

2018 ROOTS RAMBLE FEATURED ARTISTS



CHARLIE GRACIE – THE LEGENDARY ROCK & ROLL PIONEER

Returning for his 16th straight Ramble appearance!

@ Azie (10-1)

The singer/guitarist/entertainer/Delco resident makes yet another appearance at tonight's Ramble. South Philly native Gracie became the first recording star of the "Rock Era" to emerge from his neighborhood. In 1957 his "Butterfly" topped the American and British charts by selling more than three million copies. Other late-50's hits like "99 Ways" and "Wanderin' Eyes" bankrolled Philly's famous Cameo-Parkway record label. At the height of his fame, Gracie appeared

on *American Bandstand*, *The Ed Sullivan Show* and *Allen Freed's TV Specials*. He was the second American artist – preceded only by Delco's Bill Haley and The Comets – to bring Rock & Roll to English concert stages. In an incredible career spanning more than 60 years, Gracie performs annually to huge audiences in England and elsewhere in Europe. The late Beatle George Harrison described Gracie's guitar work as "brilliant," and Paul McCartney recorded Gracie's "Fabulous" when he returned to the Cavern Club to record a 1999 CD. Gracie opened all of Van Morrison's West coast shows in 2000. He was voted into *Great Britain's Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame* in 1998. In 2011, ABKCO released Gracie's CD *For the Love of Charlie* produced by Al Kooper, with guest artists Graham Nash, Peter Noone, and Jimmy Vivino.

www.charliegracie.com

LEROY HAWKES & THE HIPNOTICS

@ Shere-E-Punjab (10:15-11:30) (12-1:15)

with: **Jimmy Fica** (drums), **Patrick Bickel** (bass), **John Bickel** (organ/keys, vocals), **Dr. Seth Ivins** (guitar, vocals), **Pete Mayfourth** (sax), **Adam Birch** (trumpet)

Media's No. 1 Main Man Leroy Hawkes' musical career began as a Gospel singer in his home state of Virginia. After moving to Philly in the 60's, He sang with various local acts and began to develop his own style, inspired by singers like Sam Cooke, Joe Tex, Otis, and the Wicked Pickett. By the early 80's, Leroy was appearing with standouts like Temptations and the O'Jays, when he was stricken with a medical condition that left him temporarily blind. With his recovery came the rebirth of an exciting vocalist, fronting a band that sets a perfect stage for his talents. Assembled around a rhythm section cast in the mold of Booker T's MG's out of Memphis, The Hipnotics have been rippin' it up for close to 30 years.

Inducted into America's Music Festival Series Hall of Fame, 2010

www.leroyhawkesandthehipnotics.com



THE MELTON BROTHERS FEAT. JOHN LILLEY & FRED BERMAN

@ Stephen's on State (9:30-1:15)

The Meltons are widely acknowledged as regional music legends from their debut vinyl album *Live in the City* through their current focus on song interpretations and originals. Dale and Dennis will be supported at the Ramble with some exemplary musicians – drummer **Fred Berman** (of Amos Lee) and guitarist **John Lilley** (of The Hooters). The band is a groovin' stew of styles – Roots-Rock, Folk-Rock, Blues, Jazz, New Orleans Funk, and Island beats to serve up in sizzling and sumptuous musical conversations with everyone lucky enough to be at Stephens. www.meltonbrothers.net



REGGAE THUNDER

@ Jocllyn's (9:30-1:15)

Second-time Roots Ramble appearance!

Members of Philly bands Spiritual Thunder, MOKA SOUL, RK\$TDY, Philly Gumbo, and many other projects, have joined forces via their shared love of Reggae to form Reggae Thunder. **Pauline Houston** (vocals) and Robb McCall guitar, vocals) have been mainstays on the Philly scene for over two decades.

