

## OFFICIAL SHOWCASE SLOTS - SERFA 2016

### THURSDAY NIGHT 5.19



**SI KAHN** - “If ‘the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice,’ as Martin Luther King said, then Si Kahn has devoted his life to riding that arc. His powerful impulse to service, combined with deep compassion, is a force of nature. I put Si in the same category as Woody Guthrie, as Pete Seeger, and in a strange way, with my Dad, who shared his righteous sense of humanity, and his love of the 'meek', who he truly believed would 'inherit the earth.’” — **Rosanne Cash**, *singer, songwriter, author*  
[www.sikahn.com](http://www.sikahn.com)



**SAM GLEAVES** - Born and raised in Southwest Virginia, Sam Gleaves performs innovative mountain music with a sense of history. A singer, multi-instrumentalist and songwriter, Sam carries on the music he learned from mentors in the Appalachian tradition and writes new songs that tell the region’s contemporary stories. Sam’s recording *AIN’T WE BROTHERS*, produced by Cathy Fink, has been featured by **National Public Radio**, *No Depression*, and *Sing Out!*. Sam has toured throughout the Southeast U.S. and abroad in Ireland, England, Canada and Japan. Author **Lee Smith** calls Sam “the best young songwriter around . . . courageous as hell and country to the bone.”  
[www.samgleaves.com](http://www.samgleaves.com)



**CATHY FINK & MARCY MARXER**  
Two-time GRAMMY® Award winners, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer are a formidable powerhouse of sound, with a repertoire of traditional and contemporary folk, old-time country and swing music. Their superb harmonies are backed by instrumental virtuosity on acoustic & electric guitar, five-string banjo, mandolin, cello banjo and ukulele. Equally at home at a bluegrass festival, folk festival, family or community concert, audiences respond to their good humor, excellent musicianship and warm rapport. “Social Music Conductors,” they direct the annual Ukulele & Guitar Summit at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda, Maryland and teach online.  
[www.cathymarcy.com](http://www.cathymarcy.com)



### **BRUCE MICHAEL MILLER**

Bruce Michael Miller is a performer, producer, guitarist, songwriter, vocalist and studio owner. As a dynamic performer Bruce captivates his audiences with the truth in his songs, his quick wit and sense of humor. An award winning songwriter, Bruce's songs have been cut by artists such as Steve Holy, Miranda Louise, Lisa Nemzo, Nancy Terzian and Allen Carl. Over his expansive career, Bruce has performed with such notables as Paul McCartney, Kenny Loggins, Jim Messina, Laura Branigan, The Standells, John Densmore, Gary Wright and Jeffrey Steele, to name a few. His latest album "Faith In Water" released in February 2016.

**[www.brucemichaelmiller.com](http://www.brucemichaelmiller.com)**



### **TISH HINOJOSA**

Tish Hinojosa is a singer-songwriter from Austin, Texas. With sixteen albums to her name, Hinojosa's blend of folk, country, Latino, and pop has an undeniable far reaching appeal, garnering her accolades such as a White House concert at the invitation of President and Mrs. Clinton and teaming up with artists such as Joan Baez, Booker T. Jones, Flaco Jimenez, Pete Seeger, and Dwight Yoakam. She has recorded as an independent artist as well as for A&M, Warner Bros, and Rounder Records and has been a featured artist on Austin City Limits, A Prairie Home Companion and other NPR programs.

**[www.mundotish.com](http://www.mundotish.com)**



### **MARTYN JOSEPH**

Martyn Joseph is a powerful singer and songwriter gifted with the rare ability to speak to the soul with his expressive and poignant lyrics. With a career spanning 30 years, 32 albums, over a half a million record sales and thousands of live performances, the versatility of his music touches genres of folk, rock, soul, folk funk and Americana. He is hailed as a raconteur, while weaving tales on topical concerns or stories on the fragility of love, with a magical ability to reach out to his listeners through his passion and humor.

**[www.martynjoseph.net](http://www.martynjoseph.net)**



### **CHRISTIE LENÉE**

Christie Lenée's unique guitar work is often compared to Michael Hedges meets Joni Mitchell and Dave Matthews, delivering profound instrumental compositions with heartfelt, consciously uplifting songs. Her pieces have been showcased at the NAMM Show in Anaheim and Nashville, live on National Television and Radio, and on stage with artists such as Tim Reynolds, Amy Ray from the Indigo Girls and Stanley Jordan. Christie's most recent album *LIVE AT THE HIDEAWAY CAFE* was a finalist for "Best Album of 2014" (Indie Acoustic Project Awards). She is, as *Skope Magazine* states, "a refreshing burst of unrestrained love and feeling... it's simply a joy to listen to her spirit break free."

