

## HVBA Jam Session

2nd Wednesday of each month

*Pirate Canoe Club*

*Poughkeepsie, NY*

*Slow Jam starts at 6PM*

*Jam ends at 10 PM*

Call (845) 691-6784 for details or directions



*Thanks to*

**Oxford Depot, Mike Burns & The North Country Band, No Brakes, The Dwyer Family Band, Heinzevino! Jonah Bruno & Sage Boris and GitFiddle**

for entertaining the crowd at the HVBA's annual Spring Fundraiser.

All the bands donated their time and energy to make the show a success. Thanks to Fred Jasper and Oxord Depot for donating CDs.

Thanks, too, to Banta's Steak & Stein for their hospitality and to The Riverbank Banjo Band for helping promote the show.



**Check the label for your expiration date. If it is past, please pay \$10 annual membership to keep receiving Jamboree.**



**Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association**  
106 Pancake Hollow Road  
Highland, NY 12528



Thanks to The Bardavon 1869 Opera House for donating \$5 for every ticket sold through the HVBA's coupon. Thanks, too, to Allison at Sprout Creek Farm, which generously donated delicious cheese. Thank

continued on page 10

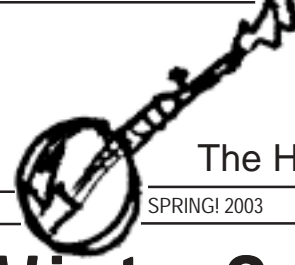
The proceeds from the Vassar Clements & Northern Lights concert will help local farmers construct or renovating farm buildings, purchase equipment or livestock, finance annual operating expenses for seed, fertilizer, planting and harvesting activities, and to build, equip and operate facilities to process agricultural products.

The HVBA has traditionally helped support worthy causes in the Hudson Valley. In the past we have collected pet food for local animal shelters, and our bands have donated their services to local not-for-profit organizations, such as The Dutchess County Arts Council, Scenic Hudson, and The Beacon Sloop Club. WinterGrass for Farmers represented out most extensive effort thus far

The WinterGrass for Farmers has raised \$1,000 for Cornell Cooperative Extension Service's Hudson Valley Harvest Agriculture Revolving Loan Fund. The fund, established in 2002, is designed to encourage development of agricultural businesses in the Hudson Valley by means of moderate interest loans.

*Jeff Anzevino*

## WinterGrass for Farmers harvests \$1000



# Jamboree

The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

SPRING! 2003

online at HVBluegrass.org

Number 32



### Honor Bill Monroe with a US Postage Stamp

Bluegrass music could receive some well deserved exposure and its founder, Bill Monroe, would be appropriately honored if an effort to have his picture on a US Postage stamp succeeds. Now is the time to write a letter to show your support for this worthy endeavor.

continued on page 4

### What's Inside?

The Natural Way to Music .....	3
Slow Jam Notes .....	5
Kat Mills' HV Tour .....	7
The Dwyer Family .....	8-10
CD Reviews .....	12-13
MAD Scene .....	14-15

Message from the President

Is it spring yet?

"Twas in the spring, one sunny day..."

As I write, the calendar says it has been spring for over a week, but no one has bothered to tell old man sol. Snow and ice continues to fly as April chugs along. But, fret not, warmer weather is at hand, which means that we'll be pickin' outdoors soon.

The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association's annual Spring Fundrasier brought together old friends, family and forged new relationships. Three new (well, new to the HVBA, anyway) bands -- Oxford Depot, The Dwyer Family, and GitFiddle -- played for a sellout crowd this year. This is in addition to old favorites, Mike Burns and The North Country Band, No Brakes and Heinzevino!

We raised \$640 this year. Thanks to all the bands, Fred Jasper of Sugar Hill/Vanguard Records, who donated CDs, which sold like hotcakes, and the appreciative and generous audience who braved the snow and ice to come hear a terrific show.

The funds will add to our coffers so that we can make Bluegrass Between the Bridges better than ever this year.

Stay tuned for details regarding Bluegrass Between the Bridges, held in conjunction with The Bardavon's Hudson Valley Arts Festival at Waryas Park on the Poughkeepsie waterfront on September 20

Jeffrey Anzevino

Sign me up! in the Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

Send to: Joyce Cullen, 395 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579

Enclosed is \$10 for new membership / renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association a 501 (c) 3 not for profit arts and educational organization

Jamboree is published four times a year Winter Summer Spring and Fall

Jeffrey Anzevino, Editor

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May 3: James Reams & The Barnstormers at The Rosendale Cafe, Rosendale, NY (845)658-9848 www.rosendaledcafe.com

May 3: Northern Lights at Shelter Island School, Shelter Island, NY (631) 749-2355

May 3: BBU's SpringFest at Second Church, West Newton, MA; contact ehays@world.std.com or (781) 646-0612

May 9: James Reams & The Barnstormers at the Good Coffeehouse, Brooklyn, NY

May 9: Jay Ungar & Molly Mason with The Mammals at The Towne Crier Cafe, Pawling, NY (845) 855-1090 or www.townecrier.com

