

# Blackstone River Theatre



## Solstice Festival

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## 2016 Schedule

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### JANUARY 2016

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

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

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

**Mondays in January starting Jan. 4, \$5.00 per class, 6:30-7:30 PM  
ZUMBA CLASSES WITH APRIL HILLIKER**

#### Thursday, January 7

5:00-6:00 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog 'NOG' TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins  
6:00-7:00 PM: 8-week class **SOFT SHOE TECHNIQUE** with Erika Damiani begins  
7:00-8:00 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog GREEN TROUPE** (performance troupe) with Erika Damiani begins

#### Friday, January 8

4:30-5:30 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog RINCE TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins  
5:30-6:30 PM: 8-week class **BEGINNER/ADVANCED BEGINNER HARD SHOE** with Erika Damiani begins  
6:30-7:30 PM: 8-week class **SOFT SHOE TECHNIQUE** with Erika Damiani begins  
7:30-8:30 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog CEOL TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins

#### Saturday, January 9

9:00 AM: 8-week class in **BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE for children 5-10** with Erika Damiani begins  
10:00 AM: 8-week class in **CONTINUING BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE for children 8-AND-UP** with Erika Damiani begins  
11:00 AM: 8-week class in **BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE FOR ADULTS/TEENS** with Erika Damiani begins

#### Sunday, January 10

9:00 AM: 8-week class in **Tir Na Nog GOLD TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins  
10:00 AM: 8-week class in **HARD SHOE - INTERMEDIATE** with Erika Damiani begins  
11:00 AM: 8-week class in **Tir Na Nog CLADDAGH TROUPE** (performance troupe) with Erika Damiani begins  
NOON: 8-week class in **ADVANCED SOFT SHOE** with Erika Damiani begins  
1:00 PM: 8-week class in **Tir Na Nog TRISKELE TROUPE** (performance troupe) with Erika Damiani begins

**Sunday, January 10, 4-6 p.m., \$25.00 (includes CD of music covered)  
ROOTS MUSIC APPRECIATION CLASS WITH DUKE ROBILLARD**

*For all music lovers, not specifically geared toward guitarists.*



Every Duke Robillard roots music appreciation class will feature listening, discussion, and Q&A on a wide variety of musical styles and rare recordings. A CD of the material covered will be included in the class fee as Robillard touches upon all types and aspects of the Blues and all of its styles and influence on other music forms. Classes will investigate folk and country music and explore the earliest recorded examples and development of each genre and style from

within each form. Upcoming classes will study early dance bands, society orchestras and the origin of jazz and big bands from the mid-'30s through the '40s and much more. While Robillard is world-renowned as a blues and jazz guitarist, he emphasizes that these classes are not solely for guitarists but aimed at anyone who loves music and wants to learn its history, connections and influences. The Blues Foundation has named Duke Robillard "Best Blues Guitarist" no less than four times and B.B. King said "Duke's one of the great players." Leading up to his induction into the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame in 2014, Robillard has not only maintained his status as one of the world's finest blues guitarists, he has become known worldwide as one of our greatest jazz players as well. *PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!*

**Tuesday, January 12**

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 13**

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

**Thursday, January 14**

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

**Saturday, January 16, 8 PM, \$15.00**

**FRESH HAGGIS / MARI BLACK WORLD FIDDLE ENSEMBLE**



*We are*

*excited to open our 2016 season with two hot Boston-based bands!* **Fresh Haggis** is a dynamic new band formed of some of the finest young up-and-coming musicians on the Boston Celtic-music scene. Composed of **Elias Alexander** (border pipes, vocals), **Eamon Sefton** (guitar, vocals), **Kathleen Parks** (fiddle), and **Patrick Bowling** (flute, whistles, vocals), the group celebrates the continued vibrancy of the Irish and Scottish musical traditions through youthful, passionate arrangements of songs and tunes, including some original compositions within the style. This will be their CD release!

Multistyle violinist and champion fiddler **Mari Black** is rapidly building a reputation as one of the most dynamic young artists of her generation. Her energetic playing, engaging stage presence, and commitment to bringing people together through music have made her a favorite with audiences across the country and around the world. Equally at home in a wide variety of musical traditions, Mari is the **2015/2013 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion**, 2014 Glenfiddich Scottish Fiddle Champion, 2014/2012 Canadian Maritime Fiddle Champion, 2011 Canadian Novelty Fiddle

Champion, and 2-time laureate at the American String Teachers' Association Alternative Styles Awards. On stage, she creates shows that draw on elements from many different styles including jazz, tango, folk, Western classical, as well as Celtic, American, and Canadian fiddling. Mari is currently touring nationally with her trio, the Mari Black World Fiddle Ensemble, performing and celebrating diverse styles of traditional and modern dance music. Joining Mari are **Joseph Carmichael** on guitar and whistle and **Joe Magar** on bass.

**Saturday, January 30, 8 PM, \$15.00**

**AINE MINOGUE - Celebrating Imbolc: The Feast of Saint Brigid**



As traditional Irish music continues to enjoy phenomenal success both here and in Ireland, **Aine Minogue** is an artist who has long explored its themes and who captures its very essence. Her singing reflects the lyricism and richness to be found in Irish music, mythology and poetry with a voice undeniably her own. Born in County Tipperary, Aine's family encouraged her to pursue a number of instruments but it was at age 12 that Aine discovered her true love - the harp - which she

decided to pursue in lieu of the others. Aine takes this ancient art form, exploring its underpinnings but adding her own creativity to each piece. With a combination of harping, singing and storytelling with a touch of poetry, her concerts have an intimate "getting away from it all" feel.

Tonight's show celebrates **Imbolc - the Feast of Saint Brigid** - celebrated on February 1 which marks the first day of Spring in Ireland. Imbolc is one of the four major "Fire" Festivals on the old Irish Calendar and pre-dates Christianity itself. On Imbolc, the people honored Brigid, goddess of all creative things. To this day many Irish homes have a St. Brigid's cross for protection - still made from rushes. Before Brigid was a saint with a 'perpetual flame,' she was a fire goddess and is an iconic figure in the Celtic imagination, representing the Celtic aspect of divine femininity. So who exactly is Brigid? A lot of confusion stems from the fact that the root of the word Bridgit comes from the word 'Brig' which means 'Exalted One' or 'High One.' It's a title more so than a name and it wasn't exclusive to Ireland - much like the 'Bridgit' the first knights of chivalry chose as their patroness and named their 'brides' after! Says Aine, "When I think of Brigid, I think of three figures: the goddess, who is an amalgamation of several goddess figures from all over the Celtic world; the Saint, who has been greatly mythologized and is one of the three patron saints of Ireland; and the Brigid of folklore, a loving figure, who became woven into the lives of everyday people. It is mostly this Brigid I will be speaking about during the concert." She continues, "And here's where she gets really interesting... This was a woman who walked beside you throughout your day, helped watch over your livestock and feed your children and aided with issues around fertility. While all aspired to be like Mary, if you needed a strong presence to get you through each day, Brigid was your woman! Her concerns reflected the concerns of everyday women and for all that, she was beloved." Aine has done extensive research into the old Celtic calendar, as well as Celtic winter traditions and has unearthed some unusual and haunting selections, as well as having written some original tunes. *Don't miss this fascinating evening of Irish harp music, ethereal vocals, poetry and storytelling by one of BRT's favorite artists!*

## **FEBRUARY 2016**

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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.**

