

NJ FRIENDS OF CLEARWATER CIRCLE OF SONG

Please join our 36th Annual Festival
at Sunset Park (Main and Sunset) in Asbury Park
Saturday, August 20, 2011, from 11AM-7PM

and our monthly Circle of Song Sing-Alongs every third Thursday at the
First United Methodist Church of Asbury Park
906 Grand Avenue (from 6:30)

There will always be **opportunities for audience members to take a turn or two to play – or to sing along – please bring your instrument. But if you wish, just come and listen.**

We encourage songs about the environment and sing-along songs, but you can do others. This year, we will be in the center of the Festival Park - ask for our Circle of Song Stage.

Our Leader-Performers at the Festival on August 21 will be (alphabetically) April Mae & Catfish, Kacie Baker, Arlon Bennett, Circle Round the Sun, Jan Christiansen, Carl Croce, Jim Crawford, Spook Handy, Ingrid Heldt, Sharleen Leahey, Mike Meade, Kathy Moser, Joe Pretraitis, Isis Ra, Eric Russell, Thomas Wesley Stern, Virago and Hillary Zaenchik.



April Mae and Catfish are the founding members of April Mae & the June Bugs. Their musical mantra is "Roots Baby Roots," in the spirit of fun and adventure, deeply rooted in Blues and Americana. Their instruments include cigar box guitar, banjo, mandolin and washboard, and their original songs are enjoying national and international airplay. They've toured the U.S. and abroad, including Memphis and Mexico. They can be contacted at bloozchile@yahoo.com.

Kacie Baker is a young (18 year old) Singer/Songwriter from Central New Jersey. Her music stretches across the guitar, piano, harmonica and banjo and utilizes the ripe sounds of the traditional Folk era. Some of her greatest influences and friends are Singer/Songwriter Joan Baez and Folk Legend Pete Seeger. Kacie is frequently found sharing her songs at local venues in New Jersey and New York City, including The Bitter End. She is presently planning the release of her first album with the working title "Honest and Free." — "I want to change someone's life with my music, and I love it," she says. "That's why I do it."



Arlon Bennett has been accumulating songwriting awards throughout North America and has opened for such acts as Glenn Tilbrook (Squeeze), Jill Sobule, Michael Smith and Lesley Gore. He has also sung with Livingston Taylor and was selected twice by Noel "Paul" Stookey to perform in his Music2Life showcase featuring America's best songs of social consciousness. A 2011 Kerrville New Folk finalist, Arlon has released three CDs on Red Sea Records and can be found on the Web at www.arlonbennett.com.

Jan Christensen is a long-time member of Clearwater and a special friend of NJ Friends of Clearwater, performing here at the Festival for over twenty years. He is a member of The New York Packet, the official maritime music group at South Street Seaport. He also contributes his rich, deep voice as a mainstay of the Sloop Singer volunteer corps and he is an original member of the Clearwater Sloop Singers. This will be his 30th appearance at the NJ Friends of Clearwater Festival.



Circle Round the Sun is the folk/acoustic group of Marie Trontell and Jay Wilensky. Jay's warm baritone and Marie's rich alto let the group perform an eclectic mix of great acoustic songs with a special emphasis on duets and sensuous harmonies. They do both original tunes and covers. Their influences include great singer-songwriters like Dave Carter, Michael Smith, Cheryl Wheeler, and Tom Rush. They can be contacted at www.sonicbids.com/Circleroundthesun.

Jim Crawford, born in Glasgow, Scotland, is a singer-songwriter whose muse awoke, after a long hibernation, in 2007, with the song "Team of My Father" and the CD of the same name. This led to playing at many venues and to a nomination for best CD and Song at the 2011 JAM awards. Some of Jim's songs are about quirky characters he has known, but much of his recent work leans to commentary reflecting on his concerns about the social and economic well-being of our country. He can be reached at jascwfrd@gmail.com.



Carl Croce (guitar) is a singer-songwriter who has performed as a regular on WDVR's Heartlands Hayride live radio program, the Folk Project's Minstrel Concert series, as well with SIAMS and at many other NJ and NY venues. Carl can be reached at cmcroce@msn.com.





Spook Handy has been called "a real troubadour in the style of Pete Seeger and Phil Ochs" whose songs "embody the same intellectual rattle and simple honesty." The spirit of American folk music, its passion and sense of purpose ring loud and clear in his performance. His songs have been used in theater and film, have been covered by the likes of Pete Seeger and have charted as high as #10 on the Folk Radio charts. He can be found on the Web at www.lspookhandy.com .



