

Central Pennsylvania

Traditions

the newsletter of the

Harrisburg, PA USA

Since 1985

Susquehanna Folk

MUSIC SOCIETY

March / April 2021 Events



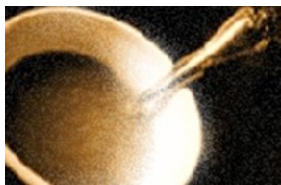
We Banjo 3.....Page 2

Sat, Mar 13 • A quartet of superb Irish performers presents a full-length, live-streamed concert from Dublin that showcases its exhilarating blend of Celtic, Americana and bluegrass.



Susquehanna Folk Festival.....Page 3

All Summer! • This year's celebration will be a whole new kind of music festival—three months of mostly virtual programming, including concerts, workshops, dances, storytelling, sessions, artist talks and family events. You won't want to miss any of it!



Winter Coffeehouse.....Page 3

Sun, Mar 14 • In this latest edition of our popular series, join us online for a live-streamed performance of songs and tunes by local faves The Redacted Unplugged and Matt Miskie and by the heralded Roman Barten-Sherman from Arizona.



Väsen-Duo.....Page 4

Sat, Mar 27 • Two of Sweden's most respected folk musicians bring a fresh, modern sound to their country's rich store of traditional music via an exclusive online concert, with a conversation afterwards.



Tom Paxton & The DonJuans.....Page 5

Sat, Apr 3 • A legendary folk musician and two of the music industry's most accomplished songwriters appear for a live-streamed concert of memorable songs, followed by an audience Q&A. SFMS members can "attend" for free!



Lui Collins.....Page 6

Sat, Apr 10 • A renowned New England folksinger invites us to a specially recorded concert in her home, offering multiple viewing options, including a virtual reality experience.



Bill and the Belles.....Page 7

Sat, Apr 17 • A spirited string band from East Tennessee pays homage to the "golden era" of American music from the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s during a free, live-streamed concert.

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We Banjo 3, Saturday, March 13



We Banjo 3, the Irish quartet whose exhilarating “Celtgrass” live shows have thrilled fans around the world, will perform a full-length, live-streamed concert at 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Saturday, March 13, for a large virtual audience, including viewers from the Susquehanna Folk Music Society. The concert, which will be broadcast from the stunning Pearse Lyons Distillery in Dublin, Ireland, marks the group’s first live stage performance since the pandemic shut down most live music last March.

Comprising two sets of brothers – Enda & Fergal Scahill and Martin & David Howley – whose roots are in Ireland’s County Galway, We Banjo 3 seamlessly converges the shared and varied traditions of Celtic, Americana and bluegrass with pop-sensible songcraft to create a truly unique and gratifying signature sound. Brilliantly commanded instruments – primarily banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar and percussion – effortlessly elevate lead singer David Howley’s propulsive voice. The songs carry the listener along until, at the perfect

moment, the band crescendos into catchy choruses with pitch-perfect harmonies. We Banjo 3 delivers its music with such palpable rapport, stunning precision and infectious energy, it’s impossible to pigeonhole what kinds of listeners might suddenly consider themselves “WB3” fans.

The *Northwest Cultural Blog* aptly summed up the We Banjo 3 concert experience: “There are few adjectives left to describe the authenticity and the electrifying experience you get when you first see/hear We Banjo 3 live on stage . . . It’s the incorporation of each and every one of its members, their individual charisma, their energy, their passion and their very soul, that makes them one of the greatest live musical acts the world has to offer today.”

The dazzling performances of We Banjo 3 are a testament to the wealth of talent and experience that its members bring to the table. Enda Scahill is a four-time national champion on banjo and mandolin and studied classical music on piano, violin and pipe organ at the prestigious St. Finian’s College. He is a leading authority on Irish banjo techniques, having published two of the best-selling banjo tutorials. He has guested with The Chieftains, recorded with Ricky Skaggs, and issued a ground-breaking solo album, “Pick It Up.” Martin Howley is a seven-time All-Ireland champion and the first Irish banjo player to perform at the Grand Ole Opry. He has performed with The Chieftains, Carlos Nuñez, Steve Earl, and Mumford & Sons. David Howley is a multi-instrumentalist with national championship titles on banjo and guitar. He has developed a unique roots-music guitar style that allows him to play rhythm and bass lines congruently. A burgeoning songwriter, he has penned some of We Banjo 3’s favorite songs. Fergal Scahill has won multiple All-Ireland titles on fiddle, bodhrán, guitar and céilí drums, plus countless titles in group competitions. His main focus is the fiddle, on which he has an eclectic style that borrows from many folk traditions. He is in huge demand as a recording artist, having appeared on over 40 albums.