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

**Saturday, February 6, 8 PM, \$13.00 advance / \$15.00 day of show  
THE VOX HUNTERS & LINDSAY STRAW / TORRIN RYAN & KYLE FORSTHOFF**



**Armand Aromin and Benedict Gagliardi** are musically bound by a shared love of traditional Irish music, which originally brought them

together, as well as an eclectic and ever-growing amalgam of songs both inside and far outside the realm of 'folk music.' Combining Armand's multifaceted fiddle playing, Ben's humbly self-developed concertina style, and a pair of complementary voices, **The Vox Hunters** present an exciting repertoire of driving dance tunes blended with an unorthodox collection of interesting songs. Armand Aromin is a violin maker and musician based in Providence. He has studied at Berklee College of Music and the University of Limerick, and is a graduate of the North Bennet Street School in Boston, MA where he earned his diploma in Violin Making & Repair. Armand also plays with the Boston-based Irish music group The Ivy Leaf. Benedict Gagliardi is from Connecticut and has played throughout the Northeast at festivals, house concerts, and coffeehouses. Ben placed first in the 2014 Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Senior Duets competition with Jon Warner as well as Senior Melodeon and Harmonica. Since 2012, Ben has led a slow session and taught concertina at the CT Academy of Irish Music. **Lindsay Straw** is a singer, guitarist, and Irish bouzouki player who performs traditional songs and tunes from the British Isles. Originally from Montana, she began to explore Boston's Irish and folk music scenes while studying film scoring at Berklee College of Music. Her debut solo album *My Mind From Love Being Free* was released in May, 2015. **Torrin Ryan** is from Attleboro and 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. Torrin is the 2013 All-Ireland Uilleann Pipes Slow Airs champion, also coming in third place overall. He performs at many sessions in New England and also frequently performs with Pendragon. Joining Torrin will be **Kyle Forsthoff** on bodhran and percussion. Kyle has been playing the bodhran since 2002. Since moving to Rhode Island, Kyle has quickly become a fixture in the session scene in southern New England and gigs regularly with Liam Hart. Kyle placed 2nd in the O18 Bodhran competition and 1st in the O18 Ceili Drums competition at the 2014 CCE Mid-Atlantic Fleadh.

**Saturday, February 13, 8 PM, \$15.00  
BLACKSTONE VALLEY BLUEGRASS BAND**



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. *Blackstone Valley Bluegrass received a great reaction two years ago in their BRT debut ... we are excited to welcome them back for a full concert!*

**Saturday, February 20, 8 PM, \$15.00**  
**ATWATER-DONNELLY TRIO**



BRT favorites **Aubrey Atwater** and **Elwood Donnelly** return with **Cathy Clasper-Torch** on fiddle, cello and vocals 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.

**Saturday, February 27, 8 PM, \$15.00**  
**MATT FLINNER TRIO with special guest Darol Anger**



Since its inception in 2006, the **Matt Flinner Trio** has been performing its own brand of acoustic music around the country to rave reviews. Mandolinist **Matt Flinner**, guitarist **Grant Gordy** and bassist **Eric Thorin** cover a wide variety of musical styles - all with the common ground of originality. Bluegrass, jazz and old-time music are all present here in their ways, along with a dose of classical chamber music composition and arrangement, as the members all draw from their wide array of musical loves, experiences and influences. Call it Americana Music, or New Acoustic, or Chamber Grass, or just call it Great Music ... whatever label you put on it, it is guaranteed to be fresh and original, and definitely something you've never quite heard before. All master composers and improvisers, the trio has become legendary for their ability to almost simultaneously compose and perform new music. Their past two albums have developed this "music du jour" concept-drawing on whatever inspires them that day to compose a new tune and then performing it that evening. Their collective ability to conjure great melodies out of the ether and deliver them in front of a live audience has earned the group a reputation as one of the most imaginative and fearless in the contemporary instrumental space. Starting out as a banjo prodigy who was playing bluegrass festivals before he entered his teens, Flinner later took up the mandolin, won the National Banjo Competition in Winfield, KS in 1990, and won the mandolin award there the following year. He was featured on Steve Martin's CD "The Crow," which won the 2009 Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Album. The trio's new CD, "Traveling Roots," will be released in late January on Compass Records. *Don't miss the BRT debut of this amazing band!*

Joining the Matt Flinner Trio tonight will be special guest **Darol Anger**. Exceptional among modern fiddlers for his versatility and depth, Anger has helped drive the evolution of the contemporary string band through his involvement with numerous pathbreaking ensembles such as his Republic Of Strings, the Turtle Island String Quartet, the David Grisman Quintet, Montreux, his Duo with Mike Marshall, and others.

**Sunday, February 28, 4-6 p.m., \$25.00 (includes CD of music covered)  
ROOTS MUSIC APPRECIATION CLASS WITH DUKE ROBILLARD**

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within each form. Upcoming classes will study early dance bands, society orchestras and the origin of jazz and big bands from the mid-'30s through the '40s and much more. While Robillard is world-renowned as a blues and jazz guitarist, he emphasizes that these classes are not solely for guitarists but aimed at anyone who loves music and wants to learn its history, connections and influences. The Blues Foundation has named Duke Robillard "Best Blues Guitarist" no less than four times and B.B. King said "Duke's one of the great players." Leading up to his induction into the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame in 2014, Robillard has not only maintained his status as one of the world's finest blues guitarists, he has become known worldwide as one of our greatest jazz players as well. *PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!*

## **MARCH 2016**

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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.**

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

### **Thursday, March 3**

5:00-6:00 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog 'NOG' TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins  
6:00-7:00 PM: 8-week class **SOFT SHOE TECHNIQUE** with Erika Damiani begins  
7:00-8:00 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog GREEN TROUPE** (performance troupe) with Erika Damiani begins

### **Friday classes start Tuesday, March 1 due to 3/4 concert event!**

4:30-5:30 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog RINCE TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins  
5:30-6:30 PM: 8-week class **BEGINNER/ADVANCED BEGINNER HARD SHOE** with Erika Damiani begins

### **Friday classes start Tuesday, March 2 at 4:30 and 5:30 PM due to 3/4 concert event!**

6:30-7:30 PM: 8-week class **SOFT SHOE TECHNIQUE** with Erika Damiani begins  
7:30-8:30 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog CEOL TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins

### **Saturday, March 5**

9:00 AM: 8-week class in **BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE for children 5-10** with Erika Damiani begins  
10:00 AM: 8-week class in **CONTINUING BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE for children 8-AND-UP** with Erika Damiani begins  
11:00 AM: 8-week class in **BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE FOR ADULTS/TEENS** with Erika Damiani begins

### **Sunday, March 6**

9:00 AM: 8-week class in **Tir Na Nog GOLD TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins  
10:00 AM: 8-week class in **HARD SHOE - INTERMEDIATE** with Erika Damiani begins  
11:00 AM: 8-week class in **Tir Na Nog CLADDAGH TROUPE** (performance troupe) with Erika Damiani begins  
NOON: 8-week class in **ADVANCED SOFT SHOE** with Erika Damiani begins  
1:00 PM: 8-week class in **Tir Na Nog TRISKELE TROUPE** (performance troupe) with Erika Damiani begins

### **Friday, March 4, 8 PM, \$22.00 advance / \$26.00 day of show** **ALASDAIR FRASER & NATALIE HAAS**

*Only New England date on this tour ... this WILL sell out!*



The musical partnership between **Alasdair Fraser**, long regarded as Scotland's premier fiddle ambassador, and the sizzingly-talented young 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 and 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. The duo's debut recording, "Fire & Grace," displayed dazzling teamwork, driving 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" "Abundance" and Fraser's many other recordings are on his own Culburnie Records label.

