

HVBA Jam Session

2nd Wednesday of each month
Pirate Canoe Club
Poughkeepsie, NY

Slow Jam starts at 6PM
Jam ends at 10 PM

\$3 admission

Call (845) 691-6784 for
details or directions



The HVBA's Spring Fundraiser Bluegrass at

Banta's Steak n' Stein

featuring

Gitfiddle, The Dwyer Family Band,
WMV, Lester & Crow, Big Deep,
Too Blue, Blue Plate Special

\$12/\$10 members

Sunday, March 21; 1-6 PM

SEATING IS LIMITED

CALL STEAK 'n STEIN FOR RESERVATIONS at (845) 297-6770

For more information call (845) 691-6784 or www.hvbluegrass.org

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



Jamboree

The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

SPRING 2004

online at www.hvbluegrass.org

Number 35

Celebrate spring with seven bands at Steak 'n Stein

Spring starts with an earful of great bluegrass music at the HVBA's annual fundraiser at Banta's Steak n' Stein on March 21 from 1-6PM. The bill features three new (to our stage) bands: Blue Plate Special, Lester & Crow, and WMV, plus four old favorites: Too Blue, Big Deep, The Dwyer Family Band and Gitfiddle.



Blue Plate Special

Blue Plate Special's tight vocal harmonies and instrumental prowess are matched with a diverse repertoire of many well-written and mostly original songs. The resulting sound is unique, refreshing and fun. The band's name is a reference to depression-era dinnerware, but also relates to the collectible license plates of their home state -- New Jersey. Blue Plate Special features Jay Freidman (fiddle), Dave Gross (mandolin), Jerry Oland (banjo), Thomas Seiter (accordion) and Tom Wise (bass). (See CD review page 11).

Too Blue is a HVBA favorite with Betsy Rome (guitar), Joan Harrison (banjo), Michael Sassano (mandolin) and Jack Murphy (bass). Their CD, A Little On The Blue Side, is gaining world-wide airplay and they just returned from the Joe Val Festival. Look for Too Blue at the Wind Gap Festival June 2004. Some of us remember Joan from our very first gathering with Breakeven in 1994.

The Dwyer Family Band is proud

parents Bill (guitar) and Mindy (bass), and their very talented children: Jack (14) on mandolin, Katey (12) on fiddle, and six-year old Sean on ukelele. While Jack is already studying jazz guitar at Bard College and basking in the limelight of National Public Radio (NPR) and The Daily News, look for younger sister Katey make a name of her own.

Big Deep is an exciting band of young musicians putting a modern edge on a traditional sound. On mandolin Will Solomon is rapidly earning a reputation as one of the hottest properties on bluegrass

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Message from the President

Rise to the top

I get a lot of phone calls here at the international headquarters of the HVBA. Many go like this, "I finally dug that banjo (or guitar, mandolin, dobro, etc) out of the closet and decided to start playing again." Or, "I decided to take up an acoustic instrument. Are there any jam sessions around?"

These calls have been coming in for a long time. Actually, it's been nearly ten years since the earliest days when Dolores Tubbs responded to my ad on WHVW -- the nifty 950 AM -- inviting bluegrass fans and musicians to convene at the Hotel Rhinecliff.

I am amazed at how many who called just a short time ago have gotten so good! Our jam session -- particularly our "slow" jam seems to be more popular than ever and new people are coming each month.

People arrive early and break out instruments joining each other in song. That's our purpose. Friends have been made and bonds forged. People are working hard learning songs and expanding repertoires. Singers are becoming vocalists and people with instruments are musicians.

Bands have been assembled, music made and people entertained. You know who you are so there's no need to mention any names. The list is long. If you're thinking, "I know he's not thinking of me...", you are probably wrong.

Please consider celebrating our successes with us on March 21st at Banta's Steak 'n Stein where seven bands will entertain all afternoon from 1 to 6PM. We'll have fresh sounds, old friends and probably more than a few surprises. The room is comfortable, people friendly and food is good.

And in the meantime, keep on picking.

Jeffrey Anzevino

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

Name: _____ Email _____

Address: _____

Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

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

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March 21: HVBA's Spring Fundraiser with Blue Plate Special, Too Blue, The Dwyer Family Band, Big Deep, Lester & Crow, WMV, and Gitfiddle at Banta's Steak 'n Stein, Route 9 Wappingers Falls, NY 1-6PM (845) 297-6770, (845) 691-6784 or www.hvbluegrass.org

March 21: Kat Mills at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

March 21: Jay Armsworthy at The Parting Glass, Saratoga Springs, NY 2PM (518) 399-9007

March 22: Doug Marcus & guest at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

March 23: Kat Mills at SoNo Caffeine, South Norwalk, CT

March 25: Kat Mills at The Cubbyhole, Poughkeepsie, NY

March 26: Ticky-Tock at The Rosendale Cafe, Rosendale, NY 9PM www.woodyguthrie.org (845)658-9048 or www.rosendalecafe.com

