

# Buffalo Friends of Folk Music Membership Application

(please print)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$10       Family \$15       Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Buffalo Friends of Folk Music.

Please include me on the e-mail list for:       concerts       sing arounds

Please mail this form to: BFFM Membership  
c/o Dan D'Arcy  
3427 Town Line Road  
Lancaster, NY 14086



## Our Venue

The Village Meeting House is located at 5658 Main Street (at Mill) in the Village of Williamsville. Seating is general admission. Doors open one half hour before all shows. Parking is available behind the venue and on surrounding streets.



3427 Town Line Road  
Lancaster, NY 14086  
[www.bffm.org](http://www.bffm.org)



Bringing you fine acoustic music since 1981.

Fall - 2007

Dear Members,

We have another exciting schedule lined up for our 2007-08 Acoustic Concert Series. This season will feature returning favorites Tracy Grammer & Jim Henry, Roy Book Binder, Cliff Eberhardt, and The Nields; along with other top performers making their first trip to BFFM - Bill Morrissey, David Wilcox, and Kate Campbell. Christine Lavin is returning after several years to play a spring concert and Buffalo's own, *The Thirds*, will unite for our January concert. Opening acts will feature local and touring performers, beginning with Kathy Moriarty, Alison Pipitone and Christopher Monti for our fall season.

Please help support this season by renewing your membership soon. Just check the expiration date on your mailing label, if it's not 8/31/2008, please renew to the address below. You don't need to fill out a renewal form unless your information has changed. One can be found on the back of this newsletter, or you can print one from our website at [BFFM.org](http://BFFM.org).

Presale ticket reservations are now available for all concerts by e-mailing us at [BFFMconcerts@aol.com](mailto:BFFMconcerts@aol.com), calling (716) 684-2362, or mailing a request to the address below.

Many thanks go to our chairmen, concert staff and helpers for their work throughout the year to prepare and present our concerts and events. If you'd like to be a volunteer, please contact the person listed under your area of interest in the "Who Should I Contact" section of this newsletter.

We're looking forward to seeing all of you throughout the coming season,

BFFM Concerts  
c/o Dan D'Arcy  
3427 Town Line Road  
Lancaster, NY 14086

## Inside

**Tracy Grammer**      2  
Saturday, September 8, 2007  
\$16 General  
13 Member  
7 Student

**Bill Morrissey**      3  
Saturday, October 13, 2007  
\$18 General  
15 Member  
9 Student

**Roy Book Binder**      4  
Sunday, November 4, 2007  
\$15 General  
12 Member  
6 Student

**Cliff Eberhardt**      5  
Saturday, December 1, 2007  
\$15 General  
12 Member  
6 Student

**Paul Van Arsdale**      6

**Member Gigs**      7



**Tracy Grammer with Jim Henry**  
**Saturday, September 8, 2007, 8:00 pm**  
**Kathy Moriarty opening**

Born in Homestead, Florida and raised in southern California, Tracy Grammer comes from a musical family. But it was her guitar-playing father who was her first true inspiration.

At the age of nine, Grammer began choral and classical violin studies and led regional and school orchestras until she left home for the University of California, Berkeley. Once there, she gave up music while earning an English literature degree and serving as an administrator and graphic designer for the University.

*Tracy Grammer is a brilliant artist and unique individual. Her voice is distinctive, as is her mastery over the instruments she plays. - Joan Baez*

During a semester off, Grammer's father introduced her to Curtis Coleman, formerly of the *New Christy Minstrels*. Coleman invited her to perform with him at local pub and coffeehouse shows. "Performing revived a part of me that felt like it had been dormant for eternities," says Grammer. "I had abandoned music for several years and couldn't for the life of me figure out why." That fall, she took up the guitar, dusted off her violin, and began in earnest to hone her craft.

**Kathy Moriarty** - has been part of the musical scene in Buffalo since she fled Long Island to attend college here. Many bands, adventures & musical partnerships later, she remains a fine songwriter and singer, dedicated to evoking emotional truth within her audience.

