

 **Old Songs** INC. *presents*

# the VISITORS

the history, music and songs of the Adirondacks

with

Dan Berggren, Peggy Lynn, Joe Bruchac  
George Ward, John Kirk, Trish Miller,  
George Wilson, Toby Stover & Bill Spence



November 20, 2010

Old Songs, 37 S Main St, Voorheesville, NY

The concert you are about to hear was conceived early in 2007 after attending a concert at Skidmore College which featured the songs of the Adirondacks. I wanted to take the idea a step or two further and present traditional songs, poems, dance music and contemporary works within the context of the history of the Adirondacks. The folks you will see in this concert are all accomplished musicians who have collaborated with me to bring you the story of the Adirondack's past, present and future. The Adirondack Park is an American treasure that is in the hands of the people of New York State. We, as "visitors" to this wonder of nature, must remember the role we play in keeping it wild and free for generations to come. - Andy Spence

# the VISITORS

A folk theatre concert in two acts with one intermission.  
To allow the narrative to proceed without interruption,  
please hold your applause until intermission.  
We invite you to sing along on the choruses.

---

## *Overture*

Toby Stover and John Kirk  
*Arranged by Toby Stover*

## ACT ONE

*300 years of Adirondack history*

## *Here's To You*

Dan Berggren  
*Music and Words by Dan Berggren*

Chorus: Here's to you, all the mountain people.  
Here's to you, each woman, man and child.  
Here's to you who call the Adirondacks your home for ever wild.

## *Welcoming Song and Little Pines*

Joe Bruchac, *Traditional*

## *Seneca Canoe Song*

Joe Bruchac, *Traditional*

## *French Canadian Fiddle Tunes*

George Wilson, *Traditional*

## *Pruttelarij Voerman (The Grumbling Wagoner)*

George Ward, *Traditional*

## *One With the Water*

Dan Berggren, Peggy Lynn  
*Words and Music by Dan Berggren*

Chorus: One with the water,  
Sailing or rowing or paddling a canoe.  
One with the water.  
As old as time, and each time it's new.

## *Brave Wolf*

John Kirk, *Traditional*

## *The Fate of John Burgoyne*

George Ward, *Traditional*

## *The Wilderness is Strong*

Trish Miller  
*Poem by Jeanne Robert Foster*

<i>Pays De Haut</i>	George Wilson, Bill Spence, Toby Stover, John Kirk, <i>Traditional</i>
<i>Lumbering In The Forest</i>	John Kirk, Dan Berggren, Joe Bruchac <i>Words Anonymous, music Joe Bruchac</i>
<i>Juber Ju</i>	George Wilson, Bill Spence, Toby Stover <i>Traditional</i>
<i>Blue Mountain Lake</i>	George Ward <i>Traditional</i>
<i>Neighbors</i>	Dan Berggren <i>Poem by Jeanne Robert Foster</i>
<i>When Harry Carried the Mail</i>	Dan Berggren <i>Words and Music by Dan Berggren</i>
<i>Mary Brown, Abolitionist</i>	Peggy Lynn <i>Words and Music by Peggy Lynn</i>
<i>From Then Till Now</i>	George Wilson <i>from the writings of Fred Tracy Stiles</i>
<i>Balm of Gilead/Balm in Gilead</i>	John Kirk <i>Poem by Jeanne Robert Foster</i> <i>African American Spiritual</i>
<i>Rockin' in a Weary Land</i>	Bill Spence <i>Words and Music by Lorraine Lee Hammond</i>

Chorus: Rockin' in a weary land, rockin' in a weary land.  
May love guide each and every hand.  
Rockin' in a weary land, rockin' in a weary land.

## ACT TWO *Adirondack lives and legends*

<i>Tobin's Jig</i>	John Kirk, Trish Miller, Peggy Lynn, Toby Stover <i>Traditional</i>
<i>Pat Malone</i>	Dan Berggren, George Wilson <i>Traditional</i>
<i>Floatin' for Deer</i>	Joe Bruchac, John Kirk <i>Words Anonymous, Music by Joe Bruchac</i>

*Orra*

Peggy Lynn  
*Words and Music by Peggy Lynn*

*Stickman*

Dan Berggren  
*Words and Music by Dan Berggren*

Chorus: Stickman makes tables and chairs.  
Stickman sells his own wares.  
Walking in beauty and working by hand  
And everyone calls him Stickman.

