

## **Concerts on the Waterfront**

Presented by the Sackets Harbor Historical Society every summer Sunday afternoon  
at the Battlefield State Historic Site in Sackets Harbor

### **Frank Sacci and his celebrated orchestra - June 25**

The Sackets Harbor Historical Society begins its 22nd season of the Concerts on the Waterfront on Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup> with a performance by welcoming a big band with a bent toward the swing music of World War II era. **Frank Sacci and his celebrated orchestra**, an area favorite, brings a delightful and nostalgic afternoon to concert goers.

Hear the music of Harry James, Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman, as interpreted by our beloved Frank Sacci. Look for **Dan Mosier** to step out of the trombone section to sing a couple of Sinatra favorites.

### **Syracuse Symphony Brass Quintet - July 2**

The Sackets Harbor Historical Society continues its 22nd season of the Concerts on the Waterfront on Sunday July 2nd with a performance by **The Syracuse Symphony Brass Quintet**. Trumpets, horn, trombone and tuba combine to celebrate American music as we mark our Nation's holiday this weekend.

This summer afternoon concert on the lawn of the Battlefield State Historic Site promises to be a musically elegant and educational event. Concertgoers will have the opportunity to not only identify the musical selection, but to learn when it was first performed and for whom it was written. Each member of the quintet will speak and offer background information for each piece performed.

Brass instruments were invented to send communication over long distances. The homogenous sound of brass instruments can soothe the soul as well as announce brilliantly to thousands that something special is going to happen. Hence, the title "the instruments of kings" has belonged exclusively to the Brass for centuries.

The Syracuse Symphony Brass Quintet (SSO BQ) is one of ten performance ensembles which perform regularly in a wide variety of settings with the intent to provide outreach and education to audiences throughout the central New York area. It was first formed during the 1966-67 symphony season as a means to provide educational outreach in school situations too limited in space to accommodate the full symphony orchestra. Since then, the SSO BQ has performed formal concerts in nearly every college and university in Central New York, as well as hundreds of primary and secondary school educational concerts throughout Central New York, the Catskill region, and the Northern Tier region of Watertown, Canton and Potsdam. This ensemble is the most traveled of all the many Syracuse Symphony ensembles, having performed as far west as the Quad Cities of Iowa and as far south as Memphis, TN. The SSO Brass Quintet has performed for mayor's inaugurations, played Christmas carols in Senior Centers, marched the SUNY Health Center graduates through graduation virtually every year since 1968, and entertained thousands during summer parks concerts. Still, the ensemble's players will say that it is the many educational successes over the years that has made the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet so rewarding.

### **The Red Stick Ramblers - July 9**

The Sackets Harbor Historical Society continues its 22nd season of the Concerts on the Waterfront on Sunday July 9th with a performance of authentic Cajun Gypsy swing by the Red Stick Ramblers. To be precise, the Red Stick Ramblers play a mixture of Cajun fiddle tunes, Western Swing, traditional jazz of the 1920' and 30's.and tradition inspired oldies. “

There are six members of the Red Stick Ramblers; all grew up in southern Louisiana, and embraced Cajun music as part of life, like learning to walk and talk. Wilson Savoy plays piano and accordion, Chas Justus is on guitar, Linzay Young is on fiddle and is the lead vocalist, Kevin Wimmer is on fiddle; Glenn Fields play drums and Eric Frey is on bass.

They're young musicians who prefer old music styles“ writes reviewer John Wirt in The Advocate, “ But nothing about their Cajun swing, Gypsy jazz and bluegrass sounds old!” Other reviewers point to their “flawless execution“. They are a favorite of singer Linda Ronstadt, who writes in their album notes that they are “crafty songwriters and faithful interpreters of ...Cajun traditions.“ Christopher Blogg, writing in OffBeat magazine observed that “All six musicians bring something unique to the table, and their instrumental prowess is top-notch...(this) band seems destined to take the torch from BeauSoleil as the premier band representing the culture of Southwest Louisiana.”

Ann Savoy, author of Cajun Music - A Reflection of a People describes Cajun music like this: ” There seems to be a kind of underlying drone you hear beneath the music that for some reason makes you feel emotionally connected to all other ancient tonal based musics, like Celtic or old French music. On top of that is all the power and energy and the pain that cries out of the voices of the singers, plus the inimitable joy that radiates from the happy songs.”

The Sackets Harbor Historical Society is very excited to present this performance celebrating a colorful American sub-culture. This music is rarely heard in Northern New York, yet has its origins in French Canada and Arcadia.

### **Grupa Pagan - July 16**

The Sackets Harbor Historical Society continues its 22nd season of the Concerts on the Waterfront on Sunday July 16th with a performance of **Grupa Pagan**.