Ingrid Heldt began performing long before she could read. Her father, a sound engineer, took her along to sporting, political and social events, where she would usually end up in front of the microphone, singing. She wrote her first song in Bob Gibson's first songwriting workshop. Since then, she has written and translated several hundred songs for herself and other singers. She has also written commercials for companies including Volkswagen. Her passions are Peace and the Environment, and her voice has been described as "somewhere between Joan Baez, Judy Collins and Enya." Her Website is www.ingridmusic.com .



Sharleen Leahey has been writing and performing topical folk music for the past 30 years. From 1993 to 1999 she was the founding editor of *Songs for Peace Magazine*, publishing over 100 songs advocating peace, human rights and ecological responsibility. Sharleen was strongly influenced by the great topical songwriters of the 1960s, including Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs and Buffy Sainte-Marie. Her CD "So Frail" challenges us to question our leaders and ourselves on the issues of war and peace. She can be reached at songs4peace@earthlink.net.

Michael Meade is a singer/songwriter with the band Lackawanna Rail. He is also a member of the Hudson River Sloop Singers, and a long time member of Clearwater . He has a contagious enthusiasm that frequently earns him the title of "Life of the Party." He is still trying to figure out if that is a good thing or not! Find out more at www.lackawannarail.com.



Kathy Moser a songwriter, performer, teacher and social artist, working to bring positive change to the world through music. She performs and tours nationally and has appeared at venues such as Club Passim and Godfrey Daniels, as well as colleges, churches, coffeehouses, prisons, and benefits too numerous to mention. Known for her poetic lyrics, driving guitar style and goofy stage presence, her songs confront a variety of topics ranging from world peace to lawn mowers, dysfunctional families to shopping malls. Her new album "Some 1 Like U" features 11 original tracks and covers of Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, Peter Meyer and Death Cab for Cutie. She can be reached at kathymoser.com.



Joe Petraitis (guitar & accordion/ keyboard) is a songwriter who has performed on Princeton NJ's Cafe Improv, televised on cable. Joe has played at Pete Seeger's Beacon Festivals. He teaches children how to write songs and has co-written songs with them. Joe's associations include the Nashville Songwriters Association, the Folk Project, and the Philadelphia Alliance of Songwriters Assoc. (PASA). He can be reached at misterp946@aol.com.



Isis Ra spends most of her time teaching drumming and sewing to inner-city children and grownups in Asbury Park and Neptune, New Jersey. For more than 40 years, she has performed as a drummer for many family events and benefit concerts in the Monmouth County area, including Asbury Park Safe Nights. She has also performed in many commercial venues such as the Jazz Festival in Red Bank, the Oceans of Rhythm Festival in Long Branch, the Afro-American Festival and the Westside Community Center in Asbury Park. She never misses feeding the homeless on holidays with Locals Feeding Locals, an event that is financed and organized by Giamano's Restaurant in Bradley Beach, New Jersey.

Eric Russell has been committing public performance since he was named a Hudson River Sloop Singer in 1973. In addition to playing the concertina and writing his own material, he is a well known chantey singer and co-author of Songs of South Street—Street of Ships. He has also written a tall tales column, Tales from the Liars' Bench for the magazine Messing About in Boats. He is known for telling tales at venues all through the region.



ERIC P. RUSSELL



Thomas Wesley Stern was formed in 2010 and began when life-long friends (and Godbrothers) Gary and Bob drove across the country and back, ending up in Manhattan with new songs to show Joe. They played them in Union Square, Washington Square and at any corner where the young and old and in-between would stop for a song. They're now playing major gigs, recording their first CD and they shall write and perform for the rest of their lives. They can be contacted at thomaswesleystern@gmail.com .

Virago is "a fierce, female guitar and percussion duo ... giving you all they've got ... some of the best raw, kick-ass music I've seen and heard in ages." (Beth Boylan-music critic). They stepped in when Sharleen could not make it to our event at The Saint last April. You can find them on the Web at www.viragomusic.com .



Hillary Zaenchik has been singing with the Chantey Singers of South Street in New York for the last four years. She has performed at the Beacon Sloop Club, the Newburgh Swim across the Hudson and at the Monmouth County Clearwater Festival. She has also been a regular performer at Clearwater 's Great Hudson River Revival in New York.

Please forget to check out our Vendors and our other stages.

Any possible changes to planned events will be listed under www.MCClearwater.org / **Links / Circle of Song.**