

## FEATURES IN THE AUGUST CITYFOLK E-NEWS

### ORIGINS: CELTIC MUSIC OF CANADA'S OTTAWA VALLEY

A large portion of this article is printed on the cover of this newsletter.

### PROFILE: KATHY ANDERSON

Dayton native **Kathy Anderson** is one of the most sought-after contra and square dance callers in the country.

**READ IT ALL AT  
WWW.CITYFOLK.ORG/  
NEWSLETTERS.HTM**

### MATERIAL CULTURE: OUT OF THE FIRE WRAP UP

The Miami Valley has long been a hot bed of activity in metalworking, and "Out of the Fire", this year's material culture exhibit, celebrated this heritage.

### PROFILE: CULTURE BUILDS COMMUNITY

A large portion of this article is included in this newsletter.

### STAFF PICKS

Two regional Jazz projects are destined to find a far-flung audience, while reminding us of how deep the talent pool is right here in southwest Ohio.

### HAVE YOU HEARD?

Links to stories and websites that caught the attention of the Cityfolk staff. These are stories that deepen our understanding and appreciation for the folkways of the world.

## FRED BARTENSTEIN HONORED BY IBMA

Longtime Cityfolk supporter Fred Bartenstein was honored on September 28 with a Distinguished Achievement Award from the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA). A lifelong fan of bluegrass, he has been involved as a musician, emcee, event manager, composer, record producer, publisher and more for over forty years.



Bartenstein has performed with bluegrass icons including The Lilly Brothers and John Hartford, and started *Muleskinner News* in 1969, one of the first publications devoted to bluegrass music. He has shared his expertise with Cityfolk many times, from consulting on the 1989 production of the "Dayton Bluegrass Reunion" to emceeing the Main Stage at the Festival. A radio DJ since he was 16, he has hosted programs on WONE and WBZI, and currently produces "Banks of the Ohio," a weekly program on the history of bluegrass that enjoys a worldwide audience online and airs locally on WYSO 91.3 FM on Saturdays at 6 PM.

Cityfolk congratulates Fred on this award from the IBMA, fitting recognition for his deep commitment to bluegrass.

**CITYFOLK**  
CELEBRATING  
**25 YEARS**  
1981/2006

126 N. Main St., Ste. 220, Dayton, OH 45402

(937) 223-3655 • www.cityfolk.org

Support for Cityfolk's 25th anniversary season is provided in part by:

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CELTIC: April Verch Band

Saturday, October 14 at 8 PM at Victoria Theatre  
Reserved seats \$27, \$22, \$17 or entire Celtic Series \$71, \$58, \$45

### ROOTS: Santiago Jimenez Jr with Rhythm in Shoes

Saturday, October 21 at 8 PM at Gilly's  
General admission \$10

### JAZZ: Ahmad Jamal

Saturday, November 25 at 8 PM at Victoria Theatre  
Reserved seats \$40, \$30, \$20

### ROOTS: Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys with Larry Sparks & the Lonesome Ramblers

Saturday, January 20 at 8 PM at Dayton Masonic Center  
Reserved seats \$32, \$25, \$20

### DANCE: Waitzing & Contra Dances

Fridays Nov. 3, Jan. 5 and Feb. 2 at Michael Solomon Pavilion  
General admission \$6, kids 12 & under free

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NEWS**

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## APRIL VERCH DEEPLY ROOTED IN RICH TRADITIONS OF CANADA'S OTTAWA VALLEY

CONDENSED FROM A LONGER ARTICLE IN THE AUGUST 2006 CITYFOLK E-NEWS BY JON HARTLEY FOX

The Ottawa Valley—a region in Ontario and Quebec that runs from the city of Ottawa west to the Algonquin Park—is a beautiful landscape of lakes and rivers, rolling forests, and not all that many people. The area has a rich musical tradition that mixes the music of the immigrants who settled there, and young April Verch has emerged as the foremost standard-bearer of this unique regional tradition.

The Ottawa Valley was home to the Huron, Algonquin, Iroquois and Outaouais tribes when French explorer Samuel de Champlain arrived in 1613, exploring the Ottawa River and laying the groundwork for the fur-trading industry that would be this region's first commercial enterprise. A logging boom hit the Ottawa Valley in the early 1800s, right about the time the fur trade was playing out. Immigrants from all over flooded into the Valley, mostly from Ireland, Scotland, France, Poland and Germany. The combination of the musical traditions they brought with them to the New World created a new style of music.