Be sure to bring your maracas to the Battlefield State Historic Site for an afternoon of Latin dance music. The band is a regular at the Dinosaur Barbeque in Rochester and Syracuse. Edgar Pagan leads on bass guitar and vocals; Rhonda Arns shares vocal and keyboard duties; Frank Neubert is on drums as is Josh Dekaney,ob percussion drumline instructor the the Syracuse University Marching Band. Josh has spent time in Miami and Brazil honing the Latin beat. Kenny Bud's lead guitar and Billy DiCosimo on keyboard rounds out the sextet. These six young artists from Syracuse promise that "every performance is a festival!" This is an intoxicating brew of sounds, featuring music by

Santana, Gloria Esteban, Tito Nieves, Marc Anthony, Paola, Jose Feliciano and Manny Manuel. In addition Grupa Pagan performs their own high energy original compositions, some of which are featured in an upcoming CD.

### **Linda Russell - July 23**

The Sackets Harbor Historical Society continues its 22nd season of the Concerts on the Waterfront on Sunday July 9th with a performance celebrating our historic past. Drawing on her large repertoire, Linda Russell will sing and lecture about life in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, as may have been experienced by Northern New Yorkers.

Linda sings of America's history. "From the lusty ballads of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the sentimental melodies of the Victorian age to mountain gospels", Linda brings the past to light. Punctuating her musical performances are anecdotes and facts from primary source material. She has performed at the National Archives, folk festivals throughout the country, universities, and on the media, notably Prairie Home Companion on NPR. Linda grew up in Wisconsin where she went to a one room school. Dad was a local historian, and on family vacations the family followed the trail of Civil War battlefields, pioneer villages and waterways of voyageurs. At the University of Wisconsin, Linda performed in theater, playing such magnificent female roles as Katherine in Lion in Winter, Blanche in Streetcar Named Desire and Aldonza in Man of La Mancha. Her love of the stage brought her to New York City where she enrolled in the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Her dramatic and singing talents landed her a position with the National Parks Service at the Federal Hall National Memorial where for the past 16 years she has performed on the site of George Washington's inauguration on Wall Street. Since 1985, she spends part of the year touring and performing at national historic sites. .

"Russell has a clear, true to pitch lilting style...she knows how to bring lyrics to life" observed the Milwaukee Journal. Linda's musical abilities, stage presence and long experience before diverse audiences ensure an exciting performance. She has eight recordings and continues to perform at schools, community centers and historic sites around the country. At this writing, she is performing the voices of 19<sup>th</sup> century women at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, then on to Idaho to sing the songs of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Linda Russell's performance will coincide with the village's Can Am celebration of Canadian-American relations on its northern frontier. Through these ballads, broadsides, marches, drinking songs and Revolutionary war anthems, Linda recalls the cultural climate of those long ago days and seeks to make it alive for present day listeners. Using guitar, mountain hammered dulcimers, penny whistle and limberjack, she interprets the drama of everyday life on the Northern frontier.

### **Howard Lyons- July 30**

As part of its 22nd year celebration of the Concerts on the Waterfront, the Sackets Harbor Historical Society presents

Howard Lyons, one of the leading Native American folk singer songwriters. He grew up in Syracuse, but traveled often to the Onondaga and Mohawk reservations to visit relatives. A talented musician who taught himself guitar, he played as a young man with rock bands. It was only later that he pursued Longhouse (traditional lifeways) practices and committed himself to a spiritual life, teaching Native life and singing in the Mohawk

language. He is a member of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy, Mohawk Nation, Wolf Clan Haudenosaunee, traveling all over America performing and teaching about the Iroquois and Mohawk culture. His band will include acoustic guitar, bass, mandolin, fiddle and percussion. His songs have thought-provoking lyrics that “convey messages of respect and gratitude”.

Nominated for several NAMMY (Native American Music Awards), Howard is the recipient of a fellowship in 2000 from the New York State Foundation on the Arts and received their award for Best American Composition in 2001. He also cites the Central New York Showcase Award (Performing Artist of the Year for Outstanding Original Music 2000) among other distinguishing achievements. He has performed at Lincoln Center, Café Lena, the Smithsonian, the Annual Native American Indian Summer Festival, and scores of other places. As a member of the Bureau of Lectures and Concert Artists, an organization that brings multi-cultural presentations to schools, Howard Lyons has presented at over 1600 schools. An article in Native Peoples magazine calls him “An Iroquois Cultural Ambassador.” Howard’s latest album “Spirit Walk” is described as a “unique fusion of Native, World Beat and mainstream pop” and was featured on National Public Radio.

After a performance at Truman State University in Missouri with another Native artist, the Multicultural Affairs Coordinator wrote “If you are looking for an authentic, social and yet educational cultural performance, I would highly recommend these outstanding performers“. ...”you will feel the genuine spirit of these great people ...”

Within the village, there will be two additional activities featuring Native American history and culture. On Saturday, July 29, the Ronthahonni (Mohawk) Travel Troup performance group workshop will focus on Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) music dance and culture at the Battlefield State Historic Site in the village.

Also on Saturday, the Three Women Opera (T.W.O.) will present the chamber opera Molly Brant, based on the life of the Mohawk clan matron at the Lake Ontario Playhouse on Main St. Performed by professional musicians, it is a living history of her life and travels throughout the Mohawk valley and into Canada.

