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



Jamboree

The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

Fall 2006

online at www.hvbluegrass.org

Number 43

Bluegrass Between the Bridges 2006

The HVBA in association with The Bardavon and Dutchess County Arts Council will present Bluegrass Between the Bridges as part of the Hudson River Arts Festival on September 16 at Waryas Park in Poughkeepsie. This is the seventh time since 1999 that this partnership has featured both HVBA talent as well as national acts, such as Bill Keith, Chris Jones and The Night Drivers, James Reams & The Barnstormers, and Salamander Crossing.

The Arts Festival features music on two stages starting at 2PM and culminating with a fireworks display after a set by The Wailers.

This year's Bluegrass Between the Bridges program features Girl Howdy, Sassafras Bluegrass, Too Blue, Wayne Fugate & The Wire Choir, Blue Plate Special, Cold Feet, and No Brakes.

Girl Howdy

Girl Howdy grew out of a bunch of Sunday afternoon jam sessions between four women who shared a love of the heartfelt lyrics and straightforward melodies of hardcore honky-tonk. Their music is from the classic honky-tonk era spanning the late 1940's to the early 1960's. Drawing on their combined rich and varied repertoires, Girl Howdy plays songs from such legends as Hank Williams, Kitty Wells, Webb Pierce, the Davis Sisters and George Jones, as well as from bluegrass giants the Stanley Brothers and Bill Monroe.



Girl Howdy

The current lineup includes original members Rose Sinclair on steel, Betsy-Dawn (BeeDee) Williams on guitar, and Paula Bradley on piano, with the newest member Emma O'Donnell on fiddle. Girl Howdy formerly featured on fiddle Natalya Weinstein-Roberts, and original fiddler Rani Arbo. Occasionally, Girl Howdy performs with a rhythm section featuring upright stringbass and/or drums.

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Message from the President
Autumn leaves

Walking down the street this afternoon I overheard a conversation. It was actually an innocent enough question, but served as a wake up call. "So, how was your summer?"

Is summer really over? Unfortunately, by the time you read this, even the calendar will have succumbed to the changing of the seasons.

Not to worry. Though the weather will be cooling off, fall is a time of harvest festivals and lots of great music. Speaking of fall, I am reminded of one of my favorite songs, "Fallen Leaves" recorded by both Grampa Jones and The Country Gentlemen. The song truly has lyrics to live by:

*To your grave there's no use taking any gold;
It's no use when it's time for hands to fold.
When you leave this world for a better
home some day;
The only thing you'll take is what you gave
away.*

Please remember Jim Conklin in your thoughts and prayers. He continues to struggle against the side-effects of treatment for cancer and other complications. Jim remains very weak and is still unable to work.

Jim hasn't played much bluegrass lately. Over the past few years his musical interest has evolved from bluegrass and old-time banjo to finger-style guitar and now, most recently to keyboard and vocalization of jazz standards.

Jim was one of the original founders of the HVBA. He and I were playing regularly in 1994 when he moved to Morristown, NJ to take another job. I knew I would miss his musical companionship and, thus, I placed an ad on WHVW seeking other bluegrass musicians and promote

 **Sign me up!**
Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

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

_____ Enclosed is \$10 for new membership / renewal
_____ Additional donation
_____ Total

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

**Hudson Valley
Bluegrass Association**

*a 501 (c) 3 not for profit arts and educational
organization*

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Rob Bradley

our kickoff event, the concert at The Rhinecliff Hotel that November. Jim played banjo at that concert and he lent his sound system for the show. The concert was a success, music was made, a mailing list started and an organization--the HVBA--was the result.

This fall, dig out that old Country Gentlemen record--or do a web search and download a copy. Listen to *Fallen Leaves*. The message is inspiring.

Jeff Anzevino

Oct 14: The Del McCoury Band and King Wilkie at The Egg, Albany, NY 7:30PM \$24 www.theegg.org 518 473-1845

Oct 14: Martin Sexton at The Egg, Albany, NY 8PM \$24 www.theegg.org 518 473-1845

Oct 14: The Klezmatiks at The Egg, Albany, NY 7:30PM \$24 www.theegg.org 518 473-1845

Oct 15: Buddy Merriam & Back Roads at East Meadow Library Square Dance, East Meadow, NY 516-794-2570 nassaulibrary.org/emeadow 2PM

Oct 16: Vince Gill at Nokia Theatre Times Square, New York City

Oct 17: Emmy Lou Harris & Teddy Thompson at The Egg, Albany, NY 8PM \$38 www.theegg.org 518 473-1845

Oct 20: Northern Lights at Center for the Arts in Natick, 14 Summer St., Natick, MA 508-647-0097, www.natickarts.org. co-bill with Larry Keel & Natural Bridge, \$22, \$20 members, \$1 off seniors/students.

