

Bringing Community Together Through Music

2023 Concerts

- Sunday April 30th @ 2 pm Westbrook PA Center, Westbrook ME
 - **Saturday May 6**th @ 7 pm Star Theatre, Kittery ME
 - Sunday May 7th @ 2 pm Derryfield School, Manchester NH
 - Saturday May 20th @ 7 pm Exeter Town Hall, Exeter NH
 - Sunday June 4th @ 2 pm Franklin Opera House, Franklin NH





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shows again this year.





2023 NH Fiddle Ensemble Directors



Ellen Carlson, Nottingham NH

Ellen started the NH Fiddle Ensemble in 2010 with 18 people. Enrollment doubled in year 2 and has continued to grow to over 120 people in 2023. She added Melissa as a coach and leader in 2014. The Ensemble became a non-profit in 2021. Ellen is a sought-after fiddle teacher, teaching at some of the largest festivals and workshops, including Grey Fox, Fiddle Hell, Pete Wernick's Jam Camp, Kaufmann Kamp, and Joe Val. She also runs Fiddleheads Acoustic Jam Camp (in its 26th year), now with Melissa. An admired and in-demand player, she has played with High Range (20 years), Sweet, Hot & Sassy!,

Honest Millie, Stone Country, and the Hot Skillet Club. Her education includes an MEd and BS in Business Music. Ellen taught middle school math for 15 years, is a member of the NH State Council on the Arts Education roster, and was in the Leadership NH Class of 2020.

Melissa Bragdon Caron, Scarborough ME

Melissa is co-director of the New Hampshire Fiddle Ensemble. She is a Maine-based fiddler known for playing and teaching many different styles of music. Classically trained, she received a degree in Music Education at the University of Maine and has experience teaching string programs and general music at various grade levels in the Maine public schools. Melissa has been a member of the Portland-based bluegrass band Jerks of Grass since 2006 and also plays with the old-time band Sugar Hill. She recently recorded an album, "Stuff That Works," with Fiddlers Three. Melissa teams up with Ellen Carlson to organize Fiddleheads Acoustic Jam Camp, a music camp for acoustic musicians held each September in New Hampshire. She was greatly involved in the development of 317 Main Community Music Center in Yarmouth, Maine, where she taught fiddle and acoustic ensembles for twelve years. Melissa also teaches at her studio in Scarborough, Maine. She enjoys spending time with her two young sons, Daniel and Aidan.



Letter from the Directors

Welcome to the 2023 concert season of the New Hampshire Fiddle Ensemble. This year marks our 14th year of bringing community together through music!

The Fiddle Ensemble brings value to our communities on so many levels. You've likely seen reports about the prevalence of mental health issues across our country; young people with high rates of depression and older people feeling isolated are just a few of these issues. While we won't try to fool you into thinking we have the cure for these problems, there is plenty of scientific evidence that playing music with others improves one's mental health. We also continue to support people and organizations across our communities, such as the New Hampshire Children's Trust.

Where else can you see a group of people, ages 8 through 90, from such a large geographic area performing such a wide variety of music, all memorized or learned by ear? Our musicians range from beginners to professionals with 40 years of playing experience. We come together because we enjoy making not just music, but GOOD music, together.

Amy Conley and Betsy Heron joined us as new coaches this year, and we also welcomed back long-time coach Shana Aisenberg. We had group rehearsals in Exeter, Manchester, Milford, Tamworth, and Tilton NH, as well as in Kittery and Westbrook ME. We offered nine rehearsals for each of the small groups, through a combination of live and Zoom rehearsals. Ensemble members learned all of the music by ear during the rehearsals and by using the learning materials we provided. In April, everyone came together for two large dress rehearsals.

This year also marked the debut performance of our Acoustic Roots Orchestra (the younger members of the Ensemble), who rocked the house at Stringfest in Manchester in March. One of the kids commented to their mother after the concert, "I have found my people." Thank you to Taylor Blankenship, Susie Stevens, and Paul Smith for coaching the Acoustic Roots Orchestra at the Portsmouth Christian Academy, and to Muriel Orcutt for teaching Acoustic Roots students as well. We hope to spread the word to more young people who play acoustic instruments and want the opportunity to play with others their age.

