

## OPUS | APRIL 2019



### In This Issue

#### News at CCM

Bluegrass Band Scramble, Lecture & Concert on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

American Roots Benefit, BBQ, Bluegrass, & Bourbon!

CCM Brings “The Okee Dokee Brothers” Foot-Stomping Fun to Town

What’s a CCM Monthly Promoter?

#### News at CCM

**Adult Student Soiree on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.** We invite all adult students to join us for an evening of musical performances. Immediately following the recital, CCM will host a cocktail party for musicians and their guests.

**Are you a CCM friend yet?** Join us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) to hear the **Tune of the Week**, be the first to learn CCM news, and more! See what music videos we like, photos we post, practice tips and articles we suggest, and what’s new in the music world.

## Bluegrass Band Scramble, Lecture & Concert on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>



Play, learn, and enjoy bluegrass at the upcoming CCM [Bluegrass Band Scramble](#). Rich Stillman, accomplished banjo player and CCM faculty member, will once again lead a fun and immersive CCM Bluegrass Band Scramble on Saturday, May 4th from 12:00 – 5:00 pm. The Scramble is ideal for anyone who dreams of playing in a band, needs some guidance, and doesn't quite know how to begin. Or, think about joining the Scramble if you simply want to play with new musicians and hone your skills. If you can play three chords in rhythm, the Scramble is for you, and the cost is only \$20 payable at the door.

[Sign-up](#) individually and then meet your new bandmates. Rich will ensure each group has the instrumentalists needed to create a bluegrass band. You and your new bandmates then have a two-hour practice session with expert coaching from CCM instructors. You'll prepare songs and stage patter for a three-song turn performed with a professional sound system for a live studio audience.

Designed for pure enjoyment and no competition, the CCM Bluegrass Band Scramble provides an opportunity for musicians to meet up and perform with other musicians in the



area, and then try their skills in front of other people.

The May 4th Band Scramble is part of the West Concord Cultural District ArtWeek. The afternoon includes a lecture on the origins and culture of bluegrass music by musicologist and CCM Faculty member Ian Goldstein. Ian's lecture at 3:15 pm is free and open to the public.

Proud to be part of the West Concord ArtWeek, CCM will host the unveiling of the ArtScramble at 3:45 pm. It's sure to be an amazing piece of art that will be seen around town. And not-to-be-missed—our Bluegrass Band Scramble participants will treat everyone to a free concert at 4:00 pm.

***So, come out and have fun!*** **RSVP** today for the [Bluegrass Band Scramble](#). Or, you can simply show up to enjoy the Bluegrass Band Scramble!

**American Roots Benefit, BBQ, Bluegrass, & Bourbon!**



We had the perfect combination that guaranteed fun while supporting the Concord Conservatory of Music—Big Pig Barbecue, the best bluegrass music, an amazing bourbon tasting, and of course our friends of CCM. On Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, enthusiastic CCM supporters gathered for our annual fundraiser, the CCM American Roots Benefit. Held at the historic Performing Arts Center at 51 Walden in the heart of Concord center, the Benefit raised more than \$82,000 to support CCM and music education in our community.



The student Rock Lab group, *Anarchy in a Jar*, rocked 51 Walden with their take on the Foreigner's classic *Cold as Ice* and Queen's *We Will Rock You*. You could see on their faces how proud they were of their rock performance. They realized that all the hard work it took for them to get there and extra practicing as a group paid off. All our student performances, including our two young violinists, showcased their musical talents but also the poise and self-confidence that is developed from learning an instrument and performing.

Auctioneer Kathy Kingston, with humor and wit, led the exciting live auction and the crucial Fund-A-Future. The funds raised at this year's benefit help us broaden our programming, strengthens our fiscal position, and allows us to grant financial assistance to those who need our help. Every year, the CCM Financial Assistance Fund provides musical opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities throughout Concord and 15 surrounding towns.





Special thanks go to CCM faculty member, Ian Goldstein, the evening's emcee, plus our Rhythm Sponsor Enterprise Bank, as well as our Music Supporter sponsors, Cambridge Savings Bank, The Monument Group Companies, and PEAK Event Services. We are grateful to the many volunteers who made the evening possible, from the Benefit Committee to the student volunteers.