Oct 21: Northern Lights at DelRossi's Trattoria, Route 137N, Dublin, NH 8:30PM, 603-563-7195, www.delrossi.com, \$16.

Oct 22: Northern Lights at Assembly Theatre, 26 East Ave. (Rt. 107), Harrisville, RI, 5PM, 401-568-9772, 401-568-7179 (day of show only), www.musicinharmony.com, also Blue Around the Edges, Worcester County Bluegrass All-Stars and The Pegheads (w/NL alumni Jeff Horton & Mike Kropp).

Oct 27: The Hunger Mountain Boys at Golding Park Cafe, Cobleskill, NY, www.hungermountainboys.com

Oct 27: The Wickers Creek Band w/Andy Bing at Manna Dew Cafe, 54 Main Street, Millerton, NY 9-midnight, no cover

Oct 28: The Hunger Mountain Boys at Bodles Opera House, Chester, NY, www.bodles.com

Oct 28-29: Buddy Merriam & Back Roads at Palmer Vineyards, Aquebogue, 1-5PM NY 631-722-9463 palmervineyards.com

Oct 29: Jim Conklin Fundraising Concert with Eric Hollman and Friends (contra dance), Too Much Fun (bluegrass), Jesse Lége w/Cleoma's Ghost (Cajun), The Blue Rays, w/Vickie Russell (R&B), Big Joe Fitz (R&B), Jim Conklin w/ Perry Beekman & Robert Bard (jazz), Soul Purpose (rock and roll) at Marbletown Community Center, Stone Ridge, NY 1-6PM For info call Jeff (845) 691-6784 or Evelyn at (845) 255-8730. can't attend but want to help? mail tax-deductible donation with check payable to "Jim Conklin Fund" to Jeff Anzevino, 106 Pancake Hollow Road, Highland, NY 12528

Nov 4: Beartracks at Weston Playhouse Theater

Nov 7: Buddy Merriam & Back Roads at Checkmate Inn, Setauket 9:30PM 631-751-9240 9:30 pm

Nov 11: The Hunger Mountain Boys live on Jay Ungar & Molly Mason's live radio show Dancing On The Air on WAMC 90.9/90.3FM Albany, NY www.wamc.org

Nov 17: The Hunger Mountain Boys at Friends of Brandywine, Newark, DE www.hungermountainboys.com

Nov18: The David Grisman Quintet at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall 8PM \$29/\$26 www.troymusichall.org

Nov 19: Doc Watson and The Hunger Mountain Boys at The Calvin Theater, Northampton, MA www.hungermountainboys.com

Nov 26: Acoustic & Electric Hot Tuna at The Bardavon, Poughkeepsie, NY 8PM www.bardavon.org

Dec 1: Dan Paisley & The Southern Grass at The Emelin Theater, 8PM, \$32, Mamaroneck, NY www.emelin.org

Dec 3: Hot Tuna at The Egg, Albany, NY www.theegg.org 518 473-1845

Dec 5: Buddy Merriam & Back Roads at Checkmate Inn, Setauket 9:30PM 631-751-9240

Dec 31: Girl Howdy at Northampton First Night, The Elevens, 140 Pleasant St., Northampton, MA, 4-4:45 & 5-5:45PM http://www.gazettenet.com/firstnight/

Dec 31: Girl Howdy at Worcester First Night (Location to be announced) 8:30-9:15 & 9:45-10:30PM, Downtown Worcester, MA http://www.firstnightworcester.org/

Jan 5: The McKrells at The Towne Crier cafe, Pawling, NY 9PM \$20 /\$17.50 members More about the McKrells: http://www.mckrells.com/

Jan 12: Millers Crossing with Mike Burns and North Country, 8PM, \$28, Mamaroneck, NY www.emelin.org

Feb 16: Kenny & Amanda Smith at The Emelin Theater, 8PM, \$32, Mamaroneck, NY www.emelin.org

Mar 3: The Taj Mahal Trio at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall 8PM \$29/\$26 www.troymusichall.org

Apr 1: Doc Watson w/ David Holt & Abigail Washburn at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall 8PM \$29/\$26 www.troymusichall.org

Apr 13: Illrd Tyme Out at The Emelin Theater, 8PM, \$32, Mamaroneck, NY www.emelin.org

**HVBA
Jam Sessions**

2nd & 4th Wednesdays
of each month
Pirate Canoe Club, Po'keepsie, NY
Slow Jam starts at 6PM
Jam ends at 10 PM

\$3 admission

(845) 691-6784 for more info



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 hvba@optonline.net
Ongoing Jams, Dances, Gigs etc.

