riot in the Garden; BUGS!, Nature in Action; Story, and Song; On a Wing and a Song; Once Upon a Tide; The Dancing Man; A Family Cabaret; seasonal and holiday concerts. Many adult shows offered as well, and a seasoned emcee. References galore. www.jacksongillman.com, jxsong@comcast.net. Contact: Jackson Gillman, PO Box 41, Onset MA 02558, 508-295-0886, or 22 Huckleberry Lane, Mt Desert ME 04660

Green, Richard & Pam

Dance callers for contradances, community and family dances, weddings, birthday parties, or any special occasion. We teach and call dances for all ages and experience levels, from total beginners to seasoned dancers. Available individually, as a calling duo, or as a complete package with a live band. Make your next gathering even more special! Contact Richard at (207) 685-8141, richard.a.green@roadrunner.com.

Halligan, Frets

Frets plays guitar, sings, leads groups and teaches in Winterport, ME. His easy-going, nurturing style puts learners of all ages at ease and ready to have fun playing and singing! His background is steeped in a variety of music that include folk, bluegrass, celtic and classical. Contact: Frets, 207-659-2626, frets@c8ch.com.

Hoffman, Hope and Tolles, Jim

Concerts, parties, events and dances. Country duet songs and fiddling from the Carter Family, bluegrass, and Appalachia, plus roots-based originals. Fiddle, banjo, guitar and singing ranging from high and lonesome to warm and tender. Bluegrass classics (including those in the style of “brother duets”), contemporary country and folk, and fresh original songs with a strong traditional background. Lively and detailed renditions of old Scotch-Irish fiddle melodies and new, original dance tunes. Contact Hope, P.O. Box 171, Bowdoinham ME 04008, 332-3459, e-mail via www.hopehoffman.org.

ImproVox

ImproVox spins a capella music on the spot, weaving rich tapestries of vocal melody and sound with daring dissonances and heavenly harmonies. Echoing world influence and beyond, their music is spontaneous, vibrant and full of surprise. ImproVox singing workshops promote deep listening, imagination, initiation and musical invention. Performances include a repertoire of prepared work and selected originals with solos, songs and stories created on the spot. ImproVox performs and presents workshops at festivals, conferences, private and corporate functions, colleges and universities throughout the Northeast. Personnel: Deb Hensley, Kathy Slack, Martin Swinger, Matt Loosigian and Fred White. For information and bookings contact Martin, 626-0165, MrtinSwngn@aol.com or Deb, 382-6317, mershon@fairpoint.net, website www.improvox.com.

Jaccarino, Anthony

A mandolin and guitar player, Anthony is versatile across many styles including traditional contra, bluegrass, blues, and contemporary. Contact Anthony at (603)-957-1235, jaccarino@gmail.com.

Jaige and Adam

Jaige Trudel and Adam Broome, a fiddle and guitar duo, play energetic and uplifting music for contra dances, weddings and special occasions. Contact: Jaige or Adam at 207-272-8486 or adambroome@gmail.com

Jimmyjo and the Jumbol’ayuhs

Jimmyjo & the Jumbol’ayuhs hails from the “bayous” of coastal Maine. Based in Phippsburg, the Jumbol’ayuhs serve up music from Cajun Louisiana with a Downeast accent. Featuring Jim Joseph on accordion, second fiddle, and vocals, and Pam Weeks on lead fiddle and vocals, the Jumbol’ayuhs play lively two-steps and waltzes that tug at your heartstrings. Bill Olson on guitar, Elna Joseph on bass, and Keith Garovoy on percussion round out the sound and provide the bottom end that will keep you dancing! Laissez les bon temps rouler! Contact: Jim, 389-1224, jimmyjo@suscom-maine.net, or Keith, 443-3608, kgarovoy@earthlink.net.

Kermit & Alexandra

Folk and original music. “Their voices blend beautifully; I could listen all night...” Coffeehouses and restaurants. Kermit Bennett (vocals, 6 and 12-string guitars, mandolin) and Alexandra (vocals, autoharp, accordion). Contact: westbrancher@gmail.com, 997-3639.

