



July 2009

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Flagstaff Folk Festival – June 27th-28th

By Jesse Anderson

It's time again for the Eighth Annual Flagstaff Folk Festival, held June 27th & 28th at the Coconino Center for the Arts and Arizona Historical Society Pioneer Museum, 2300 N Fort Valley Rd. This year we have another action packed weekend full of great music, workshops, dancing, jamming, food, and fun. As usual, festival admission is \$3/person and \$9/family. For more information call Christina Boyd at 522-9269 or email Jesse Anderson at folkfestival@ffotm.net, or check the website at <http://www.flagfolkfest.org>.

The Music - First, of course, we have our usually unusually-stellar lineup of solo musicians, duos, and bands, on four stages running from 10 AM to 6 PM both days. Look for the performance schedule in this newsletter (www.flagfolkfest.org/schedule) so you can plan a great weekend of music, or just wander from stage to stage in amazement at the variety of traditional music. Singer-songwriters, Bluegrass Bands, Old-time fiddlers, Folk Duos, Cowboy Singers - they'll all be there.

Admission to exhibits - FFOTM's partners in the folk festival, Flagstaff Cultural Partners and The Arizona Historical Society Pioneer Museum, will be open all weekend, and are graciously including access to their exhibits with festival admission. In the Gallery of the Coconino Center for the Arts you will find the influx, a national juried exhibition pertaining to and inspired by all forms of dance. Down the hill at the Pioneer Museum you will find great exhibits about the history of Flagstaff and Northern Arizona.

Great Workshops - We have a terrific lineup of workshops this year. Besides old favorites such as the Songwriter's Circle and Contra Jam we also have some exciting new workshops, such as combined Saw andXaphoon? The website for the Xaphoon calls it some type of bamboo saxophone, but you'll have to come

down and see it for yourself, Saturday at 1PM. For closet singers, Joan Wyatt and Kris Satterwhite will be leading a round singing workshop on Sunday at 1 PM. I know we had a great reception to the round singing in years past at FFOTM events so come over and sing a few, then stay for the Spoons workshop.

Instrument Swap - New this year is a tradition that takes place at many other festivals. Got an old bandoguitolin hanging around the house you don't know what to do with? Bring it on down to the instrument swap Sunday morning and trade it for another franken-instrument or maybe sell it to another instrument hound. This informal event will take place starting at 9 AM on Sunday near the main entrance of the Coconino Center. If you're in the market for something new, check out the Young Jammers instrument sale, (see page 3).

Saturday Night Dance - After a couple years' hiatus, the Saturday Night Barn Dance will again be held at Sechrist School, which is on Fort Valley Rd directly South of the Festival Grounds. The Just Desserts Contra Dance band will host an open band which anyone is welcome to join, and Flagstaff caller Deb Comly will chair the open caller's mic. Of course we also welcome dancers of all ages and ability, experienced or not; 7:30 - 11 PM, on Saturday at Sechrist School. \$5 Donation. Call Deb at 774-5936 for questions about the dance.

Band Scramble - The final performance of the festival is always one of the most popular, and definitely the most unique. Three bands, formed mere hours (at most) before their performance will each take the stage to play a barely-rehearsed number or two before an amazed audience. A true test of a musician's skill and stamina (it is the end of a big weekend, after-all), the band scramble is a great time for audience and musician alike and a great end to the weekend.

The Five Deadly Venoms – July 3rd

By Julie Sullivan

The Five Deadly Venoms from NYC display a jazzy-grass feel with instrumental virtuosity, vocal agility, and ensemble-style prowess... all five talents use their combined secret venom powers to wow audiences from coast to coast. Don't miss their debut concert at Unity of Flagstaff.

They have quickly earned a justifiable reputation at the top of New York City's vibrant bluegrass scene. The band is comprised of first-call instrumentalists and award-winning pickers who have come together to carve a fresh, exciting and unique vision of American acoustic and Bluegrass music with a sound that is soulful and sincere, adventurous with respect for tradition, playful and serious all at the same time.

The Five Deadly Venoms just finished mixing their debut album with three-time Grammy award winning engineer, Dave Sinko in Nashville, TN. The record showcases the group's impressive vocal talent and serious musicality. The band will be competing this



The Five Deadly Venoms—July 3 , 7:30 PM Unity of Flagstaff Hall

\$14 advance, \$16 Door, \$2 discount for FFOTM, Unity, FCP, FSO, MNA, and any arts organization members.
Tickets available at Arizona Music Pro, 122 E Route 66Flagstaff, AZ 86001 (928) 556-9054.

summer at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival band contest as well as the Rockygrass band contest and will tour Colorado, Arizona, and California this summer making a stop in Flagstaff on July 3, at Unity.