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 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 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, Umberto's, Poughkeepsie, NY

First Monday: ABL Jam at The Parting Glass, Saratoga Springs, NY 7PM

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

4th 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 Sheriff Bob at The Baggot Inn, Manhattan 9 PM

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

Every Thursday: Bluegrass Clubhouse with Saturday Night Bluegrass Band at Colony Cafe, Woodstock, NY (but not June 23rd) 7:30PM

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 (Oct-May): Walkabout Clearwater, White Plains, NY (845) 242-0374 www.walkaboutclearwater.org

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 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!!

Sept 16: Bluegrass Between the Bridges, in conjunction with The Hudson River Arts Fest with Girl Howdy, Sassafrass Bluegrass Wayne Fugate & The Wire Choir, Too Blue, Blue Plate Special, Cold Feat, No Brakes at Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie 2PM to Fireworks at dark.

Sept 21: The String Dusters at Ambition Cafe & Eatery, Schenectady, NY 5:30PM

Sept 22: Too Blue at Liquid Lunch, Shelton CT, coffees & lite fare. BYOB. 7:30 - 10:30 pm 434 Howe Ave. in downtown Shelton, CT. www.liquidlunchrestaurant.com

Sept 23: Too Blue at Olana Historic Site, Hudson NY outdoor performance in an inspiring setting 2-4PM, \$10/car. Weather permitting. www.olana.org

Sept 23: The String Dusters' Origins of Bluegrass Workshop & Jam Session sponsored by Hilltowns Alliance of Musicians and Songwriters (HAMS) 1PM location TBA www.myspace.com/hilltownhams

Sept 24: Buddy Merriam & Back Roads at LI Apple Festival, Sherwood Jayne House, Old Post Rd, E Setauket, NY 631-689-8172

Sept. 30: Northern Lights at Center for the Arts of Homer, 72 South Main St., Homer, NY 8PM, 607-749-4900, 877-749-2787 (toll free), www.center4art.org, \$20, \$16 seniors, \$10 students, under 12 free.

Sept 30-Oct 1: Buddy Merriam & Back Roads at Palmer Vineyards, Aquebogue, NY 631-722-9463 • palmervineyards.com 1-5PM

Oct 3: Buddy Merriam & Back Roads at Checkmate Inn, Setauket, NY 631-751-9240 9:30PM

Oct 6: Pine Mountain Railroad at The Emelin Theater, 8PM, \$32, Mamaroneck, NY www.emelin.org

Oct 8: Buddy Merriam & Back Roads at Connetquot Library, Bohemia, NY 631-567-5079 connetquot.lib.ny.us 1-5PM

Bluegrass Between the Bridges

continued from page 1

The roots honky-tonk mission of Girl Howdy continues, delivering tight vocal harmonies, spare yet punchy arrangements, an infectious honky-tonk groove, and above all one heck of a good time!

Paula Bradley, playing piano and singing lead vocals, was born in Huntington, WV. She's traipsed all around the eastern seaboard, always with an open ear for the lonesome, pinesome sound of pure mountain music and a song in the wind. Throw in a fresh jug and this gal will pound out the tunes and croon til the cows come home. Paula started tickling the ivories at age four - it's a long road from Bach to Buck! The nightingales taught Paula to sing when she was just a sweet young thing, and many a stringed instrument has shaken her hand, (guitars, banjos and ukuleles). She's also known to cut a rug when the spirit moves her.

Rhythm guitarist and lead singer **Betsy Dawn Williams** was born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and cut her musical eyeteeth singing in the Baptist choir. Her soul was captured by the raw sounds of hillbilly music when she first heard her grand daddy play clawhammer banjo and imitate a train whistle on his harmonica. Loves purple potatoes, pink telephones and persimmons, and prefers salt to sugar, our gal "BeeDee" is happiest sitting cross-legged in the middle of the floor with her 1957 Gibson guitar, any drink with salt on the rim, and Hank Williams on the hi-fi.