May 10: The Kennedys & Terence Martin at Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse, Katonah, NY (914) 242-0374 or www.WalkaboutClearwater.org

May 15: Heinzevino! at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

May 16: Lynn Morris Band at The Emelin Theater, Mamaroneck, NY 8 PM Free picking party from 6:30-8pm (914) 698-0098 \$24

May 15: Banjo Extravaganza Concert with Bill Keith, Tony Trischka, Peter Wernick and many, many more, Clarke Middle School, Lexington, MA www.Mugwumps.com/BCN.html or (781) 209-1130

May 17: James Reams & The Barnstormers at Bluegrass Family Dance at Esplanade Plaza (Square Dance) NYC

May 17: Northern Lights at Company Theatre, 30 Accord Park, Norwell, MA 8PM, (781) 871-2787

May 18-18: Banjo Camp North with Bill Keith, Tony Trischka, Peter Wernick and over 30 other instructors! Groton, MA www.Mugwumps.com/BCN.html or (781) 209-1130

May 22-25: New England Bluegrass & Old Time Music Festival, with Open Road, The Schankman Twins, North Star, and more at Acton Fairgrounds, Acton, ME (207) 625-8656

May 23-26: Flying Fingers Jam at Apple Festival grounds, www.cnyba.com

May 24: New England Fiddle Contest, Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT 10AM to dusk www.fiddlefest.org

May 24: Old & In The Grey featuring David Grisman, Peter Rowan, Vassar Clements & Herb Pedersen at The Stone Pony, Asbury Park, NJ (609) 520-8383 or (732) 502-0600 or www.stoneponyonline.com

May 28: Heinzevino! at The New Paltz Craft Fair. New Paltz, NY (845) 691-6784

May 29: Heinzevino! at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

May 29-June 1: Strawberry Park Bluegrass Festival with Del McCoury, Tim O'Brien, Rhonda Vincent, Peter Rowan, Tony Rice, Gibson Brothers, Northern Lights, Amy Gallatin, and more; Preston, CT 1-888-794-7944

May 30 - June 1: Adirondack Bluegrass League Bluegrass Roundup, McConchie's Heritage Acres, Galway NY. (518) 747-0039 or 518-686-0173 or e-

mail TCowin9483@aol.com

May 30 & 31: Vassar Clements & Peter Rowan, Vassar Clements with Buddy Cage & The Zen Tricksters at Tribeca Blues, NYC (212) 766-1070 or www.amdmusic.com

Sat., May 31: Northern Lights at Capo's, Lowell, MA, 8PM (978) 453-5755

June 1: No Brakes at First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, Cold Spring, NY (845) 265-3220

June 7: Bluegrass on the Green, Homer, NY

June 8: CNYBA Membership Picnic

June 11: James Reams & The Barnstormers at a square dance in wave Hill, NY

June 12: Heinzevino! at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

June 13-15: Ovitt Family Bluegrass Festival, with The Cabin Fever Band, more, Warrensburg, NY

June 14: James Reams & The Barnstormers at the Liberty Room, Brooklyn, NY

June 19-22: Third Annual Jenny Brook FamilyBluegrass Festival with The Gibson Brothers, White Mountain Bluegrass, The Seth Sawyer Band Gopher Broke and many more, Weston, VT (802) 463-9330

June 20-22: Pocono Mountain Bluegrass Festival with The Cabin Fever Band and more, Newfoundland, PA

June 20-22: 13th Sterling Park Bluegrass Festival with Back Eddy Bluegrass, Cowtippers, Timberlyne, and more at Sterling, CT (860) 564-8777

June 28-29: James Reams & The Barnstormers at bluegrass river festival, Madrid, NY

July 4-6: Stafford Springs Bluegrass Festival with Southern Rail, Pine Hill Ramblers, Traver Hollow and others, Mineral Springs, CT (860) 684-2993

July 11-13: 9th Annual Basin Bluegrass Festival with Lonesome Whistle, Southern Rail, James Reams & The Barnstormers, Cabin Fever and more; Brandon VT (802) 247-3275 or www.brandon.org/bluegrass.htm

July 17-20: Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival with Dry Branch Fire Squad, Hot Rize Reunion, Jerry Douglas Band, Peter Rowan's Texas Trio, with Tony Rice, Del McCoury Band, The Gibson Brothers many more (888) 946-8495 or www.greyfoxbluegrass.com

July 25: Heinzevino! at The Hudson Valley Summer Music Festival, Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie, NY 7-9 PM.

July 30-Aug 3: CNYBA's Apple Valley Bluegrass Festival with Bill and Maggie Anderson, Lost Time, Three's Company, Northern Sons, James Reames & The Barn Stormers, more at the Apple Valley Festival Grounds, LaFayette, NY; www.cnyba.com

Aug 8-10: Willow Creek Bluegrass & Old Time Music Festival with Oxford Depot, Heavy Traffic, No Brakes, Too Blue, The Andsersons, Cabin Fever, James Reams & The Barnstormers, The Homegrown String Band, Barebones & Wildflowers, Hudson River Cloggers and more; www.willowcreekbluegrass.com (845) 783-9054

## Music and Dance Scene

MAD Scene is provided as a service to HVBA members and bands.

