

Buffalo Friends of Folk Music Membership Application (please print)

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

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Individual \$10 Family \$15 Donation _____

Make check payable to Buffalo Friends of Folk Music.

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

I would like to receive my newsletter via: US mail BFFM website (paperless)

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



3427 Town Line Road
Lancaster, NY 14086
www.bffm.org

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.



Bringing you fine acoustic music since 1981.

Fall - 2008

Dear Members,

The BFFM 2008-09 Acoustic Concert Series is almost in place, with just two dates remaining to book for the winter-spring season. Our series so far will feature Lynn Miles, Steve Forbert, Sparky & Rhonda Rucker, Joe Crookston, Red Molly, and Bill Staines, with local performers, Noa Bursie, Alan Whitney, Maria Sebastian, Davey O. , Mari McNeil, Doug Yeomens, Nan Hoffman & Joe Tumino, and others. So mark your calendars and enjoy the ride.

Please help support this season by renewing your membership soon. Just check the date on your mailing label, if it's not 8/31/2009, please renew. You don't need to fill out a renewal form unless your information has changed. If needed, one can be found on the back of this newsletter or you can print one from our website at BFFM.org.

Our thanks go to Keith Hoffman for taking on the role of production coordinator for this season. Many loose ends need to be gathered to put on concert night, thank you Keith for taking this on. Our thanks also go to BFFM's concert and event volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Volunteer organizations like this are a rare gift to Buffalo's music community. If you're interested in helping out on concert night please contact Keith at keith@nanhoffman.com. For general volunteering please e-mail me at BFFMconcerts@aol.com.

And, a very heartfelt thank you to Wilda Levin as she caps her many years as head of our singarounds. Her love of music, dedication, and most of all her presence has helped keep this era of singarounds going for over fourteen years now. Whether at her farm, in a member's home or in a coffee shop, these events have always been special.

Be sure to visit BFFM.org throughout the season for the latest information on concerts, singarounds, member gigs, and other goings-on. David Stanton is always adding new pages and helpful links, including the new bulletin board for community news and events. This site is also the place to keep in touch if the snow flies on concert night.

We're looking forward to seeing you all soon,

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Lynn Miles
Saturday, September 20, 2008, 8:00 pm
Mari McNeil opening.

Born outside Montreal in Sweetsburg, Quebec, Lynn Miles grew up in a musical home. Her father played the harmonica and listened to his jazz collection while her mother was a lover of both opera and country music. Miles' mother recalled once that she knew when Lynn had finally fallen asleep in her crib: Lynn stopped singing. During her elementary school years, Miles learned guitar, violin, flute and piano. She began performing in public at around the age of sixteen and when she was in her early twenties she studied with an opera singer to strengthen her voice and enrolled for a time at Carleton University in Ottawa where she studied classical music history and theory. Years later, Miles put this training to good use while serving as a

voice teacher at the Ottawa Folklore Center. While at the center, she taught voice to many students including a then fourteen-year-old Alanis Morissette. The lessons came just prior to the making of Morissette's first album.

Though Miles had been writing her own songs since the age of 10, she didn't end up recording any of her own material until 1987 when she cut 9 original compositions for a demo at Happyrock Studio in Ottawa. An avid reader and music-lover, those early recordings were inspired by the books she loved to read, and the music she listened to on the radio.

Miles continues to draw inspiration from music and literature to this day. On her latest album Love Sweet Love for example, the opening track, "Flames of Love," was inspired by a long period of reading Sufi poetry. "I'm fascinated by the way the Sufis write

about love," Miles says. "Their love is spiritual, and I reinterpreted it and wrote 'Flames of Love,' about jumping in the fire, letting go and not being afraid and letting it get hot and not caring about what other people think. Just really going for it." The idea – and the song itself – is exhilarating and exciting, yet full of hidden corners and alleyways from where the joy can be blindsided without notice. But as Miles notes, "You don't learn from happiness."

Lynne has been awarded several major awards including the 2005 Canadian Folk Award for her CD Love Sweet Love; Best English Songwriter and Best Contemporary Singer and a 2003 Juno Award, Best Roots and Traditional Album (Solo) for her CD, Unravel.

Canadian songbird Lynn Miles sings lusciously on her fifth country-tinged, folk-pop album. Smart lyrics abound as she expounds on love lost and gained, sketched with dark hues and rising tempos.
Billboard Magazine

Mari Anderson, after a brief sabbatical, awoke to realize she was really Mari McNeil. Mari is a solo acoustic performer who plays original music. Mature, measured reflections on life, her music is written for adults. Mari's graceful folk-pop covers the ordinary, everyday moments that make up a post-40-year-old's life. Her music has been described as "healing" and "hopeful." She has released two CDs; "Heaven on

Earth" and "Visible by Night." She can be seen performing around Western New York coffeehouses and at folk festivals.