Fiddler and harmony vocalist **Emma O'Donnell** was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but rapidly changed addresses, to New England, then on to rural Pennsylvania, NYC, Boston, Connecticut, and Maine, now settling in upstate New York, (whew!) Emma has been draggin' the bow all across the country since the age of five. First classically trained, then

slip-slidin' into the world of fiddle styles. She became a fiddle contest junkie during her teen years and emerged as a steady winner. From there Emma jumped aboard the bluegrass wagon. Now with a passion for slaving over a hot stove, melting chocolate & sipping bourbon, she's ridin' high in honkytonk heaven with Girl Howdy!

Rose Sinclair plays steel guitar and sings harmony. She was born in Midland, Michigan, left home and hit the road to pick apples and banjos, later dropping the apples and picking up the guitar, accordion, and stringbass. Eventually our gal Rose saw the honkytonk light and an electrical outlet and then found a steel guitar hiding down in her knapsack. Ever since the day she put 'em all together, she's been on the road to honky tonk heaven. With green eyes and a mysterious gleam, purple shoelaces (when not clad in her cowgirl boots) and a passion for the color black, she puts the twang in Girl Howdy!

Sassafrass Bluegrass

Sassafras Bluegrass is a hot new band based out of everywhere and nowhere all at once. With members in Boston, New York, and Colorado it's often hard to get everyone together, but when the stars align, all sanity waves goodbye. With a mixture of old standards, originals, and more energy than a barrel of monkeys, they are sure to hold any audience's attention.

Ashleigh Caudill grew up playing with her family's bluegrass band, Fleeting Moment. Starting out on electric bass to enter her school's jazz band she quickly took to the upright. Being the Colorado All State Jazz Bassist her junior and senior year led her to pursue music as a career. Now at Berklee

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HVBA News Briefs

New Moon shining

Northern Lights' third CD on Fifty Fifty Music, *NEW MOON*, has received some rave reviews. The latest is from the summer '06 issue of *SING OUT* magazine: "The group consistently stands out from the herd; this is no ordinary ensemble, proven again in this latest recording...The hands-down highlight comes when the band looks to the venerable Pop Staples for his arrangement of 'Sit Down Servant' that defies this reviewer's words; shivers will run down your spine. Duck for cover, this album is dynamite, a must-have!"

Ordering information for all Northern Lights CDs is available on www.northernlights.com.

New HVBA tee-shirts

The newly designed, limited edition HVBA tee shirts will be available at Bluegrass Between the Bridges on September 16. The shirts are the brainchild of Wayne Fugate. Lynn Lipton coordinated the design, which was done by her grandson Jake Albert. The tee shirt committee, Eugene Martinez, Pat Dinges, Trisha Bell, and Steve Lipton, provided invaluable assistance.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is what the HVBA is all about. Someone has an idea and people spring into action. Thanks a million everyone.



www.hvbluegrass.org

No Brakes at DC Fair

No Brakes played their special brand of bluegrass at the Dutchess County Fair. After hearing them jamming at Grey Fox, Warren Wigsten arranged the gig.

Cold Feat on Lloyd's brochure

The Town of Lloyd's promotional brochure features a photograph of a familiar bluegrass band--none other than Cold Feat playing at Breakfast at Black Creek.

Betsy Rome featured

Look for Too Blue guitarist Betsy Rome featured in the Sept/Oct issue of Flatpicking Guitar Magazine -- www.flatpick.com

Bluegrass Journey aired


Ruth Oxenberg reports that she and Rob Schumer are thrilled that their hometown PBS station, WMHT Schenectady aired *Bluegrass Journey* on Friday night September 1. I don't know about you, but I never get tired of watching it!



Vince Gill's These days

Vince Gill's new four-disc CD contains "The Reason Why," his first new single in two years. On Oct. 16, the day before the album debuts, he embarks on a 25-date tour starting at the Nokia Times Square Theater in New York City.

Dancin' to the Doctor

Famed choreographer Trey McIntyre is using songs recorded and made famous by Ralph Stanley in his new dance production, *Go Out*, which has just concluded a five-day showcase at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, MA. The production ran August 2-6 at the Festival's Ted Shawn Theatre. 

It's Honky Tonk Time

Girl Howdy

Girl Howdy's core--Betsy Dawn Williams, Paula Bradley, Rose Sinclair and Emma O'Donnell--is rooted in bluegrass and old time music. After all, they've played with the likes of Lost Wages, Pioneer Valley Bluegrass, Robin and Linda Williams, Jim and Jenny & The Pinetops and Bruce Molsky. But together they create a timeless, 1940s honky tonk sound that never goes out of style.