March 27: Too Blue at Rhinebeck Crew Club Benefit, Town Hall, Rhinebeck NY 7:30 PM (845)868-1707

March 27: Cabin Fever & Cannonball Express at Neshobe Sportsman Club, Brandon, VT 5PM, (802) 247-3275

March 28: Kat Mills at The Beech Tree Grille, Poughkeepsie, NY (brunch)

March 28: Lowry Hammer at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

March 29: Will Solomon at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

April 2: Heinzevino! at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

April 4: Heinzevino! at Lyonsville Sugar House Pancake Breakfast, Lyonsville, NY (845) 687-2518

April 4: No Brakes at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown, 4PM FREE 845-265-3220

April 4: Dan Gurney & Ian Worpole CD release party at Rhinebeck Legion Hall 4PM

April 4: Steve Palmer at The Beech Tree Grille, Poughkeepsie, NY noon -3PM

April 4: Brian Hollander at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

April 7: Will Solomon at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

April 9: Barebones & Wildflowers at The Beech Tree Grille, Poughkeepsie, NY 10PM

April 10: Too Blue at Rosendale Cafe, Rosendale NY 9PM (845)658-9048 or www.rosendalecafe.com

April 10: Mike Burns & North Country at Pine Loft Coffee House, Berlin CT 8PM (860) 829-2312

April 10: Illrd Tyme Out at Museum of National Heritage, Lexington, MA

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

April 14: Steve Palmer at The Beech Tree Grille, Poughkeepsie, NY 7PM

April 16: The Bernstein Brothers at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

April 17: The Dwyer Family Band at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

April 18: Gary Ferguson at The Parting Glass, Saratoga Springs, NY 2PM (518) 399-9007

April 18: Steve Palmer & Rachel Handman at The Unitarian Church, Poughkeepsie, NY 2PM

April 18: Lowry Hammer at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

April 23: Barebones & Wildflowers at The Beech Tree Grille, Poughkeepsie, NY 10PM

April 24: Big Deep at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

May 1: Too Blue at Molten Java Coffeehouse, Bethel, CT 8:30 PM (203) 739-0313

May 7: James Reams and The Barnstormers at Good Coffeehouse Brooklyn, NY

May 8: Too Blue at Podunk Mini-Festival East Hartford Community Cultural Center Too Blue plus two other artists TBA; jams & workshops East Hartford, CT Info: (860)291-7350 or www.podunkbluegrass.com

May 8: Northern Lights at The Iron Horse Music Hall, Northampton, MA, 7M (413) 584-0610

May 15 & 16: Apple Blossom Bluegrass Festival, Apple Blossom Bluegrass Festival, with Mike Burns and North Country, Oxford Depot, Out To Lunch, Wickers Creek, McMule Warwick Valley Winery, Warwick, NY www.wvwinery.com

May 29: Mike Burns & North Country at New England Fiddler's Contest, 10:00 am - dusk, Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT.

May 29: Northern Lights at The Guthrie Center, Great Barrington, MA, 8M (413) 528-1955, www.guthriecenter.org

June 4-6: ABL Round-up at McConchie's Heritage Acres, Galway, NY

June 10-13: The Lewis Family, Peter Rowan, Country Gentlemen, Too Blue and more Wind Gap Bluegrass Festival Mountain View Park, Wind Gap PA (973)584-2324 www.afba.org

Jun 16: James Reams and The Barnstormers at Center for Traditional Music & Dance (square dance) Wave Hill, NYC

June 26-27: Willow Creek Bluegrass Festival with Bob Paisley & the Southern Grass, Buddy Merriam and Back Roads, Homegrown String Band, Bill and Maggie Anderson, Wickers Creek, Out To Lunch, Too Blue, Oxford Depot, Bare Bones & Wildflower, Hudson River Cloggers, Leonardo Da Cat Montgomery, NY. www.willowcreekbluegrass.com

July 3 & 4: Mike Burns & North Country Mineral Springs Bluegrass Festival, Stafford Springs, CT (860) 684-2993

July 17: James Reams and The Barnstormers at Millbrook Music Festival Millbrook, NY

Aug. 14: Too Blue at ZooFolk Summer Concert Series, Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport CT Info: www.beardsleyzoo.org

Your ad here... (845) 691-6784

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@optonline.net

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

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

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

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 The Sheriff at The Baggott Inn, Manhattan 9 PM

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

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!!