Kathy has been involved in creating music for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst for the past few years as well as continuing local appearances. She

Grammer saw Dave Carter perform at a songwriter showcase in February 1996, just weeks after she moved to Portland, Oregon. "Here were stories that could stand alone as poetry, sung with compassion, intelligence, and a hint of Texas twang. Dave's entire presentation felt like home to me. I knew instantly that I was in the presence of greatness; I knew I had received my calling in life." They met on the way out the door, and within weeks were working up material with a band. They began touring in late 1997 and during the summer of 1998, recorded their first album, *When I Go*, in the kitchen of Grammer's apartment.

Folk music authority Andrew Calhoun of Waterbug Records comments: "No one sings Dave Carter's songs better than Tracy. He chose her to be the voice of his songs. His vision, their vision, was that they shared something they both saw. She is half the reason why they were great."

Jim Henry is currently on tour with Tracy Grammer. When the Oregon-based Grammer needed an east coast accompanist for a fall 2003 tour, she put out the call and Jim Henry was the first name on the lips of people in the know. In only three days, Henry learned the lion's share of the Dave Carter & Tracy Grammer repertoire. Grammer and Henry's first show at the Iron Horse in Northampton, Mass. went so well they have been playing together ever since. "I expected Jim Henry to be a solid player, but I was unprepared for his sensitivity and subtlety on stage, and that voice," Grammer explains. "He is a consummate musician, a strong and vital presence who understands what it means to serve the song, who knows how to build a mood. He has a stunning array of textures and styles at his fingertips, and impeccable taste. My show works because Jim Henry is on the gig. Period." Grammer's two most recent recordings, *The Verdant Mile* (2004) and *Flower of Avalon* (2005), feature Henry on dobro, mandolin, acoustic guitar, electric guitars and backing vocals — something on every track.

will be appearing at Peopleart with her old pal Katie Miller on October 12 and plans to (yes, finally!) produce an acoustic CD shortly. Early recordings can be sampled at [hellobuffalo.com/music](http://hellobuffalo.com/music).



**Looking Ahead: Winter-Spring 2008**

**The Thirds**

Saturday, January 12th - 8:00 pm  
 \$10 General / \$8 Member / \$4 Student

**The Nields**

Saturday, February 9th - 8:00 pm  
 \$16 General / \$13 Member / \$7 Student

**David Wilcox**

Saturday, March 8th - 8:00 pm  
 \$20 General / \$15 Member / \$9 Student

**Christine Lavin**

Friday, April 4th - 8:00 pm  
 \$20 General / \$15 Member / \$9 Student

**Kate Campbell**

Sunday, June 1st - 7:00 pm  
 \$15 General / \$12 Member / \$6 Student

**Members Concert**

Saturday, June 21st - 8:00 pm  
 Donations accepted.

**Member Gigs**

<b>Nan Hoffman</b>	<b>773-5315</b>	<b>Brian &amp; Peg</b>	<b>838-5650</b>
September 1	10:00am - Noon	September 15	7:00 pm
Williamsville Farmers' Market with Joe Tumino at the Williamsville Mill East Spring Street, Williamsville		Korner Kaffe 231 Aurora Street Lancaster Corner of Aurora & Como Park	
September 22	10:30am - Noon	<b>Jim Vozga</b>	<b>870-0003</b>
Clarence Hollow Farmers' Market with Joe Tumino 10717 Main Street, Clarence		August 31, September 29, October 27, November 24 Korner Kaffe 231 Aurora Street, Lancaster Corner of Aurora & Como Park	
December 8	7:00 pm	September 15, November 10	8:00 pm
Celebrations of the Heart 20th Anniversary Holiday Concert Lockport United Church of Christ 98 East Avenue, Lockport		Clarence Coffee Company Clarence Center & Goodrich Roads Clarence Center	
December 15	7:30 pm	September, 22, October 20, November 17	7:30 pm
Celebrations of the Heart 20th Anniversary Holiday Concert Eggertsville United Church of Christ Sheridan & Sweethome, Eggertsville		Orchard Perk 6183 Quaker Road (Route 20A) Orchard Park	
<b>Jean &amp; Keith</b>	<b>838-1918</b>	September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8	8:00 - 11:00 pm
		Cafe Allegro 1374 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo	



**SPECIAL  
Sunday 7:00 pm  
performance!**

**Roy Book Binder**  
**Sunday, November 4, 2007, 7:00 pm**  
**no opener**

Back in the early 1960s, Roy Book Binder learned his craft from the legendary blind street singer, Reverend Gary Davis, who was thrust into the national spotlight when Peter, Paul, and Mary recorded his song “If I Had My Way.” After two years of traveling the folk-blues circuit with his mentor, Roy struck out on his own. Along the way, he befriended Pink Anderson, an old Carolina medicine show performer (who by the way was the “Pink” in Pink Floyd, while Floyd Council, another Carolina bluesman, was the Floyd.) Pink’s stories and songs will forever be kept alive as long as Roy has a stage to perform on...

