

# Central Pennsylvania

# Traditions

the newsletter of the

Harrisburg, PA USA

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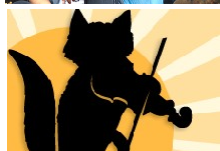
**Susquehanna Folk  
MUSIC SOCIETY**

## May / June 2021 Events



### **Watkins Family Hour.....Page 2**

*Sun, May 2* • A sibling tour de force in American roots music is coming our way for an exclusively recorded virtual concert.



### **“Give Local York” Supports the Festival!....Page 3**

*Fri, May 7* • An online giving extravaganza supports our “Endless Summer” 2021 Susquehanna Folk Festival.



### **Enter the Liars Contest!.....Page 4**

*Enter by June 14* • *Optional Free Workshop May 12*  
Hone your storytelling skills for our July 14 virtual event.



### **Spring Coffeehouse.....Page 4**

*Sun, May 16* • Our latest popular live-streamed coffeehouse features singer-songwriters Noah Fowler, Matt Wenger and Annette Wasilik.



### **Fàrsan.....Page 5**

*Sat, May 29* • A quartet of exceptional young performers shares fresh interpretations of centuries-old Scottish Gaelic music in a special online performance.



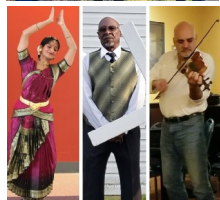
### **Sierra Hull and Justin Moses.....Page 6**

*Sat, June 5* • Two young bluegrass virtuosos join us for a Zoom mandolin workshop and a live-streamed concert.



### **Beverly Street String Band.....Page 7**

*Wed, June 9* • A hugely entertaining trio performs a free, live-streamed program of music and fun for the young and young at heart.



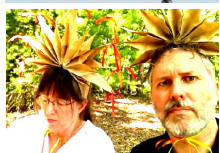
### **Old-Time Music Workshops.....Page 7**

*Sun, June 6, 13, 20 and 27* • Acclaimed music instructor Janie Rothfield leads a series of Zoom workshops for Appalachian fiddle and clawhammer banjo.



### **“Bringing It Home”.....Page 8**

*Wed, Jun 23* • Three local traditional artists from our Folk Artists Gallery – Rachita Nambiar, James “Mac” McFarland and Mike Furjanic – reflect on “The Power of Song” in a virtual conversation with folklorist Amy Skillman.



### **Le Vent du Nord.....Page 9**

*Thurs, Jun 24* • The award-winning Québécois folk band, a long-time fave of SFMS audiences, presents an exclusively recorded virtual concert.

### **Box and String’s “Cups & Crankies”.....Page 10**

*Wed, Jun 30* • A musical duo known for hijinks and merriment leads a free, interactive live-streamed workshop packed with plenty of homegrown family fun.

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## Watkins Family Hour, Sunday, May 2



Watkins Family Hour – featuring Grammy-winning siblings Sean and Sara Watkins, alumni of the acclaimed progressive bluegrass band Nickel Creek – will bring its ace singing, songwriting and instrumental chops to the Susquehanna Folk Music Society for an exclusive online concert, with conversation afterwards, on Sunday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. (EDT).

The Los Angeles-based pair, together with bandmate Chris Thile, were teenagers when Nickel Creek first gained prominence in the 1990s for its innovative “newgrass” sound. The band released six albums between 1993 and 2006, including its platinum-selling eponymous recording in 2000 and 2002’s “This Side,” which landed the Grammy as Best Contemporary Folk Album.

Watkins Family Hour is a collaborative performance and recording project, begun in 2002, that grew out of a monthly residency Sean and Sara had at LA’s famous nightclub Largo. The gig took on the form of a variety show where the siblings

could stretch out musically, working on new material, collaborating with other players, and generally letting loose creatively while in between tours. Over the years, Watkins Family Hour became a spontaneous meeting place where, on any given night, artists like Dawes, Fiona Apple, Jackson Browne, Nikka Costa and even actor-comedian John C. Reilly might sit in for a set.

In 2015, Sean and Sara decided to turn their show into a recording project, enlisting several of their long-time collaborators to record an album under the Watkins Family Hour banner to critical acclaim. In January 2020, after five years of pursuing solo projects, they released their much-anticipated follow-up album “brother sister,” a sparkling compendium of mostly original songs that demonstrate a unique familial creative partnership while harnessing the energy and honesty of their legendary live shows at Largo. *Glide Magazine* said the album “feels bigger than just the siblings, but it is essentially a gentle folk record with lovely instrumentation and gorgeous harmonies . . . [T]he sound comes across at times like a full band but it’s usually just the two of them making stirring music.”

Sean and Sara have toured widely as Watkins Family Hour, including numerous appearances on American Public Media’s *Live From Here*, the popular radio show hosted by Thile. Sean and Sara have a combined nine solo recordings to their credit, including Sara’s just-released “Under the Pepper Tree.” In addition to their solo careers and their work together and with Nickel Creek, Sean and Sara have performed in other groups. Sara currently performs with Sarah Jarosz and Aoife O’Donovan as I’m With Her, whose 2019 single “Call My Name” won a Grammy for Best American Roots Song. Sean has performed with Switchfoot frontman Jon Foreman in the duo Fiction Family and with an all-star lineup in Works Progress Administration.

