



*Traditional Arts Center  
& Listening Room*

2720 Sutton Blvd. 63143

**June 2017**

**NOTE: advance tickets for listed  
concerts may ONLY be purchased  
at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) until  
noon the day of the show.**

*June is busting out all over! The  
feeling is getting so intense  
That the old Virginia creepers  
Are a hugging the bejeebers  
Out of every morning glory on the  
fence!*

**Friday, June 2nd, 8pm,  
\$20/\$25: Switchback!**

For over two decades, Brian FitzGerald and Martin McCormack, known as Switchback, have entertained crowds with their unique American Roots ~ Celtic Soul blend of music. Brian and Marty play an exciting mix of mandolin, guitar, and bass. Their harmonies have won them comparisons to famous duos, such as the Louvin Brothers, the Everly Brothers, and Simon and Garfunkel. Their Celtic music is authentically Irish, with equal respect for traditional and modern artists and styles.

**Saturday, June 3rd, 8pm,  
\$10/\$15: The Sleepy Rubies &  
Nick Pence**

The Sleepy Rubies have a way of sweeping you off your feet with their powerhouse harmonies and light, optimistic lyrics. The sister duo, Ali Ruby and Emily Wallace, have been singing together since they were kids. Roughly a year ago, they decided to put all of their efforts into their original music. Nick Pence has become St. Louis' undisputed top young gun on resonator guitar and banjo. At the age of only 25 he is already a staple in the St. Louis music community. Coming to prominence with The Thin Dimes, his current projects include The Bottlesnakes (with Ethan Leinwand), The Dust Covers (with Brian Curran, Colin Blair, and Adam Andrews), and Skin & Bones (with Ryan Koenig). Whether on slide guitar or banjo, Nick brings an emphatic edge to his music, sharpened by improvisational spirit and honest originality.

**Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 PM \$10/\$15,  
Breathtet (Paul DeMarinis, Dave  
Black, Mark Wallace, and Kevin  
Cheli)**

Breathtet is a musical collective, whose members — all with strong backgrounds in jazz — fuse together elements of other world musics and their traditions. Paul DeMarinis, Dave Black, Mark Wallace, and Kevin Cheli are experts and aficionados who know each other and their various musics very, very well! Their saxophone/guitar/bass/drums work together seamlessly. They have played in St Louis's most prestigious halls and with the cream of our regional jazz and world music artists (in many cases, that is to say, with each

other!) This one will definitely be a treat.

**Saturday, June 10th, 8pm,  
\$10/\$15: The Yellow-Bellied  
Sapsuckers**

The clothes don't tell you everything: The Sapsuckers may take their sartorial style from a combination of "Oh Brother Where Art Thou" and "Bonnie and Clyde" but they are in fact true masters of traditional old-time fiddle tunes and tight vocal harmonies, including country, vaudeville, hits of the 1920s and 1930s, and original songs and tunes. Nikki Grossman and Joe Hart are known for the light touch and sense of humor they bring to their performance. Welcome the Sapsuckers to their Focal Point return!

**Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 PM \$25,  
Team Henry Fighting Duchenne:  
An Evening with Javier Mendoza  
(A benefit to support Parent  
Project Muscular Dystrophy)**

Born in Virginia and raised in Spain, **Javier Mendoza** headed back to the United States on a soccer scholarship to play for St. Louis University. When an injury kept him from playing, he picked up the guitar and began writing music. Soon after, he signed a publishing deal with Warner/Chappell, writing for Enrique Iglesias, Ricky Martin, Emilio Estefan and others. Duchenne is a form of Muscular Dystrophy. Henry, age 10, was diagnosed with this disease as a baby. Duchenne is a fatal muscle disease, usually, found in boys. The disease leads to muscle degeneration making walking, standing, even climbing stairs difficult. Eventually, requiring the use of a wheelchair. Parent Project MD has

been leading the fight to end Duchenne for over twenty years. Through PPMD, funding for research has directly impacted Henry and others by providing resources to keep them strong and as healthy as possible. All ticket sales will go directly to PPMD. Come help TEAM HENRY fight Duchenne!