March 6: Mike Burns & North Country at Willie's Steakhouse, East Hartford, CT 7:30PM (860) 875-5730

March 6: Two Dollar Goat at Sharpe Reservation's Maple Fest, Fishkill, NY

March 8: Brian Hollander at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

March 7: The Dwyer Family Band at Benefit for Flying Fiddles, William's Lake, Rosendale, NY 3-5PM www.flyingfiddlers.org

March 10: Steve Palmer at The Beech Tree Grill, Poughkeepsie, NY 7PM

March 12: Two Dollar Goat at Oasis Cafe, New Paltz 7-10PM

March 12: Steve Palmer at The Beech Tree Grill, Poughkeepsie, NY 10PM

March 13: The Dwyer Family Band at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

March 13: Dan Gurney & Ian Worpole CD release dance, Knights of Columbus, Chatham NY, 6-9 PM

March 14: Lowry Hamner at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

March 17: Will Solomon at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

March 17: Barebones & Wildflowers at The Stissing House, Pine Plains, NY

March 19: Heinzevino! at Gadaletto's Seafood Restaurant, New Paltz, NY 6PM (845) 255-1717

March 19: Barebones & Wildflowers at The Beech Tree Grill, Poughkeepsie, NY 10PM

March 20: Barebones & Wildflowers at Cafe Lena, Saratoga Springs, NY

March 20: Mike Burns & North Country at Roaring Brook Nature Center, Canton, CT 7:30PM (860) 693-0263 <http://www.roaringbrook.org>

Pete Wernick's Jam Camp

Joyce Cullen

Pay attention you closet pickers like me! Dr. Banjo, Pete Wernick and his wife Joan (Nurse Banjo) run not only banjo camps but jam camps. The jam camp is geared toward those of us who prefer to play to ourselves or are new in the bluegrass genre. Pete was offering one in the two days before the Joe Val Festival. It cost \$150 (or \$125 if you paid in full by January 1), so I decided to sign up!

It was worth every cent. We crammed three days of jam camp in two days from 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM with an hour for lunch.

Twenty-two of us crowded into the Sudbury room on Thursday morning. Most everyone was a stranger to the rest. We had one bass player, a new fiddler, 2 dobros, a few mandolins, and the rest were guitar and banjos. There were only three of the female gender!

We started out with Pete telling us his idea of jamming: to have fun. And singing was one of most important parts of that fun. So we all sang some songs like *My Home is Across the Blue Ridge Mountains*. Singing was a major part of the camp.

He went over the usual pattern of a lead opening, then verse, chorus, breaks etc. until it was time to end the song. The person leading the song was in charge of directing who took breaks and when it ended. Some people were better at taking breaks and some of us sang. After lunch it was back to singing and breaking up into small jamming groups and just doing whatever songs we wanted.

The next day we started again in a similar pattern. The new material was learning how to sing three part harmony. I understand it more but don't quite have the knack for it as some singers seem to have instinctively. Then he dropped the bomb on us. I had read the stuff he sent so it wasn't a surprise. We would



Joyce performs at Jam Camp

open the show that night so then we had to practice where we would stand and of course what we would sing. The verses and breaks were worked out and then we practiced. Our first song was *Sitting on Top of the World* and I sang lead on the second verse while playing the guitar. He said we would then do another song - this one in three-part harmony. It was *Worried Man Blues* and he picked me to sing the opening verse. It went well onstage and I remembered my lines and really started to belt out the words. There were no stage monitors for us so I couldn't hear it. We had a ball doing it.

After the show people came up and told me how well I did. I now believe I can sing out loud. The stage part wasn't a problem since I am used to that having my clogging groups.

During the next two days I spent time in the directed slow-jam workshop and many of the others joined me. It was a great experience and really helped my confidence as well as introducing me to a great new group of bluegrassers. If you are at a festival that offers this camp, TAKE IT! You will be happy you did. I know he offers it at Gettysburg, MerleFest and Grey Fox.

So I'm Singing on top of the..... 🎸

HVBA News Briefs

HELP! our local Parkinson's Support Group.

Dolores Tubbs is serving on a committee planning the Hudson Valley's Parkinson's Disease awareness/fundraising event. She is looking for volunteers to provide music at an event at Vassar College on Saturday morning June 12. This effort is in the early planning stages and the HVBA would like to come to her call. If anyone would like to volunteer music please contact Jeff Anzevino at hvba@optonline.net or call (845) 691-6784 to bat around ideas.

Those members who have been around more than a couple of years remember Dolores as our long-time secretary, treasurer, a membership coordinator from 1995 until 1999. Her husband Howard has had Parkinson's for about 10 years.

Too Blue recently performed at the Boston Bluegrass Union's Joe Val Bluegrass Festival. Their loyal fans woke early to catch their 10:30 am show! Their CD, *A Little On The Blue Side* has been receiving good airplay from Ireland to Sweden to Australia. Closer to home Todd Mack's listeners (on WKZE-FM) selected the disc as one of the 10 best independent CD's of 2002.



Andy Polon has been discharged from the hospital after suffering a stroke in December. He will reside in a studio in his sister's building at 320 West 76th Street (Apt 3E) in Manhattan for the next two months until a permanent apartment. The new phone is (212) 724-3699. Phone calls are welcome.

He has a wonderful woman as his health care aide at this time. His family anticipates that he will become more and more independent and not need full time care soon. At this time, however, Andy still requires in-home physical and occupational therapy.

