

2017-18 Schedule and Performer Biographies

September 16, 2017 - Heather Pierson Acoustic Trio

October 21, 2017 - Shady Rill

November 18, 2017 - Jacob Johnson

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February 17, 2018 - Kate MacLeod

March 17, 2018 - Lisa and Lori Brigantino

April 21, 2018 - Cosy Sheridan

May 19, 2018 - Reggie Harris

September 16, 2017 - Heather Pierson Acoustic Trio

It has been a few seasons since Heather has appeared at the coffee house, so we are excited to welcome her back to help us begin our next 20 years! Heather Pierson is an award-winning pianist, multi-genre singer/songwriter, arranger, bandleader, and performer. She plays New Orleans-style jazz and blues, Americana and folk music with piano, tenor banjo, melodica, and acoustic guitar. This visit, Heather will also bring Davy Sturtevant on strings and cornet and Shawn Nadeau on upright bass, forming an acoustic trio that will fill the hall with the wonderful music that springs from Heather's boundless creativity!

Heather first discovered her love of music as she listened to her dad play his clarinet to the recordings of Pete Fountain and Woody Herman. When she and her parents moved to Maine, at age five, her dad started to teach her to play the piano. "I'll never forget it," she recalls. "The very first time I played the piano – a real piano – I knew that this was exactly what I wanted to do, every moment that I had the chance to do it." At this point in her career, Heather has released four recordings on her own and, in June of this year, her first full-length recording with Davy and Shawn: *Singin'*, a collection of ten originals and two classics. Defying description and yet fully embracing all musical styles, Heather is an artist who speaks the language of music in as many dialects as her abilities will allow. Her life's work, she says, "is to share her love of music and of life with others – one song, one heart, one mind at a time." Learn more about Heather and the trio at: www.heatherpierson.com. Then join us as the North Elk Coffee House begins a new season of wonderful, live music!

October 21, 2017 - Shady Rill

Patti Casey and Tom MacKenzie make great music together! As Shady Rill, they will return to the coffee house for their third time. If you heard them at a previous show, come back to enjoy them again; if you haven't heard them before, come and see why they are in demand at festivals and concerts across the 48 states!

Patti has appeared live on "A Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor, and won Texas's prestigious Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk Songwriter's Competition. She plays guitar and is a seasoned song writer. Vermont Public Radio calls hers "the sweetest voice to come out of Vermont". Tom joins in with the banjo, hammered dulcimer and vocals. Their music sounds both intriguingly new and comfortingly traditional. You will leave the performance with toes tapping and a smile on your face! We hope you can find time to join us in October for a great show by Shady Rill.

Learn more at: www.shadyrillmusic.com

November 18, 2017 - Jacob Johnson

November will bring the beautiful colors of fall to the Town of North East and an exciting new artist to the North Elk. Jacob Johnson is an amazingly talented guitarist and songwriter, who presents a wildly impressive stage performance! We are looking forward to introducing you to another of the wonderful young musicians who find their way to our stage!

Jacob's grandma taught him to play the guitar when he was a kid, but he honed his skills playing at local wing joints during college. Today, it's not just Jacob's guitar virtuosity but his infectious joy for playing and performing that captures you. His music is the kind of music you fell in love with in the first place —infectious folk songs played with sincere conviction. "Johnson sounds like Norman Rockwell paintings and the open road. He is a virtuoso...", says the *The Florence Morning News* (Florence, SC). And *The Savannah Morning News* (GA) calls Jacob "part of the new breed of folk musicians who make their own rules" Go to find out more about Jacob Johnson and his unique musical style at:

www.jacobjohnsontunes.com . Then join us to hear him at the coffee house this month.

January 20, 2018 - Kevin Neidig

It is such a pleasure when we are contacted by a new, young musician, whom we can then introduce to our audience. Kevin Neidig is just such a performer: great skills on guitar, banjo and mandolin, paired with a voice that is equally at home with traditional bluegrass and the latest pop number on the radio. With his sense of timing, skill in the use of various keys and tempos, and knowledge of multiple chords, Jacob's show will be one you won't want to miss!

Kevin performed as part of Voxology, at the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympics and has opened for Doc Watson, Peter Rowan, Tom Paxton and the Alison Brown Quartet. He has also played at festivals from Arkansas to New York and at numerous colleges and universities, including Bucknell, Penn State and Cornell. His musicianship has been awarded with several first place prizes at the Deer Creek Fiddler's Convention in Westminster, MD. Kevin also shares his talents at the Neidig Guitar Studio, where he teaches guitar and mandolin.

The Susquehanna Folk Music Society's review says a lot about our January performer: "Multi-instrumentalist Kevin Neidig is one of the cleanest, most consistent players that I know. He excels on all three of his instruments; guitar, banjo and mandolin and offers an amazingly diverse repertoire grounded in traditional Americana styles. His strong singing offers an added bonus to his excellent instrumental work." Come judge for yourself as the new year begins with Kevin Neidig.