### **SOLD OUT!**

### **Saturday, March 5, 8 PM, \$18.00 advance / \$22.00 day of show** **RUNA**



RUNA burst onto the Celtic music scene during the summer of 2008 and has been taking audiences by storm ever since. Drawing on the diverse musical backgrounds of its band members, RUNA brings a contemporary and refreshing experience to traditional and more recently composed Celtic material. Through their repertoire of both highly energetic and graceful, acoustic melodies, along with their fusion of music from Ireland, Scotland, the Shetland Islands, Canada, and the U.S., this vocal and instrumental ensemble gives its arrangements of traditional songs and tunes a fresh

sound. Vocalist and step-dancer **Shannon Lambert-Ryan**, from Philadelphia, has a broad musical background including Celtic, folk, classical, and musical theatre and fronts RUNA with rich, vibrant vocals. She co-founded RUNA with her husband, Dublin-born guitarist and composer, **Fionán de Barra**, who started playing guitar professionally with "Riverdance" and has worked as musical director for Moya Brennan (of Clannad) and her band. Percussionist **Cheryl Prashker** studied classical percussion at McGill University in her native Montreal, Canada. She now lives in Philadelphia and has a well-deserved reputation as a "go-to" percussionist for folk recordings. They are joined by Galway's **Dave Curley**, a singer, dancer and multi-instrumentalist (guitar, banjo, mandolin, and bodhrán) and the brilliant Kentucky fiddler, **Maggie Estes White**. RUNA's most recent recording "Current Affairs" has received lavish praise on both sides of the Atlantic. They were recognized on an international level by winning "Top Group" and "Top Traditional Group" in the Irish Music Awards and in the 12th Annual Independent Music Awards, winning both the fan ballot and judges' votes for "Best Song" in the World Traditional category. "Current Affairs" was nominated in the 2014 Irish Music Awards for "Best New Irish CD" and in the 2015 Independent Music Awards for "Best Bluegrass Song" (Ain't No Grave) and Best World/Traditional Song (False Knight Upon the Road).

### **SOLD OUT!**

**Saturday, March 12, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance / \$18.00 day of show**  
**PENDRAGON**



New England has long had a rich tradition of Celtic-inspired music. For 32 years, 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 vocalist **Mary Lee Partington**. They will be joined tonight by guest dancers Erika Damiani,

Maureen Doyle and Shannon Doyle. 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.

**Sunday, March 13, 7 PM, \$15.00 advance / \$18.00 day of show**  
**THE PAUL McKENNA BAND**



**The Paul McKenna Band** has been called "The best folk band to have come out of Scotland in the last twenty years" by the New York Times, and "The best band of their generation" by *The Living Tradition*. Since being awarded the title of "Best Up and Coming Artist of 2009" at the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards, The Paul McKenna Band have gone from strength to strength touring extensively throughout USA, Canada and Europe. This

concert marks their Rhode Island debut! Combining their love for folk and traditional music, as well as original songs and tunes, the band is touring behind their new album "Paths that Wind" in celebration of their 10th year together as a band. The Paul McKenna Band are: **Paul McKenna** - vocals, guitar and bouzouki; **Sean Gray** - flute, whistles, guitar and vocals; **Ewan Baird** - bodhran, cajon and vocals; **Conor Markey** - banjo, bouzouki and vocals; and **Jack Smedley** - fiddle and vocals. With a contemporary approach to songs, although not straying too far from their roots, their arrangements are both fresh and innovative. Widely tipped for future stardom, the young Glasgow singer, songwriter and guitarist Paul McKenna cites Paul Brady, Dick Gaughan and Led Zeppelin as equal influences on his potent original compositions. *Don't miss this amazing young band!*



## **SOLD OUT!**

**Saturday, March 19, 8 PM, \$25.00**

### **MARK O'CONNOR and Maggie O'CONNOR - American Classics**



A product of America's rich aural folk tradition as well as classical music, Mark O'Connor's creative journey began at the feet of a pair of musical giants. The first was the folk fiddler Benny Thomasson and the second was French jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli. Working with classical violin icons Isaac Stern, Itzhak Perlman, and Pinchas Zukerman, he absorbed knowledge from the multitude of musical styles and genres he studied and participated in. With his body of work including 45 feature albums of mostly his own compositions, **Mark O'Connor** has melded and shaped these influences into a new American Classical music, and a vision of an entirely American school of string playing. Among the highlights of O'Connor's multiple Grammy-winning recordings are "Appalachia Waltz" with Yo-Yo Ma and Edgar Meyer spending a year atop the Billboard classical music charts. With more than 250 performances, O'Connor's "Fiddle Concerto" released on Warner Bros. has become the most-performed modern violin concerto composed in the last 50 years. At age 13, O'Connor was the youngest person ever to win national fiddling competitions competing against all ages, amateur and professional. He is still the only person to ever win national titles (open to all ages) on fiddle, guitar and mandolin. During his twenties, O'Connor became the most in-demand session musician in Nashville appearing on 500 albums. The O'Connor Method was released in 2009 as "an American grown rival to the Suzuki method" (The New Yorker). Violinist and American fiddler **Maggie O'Connor** performs a variety of musical styles in concert halls throughout the U.S. and beyond. Frequently performing with her husband, together they have appeared as guest soloists with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, the Santa Rosa Symphony and many other symphony orchestras performing his composition Strings and Threads Suite. Maggie is also a frequent guest performer in her husband's ensembles ranging from Hot Swing and An Evening of American Strings to An Appalachian Christmas. The American Classics program offers a broad and interconnecting collection of American music through violin solos and duos. Audiences as well as students of the violin will find themselves inspired by the songbook of America as they have never heard it before. *Do not miss a chance to see this show in an intimate theater setting!*

**Saturday, March 26, 1-4 p.m., \$30.00**

**MOUNTAIN DULCIMER WORKSHOP** (Beginner with Elwood Donnelly and continuing with Aubrey Atwater)

**Saturday, March 26, 8 PM, \$15.00**

### **ERIC McDONALD, WILL WOODSON, RYAN MCKASSON, JEREMIAH McLANE**



This evening of Scottish music will feature four premier interpreters of traditional Scottish music - Eric McDonald on guitar, mandolin and vocals, Ryan McKasson on fiddle, Will Woodson on Scottish border pipes and flute, and Jeremiah McLane on piano accordion. All four will perform solo and also in duo and group settings. **Will Woodson** and **Eric McDonald** are two of the finest young proponents of traditional Scottish music today. With an unusual blend of wind and plucked strings, they bring a breath of sensitivity to a tradition that is often known for its high velocity. Their unique approach, while rooted in the indigenous music of Scotland, is also informed by the vibrant traditional music scene of their native New England. Border pipes, wooden flute, tin whistle, guitar, mandolin, and voice fuse together to create a detailed fabric of tunes and songs. Woodson is an innovative and powerful performer of traditional and contemporary music on border pipes and flute. He holds a master's degree in the performance of Scottish music from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. Eric McDonald a member of the Scottish power trio Cantrip and is one of New England's premier acoustic performers and instructors. **Ryan McKasson** has gained a reputation as a performer, composer, collaborator, and teacher. In 1996 he was the youngest to win the National Scottish Fiddle Championship. In 1997 he was awarded a



