

December 2023 Newsletter
Musical Heritage Center, aka... The Fiddle & Pick!

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

Yikes! I am a wee bit late getting our Dec Newsletter to you fine folks. I'm sure you are all very busy too! My favorite part of this season is coming! Our 16th annual Students Christmas Holiday Concert be on Sunday Dec 17 at 3:30 (Note: Concert time is 1/2 hr earlier than usual because it gets dark so early and students should be ready for the rehearsal at 1:30 sharp).(Flyer attached) Students of all ages and levels will get you in the spirit with their music. Anyone can come. It is Free and at our friends, Candy & Darrel's Barn. Banjos, fiddles, guitars, Base and other!

Its large and heated, no stairs, plenty of parking and everyone will be in a god mood! Join the fun and dress in Holiday colors. It's a casual and family friendly atmosphere. **The potluck will be tremendous (as always, bring a little thing to share) and the fellowship at the potluck just after a show is always its own reward!**

I think we all feel the time is going into the "Christmas Vacuum" with many work deadlines, planning time with family and friends. Our beloved annual Old-Time Music Weekend is just after the Holidays! Eighth of Jan Old-Time Music Weekend! It's right around the corner! Folks are emailing, texting and asking me many questions about EOJ! Cool, that's a good sign that folks are coming to the Jan 5 & 6 "walk in" event! Heads up! No pre-registration. It is a free event, (classes are affordable and first come first served) Lots of Jams and more.

PLEASE, READ the promo materials attached with this newsletter.

Thank you in advance! See the Instructors & Classes offered. See the EOJ stellar two-day schedule! Likely all your questions will be answered in the Orientation page 1 and tips on this Event's Jamming etiquette page 2! **I need to have a couple days off during the holidays.**

I thankfully have **two EOJ Door Shepherdesses! Shannon and Elizabeth** to greet you at check-in. I am still needing a volunteer to be the "Shuttle Shepherd"; that will simply give folks (and their instruments) a ride in my van in case that do not want to walk across the street or around the corner to get to Pegram Station, or Church. It's a fun job for that special volunteer person! **I hope that all of our friends that are Old-Time Music enthusiasts can attend; I'll See you on the "Funway"!**

November Reflections; I had the honor of playing in a Civil War music production at the Historic Methodist Church in downtown Franklin on the 159th anniversary of the "Battle of Franklin". The "Soldier's Song" performed and written by Wood Newton and Daniel Johnson along with cast members, Odessa Settles, Gretchen Priest and Tim May. The show requires us to be multi character actors, singers, and musicians. It was special there in the natural acoustics of the church. As the program by its historical nature was bitter and sweet; so the show also was in it being dedicated in honor of Jim Sayles who had passed recently. Jim had been part of the cast since its inception. He will be missed by many, Tim May stepped up to be Jim's sub. Big Thanks to the cast and the folks that attended.

Reflections continued...

Our last Marrowbone Creek Brewery Fiddle & Picks 3rd Friday performance featured the group BLUFFGRASS. Dante, Keira, Keller with Gretchen. A lovely evening that was well attended. It was Fun but very sad it was the last time we play the series as the business has now closed its doors. Thanks and appreciation goes out to Chris at MCB for working with Fiddle & Pick to promote our area businesses that face so many challenges.

We Would like to shout out congrats to our Instructor Erinn Peet Lukes and her band, Thunder & Rain who played a stellar show on Dec 6 at the City Winery. Big gig, and a big deal! Bluegrass and rockin' out & Pickin'! Loved their vox harmony and the great energy displayed, Also opening solo act Ashliegh Caudill was amazing! Fun night!