Bert Harris is a highly-respected bassist and member of Philly Gumbo as well as Ska-Reggae band RK\$TDY, who has played with practically everyone in every style from Jazz to Funk to Blues and lots of Reggae. **Kirk Abernathy** has been playing and teaching keyboards and guitar for more than 20 years. He has shared the stage with Dexter Wansel, Jerry Butler, the Delfonics, and with legendary reggae bands Black Uhuru and Yellowman. Deontae Satchel locks down the reggae rhythm on drums. Returning to the Ramble by a special request.

www.bertbassie.com

MASON PORTER

@ Ariano (10-1)

"Top 10 New Country Bands to Watch"
– *Rolling Stone*, Sept. 2016

Third Americana Roots Ramble Appearance!

with: **Joe D'Amico** (guitar, mandolin, vocals)
Tim Celfo (bass, vocals), **Paul Wilkinson** (guitar, vocals), **Sarah Lawrence** (violin), **Evan Smoker** (drums)

Mason Porter has released an EP in conjunction with the National Park Service's Centennial Celebration Year. *Heart of the Mountains* added to the excitement of 2017 which started with the release of "The Tell-Tale Heart," a single based on Edgar Allan Poe's short story. In March 2017 the band produced *Porter Fest*, a collaboration with Sly Fox Brewery – and



the first release of their custom craft beer “Mason Porter Porter.” In 2015 MP issued their CD *Key to the Skyway* and held a first annual music/camping festival, *Midnight Mountain Music Show*. They organized area tributes - sold-out *Workingman’s Dead/American Beauty Shows* and the “Folk Roots of the Grateful Dead” set that landed them two main stage sets at the *Philadelphia Folk Festival*. Mason Porter got its start in late 2006 as friends playing folk songs at parties in West Chester, PA. The band released their debut EP *Mason Porter* (2008), followed by CD *Thunder in the Valley* (2009), and a collection of traditional folk and covers on CD *Story of the Rifle* (2011). MP has become a fixture on the regional scene. They blend Folk, Bluegrass, Blues, Country and Rock into a unique sound. Shared the stage with Ralph Stanley, Peter Rowan, New Riders of the Purple Sage, Charlie Daniels, Spirit Family Reunion, Carolina Chocolate Drops, The Black Lillies, Will Hoge, and American Babies.

www.masonporter.com



Craig Bickhardt w/Larry Ahearn

@ 7 Stones Café (7:30-11)

“Finely finessed visions that warm, humane American territory...” – Daily News

Our favorite troubadour with a wellspring of songs. In 1974 Craig signed his first record contract with Albert Grossman. Since then, and as a staff writer for EMI and Universal, he has generated a catalog of over 800 songs – his writing credits read like a *Who’s Who* of the music industry: Ray Charles, Cash, BB, Judd’s, Trisha Yearwood, Allison Krause, Vince Gill, Charlie Louvin, Poco. Craig has composed three *No.1 Billboard Hits* and nine *Top Ten Hits*. His

songs have appeared in the films *Tender Mercies*, *At Close Range*, and *Switchback*. Along the way, Craig has appeared on *Grand Ol’ Opry*, *Austin City Limits*, *Mountain Stage*, and at *Philly Folk Festival*, Nashville’s *Bluebird Café*, *Bitter End*, *Main Point*, and *Hollywood Palomino*. He has shared stages with Springsteen, Stills, Judy Collins, Hank Williams Jr., and Leo Kottke. Craig currently tours extensively, captivating audiences – with just his guitar, his songs, and his stories. Craig’s most recent CD *The More I Wonder* was met with critical acclaim.

“Craig Bickhardt doesn’t so much write songs as sculpt them. He creates them out of love and conscience, wisdom and whimsy, and they speak eloquently illuminating the human condition.” – Michael Tearson, SiriusXM Radio

www.craigbickhardt.com

For more than a decade **LARRY AHEARN** booked, promoted, and produced legendary shows at Bryn Mawr’s *Main Point*. Throughout those years, he wrote and performed his own songs as a solo artist and the *Larry Ahearn Group*. He has shared stages with Tom Rush, Jimmy Buffett, Livingston Taylor, Janis Ian, Velvet Underground, Eric Anderson, BS&T, and John Prine. Larry was a member of the *Worldwide Concert for Human Rights Tour* with Springsteen, Sting, Peter Gabriel, and Youssou N’Dour. In 2004/5 he traveled with the *Harlem Globetrotters* to China. Larry manages Craig and works with *Trespass Music*. Larry is a great friend and esteemed advisor to our *America’s Music Festival Series*.