*Grace*

Peggy Lynn, Dan Berggren  
*Words and Music by Peggy Lynn*

Chorus: We found grace here in the mountains;  
Faith every step of the way.  
There are gifts to receive if we only will see  
This beauty, this moment, this day.

*Devil's Dream, Soldier's Joy,  
White Cockade, Turkey in the Straw*

Ensemble  
*Traditional*

*Excerpt from Nature*

Joe Bruchac  
*Poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*Come By the Hills*

George Wilson  
*Traditional*

*Bert LaFountain's Packard*

Dan Berggren  
*Words by Dorothy Sequin,  
tune traditional, arr. Dan Berggren*

Chorus: Oh me, oh my,  
Why are we dry?  
In Bert LaFountain's Packard for a load of alcohol.  
*(last line changes every verse)*

*Ballad of Big Moose Lake*

Bill Spence  
*Traditional*

*Healing Woods*

Peggy Lynn  
*Excerpt from The Healing Woods by Martha Reben*

*Give Me Wings*

John Kirk, Peggy Lynn, Trish Miller  
*Words and Music by Peggy Lynn*

Chorus: Give me wings to fly like a sparrow,  
And I'll fly away free like that bird.  
Let my lungs fill with air and the song that I'll share  
Will be the happiest you've ever heard.

*Loggin' Roads, Graveyards  
and Old Cellar Holes*

Dan Berggren  
*Words and Music by Dan Berggren*

Chorus: Was it so long ago folks worked and died for a living,  
Leaving behind all those logging roads,  
graveyards and old cellar holes?

*Stand A Chance*

Peggy Lynn  
*Words and music by Peggy Lynn*

Chorus: It is the music of our hearts, it is the labor of our hands.  
It is the love within our homes, the gathered bounty from the land.  
It is the passing of tradition into our children's hands.  
And because of all these gifts, we stand a chance.



# THE CAST



**DAN BERGGREN** has been collecting, writing and singing folk music of the Adirondacks for the past 30 years. He grew up in the mountains on the land farmed by his mother's family and worked in the woods on a forest ranger's crew and a survey crew.

Hearing stories and songs from local friends and neighbors, Dan has developed a style that captures the spirit of the mountains. • [www.berggrenfolk.com](http://www.berggrenfolk.com)

## DISCOGRAPHY

Rooted in the Mountains *w/ Dan Duggan*  
 Adirondack Green *w/ Friends*  
 Minerva  
 Ten Miles to Saturday Night *w/ Eyres & Duggan*  
 One With the Water  
 Mountain Air  
 Cloudsplitter  
 Fresh Territory  
 Jamcrackers



**PEGGY LYNN**, singer, songwriter and arts educator, possesses a sultry, yet powerful, alto voice. In her work and music, Peggy brings to light the important role women have played in shaping the history of New York State. • [www.Quercusmusic.com](http://www.Quercusmusic.com)

## DISCOGRAPHY

Bio Songs  
 Keeping Christmas  
 Ten Miles to Saturday Night  
*w/ Berggren & Duggan*  
 A Stitch in Time  
 Cloudsplitter  
 Stand A Chance  
 Jamcrackers



Author and storyteller **JOSEPH BRUCHAC** has family roots in the Abenaki peoples and was raised, and still lives, in the Adirondack mountain foothills. Much of his writing draws on that land and his Abenaki ancestry. He has authored more

than 70 books for adults and children. As a professional teller of the traditional tales of the Adirondacks and the Native peoples of the Northeastern Woodlands, Joe Bruchac has performed widely in Europe and throughout the United States. • [www.JosephBruchac.com](http://www.JosephBruchac.com)

## JOE BRUCHAC DISCOGRAPHY/BIBLIOGRAPHY

CD: Adirondack Tall Tales *w/ John Kirk*  
 Autobiographical books:  
*Bowman's Store*  
*At the End of Ridge Road*  
*(see Joe's extensive list of books at [josephbruchac.com](http://josephbruchac.com))*



**JOHN KIRK & TRISH MILLER** are a married couple from the foothills of the Adirondacks.

They work together full time, playing music and singing in concerts, festivals, schools, as well as calling dances. Highlights of their performances include John's fiddling and Trish's dynamic clog dancing. • [www.johnandtrish.com](http://www.johnandtrish.com)