In his travels, Book Binder has run across quite a cast of characters, including three peg-legged dancers, and a 90 year old classic blues singer with a sparkling smile, who was known as, “Diamond Teeth” Mary (Bessie Smith’s half sister). All of these characters have become a part of a “Roy Book Binder show” which is a hilarious educational experience not to be missed!

Roy has toured with Bonnie Raitt, Hot Tuna, and J.J. Cale. He has been invited to many festivals including: The National StoryTelling Festival, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the Chicago Blues Festival, and MerleFest where he has hosted the acoustic blues stage for the past twelve years.

Roy has been interviewed by Terry Gross on NPR’s *Fresh Air*, featured on the Emmy award winning

*Nobody writes in the idiom better than Roy Book Binder. He is a master player, singer, writer and teller of tales... true tales. -Jorma Kaukonen*

segment of the PBS TV series *EGG Art in America*, and appeared more than 30 times on Ralph Emory’s highly regarded TV series, *Nashville Now*. He has also been included in *The Big Book of Blues*, as well as *The Blues Who’s Who!!* Roy has been continually touring across America in his tour bus, which has been his home for the last thirty years, as well as performing internationally.

*Hey Kids.*

*Where is the Summer going? Since I last wrote, we have finished up a few dates in NC, and a week in Jonesborough, TN, at The National Storytelling Center. That was very cool. A week living in ‘The Storytelling Cottage’, a 5 minute walk from the Center, where I did an hour show every day to enthusiastic audiences from all over the country. The theater seats only a 100 but it is a beautiful venue with great sound and ambiance.*

*Local restaurants and coffee shops opened their doors to us and made us feel like locals. Very nice... We had access to the swimming pool and Jacuzzi at the new motel and really enjoyed our evening swims. Nancy enjoyed stretching out in the cottage and if Mama is happy....*

*Stopped in at The Down Home in Johnson City and visited with the gang there. Hard to believe that they have been a music room for 33 years! Seems like yesterday that I first played there. We regretfully had to hit the road before Bill Joe Shaver took the stage. He is one of my favorite entertainers.*

*We made our way North to Cleveland and visited with our Pals there before flying home for a week in St. Petersburg. Nice to get home and see out house. While we were gone we had the cottage painted and our patio area made into a courtyard with pavers and such. Sitting in our ‘yard’ felt like we were in New Orleans or at a Caribbean resort! All the plumeria’s and elephant ears etc. were in full bloom and it did look like a tropical paradise. We both grinned all week long. Thanks to our friend Bruno for all his hard work.*

*I was happy to drive ‘The Bug’ around town, what a treat to have air conditioning in a VW convertible. And was it hot....boy howdy! Maureen got home from her travels a few days after we did. We were so glad to see her again! Hard to believe we were all away from St. Pete for so long.*

*Flew back to Cleveland to pick up ‘the bus’ and start East. Busy times coming up before the trip to the UK. Especially looking forward to my week end at The Fur Peace Ranch at the end of the month.*

*So farewell for now, hope to see you on the road.*



**Cliff Eberhardt**  
**Saturday, December 1, 2007, 8:00 pm**  
**Christopher Monti opening**

Cliff Eberhardt knew by age seven that he was going to be a singer and songwriter. Growing up in Berwyn, PA, he and his brothers sang together and their parents played instruments. His dad introduced him to the guitar and he quickly taught himself to play. Cliff was fortunate enough to live close to the Main Point (one of the best folk clubs on the East Coast), and received an early and impressive tutorial in acoustic music, listening to the likes of James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Bruce Springsteen, Howlin’ Wolf, Muddy Waters, Bonnie Raitt, and Mississippi John Hurt. At the same time, he was also listening to great pop songwriters like Cole Porter, the Gershwins, and Rodgers and Hart, which explain his penchant for great melodies and clever lyrical twists.