Visitors are welcome. Andy and his family send their thanks for your support and keeping him connected to his friends as he recuperates.

Will Solomon just recorded some tunes in Nashville at Cody Kilby's (guitarist with Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder) home studio. Cody and the rest of Kentucky Thunder just won a Grammy for their latest live album. Will says he had fun in the sessions with Matt Combs (Mike Snider Band) on fiddle and Heday Watanabe (Josh Graves and Kenny Baker) on banjo. Cody layed down a few solo tracks as well. Hence Will's solo album is making good progress. He expects to have them available in early spring after another round of sessions in Nashville.

Mike Burns and North Country has added Ben Freed (banjo) and Kevin Lynch (mandolin & guitar) as regular band members. They join Tom Hagymasi on fiddle and Ethan Kende on upright bass. Catch this fine band at several venues this spring, including the Apple Blossom Festival at Warwick Winery (May 15), the New England Fiddler's Contest (Hartford, CT May 29) and at the Mineral Springs Bluegrass Festival (Stafford Springs, CT July 3-4).



No Brakes reports that Gary DiGiovanni has joined the band as their regular banjoist. Ken Flowers has been saddled with extra job responsibilities, thereby horning in on his music time. Look for Kenny to fill in when Gary can't make it. Look for No Brakes at the First Presbyterian Church of Philipstown in Cold Spring, NY on April 4.

Kat Mills begins a jam packed Hudson Valley

continued on page 6

This Land: Favorite Childhood Songs

Tami Schuch HA01



Camptown Races ❖ Fee-Fi-Fiddly ❖ I've Been Working on the Railroad ❖ Oh Susannah ❖ Home on the Range ❖ This Land Is Your Land ❖ Pat-a-Cake ❖ Hush, Little Baby ❖ You Are My Sunshine ❖ Shenandoah ❖ Beautiful Dreamer ❖ I'm Ready, Daddy ❖ Whistle Song

You'll love singing along with Tami Schuch's golden voice on this album of 14 childhood favorites. Guests are too numerous to count, but most notable to our readers are Bill Keith (banjo), Rachel Handman, Mindy Jostyn, and Lisa Gutman (violin). If you're wondering about the child's voice, somehow, through the miracle of modern technology, Tami's vocals at age five is dubbed seamlessly into the recording by producer Robert Bard.

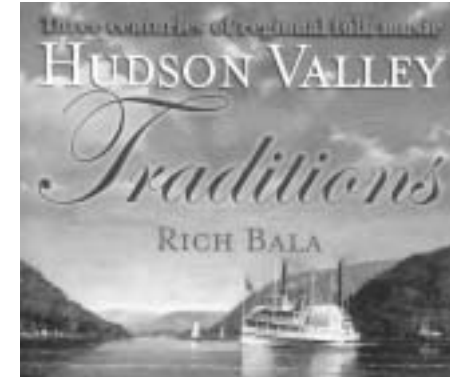
Bill Keith's interpretations of *Oh Susanna* and *She's Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain* demonstrate how even kids' songs can be decorated with hot picking without excess. *You Are My Sunshine* features twin fiddling by Handman and Jostyn's and Steve Bernstein's tasteful mandolin.

Get this CD for your kids -- and yourself!

www.hopalongsongs.com

Hudson Valley Traditions

Rich Bala NRP-01



In Old Pod Auger Times ❖ The River that Flows Both Ways ❖ Ballad of Major Andre ❖ Fifty Sail on Newburgh Bay ❖ Lackawaxen Too (D&H Canal Song) ❖ Last Winter Was a Hard One ❖ Gettin' in the Cows Big Bill Snyder ❖ Cuttin' Down the Pines ❖ Applejack ❖ The Barefoot Boy with Boots On ❖ Apple Pickers Reel ❖ Walked the Road Again ❖ Sailing Down This Golden River

Balladeer extraordinaire Rich Bala offers 300 years of history the fun way in this outstanding package featuring Tom White (harmony, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, concertina, and hammered dulcimer), Geri White (harmony), and the late Bruce Morrison (harmony, mandolin).

The songs -- mostly traditional, but others written by Pete Seeger and Rick Nestler -- relate a range of stories and tales that provide an entertaining glimpse into the lives of those residing in our Valley from the days of the first settlers. Expect excellent stories, rich vocals, and tasteful arrangements.

You bluegrassers will find a wealth of material here to supplement your repertoire.

www.richbala.com

Lester & Crow

A Song for Today

There's something both good and bad to be said for covering songs. On the one hand, your audience is familiar with what you're playing for them.

On the other hand, your audience is familiar with what you're playing for them....and will obviously scrutinize your interpretation with the original in mind.

But Lester & Crow have nothing to fear from comparisons. Most of the songs on their CD *Song for Today* are derived from sources as different as Bruce Springsteen and Mississippi John Hurt. The team of Mel Paskell (formerly with Barebones and Wildflowers) and legendary rock/blues guitarist Jim Eppard easily make them as much their own as their original tracks included on this CD.