www.trespassmusic.org

Kenn Kweder

@ Shere-E-Punjab (8-9:30)

with: *Allen James, Kevin Killen, Toby Pimms, Neil Simpkins*

Born in Upper Darby, he first wanted to be a basketball player, but he later entered the world of music with his first band, *Kenn Kweder & the Secret Kidds*. The fiercely independent singer-songwriter has been an iconic name in Philly since the 1970’s. Noted for his musically diverse musical styles – his influences range from Leonard Cohen and Lou Reed – he continues to be a vibrant source on the local music scene. Kenn’s legendary rock star life was captured in *Adventures of a Secret Kidd: The Mass Hallucination of Kenn Kweder*, a feature length documentary film. The “quintessential Philly musician” has been playing local bars for the entirety of his career. Kenn packed ‘em in at past *Rambles in the Old Plummy*. And closing the night in 2014 by singing Roger Miller’s classic “King of the Road” with Ben Vaughn @ *Picasso*... well, you just had to be there. www.kennkweder.com



Nathan Arons & Michael G. Ronstadt

@ Margaret Kuo’s Media (8-9) (9:30-10:30)

Their first Roots Ramble appearance!

“Michael is a master level cellist... [he] soaked up the ‘eclectic mania’ that marks the family’s music of Arizona.” – Linda Ronstadt

Aaron and Michael were recently described as a “slightly quirky folk duo.” Aaron’s shows include stories as captivating as the music itself - beautiful guitar work, catchy melodies, and a sweet baritone voice. Michael is an adept multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and composer. With their second CD *Hang on for the Ride*, the dynamic guitar-cello duo truly push the creative boundaries of Folk Music. The release is a true portrait of contrasts – darkness and light: young love, old friends long gone, running away for safety and peace. Their previous CD *Crooked Fiddle*, was a surprise favorite around the country – sparse, brilliant, and honest. The *Kerrville Folk Festival* in Texas honored Aaron by naming him to the 2011 *New Folk Class*, joining Steve Earle, Lyle Lovett, Shawn Colvin, and Lucinda Williams.

www.aaronnathans.com

www.michaelronstadt.com

“Music is moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, charm and gaiety to life, and to everything.”

– Plato



MR. FUZZY & THE BARBARIAN

@ FMFCU Coffee Beanery (7:30-10) All-Ages

Third Ramble appearance!

with: **R.S. Krauss**, **Eric McMahon**, **Chris "Bluebert" Peace** (all multi-instruments, including upright bass, guitar, banjo), **Ian Vogan** (drums)

What a tale to tell...Mr. Fuzzy and the Barbarian emerged a few years back with a gut bucket, banjo, and a pair of beards. RS and Eric moved to Rahns in Berks Co. and unconsciously formed Mr. Fuzzy and the Barbarian Compound. Call it destiny, fate, or just dumb luck, third member Bluebert moved into the Compound's third floor. Now, for some reason unbeknownst to RS and Eric, Bluebert was *into* the weird noises and notes he was hearing coming from down below his floor. At that very moment, their "yawlternative" sound found its ears and legs. Just having fun has been the concept from day one. Though they sound nothing like any of these acts, they draw their influences from Prince, Rick James, Michael Jackson, Biggie Smalls, and Motley Crue. And after many months, Mr. Fuzzy finally found its drummer - Ian Vogan. Their self-released CD is available from their website.

www.mrfuzzyandthebarbarian.com



THE ROCKAFILLYS

@ Spasso (10-12)

Third Roots Ramble appearance!

The Fabulous Three Women - **Melissa Martin**, **Lindsay Gilmour**, and **Liz Stauch** - sing Rockabilly, Swing, Blues, and Twang numbers with exquisite three-part harmonies - just try to imagine "The Andrew Sisters Meet the Crickets." They are vocalicious. They deliver great harmonies with a repertoire spanning 40's Rhythm & Blues and Boogie Woogie to Jumpin

Blues and Western Swing. They will be ably supported by Philly-area veteran musicians **Jim Fogarty** (guitar), **Jim Vogelmann** (bass), and **Roger Cox** (drums). Be sure to check them out in our featured venue and lounge at Spasso. www.therockafillys.com

BRIAN KORS

@ 320 Market Café (8-11) All-Ages

Brian is a Rhythm & Blues kind o' guy who mixes originals with interpretations of 20 Century tunes from pioneers like Ray Charles, Percy Mayfield, Dr. John, and Willie Nelson.

www.midnightersband.com



SKIP DENENBERG

@ Brick & Brew (10-1)

First-time at the Roots Ramble!

