

PEOPLE'S MUSIC NETWORK

*Songs of Freedom
& Struggle*

36th Annual

PMN Winter Gathering Concert

Friday, January 29, 2016 – 7:30 pm

Hackett Middle School 45 Delaware Ave., Albany, NY

Performers:

JOE JENCKS

KAY OLAN

TAINA ASILI

RUTH PELHAM

THE PEACE POETS

BEN GROSSCUP

Hosts:

Charlie King & Sonny Ochs



THE 8TH STEP

This concert is jointly sponsored by People's Music Network, working through music toward a better world for all; and The 8th Step, America's oldest, continuously running, nonprofit coffeehouse and concert stage.





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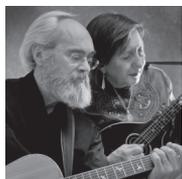
www.8thstep.org

Box Office 518-346-6204 (service charges)

Eighth Step Ticket & Info: 518-434-1703 (\$1 per ticket)

Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany (no services charges)

COMING UP



Sat., Mar. 5

Suede

Sun., Mar. 13

Kate Campbell—CD Release: *The K.O.A. Tapes*

Special guest: John Kirk

Sat., Apr. 2

Magpie—*Songs of the Earth*—Tribute to Rachel Carson

Sat., Apr. 16

Roy Zimmerman—*This Machine* Tour

Sat., Apr. 30

Tret Fure—CD Release: *Rembrandt Afternoons*

Fri., May 6

Aztec Two-Step—45th Anniversary Tour

Fri., May 13

John Gorka & Cheryl Wheeler

Sat., May 21

David Jacobs-Strain

Thu., June 30

Tom Russell—CD Release: *The Rose of Roscrea*

Mon., Aug. 15

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Welcome

Welcome to the Friday Night Concert of the 36th Annual Winter Gathering of People's Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle! Tonight's program represents a small part of the musicians and performers in our community.

For decades PMN/SFS has been developing a supportive network of artists and activists who are using music to call out injustice, support the liberation struggles of the oppressed, and expand our capacity to envision freedom. We gather with the awareness that music is a potent tool for social change. We come together with one another because we are nourished by sharing and hearing this music, because we become stronger by supporting one another, and because we share a commitment to produce culture that supports a more just, humane, and ecological way of life on Earth.

We hold two weekend gatherings each year. Our next one is at Camp Kinderland in Tolland, MA, June 3-5, 2016 (see the back cover for details). Keep posted at www.peoplesmusic.org for more information.

If you feel inspired by what you've seen tonight and would like to register for this weekend's gathering, you may speak with the people at the registration table in the lobby during the intermission or after the show.

Putting on this show tonight has been a collective effort. Thank you to:

- Margie Rosenkranz (Director of The Eighth Step) for producing this concert, booking the performers, and publicizing the show regionally.
- Blue Wilder Carreker and Cathy Winter, for selling ads for the program book.
- Ed Brown, sound engineer for The Eighth Step, for providing sound for tonight's performance.
- The whole volunteer crew from The Eighth Step, for helping with tickets, dessert, and sound.
- Members of the local organizing committee—Terri Roben, Melanie Pores, Mia Morosoff, Sonny Ochs, Ruth Pelham, Barbara Brundage, Blue Wilder Carreker, and Chrys Ballerano who helped with site visits, publicity, housing, organizing volunteers, and putting on this whole weekend, which this concert begins.
- The staff at Hackett Middle School who helped make this gathering possible: John Jeffers, Nancy Viggiani.
- Cathleen Berry, [Facebook.com/GrindstonePressAndGraphics](https://www.facebook.com/GrindstonePressAndGraphics), for program book layout.
- Tonight's performers for bringing their talent and energy to PMN.

Yours in Song and Solidarity,
Ben Grosscup

People's Music Network, Executive Director

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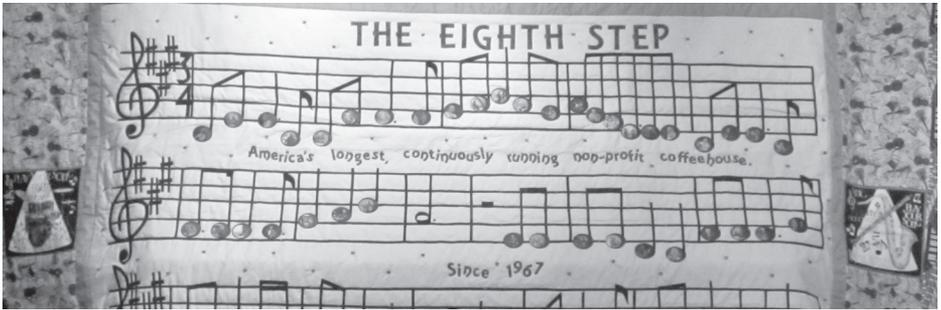
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The Eighth Step/8th Step at Proctors

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Founded along Albany's Washington Park, The Eighth Step marks its 48th season in 2015-16, its ninth in residence at Proctors, Schenectady.