The guitar work on *Sundown*, for example, gives the piece a jammy face lift which gets better every time you listen to it. Mandolin work is toe-tapping and joyful, most notably on the title track *Song for Today* and *Vincent Black Lightning* with Eppard playing mandolin on the former and Paskell the later. Will Solomon guest stars on mandolin on *Sleeping Dogs*.

When you hear these instruments played together you might assume that these seasoned musicians have played together for many years. In reality, while the two first met about 25 years ago, they only recently had an opportunity to play together when Eppard recorded at Paskell's Lost River Studio in Wingdale, NY.

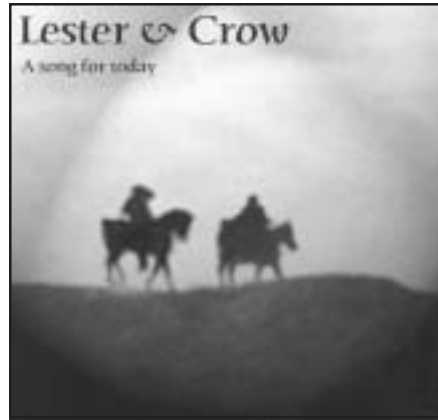
Be it lonesome ballad (*Barroom Girls*) or classic tale of a-boy-and-his-horse (*Tennessee Stud*), you'll admire the complex dance of strings and catch yourself head-bobbing and swaying along with them.

I'm afraid the old-time treatment given to Eppard's *I Got It Baaaad For You* is only successful in making the crooner sound like he has a bad cold. And while vocals aren't always as tight as the instrumentals, this is only a moment's distraction in what is otherwise a fine compilation of Americana, country and ballad with a few songs from the bluegrass repertoire.

Song for Today – put it in your CD player and play it today, tomorrow, heck, all week. You may think you know most of these songs....but sometimes old friends surprise you with something new to say.

Debbie Shave

EDITOR'S NOTE: Catch Lester and Crow at the HVBA's Spring Fundraiser at Banta's Steak 'n Stein on March 21.



Sundown
Song for Today
Make Me Down a Pallet
Masterpiece
Vincent Black Lightning
Dance Hall Girls
Tennessee Stud
Under the Gun
Sleeping Dogs
Atlantic City
I Got It Baaaad for YOU
Barroom Girls
A Pale White Moon

Mulligan's

Jam



4th Wednesday
of each month

Mulligan's Irish House
Route 376, Poughkeepsie, NY

Jo Val's Winter Fest

Joyce Cullen

Has winter got you down? Do you feel blue without bluegrass? Well the solution is only three hours away. Every President's Weekend the Boston Bluegrass Union (BBU) puts on a great indoor festival. For the past two years it has been held at the Sheraton Hotel in Framingham, MA. It's very easy to get to!

The Festival officially began at 7 PM on Friday. However it started 15 minutes earlier when the Jamcampers performed (see article on



Too Blue: (l to r) Betsy Rome, Joan Harrison, Jack Murphy, and Michael Sassano on stage at the Joe Val Fest

page 3). With the exception of The Chapman's, IBMA Emerging Artist of the Year in 2002, all bands at the fest hail from New England. The Chapmans, a family band consisting of three sons and dad, closed out the evening.

On Saturday the music began at 10:30 am with Too Blue starting off the day with a wake up get going beat! Great music, including King Wilkie and Mountain Heart, continued through the day. During the day there are many workshops and jams going on so I didn't see all the bands. Peter Rowan ended the night with the help of three members of King Wilkie backing him up. Some groups played only once and others got two sets.



On Sunday it was back to the stage at 10:00 am if you were awake. Again the workshops were going on so sometimes you had to make a hard decision. The camp offers a kids academy to teach youngsters to play bluegrass and they performed at noon. The last two shows contained long sets. Bob Paisley and Southern Grass did the first. Danny Paisley can sing those tunes as one of the best in bluegrass. The Seldom Scene

ended the Festival with another long set. I headed home after about an hour but refreshed and ready to make it to outdoor festival season.

In addition to the workshops and Kids Academy, they also showed some movies this year, including *King Of Bluegrass*, a film about Jimmy Martin and *Bluegrass Journey*, produced by

Ruth Oxenberg and Rob Schumer. There were raffles, t-shirts, vendors, and lots and lots of jamming. New this year were two 24-hour jamming rooms.

The Sheraton is easy to get to and they are a wonderful host. The top floors were set aside as the quiet(non-jamming) floors this year and the lower floors were for jamming. It worked well. There are two restaurants for those who like food occasionally.

So you know where I will be next year over Presidents Weekend. Plan on going and make reservations before the first of January. This year they sold out and people had to stay at nearby hotels. See you there!