Ladies of the Lake

Lilting dance tunes and enchanting ballads in the Celtic tradition. These women have been performing for the past twenty years. Members: Sharon Pyne (tin whistle, wooden flute), Maggie Ericson (guitar, button accordion), Kristen Tescher (celtic harp, guitar), and Ellen Gawler (fiddle). Available for dances, festivals, and workshops. Contact: Sharon Pyne, 443-5411 or 522-3900, sharonmusictogether@gmail.com, web site www.ladiesofthelakemusic.com.

Lamprey River Band

We play old-time New England dance music in the country dance orchestra tradition. In our 25th year, we play mostly in seacoast New Hampshire and southwestern Maine. We host the first Thursday dance in the Dover NH City Hall; sit-in musicians and guest callers are invited. Members include: Peter Yarensky (caller, hammered dulcimer, piano), Sarah Mason (caller, pennywhistle), Burt Feintuch (fiddle), Steve Panish (fiddle), Sarah Hydorn (flute, pennywhistle), and a piano player (usually Bill Zecker.) We play for contra dances, weddings, parties, and whatever anyone wants to hire us for. Contact: Peter Yarensky, (603)-664-2513, peter.yarensky@unh.edu or visit our web site at <<http://www.nhcountrydance.com>.

Larock, Cindy

Dance instructor / caller, specializing in contras-for-beginners (both New England and French Canadian), Quebecois step dancing, ballroom (waltz, polka, tango), swing (classic East Coast), and Cajun (jitterbug, two-step, and waltz). Also serves as an enthusiastic matchmaker for any number of traditional music / dance artists and venues, because “if everyone was dancing (or fiddling), the world would be a better place.” Contact: Cindy Larock, 461 College St.reet, Lewiston ME 04240, 782-0386, or at work, 513-3050; clarock@ci.lewiston.me.us.

Larson, Kathryn

Experienced caller and teacher of community dances, family dances, dance parties, barn dances, school group instruction and demonstration including contras, big circle mountain dances, international folk dancing and clogging. Beginners and mixed age levels are her specialty. Regular venue: Second Saturday family dance, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at Wescustogo Hall in North Yarmouth. Contact: Kathryn Larson, 43 Cobbs Bridge Road, New Gloucester ME 04260, 926-5114, klarson@securspeed.us.

Live Bait

Way downeast-based fiddly band, with guitar, banjo, button and piano accordion, bass, whistles, lap steel, dobro and mandolin. Plays hot hot hot fiddle tunes for contra dances, as well as original, traditional and contemporary songs and airs, waltzes, polkas, jigs and more for weddings, parties, smelt fries and hootenannies. Personnel: Curtis Russet (guitar), Sepp Huber (banjo, piano accordion, whistle, mandolin, nylon-stringed guitar), Jim O’neil (button accordion, bass, whistle, lap steel and dobro), Sheila Unvala (fiddle) and when we’re really lucky, Tim Semler (percussion). Everybody sings. Contact: Sheila, 546-2270, shu7sh@mac.com.

Maine Highland Fiddlers

A spirited group of Celtic fiddlers based in mid-coastal Maine, specializing in Celtic, Cape Breton, and Scottish fiddle tunes, striving to keep the music of Maine’s ancestral founders alive for future generations. This large group plays strathspeys, reels, marches, jigs, and other traditional Celtic dance music for concerts, festivals, and special occasions. Band members are: Rhonda Bullock, Val Mann, Roxanne Horne, Eric Paetow, Ellen Stevens, and Sue Volmer (fiddlers); Teri Wadding and Bill Kasregis (guitars); Linda Jacobs (concertina); and Jody Kasregis (piano). Contact: Eric Paetow, P.O. box 136, Coopers Mills ME 04341, 215-6512, mainehighlandfiddlers@gmail.com.