How do we do all of this? Though we are a fairly new non-profit, we have a strong core of people involved in the Ensemble who are dedicated to making this work and who believe in our mission of bringing community

together through music. It's the members of the Ensemble, our dedicated Board of Directors, and our many outside supporters who make this work. We'd like to especially thank the following people:

- Our Board members: Diane Collier, Dru Laduke, Rebecca McReynolds, Cindy Robertson, Frank Smith, Paul Smith, and Dan Stevenson
- Keryn Kriegl, for assisting the Board
- The folks in the Ensemble who help organize the groups: Dan and Peg Fedor, Diane Collier, Catherine Barrows, Margot Erdmann, JoAnn Enos, Becky Bukowski, Noel Dickinson, Joan Murray, Sandy Bragdon, Betsy Bartlett, and Bonnie Guerrette
- Mike Skrip, for his help with stage management and behind-the-scenes help
- Muriel Orcutt and Carroll Stevens, for their cello videos
- Tom and Chris Stevens, grandparents who host the Manchester group rehearsals in their home
- Heather Sweeney, for putting together the bio boards and working with group organizers
- Diane Collier, who put together the concert programs

Why do we do this? Because people need this. We need the joy and the love that comes from making music together in a community and spreading that joy and love to communities outside of our group.

Thank you for coming. We hope you enjoy the concert.

Ellen & Melissa







Special shout out to Adriana Scott! Mandolin/Guitar/Vocals and a valued memeber of The Wingate Team!

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Set 1

1. Down Home Rag

Ragtime tune by Wilbur Sweatman (1911)

2. Long Journey Home

Traditional bluegrass song

3. Blue Kentucky Girl

Country song by Johnny Mullins

4. Group Song

5. Polska efter Petter Dufva

Scandinavian tune arr. by Andrea Larson

6. Exactly Like You

Swing song by John McHugh (1930)

7. Group Song

8. Three Little Birds

Reggae song by Bob Marley

9. Catharsis

New England fiddle tune by Amy Cann



Set 2

- 1. Christy Barry's & Ten Penny Bit Traditional Irish jigs
- 2. Charley Murray's Waltz
 Original waltz by Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki
- 3. Group Song
- 4. **When I'm Gone**Traditional folk song
 by A.P. Carter
- 5. **Red Wing**Traditional square
 dance tune
- 6. Group Song
- 7. Coaches Song
- 8. **Built for Comfort**Blues by Willie Dixon
- 9. Little Darlin'

Group Songs:

Exeter: Snowden's/Shady Grove; *traditional*

Kittery: Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da; J. Lennon & P. McCartney

Manchester: Sailor's Hornpipe/ The Wellerman; *traditional*

Tamworth: The Strangest Dream; *Simon & Garfunkel*

<u>Tilton</u>: Ring of Fire; *June Carter & Merle Kilgore*

Westbrook: Comes a Time; *Neil Young*

Cajun song by Buddy & Julie Miller





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2023 NH Fiddle Ensemble Members