Play it safe! Call before you go.

List your event by sending pertinent details to hvbluegrass@aol.com

### Ongoing Jams, Dances, Gigs etc.

**2nd Wednesday of each month:** HVBA Jam at Pirate Canoe Club, Poughkeepsie, NY 6-10 PM (845) 691-6784 or (914) 276-2239

**Every Friday:** Jammin' at the Legion Hall, Marcellus, NY; (315) 673-2329 or 1844

**Every Monday:** Bluegrass night at The Parkside Lounge, NYC

**Last Monday of each month:** Orrin Star at The Parkside Lounge, NYC

**Every Monday:** The Alphabet City Opry at The Parkside Lounge, Houston St. betw. Ave A & B in Manhattan; 9 PM

**Every Monday:** Irish Folk Session at The Baggott Inn, Manhattan

**Every Monday:** Riverbank Banjo Band, Banta's Steak 'n Stein, Poughkeepsie, NY

**2nd Tuesday of Each Month:** North East Bluegrass Jam, Malt River Brewing Co., Latham NY, 8 PM, (518) 489-2369

**2rd & 4th Tuesday of Each Month:** Bluegrass Jam at The Uptown Cafe, Kingston, NY (845) 679-6696

**4rd Tuesday of Each Month:** Jam at Lark Tavern, Albany, NY (518) 489-2369

**Every Wednesday:** Minetta Creek Band, Carpos, New York City (212) 353-2889

**Every Wednesday:** Bluegrass & Good Times Jam with host The Sheriff at The Baggot Inn, Manhattan 9 PM

**2nd & 4th Wednesday:** Warren Academy, Warrren, CT 7 PM (201) 868-7659

**Every other Thursday:** Heinzevino! at Gadaletto's Seafood, New Paltz, NY 6-9 PM (845) 255-1717 691-6784

**Every other weekend:** Big Deep at Gadaletto's Seafood, New Paltz, NY 6-10 PM (845) 255-1717

**1st Friday of Every Month:** North Country Music's Bluegrass Jam, St. Luke's Church. (914) 276-2239

**1st Friday:** Fais Do Do with Dr. Romo and the Cajun Swing Orchestra, Woodstock Community Center, Woodstock, NY 8 PM (845) 658-3392

**1st Saturday of Every Month:** Jam hosted by Roger Sprung, United Methodist Church, Sandy Hook, CT (203) 426-5243 (NOT IN JULY OR AUGUST)

**1st Saturday of Every Month:** Open Mic/Bluegrass/Folk Jam; Unitarian Church; Rock Tavern, NY (845) 496-0771

**1st Saturday of Every Month:** Contra Dance at St. Philips Church Parish House, Route 9D, Garrison, NY (845) 265-4011, 265-7201, 265-0032

**2nd Saturday of Every Month:** Walkabout Clearwater,

Katonah, NY (845) 242-0374

**3rd Sat. of Every Month:** Restoration Coffee House Open Mic; Old Dutch Reformed Church, Bloomingburg, NY; 7 PM; (845) 647-6491

**3rd Saturday of Every Month:** Hudson Valley Folk Guild Poughkeepsie Chapter, (845) 297-6372

**Every Other Saturday:** (Old Time only!!) Thady Con's Pub NYC; (212) 688-9700

**Every Sunday:** Woodstock Jam at Catskill Mtn Pizza 1PM (845) 679-7969

**Every Sunday:** Bluegrass Session with Tom Hanway at Paddy O'Reilly's Bar, 4 PM; NYC (718) 884-5721

**Every Sunday:** Club 9C in Manhattan 5 PM - ???; (212)-358-0048

**4th Sunday:** Finger Lakes Bluegrass Monthly Jam 2-8 Pm at the Ontario County Arts Council, Canandaigua, NY (716) 396-0087 or 924-3117

### More Music!

**April 17:** Heinzevino! at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

**April 18:** Barebones & Wildflowers at The Beech Tree Brill, Poughkeepsie, NY, 10 PM, (845) 471-7279

**April 19:** Too Blue at Mary's Pub, Millbrook, NY \$5 (845) 877-2282

**April 26:** 2nd Annual Cabin Fever Bluegrass Concert with Last fair Deal and The Blavkstone Valley Bluegrass band at Three Rivers Community College, Norwich, CT; vbaker@trcc.commnet.edu or (860) 383-5213

**April 26:** Dyer Switch at Town Hall Opry

**April 26:** James Reams & The Barnstormers at the New Jersey Folk Festival, New Brunswick, NJ

**April 27:** 9th Annual Old Time Fiddler's Gathering, Woodbourne Fire Hall, Woodbourne, NY (845) 985-2923

**April 27:** James Reams & The Barnstormers at a square dance in Brooklyn, NY

**April 27:** Homestead Bluegrass at Cornerstone Coffeehouse, Weedsport Baptist Church, Weedsport, NY

**April 30:** Steve Palmer at The Beech Tree Brill, Poughkeepsie, NY, 8PM, (845) 471-7279

**April 27:** ABL show with Smokey Greene, Bill Matteson and the B-Flat Band at The Parting Glass, Saratoga Spgs NY, 2 PM, (518) 747-0039 or 518-686-0173.

