



A Publication of Your
Nashville Old-Time
String Band Association

ASSOCIATION EVENTS

1st-Thursday Jam
May 3

Slow & Regular Jam
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Two Rivers Mansion



2nd-Thursday Jam
May 10

Regular Jam
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Buchanan Log House



3rd-Thursday Jam
May 17

Slow & Regular Jam
**With Martin Cerjan,
Mary Lou Durham,
and Mike Baugh**
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Two Rivers Mansion



4th-Thursday Jam
May 24

Performance Group
Rehearsal
& Singing
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Buchanan Log House



3rd-Sunday Jam
May 20,

2 to 5 PM
Held at
Two Rivers Mansion

The Old-Time Times

MAY 2007

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***The submission deadline for June's newsletter is Monday,
May 28.*** □

Our 4th-Sunday Jam Moves to the 3rd Sunday—This Month Only

~Darlyne Kent

Jim Hornsby and I have agreed that we should not have the 4th-Sunday jam in May because we will gather on the 3rd Sunday in May to play at Two Rivers Mansion for Grand Old Dulcimer Days. Two Sundays in a row might be too much for some of our members. Besides, the 4th Sunday is on Memorial Day weekend when lots of us will have other plans.

We hope you will all come out for Grand Old Dulcimer Days! We'll be back on track with a 4th-Sunday Jam in June!!! □

Erynn Marshall and Company to Perform at The Violin Shop

Erynn Marshall, a renowned old-time fiddler, will perform in The Concert Room at The Violin Shop on Thursday, May 17.

The Violin Shop is located upstairs, over The Bellevue Florist, at 220 Old Hickory Boulevard, which is about 100 yards north of Highway 70 South in Bellevue, near the Bellevue Kroger.

The Concert Room at The Violin Shop will seat around 60 people. Previously, we had planned to hold the concert in a home, so this development represents a major improvement. If you would like to reserve a seat, contact Phil Sparks at 615-797-4356 or at kpsparks@msn.com. The doors will open at 7 PM, and the performance will begin at 7:30. Admission is \$15 per person, and all of the proceeds will go to the artists.

Erynn Marshall has carved out a niche for herself as an old-time fiddler in Canada and abroad. Her playing style is expressive and innovative, yet rooted in tradition. She has been featured at numerous concert venues, folk clubs, and festivals in the United States and Canada and is known for her smooth, bluesy fiddling and her joy of performing homemade music. Erynn blends original compositions with enduring songs and instrumentals that have stood the test of time. She explores her own musical

individuality while honoring the musicians and traditions that have influenced and inspired her along the way.

Originally from Victoria, and now a resident of Gibsons, on the west coast of Canada, Erynn moved to Toronto in 1998 to undergo graduate studies at York University. In 2003 she completed an MA in ethnomusicology, and in 2006, Erynn's first book, *Music in the Air Somewhere: The Shifting Borders of West Virginia's Fiddle and Song Traditions*, was published by the West Virginia University Press.

This book was the culmination of several years of fieldwork in West Virginia with fiddlers who were seventy-five to ninety-five years old. Frequent southern trips allowed Erynn to learn the elements of Appalachian fiddling directly from Melvin Wine, Lester McCumbers, Leland Hall, Art Stamper, and others, all of whom were generous teachers.

Erynn Marshall is a regular performer and fiddle instructor at prominent Canadian and US festivals and music camps including the: Woods Music and Dance Camp (ON), Sunshine Coast Summer School of Celtic Music (BC), Calgary Folk Festival (AB), Edmonton Folk Festival (AB), Ottawa Folk Festival (ON), Sorrento Bluegrass Festival (BC), Fiddleworks (Saltspring Island, BC), and Midwest Banjo Camp (Michigan).

In 2005, Erynn released her first solo recording, *Calico*, on the Merriweather Records Label and has just recorded her second CD, *Meet Me in the Music*, with banjoist, Chris Coole. *Calico* was nominated for *Best World* category at the 2005 TIMA Awards and won a Porcupine Award—*Gem of Canada: Album of the Year*. In 2006, Erynn was awarded a CBC Galaxy Rising Star Award and an Appalachian Fellowship at Berea College in Kentucky, where she studied Kentucky fiddle styles for three months. *Meet Me in the Music*, features many rare tunes and songs she learned during this period of musical immersion.

Erynn will be appearing with Chris Coole and Arnie Naiman.