Steve Forbert
Saturday, October 11, 2008, 8:00 pm
No opener.

During the past three decades (and through no less than 24 albums), Nashville singer-songwriter Steve Forbert has been charting the choppy waters of American life from youth to middle age with compelling songs that are at once disarmingly personal and universally true. Taking the stance of a compassionate everyman with a keen eye for detail, Steve weaves together strands of folk, rock, country, and R&B as he delivers his take on life's trials, tribulations, and discoveries with direct, honest energy and enduring optimism.

Growing up in Meridian, Mississippi, Steve Forbert first picked up the guitar at age 10 and spent his high school years playing in a variety of local bands. Frustrated with his later job as a truck driver, the restless singer/songwriter moved at 21 to New York City, where he performed for spare change in Grand Central Station before working his way up through the Manhattan club circuit. Performing at Folk City and eventually opening for artists like Talking Heads and John Cale at CBGB, Forbert

became something of a local sensation and signed his first record deal with the CBS-distributed label Nempereor.

While critics tagged him "the next Dylan," Forbert never put too much stock in the comparison and forged his own path, expanding his audience substantially with 1979's commercial breakthrough Jackrabbit Slim and his era defining Top Ten single "Romeo's Tune."

Strange Names & New Sensations is his eleventh release of the decade, a roll that began with Evergreen Boy in 2000 and included four live recordings in addition to a Grammy nomination for Best Traditional Folk Album for Any Old Time: Songs Of Jimmy Rodgers--a tribute to "America's Blue Yodeler" who was the first country music superstar (and a native of Forbert's hometown, Meridian). In 2003, Geffen released Rock While I Can Rock: The Geffen Years, which featured material from two albums Forbert released on the label, 1988's Streets Of This Town and 1992's The American In Me. In October of 2006, Forbert was inducted into the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame.

Steve Forbert remains a master of songs offering clear-eyed insight, plain-spoken, heartfelt eloquence, and the ever-present romantic optimism that has endeared him to two generations of folk/rock fans.

Says Forbert, "From the beginning of my career thirty years ago, I've always been about the songs. I like the challenge of writing good songs that reflect new things that are going on around me. But the songs can't exist only on paper. Once I'm happy with what I've written, I work hard to make sure I've got a strong recording of it. I'm very happy with the results on Strange Names, which was recorded strictly with friends of mine (most of them longtime ones). Music should be truthful and real, but it should also be healing and uplifting. Since I was, say, five years old, I've been intrigued by songs. They've got so much power and information packed into just a few minutes. All these years later, I'm glad to still be in the world of songs."

In his song called "Talking New Bob Dylan," Loudon Wainwright III sings, "I got a deal and so did John Prine, Steve Forbert and Springsteen all in a line/They were lookin' for you, signing up others/'We were 'new Bob Dylans!..."



Sparkey & Rhonda Rucker
Saturday, November 1, 2008, 8:00 pm
Nan Hoffman & Joe Tumino opening.

Sparkey and Rhonda Rucker perform throughout the U.S. as well as overseas, singing songs and telling stories from the American folk tradition. Sparkey Rucker has been performing over forty years and is internationally recognized as a leading folklorist, musician, historian, storyteller, and author. He accompanies himself with fingerstyle picking and bottleneck blues guitar, banjo, and spoons. Rhonda Rucker is an accomplished harmonica, piano, banjo, and bones player, and also adds vocal harmonies to their songs.

Sparkey and Rhonda are sure to deliver an uplifting presentation of toe-tapping music spiced with humor, history, and tall tales. They take their audience on an educational and emotional journey that ranges from poignant stories of slavery and war to an amusing rendition of a Brer Rabbit tale or their witty com-

mentaries on current events. Their music includes a variety of old-time blues, slave songs, Appalachian music, spirituals, ballads, work songs, Civil War music, cowboy music, railroad songs, and a few of their own original compositions.

Sparkey and Rhonda have numerous recordings, and their 1991 release, Treasures and Tears, was nominated for the W.C. Handy Award for Best Traditional Recording. They have also contributed music to the syndicated television miniseries, The Wild West, (directed by Kieth Merrill). Sparkey's unique renditions of John Henry and Jesse James were used in the National Geographic Society's 1994 video entitled Storytelling in North America. Sparkey Rucker has also appeared on numerous radio programs, including National Public Radio's Morning Edition, Prairie Home Companion, and Mountain Stage. He also performed in Carry It On and Amazing Grace: Music in America, two videos produced by the Public Broadcasting System.

