

Focal Point

Traditional Arts Center
& Listening Room

2720 Sutton Blvd. 63143

May 2017

NOTE: advance tickets for listed concerts may ONLY be purchased at brownpapertickets.com until noon the day of the show.

*Oh, do not tell the priest our plight
or he would call it a sin-- but we've
been out in the woods all night
a'conjuring Summer in!*

Friday May 5, 8pm, \$15/\$20:

Richard Smith

When Richard Smith picks up a guitar, it's a treat for the ears and the eyes. Audiences watch in amazement while his fingers dance over fret board and strings, and listen in delight, as melody and groove fill the room. While Richard really has a style of his own, you'll likely be treated to his very authentic renditions of tunes by his old friends Chet Atkins and Jerry Reed, as well as tunes reminiscent of Django Reinhardt, Joe Pass, Doc Watson, Newgrass Revival, Albert Lee, Jorge Morel and others of their caliber. Believe us — this man is a guitar shark with very sharp teeth. You DON'T want to miss this one!

Saturday May 6, 8pm, \$10/\$15:

THE Tom Hall

Tom Hall has been undisputed occupant of first chair in every band he's played in, whether its the Geyer Street Sheiks, River City Rhythm, The Illusions, The

Fighting Molly McGuires, or any of the others. Of course, the respect he now enjoys didn't just fall into his lap; in the twenty-plus years he's been a working professional, Tom's paid his dues with interest, playing on street corners, festivals, bars, and concerts across the continent, Ireland and Europe. Tom was last seen at the Focal Point in a duo with Ethan Leinwand; look for him here again in July as part of the guitar heroes showcase!

Sunday May 7, 2pm, \$10/\$15:

**The Missouri Rounders
(Matinee Show)**

The Missouri Rounders are John Higgins, Thayne Bradford, Charlie Pfeffer, Vince Corkery, and Bob Breidenbach. You've seen them all before, but in this configuration they are going to make you smile! The Rounders are probably more bluegrass than anything, but these people can play absolutely anything they want. They sing, write songs, and find the best of old treasures from the country/bluegrass world. The arrangements have been pared down to let the abundant three-part singing, and the beauty of the songs in general, take center stage ... but there are always a few instrumentals thrown in for good measure!

Friday, May 12th, 8pm, Price

\$10/\$15: Thayne Bradford, John Jump, Bob Breidenbach & Vince Corkery (with special guest Ed Cabanas)

John Jump, Bob Breidenbach and Thayne Bradford, members of the early Road Apples, will be joined by Vince Corkery and special guest Ed Cabanas, for an evening of original and Americana roots music. These accomplished musicians each perform with a number of different groups and are among the most well-known and respected in the area. Expect to hear a lot of great music and enjoy the camaraderie of these long-time friends.

Saturday, May 13th, 8pm, \$10/15: An Evening of Old-time Music With Brad Leftwich & Linda Higginbotham

Brad's music is a direct link to the traditions of the southern Appalachian and Ozark mountains. He grew up hearing the old-time music of his father, grandfather, and great-uncle, and learned from many of the last great traditional musicians from the turn of the 20th century. Linda is from a family of musicians and colorful characters with deep roots in the pioneer heritage of Indiana, Kentucky, and Arkansas. She began playing clawhammer banjo and banjo ukulele after meeting Brad, and together they spent many hours visiting and learning from older musicians in the Appalachians and Ozarks.

Friday, May 19th, 8pm, \$15/\$20: John Batdorf

Some may ask, what is it about the qualities of John Batdorf that set him apart from other excellent singer-songwriters? It's his vulnerability: his complete opening the door to his heart. John invites the listener into his soul and shares a couple hours, open and trusting as he sings of love and hope: transforming despair to hope, hate to love and fear/ignorance to tolerance/acceptance. We share his understanding, forgiveness and are filled with compassion when the song is done. When you hear John sing live for the first time, you'll understand why his music has meant so much to his fans that have now spanned four decades!

Saturday, May 20th, 8pm, \$15/\$20:

Talk To My Heart: Dennis Stroughmatt Band's Tribute to Ray Price and His Cherokee Cowboys

Dennis Stroughmatt is very familiar to St. Louis audiences from local dances and past appearances at The Focal Point and elsewhere. This time, he's bringing a special presentation for lovers of classic Western Swing and Honkytonk music with *Talk To My Heart!* In this action-packed show of narration and music filled with fiddles and steel guitar, audiences are not only entertained but educated on the history Western Swing and the real tradition of Honkytonk music. Featuring songs like One More Time, Heartaches By The Number, Don't You Ever Get Tired of Hurting Me, Invitation to the Blues and many more.

**Friday, May 26th, 8pm,
\$10/\$15: sidexside Percussion Duo** The sidexside Percussion Duo is a percussion duo based in St. Louis, MO. Formed by Kurena Yamaguchi and Tim Crockett in 2013, the sidexside Percussion Duo has performed throughout Japan and the United States. From classical music to pop, the sidexside Duo performs musical styles of all genres. Making use of the variety of percussion instruments available to them, the sidexside Percussion Duo arranges their music to be performed with creative and innovative instrument combinations, such as marimba and timpani, marimba and drum set, marimba and snare drum, and more!

**Saturday, May 27th, 8pm,
\$10/\$15: The Western Satellites with special guest Kevin Buckley** Back by popular demand, the Focal Point is happy to welcome The Western Satellites back to our stage. The Western Satellites provide a wide range of Americana roots and swing music and have been performing across the St. Louis area for many years. They are Margaret Bianchetta (vocals and flute), Vince Corkery (bass and vocals), and Jon Ferber (guitar and vocals). They'll be joined by special guest Kevin Buckley (violin). Don't miss your chance to see this amazing group in a listening room environment.

**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.

**NOTE!! Special dance/
event/concert/fundraiser in
BOONVILLE:**

Hello Friends of Sam Griffin,
For those who don't know, Sam had a stroke in Late February and is home now and regaining strength. Some of his close friends have put this fundraising event together to help with his recovery.

Date : Saturday May 13.

Time: 6 to 11 PM

Where: Turner Hall, Booneville Mo.

What: A Soup & Salad Pot Luck with deserts, Musical evening and Contra Dance with a silent auction.

All as a benefit for Sam Griffin.

**INFO: radioranger@gmail.com
(660)882-7821**

Musicians: Currently Cathy Barton and Dave Para and some members of the Irish Thursday Night session group, Lee Ruth, Kathy Gordon, and we hope many others!
So any other musicians you are most welcome to join in! Jim Thaxter and other guest callers will be there for the contra dance!

Food: Hoping to make the food a Soup & Salad Pot Luck and those who want can donate to the cause. Soups should be brought in slow cooker or crock pots that can be plugged in and kept warm.
Food coordinator: Jacqueline Casteel jacquelinethrese@gmail.com

Silent auction; If you would like to donate items for the silent auction please contact: Lesley Oswald: oswaldles@sbcglobal.net

Drinks: Turner has a wine and beer bar that will be open. Half the proceeds come to Sam for that evening.

**One more thing: if you can't attend but would like to donate by sending a check, please send it to:
SAM /co Carol Goodnick
14 Anderson
Columbia MO 65203**

For information about **Songbird Cafe**, which puts on monthly shows in our building, go to www.songbird-stl.com

Check out our website: www.thefocalpoint.org, to find out what goes on in our building during weeknights-- 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.

The Focal Point Concerts supported by the Schwab Charitable Fund, by St. Louis Brewery, by Jackson Pianos, and by the generous support of our patrons.

Unite and unite, and let us all unite, for summer is a-coming today, And whither we are going, we all will unite in the merry morning of May!