Learn more about him at: www.kevinneidig.com

February 17, 2018 - Kate MacLeod

Kate MacLeod will be back at the coffee house this season!! What more needs to be said? Though Kate is a nationally-known song writer, she has been a regular on our stage since we began. Don't miss her show this time around! Her voice is said to sound "as pure as water from a mountain stream." *Sing Out! Magazine* says, Kate MacLeod "channels the spirit of the great Carter Family classics." She has opened for artists such as Rosanne Cash, Dan Fogelberg and Greg Brown but she's a fiddle and guitar player, whose wonderful songs prove that she doesn't need to open for anyone.

Kate grew up in Washington, DC but moved west to Utah to study fiddle-making. Her western migration has fueled her appreciation and understanding of the American experience and its varied landscapes and cultures. Kate captures our history and our lives in the music that she creates. Kate's latest project is a 50-song songbook of her original songs, including music notation, chords, and lyrics. We could go on about Kate MacLeod, but we'll let the words of Appalachian legend, Jean Ritchie, finish for us: "Kate is a splendid down-to-earth person; still she soars to the sky like a lark when she wants and needs to. Her music has a unique strong, sweet magic." Please join us for Kate's show in February. More at: www.katemacleod.com

March 17, 2018 - Lisa and Lori Brigantino

Lisa Brigantino, award-winning singer songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, has traveled from her Brooklyn home to play the North Elk twice before. This month we welcome her back, along with her sister, Lori, for another night of heartfelt ballads and upbeat songs. Lisa shared songs from her CD "Wonder Wheel" on her last visit. By next March, she expects to have a new collection recorded and ready to go. We're sure this album will contain more songs like "Wonder Wheel's" *Used to Be a House*, which won the 1st Annual *Songs For Social Change Contest*.

Lisa Brigantino has a Master of Music degree in music composition and music theory, and has composed for TV, film, theatre, and dance. She performs regularly at venues ranging from intimate house concerts and coffeehouses to clubs and theaters. She has appeared at a number of music festivals including The New Jersey Folk Festival, The Florida Music Festival, The Rockland-Bergen Music Festival, and The Pleasantville Music Festival. Lisa's sister, Lori, plays a number of instruments and can be heard on vocals on Lisa's "Wonder Wheel" and "A Brooklyn Night".

In the words of Women of Substance Radio, "Lisa is one of the most versatile songwriters we've heard. She is a true artist who has mastered countless styles of writing, singing and performing." Come to the coffee house in March, to hear the blended voices of Lisa and Lori Brigantino! Learn more at:

<https://lisabrigantino.com>

April 21, 2018 - Cosy Sheridan

In her past two visits to North East, Cosy Sheridan shared her philosophy on aging gracefully in *Botox Tango* and her humorous retelling of the Punic Wars in *Hannibal Crossed the Alps*. She also shared her poignant memoir of her grandfather's struggle with aging and the musical legacy he passed on to her, in *George and His 88 Keys*. Cosy writes love songs for adults and practical philosophy for a complicated world. And her lyrical dexterity is backed by her distinctive percussive guitar style. Cosy has released a new collection of songs, titled *Pretty Bird*, which was chosen as one of *Sing Out!* magazine's Great CDs of 2014. Come to the coffee house next spring, and hear some selections from her newest release, and all that she has been composing since!

Cosy Sheridan first played on the national circuit in 1992 when she won songwriting contests at the Kerrville Folk Festival and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, and released her critically acclaimed CD, *Quietly Led* on Waterbug Records. Since then she's been on the road, traveling from her former home in Utah and her current home in Boston, playing at clubs, concert halls and coffee houses. For the past 25 years Cosy has also taught classes in songwriting, performance and guitar at workshops and adult music

camps across the country. Acoustic Guitar Magazine wrote, "If I were going to throw an all-girl dinner party at which I wanted to laugh and cry from the hors d'oeuvres to the chocolate pudding, Cosy Sheridan is the first woman I'd invite." And the Boston Globe raves: "She is a wonderfully lively, very funny and enormously amiable entertainer..." But don't take their word for it. Come hear Cosy for yourself in April! Read more at: www.cosysheridan.com

May 19, 2018 – Reggie Harris

We will complete our 2017-18 season with a folk music legend - Reggie Harris! Reggie and his wife, Kim, performed as a duo for over 40 years, and played our stage twice before. Now that Kim is a visiting professor at Loyola Marymount University in California, Reggie has been partnering with other musicians and has developed his solo career. Steeped in the tradition of African American spirituals, folk, gospel, rock and the music of civil and human rights, Reggie is recognized as one of the foremost presenters of songs, who, in the spirit of his mentors Pete Seeger, Harry Belafonte and Bernice Johnson Reagon, gets people smiling and singing.

On his website Reggie recounts how he learned about collaborative singing, as he and his sister joined his mom around the piano in their Philadelphia home, to sing hymns and the occasional show tune or Harry Belafonte classic. Over the years he developed his great skill with musical harmonies that made his performances with Kim so wonderful. But he says that he has now rediscovered his solo voice. Together, with Reggie's guitar playing, his songs will move you and invite you to sing along. In Reggie's own words about his new adventure in performance: "I seek a different balance. And it's a journey I will share....on stage, and in recordings as I redefine the lines of a mission I started years ago around that upright piano." Don't miss the opportunity to hear Reggie share the newest path on his musical journey, when he joins us in May. Read more at: <http://reggieharrismusic.com/>