### **Orient Express - August 6**

The **Orient Express** hails from the NYC/Long Island area, and relocated to Rochester a decade ago. Although they are billed as a premier party band, *a la Atlas* and Ruby Shooz, their range is wide. Ballads and intimate songs of romance mix with top 40 selections from the 70's and 80's, and classic 50's and 60's hits - they even offer Sinatra, Nat King Cole and Duke Ellington medleys. Their play list highlights the versatility of this group; it includes the music of Earth Wind and Fire, Shania Twain, Hoagy Carmichael and Stevie Wonder.

This band features many talented vocalists. Danny Lomenzo and his wife Joo lead on vocals, along with Steve Kingdom, Tyler Owens and Brian Soule. Danny doubles on drums, Steve on Bass guitar, Joo on guitar and trombone, Tyler on percussion and Brian on keyboard. We expect a new favorite for our Sackets audiences - this band promises to delight all ages.

### **Spaces - August 13**

**Spaces:** Spaces is a high energy jazz quintet, featuring sensitive ballads to almost hip-hop fusion grooves and everything in between. Their arrangements of classic jazz standards are energetic and expressive.

Rick Balestra hails from Syracuse where he has performed as a featured guitar soloist with the S.S.O.Pops Orchestra as well as the Binghamton Symphony. He has performed in several local jazz festivals including the M&T Jazz Festival, Oswego's Harborfest, and the Rochester Cornhill Festivals. Rick's brother Larry (percussion) has performed for the Ice Capades Orchestra, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra and the Buffalo Philharmonic. Three other fine musicians round out the quintet, Brendan Van Epps on saxophone, Chris Colabello, on bass and Evan DuChene, on drums. All are veterans of jazz festivals and the recording studio. Expect to hear old favorites from their swing and standards play list such as *"But Beautiful"*, *"You and the Night and the Music"*, Latin tunes such as *"Suddenly Samba"* along with fun and original pieces of funk and fusion. This group is scheduled for the Sunday after the jazz festival to round out a weekend of fine jazz.

### **The McKrells - August 20**

From Carnegie Hall to Bluegrass/Folk festivals, clubs, coffeehouses, and concert venues in Ireland, the US and Canada, the McKrells bring their particular brand of acoustic music to the whole world. The McKrells blend high lonesome Bluegrass with the poignancy of Irish music and the freedom of acoustic folk. "It is rare", says one reviewer, "for a band to have feet firmly placed in two musical traditions (celtic and bluegrass) and to be welcomed in both." The band emerged from the folk clubs of Saratoga Springs in 1995, and has gone on to perform on the venerable stages of Carnegie Hall, Troy Music Hall, Berklee Performance Hall and Lincoln Center. They have performed at some of the top music festivals in the world including Saratoga's Freihofer Jazz Festival, The Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, Winterhawk/Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, and Celtic festivals in Milwaukee, Savannah, Philadelphia, and Buffalo, and at numerous clubs from Caffè Lena in Saratoga to the Midleton Folk Club in County Cork, Ireland.

Julie Koehler writing for Bluegrass Unlimited, says "...proving once again that contemporary bluegrass can expand its borders without losing its integrity. The music of the McKrells is hip and smart, thoughtful, yet fun, and yes, the roots are intact." Michael Eck of the Times Union continues the praise: "The McKrells reputation looms larger with each passing day, and deservedly so. Who can match their unique, passionate and almost frighteningly powerful mix of Celtic melodies, worldbeat rhythms and hot bluegrass picking? Nobody."

### **Street Corner August 27**

The Sackets Harbor Historical Society presents **Street Corner**, the 50's band that whisks its audience back in time when slicked back hair, high topped sneakers, leather jackets, poodle skirts and saddle shoes were fashionable. This Syracuse based show band incorporates period dress, dance moves, attitude and personality into its routine. Jimmy Mitchell is the lead singer, and, like the rest of the performers, dresses in 1950's high style. Rebecca "Austin" Rache in her poodle skirt sings both solo and backup, as does Mary Beth Stiles who shines on drums and vocals. Keyboardist Shayne Knight,

bass player Ken Varney and Dan Skidmore on guitar complete the lineup. John La Casse of the Eagle Newspapers observed: "This is solid dance music with fun vocals that...makes toes tap". Now in their 10th year, Street Corner has all the dance moves, attitude and personality to delight audiences.

### **The Mario de Santis Orchestra - Sept 3**

As part of its 22nd year celebration of the Concerts on the Waterfront, the Sackets Harbor Historical Society presents **The Mario de Santis Orchestra**, with its big band sound and fabulous vocals from daughter Maria de Santis. This is the orchestra's 56<sup>th</sup> year performing in and around Syracuse. They have opened for many big name performers and are well known for their memorable performances at festivals, black tie galas and Syracuse's concert series. Blues musician Israel Hagen shares the vocal spotlight with Maria, a delightful and energetic lady who is excited about the prospect of bringing her dad's orchestra