

# Focal Point



Traditional Arts Center  
& Listening Room

2720 Sutton Blvd. 63143

March 2017

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

*The primrose blooms! The cowslips too! The violets in their sweet retire, the roses shining through the briar, and the daffadowndillies that we admire will die and fade away.*

**Friday, March 3rd, 8pm,  
\$10/\$15: The Blue Eyed Bettys!**

Based out of New York City, harmony-driven string band The Blue Eyed Bettys met in Sarasota, Florida in 2014. The players are Daniel Emond on banjo, Sarah Hund (originally from St. Louis) on fiddle, and Ben Mackel on guitar, and as for their vocals, these three sound as if they were born harmonizing. Their material ranges from old-time country to close-harmony Americana, and the vibe is swingy, almost barbershoppy. Come and enjoy a treat for all who good singing!

**Saturday, March 4th, 8pm, \$10/\$15:  
THE Tom Hall & Ethan Leinwand!**

Tom Hall's music was originally based on blues mentors Mississippi John Hurt, Robert Johnson, Blind Blake, and Rev. Gary Davis, to name only a few. He has since broadened his repertoire to

include eclectic fingerstyle guitar, clawhammer banjo, and Irish tenor banjo alongside his mastery of resophonic guitar. Ethan Leinwand has spent time living in New Orleans and Brooklyn, NY. He moved to St. Louis in the summer of 2014, after a short visit convinced him that, with its thriving blues community and storied music history – particularly on the piano – St. Louis was the ideal place to live and work. The two together bring an extraordinary wealth of talent, expertise, and insight to the music they make together. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to hear them in a listening-room setting!

**Friday, March 10th, 8pm,  
\$10/\$15: Diesel Island**

It's easy to take Diesel Island for granted, to forget that it's still one of the strongest purveyors of classic country music in town. Led by veteran singer Kip Loui and the Bottle Rockets' Brian Henneman, and featuring new members Tim McAvin and Spencer Marquart, Diesel Island now finds a home and gigs in a catch-as-catch-can fashion. Nobody plays the great songs of '60s and '70s country music from Waylon to Merle to Buck to all outlaw points in between quite like these veterans.

**Saturday, March 11th, 8pm,  
\$15/\$20: Carl Sonny Leyland!**

Carl Sonny Leyland was first captivated by boogie woogie at the age of fifteen in his native England. Within three months he would be performing in public, and shortly afterward would become a member of a respected local group "The Bob Pearce Blues Band." Initially influenced by boogie woogie greats Albert Ammons, Pete Johnson & Meade 'Lux' Lewis, Leyland went on to fully explore the piano blues genre, becoming an authority on early & obscure styles such as those played by Cow Cow Davenport, Little Brother Montgomery, Montana Taylor, and Speckled Red, to

name a few. He came to the U.S. in the 1980s, first to New Orleans, and later to southern California. Leyland's playing displays an infectious spontaneity, providing plenty of surprises for the listener. While he possesses the necessary vocabulary to pay tribute to the greats of old, he refuses to be limited himself to this and prefers to let each performance be an opportunity to say something new.

**Friday, March 17th, 8pm,  
\$10/\$15: St. Patrick's Day  
Celebration: Eileen Gannon, Eimear  
Arkins, & Conor Arkins!**

Eileen Gannon, a St. Louis native, is one of the top Irish harp players in the world. She has won numerous accolades including the highly coveted Senior Harp title at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. Eimear Arkins, an award winning singer and fiddle player from County Clare, has been living in Missouri for the last number of years. The newest addition to the St. Louis Irish music scene is Conor Arkins, Eimear's brother. Conor is a member of the National Folk Orchestra of Ireland and is an accomplished piano, fiddle, flute and saxophone player. Together they will perform a selection of toe-tapping dance tunes, melancholy sean-nós songs, haunting harp melodies and jazzy saxophone renditions of Irish classics.

**Saturday, March 18th, 8pm,  
\$10/\$15: St. Louis Osuwa Taiko**  
Part dance, part athletic demonstration, but mostly percussion-centered music, Taiko is a traditional Japanese musical form. Modeled after Grandmaster Daihachi Oguchi's original Osuwa Daiko, St. Louis Osuwa Taiko was founded here by Oguchi-sensei himself thirty years ago on a visit from Suwa, Japan, and is one of only a few Taiko groups in the Midwest. The group performs an eclectic mix of traditional and original Taiko, featuring flute and violin as well as percussion; they're most notable as a permanent feature of

the annual Japanese Festival at the Missouri Botanical Garden, where they amaze and delight thousands every year. We couldn't be more pleased to welcome them back!