Paul Anderson

Brenda Austin

Sue Bailey

Ellen Barber

Catherine Barrows

Betsy Bartlett

Beth Benham

Katrin Bergeron-

Killough

Rose Bergeron-

Killough

Melanie Berndtson

Jennifer Bofinger

Joann Brady

Sandy Bragdon

Rebecca Bukowski

George Buxton

Reid Calhoun

Hadley Carlson

Freja Carlson

Finley Carlson

Hannah Cashin

Pat Chagnon

Diane Collier

Susie Collins

Lauren Cooper

Stephanie Cox Suarez

Emma Curtin

Samantha Dahl

Ted Danforth

Kim Darling

Charlotte David

Jennifer Deraspe

Warren Dumphy

Lynn Dunklee

Ainsley Eaton

Madeline Eaton

Nolan Engel

Neal Engel

JoAnn Enos

Margot Erdmann

Greta Erdmann

Frank Feda Liz Incze

Dan Fedor Oliver Johnson

Peg Fedor Connor Keenan

Jolene Flint Ethan Keller

Richard Fogarty Pat Kenneally

Lindsay Freese Thomas Kerwin

Noel Gagne Nora Kerwin

John Garrigan Valerie Kijewski

Nat Goodspeed Nancy Kurcewicz

Steven Gray Blair LaBella

Deborah Groen Emily Lafferty

Bonnie Guerrette Ada Lafferty

Zadi Hale Elizabeth Lawrence

Iago Hale Charles Leinbach

Monica Haley Leigh Levine

Julie Harrison Robert Loree

Regina Hawley Steven Mallett

Fred Head Alyssa Maston

Sharon Hickey Joyce McCourt

Pam Hunt Jennifer McHone

Janet Ierardi Villalobos

Callie Ierardi Rebecca McReynolds

Janine Moreau

Kit Morgan

Joan Murray

Melissa Myers

Muriel Orcutt

Karen Papetti

Minnie Peck

Sandy Price

Sue Quinn

Joyce Rains

Suzanne Reid

Sue Rieter

Jim Rivet

Cindy Robertson

Erica Russell

Adriana Scott

Jeanne Smith

Frank Smith

Karen Stevens

Carroll Stevens

Mike Surette

Heather Sweeney

Carol Sweeney

Bob Thibodeau

Maria Tilley

Susannah Tilley

Joanne Toone

Dale Trombley

Kathryn Varney

Carren Webber

Andrew Weeks

Jasper White

Elizabeth Willett

Barbara Williams

Chick Willing

Hannah Wolfe

Eileen Young

Laurie Zwaan



Exeter NH Group



Tilton NH Group



Manchester NH Group



Milford NH Group



Tamworth NH Group



Kittery ME Group



Westbrook ME Group



2023 NH Fiddle Ensemble Coaches

Shana Aisenberg, Freedom NH – Tamworth & Rhythm Coach

Shana plays in various musical contexts from Appalachian old-time fiddle, to Eastern-European Klezmer mandolin, to finger-picking blues guitar. Shana first achieved national recognition in the 1980s with her intricate and sensitive fingerstyle guitar playing, recording several solo guitar albums. She plays an array of acoustic instruments, including fiddle, guitar, mandolin, 5-string banjo, ukulele, fretted dulcimer, bouzouki, lap steel guitar, piano, harmonium, and frame drums. Shana performs in String Equinox, playing concerts, school programs, and fiddling/calling for contra dances. Shana serves as Music Director at UU Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes (UUFES) in Tamworth NH. She has been part of the Ensemble since 2014.

Amy Conley, Milford NH – Guest Coach

Amy is a full-time performer and teacher of music based in Milford NH, offering classes and lessons in ukulele, guitar, banjo, percussion, piano, and harmonica (on Zoom and in Milford). Leading community music programs such as the Rise Up singing group, the Second Friday Song Circle, and therapeutic singalongs for seniors and persons with special needs, Amy draws people into the joy of music. She established Amy Conley Music in 1997 and also offers Ukulele Play shops for groups, music

enrichment programs for schools, song and puppet concerts, early childhood parent/child Music in Nature, and more. Amy has recorded three CDs of family folk songs.

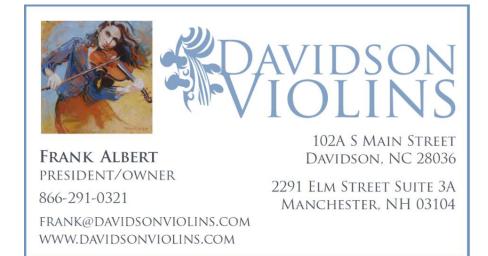
Betsy Heron, Barrington NH – Guest Coach
Betsy grew up on a farm in central Massachusetts, playing throughout her childhood in a family country band called the Housejackers, which included her parents and three sisters. Today she regularly performs around New England with her husband in the old-time and bluegrass duo Green Heron, as well as with her three sisters in the Green Sisters. She started out learning classical music in grade school and was in the Massachusetts Central Districts orchestra for several years through high school; however, her passion turned to Irish and contradance fiddle tunes after about the fourth grade. Old-time fiddle tunes are her favorite, but she loves all styles.

Mitch Reed, Yarmouth ME – Guest Coach
Mitch is a multi-instrumentalist, traditional musician, and storyteller. Born in Bayou Vista LA and raised in Lafayette, at 15 he began playing the fiddle and studying traditional Cajun and Creole music. By 17 he was touring as a cultural ambassador in Smithsonian Institution of Folklife Programs and continues to work with them. Mitch has played alongside Louisiana greats such as Canray Fontenot, Bois Sec Ardoin, Charles Neville, and

George Porter. He has performed on four Grammy-nominated albums and was awarded a Grammy with BeauSoleil for the album "Live at the 2008 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival." He has built an extensive repertoire and learned the "old style" of playing, which is evident in his sound today.

Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki - Guest Coach

Bringing fresh energy to traditional Celtic music, Jordan is an award-winning New Hampshire-based fiddler/singer who has been performing professionally for over two decades. He has toured nationally with bands in various genres, performed across Ireland, and released multiple recordings of Celtic music that can be heard on radio stations in Ireland and Scotland, as well as around New England. He is also an Emmy-nominated composer who has written soundtracks for audiobooks and television and appeared as a guest on over 75 albums. His lifelong passion for history helps bring to life the traditional music around which he built his career.





2023 NH Fiddle Ensemble Musicians

Darrell Carlson, Epsom NH, guitar

Darrell started playing guitar at age 9 and quickly developed into a sought-after singer and player in the northwestern Connecticut/New York region by age 14. He started his own band with his brother Bruce and his sister Ellen, along with three neighborhood kids, at age 13 and has continued to play for 40+ years, thoroughly enjoying playing with others of all levels.

