

Central Pennsylvania

Traditions

the newsletter of the

Harrisburg, PA USA

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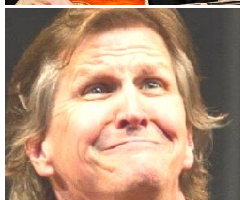
Susquehanna Folk
MUSIC SOCIETY

July/August 2021 Events



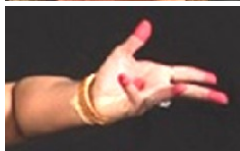
Happy Traum.....Page 2

Sun, July 11, at Fishing Creek Salem UMC • A legend of American roots music joins us for a guitar workshop and concert, with a blues jam in between.



Andy's Wild Amphibian Show.....Page 3

Wed, Jul 14 • Tadpoles, a five-gallon pickle jar and silly parental questions are just a few elements of Andy Offutt Irwin's zany live-streamed program for all ages.



Liars Contest.....Page 3

Wed, Jul 14 • Eight tellers of tall tales vie for this year's Liars Contest title in a live-streamed competition emceed by storyteller extraordinaire Andy Offutt Irwin.



"Bringing It Home".....Page 5

Wed, Aug 11 • Three local practitioners of traditional folk art — Narda LeCadre, Julie Smith and Rachita Nambiar — explore "Beautiful Gestures: Making Meaning by Hand" in a virtual conversation with folklorist Amy Skillman.



Solo Jazz Dance Class.....Page 6

Fri, Aug 13, Mt. Gretna Hall of Philosophy Building • Let world-champion swing dancer Carla Crowen help get you in the mood to boogie to the music of Tuba Skinny.



Tuba Skinny.....Page 7

Fri, Aug 13, at Mt. Gretna Playhouse • This electrifying ensemble has captivated audiences around the world with its vibrant early jazz and traditional New Orleans sound.



Nora Brown.....Page 10

Sat, Aug 14, at Mt. Gretna Playhouse • This phenomenal young musician is a devotee of traditional American banjo and unaccompanied singing.

Guitar Summit.....Page 11

Sun, Aug 22 • Celtic icon John Doyle, blues master Happy Traum and bluegrass ace Chris Eldridge join forces for hot licks and conversation in a virtual program via Zoom.



Colebrook Road.....Page 12

Fri, Aug 27, at Fort Hunter Park • This Central PA band's unique blend of traditional and progressive sounds makes it a favorite on the bluegrass scene.



Bruce Molsky & Tony Trischka.....Page 13

Sun, Aug 29, at Fishing Creek Salem UMC • An old-time fiddle virtuoso and a world-renowned master of progressive banjo join us for a day of acoustic fun that includes a concert, banjo workshop and old-time/bluegrass jam.

Also Inside:

Ireland Tour.....	4
Folk Festival Scenes.....	8-9
Emerging Artist Showcase.....	6
Looking Ahead.....	12
Member Recognition.....	15

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SFMS Office

Executive Director Jess Hayden
378 Old York Road
New Cumberland, PA 17070
concerts@sfmsfolk.org
(717) 319-8409

More information at
www.sfmsfolk.org

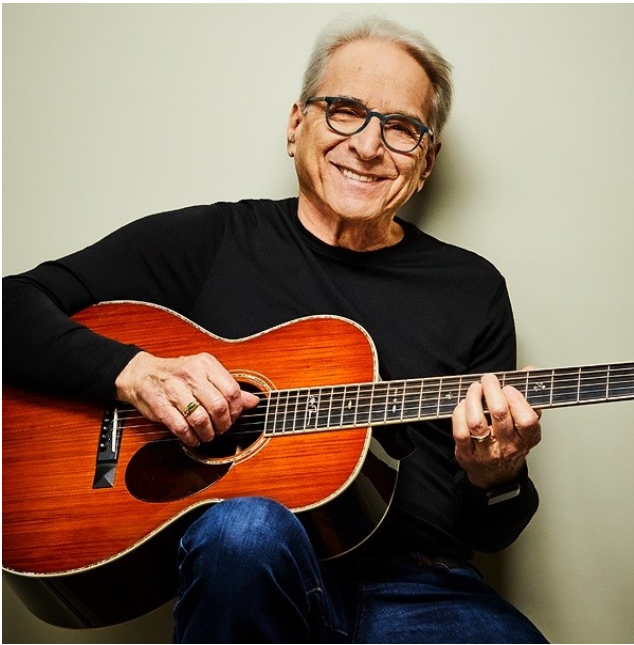


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Happy Traum, Sunday, July 11

Happy Traum, the revered singer and guitarist who has had a powerful influence on American roots music since the earliest days of the folk revival, will appear for the Susquehanna Folk Festival on Sunday, July 11, as part of a guitar workshop, open blues jam and concert on the grounds of the Fishing Creek Salem United Methodist Church, 402 Valley Road, in Goldsboro, York County. Traum will teach the 90-minute workshop that begins at 3:30 p.m. and will perform a solo concert that starts at 7 p.m.; the 90-minute blues jam gets underway at 5 p.m. (all times ET).

The event marks the first in-person programming by SFMS since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020.

About Traum: Over five decades, Traum has performed around the globe as a soloist and with groups. His interest in traditional and contemporary music has won him international recognition as a performer, writer, editor, session musician, folklorist, teacher and recording artist.

As a teenager, Traum became smitten with American folk music and began playing guitar and 5-string banjo, eventually studying under famed blues guitarist Brownie McGhee. He was an active participant in the legendary Washington Square/Greenwich Village folk scene of the 1950s and 1960s, and he was an early collaborator with folk legends Bob Dylan, Pete Seeger and Phil Ochs. In the 1970s and 1980s, together with his brother Artie, he promoted the distinctive Woodstock music scene through recordings and touring with other folk and rock musicians. As a performer, he is best known for his duo work with Artie; they recorded and performed together for nearly 40 years until Artie's death in 2008.

Traum has taught at major guitar workshops across the U.S. and has authored more than a dozen guitar-instruction books. Perhaps his most lasting contribution to music has been through his internationally renowned company, Homespun Music Instruction, which he and his wife co-founded in 1967. Homespun has produced more than 600 roots-music lessons by top performing artists on CDs, DVDs and downloads.