Their EP length CD, *It's Honky Tonk Time*, reflects their love for the music and the fun they have crafting their art. It's recorded live and captures the energy of their performance. During each song you'll forget it's live. The recording (Chris Cantwell, July 2005), mix, and mastering (Joe Podlesney, Avocet Studios, Shelburne MA) excel and the applause is unobtrusively faded between tracks.

Special guests June Drucker's driving bass and Paul McTaggart's drums keep Howdy in the groove, whether they're swinging, rocking, or drowning in a lonesome beer. Paula's piano rounds out the rhythm section.

Both Betsy Dawn (guitar) and Paula sing lead and take turns providing mutually supporting harmonies. As their voices waft through the swinging doors and out into the dusty street, you could almost hear the clinking of beer bottles inside.

Rose's steel and Emma's fiddle fit the music to a tee, further adding to its authenticity. These characteristics--sweet harmonies, sliding steel and sawing fiddle--define Girl Howdy's genuine jukebox sound.



**Knee Deep in
the Blues
Half as Much
Moanin' the Blues
You're Not Easy
to Forget
Excuse Me (I Think
I've Got a Heartache)
I'll Take the Blame**

With a few exceptions, males dominated the post-war Honky Tonk scene. But in the 21st Century Girl Howdy rules--good for listening and for dancing.

It's Honky Tonk Time contains just six songs, and as expected, leaves you wanting more. But, it's a bargain at just \$10, available through CD Baby linked to www.girlhowdyband.com.

Put this CD in your changer with some old Hank Williams, Ray Price and Kitty Wells. It's all good! Then, roll up the carpet and call your friends for a dance.

So excuse them. They'll take the blame, moanin' the knee-deep blues, rockin' and swingin' with a rollicking sound that'll sweep you off your feet.

Jeffro

www.girlhowdyband.com

Bruce Molsky at The Rosendale Cafe

Ambrose Verdibello

An enthusiastic crowd packed the Rosendale Cafe on May 20 to celebrate the release of Bruce Molsky's latest CD *Soon Be Time*.

He told stories and jokes and played several cuts from the album, using multiple guitars and fiddles, as well as a frailing banjo.

Molsky started with a few fiddle tunes to warm up. Then, he picked up an instrument and assured the crowd "don't run, it's just a banjo" and played the mournful *The Golden Willow Tree*

Though not on the CD, his first guitar piece (finger picked) *The Johnson City Rag* stunned the crowd. He played this on his late Uncle Irving Panzer's 1924 Martin, a guitar picked out for his uncle by none other than Charlie Byrd.

The crowd seemed to enjoy *Cotton Eyed Joe* (from the CD) the most, clapping along to end the first set.

The second set included several tunes from the CD: *Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie*,



Bruce Molsky at Rosendale Cafe

The Brass Band Ruchenitsa, John Brown's Dream, and Come Home, again with Uncle Irving's guitar.

The Rosendale Cafe is always a great spot for music, providing home cooking in an intimate atmosphere, and this night was no exception. 🍴

www.brucemolsky.com

BBB

So join your friends and neighbors for a very special day on the river, September 16 at Hudson River Arts Fest and Bluegrass Between the Bridges.

In addition to two stages of music, you'll find boat rides, arts and crafts, childrens' activities and food.

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Thanks to The Bardavon, Dutchess County Arts Council, the City of Poughkeepsie, Arts Fest sponsors and, of course, our bands. For more information, visit www.bardavon.org or hvbluegrass.org. 🍴

BBB 2006...band profiles

continued from page 3

College of Music, Ashleigh has had many wonderful opportunities, such as Showcasing at the Kennedy Center in DC with some fellow students. During her time in Boston she has become a prominent player on the acoustic music scene and has had the opportunity to

John McGann, among many other masters. Danny realized that too much flatland wasn't good for anybody, so he picked up his six-string and headed west to the Rockies.

Rachel Eugene Landry started at a young age, singing and playing for her family. She always had a love for the dramatics as well as music. "She was even performing while still in the womb," says Landry's mother. As a multi instrumentalist she has received many accolades for her efforts, establishing herself first as a solo saxophonist in festivals with the New York State School Music Association. As a vocalist, she has sung with the Alvin Slaughter fire in the valley gospel choir, performed as a soloist in school and church choirs, as well as accompanied herself on guitar at many venues along the east coast. She spent the last year touring with the Indie rock band This Car Up, as their bassist. Now in her last semesters at Berklee College of Music, she has recently immersed herself in the rich Boston bluegrass scene.