Merit Scholarship for Viola Performance from the University of Southern California. In 2004 Ryan and his sister, Cali, formed a band, The McKassons, that went on to record two critically acclaimed albums. In the early 1990s Vermont accordionist **Jeremiah McLane** formed two bands - The Clayfoot Strutters and Nightingale. Both

bands had strong traditional New England roots and had a deep and lasting impact on the traditional dance scene in New England. In 2003 he formed Le Bon Vent, a sextet specializing in Breton and French music. McLane continues to teach as well as tour in several bands. He also holds a master's degree in Contemporary Improvisation from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

**Monday, March 28, 7-9 PM, \$10.00; doors open 6 PM**  
**"Wherever Green Is Worn" - A Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Ireland's 1916 Easter Rising**

*This event is sponsored by the Rhode Island Unit of Irish Northern Aid. All proceeds will go to the 1916 Easter Rising Monument fund which will be located at the RI Irish Famine Memorial site and will be unveiled on April 24, 2016. On Easter Monday, April 24, 1916, Irish nationalists waged a rebellion in Dublin against British colonial rule in Ireland. The program will focus on a range of Irish cultural contributions to this historic event. The intimate stage of Cumberland's Blackstone River Theatre has been selected by the Rhode Island Unit of Irish Northern Aid for an evening of commemoration dedicated to the 1916 Easter Rising. Organizers will offer a broad historical and cultural perspective on the political movements in Ireland in the later part of the 19th century that gave rise to the 1916 Easter Rising. The program will pay particular tribute to The Gaelic Revival which fostered a sense of renewed national pride that laid the basis for the Rising. There will be presentations of Irish culture such as step dancing, traditional Irish music, Gaelic language, and more. Also included will be dramatic readings from the period, songs of rebellion as well as historical analysis of the events leading up to 1916 Easter Rising. Featured presenters and performers include award-winning step dancer **Kevin Doyle**, **Bob McManus**, **Jim McGetrick**, **Michael Healy**, **Sean Connell**, sean-nos singer **Bridget Fitzgerald**, **Brendan McGinn**, uilleann piper **Torrin Ryan**, and **Pendragon**. Commemorative items will be available for purchase in support of the monument.*

**APRIL 2016**

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

**Saturday, April 2, 8 PM, \$15.00**  
**THE PRESS GANG**



The Press Gang perform the instrumental dance music of Ireland on fiddle, accordion, and guitar. Based in Portland, Maine, these three musicians have become popular over the past four years for their skillful playing and deep understanding of the music - and for their humorous stage presence. As American performers in the Irish tradition, The Press Gang bring a unique perspective to the music. They intersperse their repertoire of Irish melodies with related tunes from

Quebec, Scotland, and Appalachia, and some fine New England waltzes and temper their arrangements with a musical sense of adventure. Accordionist **Christian "Junior" Stevens** is regarded as one of the most talented young squeezebox players in America. He has performed widely and teaches a large number of students in the New England area and beyond. Apart from his mastery of the Irish style, he loves exploring Cajun and Quebecois accordion music. Fiddler **Alden Robinson** became fascinated with Irish music as a child on the coast of Maine. He studied traditional music at University College Cork and has since become known throughout the country as a performer and dance musician. Recently, he has also become interested in the traditional Franco-American music of northern New England. Guitarist **Owen Marshall** has performed and recorded with many of traditional music's top performers including Aoife Clancy, Liz Carroll, Darol Anger, John Doyle, Andrea Beaton, and Jerry Holland.

**Sunday, April 3, 7 PM, \$18.00 advance / \$22.00 day of show**  
**Väsen - Music of Sweden**



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](http://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, April 9, 8 PM, \$12.00**  
**GRANT MALOY SMITH / COWBOY AND LADY**



**Grant Maloy Smith** is a

singer/songwriter of American Roots music - a blend of old country, bluegrass, folk and Celtic influences into a uniquely American genre. His songs tell stories and paint pictures with words. Originally from Jacksonville Florida, Grant heard the strains of bluegrass from his Kentucky-born and raised grandmother and it got into his blood. His current album is the critically-acclaimed "Yellow Trailer," a collection of amazing songs that will take you on an invigorating ride through the fabled American south. His upcoming album is called "Dust Bowl," and every song is set squarely in the Great Plains of the 1930's. Grant made a great impression at BRT's Homecoming concert last year and he will be joined tonight by fiddler **Cathy Clasper-Torch** and **Chris Brooks** on pedal steel guitar. **Cowboy and Lady** is a country-blues inspired duo featuring **Tyler-James Kelly** of the Providence band The Silks and vocalist **Jess Powers** that brings an authentic down-home feel to songs such as the Kelly original "Mud Money" and the Conway Twitty-Loretta Lynn classic "You're the Reason." They have been making a name for themselves in Providence and beyond and we are thrilled to bring them to Blackstone River Theatre!

**Saturday, April 16, 8 PM, \$15.00 advance / \$18.00 day of show**  
**HANNEKE CASSEL, MIKE BLOCK & KEITH MURPHY**



Former U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion **Hanneke Cassel** will team up with virtuoso contemporary cellist **Mike Block** and guitarist **Keith Murphy** to bring you a night of innovative Scottish and Irish fiddle music and songs from Eastern Canada and Quebec.

Hanneke and Mike are at the forefront of the contemporary fiddle / cello scenes in America ... playing and composing new tunes that retain the integrity and soul of traditional music. "Exuberant and rhythmic, somehow both wild and innocent, delivered with captivating melodic clarity and an irresistible playfulness," says the Boston Globe about Hanneke Cassel's playing. Such charismatic fiddling has brought the native Oregonian many honors and awards. She is the 1997 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, she holds a Bachelors of Music in Violin Performance from Berklee College of Music, and she has performed and taught across North America, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and China. Hanneke's latest release, "Dot the Dragon's Eyes," features an all-star cast of musicians. Influences from Scotland to China, along with grooves and musical innovations from the hip Boston bluegrass/Americana scene, fuse together to create a uniquely American approach to Scottish music. A native of Newfoundland, singer/guitarist **Keith Murphy**, known for his work with Nightingale, Childsplay and Assembly, has a sophisticated approach to old ballads and songs, and

fills out fiddle tunes with his grooving guitar style as well as contributing great songs. Hailed by Yo-Yo Ma as the "ideal musician of the 21st Century," **Mike Block** is a pioneering multi-style cellist, composer, and educator. While still studying at the Juilliard School, Mike joined Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble, and shortly thereafter also joined Mark O'Connor's Appalachia Waltz Trio, which he played in for over three years. Mike has also toured extensively with Darol Anger's Republic of Strings. After becoming one of the first wave of cellists to adopt a strap in order to stand while playing, Mike was the first standing cellist to perform at Carnegie Hall, which the NY Times called "Breathless ... Half dance, half dare."

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

### **THE GNOMES**

*Special appearance by members of The Broad Street Fiddlers*



The Gnomes special brand of World-Folk-Fusion is sure to get you on your feet and dancing! The band features **Phil Edmonds** (Irish whistle and button accordion); **Cathy Clasper-Torch** (fiddle, keyboard, er-hu, vocals); **Mike Fischman** (guitar, mandolin, bouzouki, banjo, vocals); **Peter Breen** (bass, vocals); and **Matt Niebels** (percussion/drums).

Together they combine

their varied and extensive musical backgrounds into arrangements that have been described as "exotic, fresh, and unique." Instrumentation includes fiddle, Irish whistles, er-hu, accordion, guitar, mandolin, bass, percussion, keyboard, and vocals. Their spirited music takes you around the world, encompassing Celtic, klezmer, Scandinavian, Carribean, Asian and Latin styles. Winners of the 2008 and 2012 Motif Magazine Music Award for Folk/World performance, you can't help but "Get Gnomed" when you hear them play!