The Five Deadly Venoms were featured on XM Satellite Radio's "The Loft" in the spring of 2008 as well as appearing on WKCR's "Honky Tonkin". They have a strong following at home in New York City, and continue to pack rooms with fans wherever they play who are eager to experience their ever-expanding repertoire of original songs, soulful singing and spitfire improvisations.

The Five Deadly Venoms are:

Elio Schiavo, mandolin, vocals; Rick Snell, guitar, vocals; Rob Hecht, fiddle; James Kerr, dobro, vocals; Ian M. Riggs: upright bass. For more info: Julie Sullivan (928) 266-6082, (928) 779-1120, julie@luckygirlproductions.org, www.luckygirlproductions.org

The Unity of Flagstaff, is at 6134 Black Bill Rd in Flagstaff, AZ, behind 2nd Chance Animal Shelter.

Arizona Highland Celtic Festival

By Jude McKenzie

Hello FFOTM members! It is almost time for the 12th annual Arizona Highland Celtic Festival and we would like to invite all FFOTM members to enjoy some fun. As you probably already know folk and bluegrass music today has many roots in Celtic music. So, come join us for loads of fun AND great music! The festival will take place on July 18 & 19 at Foxglenn Park, but there will

be many opportunities throughout the week before to enjoy fantastic Celtic music. Check out our website at www.nachs.info for details and check closer to the event for final schedules and a weeks worth of Celtic fun! We also need volunteers so if you're up for volunteering call Brenda at 928-853-9499 (we have all manner of jobs).

Update for Pickin' in the Pines 2009

By Julie Sullivan

The lineup is full and the schedule set, as anticipation mounts for what will be another incredible festival. Expect to see a unique blend of traditional and contemporary bluegrass, progressive roots-folk, and rollicking old-time music, as well as workshops, contra dance events, a band contest and more. We'll be hosting world-class musicians from Nashville to California plus a full contingent of local and regional bands who play traditional or traditionally-inspired music.

Tickets are on sale now at Arizona Music Pro and the Wine Loft in downtown Flagstaff, by mail (PO Box 23701, Flagstaff, AZ 86002), on our website PickininthePines.org (via Paypal), and through Pinemountainamphitheater.com and Rainbow's End. Visit PickininthePines.org for details about the schedule, activities, the band contest or anything else you might want to know about the festival.

Our Lineup

Our lineup features many local and regional bands, including **Burnett Family Bluegrass, Murphy's Law, Muskellunge Bluegrass, Red Desert Ramblers, Headline Bluegrass Band, Voluntary String Band, Mars Hillbillies, The Bears and the Bees, Tony Norris & Sid Hausman**, and contra dance band, **Fionn McCool**, with caller, **Wendy Graham**.

We're also hosting top-notch national bands. In case you're not familiar with these great bands, we'd like to share some of their accomplishments and let you know what other folks have to say about them.

The Gibson Brothers - In September 2008, Iron & Diamonds reached #1 on the Albums Chart in the October issue of Bluegrass Unlimited. It is the Gibsons' fourth consecutive chart-topping release. Cabin Down Below was also a number one hit on XM Radio's Bluegrass Junction's Top Tracks.

"To say they've got the classic brother duet thing down is an understatement; they own it."

— Michael Eck, No Depression

Claire Lynch Band - From The Nashville Scene, by Jon Weisberger:

Recent Nashville transplant Claire Lynch is one of the classiest acts in bluegrass today, capable of turning bona fide classics like Jimmy Martin's "Hey Lonesome" and the Osborne Brothers' "Up This Hill And Down" into her own even as she pays homage to the brilliance of the originals.

Her infinitely expressive voice has earned her guest appearances with the likes of Dolly Parton, but it's best heard in front of her own band—anchored by senior member and award-winning guitarist Jim Hurst, it has recently incorporated underrated fiddle and mandolin player Jason Thomas and redoubtable bassist Mark Schatz, most recently of Nickel Creek. That's a formidable lineup, and Lynch wisely gives them plenty of room to shine, but in the end, it's her sensibilities and talents that shape the sound into one delicious whole.