The Watkins Family Hour concert will be followed by a Q & A session with SFMS Board members Peter Winter and Sara Willard.

Admission to the concert is by advance ticket only. Ticket prices are \$18 for SFMS members, \$22 for general admission and \$27 for supporter-level patrons. To purchase tickets, please visit [sfmsfolk.org/concerts/WatkinsFamilyHour.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/concerts/WatkinsFamilyHour.html). The concert will not be archived for later viewing.

### Save the Date for SFMS’s 2022 Ireland Tour!

SFMS is excited to announce that we’re partnering with Harrigan Holidays, LLC to host a tour of Ireland during September 25 - October 6, 2022. The tour will take us to attractions in Counties Clare, Galway, Kerry and Cork – where we’ll be attending the famed Cork Folk Festival – as well as in Dublin.

You’ll get to enjoy all the glorious things that Ireland is known for, from its breathtaking landscapes to its historic sites and landmarks to its rich cultural heritage, punctuated by lots of superb music.

We’ll keep you posted as pricing and itinerary details are finalized. We hope you’ll join us for what promises to be a wonderful experience.



# Support the Festival! Give Local York, Friday, May 7

The Susquehanna Folk Music Society is excited to again participate in Give Local York, a 24-hour online giving extravaganza – to be held Friday, May 7 – that aims to raise millions of dollars for nearly 300 participating York County nonprofits. All contributions to SFMS will benefit the Susquehanna Folk Festival, which this year will feature an exciting array of virtual and in-person events stretching across the entire summer season.



**Hank Imhof**

SFMS members and friends are invited to financially support the Festival by donating online at [givelocalyork.org/organizations/susquehanna-folk-music-society](https://givelocalyork.org/organizations/susquehanna-folk-music-society) between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on May 7. Alternatively, donations can be sent by mail, payable to “SFMS” with the notation “Give Local York” in the memo line; offline donations must be received by May 7 in order to be counted in SFMS’s official Give Local York totals.



**Eileen Kozloff**

Donations in any amount are welcome, but there are special rewards for those who donate at these levels: *Folk Music Ambassador*, \$50 (receive festival stickers with fiddling fox logo); *Folk Music Aficionado*, \$100 (receive stickers and fiddling fox car magnet); *Event Sponsor*, \$250 (receive stickers, car magnet, super-handly festival tote bag with fiddling fox logo, and recognition on SFMS website for sponsoring a festival event of your choosing); and *Super Sponsor*, \$500 (receive Event Sponsor rewards and the opportunity to introduce your chosen artist from the stage, either virtually or in person).

All online donations to SFMS will be eligible for a partial match by the Cultural Alliance of York County, which will contribute a total of \$25,000 in matching funds to participating York County arts organizations. In addition, SFMS will receive a portion of a six-figure “Stretch Pool,” funded by Give Local York sponsors, based on its percentage of the total gifts (online and offline) contributed to



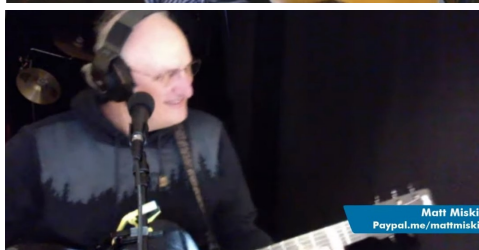
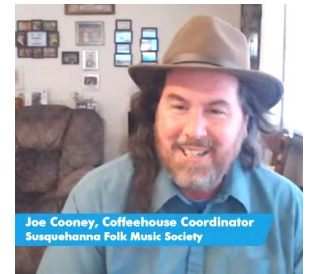
**Stu Miller**



participating nonprofits. SFMS will also compete for special cash prizes to be awarded throughout the day on May 7. Details about the prizes can be viewed at [givelocalyork.org/prizes](https://givelocalyork.org/prizes).

As part of Give Local York’s calendar of celebratory events, SFMS will be hosting an “open house” via Zoom on May 7 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (EDT). SFMS members and friends are invited to “zoom in” to hear some great music performed by SFMS members Eileen Kozloff, Stu Miller and Hank Imhof; to play along or listen to a concert and old-time jam by the superb Beverley Street String Band from Staunton, Va.; to test their knowledge in a folk music trivia contest emceed by Eric Imhof; to chat with other participants about what they’ve been up to during the pandemic and their plans for the summer; and to receive periodic updates on SFMS’s Give Local York fundraising. A complete schedule of the open house, including performer bios, can be viewed at [sfmsfolk.org/festival/GiveLocalYork\\_2021.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/festival/GiveLocalYork_2021.html).

Susquehanna Folk ONLINE



The live-streamed Winter Coffeehouse on March 14 featured 90 minutes of entertaining performances by (beginning at bottom left) Sarah Speed and Damian Fanella of The Redacted Unplugged, Matt Miskie, and Roman Barten-Sherman. Coffeehouse host Joe Cooney (above) conducted engaging Q & A sessions with the performers. It was the second of this season’s three Coffeehouses.