**May 1:** Heinzevino! at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

**May 1:** Gitfiddle at The Ground Hog, Wappinger Falls, NY

**May 2:** Phillips, Grier & Flinner at The Towne Crier Cafe, Pawling, NY (845) 855-1090 or www.townecrier.com

## The Natural Way To Music

Jeff Anzevino

Have you heard the one about the guy who asks the bluegrass musician if he could read music? He replies, "Not enough to hurt my playing."

Most bluegrass musicians play by ear. The Natural Way To Music, by Bill Keith and Jim D'Ville provides a road map to ability to express what you hear in your mind's ear on your instrument or through your voice, which the book describes as "the first musical instrument."

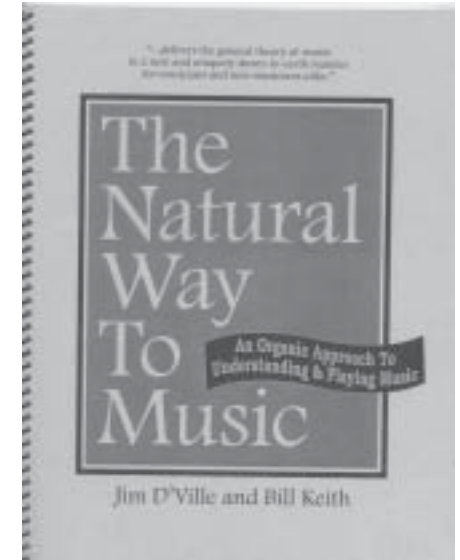


Bill Keith

The book, which is intended to help anyone regardless of prior musical experience play any style of music, is based on the reliance on a "map" - - Metaphor, Attitude, and Perspective. Metaphors in the book present comparisons that

help us understand the unfamiliar. A positive attitude is stressed in an effort to limit negative thoughts. In doing so, expectations are left at the door, because by eliminating expectations we, "free ourselves to experience every situation without a preconceived notion of the outcome." Finally, through perspective we understand that music is not a race to become as good as or better than someone else.

Most importantly, The Natural Way To Music teaches us how to listen to music. Just as an artist studies perspective, line, form and shadow to build the skills needed to represent a three dimensional image in two dimensions, a musician must master tonal relationships



and rhythm to turn loose the sound in his or hers head for others' benefit.

The body of the book is arranged in two parts. Part One explains the tonal relationships found in the Major and Chromatic Scales, the all important intervals, spaces between the notes of the scales and how the "stacking" of notes like firewood creates chords.

Part Two covers the Circle of Fifths, Relative Minor Scale, the seven modes, tension and resolution, and the pentatonic and minor scales.

Perhaps most importantly, the book provides exercises to help train the ear so that this information becomes second nature, an essential skill needed in improvisation.

This 65-page book (available with optional video/CD ROM designed to demystify music theory) can be ordered through <http://www.naturalwaymusic.com>

## Monroe Stamp?

continued from page 1

Each year, the United States Postal Service considers approximately 25 new commemorative stamps. Under its guidelines, honorees must be deceased at least 10 years, which in Bill Monroe's case, will be on September 9, 2006. September 13, 2006, the 95th anniversary of his birth, is only four days later and would be a logical date for the issuance of the stamp. The Postal Service's guidelines recommend that the process be started three years before the issuance year, which is now.

The first step in this process is for a citizens' committee to select and narrow down to approximately 25 worthy nominees for each year. It considers letters, cards, and petitions sent to them by the public at large. Next, the committee considers art work and other details regarding the aspects of the stamp.



If you would like to help put Bill Monroe's picture on a postage stamp, send your letter to:

More information is available at  
[www.billmonroestamp.org](http://www.billmonroestamp.org)

Thanks to the BBU's Bluegrass Breakdown for alerting us to this opportunity.

Stamp Advisory Committee  
c/o Stamp Development  
US Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Room 5670  
Washington, DC 20260-2437

## Big Apple Bluegrass

The Greenbriar Boys

79723-2

As I am personally interested in retro, a.k.a. "historic" bluegrass recordings, I was thrilled to get word from producer Fred Jasper of Sugar Hill/Vanguard records, of the release of Big Apple Bluegrass. This collection of 17 bits of history by The Greenbriar Boys between 1957 to 1967 shows why many believe this group "saved bluegrass from extinction."

This CD is also of significant local interest as Woodstock resident John Herald's tenor voice defines the signatory sound of The Greenbriar Boys.

Of the 17 cuts 7 have never been released and 16 have never before been released on CD.

I love the raw energy and simplicity of the small ensemble of Bob Yellin (banjo, guitar), John Herald (guitar), and Ralph Rinzler (mandolin, banjo). Other members and guests include Eric Weissberg (bass), Jim Buchanan (fiddle, on *Love Bug* as well as the plaintive *Honky Tonk Girl*) and Frank Wakefield on mandolin, also on *Love Bug*.