Sassafrass Bluegrass

perform with greats such as Matt Glaser, Lincoln Meyers, Roger Williams, and Nate Leath. She has opened for The Peter Rowan & Tony Rice Quartet where she (sadly) sold her rubber chicken, Arthur, to a fan for \$100.

Jessica Caudill is a fiddle player and singer long-rooted in the bluegrass tradition. She has been playing and singing high lonesome harmonies since the age of eight with her family band and with various other groups in the recent past. She is currently studying French Horn performance at Mannes College of Music in New York City but spends her weekends and summers with her true passion: Bluegrass. Adding her harmonies to Ashleigh and Rachel's vocals complete the three part harmonies that old time bluegrass requires.

Danny Shyman has acquired a genuine love and passion for acoustic music. His last few years have been spent at the highly acclaimed and prestigious Berklee College of Music where he had a chance to develop his musical taste and style with national Bluegrass legend

James Weatherly has only played banjo for a little over two years, but has mastered and perfected his own unique bluegrass sound. With many contemporary and traditional influences from Bela Fleck to Earl Scruggs and Jim Mills, James adds a stylistic flare to the banjo. He is native of Fort Collins, Colorado but has recently moved to Boston in August to begin music studies at Berklee College of Music this fall.

Too Blue

Too Blue is a favorite of HVBA fans. Its core, Betsy Rome and Joan Harrison are regulars at HVBA jam sessions. The band's CD, *A Little On The Blue Side*, is getting international airplay and Too Blue has played at festivals throughout the northeast, including Wind Gap, Joe Val, Strawberry Park and Thomas Point.

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BBB band profiles

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Joan Harrison, who plays banjo and sings lead vocals, lives in Stanfordsville, NY. Joan's clear and compelling voice brings new interpretations to standards from Patsy Cline



Too Blue

to Bill Monroe, and creates new vocal stylings for Too Blue's original songs. A former student of banjo guru Tony Trischka, Joan plays melodic banjo with creativity and verve.

Joan's former bands include "Breakeven" and "Mike Burns and North Country".

Guitarist and vocalist **Betsy Rome** hails from Woodbury, CT. Betsy's award-winning guitar playing has been featured in "Flatpicking Guitar" magazine, and she is one of very few female performers in this demanding bluegrass style of "flatpicking", both rhythm and lead guitar.

Betsy's harmony vocals blend seamlessly with Joan's to form the signature sound of Too Blue. Also a member of the "Walkingwood Mandolin Quartet", Betsy's previous bands include "Sassygrass" and "Crossbow". Her major influences include Clarence White and Django Reinhardt.

Jack Murphy, on bass and vocals, is from Putnam Lake, NY. Jack's driving upright bass is the solid rock beneath the melodies in the rhythm section. His playing is informed by both bluegrass and jazz, and his wry sense of humor keeps everyone on their toes. Jack is also a member of the Burnt Potatoes bluegrass band. He has been a mainstay of the Tri-state bluegrass scene for over 25 years.

Michael Sassano, from Mahopac, NY, plays mandolin and sings. A multi-instrumentalist with wide-ranging musical tastes, Michael began studying guitar at age 12 in his native Brooklyn. He has been playing the mandolin for over 25 years and has been greatly influenced by his first teacher, the renowned Jay Ungar, as well as Andy Statman. A founding member of the eclectic string band "Out To Lunch", Michael has been performing throughout the Northeast and Canada for the last 2 decades. Michael has performed with notables including David Amram, Walt Michael & Co., and Barry Mitterhoff. He recorded and helped compose a sound track with David Amram for the play *Chickadee*, and has recorded with Out To Lunch and Too Blue.

Wayne Fugate & The Wire Choir

Many of you know Wayne by his participation at HVBA jams and his work with Out to Lunch and Tin Roof. Now, Wayne has assembled his "Wire Choir" especially for BBB 2006:

Marty Cutler, banjo ... Founder of "Charged

continued on next page

BBB band profiles

continued from previous page

Hopewell Junction. When she is available **Nadia Jones**, a graduate student at SUNY New Paltz, joins the band on fiddle. The mandolin player is **David Angell** who works for IBM, and lives in Poughkeepsie.

No Brakes

Frank Kara (Mandolin, Vocals) grew up listening to his dad play fiddle and guitar around the house. After playing electric and acoustic guitar through high school into his twenties, Frank started experimenting with the mandolin. After discovering the music of Tony Rice and attending his first Winterhawk Bluegrass Festival he decided to concentrate on playing bluegrass mandolin. Forming a duet with musical partner Eric Spaulding, the two worked up an array of fiddle tune and classic bluegrass material. Answering an ad for a Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association function got them in contact with other players and soon No Brakes was formed with banjo player Ken Flowers.