Sparkey is a natural storyteller, having grown up hearing his father, uncles, and other family members endlessly telling tales. Sparkey tells stories by himself, but Sparkey and Rhonda also tell stories together (in tandem), always adding life and humor to the characters and tricksters in their Brer Rabbit tales, Jack Tales, High John the Conqueror stories, preacher tales, and family stories.

Sparkey and Rhonda weave their music into captivating stories that the history books don't always tell, and they share this knowledge in many schools and colleges. Their educational programs span over three centuries of African-American history, including slavery, the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, the westward migration, the birth of blues music, and the Civil Rights Movement. Each era is interspersed with stories and popular songs from the time period, celebrating the diversity of the nation's history.

Nan Hoffman & Joe Tumino perform throughout the year for audiences of all ages. Their rich blend of vocal harmonies and guitars accompanies a repertoire that covers a wide range of folk songs and ballads, both contemporary and traditional, including topical, spiritual, and humorous songs. Nan, a BFFM co-founder, and Joe are both from the Buffalo area and have performed for many years, separately and together, in coffee houses and festivals, schools and church-

es, parks and community centers, and anywhere people gather to enjoy good music. Their programs are full and varied, fun and informative, and often encourage audience participation.



Joe Crookston
Saturday, November 22, 2008, 8:00 pm
Doug Yeomans opening.

2008 Falcon Ridge top-three "most wanted" artist, Joe Crookston, has been on BFFM's return list since performing here in February of 2007. His latest release, Able Baker Charlie and Dog, a follow up to his critically acclaimed 2004 recording, Fall Down as the Rain, reached #1 on folk/acoustic radio charts this spring.

"It seems Joe Crookston can hardly set a foot wrong these days. Several of his songs have made it into the finals of some of the more prestigious national songwriting competitions; John Lennon, Mountain Stage, Great American Song Contest. The audience at the 2007 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival

Joe's songs are powerful, simple, distilled lyrical paintings weaving together cycles of life and decay, cycles of joy and pain, and eventually they thread the needle through all of us... He is a commanding, charismatic performer. Be glad Joe's one of the good guys, because otherwise, he'd be dangerous.

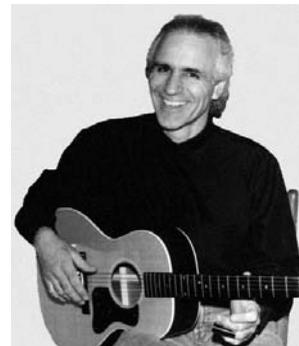
Victory Music Review

named him one of the top three 'most wanted' emerging artists. This honor landed him a spot on the 2008 Falcon Ridge Preview Tour. Joe Crookston's star is rising. Versatile songwriting, excellent musicianship and a charismatic stage presence should earn him a permanent place on the national folk scene," noted the Spring 2008 edition of MaineFolkMusic.com

Now living in Ithaca, NY, Joe Crookston's music is deeply rooted in the grand celebration of life, death, ancestry and the interconnectedness of us all. Born and raised in Northeast Ohio, with Hungarian musical roots, he inherited his love of music and song from his late mother, a prolific songwriter and accordion player. In 1987, after a weekend at the Kent State Folk Festival listening to John McCutcheon, The Horseflies' fiery fiddles and Arlo Guthrie's storytelling, Joe sold his electric guitar, bought a steel string and never looked back, his life changed forever.

His keen musicianship as guitarist, banjo player, fiddler, singer and songwriter fuse contemporary and traditional styles, and his writing simply and beautifully paints pictures with words.

Joe's music continues to fill the airwaves of public radio stations across the US, and his songs have been featured on National Public Radio's All Songs Considered, as well as Syndicated Minnesota Public Radio. He has shared festival stages with the likes of Livingston Taylor, John McCutcheon, Arlo Guthrie, Tim Reynolds, Claudia Schmidt and many others.



Doug Yeomans - Buffalo's Doug Yeomans entertains audiences locally and nationally in a variety of bands and music formats. Whether touring nationally with "Ring of Fire" (the music and life of Jonny Cash), touring with his band Doug Yeomans

and the Lo Blu Flame, entertaining children along with Geoff Perry as The Stringmen, entering guitar competitions, recording, playing solo, or with the band Hills Brothers, the past 30+ years has shown Doug to be a talented and versatile performer. He's the 2001 winner of the North American Guitar Competition and has twice won Buffalo Music Awards, 2001 for Best Blues Guitarist and 1990 for Best Country Lead Guitarist. His CDs are Down to the Roots, First Flight and Bayou Blues (with Jim Whitford).