Speaking of *Love Bug*, the Greenbriar's rendition of this George Jones hit of the 1950s demonstrates why bluegrass music can be so much fun. *Methodist Pie* is another funny song, and Herald's hot picking and his harmony over Rinzler's lead shows that a novelty tune can include some serious musicianship.

*Mississippi Sawyer* is a barn burning old timey blur of Yellin's Scruggs style banjo work. Yellin first heard Scruggs on a record as a high school senior and knew that was the sound he wanted. He started hanging out in Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village, where informal Sunday picking sessions were attracting large crowds.



**Love Bug**  
**Darby Ram**  
**Methodist Pie**  
**Mississippi Sawyer**  
**Danville Girl**  
**Coot from Tennessee**  
**The Great Assembly**  
**Take a Whiff on Me**  
**Cabin in Gloryland**  
**Honky Tonk Girl**  
**Way Down in the Country**  
**Ain't No Grave Gonna**  
**Hold My Body Down**  
**Ramblin' Round**  
**Stay All Night**  
**Sine On me**  
**Roll On John**

John Herald's father, who was involved in the union movement in the 1940s took his son to union benefits, where he was exposed to Pete Seeger, Leadbelly, Josh White and Woody Guthrie. These influences made their mark on John. He and his Greenbriars went on to be one of bluegrass music's most influential group and a testimony of the importance of New York City in the history and evolution of bluegrass music.

In addition to the stellar music in Big Apple Bluegrass, the liner notes are highly informative and the artwork most fitting.

## Bona Fide

The Gibson Brothers

SUG-CD-3965

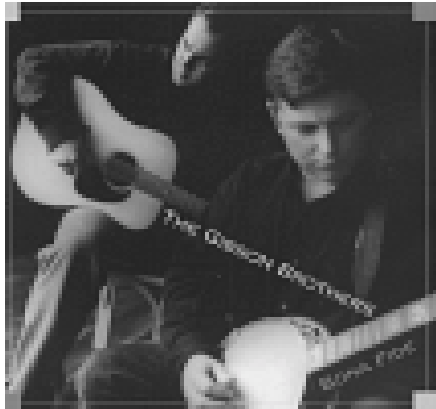
OK, I'm a sucker for "that brother sound." Always have been. Bluegrass is built on that sound from the day of Bill and Charlie Monroe, through the careers of The Stanleys, Louvins and Jim & Jesse McReynolds. Eric and Leigh Gibson continue to grow musically and continue to prove to the world that brothers from New York can do justice to bluegrass music. Each CD gets just a little better and we can't help but wonder, how much better can these guys get?

Bona Fide is an appropriate title for this album of a "Bakers' dozen" of songs, and there's not a snoozer in the bunch. Bona Fide refers to the gal in the new dress, riding down the road in a convertible with the radio blasting, described in the opening cut *The Open Road*. Leigh Gibson sought a song to capture the feeling of the open road and he got it.

As the best musicians do, the Gibson Brothers use harmony, melody, hot picking and, of course, lyrics, to open a window into their lives. Eric penned and sings a heartfelt lead on *Arleigh*, a loving tribute to their grandfather.

Likewise, *Railroad Line*, by Leigh, recounts the life and death of Clinton Mills, near Ellenburg Depot and Gibson 's Corners, a lumber town rendered moot when the railroad line pulled out in the late '50s.

The Gibson Brothers, from this cold, northern corner of The Empire State approach bluegrass music with warmth and passion sometimes in a Yankee-style, but southern when necessary. Want proof? Check out Leigh's *That Bluegrass Music*. Eric's Scruggs-style banjo, Luke Bulla's fiddle and Marc MacGlashan's mandolin combine with the verity of Leigh's words to remind us why we're fans. References to jamming in a farmers' field, a doghouse bass beating low and picking around a campfire make me long for festival season.



**The Open Road**  
**Arleigh**  
**Ragged Man**  
**Railroad Line**  
**That Bluegrass Music**  
**Vern's Guitar**  
**Where Nobody Knows My Name**  
**Shucking The Corn**  
**Don't Forget The Coffee,**  
**Billy Joe**  
**Whisper In My Ear**  
**Norma**  
**Beautiful Brown Eyes**  
**The Lighthouse**

No bluegrass album would be complete without a blazing instrumental. *Shucking The Corn* fills the bill here. Eric explains in the liner notes that he has never recorded a banjo instrumental.

Songwriting legend Tom T. Hall makes a cameo vocal appearance on his *Don't Forget The Coffee, Billy Joe*. The liner notes remind us Hall's knack for making ordinary people seem exceptional. Ahhh. Bona Fide.

The book of liner notes contains lyrics and notes on the musicians for each song, as well as behind the scene photographs.

There is nothing ordinary about Bona Fide. This CD is outstanding, no ifs, ands, or buts, and would be a welcome addition to the music collection of any bluegrass aficionado.

## Slow Jam Notes

John Granata

Greetings slow jammers! The slow jam has surely grown in size and in popularity. There have been suggestions concerning the jam. One was to concoct a beverage and call it a SlowJamFizz! Someone also suggested a third jam, not a fast jam or a slow jam but sort of a . . . half-fast jam! "Ouch! . . . ok, ok already.

