

SECOND SUNDAY FOLK DANCES...A Fun, Family, Musical Tradition

Second Sunday Folk Dances Celebrates 33rd Season

The Second Sunday Folk Dance series celebrates its 33rd year of great music. Set in the beautiful dance hall at Fortune Lake Camp this is one of the Midwest's most popular venues for folk music and dance and is the largest, longest running event of its kind. The Second Sunday Folk Dance presents great musicians in an intimate setting. Dean and Bette Premo (White Water) organize and host the series, described at the website secondsundayfolkdance.com.

The Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is located between Iron River and Crystal Falls (in Iron County, Michigan), 2 miles west of Crystal Falls on US-2. Turn south on Bible Camp Road and drive for less than a quarter mile. Turn right on Fortune Lake Camp Road and drive just a short distance.

The event opens at 4 PM Central Time with a short opening set by White Water. The featured guest act's concert follows immediately. The second half of the event is devoted to dancing in many forms with music by the Front Parlor Dance Band and dances taught by Bette Premo and others. Refreshments are available at each dance. The entertainment lasts until 7 PM. Admission for those over 15 is \$7 and children 15 and under are admitted free. For more information about the folk event call 906-822-7889.

The exciting lineup of performers for the 2017-18 Second Sunday season include:

October 8 – Anne Hills

Anne Hills has become one of the better known voices of the contemporary folk music scene, receiving awards and recognition for her live performances (2009 Bound for Glory live radio show favorite- Ithaca, NY), her unique solo and collaborative recording projects (2001 WAMMIE for duet CD with Tom Paxton, Under American Skies), and her overall artistry and benefit work (2002 Kate Wolf Award, Carole Robertson Award & Kerrville Female Vocalist of the Year 1997). Her song "Follow That Road" was the title cut of the Martha's Vineyard Songwriter Retreat and has enchanted audiences for over a decade. Whether she is singing her own song, the words of 6 year old Opal Whiteley, or the Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley; accompanied with her guitar, banjo, or simply a Tibetan bell, she puts her whole heart and soul into the moment. So, even if you haven't become familiar with her voice (featured often on XM/Sirius Folk Radio, The Midnight Special & many other folk shows) you won't want to miss a chance to hear her songs and stories in person. She's just begun

touring more extensively, winning over audiences with her warm, lively and humorous performances. The AllMusic Guide says, "A stunning soprano tone has made Anne Hills one of contemporary music's premiere vocalists... Her knack for writing heartfelt songs brought her to the upper echelon of her craft." Hear more from Anne at www.anehills.com.

November 12 – The Derrell Syria Project

The Derrell Syria Project travels throughout the Great Lakes states with their unique style of original music along with a large variety of re-arranged cover tunes, mixing their performances with guitars, bass, percussion, congas, keyboards and vocals, playing old time blues, Finnish reggae, Latin, contemporary and folk music. On November 12th the band will include Derrell Syria on guitar and vocals, Eghan Syria on percussion and vocals (both are members of Conga Se Menne), Cliff Porter on the bass, Janis Peterson (Marquette Symphony Orchestra concertmaster) on the fiddle, along with Bill Hart (WNMU) on the resonator guitar and vocals and Randy Seppala (Bones man) on the bones and spoons.

December 10 – Joe Jencks

Joe Jencks is an international touring performer, songwriter, entertainer, and educator, based in Chicago, IL. From venues like Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, to coffee houses, festivals, spiritual communities, and schools, Joe Jencks has spent the last 18 years touring full time. His songs have traveled to every continent via his own performances, radio, CDs, web casts, and other musicians. He is noted for his unique merging of musical beauty, social consciousness, and spiritual exploration. Jencks weaves a diverse web of stories with brilliant musical skill, ensnaring even the most rigid of hearts, inviting them to open. In addition to his performance work, Jencks' skills as a vocal harmony arranger are in demand. With over 30 appearances as a guest vocalist and arranger on various studio recordings, he brings a unique rich sound to the work of other artists. On the stage, in the studio, or in the classroom, Jencks applies conservatory training to contemporary genres, bridging styles and techniques. Drawing on his Irish heritage (dual US/Irish Citizen), Jencks uses his lyrical voice to enchant, heal, and inspire. Jencks has won numerous songwriting awards and is also highly regarded as a song interpreter. Joe's latest solo release, "Links in a Chain", highlights this aspect of his work. Check out Joe at www.jojencks.com.