**Saturday, April 30, 2 PM, Children - \$6.00; adults \$12.00; family max \$36.00**

### **BILL HARLEY - FAMILY SHOW**

*This show is a benefit for the Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame*



A two-time Grammy award-winning artist and recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the RI Council for the Humanities, **Bill Harley** uses song and story to paint a vibrant and hilarious picture of growing up, schooling and family life. His work spans the generation gap, reminds us of our common humanity and challenges us to be our very best selves. A prolific author and recording artist, Bill

tours nationwide as an author, performing artist and keynote speaker. Bill began singing and storytelling in 1975 while still in college. His work has influenced a generation of children, parents, performing artists and educators. Bill's songs are joyous, direct and honest, his stories are filled with the details of daily life - all told and sung from his slightly off-center point of view. "Humor is my weapon," says Harley of his award-winning recordings. Harley's recordings have also garnered numerous other national awards including Parents' Choice, NAPPA (National

Association of Parenting Publication Awards), ALA (American Library Association) and the highest honor from the Oppenheim Toy Portfolio for his concert DVD, "Yes to Running!" filmed in conjunction with Montana PBS. **Bill Harley was inducted into the R.I. Music Hall of Fame on April 24 and is generously performing this Family Concert as a fundraiser for The Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame.**

## MAY 2016

- *There will be no concert programming in May.*
- Zumba, fiddle and Irish dance classes will continue!

## JUNE 2016

**Saturday, June 4, 10 AM**

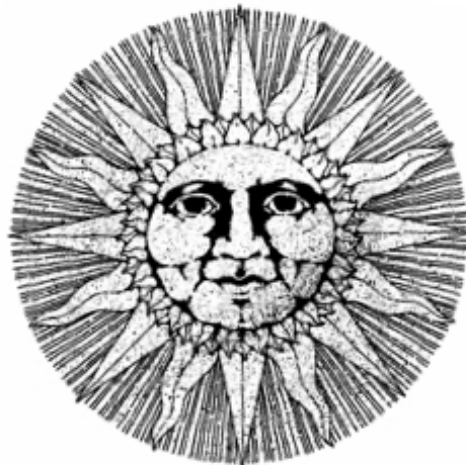
**PRIVATE EVENT - PAINTBOX PRESCHOOL GRADUATION**

**Saturday, June 18, 11 AM to 7 PM, (Rain date: Sunday, June 19)**

**6th annual BLACKSTONE RIVER THEATRE SUMMER SOLSTICE FESTIVAL**

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

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



6th ANNUAL  
BLACKSTONE  
RIVER  
THEATRE  
SUMMER  
SOLSTICE  
FESTIVAL

Five entertainment stages plus food and craft vendors!

Atwater-Donnelly Trio • Barrule (from Isle of Man) • The Mari Black Trio • The John Doyle Band • Girsra • The Gnomes • Low Lily • Pendragon • Torrin Ryan • The Vox Hunters • Will Woodson & Eric McDonald • Irish step dance featuring Tir Na Nog Irish Dance and more to be announced!

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

## SEPTEMBER 2016

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*price.*

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

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

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

**Tuesday, September 6**

4:30-6:15 PM: 8-week session **Tir Na Nog CARA TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins

**Wednesday, September 7**

5:00-6:00 PM: 8-week session **Beginner/Cont. beg. HARD SHOE** with Erika Damiani begins

**Thursday, September 8**

5:00-6:00 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog 'NOG' TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins

6:00-7:00 PM: 8-week class **SOFT SHOE TECHNIQUE** with Erika Damiani begins

7:00-8:00 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog GREEN TROUPE** (performance troupe) with Erika Damiani begins

**Friday, September 9**

4:30-5:30 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog RINCE TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins

5:30-6:30 PM: 8-week class **BEGINNER/ADVANCED BEGINNER HARD SHOE** with Erika Damiani begins

6:30-7:30 PM: 8-week class **SOFT SHOE TECHNIQUE** with Erika Damiani begins

7:30-8:30 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog CEOL TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins

**Saturday, September 10**

9:00 AM: 8-week class in **BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE** for children 5-10 with Erika Damiani begins

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

11:00 AM: 8-week class in **BEGINNER IRISH STEP DANCE FOR ADULTS/TEENS** with Erika Damiani begins

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 - PRIVATE EVENT**

**Sunday, September 11**

9:00 AM: 8-week class in **Tir Na Nog GOLD TROUPE** with Erika Damiani begins

10:00 AM: 8-week class in **HARD SHOE - INTERMEDIATE** with Erika Damiani begins

11:00 AM: 8-week class in **Tir Na Nog CLADDAGH TROUPE** (performance troupe) with Erika Damiani begins

NOON: 8-week class in **ADVANCED SOFT SHOE** with Erika Damiani begins

1:00 PM: 8-week class in **Tir Na Nog TRISKELE TROUPE** (performance troupe) with Erika Damiani begins

**Tuesday, September 13**

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

7:40 PM: 6-week class in **INTERMEDIATE BEGINNER FIDDLE** with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins

**Wednesday, September 14**

4:30-6:00 PM: 8-week class **Tir Na Nog Dance Class** with Erika Damiani begins

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

**Thursday, September 15**

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

6:45 PM: 6-week class in **INTRODUCTION TO ERHU (Chinese fiddle)** with Cathy Clasper-Torch begins **FULL!**

7:45 PM: 6-week class in **INTRODUCTION TO ERHU (Chinese fiddle)** with Cathy

Clasper-Torch begins

**Saturday, September 17**

1:00 PM: 6-week class in **BEGINNER GUITAR FOR ADULTS** with Ed Sweeney begins

2:00 PM: 6-week class in **BEGINNER 5-string BANJO FOR ADULTS** with Ed Sweeney begins

**Saturday, September 17, 8:00 PM, \$15.00**

**MATT & SHANNON HEATON / TORRIN RYAN & KYLE FORSTHOFF**



With engaging stage presence and masterfully-crafted music, Boston-based **Matt and Shannon Heaton** offer well-travelled Irish music from the heart. Steeped in sessions in County Clare and brewed in the acoustic music scenes of Chicago and Boston, their flute/guitar/bouzouki

instrumentals and sweet husband-and-wife harmony singing draw deeply from the Irish tradition. The Heaton's also gently incorporate the Thai music Shannon learned in school as a kid and rootsy Americana sounds that surrounded them during their three years in bluegrass-haven Boulder, Colorado. Since their move to Boston in 2001, the Heaton's have become an integral part of Boston's vibrant trad music scene. Shannon was named 2016 Massachusetts Cultural Council Traditional Artist Fellow. The Irish American News dubbed her Female Musician of the Year (2009) and Live Ireland nominated her Female Musician of the Year 2010 and 2011. She's been compared to Alison Krauss and Altan's Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh for her combination of vocal grace and instrumental prowess on Irish flute, whistles and accordion. In addition to his acclaimed work as an Irish accompanist on guitar and bouzouki, Matt Heaton has also received multiple Massachusetts Cultural Council Grants for his work with children. He fronts surf-rock band Electric Heaters and also holds a master's degree in classical guitar. For his creative chording and driving grooves, Matt has been called "a combination of Bill Frisell and Arty McGlynn."