[www.christielenee.com](http://www.christielenee.com)



### **BETTYSOO**

*The Austin American-Statesman* says Betty Soo has "exceptionally well-arranged songs, as easily equal in precision to, say, Patty Griffin or Alison Krauss... a confidence that speaks volumes," and KUT praises her "beautiful, heart-wrenching songs that are also edgy and unwavering." Her last album, *Heat Sin Water Skin*, received a great deal of radio airplay, including spins at influential Non-Comm/Triple A stations WFUV, KUT, WXPB, KGSR, KDRP and SiriusXM's The Loft. Produced together with Brian Standefer at his studio in Buda, Texas, her latest release, *WHEN WE'RE GONE*, is an intimate look into private spaces in life featuring Betty Soo's voice and the unmistakable texture of Brian's cello.

[www.bettysoo.com](http://www.bettysoo.com)



### **VICTOR & PENNY**

Celebrating a time when style mattered and class was king, Victor & Penny and their Loose Change Orchestra feature tight harmonies, impressive guitar work, vibrant horns and a fiery ukulele. This corset-tight quintet crafts clever original tunes and brings a modern voice to prohibition era jazz with charm and hot licks. Named, "Best Folk Ensemble 2015" by the *PITCH Magazine* and "Stand-out Concert of the Year" by *The Joplin Globe*, they are an "absolute rollicking blast."

[www.victorandpenny.com](http://www.victorandpenny.com)

## FRIDAY NIGHT 5.20



### **NO FUSS AND FEATHERS**

No Fuss and Feathers is the New-York-based “heck-of-a-good-time” collaboration hatched by The Mayas (Catherine Miles and Jay Mafale), Karyn Oliver, and Carolann Solebello. Onstage NFF is an award-winning, dynamic and cohesive cocktail of delicious harmonies, infectious rhythm, and spontaneous hilarity. Individually the four members are nationally-touring performers who have charted

at the top of Folk and Americana radio and appeared at some of the nation’s most respected festivals. Collectively they are an incorrigible bunch of musical co-conspirators bent on giving their audience an unforgettable show. Their debut CD, TRAVELING CIRCUS, released in January 2016.

[www.nofussandfeathers.com](http://www.nofussandfeathers.com)



### **LIPBONE REDDING**

Lawrence “Lipbone” Redding was raised in the swampy farmland of Eastern North Carolina and steeped in the musical tradition of beach, boogie and blues. In his early twenties Lipbone migrated to New York City with his guitar and became a subway musician. Lipbone is 2015 “Concerts In Your Home Artist of the Year,” has won an OBIE award for Best Artist Collaboration and is a recipient of Toronto’s Doris Maver-Moorer award. Lipbone writes original tunes, often comedic. He considers himself a ‘Voicestrumentalist’ as well as guitarist, storyteller, and a one-man orchestra who doesn’t need looping or EFX.

[www.lipbone.com](http://www.lipbone.com)



### **KIRSTEN MAXWELL**

A listen to Kirsten Maxwell’s voice and turn-of-phrase/lyrics will surely bring the voices of Joni Mitchell, Gordon Lightfoot, Judy Collins or Maria Muldaur to mind. A prolific songwriter, Kirsten was awarded first place in a contest sponsored by the Rhode Island Songwriters Association. She was selected for a coveted slot in the Suzi Wollenberg Folk DJ Showcase at the 2015 Northeast Regional Folk Alliance (NERFA) Conference. Kirsten was also named a winner of the 2016 South Florida Folk Festival Singer Songwriter Competition. Kirsten’s debut album, CRIMSON, is a compilation of eleven original songs on love and longing.

[www.kirstenmaxwell.com](http://www.kirstenmaxwell.com)



### **LYAL STRICKLAND**

Lyal Strickland is a singer, songwriter and grass-fed beef farmer in the Missouri Ozarks. The solitary nature of a farmer's chores allows for endless rumination and there's no shortage of inspiration in the delicate balance of legacy, pride, and struggle that defines his hometown of Buffalo, Missouri (population 3,000 or so at last count). Lyal's songs are gripping, cinematic dispatches from small-town America, stories in song where desperation is met with relentless determination. His next cd, *PRESERVATION*, will release August 1, 2016.