Chris Coole (pronounced "cool") was first attracted to the sounds of old-time and Bluegrass music as a teenager growing up in Toronto, Ontario. At the age of seventeen, he bought his first banjo and soon discovered the clawhammer style. Before long his love of playing traditional music left little time for anything else, which led him to pursue a career as a full-time musician, a road he has happily traveled ever since.

Over the years Chris has split his time between playing Bluegrass and playing old-time. Each genre has inspired the other to the point that it is now difficult to say where one ends and the other begins. Chris believes that traditional music is traditional music, be it from Tommy Jarrell, Bill Monroe or George Jones. "I've always believed that the essence of music is in the individual, not in the category or style of music they play."

His unique style of clawhammer banjo began to reach a wider audience with the release of his first CD, *Five Strings Attached with No Backing*, in 1997 and *Five Strings Attached, Volume 2*, in 2000. Both albums were collaborations with longtime musical partner, and fellow Torontonian, Arnie Naiman. The combination of sparse, well-played arrangements of traditional tunes, as well as creative originals, struck a chord with old-time music fans worldwide. In the words of one reviewer, "...Arnie Naiman and Chris Coole are arguably two of the best clawhammer banjo players in the country, or anywhere for that matter" (From *Bluegrass Now Magazine*).

Chris has been a finalist in the banjo contests at The Appalachian Stringband Festival in Clifftop, West Virginia, and at the West Virginia State Folk Festival. Since 2000, he has been performing old-time music with fiddler Erynn Marshall. In 2005, he coproduced of her critically acclaimed CD *Calico*. The two have taught at traditional music camps and performed at festivals across the country. Most recently Chris joined Erynn to record *Meet Me in the Music*.

Chris has been a member of a number of Toronto-based Bluegrass bands and currently

performs with Crazy Strings and Foggy Hogtown Boys. His love for music from the golden era of Bluegrass is apparent to anyone who hears his singing, playing, or songwriting. In 2006, he was awarded Guitarist of the Year at the Central Canadian Bluegrass Awards.

Apart from his own recordings he can also be heard as a sideman on over forty CDs by Canadian artists such as Sylvia Tyson, Jim Cuddy, Jenny Whiteley, April Verch, and Justin Rutledge.

Arnie Naiman's interest in banjo playing began after he attended The Mariposa Folk Festival and Fiddler's Green Folk Club in Toronto in the mid-1970s. He was so impressed with Michael Cooney and Ola Belle Reed that he decided to take up the banjo and become a singer of folk songs. He acquired a Stewart MacDonald Eagle banjo, put together from a kit, and with Pete Seeger's instruction book, he quickly mastered the frailing style.

Shortly after that, he met Kurt Metzler who let Arnie listen to his collection of recordings and introduced him to a whole new world of traditional music. Arnie listened to music from the 1920s and 30s, the golden age of string bands and early country music. Uncle Dave Macon, Charlie Poole and The North Carolina Ramblers, The Carter Family, and The Delmore Brothers were among those included, as well as the revivalists The New Lost City Ramblers who had a major influence on his growing love for this music they called "old-time."

The following year, banjo in hand and waiting in line for tickets to The Mariposa Festival, some strangers with fiddles asked Arnie if he would play a tune with them. He sheepishly said he was just a beginner and knew only two fiddle tunes, but he took out the banjo and his very first jam session was in the making. The realization that an instant connection could be made with total strangers through music profoundly affected him. He started compiling a repertoire of fiddle tunes on the banjo in the more complex clawhammer style.

He attended other festival that specialized in old-time music and became a part of a vast community of great pickers and wonderful people. He hung out with Pete and Ellen Vigour from Virginia who were, and still are, inspirational to his musical development. The live presence of the music he was hearing was exciting and intoxicating and gradually became absorbed into his very soul. He started performing with Kurt Metzler at various venues as The Potato Pancakes, and they landed a job singing songs and playing instrumental music for a seven-year stint in a pub.

Arnie met his wife Kathy Reid within the music community and began performing and playing music for square dances, clubs, festivals, and music camps. They organized a weekly folk music performance with the goal of including good local performers and named their duo Ragged but Right. Then they met Chris Coole, who had accumulated a nice repertoire of fiddle tunes on the banjo, and with Chris on banjo, Kathy on guitar, Arnie on fiddle, and later Erynn Marshall on fiddle as well, they performed as The Extraordinary Stringband and played southern style music for dances.