As befitting a top-flight live act, We Banjo 3 has headlined major festivals across the globe, including such well-known stateside gatherings as MerleFest, Milwaukee Irish Fest, Old Settler’s Music Festival, Dublin Irish Festival, ROMP Festival, Four Corners Folk Festival, and BottleRock Napa Valley. We Banjo 3 has released six highly regarded albums. Their last two – 2018’s “Haven” and 2019’s “Roots To Rise Live” – each held the #1 position on *Billboard’s* Bluegrass Albums Chart; at one point both albums were in the top-five chart positions.

Admission to We Banjo 3’s live-streamed concert is by advance ticket only. Ticket prices are \$25 for regular admission and \$35 for groups of three viewers or more. Ticket orders will be processed by We Banjo 3. Ticket purchasers will have on-demand access to the concert for up to seven days after its live broadcast. To purchase tickets, please visit sfmsfolk.org/concerts/WeBanjo3.html.

Our Folk Festival is Going Virtual — ALL SUMMER LONG!



We'd all love to be together this year, but the question of when we can gather in person again is still uncertain. The health and safety of our audience members, volunteers and artists are of paramount importance to the Susquehanna Folk Music Society. So, we will have a festival but the 2021 Susquehanna Folk Festival will be coming to you this summer in a (mostly) virtual format. You'll be able to join us from home or wherever you happen to be. And instead of one weekend, it's all summer long — a whole new kind of music festival!

Although the festival is still in the planning stages, get ready for a jam-packed, three-month schedule of concerts, workshops, dancing, family programs, storytelling, music sessions and artist talks, all designed to capture the excitement and magic of our weekend summer festival. Also, if advisable, we'll add some safely distanced, in-person events later in the summer. Make sure to regularly visit our festival webpage (sfmsfolk.org/festival) to stay updated on the latest festival news.

One exciting festival event of note will be our Liars Contest (a competition of telling "tall tales"), which we plan to hold in mid-July. If you know how to tell a good story, and want to throw your hat in the ring for a prize, think about entering! More information will be posted on our festival webpage; you may also contact Tom Juengst, the Liars Contest coordinator, at juengst86@juno.com or (717) 938-0141.

We invite those who wish to support the festival to make a contribution on Friday, May 7, during Give Local York. This is an annual day of giving to support nonprofit organizations operating in York County. Donations made to SFMS will be partially matched by the event's sponsors. For more information, please visit www.givelocalyork.org.

We would like to recognize the financial support of these festival sponsors: National Endowment for the Arts, Explore York, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities' Arts for All Partnership, Martin Guitar Charitable Foundation, York County Community Foundation, and The Stabler Foundation.

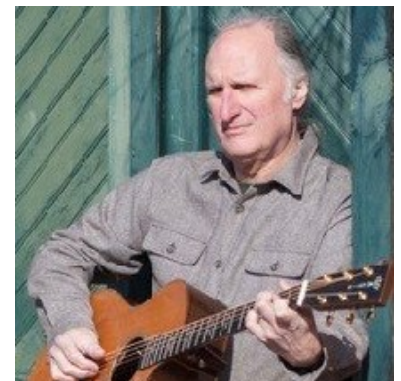
Winter Coffeehouse, Sunday, March 14



Roman Barten-Sherman

The Susquehanna Folk Music Society will present the second of this season's Coffeehouses with a live-streamed show on Sunday, March 14, at 4 p.m. Hosted by Coffeehouse coordinator Joe Cooney, this free event will feature three standout performing acts, with each playing a set of about 20 minutes.

Guitarist and singer **Roman Barten-Sherman** joins the Coffeehouse all the way from Arizona. Still in his teens, he has been playing and singing the blues since age four. His captivating take on acoustic blues draws from the intricate guitar stylings of Blind Blake and Reverend Gary Davis, and the soulful bottleneck slide of Charley Patton and Mississippi Fred McDowell.



Matt Miskie

The Redacted Unplugged comprises singer Sarah Speed and guitarist Damian Fanella of The Redacted, a Central Pennsylvania-based, classic-rock cover band. The duo brings an acoustic spin to hits of the 1970s to the present. Expect to hear familiar favorites from Led Zeppelin, Bruce Springsteen, Alanis Morissette, Billie Eilish and more.

Matt Miskie, of Cleona, has been on the road sharing stories and songs for the better part of 40 years. He is a self-taught musician with four albums of his own original songs. Family, relationships and life are woven through his songs and the songs that he covers from legends of the urban folk revival to the singer-songwriters of the Woodstock era and beyond.