The fact is that the slow jam is getting bigger, so here are a couple of points to consider.

With bigger comes a degree of excitement, which can beget loudness! We must be mindful of the fact that with so many instruments playing it can not only get quite loud but confusing. All those instruments can drown out the singer to the point where no one knows what's going on. This is also important when someone is taking a solo. Some of the best solos get lost in the noise. It's easier to play when you can hear what you are playing. A good rule is if you can't hear the person next to you you're too loud. Playing softer is more relaxing and much less tiring making the playing experience most enjoyable and the music so much sweeter.

Keep in mind too that this is, after all, a slow jam time. It is okay for a song to be played slower than usual. When I do work shops I tell folks to practice any piece they are working on only as fast as they can play it correctly. Speed is fine but accuracy is more important. Practicing or playing faster than your ability will only serve to frustrate you and make you want to give up. Let us not forget why we started the slow jam in the first place.



Rob Bradley, Andy Bing and Jerry Oland rip off a tune as others look on..

Many of us went to see Vassar Clemments at the Bardovan back in February. I thought it was rather excellent. I overheard a few folks talking as I passed by them who didn't seem to think so, but, I surely enjoyed every second of it. Like it or not there was one very obvious element on the stage. Those guys were having a whole lot of fun playing music together. Some might say "Sure, I'd have that much fun too if I could play like that!" I mentioned this before but it bears another mention; They all were at the level you were at some point in time. Life, however provides us choices. They chose to get better with each passing day. You can make the same choice. You may never see the Bardovan stage from anywhere else but the seats but that is not a reason to work any less at practicing and playing your instrument of choice.

Jam on and most of all . . . HAVE FUN!

**HVBA Jam** is now held on the  
**2nd Wednesday** of each month.

## News Briefs

### New HVBA E-mail Address

Take note! the HVBA has a new e-mail address. Please contact us at hvba@optionline.net

### Millbrook Farmers Market seeks bands

The Millbrook Farmers' Market has extended an invitation to the HVBA to play at its weekly market. They believe that bluegrass and farming fit well together.

Although the market has no budget for live music this year, but good exposure would be your reward. The market opens May 24 and continues every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will provide the publicity too.

Interested bands should call the HVBA at (845) 691-6784 or email hvba@optionline.net

### James Reams in BU

The March edition of Bluegrass Unlimited magazine contains an article about James Reams that talks about the Barnstormers, the new recording with banjo-legend Walter Hensley (The Barons of Bluegrass), the old-time recording with Tom Paley and Bill Christophersen (The Mysterious Redbirds), the Park Slope Old-Time/Bluegrass Jamboree - and a wild trip to the Old Schoolhouse at Lucketts (Virginia) in the (at-that-time) brand-new red Barnstormer van.

### Be advised!

The HVBA's new e-mail address is hvba@optionline.net

### Too Blue on TV

Bluegrass/swing/original band "Too Blue" appeared on "Music Shop" a Litchfield County TV program on March 1. They performed six original songs from their debut CD, "A Little on the Blue Side", and talk about their band & music with host Mark Miller.

### The Mammals

The Mammals' CD Revolver was noted in the April/May issue of Country Music magazine. The Mammals host The Tao of Tao, a live radio show on WAMC-FM, The Northeast Network, on the third Wednesday of each month from 8-10PM. The group features Tao Rodriguez-Seeger on guitar and banjo, Ruth Ungar on fiddle and Michael Merenda on various string and rhythm instruments.

### Newsletter Submissions Sought

Your friendly editor reminds all readers that we welcome letters, articles, gig listings, band news etc. This is, after all, your newsletter. Send submissions to hvba@optionline.net

### Off the Beat-n-Track

Todd Mack's "Off the Beat-n-Track," which airs every Thursday between 10 and 11 PM on WKZE 98.1 FM in Sharon, CT, is intended to provide exposure for local bands and to introduce the listening community to the wealth of regional musical talent. Mack produces the show each week in his studio in Southfield, MA. He spins CDs and high quality demos of local independent musicians living in or having connections to the WZKE listening area, which includes Ulster, Dutchess, Columbia, Greene and Orange Counties NY, as well as Berkshire County (MA) and Litchfield County (CT).

continued on page 10

## News Briefs

continued from page 10

Too bad if you missed Too Blue in Rosendale. But, you can catch them at the Willow Creek Bluegrass Festival in August.

### The Sullivan Family in Brooklyn

The first family of bluegrass gospel music — the Sullivan Family (Margie & Enoch Sullivan and their band) — will be in Brooklyn, New York, for one night only on Friday, May 2.

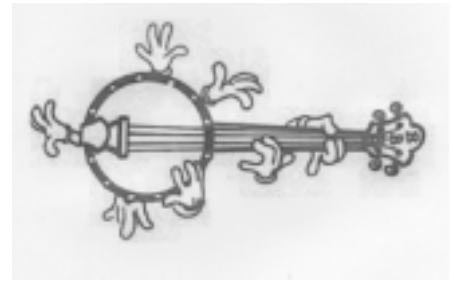
Margie and Enoch were dubbed "the first family of bluegrass gospel music" by no less an authority than the father of bluegrass music himself, Bill Monroe. The Sullivans live in Alabama and have not performed in New York since the 1970s.