It was during their late-night practice sessions that Chris and Arnie discovered they had each composed some interesting banjo tunes of their own. They decided to record some of these along with some traditional music, and the CD *Five Strings Attached with No Backing* was born. After some encouraging feedback from the recording, they decided to do occasional club performances together. *Volume 2* was recorded three years later. *The Banjo Special*, featuring various styles of banjo music with Chris Coole, Chris Quinn, Brian Taheny, and Arnie is his latest recording project.

This concert promises to be one of the best performances of old-time music Nashville has seen. Be there!

For more information, contact Phil Sparks, Susie Coleman, or Tim Roberts.

The President's Corner

~Jim Hornsby

It is a pleasure to welcome **Andy Shivas, Ray Mathes, and Todd Wright** as new members to our board of directors. They bring a variety of talents, backgrounds, and interests to the board, and we appreciate their participation. One of the board's on-going concerns is that we will become too complacent and set in our ways. We welcome the fresh ideas and energy of new board and committee members, and we encourage YOU to become involved too.

Your participation and comments are always welcome. You don't have to be on the board or a committee to take part, and your thoughts and ideas are especially important right now. The business side of forming the organization is pretty much complete, and we can now focus on improving current activities, setting long range goals, and acquiring grants for future projects.

We want to think beyond just the playing of instruments. There is a wealth of talent involved in activities associated with old-time music that should be encouraged and supported, and we don't want to miss an opportunity because we didn't know about it. We need your input as to what's going on and how we might help.

The association is in a formative stage, and we want you to help take it where you want it to go. Let us know what you think. Better yet, come to the board meetings, join a committee and be a participant.

Thanks to **Darlyne Kent** for accepting the chair for Breakin' Up Winter 2008. **Ron Whitlow** will be co-chair this year, and will take over as chair for the committee next year. Darlyne and Ron are both great organizers, and we appreciate the fact that the event is in such good hands. The BUW committee will be trying to streamline things and cut down on the work required to make the event happen, but it is a big weekend, and there is a lot to be done. We will be looking for "task list" volunteers again this year. Please consider contributing a little time before or during the event. It's a worthy cause.

If you missed **Bill Jones** at our April 19 slow jam at Two Rivers Mansion, you missed hearing one of the best fiddlers around. He shared his insights into contest and dance fiddling and played several tunes to demonstrate different playing styles and techniques. In a word—WOW! What talent.

And in between the fiddle tunes, Bill gave us some inside tips on bow and finger exercises and how to emphasize notes to give the fiddle a hard-driving, danceable sound. It was a great night, and we all appreciate Bill's willingness to take the time to be with us.

This month, on May 17, the Two Rivers slow jam will be hosted by one of my favorite old-time trios, **Martin Cerjan, Mary Lou Durham, and Mike Baugh**. Old-time ensemble music is like a quilt with the parts blending together to make the beauty of the whole, and you will be hard pressed to find three people who blend it better than Mary Lou, Mike, and Martin. They have been playing together for a long time and bring a lot of individual and collective talent and experience to the mix. □

Wanted: New Committee Members for Breaking Up Winter '08

BUW '07 has only just ended, and we are already thinking about forming the committee to plan and develop BUW '08.

If you would be willing to serve on the BUW Committee for next year's festival, please contact Darlyne Kent. Catch her at one of our jams, call her at 615-868-9951, or e-mail her at dkent@davidsacademy.com. □

A Radio Station for Old-Time Music

~Bob White

The great old-time and Bluegrass station, WPAQ, Mt Airy, North Carolina, is now streaming on the internet. Go to www.wpaq740.com. □

A Report from the Holladay Fiddle Contest

~Phil Sparks

Saturday afternoon, April 23, the fiddle contest in Holladay was held as scheduled.

Bill Jones won in the Junior Fiddle category while Ashley Sullivan took 2nd. Bill then went on to win the fiddle-off.

Loraine Porter took 2nd in the Senior Fiddle category.

Dan Knowles won the old-time banjo contest and Rob Pearcy took 2nd.

The weather was perfect, the music was great, and everyone seemed to have a good time. □

Kentucky State Sacred Harp Singing

The official Kentucky State Sacred Harp Singing will be held from 9 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, May 19, at the Pisgah Presbyterian Church, 710 Pisgah Road, Versailles, KY. 40383.

Visit the historic graveyard, and enjoy a potluck dinner on the grounds. Children are welcome.

We will be singing from the 1991 Sacred Harp Book and the Southern Harmony. Loaners will be available.