## Enter Liars Contest by June 14! Free Workshop May 12



If you love telling tall tales and shaggy dog stories, then consider entering the 2021 Susquehanna Folk Festival Liars Contest, which will be live-streamed on Wednesday, July 14, at 7 p.m. (EDT).

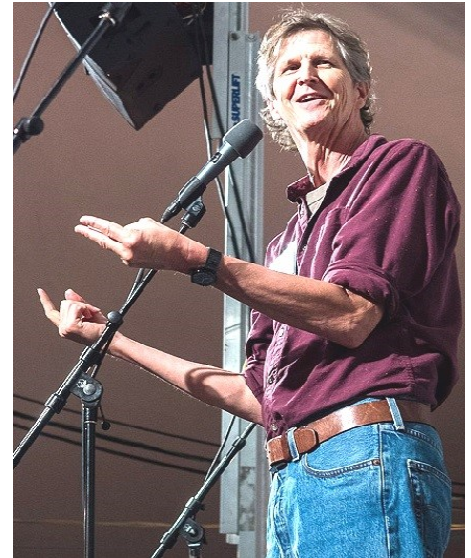
The Liars Contest is a juried competition, emceed this year by hilarious storyteller extraordinaire Andy Offutt Irwin, a ten-time Featured Teller at the National Storytelling Festival. A panel of three expert judges will award cash prizes to the top three liars. The contest will also feature a short performance by Irwin to keep everyone entertained (and then some) while the judges make their decision.

Stories should be about seven minutes long and must be humorous, family friendly and new to the festival. Stories related to the festival theme – Making Lemonade – will get a bonus in scoring.

The deadline for applications is June 14. Applicants must submit a sample video of their work. Nine contestants will be selected from among the applicants to participate in the live-streamed competition. To submit an application, please visit [sfmsfolk.org/festival/LiarsContest.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/festival/LiarsContest.html). There is no application fee.

On May 12 at 7 p.m. (EDT), Irwin will conduct a free, one-hour tall tales workshop via Zoom for prospective storytellers. Titled “Arcing to the Ridiculous,” the workshop will demonstrate the four points of the narrative arc and how to make it veer towards comically believable balderdash. Irwin is a master at glazing a story with wit, “the humor of intelligence,” to draw his listeners in, making them willing to be hornswoggled even before they know what’s happening. Attendance at the workshop is not a prerequisite to applying for the Liars Contest (but, hey, it can’t hurt). Advance registration is required for the workshop. To register, please visit [sfmsfolk.org/festival/TallTalesWorkshop.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/festival/TallTalesWorkshop.html).

For questions about the Liars Contest that can’t be answered from the information on the SFMS website, please contact Tom Juengst, the Liars Contest coordinator, at [juengst86@juno.com](mailto:juengst86@juno.com) or (717) 938-0141.



## Spring Coffeehouse, Sunday, May 16

The Susquehanna Folk Music Society will present its last virtual Coffeehouse of the 2020-21 season with a live-streamed Spring Coffeehouse on Sunday, May 16, at 7:30 p.m. (EDT). Hosted by Coffeehouse coordinator Joe Cooney, this free event will feature three superb regional performers, each playing a 20-minute set.

Carlisle native **Noah Fowler** is an accomplished young guitarist, singer-songwriter and music producer who plays Americana-tinged originals that he says have the “energy of rock, the lyricism of folk, the complexity of jazz, and the character of country.” Last year, his band, Fowler and Folk,



Annette Wasilik

was nominated for a Local Grammy Award by the Central Pennsylvania Music Hall of Fame. He is currently taking courses at Boston’s Berklee College of Music.

Hailing from Lancaster County’s pastures of plenty, **Matt Wenger**, a young singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, plays old-time traditional songs as well as the songs of musical revolutionaries such as Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs, Donovan, Johnny Cash, Woody Guthrie and Townes Van Zandt. He delivers songs honestly and acoustically, balladeering the way into tomorrow.



Matt Wenger

“Songwriting feels like diving for pearls. I sink down and let my emotions lead into melody which leads to phrasing and lyrics,” says Washington, D.C.-based **Annette Wasilik**. In the tradition of the poet songwriter, she weaves a spell both expansive and intimate, reminiscent of Linda Thompson or Natalie Merchant. Besides garnering awards for her own work, she leads multiple projects in the D.C. area to showcase singer-songwriters.

Viewers may watch the Spring Coffeehouse on SFMS’s website ([sfmsfolk.org/events/coffee\\_spring.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/events/coffee_spring.html)) or on SFMS’s YouTube channel ([sfmsfolk.org/youtube](https://sfmsfolk.org/youtube)). Although the Coffeehouse is free, donations to the performers’ tip jars are welcomed, as are donations to SFMS.



## Fàrsan, Saturday, May 29

Fàrsan, a quartet of exceptional young musicians who bring a modern sensibility to centuries-old Scottish Gaelic musical traditions, will present an exclusive online performance, with conversation afterwards, for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society on Saturday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m. (EDT).

Powered by four of the brightest voices in a new generation of traditional music, Fàrsan unites song, dance and instrumental music from the Gaelic traditions of Scotland and Cape Breton Island. The group's blend of fiddle, pipes, whistles, piano and accordion with percussive step dance and *puirt-à-beul* (mouth music) brings a sparkling energy to every performance. This energy is captured on Fàrsan's self-titled 2018 debut album.