Continued on next page...

January 14 – Bryan Bowers

January is the traditional appearance from Bryan Bowers who is a master autoharp player and traditional songster that has been a major presence on the North American folk music scene since the mid-1960s. He is a powerful singer and a gifted performer and is a returning favorite to the Second Sunday Folk Dance stage. For nearly three decades, Bryan Bowers has been to the autoharp what Earl Scruggs was to the five-string banjo. He presents instrumental virtuosity combined with warmth, eloquence, expression and professionalism. Bowers has been described by the Houston Post as one of the finest all-around entertainers on the folk and bluegrass circuit and a person who is a national treasure. Visit Bryan's website at www.bryanbowers.com.

February 11 – Sparrow Tree

Sparrow Tree is an energetic, fresh, four-piece, jam-grass band that is leading the way for a new generation of folk music in Marquette. Consisting of Troy Graham on guitar and lead vocals, Sam Graves on mandolin/fiddle and vocals, Russel Harmon on banjo and Heather Evans on double bass and vocals, these talented musicians are infusing a generous shot of youth and vigor into the Upper Peninsula's folk grass scene with their captivating mix of original compositions and traditional folk repertoire. You can find some of their music at webpage sparrowtree.bandcamp.com.

March 11 – Gina Forsyth

New Orleans-based Gina Forsyth is an award-winning singer/songwriter, who is known for her wizardry on fiddle and guitar. With an alto as unique as it is soulful, unpretentious songs that cut straight to the heart, and a wicked sense of humor, her live performances are legend. Considered one of the best Cajun

fiddlers in Louisiana (no small feat), Gina is in demand from other great Louisiana musicians to play club gigs and festivals, some of the same talent that backs her up when she plays as Gina Forsyth and Friends. Born in Florida and raised in Alabama, Gina grew up on hymns, country songs, and old time fiddle tunes. In the mid-1980s, she moved to New Orleans to study classical and jazz violin at Loyola University and quickly developed an irrevocable passion for Cajun music. Find more of Gina at www.ginaforsyth.com.

April 8 – Joel Mabus

Joel Mabus may be called a singer-songwriter, but he doesn't sound like one. He's the son of a 1930s old time fiddle champ and a banjo-pickin' farm girl. His performing career began in college during the Vietnam era, where he studied anthropology and literature by day and played coffeeshouses by night. One critic writes, "Joel Mabus knows his way around the English language and American culture just as well as he knows his way around a fretboard." Born in 1953 in the southern Illinois town of Belleville, Joel has recorded 20 solo albums of original and traditional music since his recording career started in 1978. For three years running, Mabus has been in the top 10 most played artists in the Folk Radio Charts for North America according to folkradio.org. The only other top 10 artists who share that 3-year distinction are Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan. Joel's latest CD is 2015's *A Bird In This World*, a guitar-driven album of original songs exploring the blues. A one-off in the folk world, Mabus defies any easy pigeon-hole. His palette ranges from mountain banjo to jazz guitar – from sensitive introspection to wicked satire. He's both picker & poet, and from coast to coast over the past 40 years this Midwesterner has brought audiences to their feet, wanting more. Visit Joel at www.joelmabus.com.

Sponsors Sought for Support

Second Sunday Folk Dance organizers seek funds to foster the activities and underwrite the expenses of guest artists, many of whom travel hundreds of miles to perform.

Sponsors for the 2016/2017 SSFD series included Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, White Water Associates, John and Judy Reed, Louse and Nelson Rounds, Jacobs Funeral Home, City Insurance, Lindwall Motors, Riverside Plaza, Andrew Davis CPA, Northern Michigan Bank, Jon and Paula Pryor, Westphal's Inc., Tall Pines Grocery of Amasa, Ralph and Jean Eckerberg, James Harrison, David and Julie Holperin, Ruth Warmanen, Mike Lewis, Hiawatha Music Coop, Crystal Falls Lions, Steve and Rita Kickert, Tom Plummer and Celeste Magers, and Bob Arthur.