Singers' Circle of Local Artists

Saturday, January 17, 2009, 8:00 pm



Noa Bursie

Singer/Songwriter Noa Bursie is proud to say she was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. The youngest of nine children, Noa had a mother who worked Bingo and boasted the tastiest Friday night fish fry on the East Side; a father who was a crane operator at Bethlehem Steel; five altar boy brothers; and three sisters committed to the Legion of Mary by the time they could walk.

Though her experiences have taken her across the country and half-way around the world,

Noa's roots are here and they are undeniable. Subtle undertones of spice and rhythm tell the tale of a well-traveled soul fluent in the universal language of passion and youthful angst while the small town, parochial school girl peeks from



Maria Sebastian

An excerpt from Roger McGuinn's (*The Byrds*) blog page, written by his wife, Camilla:

"The previous time we were in Buffalo, Roger and I were walking through the Walden Galleria Mall and heard the sound of a won-

derful voice drifting our way. The mall was celebrating something, as malls often do, with a stage and music. An attractive woman was standing bravely on stage by herself singing her heart out to shoppers passing on their way. We stood by a store window and listened to her last song. Roger loved her voice. I approached her and asked her name and contact information telling her that my husband would someday like to have her as his opening act. Later in the evening at Rockwell Hall, I mentioned to Jeff, the promoter, that Roger would like to have Maria Sebastian open for him the next time he played the venue. Jeff was familiar with Maria and made a note of Roger's request. When this show was scheduled, Jeff arranged for Maria to be on the bill. I opened The Buffalo News on March 30 looking for advertisements for Roger's show. The headline that I saw on the front page of the

around the corner with a wry grin.

Bursie is fond of recalling stories that her Louisiana-born mother often told about her grandfather who traveled throughout the South in the 30's and 40's playing and living the blues. A self-taught guitarist, like her grandfather, Noa plays with unabashed authority and a natural ease, "...like she was born with the instrument in her hand and her grand-daddy's 'mantle' across her shoulders." Her music is a rich and refreshingly unconventional composite of jazz, acoustic new soul, folk, blues, and roots genres. Infused with supple wit and astute, poetic lyricism, the material flows deftly from history and social commentary, politics and the media, to relationships and even extraterrestrials, often evoking comparisons with artists like Rickie Lee Jones, Joan Armatrading, or John Mayer.

entertainment section was, "THE WEEK: Maria Sebastian is a storyteller with a guitar." Mark Sommer, a reporter we have worked with for years, interviewed Maria about how she became the opening act for Roger McGuinn. She told Mark about the day a woman approached her about opening for her husband but she didn't recognize the musician's name. That night she Googled him and was shocked and embarrassed. She wasn't the first one to be caught unaware by this quiet troubadour. Maria was the sparkling local celebrity singing to a happy hometown crowd at Rockwell Hall on March 30, 2007. Roger enjoyed listening to her through the speakers in his dressing room. I enjoyed musicians coming to my "lemonade stand" and letting me know when they would be performing at the mall. There were a lot of smiles leaving the venue that night."

Included in Maria's list of eight Buffalo Music Awards are Solo Artist 2003 and Female Rock Vocalist 2004. She also received Western New York's People's Choice Award: Top Solo Artist 2004.

...Bursie is a wonderful writer, a purveyor of wide-open soundscapes and a conduit for considerable soul. "Familiar Addiction" is impeccably recorded and produced. It proves Bursie to be one of the finest songwriters our neck of the woods has yet produced.
Jeff Miers, Buffalo News
Pop Music Critic

Maria Sebastian is one of the area's most accomplished singers. "Maybe It's Just Me" furthers that claim... This woman sure knows how to sing the heck out of a song!"
Bob Sylvestri (bestofwny)



Allan Whitney

Veteran Singer Songwriter, Alan Whitney's songs have been recorded by major label artists, and featured in films, radio and television. He has toured and

performed as a singer songwriter in well known folk and Americana concert series venues, clubs, house concerts, festivals and radio shows across the US and Europe.

Whitney's music defies labels and categorization. He blends his own sharp sense of song with Americana roots sounds from blues to country and rock while reaching far beyond its borders. Alan's songs tell stories that are tender, funny, exuberant, sexy, spiritual and sometimes strange. Keeping his sound simple, rhythmic and organic to frame his soulful, elegant voice.

