



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.

## 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.

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



Bringing you fine acoustic music since 1981.

Spring - 2009

Dear Members,

Our 2008-09 Acoustic Concert Series is going great. There have been many highlights so far this season; Lynn Miles returning after several years to put on a wonderful show, the outpouring of media attention surrounding the Steve Forbert concert, the roots sound of traditional folk artists Sparky & Rhonda Rucker, our audience singing full voiced to Joe Crookston's music and helping him on his way to becoming a household name, our local openers and our concert of local musicians showing why Buffalo is second to none in talent, and last but certainly not least, all of you who continue to make BFFM a thriving part of Western New York's music community.

Thanks to you, BFFM's attendance and membership are up again for the fourth year in a row, the treasury is sound and we've been able to pay off our equipment expenditures. This allows us to continue to keep our admission price lower than similar concert venues while bringing in some of the genre's top artists. How's that for counterculture? There's little doubt that music can be a beacon in troubled times.

Our thanks go to Kathy Lyons for keeping our monthly singarounds going well. Be sure to stop by and join in the singing, learn an instrument, perform a song or just listen and enjoy the music with a snack. If you would like to attend or host a singaround, please contact Kathy at Khaki29@verizon.net or 873-0001.

Last year at this time our volunteers began meeting to reorganize our concert night tasks and add extra help where needed. This proved to be a great success as new volunteers came aboard and others stepped up to take ownership of key roles. This season could not have been possible without them. We're now going through a similar process to review our pre-concert tasks for publicity, newsletter, membership and presale tickets. Please e-mail BFFMconcerts@aol.com if you're interested in being a part of this process toward our 2009-10 season.

As always, we look forward to seeing you at a concert or event soon,

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**Karen Savoca and Pete Heitzman  
Saturday, February 21, 2009, 8:00 pm  
Jim Brucato opening.**

Karen Savoca freely admits that her music is difficult to describe. The rhythms and vocal stylings of Savoca and partner/guitarist Pete Heitzman have been branded rock, jazz, pop and blues, and they have made a name for themselves on the contemporary folk music circuit. But none of those labels completely captures the complexity of the music, or the breadth and range of Savoca's singing. "My favorite is one guy who called us 'heavy petal,'" Savoca says with a husky laugh reminiscent of a well-worn blues record. "It doesn't really just fit into one genre. It's been a bit difficult for us really. Our music is a blend of a lot of different things. It's good music. You try to say that without sounding, well, immodest."

Karen has a powerful voice, but its power lies in

**Jim Brucato**, has been involved with almost every musical situation imaginable in his long career as a blues/folk/jazz musician. A graduate of the Berkley School of Music, Jim began his career as a jazz singer/guitarist with one of Buffalo's best jazz ensembles, Snow Angles, and has gone on to play with a host of musicians too numerous to list. After several years performing unique blues arrangements with violinist Rick Karneth, Jim hooked up with Joe Head and Charlie O'Neill to form The Thirds. As arranger for

its subtlety and nuance; her vocals are sensual in the way that the natural world is sensual – they are simple, textured, diverse in timbre, and ripe with wisdom derived from experience.

Savoca lives her life down in the dirt – she feels the moist, fertile soil of life between her toes, and digs her hands into the dark, rich earth. She loves to make nourishing relationships grow by planting community everywhere she travels. She comes back from time to time to tend to the bounty that results. Her songs and her music are her seeds, and her rich, supple, creative vocal style is her hoe. Her musical and life partner, Pete Heitzman, is her fellow farmer.

Her most recent release, "In the Dirt" (2006, Alcove Records) is full of music that brings that aspect of her personality into sharp focus. Hypnotic percussion and bass grooves lay a foundation for nicely orchestrated electric and acoustic guitar chord arrangements and sassy, uninhibited vocals. The lyrical content is elemental and prescient. "Just Let Go" reminds us not to carry around the baggage that we can pick up in our lives. If something is painful or not working, and it's over, just let go – move on. A descending guitar riff, and a sluggish bass and percussion track, suggests a slow, contemplative walk down a country road in the heat of summer. It's time to find a final disposition for difficult matters.

Karen Savoca and Pete Heitzman have arrived at a point in their lives and in their careers where they don't worry about a lot. They know that the gig opportunities will arise; that the garden will sustain them; that the creativity will continue. They take life as it comes, and greet it with open arms and lots of love and community.

The Thirds, Jim is most responsible for developing the band's unique sound, one that continues to draw crowds today. Jim's nearly 40 years as a musician has brought him into the company of performers such as Maureen McGovern and Tony Bennett, and has made him one of the best delta blues musicians in this region.