**Torrin Ryan** is from Attleboro and has competed in Ireland at the All-Ireland Fleadhs held in Tullamore, Ennis and Derry. Torrin is the 2013 All-Ireland Uilleann Pipes Slow Airs champion, also coming in third place overall. He performs at many sessions in New England and also frequently performs with Pendragon. Joining Torrin will be **Kyle Forsthoff** on bodhran and percussion. Kyle has been playing the bodhran and bones since 2002 and ceili drums since 2013. Since moving to Rhode Island, Kyle has become a fixture in the Irish scene in southern New England, appearing at numerous local sessions and performing regularly with Fellswater. Kyle has also shared the stage with Liam Hart, the Vox Hunters, and Lindsay Straw.

**Saturday, September 24, 8:00 PM, \$13.00**

**Mentalist & Mindbender RORY RAVEN**



Rory Raven is a mentalist with 20 years of experience reading minds and astonishing audiences. Neither a psychic nor a magician, he offers a compelling kind of entertainment unlike anything audiences have ever seen. With a few simple props (paper and pencil, a pack of playing cards, some paperback books, and the thoughts of some volunteers) Rory involves the audience in a highly unusual - and unusually entertaining - experience. Thoughts are revealed, predictions come true, and perhaps even the spirits are summoned... Rory is well-known for leading people on his Providence Ghost Walk; he has also released four great books: "Haunted Providence: Strange Tales from the Smallest State,"

"Wicked Conduct," "The Dorr War: Treason, Rebellion and the Fight for Reform in Rhode Island" and "Burning the Gaspee: Revolution in Rhode Island." **Frequently Asked Questions:** Okay, let's start with that title - what's a mentalist? A mentalist is a theatrical mind-reader... a performer who, using a variety of techniques, is able to produce results that would only seem possible by psychic or paranormal means. And those techniques would be...? They range from a knowledge of subtle psychological principles and the quirks of human behavior, to quick thinking and a good memory. Rory is also interested in things like suggestion, non-verbal communication, and the



so-called trance state. And he doesn't hesitate to borrow ideas from the stage magician, either! So is he psychic or what? No. Not everyone believes him when he says that, but there's not much he can do about it he explains. People who believe in the paranormal will believe no matter what he tells them, and those who don't believe won't believe no matter what he shows them. But a long time ago Rory realized that everybody's mind is pretty much made up before they came to a show, so it was a fool's errand to try and convince people of the validity of one viewpoint or another.

## OCTOBER 2016

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

**CELTIC STONE CARVING IN LIMESTONE FOR BEGINNERS  
A two-day class - October 1 and October 2**



Blackstone River Theatre will offer a two-day class in **Celtic Relief Stone carving in Limestone for beginners** with instructor Laura Travis, outside, behind the Blackstone River Theatre. The class will be held on Saturday, October 1 AND Sunday, October 2, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day (with a half-hour lunch break.) Teenagers (age 16 and up), college students and adults are all welcome and no experience is required. (Note: Laura WILL also be able to accommodate students who have taken this class in the past and want to build on their skills!) A minimum of six is needed to run the class. The course fee is \$125 plus a separate \$12 materials fee which is payable directly to instructor Laura Travis (includes several pieces of stone, sandpapers, and access to finishing tools.) Prepayment is necessary. For more information, visit the instructor's site, [campus.digication.com/lauratavis](http://campus.digication.com/lauratavis) Relief carving is a satisfying and useful skill which has numerous applications for gardens, landscaping, and creative expression. The saga of The Celt and The Stone is as old as time. If you have seen a photo of the High Crosses in Ireland and Scotland, or British well-shrine covers, you've seen Celtic relief carving in stone. In this 12-hour introductory-level course, students will use manageable scraps of limestone and carve them with an initial, a knot, or an animal motif - bring your own idea or utilize teacher references - and in the process learn something of one of the signature arts of the Celts. Included will be plenty of stone lore, tips for scrounging up materials and tools for practically nothing, and information about techniques including polishing and finishing. **Laura Travis** has been carving for 24 years, bringing her knowledge and love of Irish and Celtic traditions firmly into her work in stone. As an artist, Laura walks between the worlds of fine and folk art, utilizing traditional iconography in some very contemporary contexts. Travis has shown her work in Providence, Maryland, Toronto, Worcester and New Bedford. She holds an MFA in sculpture from the Maryland Institute College of Art, and maintains her studio just a stone's throw from the ocean in Rhode Island. She's also known for originating and hosting the Irish traditional music radio program, In The Celtic Realm, for the past 33 years on WRIU-FM.

**Saturday, October 1, 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 17 albums and played to audiences all over Great Britain, Europe, Scandinavia, the U.S. and Canada. This marks their 12th appearance at BRT as they tour behind their newest CD, "Fire in the Glen."

Their previous project "The Fire And The Passion Of Scotland" 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!*

**Sunday, October 2, 7 PM, \$15.00**  
**THE NORDIC FIDDLERS BLOC**



"On the evidence to hand, pure fiddle doesn't get much better than The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc." - *Folkworld*. We couldn't say it better ourselves... we are thrilled to have the R.I. debut of this amazing group! **The Nordic Fiddlers Bloc** is a fiddle trio from Norway, Sweden and the Shetland Islands who have swiftly gained a reputation for their gripping and unique blend of fiddle music since their inception in early 2009. The band features **Olav Luksengård Mjelva** (Norway), **Anders Hall** (Sweden) and **Kevin Henderson** (Shetland Islands) - each regarded as leading exponents of their respective

traditions. With a firm focus on the rich traditional fiddle music from where they each belong, they have developed a sound that has been described as "unique," "meaningful," and "intense." Their clever use of harmony, rhythm, and riffs and bass lines creates a sound that leaves the listener enthralled but at the same time dumbfounded that the sound only comes from three fiddles. To date their music has taken them to the USA, Canada, the UK, Ireland and across mainland Europe captivating audiences along the way. 2016 sees the release of their eagerly awaited 2nd album, "Deliverance," the follow up to their eponymously entitled debut album released in 2011 to great critical acclaim. *Don't miss an amazing evening of fiddle music!*

**Sunday, October 9, 7 PM, \$15.00**  
**LES POULES À COLIN**



Taking their name from a popular traditional song, **Les Poules à Colin** are a new take on an age-old recipe: five childhood friends who still live on the same street, sharing a history of music-making and family ties. Exposed to Québécois and other folk music from the moment they were born, these children of traditional musicians were immersed in music, whether backstage at an international festival or at a lively kitchen jam in Lanaudière, arguably Quebec's most musical region. **The**

**band is earning a reputation as the new face of Québec folk-trad music.** Despite their youth - they range in age from 19 to 25 - Les Poules have been a group for more than six years. All five members have blossomed into intuitive performers and together they have been winning awards, from Young Trad Vermont to Grand Prix Desjardins, as well as receiving grants from the Québec Arts Council to record two albums, "Hébertisme Nocturne" in 2011 and "Ste-Waves" in 2014. The group's sound

is a seamless blend of their strong folk upbringing and North American influences that range from old-time to jazz, leading to some provocative and moody effects. Their repertoire is a mix of original and traditional pieces, primarily in French but with some English compositions, and reveals gorgeous vocal, instrumental and rhythmic prowess. Their adaptations of traditional songs speak eloquently to their generation while retaining the beauty that all timeless music possesses. Fiddle, guitar, bouzouki, banjo, mandolin, piano, bass and foot percussion form a rich and varied backdrop for their inventive arrangements. *This will be the group's Rhode Island debut.*