Maine Squeeze Accordion Ensemble

Eclectic, hand-clapping ethnic music from around the world in foot-tapping squeeze box tradition to spice up any occasion. Parties, workshops, festivals, concerts. Programs for all ages - can be tailored to your needs. Simple folk dances can be taught. Contact: The Maine Squeeze, PO Box 116, Peaks Island ME 04108, 766-2615, neenb16@gmail.com, www.mainesqueeze.com.

Maine St. Andrew’s Pipes & Drums

Led by Pipe Major Scott Heney and Drum Major Darren Hart, this Ellsworth-based band is comprised of about 25 individuals and several apprentices. The group, formed in 1996, performs in parades and concerts throughout the state and competes in eastern Canada and New England. Wearing the Maine State Tartan, the group is involved in educational outreach, especially through local schools. Solo pipers, small groups, and the entire band are available, as well as lessons in piping and highland drumming. We welcome all interested individuals, whether beginners or experienced musicians, to participate. For information contact: Lynn Alexander, Band Manager, 143 Black Road, Corinth, Me 04427, 285-7929, lanask@hotmail.com, www.msapd.org.

Marsh Island Band

Traditional string band music, especially Old Time Southern and French Canadian. Regular venue: second Saturday contradances September through May at the Orono Community House, our 30th season. Members: Kim Lyons (piano), Maisie Libby (fiddle), Phil Locke (fiddle, caller), Lowell Oyster (guitar, mandolin). Also available for school programs, weddings and other festive occasions. Contact: Phil Locke, 55 Boutelle Rd., Bangor ME 04401, 942-5471, locke@math.umaine.edu.

McIntire, John

John McIntire calls traditional and contemporary New England style contras, squares and circles. His calling emphasizes the participatory and cooperative spirit of a New England country dance. Along with Nancy Rosalie, John leads a monthly English Country dance. Available for regular events, special occasions and just plain fun times, either alone or with a variety of musicians. Contact: John McIntire, 323 Crosby Brook Rd, Unity ME 04988-4023, 568-7597, circleleft@uninets.net.

The Montville Project

“Conradance Music the Old-Fashioned Way” from four veteran New England dance musicians. We started as a repertory band at Maine Fiddle Camp, but we also have performed at Ralph Page Dance Weekend, and the Downeast Country Dance Festival. We could be convinced to play for occasional contra dances, party events, what-have-you. George Fowler (fiddle), Art Bryan (banjo, mandolin), Fred White (guitar, percussion), Surya Mitchell (piano). Contact: George Fowler, Reach Road, Brooklin 04614, 359-2070, gwfowler@myfairpoint.net, website www.montvilleproject.com.

Moore, Gregory

Gregory Moore has been calling dances mostly in midcoast Maine for the last 27 years. He enjoys playing guitar, percussion and other strings while calling a snappy contemporary mix of contras for local venues. Mostly still on sabbatical these days rebuilding his home and family farm, Gregory is still available as a guest caller for regular dance series throughout the middle of the state, as well as for private parties, weddings, and welcomes inquiries about events at the Watts Hall in Thomaston. Contact: Gregory Moore, 67 McCarter Point Road, Cushing Me 04563; 354-6841; gmksgr@gmail.com.

Muisette

Muisette is duo Steve Muise and John Coté, playing danceable music, specializing in Québécois, Maritime, and New England Fiddle Music. Available for all occasions... Muisette offers great groove and tunes! Contact John Cote, 232-8656, jcote@maine.edu, or Steve Muise, 778-5072, debsteve@gwi.net, www.stevemuise.com, www.johncote.com.

Narrow Gauge String Band

A comfortable front porch “old time” band from the Wiscasset area whose members are known for their easy style of performance of American dance tunes, folk ballads, and waltzes. Fiddler Karl Marean leads the group, with mandolinist David Pope, banjo player Bob Webb, guitarist Tom Block, and bassist Art Mayers. A performance of the NGSB is always delightful fun. Contact Bob Webb at Richmond Webb Associates, P.O. Box 356, Phippsburg ME 04562, 389-2477, richmondwebb@richmondwebb.com, website www.richmondwebb.com .