Eric Spaulding (Guitar, Vocals) also has a father who plays guitar. He and Frank started playing together in the early 80s in a variety of local bands and was converted to bluegrass at the same Winterhawk Festival. Eric's playing reflects the influence of Charles Sawtelle, Tony Rice and Doc Watson.

Gary DiGiovanni (banjo, Vocals) has been a part of the No Brakes family since about 2001, substituting for Ken Flowers on several gigs. Born in New York and raised in New Jersey, Gary's first musical instrument was the trombone. After becoming aware of folk music in the early 1960's he fooled around with the

guitar and harmonica, but got bitten by the banjo bug after hearing the playing of Alan Shelton. Gary has played in many bands and became a regular member of No Brakes in January of 2004.

Andy Bing (Dobro, Mandolin, Vocals) started his musical career on the five string banjo. Andy became interested in the dobro while working in the Washington D.C. area after seeing the Seldom Scene perform live. He went on to study with dobro great Mike Aulridge. After playing the dobro for a while he became a huge fan of Bill Monroe and added the mandolin to his musical arsenal. Andy has played with No Brakes for about three years and also plays with the Burnt Hills and Wickers Creek Bands.

Rusty Boris (Bass, Vocals) from Kingston NY, plays with many Hudson Valley bands and can play all styles of music on both acoustic and electric bass. No Brakes is pleased as



No Brakes at The Dutchess County Fair

always to have our bottom end in Rusty's capable hands.

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BBB band profiles

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documentary from Academy Award®-winning documentary filmmaker Bill Couturié, "Into the Fire". "Into the Fire" airs nationally on The History Channel on October 13 at 8PM/7C and October 22 at 4PM/3C.

Whether in a concert setting, casual party atmosphere or interactive children's workshop, Blue Plate Special offers highly engaging performances. Their sheer love of what they do, resonates with audiences of all ages.

Dave Gross: singer/songwriter is a New Jersey native. His unique mandolin style is influenced by a wide range of mando players from western swing great Tiny Moore, to Dawg music innovator David Grisman. Dave also brings a strong traditional bluegrass influence into the band, always tipping his hat to Bill Monroe. Dave is widely known as the host of "On the Sunny Side" a bluegrass radio show on WFDU for over a decade. Dave is also Blue Plate Special's producer/arranger, and tech-guru.

Jay Friedman: singer/songwriter, fiddle and guitar player hails from downstate New York. Jay has studied music since childhood, starting with piano and accordion. Her most recent passion is the fiddle. Jay's vocal style helps define Blue Plate Special's strong vocal sound. Her clever songwriting tells stories with a twist, drawing from all styles of music, from swing, bluegrass and country, to rhythm and blues.

Tom Wise: singer/songwriter, bass and harmonica player. Tom's twangy, laid back vocals, reveal his midwestern heritage. His strong songwriting incorporates some wide-ranging musical influences including blues, swing and country. Tom's ability to play bass, sing and wail on the harmonica make this multi-instrumentalist a joy to behold.

Dan O'Dea: a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist from Highland Park, NJ. Dan plays fiddle, mandolin, flatpicking guitar, banjo, and stand-up bass, and also sings lead and harmony vocals.

Cold Feat

Cold Feat is a traditional acoustic Bluegrass band from the mid-Hudson Valley region of New York. They promote the acoustic sound and play a variety of old favorites covering the repertoire of Bill Monroe, Flatt & Scruggs, traditional fiddle tunes and a few original compositions thrown in for good measure.

The Band consists of guitar, mandolin, banjo and string bass and often features three-part harmonies. Band members met and began playing together at the local Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association jam sessions. Band members remembered not to give up their day jobs in order to keep on playing acoustic Bluegrass music so by day they are: **Dave Cobb**, guitar, a foreman for Central Hudson, and resident of Stone Ridge. **Mary DeBerry**, bass, is a staff member for the Newburgh Public Schools, and resident of Newburgh. Roy Coates, banjo, is band director for Rhinebeck High School and hails from

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Cold Feat

BBB band profiles

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Particles," author and asst editor of Electronic Music Magazine, Marty has played with everyone from Bluegrass great Frank Wakefield to Jazz great John Carlini.

Mike Kobetich, guitar ... A monster of a guitar player ... former member of "Charged Particles" and has numerous other performing and recording credits.