At fifteen, Cliff and his brother, Geoff, began touring as an acoustic duo, playing the Eastern club circuit until Cliff turned twenty-one and moved to Carbondale, Illinois. There he found space to develop his own voice within a vibrant and supportive music



**Christopher Monti** is a writer and a singer whose original material covers a lot of stylistic ground. “My music has some old time folkiness, some country-blues, some African music, some rock and roll, some hippie music, some Indian music, a sense of melodic

scene that included Shawn Colvin. After a couple of years there and a short stay in Colorado, he moved to New York in 1978.

Cliff worked steadily on his music throughout the 80’s, doing solo gigs and studio work, and playing guitar on the road with Richie Havens, Melanie and others. Singing advertising jingles for products like Coke, Miller Beer and Chevrolet (“The Heartbeat of America” campaign) allowed him to devote more time to his songwriting.

In 1990 Cliff’s song, “My Father’s Shoes,” appeared on Windham Hill’s Legacy collection, leading to a deal with the label. They released his first album, *The Long Road* in 1990. He followed with two more records on Windham Hill before releasing, *12 Songs of Good and Evil* (1997) on Red House Records. Since then, Cliff has released three albums on the label, including his latest, *The High Above and the Down Below*.

*Behind the humor lurks a musical master.*  
- Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

*The High Above and the Down Below* has been a long time coming. After spending a few years recovering from a severe car accident, which result-

ed in 2 back surgeries and months of physical therapy, Cliff returned to his writing renewed with a fresh perspective on the music he wanted to make. “I wasn’t trying to write to fit into a specific genre or to please a label or manager or anyone else but me,” he says. “After my accident, I realized it’s not about where you are going but where you are that matters. These songs are about where I am now.” The opening song “The High Above and the Down Below” is about just that. “Don’t waste your time on nursery rhymes, try living while you’re here,” Cliff’s bluesy voice cries.

improvisation, and a good beat,” he says.

Chris is a multi-instrumentalist who plays acoustic and electric guitar, banjo, harmonica, dobro, and piano. In 2006 he had the pleasure of opening two weeks worth of shows for blues great, Paul Geremia. His most recent album, *Locust Grove*, is a live, solo studio recording. He performs in a variety of original acoustic and electric groups in Rhode Island and plans to have a new CD out in the fall.

## Local Hammered Dulcimer Player Wows Our Audience

The May 12, 2007 BFFM concert with John McCutcheon was truly memorable. Not only did it feature one of folk music's most popular and talented performers, it also brought the reunion of two of the nation's most renowned dulcimer players. Eighty-six year old, local musician, Paul Van Arsdale, made a special appearance at the concert to join McCutcheon, his one-time dulcimer student, on stage. The two performed traditional pieces together before Paul took the stage for a solo, cameo appearance that was nothing short of breathtaking.

Paul was born October 19, 1920; the sixth of eleven children. He and his brothers, Phil and Sterl, learned to play hammered dulcimer from their grandfather, Jesse R. Martin, who was discovered in 1925 by agents working for Henry Ford. Ford was unhappy with the popularity of Jazz and had started a campaign to repopularize the dances and music of his youth. Martin visited Ford in December 1925 and became a local celebrity. For the next few years he played throughout western New York and northwestern Pennsylvania. In 1930 he went to live with his daughter's family, and for the next four or five years (until he went to a nursing home) he spent evenings teaching grandson, Paul, his tunes and playing style.

The repertoire that Paul learned from his grandfather was mostly dance music - jigs, reels, waltzes, and schottisches. After graduating from high school, Paul began training as a machinist. He married his wife, Fern, and started a family. For many years he played only rarely - just alone, for fun, and at annual Van Arsdale family reunions; though he continued to learn new tunes over the years from friends, recordings, and the radio. He did make one appearance on a talent show on a Buffalo television station in 1950.

In 1977 Paul's daughter, Janet, heard John McCutcheon playing a concert at the University at Buffalo. She introduced John to her father. (By that time John had already appeared at the 1977 Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife and at 1976 dulcimer events like the meeting of the Original Dulcimer Players Club, in Bridgeport, Michigan.) Paul soon became John's mentor on the dulcimer, passing his knowledge of the instrument, lore, tunes and history to John.