There is a magic to Skip's music - honest, powerful songs that brush against elusive common nerve that all songwriters seek to tap. His songs have a distinct American feel. As a TV/film composer, Skip has scored everything from Sesame Street to Olympic Highlights reels. Has shared the stage with such luminaries as Willie Nelson, Neil Young, Donovan, John Oates, Warren Zevon, Richie Havens, Steve Earle, Al Kooper, Jerry Jeff Walker, Ron Sexsmith, and the Neville Brothers. www.skipdenenberg.com



THE WALLACE BROTHERS

@ Sterling Pig Brewery (10-12)

A first-time appearance at our Ramble!

They live the life they sing about. Call it Country, Psychedelic Rock, Alt-Rock. TWB's repertoire digs deep into the world of Classic Country, Honky-Tonk, Rock & Roll, Bluegrass, Jazz, R&B, and Soul Music.

We've got a perfect name for that - *Americana Roots*. They have shared the stage with such luminaries as Robert Hunter, David Bromberg, Rusted Root, New Riders, Ricky Skaggs, WEEN, Evan Dando, Junior Brown, and Frog Holler. www.wallacebrothersband.com

MICHAEL DAVIS

@ Diego's Cantina (9:30-1)

Guitarist/songwriter/vocalist Michael has fronted his Roots/Rockabilly Band, The Bullets, for more than three decades in the Wilmington, DE region and beyond. The Bullets have shared the stage with such giants as Dick Dale, Johnny Winter, Ricky Skaggs, David Bromberg, Stray Cats and Robert Gordon.

www.kiddavisandthebullets.com



TRICKSTER SISTER

@ Desert Rose (6-9)

First-time appearance at Roots Ramble!

This trio is the proud purveyor of their own special blend of Bluegrass and Bourbon-infused, women-powered Americana music. They are comprised of **Marion Halliday** (guitar, vocals, songwriter), her sister **Jane Halliday** of Kentucky

(violin, vocals), and sister-in-music and Philly native, **Donna Bostock** (bass, percussion, vocals). Formed in 2016, they released their first EP of original music last fall. They are



fast acquiring a reputation for original songwriting, lush melodies, and instrumentation. Trickster has played a variety of venues and shows in North Carolina, Kentucky, Colorado, Wyoming, and Pennsylvania. Marion is a Philly native, originally from Kentucky. Donna has versatile music roots and has previously performed in Media with Ellas y Amigos.

www.trickstersister.com



DUSTIN BECK

@ Pairings Cigar Bar (8-11:40)

First Ramble appearance!

Dustin Beck has a passion for all kinds of music but especially rock and roll, gospel and Vintage R&B music. New Orleans has a history of combining all these elements to make a wonderful musical mixture that is hard to resist. Playing slide guitar and traditional electric guitar will be Ed Dobbs and Adam Shumski will be holding down the rhythm for a trio with talent whose joy is easy to see. www.dustinbeckmusic.com

David Falcone

@ LaBelle Epoque (10-12)

A third Roots Ramble appearance!

"His deft touch pulls stories from the strings in wordless tales of inspired nuance, shifting rhythms and tempos – all with flawless accuracy and a soulful feel." – Rambles Cultural



Some descriptions of David's immense talent on guitar: "A heady stew of fingerpicking pyrotechnics," "Enticing original melodies," "Hauntingly beautiful," and "Guitar virtuoso." A fingerstyle acoustic guitarist/vocalist whose influences include John Fahey, Leo Kottke, John Renbourn, and Pierre Bensusan, David's original compositions reflect a unique synthesis of Celtic, traditional, and classical sounds and forms. He has played everywhere in our region: World Cafe Live, Painted Bride, Tin Angel, Point, Steel City Coffeehouse, Minstrel Coffeehouse, The Fire, Lansdowne Folk Club, Love Park, and various house concerts up and down the East Coast. Falcone presently performs each Friday afternoon at The World Cafe Live, a show immediately following *WXPN's Free at Noon Concert*. David has shared billings with Bensusan, John Renbourn, Leon Redbone, John Renbourn, Erik Taylor, Julie Foster, and Antje Duvekot. His work has aired on radio programs: *The Morning Show*, *Leicht Lunch* ("local pick of the day"), and *Sleepy Hollow*. John DiLiberto has played his work on the nationally syndicated *Echoes*. falcone@lasalle.edu



THE ULTIMATES

@ John's Grille (8-12:15)

This group was born from the union of the former Media-based band Special Brew'd, directed by the late bassist Mark Hunter, and the reformed Ultimates, fronted by veteran vocalists **Monica Thornton** and **Debra Gunn**. Mark's twin brother **Mitch Hunter**