The members of Fàrsan bring a wealth of talent and experience to the table. Màiri Britton, a singer and step dancer from Edinburgh, currently teaches Gaelic at St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and is in wide demand as a tutor for camps and workshops around the U.S., Canada and Scotland. Britton is also a member of the Scottish Gaelic trad group Huradal. She has performed at the Blas Festival, Edinburgh Trad Fest and Cape Breton's Kitchen Fest. She has shared the stage with such renowned traditional musicians as Mary Jane Lamond, Moira Smiley, Charlie McKerron of Capercaillie, and Adam Sutherland of Peatbog Fairies.

Lauded as "the new face of Scottish fiddling in the USA" (*The Living Tradition*), Boston native Katie McNally has made waves in both the American folk music scene and abroad since the release of her debut album "Flourish" in 2013. A student of acclaimed fiddler Hanneke Cassel, McNally has performed and taught fiddle classes across North America and Europe. She appears regularly as a soloist and has also been a member of Childsplay, a cross-genre fiddle ensemble, and Long Time Courting, an all-female trad quartet.

Oregon-based Elias Alexander is a singer, piper, whistle-player and actor who has been at the forefront of creativity with contemporary Celtic music in the U.S. When not performing with Fàrsan, Alexander fronts Bywater Band, another innovative Celtic quartet, and Soulsha, a nine-piece Afro-Celtic funk band. He tours extensively throughout the U.S., has appeared at Glasgow's Celtic Connections, and has performed with such Celtic luminaries as Alasdair Fraser, Carlos Nuñez and Gillebride MacMillan.

Neil Pearlman, who hails from Portland, Maine, is a step dancer, pianist, accordionist and host of the music podcast TradCafe. A vital and distinctive voice in contemporary Celtic music, Pearlman is recognized for his unique approach to the piano, fusing the traditional Cape Breton style with jazz harmony and the syncopations of funk. He began step dancing as a toddler and by age 11 was touring with his mother in Natalie MacMaster's music and dance extravaganza. Over the years, he has collaborated and recorded with many musicians, including his father Ed and his sister Lilly, both highly regarded fiddlers.

Fàrsan's performance for SFMS will feature a specially recorded group concert, followed by individual mini-concerts live-streamed from the members' homes. Afterwards, SFMS Board member Grace Lee will have a live chat with the group.

Advance registration is required for the concert. Donations are requested, with \$20 suggested for each viewer and \$25 per viewer as the supporter-level donation. To register, please visit [sfmsfolk.org/concerts/Farsan.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/concerts/Farsan.html).

Fàrsan's appearance for SFMS is supported by a grant from The Hall Foundation.



On March 13, We Banjo 3 (from left, Enda Scahill, Martin Howley, David Howley and Fergal Scahill) entertained its worldwide fans with a thrilling live-streamed concert from Dublin's stunning Pearse Lyons Distillery. SFMS was among the presenting arts organizations that promoted the show.



# Sierra Hull and Justin Moses, Saturday, June 5

The Susquehanna Folk Festival's first headliners feature two of the brightest stars in the bluegrass firmament. Sierra Hull and Justin Moses will appear on Saturday, June 5, for a mandolin workshop via Zoom at 4 p.m. (EDT) and a live-streamed concert, with conversation afterwards, at 7:30 p.m. (EDT).

Although still early in their careers, Hull and Moses are already legends on the trad scene, having received multiple honors from the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) as well as Grammy recognition. Both have been playing since they were children, establishing sterling reputations as singer-songwriters and multi-instrumentalists and sharing the stage with some of the biggest names in bluegrass. Married in 2017, the two often perform together as a duo, showcasing their instrumental prowess and close vocal harmonies.



Hailing from the tiny Tennessee hamlet of Byrdstown, Hull was a child prodigy by any definition. She made her Grand Ole Opry debut at age 10, recorded her first album at 11, and played Carnegie Hall at 12. As a teenager, she landed a record deal with Rounder Records. Her debut album on that label, 2008's "Secrets," led to the first of many nominations for IBMA Mandolin Player of the Year. In 2016, after nearly a decade of consecutive nominations, Hull became the first woman to win the award – and then claimed that prize again at the 2017 and 2018 IBMAs. Her widely acclaimed 2016 album, "Weighted Mind," a star-studded project produced by Béla Fleck, was nominated for a Grammy as Best Folk Album.

Hull's most recent album, 2020's "25 Trips," represents her reflection, at age 28, of the beauty, chaos and sometimes sorrow of growing up and getting older. The album has held the number one position on Billboard's Bluegrass charts, but it also ventures into the genres of folk-pop and alt-rock. As



*Glide Magazine* observed: "This is a hard one to categorize, but it doesn't matter. Hull's pure, angelic vocals mixed with superior musicianship and solid songwriting make this a riveting listen."

