

NJ FRIENDS OF CLEARWATER CIRCLE OF SONG

Monmouth County, NJ, for 37 Years.

Please join our **Annual Festival**

Saturday, August 11, 2012, from 11AM-7PM
Sunset Park (Main and Sunset) in Asbury Park

We also have a monthly **Circle of Song** at the
Turnstile Coffee Bar, 1607 Highway 71, Belmar, NJ 07710, 732-894-9012
(every third Thursday from 6:30-8:30 pm).

There will always be **opportunities for audience members to take a turn or two to play – or to sing along** – please bring your instrument. But if you wish, just come and listen.

We encourage songs about the environment and sing-along songs, but you can do others. At the Festival, please ask for our **Circle of Song Stage**.



Our Leader-Performers at the Festival will be (alphabetically): Sheli Aarden-Monacchio, Tommy and Abby Anton, Arlon Bennett, Circle Round the Sun, Jim Crawford, Jan Christensen, Carl Croce, Tony DeSantis, Spook Handy, Ingrid Heldt, Jerzy Jung, Helga Kaefer, Sharleen Leahey, Mara Levine, Joe Petraitis, Isis Ra, Eric Russell and Hillary Zaenchik.

Sheli Aarden-Monacchio's has graced the New Jersey coffee house circuit since 2004. The resident of Robbinsville, NJ, has been burning the candle at more than two ends with the April 2011 release of her CD "Kansas," followed six months later by a collaboration with her husband, Keith Monacchio, aptly titled The Monacchios – "Wedding Album". She has received several Asbury Music and JAM (Jersey Acoustic Musician) awards and nominations, including an award for Best Folk Act for the Monacchios project. There may be "a storm approaching," but Sheli's Kansas sounds like the work of a woman who is writing with the clarity of the sky and a future that is brimming with possibility.



Tommy and Abby Anton empower audiences with their unique style of mystical folk-pop. Tommy's solo CD has enjoyed nation-wide airplay, and the duo's live performances, with Abby on keyboards and backing vocals, are captivating. At home, on the Jersey Shore, the Antons are well known for their raw food lifestyle. They are often seen in the area with their bicycle trailer rigs, musical instruments in tow. After their recent tour of the Southwest, their new CD is due out next year. Please check www.TommyAnton.com for more info.

Arlon Bennett has been accumulating songwriting awards throughout North America and has opened for such acts as Glenn Tilbrook (Squeeze), Jill Sobule, Michael Smith and Lesley Gore. He has also sung with Livingston Taylor and was selected twice by Noel "Paul" Stookey to perform in his Music2Life showcase featuring America's best songs of social consciousness. A 2011 Kerrville New Folk finalist, Arlon has released three CDs on Red Sea Records and can be found on the Web at www.arlonbennett.com.



Circle Round the Sun is the folk/acoustic group of Marie Trontell and Jay Wilensky. Jay's warm baritone and Marie's rich alto let the group perform an eclectic mix of great acoustic songs with a special emphasis on duets and sensuous harmonies. They do both original tunes and covers. Their influences include great singer-songwriters like Dave Carter, Michael Smith, Cheryl Wheeler, and Tom Rush. They can be contacted at www.sonicbids.com/Circleroundthesun.

Jim Crawford, born in Glasgow, Scotland, is a singer-songwriter whose muse awoke, after a long hibernation, in 2007, with the song "Team of My Father" and the CD of the same name. This led to playing at many venues and to a nomination for best CD and Song at the 2011 JAM awards. Some of Jim's songs are about quirky characters he has known, but much of his recent work leans to commentary reflecting on his concerns about the social and economic well-being of our country. He can be reached at jascwfrd@gmail.com.



Jan Christensen is a long-time member of Clearwater and a special friend of NJ Friends of Clearwater, performing here at the Festival for over twenty years. He is a member of The New York Packet, the official maritime music group at South Street Seaport. He also contributes his rich, deep voice as a mainstay of the Sloop Singer volunteer corps and he is an original member of the Clearwater Sloop Singers. This will be his 30th appearance at the NJ Friends of Clearwater Festival.



Carl Croce (guitar) is a singer-songwriter who has performed as a regular on WDVR's Heartlands Hayride live radio program, the Folk Project's Minstrel Concert series, as well with SIAMS and at many other NJ and NY venues. Carl can be reached at cmcroce@msn.com.



Tony DeSantis is a songwriting performer who, befitting his influences, sounds like John Gorka, writes like a whimsical Stan Rogers and displays solid guitar work reminiscent of Ralph McTell. He admits that his major interests in songwriting are trains, resurrection and Canada. Tell him about some strange place or obscure event, and it may end up in one of his songs. He brings an encyclopedic knowledge to his songs, which are warm and whimsical, with an insightful eye. He can be reached at tonydesantis@verizon.net.



Spook Handy has been called "a real troubadour in the style of Pete Seeger and Phil Ochs" whose songs "embody the same intellectual rattle and simple honesty." The spirit of American folk music, its passion and sense of purpose ring loud and clear in his performance. His songs have been used in theater and film, have been covered by the likes of Pete Seeger and have charted as high as #10 on the Folk Radio charts. He can be found on the Web at www.lspookhandy.com.