For almost five decades "The Step" has brought to Upstate New York, Western Massachusetts, the Hudson Valley and lower Vermont—and often way beyond—a steady stream of incredible acoustic music: folk, blues, jazz, bluegrass, Celtic & world music, theater and dance. Its four-decade performer roster comprises a folk "Who's Who" that includes Pete Seeger, Richie Havens, Buffy Sainte-Marie, The Wailin' Jennys, Janis Ian, Tom Paxton, banjo wizard Tony Trischka, Odetta, Ani DiFranco, Arlo Guthrie, David Grier, Bucky & John Pizzarelli, Holly Near, Dave Van Ronk, Gordon Bok, Ronnie Gilbert, Tom Rush, Patty Larkin and hundreds other performers of international, national and regional repute.

"The Step" began as a youth outreach project supported by FOCUS churches, a coalition of four historic Albany congregations clustered on and around Lark Street—Albany's Center Square area—not far above the NYS Capital. It rapidly became a haven for restless youth during the era of Vietnam and the Civil Rights struggle.

As to the name, some say it reflects the number of steps to the original entrance. Others insist it came from a metaphysical theory popular in the counterculture at that time: the eighth step bridges the gap from this life to the enlightened hereafter—one foot in each world.

Of the thousands of coffeehouses flourishing during the outspoken 1960s, almost all are gone, but The Eighth Step still thrives; join us in Fall 2017 to celebrate our 50th year!

36th Annual

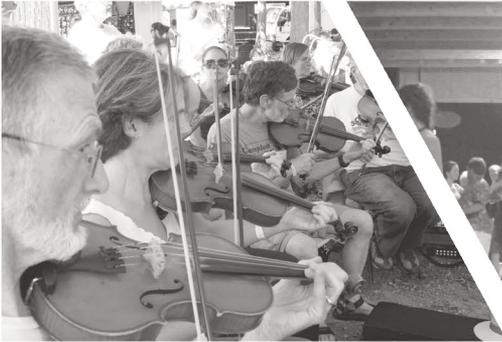
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Andy Cohen, Jay Mankita, and more!

oldsongs.org

The Performers



Joe Jencks

Joe Jencks is an international touring performer, songwriter, entertainer and educator, based in Chicago, IL. His songs have traveled to every continent via his own performances, radio, CDs, web casts, and other musicians. He is noted for his unique merging of musical beauty, social consciousness, and spiritual exploration. He is the 2016 PMN Artist in Residence.

www.joejencks.com

Letter from Joe Jencks, Artist in Residence

Many of my most cherished musical and activist friends have been connected to PMN past or present. The diaspora of PMN are a noteworthy lot that have had a significant impact on my life, art, music, political views, and on my heart!

An itinerant musician needs community as much as anyone. But we often have a hard time finding it because we are always on the move. PMN gave me a foundation and a connection to activist music and musicians that was life giving. I can trace so many threads in my life to PMN including a connection to the Great Labor Arts Exchange, and more engagement with my union: AFM Local 1000. Through PMN I got to know many people who have become genuine friends and mentors, including Charlie King and Karen Brandow, Pat Humphries, Sandy Opatow, Colleen Kattau, Jon Fromer, Faith Petric, Pete Seeger, and so many more.

It was with great joy that I received the offer to be PMN's 2016 Artist-in-Residence. And, I was honored to say Yes! I am delighted at the chance to give back to a community that helped set me on a good path, and inspired me personally, musically and professionally. I have been on the road full-time now for nearly 17 years performing throughout the US, Canada, Ireland and the Caribbean. Everywhere I go I think about how music is a birthright, the way we celebrate, mourn, educate, protest, contemplate and pray. Singing is how we connect to our souls. So sharing those songs with each other is a healing, uplifting, and necessary part of life.

