
The Sunspot Concert Series

The Sunspot concert series at The Lyceum showcases well-known musicians from the United States and around the globe, representing all styles of traditional and contemporary folk music. The series also presents new artists who are just starting to make an impact in the music world. With its intimate setting and rich acoustics, the Lyceum Lecture Hall provides an ideal meeting place for artists and audiences to share a unique musical experience.

If there is a particular performer you would like to see featured in a Sunspot concert, let us know by visiting our web site and leaving a comment in our guest book or by sending us an email at info@sunspotpro.com.

Thank You

Thanks are due to all the people who, whether they know if or not, have entertained and inspired us over the years and supported and advised us in recent months, particularly Barbara Ryan and Bernard Argent, Fred Boyce and Kenyon Hunter at the Prism, David Eisner and all at the Institute for Musical Traditions, Mary Cliff, Jeri Goldstein, Bob Schurk and Nicole Quinn of the Lyceum, our old friends who have volunteered their time to help or simply tolerated our inattention, our new friends in and around Alexandria, and especially the musicians who make the music their life's work.

Special thanks to Cathie, Greg and Sara for agreeing to appear in our fledgling series, and to Scott Twiford for providing the sound support.

The Lyceum

In 1839, a group of gentlemen calling themselves The Alexandria Lyceum joined with the Alexandria Library Company to build a grand hall to provide a place for lectures, scientific experiments and quiet reading.

Eventually, the building itself became known as The Lyceum and, since that time, it has been a Civil War hospital, a private home, an office building and the nation's first Bicentennial Center. In 1985, The Lyceum became Alexandria's History Museum, providing exhibitions, school programs, lectures and concerts, volunteer opportunities and space for rental functions for the community. The Lyceum Museum Shop carries a wide variety of maps, books, note cards and special items related to Alexandria's history. The present-day Lyceum Company serves the museum as a membership and fund-raising organization. Visit <http://oha.ci.alexandria.va.us/lyceum/> to learn more about the Lyceum.



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SUNSPOT PRODUCTION
Promoting American and World Roots Music



Cathie Ryan

Sunday, May 29, 2005 • 8 PM

WITH

GREG ANDERSON

SARA MILONOVICH

The Lyceum

201 S. Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Cathie Ryan

Cathie Ryan's parents were Irish immigrants who moved to the United States so Cathie's father could find work in the automobile industry. Cathie grew up in Detroit, but her home and community were filled with the music of Ireland.

While Irish culture was the primary influence on Cathie's, she was also influenced by the Motown sound of Detroit and by music of the Appalachian mountains (which derived in part from the music of the Irish and Scottish immigrants who settled the area).

The Irish-American band Cherish the Ladies (CTL) was formed as a one-time concert concept. Audiences loved the group of Irish American women, and when the group formally became a band, Cathie signed on as their lead singer, a position she held for seven years. Cathie helped define the band's sound through interpretations of traditional songs and her own new compositions, along with her spirited bodhran playing



The initial configuration of CTL included, in addition to Cathie, a number of other musicians who have gone on to notable careers in CTL or elsewhere: Joanie Madden organized the group and played flute, with Eileen Ivers and Siobhan Egan on fiddles, Maureen Doherty Macken on accordion, and Mary Coogan on guitar. Winifred Horan (who became a founding member of Solas), Eileen Golden and Linnane Wick added step dancing to their performances. Win Horan replaced Eileen Ivers on fiddle when Eileen left CTL to join Riverdance

Cathie left Cherish the Ladies in 1995 and released her first solo album, simply titled *Cathie Ryan*, in 1997. Produced by Seamus Egan of Solas, the album received critically acclaim. Joining Cathie on the recording were Seamus and other musicians who worked with Solas, including John Anthony, Michael Aharon, Chico Huff (who appeared with Karan Casey at our first Sunspot concert in March), Steve Holloway and Winifred Horan. Also participating were the Canadian piper Jerry O'Sullivan and Washington-area guitarist Zan McLeod.

Cathie's second and third albums, *The Music of What Happens* and *Somewhere Along the Road*, continued to feature her exceptional interpretations of traditional tunes while including a growing number Cathie's own compositions and arrangements. Many of Cathie's own songs, even those that deal with contemporary issues, carry the feel and strength of traditional pieces. On both recordings, Cathie worked with a "Who's Who" of traditional Irish and American musicians to produce

In producing *Somewhere Along the Road* and her latest album, Cathie worked with John McCusker, who formerly played fiddle with the Battlefield Band, and collaborated with guitarist John Doyle in writing several songs. Cathie has just released her fourth album, *The Farthest Wave*, to rave reviews.

Sara Milonovich has played in the Cathie Ryan band since 2003. She also spent the last three years touring the US and Ireland as a member of the Celtic/bluegrass/roots band The McKrells. In 1998 she released the CD *Mrs. Ippy Fiddle*, which was a nominated semifinalist for the 1999 Grammy awards. Her tune, *Cead Caloigne Sneachta* (The First Snowfall), from the McKrell's holiday album *Merry Christmas*, placed 6th in the 2001 Just Plain Folks Awards for best holiday song.

Greg Anderson is well known to Washington audiences as a founder and guitarist of Whirligig, a celtic-fusion band whose alumni include Lisa Moscatiello, Lisa Gutman and Cillian Vallely. One of folk music's most respected multi-instrumentalists, he has long been a mainstay in the New York Irish music scene, and has been the musical director of the Cathie Ryan Band for 8 years. He plays guitar, bouzouki, cittern, tenor guitar, bass, and keyboards, as well as providing backing vocals.

Sara and Greg have also released a CD together.

Coming up...

Tony Trischka, Friday, June 17.

Tony Trischka, one of the world's most innovative and respected banjo players, has fused bluegrass, jazz, rock and classical music into an energetic whole, created over 25 recordings and taught a generation of banjo players through classes, books and videos.

Tony will be working on a lifetime achievement recording at Smithsonian Folkways studios on Friday and giving a banjo workshop for the House of Musical Traditions on Saturday. On Friday night, Tony will grace Sunspot concerts with an "unplugged" solo performance at Lloyd House.

The Kane Sisters - Liz and Yvonne, Sunday, August 21. Irish Fiddlers.

John Doyle and Guest, Friday, August 26. Irish Guitar and Song.

Lissa Schneckenburger, Friday, October 14., New England Fiddle and Song.

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers and other electronic noisemakers.
No flash photography or audio or video recording of the performance without permission from the artist and Sunspot Production.



We appreciate the support of the Courtyard Alexandria.

Please help yourself to complimentary snacks, tea and Misha's coffee.