[www.lyalstrickland.com](http://www.lyalstrickland.com)



### **JON SHAIN & FJ VENTRE**

Guitarist Jon Shain and bassist FJ Ventre have been playing together, on-and-off, since they met in high school in Massachusetts 35 years ago, but their musical collaboration has really blossomed in North Carolina where they both have made their homes. They have recorded a long list of original folk-blues albums, been finalists at the International Blues Challenge, and have appeared alongside acts such as John Hiatt, Little Feat, and Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson. In addition to performing, and working

on their new co-writing project, they are also producing other artists at Good Luck Studios in Chapel Hill.

[www.jonshain.com](http://www.jonshain.com)



### **THE GATHER ROUNDERS**

Sharing a repertoire of unique originals and creative cover arrangements, TGRs are delighting ever-widening audiences, bringing seasoned musicianship, tasteful innovation, and passionate energy to the stage where ever they go. These Maine based musical veterans have collaborated with Darol Anger, David Wilcox, Tony Trischka, Peter Rowan, Bill Keith, Loudon Wainwright, John Gorka and Rushad Eggleston.

Comprised of the captivating soprano Caroline Cotter, genre-defying banjoist Ron Cody, sought-after fiddler and vocalist Eric Lee, legendary flatpicker Lincoln Meyers and Wendy Cody of the New England Bluegrass Band, its no wonder *The Bluegrass Throwdown* says "Great vocals, tight harmonies, solid Bluegrass rhythm, and scorching breaks!"

[www.thegatherrounders.com](http://www.thegatherrounders.com)



### **CLINT ALPHIN**

Since performing in the Telluride Troubadour Contest in 2013 and earning third place in the Chris Austin Songwriting Contest at Merlefest in 2014, Clint has also been assuming roles as a music teacher, an actor and a Harvard student. He has just released his third album, POSTMODERN MAN, and he was a finalist in the 2015 Kerrville New Folk and Telluride Troubadour competitions.

**[www.clintalphin.com](http://www.clintalphin.com)**



### **LETTERS TO ABIGAIL**

Letters To Abigail is an acoustic Americana band based in Western North Carolina fronted by songwriters, James Harrell and Kelli Redmond. Some folks describe their music as a simple southern pleasure. Digging down into the roots of the region, they blend a classic approach to a new original sound. Letters To Abigail will draw you in with powerful lyrics and soulful melodies and their silky harmonies will leave you wanting more.

**[www.letterstoabigail.net](http://www.letterstoabigail.net)**



### **REBECCA LOEBE**

Ten years ago Rebecca Loebe quit her job as a recording studio engineer to pursue a career as a full-time touring songwriter. Since then she has performed an average of 150 shows per year in 42 states of the US and a dozen countries (and counting!). Along the way, she has won prestigious songwriting awards including the Kerrville New Folk Award, represented the folk music community as a contestant on the first season of NBC's "The Voice" and given creativity and performance workshops in the US, Europe and Japan. She is currently working on her fourth full-length studio album.

**[www.rebeccaloebe.com](http://www.rebeccaloebe.com)**

## SATURDAY 5.21



### MARK MANDEVILLE AND RAIANNE RICHARDS

Mark Mandeville and Rianne Richards are clearly inheritors of a timeless legacy, creating music that is both original and evocative of a rich tradition. Blending distinctive voices and a wide range of accompaniment (guitar, harmonica, ukulele, clarinet, pennywhistle, electric bass), their songs have been well received by audiences around the Eastern United States since 2010. Transcending the genre of folk Americana, their music echoes inspiration from traditional folk duos and singer/songwriters like Ian & Sylvia, Kate Wolf and Neil Young - combining beautiful harmonies and a lyrical intensity, while establishing a unique sound of their own.

[markmandeville.com](http://markmandeville.com)



### DAVID ROTH

David Roth's many years of full-time music-making have yielded 13 CDs and songs that have found their way to Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, several *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, Kerrville and Falcon Ridge, the Kennedy Center, NASA's Space Shuttle "Atlantis", Peter, Paul & Mary and Kingston Trio CDs, the *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again* songbooks; as well as in concert halls, coffeehouses, conferences, festivals, camps and special occasions of all kinds. The Chicago native is also creator/host of the Full Moon Open Mic on Cape

Cod and Director of the Cape Cod Songwriters Retreat.