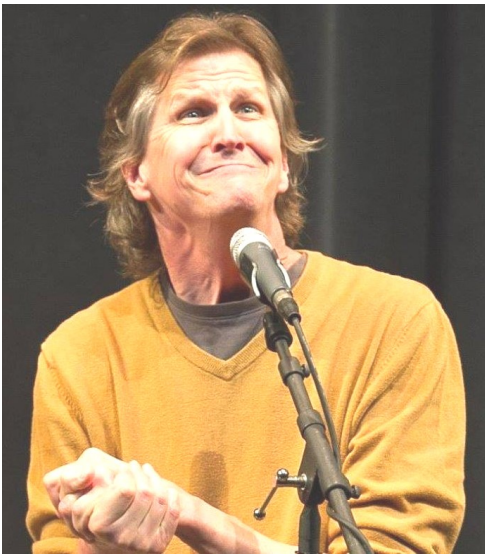


The Workshop: Titled "Blues & Country Fingerpicking 101: Conquering the Challenge of the Steady Thumb," Traum's workshop is suitable for early intermediate to experienced guitarists who want to learn the steady-bass thumb-and-finger styles used by blues and country pickers and countless singer-songwriters. The necessary coordination of maintaining a rock-steady rhythmic bass while picking syncopated melody notes stymies even some advanced players, but Traum has had 50 years of guitar-teaching experience and if anyone can get you picking this way, he can. Space is limited for the workshop, so early registration is advised.

The Jam: SFMS member Hank Imhof, a terrific blues player and genial host, will lead the blues jam, which is open to players of any skill level and to listeners as well.

The Venue: The handicapped-accessible grounds of Fishing Creek Salem UMC feature a picnic pavilion, a large shaded lawn, convenient bathrooms and ample parking. Folding chairs will be available for the workshop and jam participants. Concert patrons should bring lawn chairs or blankets; those with pandemic-related safety concerns may choose to sit in family units and/or wear masks. Patrons who arrive early are welcome to bring a picnic dinner, listen to the jam, or stroll on a short, adjacent walking trail. No alcohol is permitted on church grounds. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in the church sanctuary, which is large enough to allow for social distancing.

Donations: Separate, advance registration is required for the workshop and concert. Admission is by donation, with the suggested donation per workshop participant or concert attendee being \$20 and the supporter-level donation being \$25. Admission to the blues jam is included with admission to the workshop or concert. In order to reduce the need for patrons to congregate, admission donations will be accepted online only and not at the event. Patrons should bring their admission tickets, either printed or displayed on a smartphone, to the event. To register for the workshop, concert or both, please visit sfmsfolk.org/festival/HappyTraum.html.



Liars Contest, Wednesday, July 14

A far-flung contingent of eight tall tale-telling contestants will compete for the title of most convincing liar during the Susquehanna Folk Festival's eagerly anticipated 2021 Liars Contest, which will be live-streamed free to viewers on Wednesday, July 14, at 7 p.m. (ET).

The contest emcee will be master showman and storyteller extraordinaire Andy Offutt Irwin, a ten-time Featured Teller at the National Storytelling Festival and recipient of the prestigious Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Network. Each contestant will tell an original, humorous, family-friendly story of about seven minutes in length. Scoring will be based on ratings by a panel of three expert judges and votes of the viewing audience. Irwin will keep viewers royally entertained while the scores are tabulated. The



first-, second- and third-place finishers will win cash prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively.

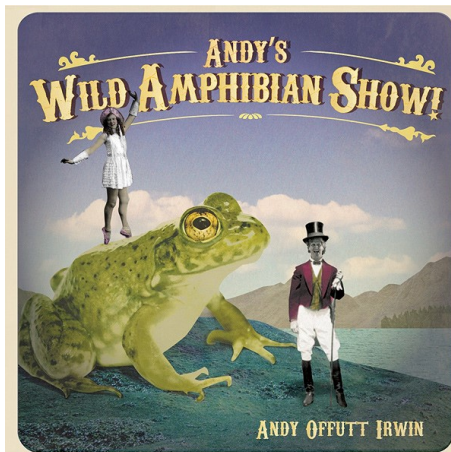
The contestants, all experienced storytellers, are Laurina Bergqvist, of Hässleholm, Sweden; Gary Buchanan, of Creston, W.Va.; Ken Karnas, of Wantage Township, N.J.; Ken Parsons, of Conception Bay South, Newfoundland, Canada; Jason Sabol, of York, Pa.; Sandy Schuman, of Albany, N.Y.; Leslie Shelley, of Ball Ground, Ga.; and David Smith, of Plymouth Meeting, Pa. The contestants were selected from a pool of applicants who were required to submit video samples of their work.

The panel of judges are Mina Edmondson, director of York's Martin Library and the 2019 winner of the York Story Grand Slam; J.J. Sheffer, director of community programming for the York County Economic Alliance and an organizer of the York Story Slam; and Sheila Arnold, president of History's Alive!, which provides storytelling, historic character presentations, and professional development programs for schools, libraries, churches, museums and professional organizations across the country.

Advance registration is required for admission to the Liars Contest. To register, please visit sfmsfolk.org/festival/LiarsContest.html.

Andy's Wild Amphibian Show, Wednesday, July 14

Before his evening gig emceeing the Liars Contest, Andy Offutt Irwin will present a free, live-streamed program for the Susquehanna Folk Festival on Wednesday, July 14, that he's dubbed "Andy's Wild Amphibian Show." The one-hour program, suitable for viewers of all ages, will begin at 2 p.m. (ET).



Irwin hasn't revealed much about his show, but we do know it will feature, among other things, tadpoles, ridiculous parental questions, a five-gallon pickle jar, and a cat named Bootsie. If this doesn't entice viewers, we don't know what will.

Expect the unexpected with Irwin. With a silly putty voice, a knack for amazing mouth noises (including whistling *par excellence*), and a gift for telling hilarious, heart-filled stories, Irwin is equal parts mischievous schoolboy and Marx Brothers, with a touch of Southern balladeer.