In order to make this concert possible, we have arranged to have a special "concert & pie social" for a small group of people who understand the significance of spending time with these music "legends."

The event will be held at the 100-year-old meeting house of the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture — home of the Park Slope Old-Time/Bluegrass Jamboree and the weekly Good Coffeehouse concert series.

### Calling all fiddlers

Paul Loundsbury sends word to invite all fiddlers (accompanied or not) to go to the 9th Annual Old Time Fiddlers's Gathering on Sunday April 27 at Woodbourne Fire Hall in Woodbourne NY. This is a new location. Upon arrival, each performer can sign up for a 20-minute set during the afternoon to show off their stuff. This is great exposure, as it is attended by hundreds of people. Proceeds benefit the future Sullivan County Pregnancy Support Center, a non-profit center for women with crisis pregnancies. Call Paul at (845) 985-2923 or email ploundsbury@hvc.rr.com



### Riverbank Banjo Band

The Riverbank Banjo Band puts on a great show every Monday night at Banta's Steak & Stein, in Wappinger Falls. Their entertaining show is the Hudson Valley's answer to A Prairie Home Companion. The band has raised over \$130,000 for local charities over the past several years. For information, call Bantas at (845) 297-6770.

## Dwyers

continued from page 9

contacted their manager — Jack's dad, Bill.

While Jack basks in the limelight, sister Katey is not to be overlooked. She began fiddling at age six, played at the Alaska Folk Festival and Saturday market in Anchorage and now, at 11 her fiddling is coming into its own. Even young Sean, at 5, has begun to carry on the family tradition with the ukelele.

The HVBA extends its thanks to The Dwyer Family Band for performing at the HVBA's spring fundraiser on March 30. You can catch The Dwyer Family Band at The Chowhound (Saugerties, NY) every Saturday at noon. They are also regulars at the Sunday jam at Catskill Mountain Pizza (Woostock).

## WinterGrass

continued from page 1

you Elizabeth Ryan of Breezy Hills Orchards. Your cider was delicious. And thanks to Ronnybrook Farms for donating milk which was served in the lobby.

Seth McKee, at Scenic Hudson brought materials about the importance of farmland protection and James Bleeker's stunning photos of farmers and farm scenes in the Hudson Valley.

And how about that fabulous show by Vassar Clements and Northern Lights? They played their hearts out.

We hope to expand this program next year. Stay tuned to Jamboree for updates.

## News Briefs

continued from page 6

Too Blue has been on the show, as has the Beartown Mountain Ramblers and Hunger Mountain Boys.

Todd says that the show is really heating up, and he anticipates that they will begin to record shows at live venues in the near future.

To be considered, send your CD to Off the Beat-n-Track, Post Office Box 193, Southfield, MA 01259

### Hello Homegrown String Band

This 21st-century incarnation of the traditional family string band contacted us to help spread the word that they were playing at The Rosendale Cafe.

The sound of their music falls somewhere between the Carter Family and the Blue Grass Boys. The band consists of Rick and Georgianne Jackofsky and their daughters Erica and Annalee.

continued on page 11

## Turn Your Radio On!

### WAMC 90.3 FM, Albany, NY

WAMC Bluegrass Time.....Sundays 1 -3 PM  
Dancing on the Air, w/ Jay & Molly  
.....2nd Wednesday each month 9-10:30 PM  
Hudson River Sampler..Saturdays 8-10:30P M  
A Prairie Home Companion  
.....Sat 6-8PM and Sun 3-5 PM  
Rock 'n' Roots..... Sundays 10-11 PM  
The Tao of Tao...3th Weds of ea mo 8-10 PM  
Thistle & Shamrock.....Sundays 7-8 PM

### WHSV 950AM, Hyde Park, NY

Pirate Joe Radio Show..Weekdays .....3-6 PM  
Darwin Lee.....Sundays 3-6 PM

### WKZE 98.1 FM, Sharon, CT

Frank's Picks.....Fridays 7-11 PM  
Harmony Jct w/ Dick Hermans..Th 7-10PM  
Plus, bluegrass mixed in with regular,  
roots, and Americana programming

### WTBQ 1110 AM, Florida, NY

Doctor Nick.....Saturdays 6-7:30 AM

### WKCR 89.9 FM, Columbia U, NYC

www.columbia.edu/cu/wkcr.....24 hrs/day  
Moonshine.....Sundays 10-12 Noon  
Honky Tonkin'.....Tuesdays 9:30-11 PM  
Tennessee Border.....Sundays Noon-2PM

### WVKR 91.3 FM, Vassar College, Pok., NY

Hudson Valley Rag Shop.....Tues 5:30-8 PM  
Vince Vincent's Jukebox Jamboree..Fri 7-9P