Noonday Feast

Tom Wilsbach (uilleann pipes, fiddle, whistle) & Don Wessels (chromatic harmonica, guitar). A mellow-toned take on traditional Irish Music, with pipes and harmonica in flat pitch, 1&1/2 tones below concert. Concerts and private functions, weddings and other ceremonies. Our unusual instrumental combination lets you hear Irish tunes with new ears. Contact: Tom, 653-5741, wilsbach@portland.lib.me.us.

North Star Sisters

The North Star Sisters perform for contra dances, concerts, parties, and other special occasions. Members: Gail Lipfert (guitar, flute, recorder, accordion), Elaine Malkin (fiddle), Pam McKeen (piano, mandolin), and Fredi LaPorte (fiddle). Contact: Elaine Malkin, 426-9623, emalkin@roadrunner.com, www.northstarsisters.com.

Oakum Bay String Band

Host band for regular first Saturday contra dances at Blue Hill Town Hall. Occasional guest appearances elsewhere. 29th year of calling contras, squares, circles, to the traditional music of New England, Ireland, Canadian Maritimes, Appalachia. Available as guest band at public dances, weddings, parties and other raucous entertainment. Members: George Fowler (calls, fiddle), Heidi Daub (guitar, banjo, whistle, piano, percussion), and Bill Schubeck (fiddle, viola, piano, calls), often joined by various friends and band alums. Contact: George Fowler, Reach Road, Brooklin ME 04614, 359-2070, gwfowler@myfairpoint.net ; or Heidi Daub, 374-5417, info@heididaub.com.

Old Grey Goose

Trio featuring fiddle, accordion, and piano. Specialize in Downeast country dance music and Maine maritime folk songs. Cassettes and CDs available. Members: Doug Protsik (piano, accordion, fiddle), Carter Newell (fiddle, accordion, feet), Smokey McKeen (bones, accordion, guitar). Also available with guest fiddlers Timmy Farrel and Ben Guillemette, Franco-American fiddle champion of Sanford ME. No regular dances, but available for parties, festivals, fairs, concerts/dances, school programs. Available to Maine non-profits through the Maine Touring Program of the Maine Arts Commission. Contact Doug Protsik, 443-5411, protsik@gwi.net, website www.oldgreygoose.org.

Old Grey Goose International

Traveling American folk music ambassadors of good will present unique multimedia concerts of their collaborative traditional musical sojourns to exotic lands including “On the Road to Central Asia” and “On the Road to Trinidad, Cuba” and “On the Road to Tajikistan.” For details and to arrange presentations contact: Doug Protsik, 116 Pleasant Cove Dr., Woolwich, Me. 04579, 443-5411, protsik@gwi.net, website: www.oldgreygoose.org.

Peloquin & Webb

David Peloquin of Windsor ME has performed music of the sea and other Anglo-American folk songs for 30 years. He is a poet, artist, sound engineer, and musician, long known for his solo appearances and as a member of the Rhode Island-based groups Compass Rose and Wickford Express. He has teamed up with guitarist and banjo player Bob Webb (see Bob’s separate listing) to present programs of seafaring music, including special presentations on maritime songs from Maine; also an Americana program featuring traditional and recent folk songs and popular ballads from the period 1850-1950. Important music, sung in harmony. Contact Dave, peloquin.david@gmail.com, 446-4640., or Bob at Richmond Webb Associates, P.O. Box 356, Phippsburg ME 04562, 389-2477, richmondwebb@richmondwebb.com, website www.richmondwebb.com.

Perpetual e-Motion:

A unique duo, made up of Ed Howe on electric five string fiddle and John Coté on guitars, foot percussion, and didgeridoo, specializing in seductive, high energy traditional dance music for contras and concerts. With an emphasis on sonic experimentation, improvisation, and signal processing, this duo delivers an amazingly full sound that is a modern interpretation of dance tunes utilizing sound loops and a variety of textures that blend and reinterpret the melodic and rhythmic roles for the fiddle and guitar. Available for dances, concerts, and weddings. Contact jcote@maine.edu, groovatic1@hotmail.com, 207-232-8656, or online at www.perpetuale-motion.com.