[Enjoy our American Roots Benefit photos taken by Photographer David Tucker>>](#)

**CCM Brings "The Okee Dokee Brothers" Foot-Stomping Fun to Town**



According to Oliver Rodriguez, a 7-year-old Concord Conservatory of Music piano student, he has been a fan of the family-friendly bluegrass duo The Okee Dokee Brothers for “ten hundred years.”

“A super-fan family” is how Oliver’s mom Masami, herself a music teacher, describes the relationship as they prepared to take their seats for the group’s CCM-sponsored concert on March 9 at the 51 Walden Performing Arts Center in Concord.

The Rodriguez family wasn’t alone—as excited as the kids in the audience were, their parents were just as giddy, cheering and singing along like they would at a rock concert.

“Introducing the Okee Dokee Brothers was like introducing Bruce Springsteen to his fans—everyone loves the artists and knows all the words,” said Kate Yoder, CCM’s founder and executive director.



Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing, the “Brothers” themselves, are lifelong friends, Colorado natives, and firm believers that folk music and nature are a winning combination. Their first album, the Mississippi River-themed “Can You Canoe?,” won a GRAMMY award in 2013 for Best Children’s Album. Their next album, “Through the Woods,” a journey along the Appalachian Trail, was also GRAMMY-nominated. “Saddle Up,” a southwestern horseback romp, followed, completing their “adventure series.”

The Okee Dokee Brothers followed up in late 2018 with a new album, “Winterland,” which applies their trademark sophisticated lyrics and rootsy style to invite listeners to “fall into winter, with sheets of rain and blankets of snow.”

Their message resonates with families in nature-loving Concord, as was evidenced by how quickly the March shows sold out—a second show was added when the first filled up back in



November. The concerts attracted CCM families as well as fans from neighboring towns, all five New England states, and as far away as Montreal, Canada.

The Okee Dokee Brothers' banjo-twangy, acoustic style also connects with the CCM American Roots program, which is now in its second year and expanding to draw adults and youth alike to classes and performances.

And then there's the way the duo plays high-quality, family-friendly acoustic music, something that parents and kids can take pleasure in listening to as a family.

"I loved to see parents and kids enjoying the music together at the shows," said Yoder. "The Okee Dokee Brothers represent how wonderful it is when families bond over music everybody loves. I've noticed that when families listen to music together, they stay more involved in learning music together."

Joe Mailander agrees, saying he and Justin Lansing were impressed with CCM's recognition that "family music" is truly for all ages. "I think kids love looking up at their parents and seeing them really enjoying something authentically," Mailander said in an interview, "That makes the kids that much more engaged."

Mailander had eight years of traditional piano lessons as a child, before shifting in middle school to more rhythmic folk music and early rock tunes like "Twist and Shout." He believes strongly in the value of music education, even if the learning takes different forms at different times in a child's life.

"We want to communicate, stick to it, you can't switch all the time," he said. "But to a certain extent, it's okay to ebb and flow. Every artist takes time out to get re-inspired."

Mailander traces his current success back to his childhood lessons, though. "That early training does so much for your understanding of time and pitch and tempo. That sense of how to construct a melody is deep within me just from sitting in my lessons."

At the concerts, excited energy filled the performance space with boisterous audience participation and enthusiastic hand-clapping and foot-stomping. From the stage, the duo joked multiple times that this conservatory community has learned to hold a rhythm—but it was evident that the audience was getting a lesson in the pure joy of family music.



## What's a CCM Monthly Promoter?



Music Promoters are those dependable, steady, and special friends who provide continuous support to CCM throughout the year.

**You can become one of our** special friends who provide continuous support to CCM throughout the year. Your monthly gift would help to provide high-quality music education, performance opportunities, and free concerts to thousands of students and patrons in Concord and surrounding communities.

**Give Monthly and become a Music Promoter today!**

\$150 gift per month commits FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE so we never need to turn away a student. ***You'll be a CCM Benefactor.***

\$100 gift per month connects the CCM community to high-quality CONCERTS. ***You'll be a Concert Promoter.***

\$25 gift per month allows a budding young singer into a VOCALS CLASS. ***You'll be a Singer's Agent.***

\$10 per month delivers activities beyond private lessons like the CCM MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM. ***You'll be an Activities Manager.***

**\$5 per month keeps students engaged in MUSIC. *You'll be an Education Leader.***