Steep Canyon Rangers - Before being nominated for 2 International Bluegrass Music awards in 2008 (including Album of the Year, Lovin' Pretty Women), the Rangers were named 'Emerging Artist of the Year' in 2006 at the IBMA awards ceremony in Nashville, TN. The group has been regularly featured on the Grand Ole Opry, as well as major U.S. Bluegrass and Americana music festivals such as MerleFest, Telluride Bluegrass Festival, Grey Fox, DelFest and RockyGrass.

If George Jones had Lester Flatt and Bill Monroe in mind when he sang Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes, he might have found his answer in North Carolina's hot-picking" young band, The Steep Canyon Rangers. —Jack Bernhardt, Raleigh News & Observer

Crooked Still - *Warmed by a robust cello, the inventive arrangements on Still Crooked forgo high and lonesome in favor of deep, dusky yearning, as do the vocals... Recent changes in the band's lineup have been smooth, widening the quintet's path of low-key innovation. — Time Out New York*

This alt-country band impresses big time. While decidedly down home, their original music also proves surprisingly high-toned, refined and varied- chamber twang at its best. — Philadelphia Daily News

Freight Hoppers - Back on the robust Old-Time scene with unbridled rockin' verve, The Freight Hoppers of North Carolina ride again.

There are certain string bands that everyone looks to in setting the bar high for musicianship, performance and showmanship and The Freight Hoppers deliver the goods. Their infectious high energy and bracing, uncompromising sound is what I look for in a band. I know their loyal and patient fan base including myself is glad they're back and we're very excited about seeing them perform. — Jim Roe

Flagstaff Folk Festival Schedule

Flagstaff Folk Festival Schedule

Ghost Town Chill Down

by Mike Reddig

Historic Spook Hall in downtown Jerome hosts the inaugural Ghost Town Chill Down contra dance weekend on July 17th, 18th and 19th. Musicians and dancers from across the country will congregate to enjoy live music and contra dancing. The contra dance weekend will also include opportunities for contra dancers to sample English country dancing as well as a few square dances while picking up style pointers from the national and regional talent. Featured performers include The Rhythm Rollers and caller Bob Isaacs.

The Rhythm Rollers play old-time New England Contra Dance Music and feature Laurie Andres on accordion, Cathie Whitesides on fiddle and Bob McQuillan on piano. Andres and Whitesides have been playing dances and camps all over the U.S. since 1980.

Bob McQuillen of Peterborough, NH is one of the most beloved New England contra dance musicians. "Mac" has played to the delight of countless dancers for 60 years since his start in 1947 with the "Ralph Page Orchestra." He has inspired many other musicians both young and old, and has composed over 1000 fiddle tunes. In 2002 Bob was awarded the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship

Cathie fiddles contra dance music, Irish music, and Greek music and is known as a fiddler of joyfulness, strength and energy, Laurie Andres is an accordion master of a variety of musical styles - from French cabaret to contra dance to Greek and Klezmer. With Bob they bring over a hundred years of contra tradition and fun to the dancers, not to mention Bob's many jokes.

Caller Bob Isaacs leads dances with clear, enthusiastic teaching, and the ability to adapt to dancers of all levels.

Performing across the country from his base in New Jersey he is also one of the most prolific and respected choreographers writing contras and squares today.

Arizona talent featured at the weekend will be the band Updraft and callers Peg Hesley and Laila Lewis. Updraft provides driving music guaranteed to bring smiles to the faces of contra dancers and lift to their feet. Judy Frances of Tucson brings decades of experience playing New England piano and pushes the limits for Mary Anne McLeod's vibrant, clear fiddle and Mike Reddig's ringing mandolin. Joining them for the Chill Down will be Bryan Flamig of Phoenix with his pulsing rhythms on a variety of drums.

Renowned Maricopa County caller Peg Hesley brings her style, wit and finely tuned programs to the weekend, and rising star Laila Lewis of Tucson promises to shine with her vast repertoire of well tested dances.

The historic copper mining town of Jerome, Arizona is located high on top of Cleopatra Hill at 5,200 feet between Prescott and Flagstaff. Once known as the wickedest town in the west, today Jerome is a thriving tourist and artist community with a population of about 450. It sits above what was the largest copper mine in Arizona; now the mines are silent, and Jerome has become the largest ghost town in America. The dancing will be in "Spook Hall," the recently renovated old J.C. Penney building. With its refurbished original wood floors and modern air-conditioning, this hall is the perfect setting for dancing and the first annual Ghost Town Chill Down.