Viewers may watch the live-streamed Coffeehouse on SFMS's website (sfmsfolk.org/events/coffee_winter.html) or on its YouTube channel (youtube.com/channel/UC0Jec7v7L-aN42aKhW0Edmg). The Coffeehouse will be archived for future viewing. Although the Coffeehouse is free, donations to the performers' "tip jars" are welcomed, as are donations to SFMS.

Väsen-Duo, Saturday, March 27

Swedish folk music masters Mikael Marin and Olov Johansson, who for 30 years have played together as part of the acclaimed trio Väsen, will appear for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society in an exclusive online concert with conversation afterwards on Saturday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m. (Eastern Time).

Väsen-Duo embodies Marin and Johansson's profoundly creative musical vision, one that is firmly rooted in the folk traditions of their native Sweden but unmistakably fresh and modern. On stage, their music is at once playful and intense, full of humor, and the result of an almost telepathic rapport.

Marin and Johansson, whose principal instruments are viola and nyckelharpa, respectively, met as teenagers in the early 1980s. They discovered that they had a common repertoire and similar playing style in the rich Bohlin/Tallroth tradition. In 1985, they released their first recording and, in 1989, they teamed up with guitarist Roger Tallroth to form Väsen. Now, after 19 highly regarded albums and countless well-received performances around the globe (including two for SFMS), Väsen has moved in a new direction, as Tallroth pursues other projects and Marin and Johansson continue as a duo.

Johansson, one of the foremost performers on the nyckelharpa, became the first world champion on the instrument in 1990. The keyed fiddle has been played in Sweden for more than 600 years; the modern version is fully chromatic with a range of three octaves. Its four upper strings carry the melody, and 12 resonance strings beneath "sing along." The player's left hand works the 37 wooden keys, while the right hand plays the upper strings with a short bow. Johansson's other musical projects include a duo with Scottish harpist Catriona McKay and recordings with groups such as Kronos Quartet and Nyckelharpa Orchestra. In 2013, he was awarded a prestigious Zorn gold medal, the highest award in Swedish traditional music.

Marin's wide-ranging musical interests span Schöenberg to the Beatles. He became a national fiddler in 1983, and he was chosen to play in a world orchestra under the direction of Leonard Bernstein in 1989. He has composed, produced and arranged music for artists such as Nordman, Mikael Samuelsson and Kronos Quartet, and he has performed on numerous recordings apart from Väsen's.



Windborne entertained SFMS viewers on Jan. 24 by leading an energetic community sing; performing a lively concert featuring banjos, washboard and foot percussion; and having an engaging chat with SFMS Board member Eryn Spangler. Windborne's members are, left-to-right in the group photos, Jeremy Carter-Gordon, Lynn Mahoney Rowan, Lauren Breunig and Will Thomas Rowan.

Väsen-Duo's SFMS concert will be followed by a chat with Bruce Sagan, who is well known across the U.S. for playing and teaching the traditional instruments of Scandinavia.

Advance registration is required for the concert. Donations are requested, with the suggested donation for each viewer being \$20 and the supporter-level donation being \$25 per viewer. To register, please visit sfmsfolk.org/concerts/Vasen-Duo.html. The concert will not be archived for later viewing.

Väsen-Duo's performance for SFMS is underwritten in part by grants from the American-Scandinavian Foundation and the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation.

Tom Paxton and The DonJuans, Saturday, April 3

Legendary folk musician Tom Paxton, whose illustrious songwriting and performing career spans nearly six decades, will join forces with The DonJuans – ace Nashville songwriters Don Henry and Jon Vezner – to perform a live-streamed concert with conversation afterwards for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society at 7:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Saturday, April 3. As a special bonus, SFMS members will be admitted to the concert free of charge.



60 studio and live albums and has appeared on nearly 100 compilation albums. He has published a dozen music and song books and is the author of 15 critically acclaimed children's books.

Paxton, a four-time Grammy nominee, was honored in 1999 with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Recording Academy during the 51st Annual Grammy Awards. He has also received Lifetime Achievement Awards from

Paxton has been a seminal member of the folk music community since first taking the stage at The Gaslight Cafe in New York City's Greenwich Village in the early 1960s. He was a leader of that era's folk music revival, and his songwriting helped fuel support for the causes of human rights, civil rights, labor rights and environmental awareness. He has become a voice of his generation, addressing issues of injustice and inhumanity, laying bare the absurdities of modern culture and celebrating the tenderest bonds of family, friends and community. He continues to inspire his fellow musicians, including today's "New Folk" performers.