A native of Madisonville, Tennessee, Moses is celebrated as one of the most versatile musicians on the acoustic music scene. His musical journey began at age 6 when he picked up a mandolin and honed his skills playing in his family's band. He has toured with many of the finest bands in

bluegrass, including Blue Moon Rising, Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Blue Highway, The Gibson Brothers and The Dan Tyminski Band. He performed on Tyminski's album "Wheels," which won the 2009 IBMA Album of the Year and earned a Grammy nomination. As a prominent Nashville session musician, Moses has also recorded or shared the stage with such eminent artists as Emmylou Harris, Alison Krauss, Roseanne Cash, Marty Stuart, Garth Brooks, Vince Gill and Brad Paisley. In 2018 and 2020, he was named IBMA Dobro Player of the Year.

In January, Moses released "Fall Like Rain," his first full-length album, with appearances by Hull, Tyminski, Del McCoury, Shawn Lane and Jerry Douglas, among other bluegrass stalwarts. *Bluegrass Today* has called the album "some of the finest modern bluegrass you'll likely to hear."

The afternoon mandolin workshop on June 5 will be 90 minutes. Additional details about the workshop will be posted shortly on the Festival webpage for this event. Davis Tracy, coordinator of Dickinson College's Bluegrass on the Grass Festival, will chat with Hull and Moses after their live-streamed evening concert.

Separate advance registration is required for the workshop and concert. Admission is by donation, with the suggested donation per participant or viewer being \$20 and the supporter-level donation being \$25. To register, please visit [sfmfolk.org/festival/SierraHullJustinMoses.html](https://sfmfolk.org/festival/SierraHullJustinMoses.html). Neither presentation will be archived for later viewing.



## Beverley Street String Band, Wednesday, June 9

Described as “a juggernaut of musical energy,” the hugely entertaining Beverley Street String Band will perform a free, live-streamed program for the Susquehanna Folk Festival on Wednesday, June 9, at 2 p.m. (EDT).

The one-hour program, appropriate for the young as well as the young at heart, promises to be fun and fast-paced, full of silly sing-alongs, zippy fiddle and banjo music, physical comedy, funny poetry and awesome storytelling. The audience gets to participate in much of the action. This show will have everyone clapping, singing, smiling and dancing in the aisles – that is, in your living room!



The members of Beverley Street String Band are Janie Rothfield (fiddle, banjo, vocals), Allan Carr (guitar, vocals) and master children’s performer Bill Wellington (banjo). Rothfield has traveled around the world performing her unique blend of old-time and self-penned music. She has made over 15 recordings, both solo and with various ensembles. She is also in great demand as a teacher, conducting group workshops and “jumpstart” weekend music camps for fiddle, banjo and guitar. Carr, a native of Scotland, is a superb singer of traditional songs with an inventive and driving guitar style, adding a distinctive “old world” Celtic Scottish musical accent to the band’s sound and repertoire. He is also known for his witty stage patter. Wellington is a folk singer, storyteller, contra/square dance caller and wizard on all stringed instruments. He is the creator of Radio WOOF, an online broadcast of folktales, children’s music and children’s folklore.

Advance registration is required for admission to the free program. To register, please visit [sfmsfolk.org/festival/BeverleyStreet.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/festival/BeverleyStreet.html). The program will be archived for later viewing. SFMS is presenting the program in partnership with York County Libraries, Hershey Library and Dauphin County Libraries, and with financial support from Fred, Lois and Teresa Heagy.

## Old-Time Music Workshops

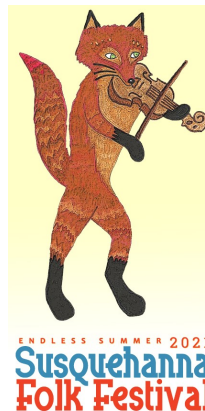
Beverley Street String Band’s Janie Rothfield will lead a series of online old-time fiddle and banjo workshops on Sunday evenings in June as part of the Susquehanna Folk Festival.

The 75-minute interactive workshops will be held via Zoom on June 6, 13, 20 and 27, with clawhammer banjo workshops at 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. (EDT) and Appalachian fiddle workshops at 8 - 9:15 p.m. (EDT).

The workshops are suitable for adults and teens. They are designed for novice or “low intermediate” players – not complete beginners – who have basic skills on their instrument. No prior experience with old-time music is required.

Rothfield has been teaching fiddle and clawhammer banjo for over 30 years to students from around the world, of all ages and abilities. During that time, she has developed a unique, easy and proven “learn by ear” approach for teaching instrumental music.

In the banjo workshops, participants will learn fundamental right-hand clawhammer techniques, such as bum-ditty, hammer-on’s, pull-off’s, slides, drop thumb and chords, plus a variety of tunes and songs from the old-time repertoire. Participants will need a 5-string banjo (with resonator removed) in good playing condition, a capo, tuner, strap and notebook.



They will also need long fingernails (i.e., beyond the finger pad) on their index and middle fingers; the nails may be natural, stick-on (square-shaped) or fashioned from a guitar pick turned around.

In the fiddle workshops, participants will learn a variety of tunes from the Appalachian-style repertoire, with a focus on different bowing and rhythm patterns, adding speed to one’s playing, chording for a tune or song, and expressing oneself on the instrument. Participants will need a violin and bow in good playing condition (with newer strings and rehaired bow if possible) as well as a tuner, rosin and notebook.