Kris Day, Portland ME, bass

Kris is most recognizable as a member of the New England roots music scene. He has spent the past 25 years as a member of rockabilly quartet King Memphis and over a decade as bassist for bluegrass favorites Jerks of Grass and Travis-picking guitar slinger Sean Mencher & his Rhythm Kings. Kris has performed in 38 states, Canada, and Europe, holding down the low end for rock 'n' roll legends Link Wray, Dale Hawkins, Ronnie Dawson, Sleepy LaBeef, and Joe Clay, as well as with an array of artists ranging from bluegrass mandolin hero Matt Flinner to Brazilian singer Celia Vaz to Gypsy Jazz guitarist Stephane Wrembel (as a member of Hot Club of Portland). For the past 15 years Kris has spent his days teaching music at Buckdancer's Choice in Portland, and his nights performing live in and around New England.

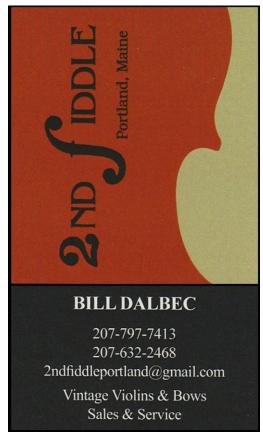
Todd Jones, Strafford NH, sound

Todd has been performing on numerous instruments since he played with his brother and two neighbor kids in the 4 Jays 40 years ago. He owns his own studio, Meadowlark Recording, in Strafford and plays with Ellen in the band High Range. He is an excellent songwriter, as well. Todd is the perfect person to do sound for the Ensemble.





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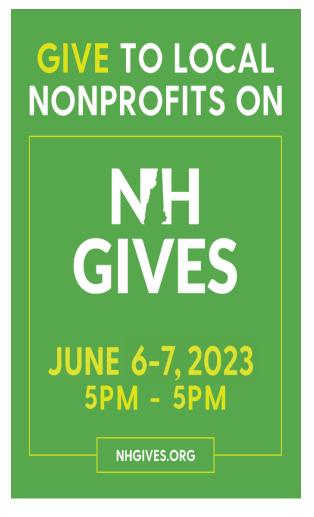












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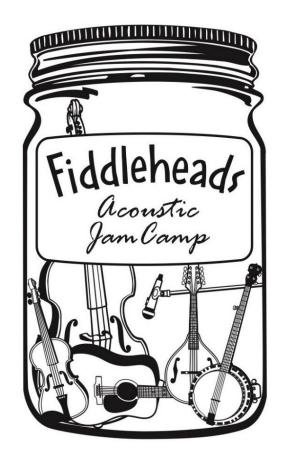
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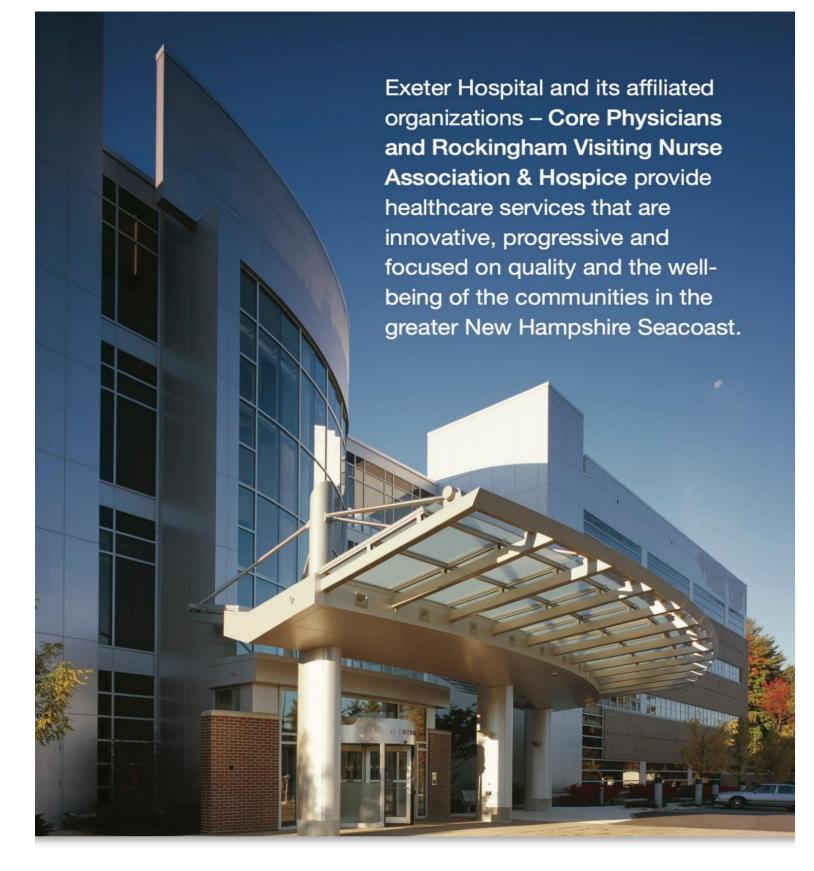
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