"Tom Paxton's songs are so powerful and lyrical, written from the heart and the conscience . . . [T]hey are beautiful and timeless, and meant for every age."

~ Judy Collins

Paxton's best-known songs – such as "The Last Thing on My Mind," "Ramblin' Boy," "Bottle of Wine," "Whose Garden Was This?," "Goin' to the Zoo" and "The Marvelous Toy" – have become modern folk standards. Among the musical luminaries who have recorded his songs are Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Paul Simon, Judy Collins, Harry Belafonte, Doc Watson, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, and Peter, Paul and Mary.

An inveterate globetrotter, Paxton has performed thousands of concerts around the world, from New York to London to Hong Kong. He has released over

the BBC and ASCAP.

Henry and Vezner are two of the most accomplished songwriters in the music business. They co-wrote the classic "Where've You Been," recorded by Kathy Mattea, which became the first song in country music history to sweep all four major song-of-the-year awards, including a Grammy. Their songs have been covered by many top recording artists, including Ray Charles, Patti Page, John Mellencamp, Janis Ian and Miranda Lambert, to name a few. As performers, they have shared the stage with the likes of David Crosby, John Hartford, Michael Johnson and Joey Ramone.

Following their concert for SFMS, Paxton, Henry and Vezner will be available for a 15-minute Q & A with the audience.

The concert is being offered free to SFMS members thanks to a generous contribution from Bruce and Joan Kolka. Bruce is an SFMS Board member and membership coordinator, and Joan is a former SFMS Board president and past membership coordinator.

Advance registration for the concert is required for both the general public and SFMS members. The general-public ticket price is \$15 per viewer. SFMS members are asked to register for their free tickets by April 1. Ticket orders will be processed through CrowdCast. To register for tickets, please visit sfmsfolk.org/concerts/TomPaxton.html. To become a new SFMS member or to renew a membership that has lapsed, please visit sfmsfolk.org/membership to submit an application. The concert will not be archived for future viewing.

Lui Collins, Saturday, April 10

Hailed by the *Boston Herald* as a “folksinger for our times” and by *The Boston Globe* as “one of New England’s first and brightest stars,” Lui Collins will perform a uniquely intimate online concert for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society on Saturday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. (Eastern Time). Through an arrangement with Musae and River Spirit Music, the concert will be specially recorded in high-definition (HD) from Collins’s home in western Massachusetts using a 360-degree camera that will allow viewers the opportunity to have the virtual-reality (VR) experience of enjoying the concert as if they were sitting in Collins’s living room.

Collins has been performing, writing and recording for over 40 years. Beginning with 1978’s “Made in New England,” her recordings on the Philo and Green Linnet labels earned her international acclaim and established her as a respected voice in the folk world. Her repertoire ranges from original and traditional folk songs and American standards to bossa nova in the original Brazilian Portuguese. A multi-instrumentalist on piano, guitar, clawhammer banjo and tenor ukulele, Collins in recent years has focused on the latter two instruments, translating her rich and complex guitar arrangements onto the tenor ukulele to create something unexpected and delightful.

Collins has made 16 CDs, performed on recordings of many other musicians, and shared the stage with folk-world notables such as Pete Seeger, Stan Rogers and Bonnie Raitt. Rogers once quipped, “Lui sings my songs better than I do!” In 2018, Collins, fiddler Donna Hébert and guitarist Max Cohen collaborated with celebrated author Jane Yolen to release “The Infinite Dark,” which provided musical settings for the recitation of Yolen’s poems.

Viewers will be able to watch the concert in HD on a TV or computer, experience 360-degree views on any device that supports scrolling, or use a VR “viewer” with a smartphone to virtually step right into the concert space. Ticket prices for the concert are on a “choose your level” basis, ranging from \$5 to \$100. A free, basic VR viewer will be included with a full-price ticket (\$25 and up) if purchased by April 1. Ticket orders will be processed by Musae. For a ticket link and other concert information, please visit sfmsfolk.org/concerts/LuiCollins.html.



SFMS’s daylong Feb. 27 gospel traditions residency featured workshop sessions and performances by The Campbell Brothers and The Spiritual Messengers Warriors for God. Participants in the workshops were (clockwise, from top left) Tom Cook, Chuck Campbell, Wayne Boulware, Mark Ward, Daniel Stern, James “Mac” McFarland, Reverend Moses Jackson, Phil Campbell, Anthony Jackson and moderator Amy Skillman.

Bill and the Belles, Saturday, April 17

Bill and the Belles, a talented and energetic string band from Johnson City, Tennessee, that puts their own unique spin on the “golden era” of American music from the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, will perform a free, live-streamed concert for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society at 2 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Saturday, April 17.