### WFDU 89.1 FM, Teaneck, NJ.

Carol Beaugard.....Thursdays 6-9 AM  
Kim Gluckler.....Fridays 9 AM-1 PM  
Earl Karlsen.....Saturdays 6-9 AM

### WCNY-FM 91.3 Syracuse; 89.5 Utica, etc.

Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble  
.....Sundays 9-midnight

### WPKN 89.5 FM

Chris Tesky.....Wednesdays 7-10 PM

### WUSB 90.1 FM

Buddy Merriam.....Wednesdays 6:30 - 8 PM

### WREY 91.5 FM, Troy, NY

Andy Hawley.....Saturdays 7-10 AM

### WLNL 1000 AM, Horseheads, NY

Bruce Cutler, Gospel Doin's, ...Sun 2-3 PM

### WZZZ 1300 AM, Fulton, NY

B. Cutler, Gospel Doin's ..Sundays 8-8:30 AM

### WHGL 100.3 FM, Troy, PA

B. Cutler, Classic Clips..... .Sundays 6 AM

### WDYN Independent Radio

24 hours a day at <http://wdyn@wdyn.net>

## Kat's Hudson Valley Tour

Jeff Anzevino

I had the good fortune of catching up with Kat Mills a few weeks ago. As most of our readers know, Kat served the HVBA as secretary before following husband Nick off Blacksburg, VA and new opportunities at Virginia Tech.

She and Nick, along with Will Solomon and Jesse Selman, played together as Grass, a popular Hudson Valley Band with quite a following. Grass toured extensively, including road trips to Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Nashville Tennessee. Their CD, Guns and Money, can still be heard on the radio and in local venues, such as Gadaletto's.

Kat spent the week between March 15 and 23 back in her Hudson Valley home, reminiscing and seeing old friends, but, lucky for us, she also secured several gigs here during her stay. I caught her at Gadaletto's on March

21. She also played at The Beech Tree Grill and at the open mic at The Cubbyhole Cafe. In addition to her own gig at The Beech Tree, she sat in there with Steve Palmer on another night.

Kat also played a few tunes on the porch with old pal Will Solomon and his friend, Jason, a steaming banjo player from the ETSU

program.

Kat reports that her CD is in its final stages of development. She had a great mixing session in the studio while she was up there and is about to master the audio and the graphics are just getting cleaned up. Her CD will be in hand, she says, when she returns for another visit in June.

We can hear Kat on "Scene Unseen" on WVKR (91.3FM) on Wednesday, June 18



Kat Mills

and, I have a feeling she will line up plenty of gigs during her next visit.

In the meantime, Kat will be playing regularly in n Roanoke, Blacksburg and Christiansburg, VA. Keep up to date with Kat Mills via her website at [www.sweetcut.com/kat](http://www.sweetcut.com/kat)

[www.sweetcut.com/kat](http://www.sweetcut.com/kat)

## Goin' Places

# The Dwyer Family Band

One of the newest family bands in the Hudson Valley is all the way from Anchorage, Alaska. Now that they're here, they're already going places. The Dwyer family is father Bill Dwyer, son Jack and daughter Katey.

Bill and Mindy Dwyer moved their musical kids moved to Saugerties in 2001, and the local music scene hasn't been the same since. Saugerties is a good place for a family of budding musicians to



*Jack Dwyer and mandolin*

land. It seems like music just lives in those hills. The Dwyers quickly made many friends. With Bill Keith and his Beacon Banjo Company, just up the hill in Woodstock, and Jonah Bruno's Sunday jam at Catskill Mountain Pizzeria, inspiration is never far at hand.

The family, and in particular Jack, has been causing quite a stir. By the winter of 2003, Jack and The Dwyer Family have played numerous engagements between New York and Saugerties. He also plays with Jabberwocky, a teen Celtic band.

Playing guitar, mandolin and fiddle since age 9, upon moving to New York, Jack, studied banjo under the tutelage of Bill Keith and now has received a scholarship from John Hopkins University to study electric guitar with Bard College's Jazz ensemble.

Bill took up the guitar when Jack was born because he wanted music in the house when his kids were growing up. Ever the supportive father, Bill got serious with the guitar in order to provide accompaniment for Jack, as



*The Dwyer Family: Katey, Jack and their dad, Bill*

well as Katey on fiddle. Now, Bill says, his chops have been improving, particularly as a result of tips and playing time with Jonah Bruno.

Jack was born in Seattle, but grew up in Anchorage listening to heavy metal music. At age 9 he asked his dad for lessons on his acoustic guitar. Before long, he played Boston Boy by ear. Within five months he played at a folk festival in Anchorage. Not content, he picked up then fiddle and mandolin.

Now Jack Dwyer is a member of The Linemen, a well-known New York City bluegrass band and he has played at Joe's Pub, Paddy Reilly's, and The Parkside Lounge in New York City.

Jack was featured in The Daily News on March 13 and The Letterman Show has

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### Upcoming

**Diversity Day**  
Saugerties High School, April 29

**The Chowhound**  
Saugerties, NY, Saturdays at noon.

**Parkside Lounge**  
New York City,  
with The Lineman, April 14

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