Phinney, Cynthia

Cynthia is one of the regular callers at the Farmington contra dance, calls regularly with The Racket Factory, and is sometimes available for other calling as her “day job” allows. Contact Cynthia Phinney, 126 Campground Road, Livermore Falls ME 04254, 491-9928, dance@starleft.org .

Pineland Fiddlers

This group of 20 musicians from ages 8 to 18 plays with remarkable technique and spirit that belies their years. With several years of fiddling for dances behind them, the Pineland Fiddlers provide that big band sound that fills a hall with inspirational music, whether playing a lilting French-Canadian jig or a foot-stomping medley of Maritime reels. These young artists, with two CDs to their credit, have toured in Cape Breton and Quebec, have given concerts and performed at festivals, fairs and schools. Contact: Founder and director Ellen Gawler, 495-2928, ellengawler@aol.com.

Playgroup

Playgroup is Abraham Stimson (fiddle, piano, bass), Alden Robinson (fiddle), Julia Plumb (fiddle, feet), and Zach Davis (mandolin, tenor banjo, fiddle, percussion). Steeped from childhood in the traditions of contra dance music and the broader Celtic diaspora, this fun-loving quartet is available for contra dances, weddings, celebrations, and other events. Contact Julia: juliaplumb@yahoo.com or 319-7337 for booking or more information.

Pluck n Fret

Anthony Jaccarino (mandolin), Paul Crook (tenor banjo), and Jeff Raymond (guitar). A groove without a fiddle, Anthony’s blazing mando de-lights the way for Paul’s funky plunk & Jeff’s boom chuck. Available for contradances and concerts. Contact Jeff Raymond, 865-9014, jeffraym@gmail.com.

Portland Ceili Band

Specializing in music for traditional Irish dancing, ceili dancing, and set dancing. We have been doing ceilis for the Irish American Club in Portland for twenty-odd years. Members: Mike Connolly (piano, guitar), Chris Hall (fiddle), Sharon Pyne (flute, whistle, guitar), Tom Wilsbach (fiddle, uilleann pipes, whistles). Contact Mike Connolly, 774-3392, Michael.connolly@maine.edu.

The Racket Factory

Dismayed by conglomerate culture? Feeling isolated by the virtual? Then turn to The Racket Factory for all of your live music needs. Their friendly, knowledgeable staff has over a century of combined experience producing the finest reels, jigs, waltzes, hambos, and polkas for the people of New Sharon, Vienna and central Maine. If you’re planning a contra dance, wedding, festival, or other celebratory function, The Racket Factory will set up shop in your own town and manufacture the goods you need right on the spot, using only fiddles, guitar, banjo, bass, and a five string racket. All locally made music, no outsourcing! Dance calling and sound system available. So, for a good time, call Margaret Cox, Eric Johnson, Cynthia Phinney, Mark Rains and Hank Washburn, 779-0579 or 778-2268, margaret@mcej.net, or hwashburn@msad54.org. And remember: music is their racket!

Rhoda, Katherine

Singer, song leader, multi-instrumentalist on Marxophone, ukelin, violin-guitar, Lithuanian kankles, and more. Heartfelt traditional music, obscure covers, and originals. Experienced with special needs (as well as general) audiences. Nov.-April: PO Box 58, Hiram ME 04041, 625-4549. May-Oct.: PO Box 393, Monhegan ME 04852, 596-7578, krhoda@world.oberlin.edu, www.katherinerhoda.com, www.myspace.com/katherinerhoda.

Roberts, Kim

Kim Roberts is a caller for contras, family dances, and other special events. Call 491-0628 or e-mail kimdependance@gmail.com.

Robinson, Maggie

Caller, available for contra dances. Contact 233-4325 or email fiddle103@yahoo.com.

Roy, Don and Cindy

Fiddle and piano in the French Canadian style. Many rare and unusual tunes. Our bass player often joins us; larger groups available. Contact: Don Roy, 114 Plummer Road, Gorham ME 04038, 892-3512, droy@maineturnpike.com.