Larry Cohen, bass ... Toured extensively throughout North America, Europe and Japan with Tony Trischka & Skyline and has accompanied or recorded with many top musicians including Alison Krauss, Bela Fleck, Darol Anger, Mike Marshall, Jerry Douglas, Mark O'Connor, Peter Rowan, David Bromberg, Vassar Clements and Nanci Griffith. He has also produced albums for Barry Mitterhoff, Jay Ansell, Akira Satake and Mark Cosgrove

Wayne Fugate, Mandolin ... HVBA Member (and proud of it!). Author of two books on mandolin technique & repertoire, has



Wayne Fugate

performed with Tony Trischka, Hazel Dickens, Walt Michael & Co and Winfield guitar champion, Mark Cosgrove. He has appeared in concert as a co-soloist with Barry Mitterhoff at New York's Weill Recital Hall and at Carnegie Hall as a member of "The Clef Club" orchestra under the direction of Maurice Peress.

Blue Plate Special

Blue Plate Special plays a blend of American roots music featuring strong three part vocal harmonies, mixed with the acoustic sounds of accordion, banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, and upright bass.



Their latest CD, "Nowhere fast" features 12 original songs showcasing Blue Plate Special's wide range of influences including bluegrass, swing, country, Cajun, polka, and gospel. Two of the cuts from "Nowhere Fast" are included in documentaries. The PBS series "The Appalachians" featured the title cut "Nowhere Fast". Jay's song "Bluebird of Happiness" will appear in the upcoming

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Jim Conklin Fundraiser: October 29

Jeff Anzevino

The Hudson Valley music and dance community is rallying to support Jim Conklin, both spiritually and financially, in his battle against cancer. A committee of his friends has organized the Jim Conklin Benefit Concert to be held on Sunday, October 29th from 1 to 6PM at the Marletown Community Center on Route 209 in Stone Ridge. The afternoon of music and dance is a celebration of Jim Conklin's friendship and reflects the many facets of Jim's taste from bluegrass and old-time music to Cajun to jazz.

Long time HVBA members know that Jim helped found the Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association. He played banjo at the inaugural concert at The Rhinecliff Hotel in November 1994. Jim also provided the sound system for many of the HVBA's early shows.

Inspired by Earl Scruggs, Bill Keith and others he picked up the banjo and played with Rich Hinds and myself in Hot Tar Loose Stone for "arts" gigs for local not-for profits. In 1993 Jim, Rich (guitar), Alan Dubrow (fiddle), Bob Vedder (bass) and I played for the soundtrack

in Dick Crenson's documentary "Sittin' On Top of the World." Most of the music was recorded live on top of the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge, now called "Walkway Over the Hudson," 212 feet above the river on a blustery September day.



Jim Conklin (R) with guitarist and mentor El McMeen (L) at The Harvest Cafe, New Paltz

**Contributions to
The Jim Conklin Fund
are tax-deductible**

The bands performing at the benefit are all friends of Jim. **Eric Hollman and Friends** will provide music and calling for a contra dance. **Too Much Fun** will play bluegrass, folk, and traditional music. **Jesse Lége with Cleoma's Ghost** will perform Cajun music. **The Blue Rays**, with vocalist **Vickie Russell** and **Big Joe Fitz** will play rhythm and blues. **Jim Conklin with Perry Beekman and Robert Bard** will play jazz standards and **Soul Purpose** will finish the afternoon of music with a set of good old rock and roll.

Several items will be raffled off, including paintings, swing lessons, vocal or piano lessons, coffee, and more. Food will be provided in the "potluck" style, including homemade Cajun dishes. Other donations of food are appreciated.

Admission is \$20. If you cannot attend but wish to donate, make a check out to "The Jim Conklin Fund," which has been established at Ulster Savings Bank, and mail it to Jeff Anzevino, 106 Pancake Hollow Road Highland, NY 12528.

For more information, please contact Evelyn Schneider at ejschneider@earthlink.net, (845) 255-8730.



Jim Conklin

**The Jim Conklin Benefit
Concert**
October 29 from 1-6PM
Marletown Community Center
Stone Ridge NY

featuring music and dancing with:
Eric Hollman and Friends (contra dance)
Too Much Fun (bluegrass)
Jesse Lége w/Cleoma's Ghost (Cajun)
The Blue Rays (R&B)
Vickie Russell (singer songwriter)
Big Joe Fitz (R&B)
Jim Conklin w/ Perry Beekman & Robert Bard (jazz)
Soul Purpose (rock and roll)
MC: Jeff Anzevino