I look forward to helping PMN keep evolving, reaching out to new artists, welcoming old friends back home and keeping the music of the people alive and well. Ironically, even though one of the prime goals of PMN is to foster and celebrate music of social consciousness, at PMN I learned that there is nothing more healing than beauty. A song need not be overtly political to be revolutionary. Any song that connects us to our humanity—helps us see each other as more fully human—is revolutionary. And as we break down the barriers to connection and community, we take one step closer to a world reborn. Bread and roses, bread AND roses!

Joe Jencks

PMN Artist-in-Residence, 2016

continues

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The Performers, continued

Taina Asili

Taina Asili is a Puerto Rican singer, songwriter and bandleader combining powerful vocals with an energetic fusion of Afro-Latin, reggae and rock. Her music offers a sound that spans continents, exuding strength of Spirit, inspiring audiences to dance to the rhythm of rebellion.

www.tainaaasili.com



The Peace Poets



The Peace Poets are a collective of artists that celebrate, examine and advocate for life through music and poetry. Their art can take you on a journey from the Boogie Down to Berlin, from the border to the bodega. Their style emphasizes lyricism, rhythm and authenticity. They hail from the Bronx and have been rocking the mic since 2005.

www.thepeacepoets.com

Kay Olan (“Ionataiewas”)



Kay Olan (“Ionataiewas”), Mohawk educator and storyteller, has spoken for over 25 years about the Haudenosaunee (Mohawk). She is former director of the Mohawk community near Canajoharie called Kanatsiohareke where Mohawk elder Tom Porter leads a resurgence of linguistic, cultural and spiritual revitalization. In 2009 Kay was awarded the *Jigonsaseh Women of Peace Award* for her continued efforts to promote harmony and understanding through education of Haudenosaunee culture, values, language and tradition.

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Joe Jencks



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The Performers, continued

Singer-songwriter-activist Ruth Pelham brings through music a fresh vision of world peace and social change whether in concert, at local parks and nursing homes or through an international arts exchange. Director of Albany's legendary MusicMobile her award-winning music has enriched the Capital Region and well beyond, for decades. A co-founder & Board member of Children's Music Network, she received its *Magic Penny* award, while NOW recognized her work for women.

www.musicmobile.org

Ruth Pelham

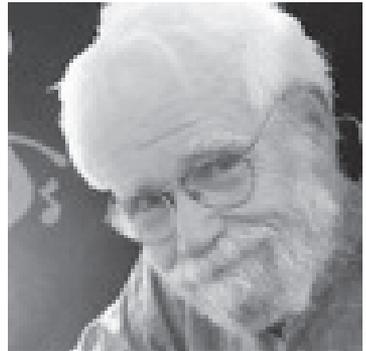


Ben Grosscup

Ben Grosscup performs songs of struggle and social critique in the tradition of Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, and Phil Ochs. His songs make no apology for their biting critique of current events. Based in Greenfield, MA, Ben is the executive director of People's Music Network, and has been a PMN member since 2005.

Charlie King

Charlie King is a musical storyteller and dead-on political satirist who sings and writes passionately about the extraordinary lives of ordinary people. Shaped by '60s folk music, including the protest songs of the Civil Rights and Vietnam War era, he has been at the heart of American folk music for half a century. In 1977 he founded PMN with Pete Seeger and others.



Concert Hosts

Charlie King, political satirist and PMN co-founder (who will also perform) and Sonny Ochs, radio host

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PMN Summer Gathering



June 3-5, 2016

Camp Kinderland

1543 Colebrook River Road • Tolland, MA

The 40th annual Summer Gathering of People's Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle takes place at a new location in 2016! Camp Kinderland has a rich history of bringing together artists using music for progressive social change. Its beautiful facility includes a swimming lake and the "Paul Robeson Theatre" – the site of the Friday Night Concert and the Saturday Night Round Robin.

The format is similar to the Winter Gathering, but the camp offers sleeping options including tent camping, cabins with bunks, or private and semi-private rooms. Kinderland is one hour from Hartford; and a half hour from Winstead, CT.



Joe Jencks will complete his service as the 2016 PMN Artist in Residence (AIR) during the June Gathering. Si Kahn – the 2012 PMN AIR – has also agreed to attend. Enjoy another wonderful weekend in the country with these and many other dynamic artists.

PROPOSE WORKSHOPS!

Do you have an idea for how to make music for social change?

Get in touch with Ben Grosscup to propose your idea:

ben.grosscup@peoplesmusic.org

Join the PMN E-List for more details: www.peoplesmusic.org