Announcements

**~16th Student Christmas Holiday Concert Sun Dec 17 (1:30 rehearsal) 3:30 show
Potluck Reception "bring an item to share."**

**~ Dec 23 Saturday 7pm The SPONTANEOUS MOUNTAIN BOYZ
Christmas spectacle; Kingston Springs United Methodist Church 7pm
EG Smith, Alan O'Bryant, Casey Campbell, G.R. Davis, Ian O'Bryant and Special
Guests, Tim May & Gretchen Priest-May, Lynzie Soloman Gillespie playing
Oldtime Bluegrass, original songs, and your fav Christmas tunes the Bluegrass way.
All Ages show is FREE (we'll pass the plate though)
~Not to be confusing but the next night at the SAME CHURCH there is a Bluegrass
Christmas Eve Service 11:00 pm (folks arrive 10:45ish , GR Davis, Alan O, Casey C,
Gret & Tim and others too. Ringing in Christmas at midnight!**

**~ Eighth of Jan Old-Time Weekend Jan 5 & 6 SEE detailed two day schedule!
~ Kids Jam 1st & 3rd Mon 6:15-7:30 Next meet in new year Jan 15 & 29
~ Erinn & Gretchen Bluegrass Jamming Class 2nd & 4th Mon 7:15-9:15
Meeting next Jan 8 & 22
~ Old-time Jam 1st & 3rd Tues 7:15-9:15 Meet in new year Jan 2 & 16
~ Irish! Gretchen hosts mid-tempo sessions 2nd and 4th Tues 7:15-9:15 (Jan 9&23)
~ Paul Abrams hosts Jazz Class series on Tues evenings**

Thurs night fiddle & Pick "picks" at the Fillin' Station in Kingston Springs

Dec 14 BLUFFGRASS (Dante, Keller, Keira) and Gretchen

Dec 21 Gretchen with special feature, Erinn Peet-Lukes !

Filling Station

~annual Fiddle & Pick fundraiser Chili Cookoff & Silent Auction Feb 25

Our entertainment is our peeps! Old- time, Irish, Kids Jam , Bluegrass

Other important Announcements:

Mark your Calendar! **SUNDAY Feb 25** We hope you all can save the date and attend our Annual Chili Cook-Off Contest and Silent Auction. It is the single fundraiser of the year to keep the Center afloat in the toughest part of the year.

~NEEDS: (Text 615-812-2192 if you want to volunteer)

~ CHILI ENTRIES! Prizes !!! fill out entry form and show up!

~Silent Auction Items (Drop off dates Mon & Tues Feb 5 & 6. 12 & 13

Call if dropping off Large items (deliver to Pegram station day before Sat Feb 24)

~We need a couple front lines people at the Door at Pegram Station.

~Help in making bid sheets/ Help in getting items to PCC the day before.

~ Help in closing out/pay out of bid winners.

~ Help to Bring items back across the street.

~ Help with clean up.

Classes and Jam schedules Are listed on the Fiddleandpick.com website.

The Jams & classes are posted on our website fiddleandpick.com ~Our jams are free and open to the public. Donations accepted and appreciated. Spectators are very welcome! Jam schedules on the website “Winter to Spring” series.

~We continue to offer year-round private lessons online and in person. We meet you where you are musically! Any age, style, very experienced or *no experience needed!* We have many instructors with different areas of expertise. IF you need to get out of a rut, we can boost your musical skills.

~ If you are interested in lessons, please Text Gretchen 615-812-2192 to inquire. We can chat about the style of music that inspired you to pursue playing an instrument, what might be your goals, and we can find the best fit for what instructor most suits your needs.

important calendar Sneak Peeks : **SAVE THE DATES!**

Student Christmas Holiday Concert is Sunday Dec 17 3:30 (rehearsal 1:30)

Jan 5 & 6 EOJ Old-time Music Weekend (see the details attached)

First weekend Feb Tune Junkie Irish weekend in Oakridge TN

Annual Fiddle & Pick Fundraiser Chili Cook-Off/Silent Auction FEB 25

First weekend in March Breakin’ Up Winter Old-time retreat Cedars of Lebanon

April GreenLeaf Festival Oldtime & Bluegrass Weekend Oklahoma

Closing I would like to say THANK YOU to all our clientele for another great year of supporting the vision of Musical Heritage Center at the Fiddle & Pick all these years (we started our 16th year on April 4!); and thanks to the new folks who have found their way to us, building our musical community. You are the heartbeat! Our musical family keeps growing! We treasure the LOVE & Fellowship of FRIENDS & MUSIC (Gods Gifts).

Musically Yours,

Miss Gretchen

See You on the Fun Way!