(guitar), **Bob Martin** (drums), **Steve Hoke** (keys), and **Omar Welsh** (bass) round out this lineup that plays Stax, Motown, and all great R&B classics. www.facebook.com/theultimates



ANDREA CARLSON

@ Lotus (6-9) Dinner Seating Only / All-Ages

Andrea burst on the DelValley music scene in 2009, winning the Philadelphia Songwriters Award for her "Cryin." She followed with a completely original CD, **Drivin' Myself Wild for You**, featuring another prize winner, "Mysterious Moon." Andrea's current CD **Love Can Be So Nice** (with another honor for "Let Me Cook for You"), showcases standards and originals in English and French. For the past four summers she has gone on the road in Europe, playing in a dozen nations and at the *Edinburgh Fringe Fest*. Andrea's voice is sultry, sweet, and playful, and her music is infused with earthy blues, retro jazz, and romantic swing. Born in Tennessee, she has lived in California, Texas, and PA. And she has opened for James Brown! Earned a degree in Classical Guitar at the Columbus Conservatory in Chicago. www.andreacarlsonguitar.com

EMILY DRINKER

@ Table 11 (8-10:30) Dinner Seating Only / All-Ages

First time at the Ramble!

Emily is an award-winning singer-songwriter who has performed around the world. After being a lead-singer aboard luxury cruise ships in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand she has returned to her Philly roots – blending Folk, Soul, and Pop with a ukulele and loop machine. Winner of the 2017 Phila. Songwriters Project Award, Hype Philly's SXSW Artist Showdown, and Front Porch Stage Contest at the *Folk Festival*. Emily has performed at *Firefly Festival* in Dover, *Musikfest*, *Artscape Fest* in Baltimore, and SXSW in Austin. Her first EP **Run the Race** was released in November. She will play the Ramble as a duo with friend and collaborator **Kyle Sparkman**. www.emilydrinker.com



CHARLIE PHILLIPS

@ Temaki (7-10) Dinner Seating Only / All-Ages

Charlie has issued three CD's of original music; his songs have received airplay on XPN 88.5 and other stations across the country. He is known for his tribute shows, having played homage to George Harrison, Paul McCartney, Bob Dylan, The Who, The Stones, the 70's – and performs a John Lennon Tribute show annually each December at local listening rooms. Charlie is a member of "The Core," a popular Eric Clapton tribute ensemble. We are happy to have him perform again at the Ramble. www.charliephillips.com www.TheCoreClapton.com





DANIE OCEAN

@ House (6-9:15) Dinner Seating Only / All-Ages

First time appearance at the Roots Ramble!

with: **John Fisher** (percussion)

She is a singer/songwriter/composer from our Philly area, whose music has been described as "Soul Pop." But Danie transcends several genres from Country to Hip-Hop. She has performed at World Café Live Downstairs, the late Tin Angel, Apache Café (Atlanta), and the Sidewalk Café (NYC). In the past year, she has played in New Orleans, and at the *Austin Run Gorilla* and *Montreal Jazz Festivals*. www.windingwayrecords.com/artists/danie-ocean-2



DIMITRI PAPADOPOULOS & BEN TINSLEY

@ Double Decker Pizza
(5:30-7) (9-10:30) All-Ages

Philadelphia-based guitarist/singer/songwriter Tinsley has released an EP of original tunes - *Here With You*. Dimitri is a family member of the Double Decker clan. He and Ben have also performed at State Street Blues Strolls and Jazz By Night festivals.



LOST NORTHERN TRIBE

@ Baker Street Tattoo
(6-9) - Outdoor Stage

The Tribe perform their own style of Honky Tonk, Accordion Roots Americana, stirring in a mixture Cajon, Creole, Country, Irish, Rock-n-Roll, Tex-Mex, Blues, Gospel,

Rhythm-n-Blues, and Zydeco music. Formed here in Media, PA, the nomadic Tribesters hail from places as far away as Boston, Cleveland, Jacksonville, and New Orleans. The Tribe includes **Alexander Uskraitis** (accordion and vocals), Professor **Jim Porter** (jamboard, percussion), **Frankie "Fingers" Luca** (guitars), **Wayne G. Harvey** (bass, vocals), and **Stephen "Ragnarok" Rongner-Cook** (drums, vocals).

www.facebook.com/LostNorthernTribe