"I feel very lucky to have this unique connection with my fans. It's gotten to the point where a lot of them know the words to my songs better than I do. At some of the concerts I play, some of them show up with instruments so they can play and sing along. Something special happens when the line between the audience and me gets blurry. I don't mind at all. They're so into it. The show takes on a totally new dimension. Suddenly it becomes less about me and more about sharing a great experience."

We've been genuinely taken aback by the quality of local musician Alan Whitney's debut CD, "The Borderland." ...Whitney's arrangements reveal influences far beyond the typical.
City Newspaper
Rochester, NY
City's Choice - The Week's Best Picks



Davey O.

bio kindly written/edited by Sarah Craig, manager, Caffe Lena, NY.

Armed with a classic troubadour's Gibson guitar and a powerful-yet-sensitive voice (often compared to Don Henley, Jason Isbell, and Son Volt's Jay Farrar) singer-songwriter Davey O. has entertained attentive, diverse audiences throughout the Northeast and Midwest for nearly a decade. Davey's award-winning songs speak of love, hope, loss and the vulnerability of the human experience while offering an easy blend of folk, alt-country and Americana. When performing alongside long-time guitarist/mandolinist Jeffrey Mikulski, Davey draws his audience in with infectious wit and warm banter.

Davey is currently completing his yet-to-be-named fifth release, while continuing to play approximately one hundred shows a year in coffeehouses, clubs, colleges, private house concerts and outdoor festivals. And... on a sunny summer day, Davey and Jeff have been known to busk on the streets of downtown Buffalo.

Included in Davey's list of awards are: six-time ASCAP Plus Award Recipient, three-time Buffalo Music Award Nominee, 2004 Winner, WNY People's Choice Award as Best Original Solo Acoustic performer.

Raw, rustic, rootsy and melodic, Davey's songs endear themselves to you quickly. It's pretense-free Americana that's worthy of your attention.
Jeff Miers, The Buffalo News

Who Should I Contact?

Website www.BFFM.org

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purple33333@yahoo.com

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BFFMconcerts@aol.com

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Cliff Olson 877-0166

Member Gigs - Fall 2008

Brian & Peg oherron2@verizon.net 479-7902

August 23 7:00 pm
Korner Kaffe
new location at Elmwood and Forest, Buffalo

September 13 8:00 pm
Clarence Coffee Company
Clarence Center & Goodrich Rds., Clarence

September 27 8:00 pm
A.C.T.S. Beacon Cafe (with Jim Vozga)
1470 Church St., Alden

October 25 8:00 pm
Comfort Zone Café
new location at 1002 Elmwood, Buffalo

Jim Vozga voz@aol.com 870-0003

September 20 and November 15 8:00 pm
Clarence Coffee Company
Clarence Center & Goodrich Rds., Clarence

October 11 7:30 pm
Orchard Perk
6183 Quaker Rd., Orchard Park

September 27 and October 18 8:00 pm
A.C.T.S. Beacon Cafe
1470 Church St., Alden

Jean & Keith www.jeanandkeith.com 838-1918

September 13, October 11,
November 8 and December 13 8:00pm
Cafe Allegro
1374 Hertel Ave., Buffalo

September 20 10:00 am-noon
Clarence Hollow Farmers' Market,
10707 Main St., Clarence

Nan Hoffman www.nanhoffman.com 773-5315

Check out Nan's website for listings.

Ernie & Andy Lawrence www.ernieandandy.com

September 27 10:00 am -noon
Perry Farmer's Market
corner of Borden Ave and Main St., Perry, NY

October 2 and December 19 8:00 - 10:00 pm
Starry Nights Café
696 University Ave., Rochester

October 12 10:00 - noon
Brighton Farmer's Market
1150 Winton Rd. South, Brighton, NY

October 19 3:00 - 4:30 pm
St. Joseph's Church
benefits Perry Area Ministerial Association
6 Park St., Perry, NY

October 25 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Clarence Hollow Farmer's market
10707 Main St., Clarence

November 1 7:00 -9:00 pm
Burlingham Books
benefits Perry Area Ministerial Association
2 South Main St., Perry, NY

November 8 7:00 - 9:00 pm
St. Mary's Church Hall
benefits KIVA microloans
23 Church St., Silver Spring, NY

November 15 7:00 - 9:00 pm
First United Methodist Church
benefits Perry Area Ministerial Association
35 Covington St., Perry, NY

November 21 8:00 - 11:00 pm
A.C.T.S. Beacon Cafe
1470 Church St., Alden

December 5 8:00 - 11:00 pm
Clarence Coffee Company
Clarence Center & Goodrich Rds., Clarence