Irwin is one of the most sought-after performing storytellers in the U.S, appearing regularly at major storytelling events and garnering a host of storytelling awards and accolades. Along with being a vagabond storyteller, he works as an arts educator, keynote speaker, theater director, songwriter, comedian, newspaper columnist, camp counselor and Shakespearian actor. He's also had gainful employment as a garbage man, carpenter's flunky, ditch digger and (this speaks volumes) bullfrog tadpole catcher.

Advance registration is required for admission to the program. To register, please visit sfmsfolk.org/festival/AndysAmphibians.html. The program will be archived for later viewing. SFMS is presenting the program in partnership with York County Libraries, Hershey Library and Dauphin County Libraries, and with financial support from Fred, Lois and Teresa Heagy.





SFMS Musical Tour in Ireland

September 25 - October 6, 2022

member price \$3499* per person sharing

non-member price \$3699* per person sharing

Single Supplement \$690

Join Susquehanna Folk Music Society on a Musical Tour of Ireland including time to attend musical events at the 43rd Annual Cork Folk Festival.

This tour includes visits to the following:

Cliffs of Moher

Doolin Music House

Foynes Flying Boat Museum

Kilmalkedar Church

Michael Collins Centre

Charles Fort

Timoleague Abbey

Cobh Heritage Centre

Garden of Remembrance

Bru Boru Heritage Centre

Epic Ireland

Dublin City HO/HO Bus Pass

On this musical journey you will have a Bodhrán making talk at Roundstone Music & Crafts, a Celtic concert at Killarney School of Music, time in Cork City to enjoy the 43rd Annual Cork Folk Festival, and an Irish Dance Workshop. In addition; you will travel thru breathtaking Connemara, tour the majestic Dingle Peninsula, take a walking tour of Kinsale, and enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin. Your visit at Foynes Flying Boat Museum includes an Irish Coffee demonstration/tasting, and you will see a working sheepdog demonstration while traveling the Dingle Peninsula.

The price includes: visits mentioned above, airport transportation to/from Harrisburg area to airport round trip airfare*, hotel accommodations, breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 2 dinners, a driver & a tour guide in Ireland.

Not Included: optional travel insurance, meals not included above, gratuity for driver & guides, Folk Festival Tickets, and personal expenses.

For complete itinerary go to HarriganHolidays.com and click the SFMS tab. For questions contact Kathy Harrigan at 717.818.3024 or via email at kathy@harriganholidays.com

*Please note - price is based on current service charges, taxes and fees and estimate of airfare. A change to taxes, fuel surcharge, or large currency fluctuation could alter the price of this tour.

"Bringing It Home": Making Meaning by Hand, Wed., Aug. 11

The Susquehanna Folk Festival is pleased to introduce the second installment of "Bringing It Home," a series of virtual conversations with local traditional artists who share their art and their stories about being an artist in Central Pennsylvania. The second installment, titled "Beautiful Gestures: Making Meaning by Hand," will be conducted via Zoom on Wednesday, August 11, at 7:30 p.m. (ET).

We create exquisite beauty with our hands and imbue objects with such meaning that they are treasured from one generation to the next. Whether it is a quilt stitched with the symbols of our youth, a story told through hand movements of a dancer, or a recipe seasoned with the spices of home, our hands create and share the gifts of our cultures.



Rachita Nambiar

centuries-old women's art form from the hearth floor to the gallery wall. **Rachita Nambiar**, a classical Indian dancer, will demonstrate the art of Bharatanatyam and the beautiful hand gestures that complement the steps and facial expressions to tell the ancient stories of Hindu mythology.



ENDLESS SUMMER 2021
**Susquehanna
Folk Festival**

A quilter since 1974, LeCadre made clothing long before she started quilting. After her mother passed away, she started dreaming about quilting so she knew she had to make one. She still has that original quilt and estimates there are over 300 of her quilts out in circulation. She has another 120 tops at home waiting to be quilted. Although most of her quilts are what she calls "utility quilts," LeCadre is known for making quilts that have as much detail and design work on the back as they do on the front.

Fabrics fade and wear out when people actually sleep under a quilt, so they often come back to LeCadre for repairs and restoration. She has become even more productive since retiring, and with 17 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, she expects to be busy quilting for a long time.

Growing up in a family that supported classical arts, Nambiar began dancing as a young girl and spent her formative years in Chennai, the heart of Bharatanatyam in southeastern India. Bharatanatyam is an intricate, 2,000-year-old dance tradition in which grace, strength and precision are combined **(Continued on page 14)**

In "Beautiful Gestures: Making Meaning by Hand," SFMS folklorist **Amy E. Skillman**, who has documented artistic traditions in Central Pennsylvania since 1988, will moderate a discussion with three local artists about women's art and the many ways we make meaning with our hands.



Narda LeCadre

Narda LeCadre, a founding member of the African American Quilters Gathering of Harrisburg, will talk about the symbols she incorporates into her designs, and the importance of quilting as a form of giving back in the Black community. **Julie Smith**, a rug hooker from Lebanon County, will share her design inspirations and talk about the transformation of this



Julie Smith

Solo Jazz Dance Class, Friday, August 13

Concert-goers who would like to dance to the strains of the New Orleans jazz ensemble Tuba Skinny at Mt. Gretna Playhouse on Friday, August 13 (see facing page), are invited to attend a one-hour solo jazz dance class, titled "A Spoonful of Jazz," that will be offered before the show, beginning at 5:30 p.m. (ET), in the nearby Hall of Philosophy Building (behind the Jigger Shop), 212 Gettysburg Ave., Mt. Gretna. The dance class is being presented as part of the Susquehanna Folk Festival in partnership with Gretna Music and the Central PA Friends of Jazz.



Aided by world-champion swing dancer Carla Crowen, dance class participants will be transported to the bars and restaurants of Bourbon Street, where the dancers boogie, strut, shuffle and shimmy all night long to the music of hot New Orleans-style jazz bands. Crowen will introduce participants to the world of solo jazz dance and end by teaching a routine to the music of Tuba Skinny. The class is open to all ages and experience levels. Participants should wear comfortable shoes and, if desired, a face mask. The venue is large enough to allow for social distancing.