## DISCOGRAPHY

Quicksteppin'  
 Fly Around  
 Fiddle Tunes of the North Country  
 The Big Rock Candy Mountain  
 Lessons and Carols  
 John Kirk At Home  
 Shuffle About



As Fennig's All-Star Stringband, **BILL SPENCE**, **GEORGE WILSON** and **TOBY STOVER** have been a mainstay in the Northeast contra dance scene for over 35 years. **Spence** was among the first to champion the hammered dulcimer as it began its revival in the early '70s. **George Wilson** is a talented multi-instrumentalist and singer whose repertoire samples a wide variety of traditional styles. **Toby Stover** is a long time veteran of the music and theatre arts, having worked extensively with a wide range of groups and programs. She has arranged the overture for *The Visitors* featuring the piano and fiddle. • [www.oldsongs.org/billspencemusic](http://www.oldsongs.org/billspencemusic)

## DISCOGRAPHY

### Fennig's All-Stars

Bill Spence, George Wilson, Toby Stover  
 The Hammered Dulcimer  
 The Hammered Dulcimer Strikes Again  
 The Hammered Dulcimer Returns

### Wilson, George

The Royal Circus - 2000  
 A Collection of Northern Tunes - 2009



**GEORGE WARD.** A lifelong collector and performer of traditional songs, George draws on the rural singing tradition of the American Northeast for his main inspiration. Ancient ballads migrant in the New World, songs of the rural home and hearth, songs of the lumber woods, the rivers and canals are central to his repertoire.

• [www.mulesong.com](http://www.mulesong.com)

#### DISCOGRAPHY

Oh That Low Bridge  
All Our Brave Tars



**ANDY SPENCE.** Entrepreneur and Producer for over thirty years in the field of folk and traditional music. A founding member of the Pick'n and Sing'n Gather'n and Old Songs, Inc. Andy's producing credits include *Woody Guthrie's California To The New York Island* (1969), *A Tribute to Songwriter Malvina Reynolds* (1972), *An Evening At the English Music Hall* (1974), The Old Songs Festival of Traditional Music and Dance (since 1981) and *The American Conscience: Folk Songs of the 1960s* (2004). Dedicated to presenting folk, traditional, Celtic and World music and dance in the Capital District, she continues to carry on the tradition.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Adirondack Country* –William Chapman White  
*Breaking Trail: Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks* –Peggy Lynn and Sandra Weber  
*The Adirondacks: A History of America's First Wilderness* –Paul Schneider  
*Adirondack Portraits: A Piece of Time* –Jeanne Robert Foster  
*Adirondack Characters and Campfire Yarns: Early Settlers and Their Traditions* –William J. O'Hern  
*Body, Boots & Britches* –Harold W. Thompson  
"Nature" –Ralph Waldo Emerson  
*Program Guide, Saratoga Native American Festival 2006*  
*From Then Till Now: History and Tales of the Adirondack Foothills* –Fred Tracy Stiles  
*Bowman's Store* –Joe Bruchac  
*Adirondack Life*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Specialized Audio and Visual for technical support.

Thank you to Ron Seelig for the use of his Adirondack birch bark frame. [www.ronzadkmirrors.com](http://www.ronzadkmirrors.com)

## CREDITS

An exclusive production of Old Songs, Inc.  
Produced and directed by Andy Spence  
Sound reinforcement by Nathan Meredith  
Back Drop: Roger Mock

Technical Assistance: Peter Glenck  
Sound Recording: *The Visitors* CD, Don Person  
Old Songs Volunteers

**Old Songs, Inc.**, 37 South Main St.,  
PO Box 466, Voorheesville, NY 12186  
(518) 765-2815  
Email: [oldsongs@oldsongs.org](mailto:oldsongs@oldsongs.org)  
Web: [www.oldsongs.org](http://www.oldsongs.org)

**The Mission of Old Songs, Inc.**  
Old Songs, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to keeping traditional music and dance alive through the presentation of festivals, concerts, dances and educational programs.

### Old Songs, Inc. Board of Directors

President: Philip Teumim, Vice-President: Nancy Holroyd, Secretary: Susan Grace Moore, Treasurer: John Ozard. Members: Debra Burger, Chris Colarusso, Stephen Fry, Jack Long, MaryAnn Morrison, John Roberts, George Robinson, David Toledano, George Ward.



Old Songs programs are made possible, in part, by public funds from the **New York State Council on the Arts**, a State Agency.



The Visitors is made possible, in part, by private funds from **Windy Hill**.