**Sunday, October 16, 7 PM, \$16.00 adv / \$20.00 day of show**  
**DE TEMPS ANTAN**



Using Québec's vibrant living music tradition as a springboard for musical innovation **De Temps Antan** is a power trio catapulting audiences headlong into the future of French-Canadian music and culture. It takes a special blend of musical talents to revisit and revitalize traditional music with equal measures of reverence, humor, joy, and breathtaking turn-on-a-dime instrumental virtuosity and that is what these friends have been doing for well over a decade. Since 2003, **Éric Beaudry, André Brunet** and **Pierre-Luc Dupuis** have been exploring and performing time-honored melodies from the stomping grounds of Quebec's musical past. Using fiddle, accordion, harmonica, guitar, bouzouki and a number of other instruments, these three virtuoso musicians blend boundless energy with the unmistakable joie de vivre found only in traditional Quebec music. *This will be the group's Rhode Island debut.*

**Saturday, October 22, 8 PM, \$15.00**  
**PEPPINO D'AGOSTINO**



**Peppino D'Agostino** emerged on the acoustic guitar scene in the early '80s as a leading member of the second wave of the great fingerstylists that helped redefine the instrument in the '90s. His remarkable 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 decades. Add to that his natural warmth, playfulness, and broad musical tastes and you have the recipe for what this Italian native he calls "minestrone music." D'Agostino has performed in more than 30 countries, at prestigious international festivals and has played in some of the world's most important theaters. He has shared the stage with Tommy Emmanuel, Leo Kottke, Larry Carlton, and Eric Johnson, to name just a few. Recognized as "the guitarist's guitarist" by Acoustic Guitar magazine and described as "a giant of the acoustic guitar" by the San Diego Reader, D'Agostino was voted Best Acoustic Guitarist by readers of Guitar Player magazine. D'Agostino's simultaneous immersion in the classical guitar and rock worlds has culminated in his most recent solo recording, 'Penumbra,' sophisticated yet melodic mix. 'Penumbra' includes two compositions written for D'Agostino by Latin Grammy Award winner and classical guitar legend Sergio Assad and original compositions by three great contemporary classical guitarists. Peppino likes to compare his musical approach to the culinary art of his native Italy: "If you want to prepare a good, succulent dish you have to know how to mix the various ingredients and, most important, have knowledge of the right amounts. Similarly, in musical composition you must be able to properly combine melody, harmony, rhythm and percussive effects with discretion and elegance." Says Leo Kottke, "Peppino writes wonderful guitar pieces. He's one of my favorite composers for this cranky instrument."

**Saturday, October 29, 8 PM, \$12.00**  
**SUPERCHIEF TRIO**



Pianist/vocalist **Keith Munslow** met trombonist/vocalist **Pam Murray** at Providence's AS220 in the early 1990s, where they performed together in the Smoking Jackets and the Neo 90s Dance Band. Munslow and drummer John Cote played together in the Big Nazo band, and Johnny later became the drummer for the Neo 90s as well. Having cut their teeth on rough-and-tumble dance blues with the Smoking Jackets, Keith and Pam began playing gigs at a dim and smoky basement bar (now defunct) called The East Bay Regatta Club. Owing to safety in numbers,

**John Cote** was recruited and Superchief Trio was born circa 2000.

The casual nature of the place and its heckling denizens encouraged recklessness and experimentation with new songs, new arrangements and inspired a higher level of daredevil musical abandon. Emerging from this subterranean honky-tonk, Superchief Trio continues the tradition of good-time music and barrelhouse hijinks that run the gamut from swing, to boogie-woogie and blues, and back again.

## NOVEMBER 2016

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

**Saturday, November 5, 8 PM, \$15.00 adv / \$18.00 day of show  
PADDY KEENAN and JIMMY NOONAN**



**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. 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!*

**Saturday, November 12, 8 PM, \$15.00 adv / \$18.00 day of show  
ROBBIE O'CONNELL AND ROSE CLANCY**



Joining together for the first time on BRT's stage since last year's Christmas shows will be **Robbie O'Connell** and **Rose Clancy**. Singer-songwriter Robbie O'Connell 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. 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 and songwriters in Celtic music." **Rose Clancy** is a much respected musician on the fiddle, mandolin, and banjo. Her pure drop style embraces Northern Irish, Scottish, and some French Canadian influences.

**Friday, November 18, 7-9 PM, \$20.00 or two for \$35.00**  
**10th annual CUMBERLAND LAND TRUST WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER**



For tickets, call Joe at 658-1766. Winetasting event includes raffles and cheeses and light appetizers. The Cumberland Land Trust is a private, non-profit, charitable conservation organization run by a dedicated group of volunteers. Their mission is to preserve the natural resources of Cumberland for present and future generations by preserving land for open space. Since incorporation in 1989, CLT has protected 354 acres of land acquired through purchase, donation and conservation easements. The Land Trust applies for grants from private foundations and organizations and from government sources to help acquire select properties including streams, ponds, wetlands, open space, working farms, scenic and natural sites and historically significant properties. For more information visit

[www.cumberlandlandtrust.org](http://www.cumberlandlandtrust.org)

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



We are thrilled to bring back the dynamic Sugar Ray and the Bluetones, 2016 Rhode Island Music Hall of Fame inductees! **Ray Norcia's** career kicked into high gear in 1979 when he formed the original Sugar Ray and the Bluetones line-up with guitar giant Ronnie Earl, and it's stayed there ever since. The elegant singer has appeared on more than 50 albums including discs with the Bluetones, Ronnie Earl, Roomful of Blues, Otis Grand, Michelle Willson, J. Giels, Duke

Robillard, Pinetop Perkins, and his 1999 "Best Traditional Blues" Grammy-nominated collaboration with fellow harmonica virtuosos James Cotton, Charlie Musselwhite and Billy Branch called Superharps. In the '90s Norcia spent seven high-profile years with the legendary Roomful of Blues cutting five albums with the group including 1996's Turn It On, Turn It Up, which also received a "Best Traditional Blues" Grammy nod. Now, Sugar Ray has led the Bluetones - guitarist "**Monster**" **Mike Welch**, drummer **Neil Gouvin**, bassist **Michael "Mudcat" Ward** and pianist **Anthony Geraci** - back into the studio to cut their newest CD, "Seeing is Believing" which is up to #21 on this week's Roots Music Report: Top 50 Blues Albums. *A great evening of Chicago blues!*

**Saturday, November 26, 7:30 PM, \$20.00**  
**BRT HOMECOMING CONCERT AND SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER**  
**featuring Atwater-Donnelly, Cathy Clasper-Torch and Rachel Panitch, Eastern Medicine Singers, Pendragon, Torrin Ryan, Ed Sweeney, and The Vox Hunters!**



With family and friends in town for Thanksgiving, BRT's 17th 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 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 Irish and American songs and tunes with **The Vox Hunters (Armand Aromin and Benedict Gagliardi)**, and the **Eastern Medicine Singers** who will present Algonquin and Native American song, drumming and dance. Returning to Homecoming is celebrated guitarist and 5-string banjo player **Ed Sweeney**, All Ireland uilleann piper **Torrin Ryan, Atwater~Donnelly** who will perform Appalachian, original and Celtic-inspired folk music and clogging, and **Cathy Clasper-Torch** on fiddle and erhu who will perform with Atwater~Donnelly and also be joined for a set of music by fiddler **Rachel Panitch**, a Boston-based violinist, improviser, composer, and teaching artist who continues to work with nationally-recognized Community MusicWorks in Providence, RI, where she completed a Fellowship that inspired and incubated the Rhode Island Fiddle Project.