For more information visit azwedance.googlepages.com email azwedance@gmail.com or call 928-774-5936

First Saturday Contra Dance

July 11th Claire Zucker and Round the House will be up from Tucson.

**We are dancing the second Saturday in July so you can have the 4th with family and/or friends.

August 1st Peg Hesley from Phoenix will call to Just Desserts.

Dances are at Ashurst Hall, in Old Main at NAU campus from 7:30pm until 11pm. Suggested donation of \$5 FFOTM/students / \$8 for the public. No partner needed, live music is provided. Call Kris for more info: 526-3020.

Guitar Sale – June 27th

By Lloyd Holdeman

People in Northern Arizona have been generous over the years in donating instruments to FFOTM's Young Jammers program. There are a lot of kids out there playing guitars, fiddles and mandolins that have been donated by the community, and they get regular learning opportunities from Kari Barton and Chuck Cheesman in the Jammer program – coordinated by Christina Boyd.

Most of the guitars are given by adults and are full-sized dreadnaught steel stringed, or wide necked nylon string classical guitars. The Jammers are aged around 9-14, so the big guitars are awkward and imposing. From time to time we sell these big guitars (with donor permission), and use the money to buy smaller guitars. Custom Sounds and Arizona Music Pro give us good deals on sturdy little guitars that fit our needs.

At the Folk Festival, Saturday, June 27th, Coconino Center for the Arts, I will have an assortment of newly strung guitars that can be played, paid for, and taken

home at a price that will make everyone happy. For between \$100 and \$150 one can acquire an Alvarez Regent serial # 89030030, a Johnson JO -610 N, or an Epiphone Texan – FT-145 (made in Japan). These are nice guitars. Even if you have a good guitar, it's nice to have a second guitar to play in alternate tunings, to risk hot temperatures when you travel, or to take a drenching at a FFOTM Campout. There is also a very nice Sigma DR 28 (Sigma – owned by CF Martin, made in Japan), donated by Chehale Alexander with a hardshell case. \$250 would get us two smaller guitars and some fiddle bows.

There are other guitars also, a couple of banjos, and we will be accepting donations during the day. From 10am to 6pm, look for our table, stop by and play some tunes with us. And let's not forget about the big red arch-top, f-hole, guitar recently donated by Mike Reddig. Silver inlay, silver pick guard, and silver tuning peg head – what a beauty! Join us at the Folk Festival – Saturday – June 27, CCA. Buy a guitar and help out the Young Jammers.

July Events Calendar

July 3 - The Five Deadly Venoms

See www.luckygirlproductions.org for updates and info.

July 4 4-6pm - Burnett Family Bluegrass

At Heritage Square, downtown Flagstaff.

July 15-16 - Grand Canyon Celtic Arts Academy

Our inaugural year is quickly approaching and we are very excited to be bringing three outstanding musicians from Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Brett Lipshutz, Randy Gosa, and Devin McCabe. Classes are being offered in Irish flute, whistle, fiddle, tenor banjo (mandolins welcome), DADGAD guitar and bodhran. The camp is taking place, with an evening orientation taking place on July 14. For more info, email Kari@GrandCanyonCelticArts.org or call 928-600-1365.

July 17 – Larry Peterson

Featured Performer at 8:45. The FFP Coffee House/Open Mic is held on the third Friday of each month, From 7:30 - 10:00pm at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 510 N. Leroux Street, Flagstaff, AZ (Between Elm and Fine Avenues)

July 17 - 19 - Ghost Town Chill Down

A dance weekend, in historic Jerome Arizona, at the historic "Spook Hall," with The Rhythm Rollers (Cathie Whitesides, Laurie Andres and Bob McQuillen) and caller Bob Isaacs (New Jersey), featuring Arizona talent Updraft, Peg Hesley and Laila Lewis. Contrabass, squares, couples dancing, with a sampling of English Country Dance!

July 18 & 19 - Arizona Highland Celtic Festival
Foxglenn Park, Flagstaff. See www.nachs.info

For Sale:

Paris Swing f-hole mandolin, bright, loud, and easy to play. Asking \$350 with a nice Epiphone hardshell case. OBO.

2006 Eastman MD604 model mandolin, spirit varnish, plenty of finish checking. A style, oval hole. I'm asking \$425, OBO. Also with hardshell case. Contact: Craig Yarbrough, grandcanyonguitarsociety@hotmail.com, 928.213.0752



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