The workshops are being offered as a package of four sessions for each instrument. Recordings of each workshop session will be made available.

Advance registration is required for the workshops. Donations are requested, with the suggested amount for each participant being \$15 per session or \$60 total and the supporter-level amount being \$20 per session or \$80 total. To register, please visit [sfmsfolk.org/festival/OldTimeMusicWorkshops.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/festival/OldTimeMusicWorkshops.html).



## "Bringing It Home": The Power of Song, Wed., June 23



The Susquehanna Folk Festival introduces "Bringing It Home," a series of virtual conversations with local traditional artists who share their art and their stories about being an artist in central Pennsylvania. The first installment in the series, titled "The Power of Song," will be conducted via Zoom on Wednesday, June 23, at 7:30 p.m. (EDT).

Singing a song can affirm our beliefs, soothe a restless child, heal a wounded heart, unite a community, and move people to dance with joy. In "The Power of Song," SFMS folklorist Amy Skillman will chat with three local artists from SFMS's online Folk Artists Gallery about the powerful role songs play in their lives. **Rachita Nambiar**, a classical Indian dancer, will talk about the songs that shape traditional Bharatanatyam dance. **James "Mac" McFarland**, a singer with The Spiritual Messengers Warriors for God, will talk about lyrics as a form of faith. And **Mike Furjanic**, a violinist with the tamburaši group Sviraj, will share stories of connection and identity within the Balkan community.

Growing up in a family that supported classical arts, Nambiar began dancing as a young girl and spent her formative years in Chennai, the heart of Bharatanatyam in southeastern India. Bharatanatyam is an intricate, 2,000-year-old dance tradition in which grace, strength and precision are combined with engagingly expressive facial features, stunning costumes and lively music to bring Hindu mythology to life. Bharatanatyam had nearly died out during British rule, but India's independence in 1947 brought about a resurgence of support for this classical dance as emblematic of the country's best artistic practices.

Nambiar emigrated to the U.S. in 2001. Although trained as a nutritionist and biochemist, she continued to perform Bharatanatyam and shortly after relocating to Harrisburg in 2006, she founded the Rasika School of Dance, which has enabled a new generation of devotees to learn and perform this beautiful story-telling dance tradition.

McFarland is a vocalist and founding member of The Spiritual Messengers Warriors for God, a Harrisburg-based contemporary gospel ensemble formed in 1991. The Spiritual Messengers draw from the deep well of traditional African-American gospel with its harmonies, call-and-response, group singing and complex rhythms, but their modern sound is also influenced by musical genres such as R&B, soul, reggae and pop. The ensemble's composition is multi-racial, with members coming from all walks of life.

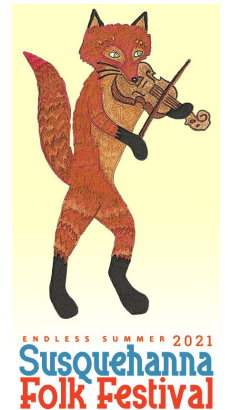
The songwriting of McFarland and others in The Spiritual Messengers is a collaborative effort that is informed by the members' individual life experiences, their abiding faith in God, and their commitment to music as an agent for social change. The songs also foster a strong sense of fellowship among The Spiritual Messengers, which they aim to share with the wider community at large.

Furjanic has been one of the tamburaši for nearly as long as he can remember. Tamburaši are musicians who play tambura, the musical genre that refers to tamburitza, the family of lute-like stringed instruments native to the Balkans. Furjanic and his bandmates in Sviraj have been fixtures in Steelton, where tambura has flourished in a community with deep cultural ties to Eastern Europe and a passion for its distinctive music. Furjanic learned tambura from older master musicians, who passed along their traditions and stories, and the music soon became a joyful obsession for Furjanic, as it has for many others in Steelton.

Although Sviraj plays on stages across the country to very appreciative audiences, they are happiest when performing at community events in their hometown, where their repertoire of ballads, popular songs and kolo (line dance) music creates a special bond between listener and performer.

For more biographical information about these artists, please visit [sfmsfolk.org/folkarts/artists\\_gallery.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/folkarts/artists_gallery.html).

Advance registration is required for admission to the free Zoom program. To register, please visit [sfmsfolk.org/festival/ThePowerOfSong.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/festival/ThePowerOfSong.html). The program will be archived for later viewing.







## Le Vent du Nord, Thursday, June 24

Le Vent du Nord, the award-winning Québécois folk band and long-time favorite of SFMS audiences, will appear for the Susquehanna Folk Festival at 7:30 p.m. (EDT) on Thursday, June 24 – Québec's National Holiday – in an exclusively recorded online concert from Theatre Belcourt in Baie-du-Febvre, Québec.

The highly acclaimed Le Vent du Nord ("Wind from the North") has long been a leading force in Québec's progressive francophone folk movement. The group's vast repertoire draws from both traditional sources and original compositions, while enhancing its hard-driving, soulful music (rooted in the Celtic diaspora) with a broad range of global influences.