## DECEMBER 2016

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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.**

- **Zumba on Mondays** continues in December.
- **Blackstone River Theatre will shut down for the holiday season starting December 13 and will reopen again on January 14. We wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season with best wishes for a peaceful new year!**
- **Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to BRT before the year ends!**
- **Blackstone River Theatre gift certificates** make a great gift for friends and family...

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

**Saturday, December 3, 9 AM to 3 PM, FREE admission!  
9th annual BRT HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR AND FESTIVAL**



Blackstone River Theatre invites the community to our 9th 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 **The Opulent Squid** ("posh and peculiar handmade jewelry"), **Scentsy** (warmers, aromatic wax and personal care items), **Ann Lilley Designs** (bags & totes made from recycled materials/seasonal decor), **Thirty-One Gifts** (organizational items for home and accessories for on the go), **Starlite Jewelry Designs, Laura Travis Carving** (Celtic stone carving, rubbings, and Brigid Crosses), **Ducharme Creations in Wood** (handmade wooden ornaments and more), **Designs by Diana** (Celtic-themed jewelry, artwork, collectibles), **SilverLeaf Studios** (handcrafted jewelry in Sterling silver and copper and repurposed vintage items), **Judy Carroll Stained Glass** (mosaics, stained glass, tiles), **Tree's Creations** (cancer awareness earrings and bracelets), **Loveable Treasures** (handmade candles that resemble desserts), **Uncle J's Monsters** (prints of "monsters who don't know they are monsters"), **LnKDesigns** (hand-carved wooden LED Star Lights, crystal jewelry, novelty soaps), **Sherry Snyder** (Art Inspired by Stillness), **Bells on My Toes** (decorative Christmas stockings), **LuLaRoe** (clothing), **Judi Goudreau Designs** (expressive clay animal figures), **The Merry Blacksmith Studio** (artwork, prints, limited edition books), **Keenan Knitting, Jewels by Crissy B, Fellowship of Elves** (children's Christmas books), **Rachel Marzocchi Photography** (lava beads, photography, memory wire bracelets), **Jerry Aissis** and **Germaine Gerie** original paintings and prints), and **Pocasset Wampanoag Creations**.

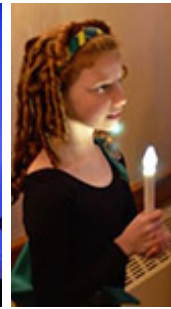
**Saturday, December 3, 8 PM, \$18.00 advance / \$20.00 day of show**  
**DAROL ANGER's 5th Annual Keepin' It In the Fam Holiday Show**  
with special guest **TONY TRISCHKA, plus EMY PHELPS, GRANT GORDY and ETHAN JODZIEWICZ**



What better way for some of the country's most prominent string musicians to celebrate the holidays than to play some shows with family and friends? Acoustic Music legend **Darol Anger** joins rising singer-songwriter **Emy Phelps** in organizing some of the country's best string musicians in a multigenerational musical experience focusing on the spirit of Midwinter and the turning of the year. Anger's experience with years of holiday shows from the Windham Hill Winter Solstice Concerts through Newgrange to Yulegrass, his quirky humor, and his genius for organizing exciting bands will be on display tonight... and his old friend and musical colleague, banjo genius **Tony Trischka**, will be on board as this year's Very Most Special Guest Possible! Anger and Trischka have mentored some of the most exciting and phenomenal string musicians in the world. The phenomenal bassist/Edgar Meyer protege **Ethan Jodziewicz** and youthful guitar wizard **Grant Gordy** will join Anger, Trischka and Phelps in this season's concerts. These powerful presences are brought into synchronization and orbit around Anger's vision, and that unmistakable violin voice. The result is magical musical mayhem. Says Darol: "We think that the midwinter season has always been a highly emotional and special time for human beings, and we mean to celebrate in music the many layers of spirituality and celebration that has always happened around this time. My old buddy Tony is a joy to be around, and that joy goes for the audiences too. Emy's a genius at finding songs that elevate peoples' spirits, and her long career working with children has helped her hone her talent. This band is not afraid to tap deep emotions, whether they be humor, love, or wassailing."

**Sunday, December 4, 1:00 PM and 4:30 PM performances, \$13.00**  
**5th annual IRISH DANCE CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR featuring TIR NA NOG**  
**IRISH DANCE**

**NOTE: The Irish Dance shows will take place at the Greenwich Odeum, E. Greenwich, RI**



We hope you'll join Tir Na Nog Irish Dance for a fun afternoon (two shows!) of Irish dance, and live Celtic and Christmas music. 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. In the past years, Tir Na Nog has grown so much that Erika decided she would need a bigger stage to accommodate so many dancers and also a bigger auditorium so all family members could attend the shows. **Tickets for these shows will be handled by the Greenwich Odeum.** *Part of today's proceeds will go towards sponsorship of the dance stage at the 2017 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, and will conclude with a visit from our friend from the North Pole! Performances 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 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://www.tirnanogirishdanceri.com/> <http://www.tirnanogirishdanceri.com/>

**Thursday, December 8, 7:30 PM, \$15.00 advance / \$20.00 day of show  
A CREEPY CHRISTMAS CAROL with JEFF BELANGER and DUSTIN PARI**



For one night only **Jeff Belanger** and **Dustin Pari** are bringing you the legends and lore that put the fear into the Yuletide season. From the monsters who hunt naughty children, to the ghosts what haunt us all, this program will take you on a tour of the almost-forgotten parts of the holiday tradition. *This program is NOT for young children.* Enjoy a multi-media tour through the ages... Are you on Santa's nice list? Or

are you doomed? Come find out! Tickets are \$15 if you purchase them online at <http://ghostvillage.com/event/a-creepy-christmas-carol-with-jeff-belanger-and-dustin-pari/>. Or they will be \$20 at the door (if we don't sell out first!). **Note:** Your PayPal receipt will serve as your ticket. When you arrive at the theatre, you'll give your name and email address to check in. Tickets are not refundable.

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

**AND**

**Sunday, December 11, 7 PM, \$20.00 advance / \$24.00 day of show**

**BLACKSTONE RIVER THEATRE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**featuring Aubrey Atwater, Cathy Clasper-Torch, Erika Damiani and members of Tir Na Nog Irish Dance, Elwood Donnelly, Kevin Doyle, Bob Drouin, Russell Gusetti, Josh Kane, Mary Lee Partington, Torrin Ryan, Ed Sweeney, and the Swamp Meadow Victorian Carolers**

*Sponsored by Navigant Credit Union*







Blackstone River Theatre will present our 9th annual Christmas Celebration featuring **Aubrey Atwater, Cathy Clasper-Torch, Erika Damiani and members of Tir Na Nog Irish Dance, Elwood Donnelly,**

**Kevin Doyle, Bob Drouin, Russell Gusetti, Josh Kane, Mary Lee Partington, Ed Sweeney, and the Swamp Meadow Victorian Carolers.** Audiences can expect the unexpected - familiar and unfamiliar songs, high energy step dancing and clogging, ancient carols, spoken word, jokes and more - as musicians and dancers perform in varied combinations or join together on beautiful Christmas and winter-themed pieces. "That's one of the nicest thing about this show," explains Russell Gusetti, BRT executive director. "We all get a chance to perform with each other in several different configurations, something audiences simply do not get to see at any other point in the year."