[www.davidrothmusic.com](http://www.davidrothmusic.com)



### GENE AND GAYLA MILLS

Gene and Gayla Mills, based in central Virginia, play new roots music, folk tinged with bluegrass, country and more. With "some of the best organic music you could hope to come across" **Chris Spector, Midwest Record**, the duo features impressive lead guitar, solid bass fiddle, smooth harmonies, and Gene's award-winning songs. Their 2011 album, *IF STONES COULD TALK*, reached #5 on the Roots

Music Report Folk Chart, and their 2015 album, *WALK ON SOLID GROUND*, reached #10 on the Folk DJ Chart. They've played at local and regional festivals, listening rooms, house concerts, and everything in between.

[www.newrootsmusic.com](http://www.newrootsmusic.com)



### **IAN FOSTER**

Ian Foster is an East Coast Canadian songwriter who has toured in Canada, the U.S. and Europe since 2007. A multiple East Coast Music Association (ECMA) and MusicNL award nominee, he has released six albums since 2006 and has had his music played on radio internationally. A finalist for The International Songwriting Competition (ISC), Ian has co-written with various artists, including the legendary Canadian folk artist Ron Hynes. Ian's story and character-driven lyrics, mixed with a modern musical sensibility, have been described as "a great example of what a 21st century folk performer should be doing" **CBC Radio**  
[www.ianfoster.ca](http://www.ianfoster.ca)



### **BOB SINCLAIR AND THE BIG DEALS**

Bob Sinclair and the Big Deals are a fresh new voice in the age of "already been done" sounds. With Tim Gallagher on mandolin and Molly Barrett on fiddle, this talented group merges instrumental prowess, Southern storytelling, chamber music sensibilities, spot-on harmonies, and jazz-influenced spontaneity to create an elegant and engaging musical style. Sinclair has twice won the NC Regional Artist Grant for songwriting and has diverse performance experience that extends from multiple appearances at Merlefest, to playing the famed Bluebird Café to jazz festivals. In the hands of this trio, Sinclair's original parlor-style swing-tunes come alive.  
[www.bobsinclairmusic.com](http://www.bobsinclairmusic.com)



### **LOWELL LEVINGER - Banana from the Youngbloods**

Banana performs a range of material from Americana to bluegrass, country blues to old R&B. With his signature Italian 5-string tenor guitar, Banana defines his unique style and performances with his rough-hewn vocals while peppering performances with tales from his over 50 years on the road. While his songs may move an audience to tears Banana mostly leaves them smiling! His current release, GET TOGETHER - BANANA RECALLS YOUNGBLOOD CLASSICS, reached #2 on the Folk DJ Charts. **Paul Liberatore** from the *Marin Independent Journal* says, "He sings in a sturdy baritone that is colored by decades of hard-earned experience and the talent and soul he was fortunate to be born with."  
[www.lowelllevinger.com](http://www.lowelllevinger.com)





### **DAVE CURLEY**

Dave Curley, a multi-instrumentalist, singer and dancer from Co. Galway, Ireland has made big waves in the Celtic scene in the last number of years. A graduate of the Irish Music program in Limerick, Dave became a creative member of award-winning bands Slide and Runa. He performs with Grammy winner Moya Brennan of Clannad and 'Brock-McGuire Band'. Dave has also recorded with producer Donal Lunny and Grammy winners Ron Block, Jeff Taylor

and Buddy Greene. A BRAND NEW DAY marks a new sound, showcasing his vocals and compositions, which has a contemporary sensibility whilst rooted in tradition.

[www.slide-ireland.com](http://www.slide-ireland.com)



### **MARI BLACK WORLD FIDDLE ENSEMBLE**

Multi-style violinist and champion fiddler Mari Black's energetic playing, engaging stage presence, and commitment to bringing people together through music have made her a favorite with audiences across the country and around the world. A master of diverse musical styles, Mari is two-time U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, two-time Maritime Fiddle Champion, Glenfiddich Champion of Scotland, Canadian Novelty Fiddle Champion, and First Prize winner at the American Protege International competition. Her shows take listeners on a journey celebrating tradition, exploring possibility in the dance-based musics of Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Argentina, eastern Europe, and the Americas.

[www.mariblack.com](http://www.mariblack.com)