*An addictive blend of hybrid pop with lots of jazz whimsy and slippery funk.*  
-Dirty Linen Magazine

**Member Gigs - Spring 2009**

**Brian & Peg** [oherron2@verizon.net](mailto:oherron2@verizon.net) 479-7902

March 7 and June 6 7:30 pm  
Taste  
634 Main Street, East Aurora

May 16 8:00 pm  
Clarence Center Coffee Company  
Corner, Clarence Ct. Rd. & Goodrich Rd.

May 30 8:00 pm  
Comfort Zone Café  
17 Main Street, Hamburg

June 13 7:30 pm  
Orchard Perk Café  
6183 W. Quaker Street, Orchard Park

**Jean and Keith & Marilyn Woodin, Steve Moscov**  
[www.jeanandkeith.com](http://www.jeanandkeith.com) 838-1918

February 14 8:00pm  
Cafe Allegro  
1374 Hertel Ave., Buffalo

And continuing every second Saturday at Café' Allegro

**Marie Lyons** [mlyons53@verizon.net](mailto:mlyons53@verizon.net) 832-3539

May 1 9:00 PM  
Peopleart  
Unity Church  
1243 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

**Who Should I Contact?**

**Website** [www.BFFM.org](http://www.BFFM.org)  
David Stanton [purple33333@yahoo.com](mailto:purple33333@yahoo.com)

**Concert Booking**  
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[BFFMconcerts@aol.com](mailto:BFFMconcerts@aol.com)

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Keith Hoffman 773-5315  
[keith@nanhoffman.com](mailto:keith@nanhoffman.com)

**Treasury**  
Gary Stevens 833-7138

**Publicity**  
Dan D'Arcy 684-2362  
[BFFMconcerts@aol.com](mailto:BFFMconcerts@aol.com)

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Keith & Nan Hoffman 773-5315

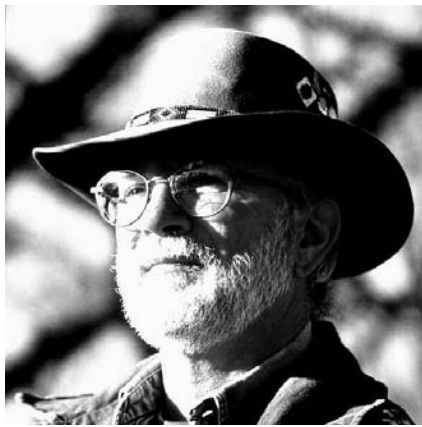
**Stage & Lighting**  
Brian Mau [BDMau@msn.com](mailto:BDMau@msn.com)  
Jean Dickson [dickson@buffalo.edu](mailto:dickson@buffalo.edu)

**Concert Refreshments**  
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**Hospitality & CD Sales**  
Nan Hoffman 773-5315

**Membership**  
Dan D'Arcy 684-2362  
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**Sing Arouds**  
Kathy Lyons 873-0001  
[Khaki29@verizon.net](mailto:Khaki29@verizon.net)



**Bill Stains**  
**Saturday, April 18, 2009, 8:00 pm**  
**Joe Head opening.**

Anyone not familiar with the music of Bill Staines is in for a special treat.

For over thirty five years, Bill has traveled back and forth across North America, singing his songs and delighting audiences at festivals, folksong societies, colleges, concerts, clubs and coffeehouses. A New England native, Bill became involved with the Boston-Cambridge folk scene in the early 1960's and, for a time, emceed the Sunday hootenanny at the renowned Club 47 in Cambridge. Bill quickly became a popular performer in the Boston area. In 1971, after one of his performances, a reviewer for The Phoenix stated that Bill was "simply Boston's best performer." A decade later, both in 1980 and 1981, the annual Reader's Poll of The Boston Globe selected him as a favorite performer. In 1991, Bill entered his fourth decade as a folk performer with an international reputation as an artist.

Singing mostly his own songs, he has become one of the most popular singers on the folk music circuit today and averages around 200 concert dates a year.

**Joe Head** has been performing on the Buffalo music scene for more than 35 years, delighting listeners of all ages with his incomparable voice and styling. As a solo artist, as well as a member of the distinctive vocal trio, The Thirds, Joe has appeared in area nightclubs and as opening act for the likes of Dave Mason, 5th Dimension, Rosalie Sorrels, Spyro Gyra, Loudon Wainright III, Roy Buchanan, Blue Rodeo, Eric Anderson, Cliff Eberhardt and others. Joe has received

Bill weaves a magical blend of wit and gentle humor into his performances, and as one reviewer wrote, "he has a sense of timing to match the best stand-up comic." His music is a slice of Americana, reflecting with the same ease, his feelings about the prairie people of the Midwest or the adventurers of the Yukon.