News Briefs

tour on March 20 at Beanheads Coffeehouse in Cambridge, NY (just east of Saratoga). The tour includes stops at her "Home Sweet Home" Gadaletto's Seafood (March 21 & 26), SoNo Caffeine (South Norwalk, CT, March 23), The Cubbyhole (March 25), The Beech Tree Grill (brunch March 28) and culminates with an opening spot for Northern Lights at The Towne Crier.

She will also be on WVKR's Scene Unscene on March 24 from 6-9PM.

We miss Kat since her move to the Blue Ridge and look forward to her return visit.

Northern Lights welcomes Ben Demerath, who is now lead tenor singer/guitar and mandolin, to the band, replacing founding member Taylor Armerding, who has retired from the band. Ben has performed in the past with Colorado-based band Sugarbeat, and he has been performing most recently as a singer/songwriter. Catch Northern Lights at The Towne Crier on March 2th with Kat Mills opening the show.

The Dwyer Family Band reports that Jack was interviewed by NPR's John Kalish, who taped the band live at Gadaletto's and followed up at the family's house the next evening, interviewing Jack and the rest of family.

Last December Jack appeared as a guest on Frank's Pics (WKZE radio, 98.1). Jack played a few tunes and talked to Frank and his listeners about his recent recording project where he digitally mixed June Apple, a traditional fiddle tune common in the bluegrass repertoire, on five different instruments on eight tracks.

Jack and sister Katey are playing in the orchestra pit with David Winograd and other professional players involved with Coleman High School's production of Annie for six shows on March 19-21, and 26-28.

Wickers Creek played an encore appearance

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at Manhattan's Parkside Lounge in a gig featuring Wayne Fugate on mandolin. Check our their website for future gigs at www.wickerscreekband.com for future gigs.

The Willow Creek Bluegrass Festival is moving back to Thomas Bull Park in Montgomery, NY. Note the new dates: June 25-27. Among others, Bob Paisley, Buddy Merriam, Too Blue, Out to Lunch, Oxford Depot, Barebones & Wildflowers, the Hudson River Cloggers will be there.



Bluegrass Journey, the feature length documentary portraying the contemporary bluegrass music scene, continues to enjoy success nationally on the film festival circuit. HVBA members will love that the film is set largely at the Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, our consensus local favorite fest.

The 86 minute film features acts including several nationally known performers, but observant viewers will notice some of the first frames of the film catching our own Jim McDonnell picking banjo in a field on the hillside. Before long the scene morphs to Jerry Douglas ripping into a solo on stage at Grey Fox.

Catch film at the Irish Film Fleadh Festival at NYU's Cantor Film Center, 36 East Eighth Street, in Manhattan, on Saturday March 20, at 12 noon. Tickets are available online at www.smarttix.com, or through the Cantor Film Center Box Office, (212) 998-4100. Learn more about *Bluegrass Journey* at www.bluegrassjourney.com.

HVBA Email List Our email list is a great way to keep apprised of local bluegrass events, people looking to jam, instruments for sale, etc. If you'd like to receive notifications,

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Blue Plate Special

Nowhere Fast BPS-002

Nowhere Fast is the product of Blue Plate Special, a talented quintet brought to our attention by Hudson Valley banjo wiz Jerry Oland. The CD provides a dozen all-original songs with everything a listener could ask for: tight vocal harmonies, complex arrangements, hot picking, and unique instrumentation, all combining to result in a great sound.

You'll find no bluegrass standards here, but fret not, the original songs reflect diverse genres -- swing, calypso, blues, polka, gospel, and country.

A close listen yields many surprises. Right off the bat catch twin accordian/mandolin leads throughout fiddler Jay Freidman's *Can't Beat 'Em*.

While some bluegrass purists may raise an eyebrow at an accordian in a bluegrass band, Thomas Seitner plays with flair, adding hot leads and rhythmic fills in a tasteful manner contributing another texture to the band's sound. The other advantage to an accordian is the ability to pull off a polka — in this case *Bluegrass Polka* — or a cajun sound, such as in Dave Gross' *Shari Ann*. Look for Dave's twin mandolin harmonies stitched in nicely here.

Three-part harmonies abound throughout the CD, such as on the gospel number *Shine the Light* and on *Goin' Nowhere Fast*, which features three-part scat harmonies. "What's the point of rushing' if you're going nowhere fast?" the song asks, referring to traffic in the band's home state of neighboring New Jersey.

Want bluegrass? Don't miss the *Bluegrass Polka* where Jerry Oland's rock-solid banjo demonstrates the Keith-style of playing. Again — there's that accordian, right on the money. *Cut Her Off* exudes a bluegrass feel in a whimsical sort of way. Again not to be satisfied with straight breaks, the guitar, mandolin play rounds. Jay's twin fiddling is overdubbed in harmony on *Lilly of the Valley*, a tribute to grandma's flower garden.

Oland provides the blue notes on *Cold Hearted Morning* with a banjo kickoff. Tom's blues harmonica answers the three-part harmony. Again the guitar and mandolin come through with a "call and response" ending. Gross caps off the song with a snappy "Monroe's run," providing a nice reward for the sharp bluegrass ear.

