

Saratoga Faire



Saratoga Faire is known for their acoustic performances of Celtic, folk, old songs and originals. From ballads to high energy instrumentals, they have been in demand at festivals, coffeehouses, art-in-the-park series, libraries, house concerts and other venues. While the band has only been in existence for a few years, the award-winning musicians have been performing and producing recordings for decades in various other bands and incarnations. Three members are also part of a Renaissance band which formed in 1999 called The Spirites Consort. Some past venues for Saratoga Faire include The Irish 2000 Festival, The Dance Flurry Festival, Nassau Free Public Library, Saratoga Art Center, Inlet Fall Festival, Fish House Community Concert Series, Caffe Lena, Kingsbury Coffeehouse, Golding Park Café, St. Paul's Coffeehouse and many others.

FRANK ORSINI



FFRANK has been one of the prominent acoustic musicians of Upstate New York. He plays violin, viola and mandolin, and has recently taken up Celtic harp. A versatile fiddler, singer and seasoned ensemble player, he has been on numerous recordings and been a member of many established groups with a strong following including the Whipper-Snappers, the Upstate Bluegrass Band and the High Flyers. He has also played extensively with Walt Michael, Bill Matthiesen and Liz Stell, Roy "Poncho" Hurd, Martha Gallagher, Barbara Mccarthy and Brian "Chip"

Chevalier as well as been a part of projects with John Kirk and Trish Miller. Frank's repertoire and expertise is extensive and spans Elizabethan and Early music, Celtic, Bluegrass, Country, and Blues as well as dance tunes from olde England, New England, Canada, Appalachia, American swing and Cajun.

LISE WINNE



LISE is known for her soprano, her original compositions and her virtuosity on nylon and steel string guitars, recorder and cello.

She was trained in music by her father, a classical pianist, guitarist and choral singer. She received further lessons while in college from Dorothy Cafaro.

To date she has recorded four CD length projects including “Christmastime” in 1996, “Come to Me in Dreams” in 1998, “Wing’d With

Hopes: New Interpretations of Renaissance Songs” with the Spirites Consort in 2001 and “The Goldenrod” in 2004.

In 1999, Lise received a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts for her various music projects.

Lise got her start in songwriting from writing fiction and poetry. She has won first place awards in both poetry and fiction from such renowned writers as National Book Award winner, William Bronk, and well known novelist, screenwriter and poet, Paul Auster.

Her website is www.LiseWinne.com.

JEFF BELDING



JEFF studied music at the Boston Conservatory, the New England Conservatory and the College of Saint Rose.

He is a multi-instrumentalist and plays mandolin, guitar, bass, fiddle and banjo. His backgrounds in jazz, classical and folk lend a lot to Saratoga Faire.

In 1984, Jeff won first place in the New Twists for Banjo contest judged by Tony Trishka and was nominated instrumentalist of the year by the Northeast Country Music Association in 1988 and 1991.

He has performed in a wide variety of bands and ensembles from the rock group, Orion (who released two movie soundtracks) and the Hagar Twins (of “Hee Haw”) and Troy Shondell (of “Tell Laura I Love Her”), The Spirites Consort, a Renaissance band, and for musicals such as “Grease,” “West Side Story” and others.

He is a music instructor at the Burnt Hills Music Academy.

JIM LESTRANGE



JIM is a multi-instrumentalist and plays hammered dulcimer, guitar and bass.

At age 12, Jim began his association with Lawrence Older of Middle Grove, New York, the legendary “Adirondack Minstrel” and Newport Folk Festival artist active in the folk revival of the sixties. Jim learned many of Older’s tunes and became familiar with various guitar techniques from his association with many of Saratoga’s acoustic musicians.

In his twenties Jim built a hammered dulcimer. In his early music career, he played at numerous festivals and contradances throughout the northeast. He has performed on stage with virtuoso hammered dulcimer player, Paul VanArsdale, and legendary Adirondack fiddler, Vic Kibler and been a member of numerous bands including the contradance band, Fresh Squeezed String Band, the bluegrass band, Prograss, the traditional string band, Hilltop String Band, the Celtic and maritime folk band, Skuttlebutt and the Renaissance band, The Spirites Consort.

JOHN CROMIE

(Special guest for the band's Irish festivals and concerts)



JOHN is known for his versatility and heartfelt interpretations of traditional Irish music on whistle. He also plays recorder and sings.

He has performed with Mark O’Connor, Jay Unger and Molly Mason, Ray Wall, Jerry Jenkins, Jennifer Licko, George Ward, Frank Jaklitsch, The Foothills Trio and has opened for Paddy Keenan. John was also a member of the band, Skuttlebutt, with Jim Lestrangle. He is the official “whistle consultant” for Celtic Treasures, an Irish gift shop in Saratoga Springs, NY.

John won a grant from the Rennselaer County Council on the Arts for his musical accompaniment of “Out of the Heavens in Showers”, a one man play on the life of Micho Russel, the legendary Doolin whistle player, by writer John Doorty.

A favorite of east coast festivals and sessions, John teaches whistle, has recorded extensively and is working on both a solo album and a tune book of original compositions.