Interspersed between original songs, Bill also includes songs ranging from traditional folk tunes to more contemporary country ballads and delights in having the audience participate in many of the numbers. He may even do a yodeling tune or two- having won the National Yodeling Championship in 1975 at the Kerrville Folk Festival in Kerrville Texas.

A number of Bill's songs have been recorded by other artists including, Peter, Paul, & Mary, Makem and Clancy, Nanci Griffith, Mason Williams, The Highwaymen, Glen Yarborough, Jerry Jeff Walker, Grandpa Jones, Priscilla Herdman and others. Bill has recorded twenty-two of his own albums, fifteen of which are still in print. Additionally, Bill's songs have been published in four songbooks, If I Were A Word, Then I'd Be A Song, River, Music To Me, The Songs of Bill Staines, and All God's Critters Got A Place In The Choir. Two of the books contain nearly one hundred of Bill's songs.

Radio and TV appearances have included A Prairie Home Companion, Mountain Stage, The Good Evening Show and a host of local programs on PBS and network TV. Bill continues to drive over 65,000 miles a year, doing what he loves, bringing music to people.

many Buffalo Music awards throughout his career and was honored when the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, commemorating the Goodwill Industries National Year of the Disabled, performed his composition "The Man of Goodwill." Joe is a 1992 inductee of the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame. He is currently music director for Bishop Timon High School and performs regularly at local clubs and special events.

*Any new song that can live comfortably beside the well-worn songs of folk tradition has a good chance of surviving the test of time. Such, we believe, are the songs of Bill Staines.*

Charles "Sandy" Paton,  
 Folk Legacy Records



**Ellis Paul**  
**Saturday, May 16, 2009, 8:00 pm**  
**Opener to be announced.**

Ellis Paul is one of the leading voices in American songwriting. He was a principle leader in the wave of singer/songwriters that emerged from the Boston folk scene, creating a movement that revitalized the national acoustic circuit with an urban, literate, folk pop style that helped renew interest in the genre in the 1990's.

His charismatic, personally authentic performance style has influenced a generation of artists away from the artifice of pop, and closer towards the realness of folk. Though he remains among the most pop-friendly of today's singer-songwriters - his songs regularly appear in hit movie and TV soundtracks - he has bridged the gulf between the modern folk sound and the populist traditions of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger more successfully than perhaps any of his songwriting peers.

Yet to hear him at this crossroads moment in his career, you would think he was just getting started. For years, he has been among the folk circuit's most popular and dependable headliners, with a mailing list of over 20,000 fiercely loyal fans. He has released 14 CDs, and recently explored new media avenues with a documentary/concert DVD called "3,000 Miles," and "Notes from the Road," a critically acclaimed book of poems

and stories.

In recent years, he has also departed from his solo career to tour and record with longtime compadre

Vance Gilbert, and to indulge his deep respect for American folk icon Woody Guthrie. He appeared with the all-star Guthrie tribute tour, "Ribbon of Highway, Endless Skyway." For his Philo CD, "The Speed of Trees," he wrote a modern musical setting of Guthrie's unpublished lyric "God's Promise."

Nora Guthrie, Woody's daughter, invited Paul to to perform at a Woody Guthrie tribute show held in September 1996 at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. The show was part of a 10-day celebration to honor Woody and also included performances by Bruce Springsteen, Ani DiFranco, Billy Bragg and others. In 1998, the quintessential Boston songwriter was also made an honorary citizen of Guthrie's birthplace, Okemah, Oklahoma, in recognition of all he has done to revive interest in the Dust Bowl troubadour.

*A singer songwriter is only as good as the times he reflects. In times like these, when so many nuts are running the show, it's comforting to know that Ellis Paul is actually holding our sanity on his own stage! Wise, tender, brilliant and biting, Ellis is one of our best human compasses, marking in melodies and poems where we've been and where we might go if we so choose. Personally Ellis, I'm goin' where you're goin'!*

Nora Guthrie  
 Woody Guthrie's daughter



**Member's Concert**  
**Saturday, June 13, 2009, 8:00 pm**  
**Donations accepted.**  
**Performers to be announced.**

## News from Joe Crookston

Joe Crookston played one of BFFM's best concerts on November 22, 2008 and he's quickly becoming a favorite performer on our stage. In a recent e-mail update to friends and supporters, he wrote:

Greetings from Ithaca, NY!