Tom Wise's *Jo Ida*, a tender ballad sung in three-part harmony presents some nice harmonic interplay



Can't Beat 'Em
Cut Her Off
Shari Ann
Bluebird of Happiness
Cold Hearted Morning
Nowhere Fast
Jo Ida
Bluegrass Polka
Whatcha Gonna Do
Orchard Hill
Shine the Light
Lilly of the Valley

between Joe Selly's guitar and Gross' mandolin. The bent, fat low notes on guitar impart a traditional country sound.

Orchard Hill laments in a minor key the loss of a favorite childhood spot where "apple, pear and plum trees grew; cherry, quince and peaches too." The orchard is now replaced with rows of suburban houses. This tune kicks off in a Grisman-like swirl of instruments — guitar, banjo, mandolin and banjo, and dobro — to resolve in Freidman's vocals telling the story. Guest Gerard Mancini's dobro and Tom's harp conspire to convey some mighty bluesy overtones.

If the great music isn't enough, the album and disc are adorned with cool artwork, including on the disc itself a colorful accordian by bassist Tom Wise.

Listen deep into the mix to enjoy its full reward.

Goin Nowhere Fast? I doubt it. These guys are going places soon.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Blue Plate Special will perform at the HVBA's Spring Fundraiser at Banta's Steak 'n Stein on March 21.

Spring Fundraiser

scene. Banjoist Jonah Bruno, a Keith protege, plays with impeccable taste and style. Josh White is an incredible guitarist with a jazzy twist in his playing. Martin Keith anchors the bottom on a solid acoustic string bass.

Lester & Crow is a new acoustic duo featuring two seasoned musicians: Mel Paskell and Jimmy Eppard. Eppard is a legendary Hudson Valley rock guitarist for over 25 years. Paskell won WDPH's songwriting contest and recoded A Pale White Moon with the Ian Anderson band at The Bardavon Theatre. Their soon-to-be-released CD, A Song for Today, demonstrates the acoustic edge of these outstanding musicians (see CD review, page 12).

WMV. Attendees of the jam are treated to the twin mandolin stylings of Wayne Fugate and Michael Sassano. But many don't know that they have been playing together for 25 years in the band Out to Lunch. Sassano and

News Briefs

The Saturday Night Bluegrass Band, snowed out in December, played on February 7 before a packed Rosendale Cafe in a benefit for The Hudson Valley Food Bank. The band features Brian Hollander (guitar, vocals), Tim Kapeluck (mandolin, fiddle, vocals), Geoff Harden (bass, vocals, fiddle), Guy "Fooch" Fischetti (fiddle), and Bill Keith (banjo).

The Bardavon has released a CD of 12 live performances from groups such as Ruth Ungar, Blind Boys of Alabama, Utah Phillips, Dar Williams, Medeski Martin & Wood and others. The CD can be ordered at www.bardavon.org, by calling (845) 473-2072 or purchased at Jack's Rhythms, Rhino Records, Oblong Books and other local outlets.

Banshanachie & Friends resumes its Celtic Jam Session at the Olde Clove Restaurant on

Fugate are also co-authored along with Barry Mitterhoff the mandolin book *Twelve Tunes from Three Fellas*. Bassist Vin Warner, with great ears, great chops and rock-solid timing rounds out the group.

Gitfiddle is another family band featuring John Granata on guitar and wife and HVBA Board member Cathy on fiddle. Board member Cathy frequents our Slow Jams and has made progress on the fiddle. John Granata is an accomplished guitarist and performs regularly at The Beech Tree Grille and other local venues.

All the bands are generously playing gratis to help support the HVBA's programs. Tickets are available at the door for \$12 for non-members and \$10 for members. Banta's delicious menu and full bar will be available, so please plan on enjoying a meal with us. Please support the HVBA and Banta's Steak n' Stein by having dinner with us and seven terrific bands on March 21. 🍴

Mohonk Road in High Falls, NY on the Fourth Friday of each month. There is no admission, but please be generous -- the pass-the-hat benefits Sloop Clearwater. Call (845) 679-7911 for details.

Bluegrass Works' events database is accessible at www.bluegrassworks.com. You are invited to post -- free of cost -- detailed information about your upcoming festivals, picking parties and jam sessions.

Ticky Tock German Composer Hans-Eckardt Wenzel visited the Woody Guthrie Archives and has set new music to Woody's lyrics. The resulting project, Ticky Tock, will be presented at the Rosendale Cafe. www.woodyguthrie.org (click on Ticky Tock) on Friday March 26 at 9PM. 🎸

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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

WHVW 95.0AM, Hyde Park, NY

Pirate Joe Radio Show.Weekdays3-6 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

WKVR 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 Beauregard.....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

WRPI 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>

News Briefs

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email llypton@vassar.edu. If you'd like to post a message send it to hvba@optonline.net. Thanks to Lynn Lipton for maintaining the list.