**Saturday, June 17th, 8pm,  
\$10/\$15: John Bolduan & Friends**  
John Bolduan is a singer/songwriter from St. Louis, MO. He has toured as a soloist and in several different musical projects, spanning a variety of musical genres in the United States and Europe. He uses contemporary fingerstyle techniques on acoustic guitar and seamlessly glides through folk, fiddle tunes, swing, and Irish music. He has also studied with guitarists such as Tony MacManus, Clive Carrol, and Kirk Hanser, among others.

**Friday, June 23rd, 8pm,  
\$10/\$15: Masillajta**  
“Masillajta” translates as “Band of the People” from the Quechuan language of the Andes Mountains. The band has been playing St. Louis area festivals, educational, art, and dance events since 2005. Masillajta is composed of musicians from many countries, cultural backgrounds, and music styles of the Americas. The common thread is their love of Andean music and their passion for rekindling and preserving their ancestral fires. Andean music has been played since times of old and continues to be heard wherever common people gather, from the mountain peaks of South America to the streets and parks of cities across the world. Masillajta remains true

to its Andean music genre, but with multiple musical infusions, the group has incorporated a nice mix of rhythms to its catalogue.

**Saturday, June 24th, 8pm,  
\$10/\$15: Jake's Leg Acoustic  
Summer Party**

Spanning the generations, Jake's Leg has been performing the music of The Grateful Dead for 40 years — that's only 11-ish years less than the Dead played Dead themselves! This will be an acoustic performance. ALSO, the show will likely not be the perfectly silent listening experience the Focal Point is known for. However, we promise that it will be great fun for all! Dancing recommended but not required.

**Saturday, June 30th, 8pm,  
\$10/\$15: An Evening with Grace  
Basement**

In anticipation of their upcoming album release, Kevin Buckley and crew are bringing the songs of Grace Basement to the Focal Point. The June 30th event will feature uncharacteristically appropriate volume settings and an early 8pm show time, nearly unheard of in the sordid world of rock and roll. “I'll be performing some solo material from a variety of projects before being joined by the band for a semi-acoustic performance. It's best not to go full bore when you're working on details...and honestly a lot of those nuances can get lost in a big loud late night rock show. We're aiming for a more intimate experience...like you're sitting around the basement with us.” Grace Basement's fourth album, Mississippi Nights, will be released early fall.

**OTHER STUFF!** When we're not giving concerts, many creative and energetic folks use our building:

**Sunday afternoons** at 3:30, the River Rats Border morris team practices and welcomes newcomers to their sessions; contact Judy Stein at 314 560 2778

**Sunday, June 11:** a special afternoon Cajun Dance: call Donna Eckberg, 822-0310

**Sunday evening June 18:** TANGO, beginning 6PM.  
[blythrd@gmail.com](mailto:blythrd@gmail.com)

**First and Third Mondays** of every month: Irish set dance, open to all;

**Fourth Mondays:** English country dancing happens.

**Fourth Tuesdays:** we host the St Louis Poetry Society.

**Second Wednesdays:** we have Cajun dances hosted by Donna Eckberg.

**Wednesday, June. 28: 8pm,  
\$17/\$20: Songbird Cafe:**  
Doors 6:45 Show 7:30

**All Other Wednesdays,** 7:30-9:30, there is morris dancing with the Capering Roisters, who welcome all comers.

**Thursdays except for June 1,** there is a jam session, which also welcomes all comers.

**ALSO! July 29 and 30, Focal Point is cooperating with the Town Hall at Cedar Creek to co-present the New Haven Music Festival! Check out the website: [newhavenmusicfest.com](http://newhavenmusicfest.com). More info will be in our July calendar.**

**Our concerts are supported in part by individual donations and by grants and contributions from Schwab Charitable, Jackson Pianos, and Schlafly Breweries.**