**Thursday, March 23rd, 7pm, Price: \$15/\$20: Charlie King**

Charlie King is a folksinger and activist. He was born and raised in Brockton, Massachusetts in 1947 and cites the folk music revival of the 1960s, the American Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War era as his musical influences. Charlie King has released a dozen solo albums since 1976. He has also released three albums with the touring ensemble Bright Morning Star, and numerous compilation albums with other artists. Charlie's performance will be a special Presentation:  
*COPPER! World War One And the War on Labor.*

**March 24th, 8pm,**

**Price: \$10/\$15: Rum Drum Ramblers**

The backward-glancing trio Rum Drum Ramblers is perhaps best thought of as a blues/soul/country band, with a bit of R&B thrown in--better yet, put genre tags aside and let the Ramblers interpretation of American folk idioms fan you like a humid breeze. The Ramblers don't mind if a little sawdust gets mixed in with its whiskey, and that looseness spreads a freewheeling flavor over the dozen tracks on Scene. Trash-can percussion and second-line horns adorn the lazy shuffle of "Get Behind the Wheel," and the electric fuzz of "All the Little Days" proves that the band doesn't play it straight even when plugged in. In fact, the only constant across these songs is that Wilson's intuitive guitar playing — bluesy, jazzy, soulful and twangy — is tough to pin down. He's a stylist who has ingested decades' worth of popular (and unpopular) music, and he and his equally flexible bandmates spit these influences back out in familiar but thrilling fashion.

**Saturday, March 25th, 8pm, \$10/\$15: Joe Mancuso & Dave Black!**

Singer Joe Mancuso and guitarist Dave Black often perform as a duo in the St. Louis area. Mancuso has a very appealing voice, is an expert at perfectly placing his notes for maximum effect, and swings up a storm. He improvises without losing sight of the melody or the lyrics. Dave Black is the perfect accompanist for him, for the guitarist provides bass lines on the medium-tempo tunes and sophisticated chords. Very much an orchestra by himself, Black is also a fine soloist. What will make this evening's performance at Focal Point most memorable though will be the addition of multi-instrumentalist R. Scott Bryan...this time on percussion.

**Friday, March 31st, 8pm, \$10/\$15: Calvin Street Band!**

The Calvin Street Band blends folk, blues, jazz, and gypsy swing, seasons it with a sprinkling of roots, and serves it up in a toe-tappin' style. The group formed when guitarists Robert Wallace and David Neely were jamming in their front yard in Columbia, Missouri. They soon added Gregory Gortmaker on upright bass and Dave Godsey on harmonica. To top off the mix, in came St. Louis' very own Roger Netherton, an award-winning fiddle player. Their original repertoire, often whimsical and heartwarming, draws on life as can only be found in mid-Missouri, from the legendary Burr Oak on the Katy Trail to the heart of Columbia's District.

**Other Stuff:**

Sunday afternoons, 3:30, FREE--  
**River Rats Border Morris,** newcomers welcome. Call Judy, 314-560-2778.

Sunday, Nov 20: **TANGO!** email Russell at blythrd@gmail.com

First and Third Mondays of every month: **Irish set dance,** open to all; call Erin, 314-607-3806

Fourth Mondays: **English country dancing** happens. Call Paul, 314-288-9105.

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

Second Wednesdays: we have **Cajun dances** hosted by Donna Eckberg, 314 822 0310

All other Wednesdays: **Capering Roisters Morris Dancing, 7:30-9:30.** John Long, 314-647-1804

And NEARLY EVERY Thursday there is a **Jam Session,** which also welcomes all comers. call Dan at 314-968-7064

For information about **Songbird Café,** which puts on monthly shows in our building, go to [www.songbird-stl.com](http://www.songbird-stl.com)

**Check out our website: [thefocalpoint.org](http://thefocalpoint.org), or visit us on Facebook: Focal Point Concerts.**

**You may rent our building for your own event: \$155 for weekdays and evenings; \$255 for Friday or Saturday evenings if available; slightly less for not-for-profit arts organizations. Call Judy at 314-560-2778.**

**Focal Point Concerts are sponsored in part by the Schwab Charitable Fund, by Schlafly Breweries, and by Jackson Pianos.**