Sea Slugs

The Sea Slugs have been playing family-style dances, weddings, parties, benefits, and functions around Southern Maine for nearly twenty years. They teach traditional New England, Canadian and Franco-American line and circle dances as well as waltzes, tangos, polkas and other ethnic dances. Members: Phil Swegert (fiddle), Mike Gallant (fiddle), Steve Ryder (string bass), John Capizzo (guitar), Marianne Warner (flute) and Reggie Osborn (caller.) Contact: John Capizzo, 4 Bickford St, Scarborough ME 04074, 883-7119, sea_slugs@hotmail.com, website: www.seaslugs.s5.com.

Sheep Island Rovers

Second Saturday (March through December) contra dances in Winter Harbor (just past the bank) . Jon Archer calls not only contras but unusual couples-dances as well. Band members: Jon Archer (flutes, vocals), Ruth Grierson (fiddle, piano), Geoffrey Warner (fiddle, mandolin, guitar, vocals), David Quinby (standup bass, vocals), Carl Karush (mandolin, vocals). Contact: Jon Archer, 461-6631 or 422-9014, jon.archer@jax.org.

SHUSH

Shush is Sheila Unvala (fiddle) and Sepp Huber (guitar.) We play traditional fiddle tunes, waltzes, processions, marches and tunes gleaned from sources classical to contemporary. We sing songs that we love, from hollers and shakers to tender love songs and lullabies, Cuban boleros, Cajun and Creole party songs. A constantly evolving repertoire means that a SHUSH show is always full of adventure and surprises. For your Washington or Hancock County event, SHUSH is the duo for you! Contact Sheila Unvala, 546-2270, shu7sh@me.com, or see our MySpace site myspace.com/shushband.

Silents Please!

Silent movie presentations with traditional live old-time piano accompaniment of many classic feature-length films. Ideal for schools, community activities and fund raisers. Also solo old-time piano and strolling accordion playing for all occasions. Contact: Doug Protsik, 443-5411, protsik@zwi.net.

Spirited Folk

We sing folk songs in the tradition of Woodie Guthrie and Pete Seeger, as well as our own originals. Our vocal harmonies are backed up by lively acoustic instruments including banjo, guitar, mandolin, psaltery, and accordion. The tone ranges from contemplative to foot-stomping, and audiences often can't help but join in the singing. Spirited Folk consists of Joel Gold, Frannie A. Doonan, and Dave Mussey. Over the years we have performed with numerous folk and dance bands. We love to share this infectious music with audiences of all ages. Contact Frannie or Dave, 884-6278, mainejourneys@midmaine.com, www.spiritedfolk.com.

Sweetbriar

Firmly rooted in tradition and fully vested in the contemporary, Sweetbriar's driving dance tunes will incite you to temporal transport...to a dancing frenzy...and to an all-around pleasantly cathartic evening of contradance! Available for contra, family & barn dances, as well as parties of all sorts, Sweetbriar is Linda Hornig (flute), Anthony Jaccarino (mandolin), Jeff Raymond (guitar), and various fiddle players. Contact Jeff, 712-2837, jeffraym@gmail.com.

Swinger, Martin

Martin Swinger is a singer / songwriter / arts educator and vocal improviser. His musical repertoire includes award-winning original songs, an eclectic mix of folk standards, swing and jazz standards, family music and campfire sing-alongs. He is broadly known as one of Maine's premier vocalists and an accomplished acoustic guitar player, and offers school residencies for all ages and continuing education residencies for K-5 teachers on songwriting in the classroom. Martin also leads vocal improvisation workshops for singers who want to sing but don't have time to join a choir. A professional musician for 30 years, Martin has performed at National and local music and arts festivals and for 8 years hosted "ALIVE! From Johnson Hall!", an original concert series featuring Maine musicians for Adelphia Cable Network. Contact: 626-0165, MartinSwinger@gmail.com, websites www.MartinSwinger.com and www.SwingerSongwriter.com.