During Tuba Skinny's performance, dancers are welcome to show off their stuff in the aisles or on the lawn.

Crowen, of Camp Hill, has been teaching Lindy Hop and other forms of vintage swing dancing for over 15 years. She lays claim to some of the most prestigious competition titles, including American Lindy Hop Champion, U.S. Open Lindy Hop Champion, World Lindy Hop Champion and International Lindy Hop Champion. She has also choreographed for the hit dance show *So You Think You Can Dance*. She is the leader of the local dance troupe SugarSnaps.

Advance registration is required for the dance class. Donations are requested, with the suggested donation per participant being \$10 and the supporter-level amount being \$15. No donations can be accepted at the door. To register, please visit sfmsfolk.org/festival/JazzDance.html.



Enter the Emerging Artist Showcase by August 14!



SFMS is seeking applications from roots musicians to participate in the Susquehanna Folk Festival's popular Emerging Artist Showcase (EAS), which this year will be live-streamed on Sunday, September 26, at a time to be announced.

For purposes of the EAS, an "emerging artist" is a band or individual of any age who has not performed regularly at major festivals or concert series. EAS applicants may be solo acts, duos and groups playing acoustic, roots-based styles, including folk, blues, Americana, bluegrass, world music, jazz, country, folk-rock, Celtic and the like. The EAS is not open to previous winners, but previous finalists are welcome to apply.

During the EAS, each finalist will perform a 20-minute live-streamed set followed by a brief interview with the host. Judges will rate performances on stage appearance, originality, personality and overall consistency. Audience voting will also be used in determining the overall winner. The top-finishing finalist will win a \$500 cash prize

and an invitation to perform a virtual concert as part of SFMS's 2021 fall concert series.

The deadline for EAS applications is August 14. Applicants will be required to submit one or more videos of their work together with any online presence they choose to share (e.g., website, social media, BandCamp). SFMS's selection committee will select five finalists for the EAS. To submit an application, please visit <https://sfmsfolk.org/festival/EmergingArtistShowcase.html>.

Tuba Skinny, Friday, August 13

Tuba Skinny, an electrifying band from New Orleans that has garnered worldwide acclaim for its authentic, highly skilled performances that evoke the atmosphere and musical vibrancy of the early jazz period of the 1920s and 1930s, will take the concert stage for the Susquehanna Folk Festival, in partnership with Gretna Music, at 7:30 pm. (ET) on Friday, August 13, at Mt. Gretna Playhouse, 200 Pennsylvania Ave., Mt. Gretna.

Formed in 2009, Tuba Skinny has evolved from a loose collection of street musicians into a solid ensemble dedicated to bringing the traditional New Orleans sound to audiences around the world. Drawing on a wide range of influences – from spirituals to Depression-era blues, from ragtime to traditional jazz – the band's sound evokes the rich musical heritage of New Orleans. Tuba Skinny has gained a loyal following for its distinctive sound, revival of long-lost songs, and barnstorming live performances.

Current members and their primary instruments are Shaye Cohn (cornet), Barnabus Jones (trombone), Craig Flory (clarinet), Todd Burdick (tuba), Gregory Sherman (guitar and vocals), Max Bien-Kahn (resonator guitar), Jason Lawrence (banjo), Robin Rapuzzi (washboard), and Erica Lewis (bass drum and vocals), who performs part-time with the band.



ENDLESS SUMMER 2021
Susquehanna
Folk Festival

The origins of Tuba Skinny began two years before Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, when a group of young musicians from all parts of America, but none native to the city, formed a busking string band called the Dead Man Street Orchestra, which played everything from gypsy to Cajun to Balkan folk music. That group dissolved after a few years, and some of its members joined the large jazz ensemble Loose Marbles, where the musicians who would later form Tuba Skinny learned to play traditional jazz and experiment with new instruments.

The newly created Tuba Skinny was committed to playing the repertoire from the early jazz era, including long-forgotten songs and tunes. Over the years, the band has incorporated into its sound elements of jug and string band music, ragtime and country blues. Among Tuba Skinny's favorite singers, composers and bands from the 1920s and 1930s are Victoria Spivey, Jelly Roll Morton, Memphis Minnie, Blind Blake, Bessie Smith, Hattie Hart, Jabbo Smith, Georgia White, Memphis Jug Band, Dixieland Jug Blowers, and Mississippi Mud Steppers.

Tuba Skinny has performed in nightclubs, at jazz festivals and on concert stages around the world. To maintain its intimate connection with audiences, the band has also continued its busking tradition of playing on the streets of New Orleans and other locales as far away as France, Spain, Italy and Tasmania. As Cohn told *Offbeat* magazine, "It's important to every single person in the band that we keep playing on the street. If we stopped, something important about the band would be gone."