Paul uses long, flexible hammers made from ground-down hack-saw blades, with wooden blocks attached to the ends. The wooden blocks are then covered with pieces of thin glove leather. These traditional hammers are very similar in design to the ones his grandfather used and contribute to Paul's unique style.

There are two sources for transcriptions of Paul's tunes. His *Dulcimer Heritage* album comes with a book with all of the tunes on the album in standard notation. In addition, a collection of his tunes was published in 1987 as *Tunes for the Hammered Dulcimer, as Played by Paul Van Arsdale*, with transcriptions by Jean Lewis. The book contains 36 tunes, including some of the ones Paul learned from his grandfather, and three of his own compositions.

### Who Should I Contact?

#### Sing Arounds

Wilda Levin 838-2671  
wilda.730@verizon.net

Cliff Olson 877-0166

#### Concert Bookings

Dan D'Arcy 684-2362  
BFFMconcerts@aol.com

#### Membership

Sydneymarie Putnam 823-4191  
sydneymarie821@yahoo.com

#### Treasury

Gary Stevens 833-7138

#### Publicity

Dan D'Arcy 684-2362  
BFFMconcerts@aol.com

#### Newsletter

Mary Keough  
mkeough@localnet.com

Nancy Eckerson  
folknanc@yahoo.com

#### Lighting & Stage

Dan D'Arcy 684-2362  
BFFMconcerts@aol.com

#### Sound

Keith & Nan Hoffman 773-5315  
Charles Grammer

**Website** www.BFFM.org

Jack Freer folkmusic@bfn.org

#### Concert Refreshments

Peg Maloy soptwo@verizon.net



### Bill Morrissey

Saturday, October 13, 2007, 8:00 pm

Alison Pipitone opening.

Bill Morrissey's astute lyrical gifts and graceful, understated melodies have put him on festival stages across the world; into theatres, concert halls, and coffeehouses; garnered him critical acclaim from magazines, authors, and music peers; and have earned him two Grammy nominations.

Morrissey has created as impressive a body of work as any songwriter today, a collection of finely-honed songs that match his economy of lyric and melody with a writer's gift for storytelling. His empathetic knack for capturing the harshness and small sadness of the characters in his songs is tempered by his wry sense of humor, such that many of his songs leave the listener with a smile.

Over the course of his long career, two of Bill Morrissey's ten albums have received Grammy nomi-

nations and several have earned 4-star reviews in *Rolling Stone* as well as equal accolades in nearly every other major national publication. Stephen Holden, for the *New York Times*, wrote, "Mr. Morrissey's songs have the force of poetry...a terseness, precision of detail and a tone of laconic understatement that relate his lyrics to the fiction of writers like Raymond Carver and Richard Ford." It is not surprising that he is also the author of the novel, *Edson*, (Random House/Alfred A. Knopf 1996) and the recently completed *Imaginary Runner*.

On stage, Bill mixes the seriousness and urgency of his songs with a wry, acerbic wit. His often improvised and deadpan monologues and introductions provide a perfect balance to his live shows.

Cutting his teeth on the American country blues of Mississippi John Hurt and Robert Johnson; the pure country of Hank Williams; the Kansas City of Count Basie and Lester Young; and, of course, the New York folk songwriters of the 1960s, Bill digested all this great diversity and found his own unique voice.

Bill's new album, "Come Running" (produced by Bill Morrissey and Billy Conway of Morphine) has just been released by Bill on his new label, Turn and Spin Media. "Come Running" features guitar work by Dave Alvin and the remaining members of Morphine, Billy Conway and Dana Colley. Bill plans on

releasing a full collection of albums, books and guitar tabs on this new label.

Bill Morrissey makes his home in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

*Morrissey sings in a surprisingly flexible deep voice. His songs are full of humor and pathos, expressed in keenly observed details. This is small-town life, sometimes desperate, sometimes hopeful, but always presented in new, unexpected ways.*  
- William Ruhlmann



### Alison Pipitone

has been a performing songwriter for over 20 years.

From Los Angeles to Buffalo, and pretty much everywhere in between, she has

developed a strong and loyal following. Fans of her music (seven CDs released to date) include folkies and rockers, college kids and bikers, gays and straights, blue collars and white collars. Whether with her band or solo, Pipitone continues a tradition of American music that chooses honesty and poignancy over pomp and flash.