Ingrid Heldt began performing long before she could read. Her father, a sound engineer, took her along to sporting, political and social events, where she would usually end up in front of the microphone, singing. She wrote her first song in Bob Gibson's first songwriting workshop. Since then, she has written and translated several hundred songs for herself and other singers. She has also written commercials for companies including Volkswagen. Her passions are Peace and the Environment, and her voice has been described as "somewhere between Joan Baez, Judy Collins and Enya." Her Website is www.ingridmusic.com.



Jerzy Jung is a singer/songwriter/pianist, raised in Haddon Township, NJ. (Yes, Jerzy is actually her name!) She writes about a variety of topics, including body image, love, addiction, and self esteem. Her music has been used on the MTV shows "True Life," "Gone Too Far," and "Teen Mom 2." In the Fall of 2011, her song "Black Dress, White Dress" was a finalist in the Pop Song category of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest. She can be found on the Web at www.facebook.com/JerzyJungMusic.

Helga Kaefer People who have heard Helga perform know that there's so much more to her than just singing catchy pop and inspirational songs. She moves you. She shoots right from her heart, causing you to look deep inside your own. Born and raised in northern New Jersey, Helga has been singing and writing songs since she was twelve years old and hasn't stopped since. Her pop tune "I Want to Live" was recorded by National High School Teen Idol champion, Catalina Gaglioti. Helga also had the opportunity to teach songwriting to the teens at the 2011 NHS Teen Idol event and to sit on the judges' panel for the competition. In November 2011, she released her highly anticipated debut CD, *Look Back*, featuring both old and new songs, all of them written or co-written by her.



Sharleen Leahey has been writing and performing topical folk music for the past 30 years. From 1993 to 1999 she was the founding editor of *Songs for Peace Magazine*, publishing over 100 songs advocating peace, human rights and ecological responsibility. Sharleen was strongly influenced by the great topical songwriters of the 1960s, including Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs and Buffy Sainte-Marie. Her CD "So Frail" challenges us to question our leaders and ourselves on the issues of war and peace. She can be reached at songs4peace@earthlink.net.

Mara Levine is a folk vocalist known for her "crystal clear voice, subtle vibrato, and skillful way with a melody line" and for her original interpretations and arrangements of folk songs from traditional to contemporary. Mara had two songs reach #1 on the US/International Folk Chart: a beautiful version of Bob Franke's Straw Against the Chill with Joe Jencks and her arrangement of Paul Simon's Leaves That Are Green with Gathering Time. Her first CD "Mara's Gems" was well received, and she is currently recording her second, which will include collaborations with Si Kahn, Gathering Time, Joe Jencks and Caroline Cutroneo. She has opened for Oscar Brand and Christine Lavin and shared the stage with Si Kahn and Bill Staines, and her vocals can be heard on recordings by Spook Handy, Terry Rivel and Jim Indell. Mara also designs and sells beautiful jewelry.



Joe Petraitis (guitar & accordion/ keyboard) is a songwriter who has performed on Princeton NJ's Cafe Improv, televised on cable. Joe has played at Pete Seeger's Beacon Festivals. He teaches children how to write songs and has co-written songs with them. Joe's associations include the Nashville Songwriters Association, the Folk Project, and the Philadelphia Alliance of Songwriters Assoc. (PASA). He can be reached at misterp946@aol.com.

Isis Ra spends most of her time teaching drumming and sewing to inner-city children and grownups in Asbury Park and Neptune, New Jersey. For more than 40 years, she has performed as a drummer for many family events and benefit concerts in the Monmouth County area, including Asbury Park Safe Nights. She has also performed in many commercial venues such as the Jazz Festival in Red Bank, the Oceans of Rhythm Festival in Long Branch, the Afro-American Festival and the Westside Community Center in Asbury Park. She never misses feeding the homeless on holidays with Locals Feeding Locals, an event that is financed and organized by Giamano's Restaurant in Bradley Beach, New Jersey.



Eric Russell has been committing public performance since he was named a Hudson River Sloop Singer in 1973. In addition to playing the concertina and writing his own material, he is a well known chantey singer and co-author of Songs of South Street—Street of Ships. He has also written a tall tales column, Tales from the Liars' Bench for the magazine Messing About in Boats. He is known for telling tales at venues all through the region.

Lorraine Stone, also known as "The Wisdomkeeper," is a Monmouth County legend – a fine dramatic actress, poet, and dancer who is dedicated to bringing America's strong African-American women to life with unforgettable one-woman performances in places such as schools, churches, etc. Her lyrical dramatic performances range from the poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar, James Weldon Johnson and Langston Hughes to intimate portrayals of heroic African-American women, including Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Mary Bowser. Lorraine is a dancer with M'Zume Carnaval, a percussion ensemble presenting rhythms from Brazil, Africa and Cuba. She has also been featured in many productions of the Dunbar Repertory Company, including her role as Bessie Delany in "Having Our Say; the Delany Sisters' First 100 Years." She will perform with her frequent collaborator, Isis Ra.



Hillary Zaenchik has been singing with the Chantey Singers of South Street in New York for the last four years. She has performed at the Beacon Sloop Club, the Newburgh Swim across the Hudson and at the Monmouth County Clearwater Festival. She has also been a regular performer at Clearwater 's Great Hudson River Revival in New York.

Please don't forget to check out our Vendors and our other stages.

Any possible changes to planned events will be listed under www.MCClearwater.org / **Links / Circle of Song.**