Ti' Acadie

Ti' Acadie (TEE Ah-kah-DEE) is French for "a little Acadia". The band members are Pam Weeks (fiddle, Appalachian dulcimer, vocals), Bill Olson (guitar, bass, vocals, calling) and Jim Joseph (button accordion, banjo, mandolin, percussion, vocals). This trio from western and midcoast Maine has been exploring the connection between the traditional French music from Acadia (Canadian Maritime provinces and parts of Maine) and the Cajuns from southwest Louisiana. These are two musical styles that seem so far apart and yet are so closely connected! They also play dance tunes from Quebec and the southern Appalachians, and sing songs from Maine and many other genres in

three part harmony. Ti' Acadie is available for contra dances, Cajun dances, school programs, family and community dances, concerts, weddings and other celebrations. Contact: Pam Weeks, 576-7296 (cell) or 666-3709 (hm), pam@pamweeks.com.

Wake the Neighbors!

A tasty blend of instruments including fiddle, flute, uilleann pipes, jazzy guitar, percussion and didjeridoo, Wake the Neighbors performs high-octane music for dances, concerts weddings and all other festive occasions. Booking: Anthony Shostak, 946-3517, ashostak@bates.edu. Website for CD, sound samples and schedule: www.waketheneighbors.com.

Webb, Bob

Bob Webb's concert performances range from sailors' shanties to traditional banjo tunes and ballads from the southern Appalachian mountains and the American west. A resident of Phippsburg ME, he is internationally recognized as the "King of Shanty" for his faithful performances of songs once sung aboard square-rigged ships. He is also a leading historian and player of the five-string banjo, the author of "Ring the Banjar!: the Banjo in America from Folklore to Factory" (Centerstream Press). He performs solo and also performs with Helen Richmond Webb, with the Narrow Gauge String Band, and with Dave Peloquin (see Dave's separate listing).

Wendt, Marie

Instructor /caller of traditional and historic dance, specializing in International folk dance (Eastern European, French, French Canadian, German, Greek, Israeli, Mexican, Russian ...), Renaissance, Colonial and Vintage Dance (Victorian and Ragtime era social dance ~ 1850 - 1930.) Available for parties, school programs, weddings, private or group lessons (i.e., hambo, waltz, clogging...) Adaptable programs for dancers of all ages and abilities. Regular venue: Pownal folk dance, first Sunday each month. Contact: Marie Wendt, 688-2293, mwendt57@gmail.com, website www.lesnoto.com.

Wescustogo Ramblers

Playing for the family dance before the 2nd Saturday Wescustogo Hall dance in North Yarmouth, the Ramblers gather every Thursday at the Pownal Session to rehearse. Led by Maggie Robinson on fiddle & Jeff Raymond on guitar, this somewhat open stage band is available for family and barn dances and what have you. See <http://somefolk.org> for more info. Contact Jeff Raymond, 712-2837, jeffraym@gmail.com.

Woodsong / Metsäläulu

This lively Maine trio has spent time working with Finnish musicians and teachers both here and in Finland and now specializes in traditional Finnish music and dance. Regular venue: May through September dances at the at the Finnish Farmers Club in Monson, Maine. Also available for dance instruction and traditional Finnish music. Members: Alexandra Conover (accordion, autoharp, vocals), Ned Garner (cello, string bass, vocals), Toby Hall (guitar, banjo, harmonica, vocals). Contact: Alexandra Conover, 1493 Elliotsville Rd., Elliotsville Twp. ME 04443, 997-3639, westbrancher@gmail.com.

Many thanks to Phil Locke of Bangor for collecting the information and compiling this list.

NEWSLETTER

DOWN EAST FRIENDS OF THE FOLK ARTS

The DEFFA Newsletter is published monthly by the Down East Friends of Folk Arts, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving traditional and contemporary folk arts in Maine and New England. The newsletter contains a monthly listing of dances, concerts, festivals, music jam sessions, sing alongs, and other events related to folk art and traditional New England culture.

The DEFFA Listing of Folk Artists, Musicians, and Performers is published yearly and is included as a supplement to the January edition of the newsletter. The listing includes callers, dance leaders, musicians, instructors, storytellers, and other artists who support and advance folk art related education and activities.

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