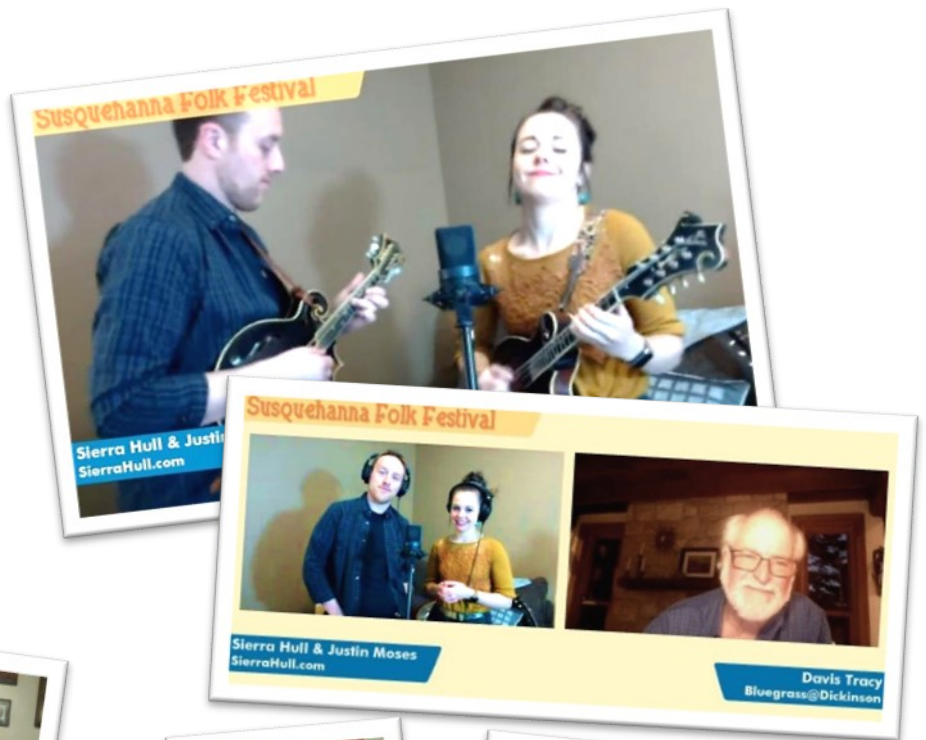
Tuba Skinny has released 11 albums, including 2019's "Some Kind-A-Shake," which *The Syncopated Times* described as typical of the band's approach to recorded music: "Their method is to rehearse on the street, fine tune in performance, and nail it in the studio." During the pandemic lockdown, Tuba Skinny collaborated with Maria Muldaur on "Let's Get Happy Together," her well-received new album of early jazz and blues standards.

Admission to the concert is by advance ticket. With the SFMS promotional code, the ticket prices are \$20 for standard seating (eight rows back and farther); \$27 for premium seating (first eight rows and aisle seats); and \$92 for a VIP pass (reserved seating and a gift bag that includes a signed CD from the band). Special pricing is available for persons 30 years of age and under and for adults who bring a youth. Ticket orders will be processed by Gretna Music's ticket vendor, Ovation Tickets; ticket processing fees apply. For tickets, please visit sfmsfolk.org/festival/TubaSkinny.html.



Scenes From The Folk Festival!

On June 5, from their home in Nashville, Tenn., Sierra Hull and Justin Moses taught a mandolin workshop via Zoom and performed a live-streamed concert. Afterwards, they chatted with Davis Tracy of Dickinson College's Bluegrass on the Grass Festival.



Some of the many moods of ever-expressive storyteller Andy Offutt Irwin, who led a "Tall Tales" workshop via Zoom on May 12 to generate interest in the Liars Contest on July 14.



On June 23, folklorist Amy Skillman (bottom left) led a discussion via Zoom about the power of song with three Harrisburg-area traditional musicians profiled in SFMS's Folk Artists Gallery – (clockwise from left) gospel singer James "Mac" McFarland of The Spiritual Messengers Warriors for God, fiddler Mike Furjanic of the tamburaši group Sviraj, and Yiddish singer Susan Leviton.

Scenes From The Folk Festival!



Staunton, Va.-based Beverley Street – comprising (from left) Allan Carr, Bill Wellington and Janie Rothfield – performed a live-streamed family program on June 9.

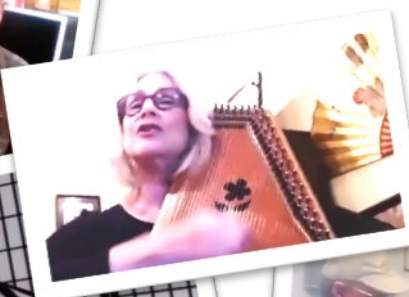


Sarah Gowan of the duo Box and String displays a crankie fashioned from a cup during June 30's live-streamed family program on how to make and do cool stuff.



On June 24, Québec's national holiday, Le Vent du Nord performed a specially recorded virtual concert from Théâtre Belcourt in Baie-du-Febvre, Québec. The band members are (clockwise from the top left) Réjean Brunet, Olivier Demers, André Brunet, Simon Beaudry and Nicolas Boulerville.

SFMS's "open house" via Zoom during May 7's Give Local York campaign to raise funds for the Susquehanna Folk Festival included performances (from top to bottom) by SFMS members Hank Imhof, Eileen Kozloff and Stu Miller and a jam session led by Beverley Street.



Nora Brown, Saturday, August 14

Already an emerging force in roots music at age 15, banjoist and singer Nora Brown from Brooklyn, New York City, will showcase her extraordinary command of America's oldest musical traditions in a concert for the Susquehanna Folk Festival, in partnership with Gretna Music, at 7:30 pm. (ET) on Saturday, August 14, at Mt. Gretna Playhouse, 200 Pennsylvania Ave., Mt. Gretna.

Dedicated to the traditional banjo music of eastern Kentucky and Tennessee and to the soulful, unaccompanied ballad singing from the Southeast region of the U.S., Brown possesses a music wisdom and intense relationship with music that is far beyond her years. As *The Bluegrass Situation* put it, she "has a host of roots music legends pouring out of her fingertips and through her lips."

Brown started learning old-time music at the age of 6 from the late Shlomo Pestcoe. From his studio apartment in Brooklyn, Pestcoe laid a foundation of love of music and the community it creates, instilling in her the lesson that music is meant to be shared. Brown has been mentored by many of her favorite old-time musicians, including Sammy Lind, Mark Simos, K.C. Groves, Anna Roberts-Gevalt and the late John Cohen. She travels regularly to eastern Kentucky to learn from old banjo masters, such as former coal miner Lee Sexton and historian George Gibson.



NYC's TED Salon, and has had multiple month-

long residencies at the famed Barbès in Brooklyn. She has taught advanced banjo classes at "Southern Week," the Ashokan Center's long-standing old-time music camp in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York.



In October 2019, Brown released her first album, "Cinnamon Tree," a collection of 11 traditional songs and tunes. Produced by the legendary Alice Gerrard, the album landed at #7 on the Billboard Bluegrass Charts during the second week of its release. The limited edition vinyl version is currently sold out, but a digital download remains available. Brown promises to return to the recording studio soon.

In addition to her solo playing, Brown enjoys performing as a duo with fiddler Stephanie Coleman and with Jackson Lynch.