Since its inception in 2002, Le Vent du Nord has enjoyed meteoric success, producing 10 critically acclaimed albums, performing well over 2,000 concerts for fans on four continents, appearing regularly on radio and television shows, and garnering an array of awards, including a Grand Prix du Disque from The Académie Charles Cros in Paris, two Junos (Canadian Grammys), a Félix award from ADISQ (Québec's music-industry association) and a Canadian Folk Music Award. The band has performed and collaborated with a diverse group of renowned artists, such as The Chieftains, Väsen, Julie Fowlis and Harry Manx.

Le Vent du Nord's five members are each extraordinary performers in their own right, bringing years of experience and tremendous musicianship to create Le Vent du Nord's distinctive sound and stage presence. Nicolas Boulerice (vocals, hurdy-gurdy and keyboards) is a long-time veteran of the folk circuit whose duo album with Olivier Demers became the genesis of Le Vent du Nord. He has worked alongside many noted Québécois performers and is co-founder and co-organizer of two major events, Festival Chants de Vieilles and La Veillée de l'avant-Veille, the latter a dance night extravaganza in Montreal. His exuberant hurdy-gurdy playing is a much-loved feature of Le Vent du Nord's live shows.

A native of Saint-Côme, Québec, with a music degree from Joliette College, Simon Beaudry (vocals, bouzouki and guitar) comes from a musical family. He performed early as a solo artist and then in a duo with his brother, playing the traditional repertoire and songs from the gifted songwriters in cafes around his hometown. He served as an accompanist for the dance troupe of Saint-Jacques-de-Montcalm before joining Le Vent du Nord. He is especially known for his smooth, honey-voiced singing and his rich playing style.

Olivier Demers (fiddle, foot percussion and vocals) comes from a broad musical background. He started out in chamber music before moving to jazz and later to traditional music. His great versatility allowed him to work with a wide range of artists and to compose music for the National Film Board as well as for commercials. Like Boulerice, he is instrumental in organizing Festival Chants de Vieilles and La Veillée de l'avant-Veille. He is co-founder of Roues et Archets, a record label specializing in traditional Québécois music.

Hailing from Lacolle, Québec, Réjean Brunet (accordion, bass, jaw harp and vocals) initially performed as a duo with his brother André. For many years, he was a member of La Volée d'Castors before joining Le Vent du Nord in 2007. He has also appeared on stage or in the studio with such noted traditional musicians as Sabin Jacques, Richard Forest and Gaston Nolet.

André Brunet (fiddle, foot percussion and vocals) began taking fiddle lessons at age 9. After a successful musical partnership with Réjean, he toured around the world for 10 years as a member of the seminal Québécois band La Bottine Souriante. He has also been a member of two other popular groups, De Temps Antan and Celtic Fiddle Festival. At the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition in 2008, he took home top honors as "Grand Master of Canada." Joining Le Vent du Nord in 2018, he was reunited with his brother.

Advance registration is required for admission to the concert. Donations are requested, with the suggested donation per viewer being \$20 and the supporter-level donation being \$25. A registration link will be added shortly to SFMS's webpage for this event ([sfmsfolk.org/festival/LeVentDuNord.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/festival/LeVentDuNord.html)). The concert will not be archived for later viewing.



## Box and String's "Cups & Crankies," Wed., June 30

The first full month of programming for the Susquehanna Folk Festival will end with hijinks and merriment when Box and String perform a free, live-streamed program that they're calling "Cups & Crankies: Homegrown Family Fun" on Wednesday, June 30, at 2 p.m. (EDT).

Box and String are Bill Quern and Sarah Gowan, two folks who really know how to have a good time. Their one-hour program will be an interactive workshop for all ages, featuring moving panoramas (crankies), games and crafts with ordinary paper cups, original and traditional songs about our animal friends, sprightly dancing and plenty of silliness.



Quern and Gowan are singers, musicians, tunesmiths, dancers and all-around entertainers. They perform traditional roots music from the American Appalachians, England, Scandinavia and France, as well as their own compositions. Between them they play guitar, mandolin, banjo, concertina, melodeon, fiddle, harmonica and jaw harp, plus a heavy dose of foot percussion. Their dance repertoire includes clogging, squares, contra, ceilidh, French, English Country, Morris and waltzes. They are members of several respected traditional dance bands, including Coracree, Cabriole,



Live Wire, FiddleKicks, Kingsessing Morris and Big Phat American K-Lee. They also like to make cool stuff, as our viewers will discover to their delight.

Advance registration is required for admission to the free program. To register, please visit [sfmsfolk.org/festival/CupsCrankies.html](https://sfmsfolk.org/festival/CupsCrankies.html). The program will be archived for later viewing.

SFMS is presenting the program in partnership with York County Libraries, Hershey Library and Dauphin County Libraries, and with financial support from Fred, Lois and Teresa Heagy.



**Watch our Website**  
for more festival events  
to be announced!

On our calendar so far:

**Andy's Wild  
Amphibian Show**  
Wednesday, July 14 at 2pm

**Liars Contest**  
Wednesday, July 14 at 7pm

**Colebrook Road**  
LIVE IN PERSON!  
Friday, August 27 at 7pm



Sweden's Väsén-Duo, comprising multi-instrumentalist Mikael Marin (left in group photo) and nyckelharpa-player Olov Johansson, performed a superb online concert on March 27 for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society. Afterwards, Bruce Sagan, an expert on traditional Scandinavian music, chatted with Marin and Johansson about their instruments and their art.