Looking for Board members The HVBA seeks to expand its Board of Directors. Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Pirate Canoe Club at 7:30PM. Please submit your inquiry to hvba@optonline.net. Our success depends on your interest, participation and support.

Board Officer Election will be held at our November meeting. Stay tuned to the Summer edition of Jamboree for details.

Unison Center for the Arts will host a concert by banjo prodigy Ryan Holladay on April 24th. The Deering Banjo Company will sponsor the show and has donated a Goodtime Open-back Banjo for Unison to raffle off. Only 100 tickets at \$10 each will be sold. Just one ticket is enough to earn you a 100:1 chance. Not bad odds! . Ryan will autograph the banjo for the lucky winner!

If you've never heard of 11-year old Ryan or wonder "how good can this kid be?" listen up. Ricky Skaggs says "He just keeps getting better all the time."

Ryan first performed at the Grand Ole Opry when he was five and has been back over a dozen times since. Credited with being the youngest performer at The Opry, Ryan is an accomplished banjo, mandolin, guitar, and dobro player and has recorded with Earl Scruggs, Mike Snider and Ronnie McCoury. Tom T. and Dixie Hall wrote "I Want to Play the Banjo" for him. Ryan has opened shows for Roy Clark and Nickel Creek.

Call Unison at 255-1559 for more information about the show or banjo raffle.

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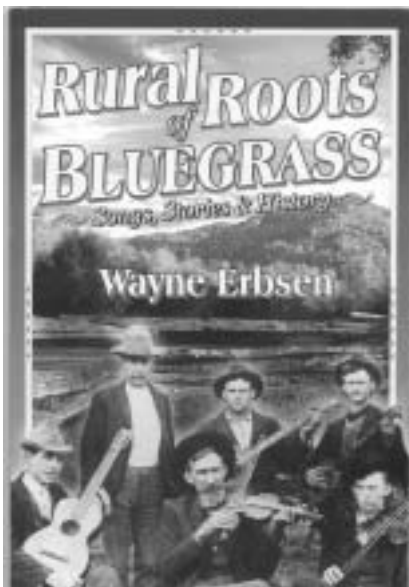
Book Review

Rural Roots of Bluegrass

Songs Stories and History

Chris Scheu

A few years ago a band called The Freight Hoppers had a short burst of stardom playing high energy old time music. Their catch phrase was "Gid is my Copilot," a play on the WW II movie and Gid Tanner and His Skillet Lickers, a string band of the 1920's. Since I can't play anything that starts with a G chord I listen to and read about those who can. The Freight Hoppers re-kindled my interest in the genre. This book puts it all together.



Anyone who is a bit past the casual listener stage to bluegrass music knows the basic story of it's origins on the front porches and in the parlors and at the dances in the hills of the Appalachians. How Bill

Monroe took these sounds and molded them into "bluegrass." In this book the author has given both this casual listener and those who are more serious or who are just more curious a primer that certainly covers all the bases of what and who came before that final condensate: Bluegrass...

Starting with a bit of music theory author Wayne Erbsen then presents 94 songs with their lyrics and chord progressions.

Probably 90% of the songs will be familiar



to most readers. But it is the 197 vintage pictures and stories that set this apart from other books I have seen. The research that went into this history lesson is certainly a result of author's love for the tradition of mountain music. According to Bluegrass Unlimited magazine, "Wayne Erbsen is a widely recognized authority on the history of old-time and bluegrass music." It certainly shows here.

There is a lot packed into something less than 200 pages describing song histories back to the British Isles and their Irish and Scottish roots and how the melodies have evolved and the various names for the same songs. Erbsen shows the affects of black spirituals, plantation melodies the blues and even Tin Pan Alley had on the final product. You are reminded that the rural life in the mountains really was isolated. Radio was still young and regional styles were derived in very small "regions" indeed.

Interesting profiles of the musicians, many of their names are familiar to us like the Jimmie Rodgers, the Monroe Brothers and the Carter Family. Some we've heard the name but can't place it like Bascomb Lunsford, Charlie Poole or the Carolina Tar Heels. There are a few bands I have never heard of but would

love to have heard: The Georgia Yellow Hammers or Red Belcher and his Kentucky Ridge Runners are two examples.

The Rural Roots of Bluegrass has a companion CD which can be purchased separately. 🎧

Build your music library and help the HVBA!

We liked Rural Roots of Bluegrass so much that we purchased a few copies to make them available to our members.

Buy the book or accompanying CD at the retail price of \$15 from the HVBA and we will make \$6.

A limited number of books and CDs will be available at HVBA events or call (845) 691-6784 to arrange to have one shipped.

Or... If you access native Ground's website from the link at www.hvbluegrass.org, the HVBA will receive a rebate of 10% your total web purchase.

Browse the great collection of other topical songbooks about the Civil War, rural america, the Old West, railroading, etc. at Native Ground Music.

Check the HVBA's website for their link!

www.hvbluegrass.org