Admission to the concert is by advance ticket. The general admission price with an SFMS promotional code is \$16, and the supporter-level price is \$18. Special pricing is available for persons 30 years of age and under and for adults who bring a youth. Ticket orders will be processed by Gretna Music's ticket vendor, Ovation Tickets; ticket processing fees apply. For tickets, please visit sfmsfolk.org/festival/NoraBrown.html.

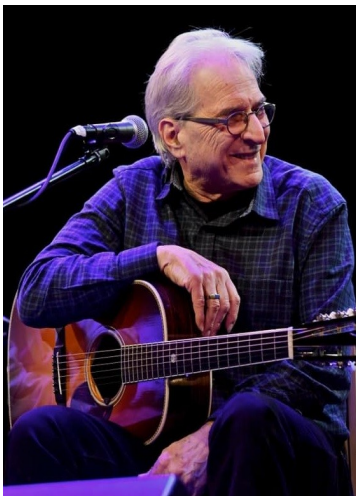


On each Sunday evening in June, Janie Rothfield (upper right) taught 75-minute workshops on Appalachian fiddle and clawhammer banjo for the Susquehanna Folk Festival via Zoom.

Guitar Summit, Sunday, August 22

A trio of celebrated folk guitarists – hot bluegrass star Chris Eldridge, Celtic music icon John Doyle, and legendary blues artist Happy Traum – will appear at the Susquehanna Folk Festival for conversation and performance during a virtual Guitar Summit via Zoom on Sunday, August 22, at 7:30 p.m. (ET).

Each of these important guitar ambassadors has an illustrious résumé in folk music. Traum's can be viewed on page 2 of this Newsletter in connection with his in-person concert and workshop on July 11.



Happy Traum

while studying at Oberlin Conservatory, where he earned a degree in musical performance in 2004. During his time at Oberlin, he studied with the acclaimed bluegrass guitarist Tony Rice.

Following graduation, Eldridge joined The Seldom Scene, with whom he received a Grammy nomination in 2007, and also founded the superb bluegrass band The Infamous Stringdusters. At the 2007 International Bluegrass Music Association Awards, Eldridge and his Stringduster bandmates won Emerging Artist of the Year, Song of the Year and Album of the Year for their debut album "Fork in the Road."



Eldridge's work with The Seldom Scene and The Infamous Stringdusters caught the attention of mandolinist Chris Thile, who enlisted Eldridge along with banjoist Noam Pikelný, violinist Gabe Witcher, bassist Greg Garrison (and later, bassist Paul Kowert) to start an ambitious side project. Soon after, they decided to focus their collective energies into an

ensemble and, in 2006, the band that was to become known as Punch Brothers was born. The band has since released six critically acclaimed albums, including 2018's "All Ashore," which won a Grammy for Best Folk Album.

Eldridge also plays in a duo with guitarist Julian Lage. Their latest album, "Mount Royal," was nominated for a Grammy as Best Contemporary Instrumental Album in 2017. In 2019, Eldridge was named Instrumentalist of the Year by the Americana Music Association. From 2016 to 2020, he was the house guitarist on the public radio show *Live From Here* (formerly *A Prairie Home Companion*).



Chris Eldridge

Doyle has established himself as one of the most creative, versatile and prolific voices in folk and traditional Irish music. Born to a musical family in Dublin, at age 16 he was already touring with Chanting House, a group that he formed with Susan McKeown and which eventually included such great players as Seamus Egan, Eileen Ivers, Donogh Hennessy and Brian Doyle.



John Doyle

In 1994, Doyle joined forces with the multi-instrumentalist Egan, fiddler Winifred Horan, singer Karan Casey, and accordian and concertina player John Williams to form Solas, an Irish-American trad super-group that took the folk and Celtic worlds by storm, due in no small part to Doyle's brilliant and innovative guitar stylings. As a member of Solas, Doyle performed internationally to sold-out audiences and appeared on many television and radio programs, including *The Today Show*, *A Prairie Home Companion*, *Mountain Stage* and *World Café*. His tenure with Solas included three awards from the National Association of Independent Record Distributors and a Grammy nomination. (Continued on page 14)



Colebrook Road, Friday, August 27

Central Pennsylvania's Colebrook Road, a fast-rising fan favorite on the bluegrass music scene, will bring its eclectic mix of the traditional and the progressive to the Susquehanna Folk Festival during a free outdoor concert at Fort Hunter Park, 5300 North Front Street, Harrisburg, on Friday, August 27, at 7 p.m. (ET).

Colebrook Road bridges the divide between straight-drive traditional grass played by such stalwarts as the Del McCoury Band and Lonesome River Band and the genre-bending progressive grass performed by the likes of Punch Brothers and Front Country. Colebrook Road strives to find a common middle ground, creating new enthusiasts for bluegrass while expanding the definition of the genre for established fans.

The members of Colebrook Road bring their own experiences to the music to create something greater than what the five

individuals could ever have achieved separately. Their collective musical influences range from '90s country to heavy metal to punk to, yes, traditional bluegrass.

The band members' complementary instrumental talents and vocal prowess make for an exceptionally tight bluegrass unit. Guitarist, lead vocalist and main songwriter Jesse Eisenbise lends his great vocal range and racing guitar-picking to each song. Banjoist, dobroist and bass vocalist Mark Rast hammers out blinding right-hand rhythms with just enough left hand virtuosity. Mandolinist Wade Yankey's gargantuan rhythm chop and inventive breaks play off of fiddler and baritone vocalist Joe McNulty's searing, syncopated fiddle work. Bassist and tenor vocalist Jeff Campbell holds down the bottom end with a notably percussive drive.

Colebrook Road was an early hit on the bluegrass band contest circuit, garnering top honors at the 2011 Pickin' in the Panhandle Bluegrass Festival in Martinsburg, W. Va., the 2015 Podunk Bluegrass Festival in Hebron, Conn., and the 2016 DC Bluegrass Union's Mid-Atlantic Band Contest. In 2020, Colebrook Road was one of five finalists in the band category for the International Bluegrass Music Association's annual Momentum Awards, which recognize the achievements of artists and business people in the early years of their bluegrass music careers.