For more information, contact Charles Coulston at 859-278-2041 or at charles.coulston@kctcs.edu. □

Memphis Dulcimer Classes

~Lee Cagle

Thank you for your help and support at The Memphis Dulcimer Gathering. The Memphis Dulcimer Gathering, Inc is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation, and it works to bring folk music education to the public.

The topic for this month's Mountain Dulcimer Class will be "Using Chords and Basic Music Theory." It will be held from 7 to 8:20 PM on May 7, 14, and 21; at Singleton Community Center, 7266 Third Road, Bartlett; 7-8:20 PM.

Understanding simple principles of how music works as applied to the dulcimer can add depth and variety to your playing. All

levels of players are welcome, and some loaner instruments will be available.

For more information, contact me, Lee Cagle, at 901-372-0510 or www.LeeCagleDulcimers.com. □

CD Review:

Meet Me in the Music

By Erynn Marshall with
Chris Coole and Arnie Naiman

~Phil Sparks

I have not yet had a chance to listen to Erynn Marshall's new CD, *Meet Me in the Music*, but I eagerly awaiting that chance. Erynn's first CD, *Calico*, is one of my absolute favorites. Her fiddling is simply astounding, and her taste is superb. She may be from Canada, but her heart is in the Appalachians.

Her new CD includes the following tunes:

1. Feed Your Horse Corn and Hay (from Buddy Thomas)
2. Copper Run (written by Erynn)
3. Winds of Shiloh (written by J.P. Fraley)
4. Rub Alcohol Blues (from Virginia banjo player Dock Boggs)
5. Brushy Fork of John's Creek (from Hiram Stamper, Art Stamper's brother)
6. New Orleans (from Melvin Wine)
7. Meriweather (from Bruce Green)/Goodbye Girls, I'm Going to Boston (from Art Stamper)
8. Glory in the Meeting House (from Hiram Stamper)
9. Fine Times at Our House (from Edden Hammons)
10. And the Cat Came Back (from Doc Roberts)
11. Tragic Love (from the Stanley Brothers)
12. Brighter Day (from the banjo playing of Rufus Crisp through the Berea archives)
13. Queen of the Earth, Child of the Skies (from Edden Hammons)
14. Maggie Meade (from J.P. Fraley)/The Darker the Night (from Paul David Smith)
15. Banjo Clog (from Dock Boggs)
16. Jenny in the Cotton Patch (from Clyde Davenport)
17. Madison County Waltz (written by Erynn)

18. Stacked Em Up in Piles (from Melvin Wine)

On her new CD, as with her concert scheduled for May 17, Erynn (fiddle) is accompanied by Chris Coole (banjo and guitar) and Arnie Naiman (guitar). On the CD, but not appearing at the concert, are Kathy Reid-Naiman (dulcimer and banjo uke) and Andrew Downing (bass).

I'm as excited as a kid awaiting Christmas. I look forward to attending Erynn's concert and to listening to her new CD. And I look forward to seeing all of you at the concert. □

New Notsba Members

This month, we extend a warm welcome to four renewing members:

Joy, Nic, and Tyler Andal
Laura Blankenship

We thank you for joining us and for supporting old-time music. We hope you will be active members and will participate in our jams, our performances, and our festival, Breakin' Up Winter. □

Directions to the 3rd-Sunday Jam

May's 4th-Sunday Jam will be moved to the 3rd Sunday for this month only because we are scheduled to gather on the 3rd Sunday in May to play at Two Rivers Mansion for Grand Old Dulcimer Days.

We hope you will all come out for Grand Old Dulcimer Days! We'll be back on track with a 4th-Sunday Jam in June!

For directions to the 3rd-Sunday Jam, see "Directions to the Jams at Two Rivers Mansion" in this issue of the *Old-Time Times*. □

Directions to the Jams at Buchanan Log House

From more or less the center of Nashville, take I-40 East. From I-40 East, take the Donelson Pike Exit (Exit 216C), and merge onto Donelson Pike. Go about 0.4 mile on Donelson Pike, and turn right onto Elm Hill Pike.

Go 0.5 mile on Elm Hill Pike to the

Buchanan Log House, on the left at 2910 Elm Hill Pike. □

Directions to the Jams at Two Rivers Mansion

From the south or east of Nashville, take I-40 East to Briley Parkway North.

Go about 3.6 miles on Briley Parkway, and take the Two Rivers Parkway Exit. (Expect delays. This area of Briley Parkway is under construction.)

*Follow Two Rivers Parkway East for about 0.7 mile to McGavock Pike, and turn left (north).