*Susquehanna Folk is  
YOUR grass-roots voice  
for folk music and dance!*

The financial support of our members enables us to present high-quality concerts, dances, workshops, and other events at modest prices.

Your membership can easily pay for itself!

A Susquehanna Folk membership also makes a unique and thoughtful gift.

Folk is a vibrant community, a living tradition shared with friends. Be a part of it.

## *Member benefits include:*

- substantial admission discount for most events
- family membership extends discounts to everyone in your household
- inclusion in SFMS's online Resource List
- the satisfaction of seeing traditional arts flourish in our community

## *Please consider becoming a member.*

Individual membership: \$25

Family membership: \$40

Memberships and donations are tax deductible, and will be acknowledged in writing. Your membership extends one year from the date you join. Multi-year memberships are welcome.

Get a membership form at:

[www.sfmsfolk.org/info/membership.html](http://www.sfmsfolk.org/info/membership.html) ♦ 717-745-6577

# Thanks to These New and Renewing Members

## New Members

Marvin & Anne Marie Beshore - New Cumberland  
Cliff Bryant & Rita Gildea-Bryant - Lancaster  
Barbara & Barry Carver - Carlisle  
Valerie Cornelius - Clermont, FL  
Susan Davis\* - Manche, France  
Wendy Dwyer - Canaan, NY  
Mark Eselby, Sr. - Phoenixville  
Morgan & Mary Ann Evans - Newville  
Melody Evans - Harrisburg  
Bruce & Joanne Ferraro - Dover  
Richard Fonte - Camp Hill  
Holly Foy\* - Bellfonte  
Jan & Gloria Haas - Dillsburg  
Robert Hammond - St. Augustine, FL  
Andrew Kegg - Lewisberry  
Betsy Lombardi - Santa Fe, NM  
Arden Miller - Selingsgrove  
Marcia & Dave Nesbit - Mechanicsburg  
Zarifah Spain - Bothell, WA  
Rev Storm - Greenfield, MA  
Robert & Barbara Strangfeld - Hanover  
Eleanor Sweeney - Newmanstown  
John Yeatts - Mechanicsburg  
Jane & Anne Zendarski - Lebanon

## Renewing Members

Terry Bachmann\* - Harrisburg  
Steve & Cindy Bortner\* - Palmyra

Carol Buskirk\* - Harrisburg  
Corine Charrier - Mechanicsburg  
Patrick Cooney - Lancaster  
Pam Cummings - Harrisburg  
James, Caroline & Liz Dillon - Harrisburg  
Lori & Eric Elliott - Mechanicsburg  
Anne Ford\* - Mechanicsburg  
Fred & Kathy Fries - Bloomsburg  
Robin & David Golberg - Camp Hill  
Steven Haldeman - Manheim  
Tom Harrison - Lewisburg  
M. Kay Heller\* - Shippensburg  
Andy Isaacs - Harrisburg  
Pete Jakubowski\* - Pottstown  
Lee Johnson - Camp Hill  
Ryck & Peggy Kaiser - York  
Paul Kasper\* - Waynesboro  
Debbi Kauffmann - Glenn Rock  
Eve Kermit & Victor Canfield - Hummelstown  
Bruce & Joan Kolka - Lemoyne  
Kristen Kyler - Hummelstown  
Gary LaBelle\* - Harrisburg  
Dale & Gail Laninga - Mechanicsburg  
Jay & Joan McBride - Carlisle  
Joe & Kerch McConlogue - Harrisburg  
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Chris & Debby Moore - Newport  
Katherine Pearson\* - Carlisle  
Mary Beth Phillips - Lemoyne  
Patrice Pickering - Camp Hill  
David & Jane Popko - Palmyra  
Loren Reinhold - Hummelstown  
Lauren Rock - Jacobus  
Gary & Diane Rothrock - Harrisburg  
Ruth Seitz & Nicholas Petchel - Enola  
Ronald Skrabut - Harrisburg  
Jean Snyder\* - Marysville  
Tom & Jody Tay - Harrisburg  
Robert Yahn & Jodi Lamhut - Lancaster  
Craig Zumbrun & Sandy Rushton - York

## A Special Thanks

\*SFMS thanks these members and others who wish to remain anonymous for donating an additional \$655.

## Are You Due to Renew?

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 [membership@sfmsfolk.org](mailto:membership@sfmsfolk.org). ~ Bruce Kolka, Membership Coordinator

Central Pennsylvania

# Traditions

the newsletter of the **Susquehanna Folk**  
MUSIC SOCIETY

378 Old York Road • New Cumberland, PA 17070

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Susquehanna Folk Music Society Memories



Scenes from recent online events. Clockwise from top left: Tom Paxton & The DonJuans (from left, Don Henry, Tom Paxton, Jon Vezner); Bill & the Belles (from left, Kalia Yeagle, Kris Truelsen, Aidan VanSuetendael); Lui Collins; Lui Collins and SFMS member Jim Heckman; Jon Vezner; Bill & the Belles; Tom Paxton; Lui Collins; Don Henry; and Bill & the Belles.