Colebrook Road has released three highly regarded albums – 2012's "Colebrook Road," 2016's "Halfway Between" and 2019's "On Time," the latter on the respected bluegrass label Mountain Fever Records. A fourth album is set for release this October.

With each passing year, Colebrook Road aims to take its music farther across the country and to a broader audience than ever before. Based on what the band has accomplished so far, there is no doubt that Colebrook Road will continue turning bluegrass skeptics into new bluegrass fans while bringing grins to the faces of established bluegrass diehards. As Philip Chorney of Baltimore's Charm City Bluegrass Festival observed: "Colebrook Road embodies what bluegrass music is all about. A traditional spirit while bringing to life a new and revitalized energy."

SFMS is presenting Colebrook Road in partnership with Dauphin County Parks and Recreation's 2021 Sunset Music & Movie Series, which features local performing artists and family movies on Fridays from June 4 to August 27. Concert patrons should bring lawn chairs or blankets; they may pack a picnic dinner or patronize one of the food trucks that will be onsite beginning at 5 p.m.



Looking Ahead:

More "Endless Summer" Festival Events to Come!

Workshops on Québécois Music
Live-Stream
Thursday, September 2, time TBA

David Bromberg Quintet
In-Person
Saturday, September 11, at 7 p.m.
Allegro Winery

Emerging Artist Showcase
Live-stream
Sunday, September 26, time TBA

Bruce Molsky & Tony Trischka, Sunday, August 29

Two long-time SFMS concert-stage favorites – Appalachian old-time fiddle virtuoso Bruce Molsky and progressive “banjo liberationist” Tony Trischka – will marry tradition and innovation in a day of acoustic fun for the Susquehanna Folk Festival on Sunday, August 29, on the grounds of the Fishing Creek Salem United Methodist Church, 402 Valley Road, in Goldsboro, York County. Trischka will present a 90-minute banjo workshop that begins at 3:30 p.m.; an SFMS-led old-time and bluegrass jam will run from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and Molsky and Trischka will take the stage for a concert at 7 p.m. (all times ET).

About Molsky: A leading exponent of America’s old-time mountain music, Molsky is a globe-trotting performer and educator as well as a recording artist with an extensive discography, including seven solo albums, over a dozen collaborations and two Grammy nominations. Lauded for his “mesmerizing, transporting” fiddle playing (*NPR*), Molsky is also known for his superb work on guitar and banjo and his pleasingly resonant vocals. His musical influences range from the Appalachian soul of Tommy Jarrell to Delta blues, and from the haunting strains of Celtic ballads to the frenetically nimble music of Eastern Europe. From tiny folk taverns in the British Isles to huge festival stages to his ongoing workshops at the renowned Berklee College of Music, Molsky seduces audiences with a combination of rhythmic and melodic virtuosity and relaxed conversational wit.



About Trischka: A founding father of modern bluegrass, Trischka fell in love with the banjo by way of The Kingston Trio’s 1963 recording of “M.T.A.” Arriving on the New York music scene in the early 1970s, he quickly settled in with a peer group of extraordinary musicians, such as mandolinist Andy Statman and fiddler Kenny Kosek, who saw roots music as a thriving, living language that could be expanded on and combined with other influences. Over his long career, he has upended all previous notions of what a banjo is for. He has inspired and supported musicians from monster banjo innovator Béla Fleck to Steve Martin, the banjo’s unofficial celebrity ambassador. His 2007 album “Double Banjo Bluegrass Spectacular” earned a Grammy nomination, and in 2012 he was named a United States Artists Friends Fellow for his work as perhaps the most influential banjo player ever.

ENDLESS SUMMER 2021
Susquehanna
Folk Festival

The Workshop: Trischka’s banjo workshop will cover essential elements that make up a “professional sound” on the banjo, such as good timing, clarity of notes and tone. He will discuss Earl Scruggs’ playing style and its many subtleties. He will touch upon the concept of replicating the syllabic phrasing of a song instead of focusing on the melody; this is helpful for spicing up tunes one already knows as well as developing the ability to play melodies in different keys and up the neck. If time permits, he will also describe melodic style and its basis in scales rather than chords. Workshop space is limited, so early registration is advised.

The Jam: The old-time and bluegrass jam is open to players of any skill level and to listeners as well.

The Venue: The handicapped-accessible grounds of Fishing Creek Salem UMC feature a picnic pavilion, a large shaded lawn, convenient bathrooms and ample parking. Folding chairs will be available for the workshop and jam participants. Concert patrons should bring lawn chairs or blankets; those with pandemic-related safety concerns may choose to sit in family units and/or wear masks. Patrons who arrive early are welcome to bring a picnic dinner, listen to the jam, or stroll on a short, adjacent walking trail. No alcohol is permitted on church grounds. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in the church sanctuary, which is large enough to allow for social distancing.

Donations: Separate, advance registration is required for the workshop and concert. Admission is by donation, with the suggested donation per workshop participant or concert attendee being \$20 and the supporter-level donation being \$25. Admission to the jam is included with admission to the workshop or concert. In order to reduce the need for patrons to congregate, admission donations will be accepted online only and not at the event. Patrons should bring their admission tickets, either printed or displayed on a smartphone, to the event. To register for the workshop, concert or both, please visit sfmsfolk.org/festival/MolskyTrischka.html.

Guitar Summit, August 22 (Continued from page 11)

In the nearly 20 years since striking out on his own, Doyle has released three highly regarded albums on Compass Records that showcase his compelling vocals in addition to his virtuoso guitar-playing. A highly sought-after accompanist and session player for the likes of Joan Baez, Tim O'Brien, Alison Brown, Linda Thompson and Kate Rusby, Doyle has developed compelling duo performances, first with fiddler Liz Carroll (with whom he garnered a Grammy nomination in 2010) and more recently with his former Solas bandmate Casey. In recent years, he has performed in three superb Irish trad trios – The Alt with Nuala Kennedy and Eamon O'Leary; The Teetotalers with Kevin Crawford and Martin Hayes; and with John McCusker and Michael McGoldrick.