Go about 0.4 mile on McGavock Pike, passing McGavock High School, to Two Rivers Mansion at 3130 McGavock Pike. It's the second drive on the left past the high school. A large sign and two stone pillars mark the entrance.

From I-65 North, take Briley Parkway East for 5 or 6 miles. (Expect delays. This area of Briley Parkway is under construction.) Exit at Two Rivers Parkway. Then follow the directions given above at the asterisk. □

Festivals & Contests

TENNESSEE

Harrison Crawford

Old-Time Music Festival

Held Friday evening and all day Saturday, May 18 and 19, in Williston (near Jackson) at Crawford Airport.

Go 6 miles south of Somerville on Highway 76. Turn right on Highway 193, and go to Railroad Street. Turn right on Railroad Street, and follow it to the airport to experience some great jamming and performances.

For more information, call Coley Graves at 901-382-1197. □

WEST VIRGINIA

Vandalia Gathering

Held at the Cultural Center on the State Capitol Grounds in Charleston, Friday through Sunday, May 25-27. For more information, go to www.nashvilleoldtime.org, or call 304-558-0220. □

FLORIDA**Florida Folk Festival**

Held at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center in White Springs, Friday through Sunday, May 25-27. For more information, go to www.nashvilleoldtime.org. □

NORTH CAROLINA
Old-Time Fiddlers and
Bluegrass Festival

This one is the famous “Union Grove” festival. It is held Friday through Sunday, May 25-27, at the Fiddler’s Grove Campground in Union Grove. Many folks attend this event and move directly on to the Mt Airy festival.

For more information, go to www.fiddlersgrove.com or call Harper Van Hoy at 704-539-4417. □

Mt Airy Bluegrass and
Old-Time Fiddlers Convention

Mt Airy is probably the second most important old-time music event of the year. Only Clifftop (July 28 through August 5) surpasses it.

It is held at the Veterans Memorial Park in Mt Airy, Friday through Sunday, June 1-3. Actually, folks start showing up as early as the previous Saturday, May 26. Many of them lay claim to their camping spots and then move on to Union Grove for a day or two.

For more information, go to www.visitmayberry.com or e-mail them at ssch@surry.net. □

Hosts Needed for One More
4th-Sunday Jam

Please contact Darlyne Kent at 615-868-9951 or at dkent@davidsonacademy.com to schedule your home for the October 2007 4th-Sunday Jam. October’s 4th-Sunday Jam is the only one that has not yet been filled. □

A Penny Learned: Accidentally
Muting Your Fiddle

~Phil Sparks

Consider the fact that one of the more popular fiddle mutes is a small device that attaches to the strings between the bridge and the tailpiece. Anything that increases the weight of the tailpiece or that inhibits the free movement of the tailpiece will similarly act as a mute.

1. You should check the tailpiece on your fiddle from time to time to make certain that the chinrest is not touching it. If the chinrest *is* touching the tailpiece, it is acting as a mute.

2. Whittner makes an “Ultra” (for “ultralight and ultrastrong”) 4-finetuner tailpiece that weighs about half as much as most 4-finetuner tailpieces. It is also less expensive than the heavier tailpieces. You might consider trying the lighter tailpiece. □

Please Contribute to
Your Newsletter!

If you have information or an article you want to submit, or if you have ideas for improving the newsletter, contact Phil Sparks.

If you have a tidbit on picking, learning tunes, caring for instruments, etc, please submit it for the “A Penny Learned” article.

The submission deadline for June’s newsletter is Monday, May 28. □

General Contact Information for
The Nashville Old-Time String Band
Association:

E-mails for All Members

friends@nashvilleoldtime.org

Jim Hornsby, President

friends@nashvilleoldtime.org

615-650-2328

Ed Gregory, Webmaster

edgregory@comcast.net

615-889-5566

HELP!!!!

If you know about an upcoming old-time music event, don't assume that we already know about it. If it's not posted on our Web site (www.nashvilleoldtime.org), we need the information desperately. *Please help us keep our old-time community informed.*

You can reach Phil Sparks, the editor of this newsletter at:

ksparks@msn.com

or

615-797-4356

or

2020 Claylick Road

White Bluff, TN 37187 □

Classified Ads**STRING BAND MUSICIANS FOR HIRE**

Notsba members are willing to perform for the public for a small fee. All of our earnings go to the organization, none to the pickers.

If you know of someone who might make use of our services, contact Don Kent at www.nashvilleoldtime.org, or call him at 615-868-9951. □