With a spirited musical sound that falls somewhere between old-time country and vaudeville, Bill and the Belles have been lauded for having “perhaps the most innovative modern interpretation of vintage roots music.” (*No Depression*) Band members are Kris Truelsen, on guitar and lead vocals; Kalia Yeagle, on fiddle and vocals; Aidan VanSuetendael, on banjo, banjo-ukulele and vocals; and Andrew Small, on bass. The group takes its name from Bill and Belle Reed, who recorded the songs “Old Lady and the Devil” and “You Shall Be Free” in Johnson City. Says Truelsen: “Our band’s name is a way to honor their music, the music of this place, and this region in general that we’ve come to call home.”

In 2015, Bill and the Belles took on the role of the house band for the launch of a live radio show, *Farm and Fun Time*, presented by Radio Bristol, a community radio station founded by Truelsen that is housed within the Birthplace of Country Music Museum located just across the state line in Bristol, Virginia. Along with sharing the radio stage with such top roots

acts as Marty Stuart and the Del McCoury Band, Bill and the Belles write and perform the snappy jingles for the show’s monthly sponsors. The band has also released four albums, its most recent being the critically acclaimed “Dreamsongs, Etc.,” which includes much original material. A fifth album, titled “Happy Again,” is scheduled for release in May.

Truelsen, whose distinct tenor anchors the band’s sound, was raised in the mountains of Colorado and has been an avid fan of country music for most of his life. He was the first to earn a master’s degree in Appalachian Studies from East Tennessee State University. He expands and shares his knowledge through his work as producer and music director of Radio Bristol. He was nominated for International Bluegrass Music Association Broadcaster of the Year for 2017 and 2018 and *Farm and Fun Time* was nominated for IBMA’s Event of the Year for the same years.

Yeagle has used her expressive and versatile fiddling to gain a place at the forefront of a new generation of acoustic musicians. She says she takes inspiration from her upbringing in Alaska, where long winters and strong, diverse communities have produced a music scene unlike any other. As a scholar of Appalachian Studies, she has researched the rich musical heritage of the region with a special interest in early country music’s pioneering female artists.

A native of South Florida, VanSuetendael was raised in a musical family whose influences ranged from Irish ballads to traditional country music to classic rock. Her love for traditional music led her to study bluegrass and old-time banjo at Dennison University in Ohio. She currently resides in Nashville, which has proven to be a wonderful setting for her immersion in all kinds of traditional country music.

Small has performed with artists ranging from Sierra Hull to the North Carolina Symphony. He earned a master’s degree in Double Bass Performance from Yale University and has won numerous blue ribbons from fiddlers’ conventions in the Southeast for his old-time fiddling.

Advance registration is required for free admission to Bill and the Belles’ live-streamed concert. To register, please visit sfmsfolk.org/concerts/BillBelles.html. The concert will be archived for future viewing.

SFMS is presenting the concert in partnership with York County Libraries (YCL) and Martin Library. YCL is offering a series of events in April relating to “The Great Gatsby.” Bill and the Belles’ music hearkens back to the Gatsby era. For more information about YCL’s Gatsby events, please visit yorklibraries.org.

Bill and the Belles’ performance is supported by a Welcoming Communities Grant from Better York.



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- the satisfaction of seeing traditional arts flourish in our community

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A Special Thanks

*SFMS wishes to thank these members and others who wish to remain anonymous for donating an additional \$788.

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If the expiration date on your mailing label has passed, or you haven't received any correspondence from us in a while, your membership has probably expired. To continue your membership, please renew now. If you have any membership questions, please contact me at (717) 763-5598 or member-ship@sfmsfolk.org.
~ Bruce Kolka, Membership Coordinator

Central Pennsylvania

Traditions

the newsletter of the **Susquehanna Folk**
Harrisburg, PA USA Since 1985 **MUSIC SOCIETY**

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Susquehanna Folk Music Society Memories



Scenes from recent online events. Top row, from left: Henry Koretzky and Kevin Neidig of Harrisburg Mandolin Ensemble; Reggie Harris; Malcolm Kirby, Phil Campbell, Carlton Campbell, Chuck Campbell and Denise Brown of The Campbell Brothers. Middle row, from left: Harris; James "Mac" McFarland and Mark Ward of The Spiritual Messengers Warriors for God; Ward, Wayne Boulware, Anthony Jackson, Reverend Moses Jackson, Daniel Stern (partially obscured), McFarland and Tom Cook of The Spiritual Messengers; and Brown. Bottom picture: Greg Rohrer, Cook, Koretzky and Neidig of Harrisburg Mandolin Ensemble.