Guess what? You'll never believe this: I am overwhelmed and excited that my recording, "Able Baker Charlie & Dog" was named "Album of the Year" by the International Folk Alliance.

The award is based on the Folk/Acoustic DJ radio airplay charts for 2008! Able Baker ended up the #1 most played recording... Sheesh... I'm still shaking my head in disbelief.

So, I'm going down to Memphis, TN for the awards ceremony on Wednesday, February 18th.

I'll get all dressed up fancy, give one of those awkward nervous acceptance speeches, and play a song from the CD.

And...get this: You can be there with me, because it'll all be broadcast LIVE on XM Radio. Wanna be in the audience? Please tune in.

**Wednesday, February 18th 2009**  
**Channel 15 "The Village" 7:00pm**  
**[www.xmradio.com/onxm/channelguide.xmc?ch=15](http://www.xmradio.com/onxm/channelguide.xmc?ch=15)**



The International Folk Alliance Awards Ceremony... Thank you, thank you for continuing to be part of my musical journey! It's a great honor.

*I sing for the beauty that's still left on this earth*  
*I sing for the joy and the trouble and the hurt*  
*I play this guitar for all that I'm worth*  
*And I sing for the beauty that's still left on this earth*

Mmmm, now which song to play?

Joe Crookston  
[www.joecrookston.com](http://www.joecrookston.com)



**Red Molly**  
**Sunday, March 22, 2009, 7:00 pm**  
**No Opener.**

On a July evening in 2004, at their campsite at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, Laurie MacAllister, Abbie Gardner and Carolann Solebello harmonized for the very first time. As they sang their campmates off to sleep, they knew they had stumbled into something extraordinary. Audiences seem to agree. Since that summer night, Red Molly has garnered a devoted regional fan base, and has begun laying the groundwork for national touring. These ladies have a lot of fun on stage, and it's contagious. Red Molly consistently brings concertgoers to their feet with stunning three-part harmonies, crisp musicianship, and a warm, engaging stage presence.

The magic of Red Molly stems partly from the richness and diversity of each member's "pre-Molly" experiences. Laurie (vocals, guitar, banjo) left a career in psychology to pursue her love of singing. She worked for several years as a backup singer, and also released two solo albums, *These Old Clothes* (1999) and *The Things I Choose To Do* (2004). Abbie (vocals, Dobro, guitar) has a background in jazz, bluegrass, classical and a cappella music. She released two solo albums, *My Craziest Dream* (2004), a collection of swing standards featuring her father Herb Gardner on piano, and *Honey on My Grave* (2006), a collection of acoustic originals. In May 2008, she released a duo

album, *Bad Nights/Better Days*, with Anthony da Costa. Carolann (vocals, guitar, bass, mandolin) spent several years as a professional theater actor before releasing her solo album, *Just Across the Water* (2000). She went on to release two albums with power folk quartet CC Railroad, *Smile Whatever* (2001) and *Black Horse Motel* (2004).

In July 2006, Red Molly's first full-length CD, *Never Been to Vegas* (2006), was released. Recorded on a December evening before a studio audience of fans and friends, *Never Been to Vegas* is a collection of fourteen carefully chosen songs that span more than a century of great American songwriting. *Never Been to Vegas* quickly climbed into the Top 30 on the Radio & Records Americana chart, a rare accomplishment for an independent album. And listeners of WUMB radio Boston voted the CD one of the Top 10 CDs of 2006.

Red Molly's newest release, *Love and Other Tragedies* (2008), is their first full-length studio album. Produced by Ben Wisch, it finds the women of Red Molly

adding a little spice to their winning recipe. The new album features a fuller, more "polished" sound than their previous releases, due in part to the contributions of guest artists

Mike Weatherly (upright bass), Duke Levine (mandola, lap steel), and Jake Armerding (fiddle). In addition, the ladies incorporated more original songs into the mix this time. Songs written by Laurie, Abbie, and Carolann mingle admirably with songs by well-known contemporary writers Gillian Welch and Susan Werner, up-and-coming artists Amy Speace and George Wirth, traditional American gospel tunes, and standards from the bluegrass and jazz worlds.

*Everything Red Molly sings is delivered with tick-tight arrangements, crystalline vocals, and caramel harmonies. But what is most striking is the ardor they bring to everything they do, whether smuggling into the sweet parochialism of an old spiritual, or the gritty pathos of a Gillian Welch tune. They come on less like stars strutting for their minions than pals sharing their favorite songs. In the friendly world of the coffeehouse, that remains a starmaking quality.*

-Scott Alarik, The Boston Globe