Doyle has appeared on soundtracks for the feature films "The Brothers McMullen" and "Soldier" as well as PBS's "Out of Ireland." He composed the music for the film "In Uncle Robert's Footsteps" and the play "Down the Flats."

Advance registration is required for the Guitar Summit. Donations are requested, with the suggested donation per viewer being \$20 and the supporter-level donation being \$25. To register, please visit sfmsfolk.org/festival/GuitarSummit.html.

"Bringing It Home"

(Continued from page 5)

with engagingly expressive facial features, stunning costumes and lively music to bring Hindu mythology to life. Bharatanatyam had nearly died out during British rule, but India's independence in 1947 brought about a resurgence of support for this classical dance as emblematic of the country's best artistic practices.

Nambiar emigrated to the U.S. in 2001. Although trained as a nutritionist and biochemist, she continued to perform Bharatanatyam and shortly after relocating to Harrisburg in 2006, she founded the Rasika School of Dance, enabling a whole new generation of devotees to learn and perform this beautiful storytelling dance tradition.

Smith had a creative bent as a child, enjoying the latch hook kits that her parents bought from the local craft store. As a young adult, she dabbled in sewing, her mother's life's passion, while pursuing a 15-year career as a floral designer and store manager. Then one day she saw an announcement for a rug hooking class and decided to reconnect with a childhood craft. That led to Smith's discovery of her own life's passion. Today Smith is at the forefront of Pennsylvania's thriving rug hooking community, designing and creating rugs from her studio on 27 acres near Mt. Gretna. Smith's rug hooking artistry has been compared to that of the acclaimed Deanne Fitzpatrick, of Nova Scotia, who has encouraged Smith and influenced her work. Smith has plans for a visit north to research the Canadian Maritimes rug hooking tradition.

Additional biographical information about Smith and Nambiar appears in their profiles in SFMS's online Folk Artists Gallery. A profile of the African American Quilters Gathering of Harrisburg will be added soon. To access the Folk Arts Gallery, please visit sfmsfolk.org/folkarts/artists_gallery.html.

Advance registration is required for admission to the free Zoom program. To register, please visit sfmsfolk.org/festival/BeautifulGestures.html. The program will be archived for future viewing.



The live-streamed Spring Coffeehouse on May 16 featured performances by (clockwise from bottom right) singer-songwriters Noah Fowler, Matt Wenger and Annette Wasilik. Coffeehouse host Joe Cooney (above right) chatted with the performers after their sets.



*Susquehanna Folk is
YOUR grass-roots voice
for folk music and dance!*

The financial support of our members enables us to present high-quality concerts, dances, workshops, and other events at modest prices.

Your membership can easily pay for itself!

A Susquehanna Folk membership also makes a unique and thoughtful gift.

Folk is a vibrant community, a living tradition shared with friends. Be a part of it.

Member benefits include:

- substantial admission discount for most events
- family membership extends discounts to everyone in your household
- inclusion in SFMS's online Resource List
- the satisfaction of seeing traditional arts flourish in our community

Please consider becoming a member.

Individual membership: \$25

Family membership: \$40

Memberships and donations are tax deductible, and will be acknowledged in writing. Your membership extends one year from the date you join. Multi-year memberships are welcome.

Get a membership form at:

www.sfmfolk.org/info/membership.html ♦ 717-745-6577

Thanks to These New and Renewing Members

New Members

Alan Johnson – Fayetteville, NY
Matthew Kerns - Dauphin
Shannon Pavlovic - Mechanicsburg
Tamara Sarracino - Hershey
Melinda Schultz - Dillsburg
Glenda & Bill Shoop* - Hershey

Renewing Members

Rick Begley - Camp Hill
Ron & Tracy Benenson - York
Scott Birchman - Bethel
Klaus & Ingeborg Brunnengraeber* - Red Lion
Pat Devlin - Dillsburg
Kathleen Eves - Palmyra
David Flesner - Gettysburg
Sharon Foust* - York
Bruce Hirsch – Evanston, IL
Daniell Houser - Harrisburg
Aaron & Alice Hurwitz - Carlisle
Chuck Krepley & Denise Messinger* - Arendtsville
Patty Lambert - Warriors Mark
Marilyn Mamone & Tom Cook - Camp Hill
Caroline Martinek* - Albuquerque, NM
Krista Myers* - Harrisburg
Rodney Owens - Harrisburg
Jeff Schmidt - Shermansdale
Kristin Warner - Harrisburg
Glenn & Michelle Williams - York
John Worhach – Mechanicsburg

(The above listing represents memberships processed from April 22 to June 21.)

A Special Thanks

*SFMS thanks these members and others who wish to remain anonymous for donating an additional \$400.

Are You Due to Renew?

If the expiration date on your mailing label has passed, or you haven't received any correspondence from us in a while, your membership has probably expired. To continue your membership, please renew now. If you have any membership questions, please contact me at (717) 763-5598 or membership@sfmsfolk.org.
~ Bruce Kolka, Membership Coordinator

Member Stats

	Individual Memberships	Family Memberships	Total Members
3/31/20	156	149	527
6/20/20	151	144	510
9/30/20	155	143	513
12/31/20	170	156	549
3/31/21	183	154	559
5/31/21	182	153	558

Central Pennsylvania

Traditions

the newsletter of the **Susquehanna Folk**
MUSIC SOCIETY

378 Old York Road • New Cumberland, PA 17070
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Susquehanna Folk Music Society Memories



On May 2, Watkins Family Hour performed a live-streamed concert followed by a chat with SFMS Board members Peter Lee and Sara Willard. On May 29, Fàrsan performed a combined live-streamed and specially recorded concert followed by conversation with SFMS Board member Grace Lee. In the top row, from left, are Fàrsan members Màiri Britton, Neil Pearlman and Elias Alexander. In the middle row, from left, are Katie McNally of Fàrsan, Grace Lee and Sara Watkins. In the bottom row, from left, are Sara Watkins, Sebastian Steinberg and Sean Watkins; the Watkinses, Peter Lee and Sara Willard; and Sean Watkins.