Music in the Valley is social in nature. The fiddle is the primary instrument and is most often accompanied by the piano or accordion, especially at dances. A distinctive style of step-dancing—distinguished by its aggressiveness, the use of the dancer's arms and the height of the steps from the floor—grew alongside the music.

April Verch is a proud daughter of the Ottawa Valley. She had the future figured out by the time she was three: she wanted to play the fiddle like her father and to step-dance like her older sister. She began step-dancing lessons



APRIL VERCH, PHOTO BY ANDREW MCNAUGHTAN.

CONTINUED INSIDE...

at age three, and fiddle at age six. After several years of studying with a local fiddler, she began taking classical violin lessons. By the time she graduated from high school, Verch had won several hundred competitions (including the Canadian Grand Master and Canadian Open championships) and released two albums.

Verch decided to continue her education at the prestigious Berklee School of Music, and describes her year there as invaluable to her development. "Growing up where I did, even

though you're not exactly closed off from the rest of the world, there aren't that many opportunities to explore," she says. "So being at Berklee, with a student body that was 80 percent international, opened my ears to things I'd never even thought about. Maybe that's why I'm so passionate now about

looking into lots of different styles."

Verch decided one day a few years ago to try to play the fiddle and step-dance simultaneously, as Natalie MacMaster does. It came slowly at first, but the combination soon became an integral part of her music.

"They feed off each other, the dancing and the fiddling. It's like the difference between playing a fiddle tune alone and playing it again with another musician. You think of licks that you wouldn't have otherwise. Your feet are instruments, too."

April Verch admits she sometimes has to pinch herself to believe what's happened so far in her career. "I want my audience to know where I come from, to understand that the music I play is a part of something bigger—a geographical place with a rich cultural history. That's as important to me as the music."

**APRIL VERCH BAND**  
**SAT.OCT.14 AT 8 PM**  
**VICTORIA THEATRE**  
**SINGLE TIX \$27, \$22, \$17**  
**SERIES TIX \$71, \$58, \$45**  
**WWW.CITYFOLK.ORG**  
**OR 937-496-3863**

## CITYFOLK BEGINS MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Cityfolk kicks off our new membership campaign this month, and we're excited to announce some changes for this year:

- An anonymous donor will **DOUBLE contributions from new members!** If you haven't contributed in the last two years, now is the time to act!
- **New membership levels** have been added, beginning at \$15 per year for a student membership. This entry level provides people of all incomes a way to show their support of Cityfolk's cultural and educational events.
- We are celebrating our 25th anniversary by **giving gifts** to our members, such as limited-edition Cityfolk logo items.

For more details on this exciting campaign, talk to us at the membership table in the lobby at our shows, contact Mark Jackson (ext. 3008) or Tom Perlic (ext. 3006) in the Cityfolk office at 937-223-3655, or visit [www.cityfolk.org](http://www.cityfolk.org) and click on the 'Support Us' button.

## NEW COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ENLIVENS LONG-STANDING GOALS

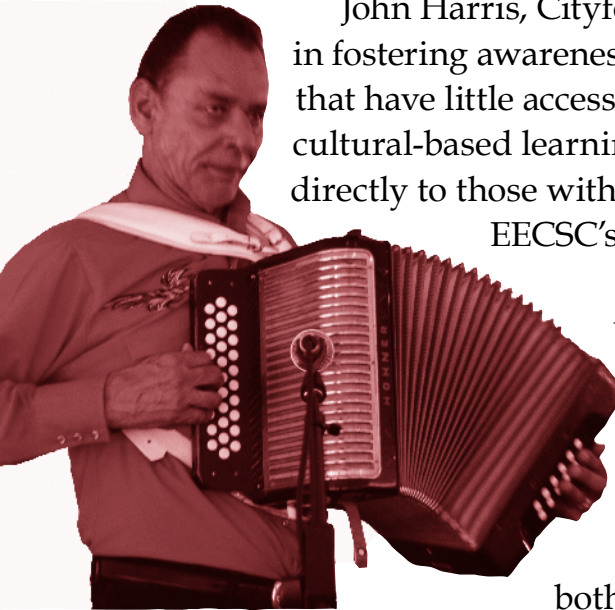
CONDENSED FROM A LONGER ARTICLE IN THE AUGUST 2006 CITYFOLK E-NEWS

Last spring, Cityfolk and East End Community Services Corporation (EECSC) joined forces to create **Culture Builds Community (CBC)**. This three-year partnership will bring high-quality cultural programming to Twin Towers, a financially challenged and racially mixed neighborhood that has traditionally had little access to the arts and cultural activities. The overarching objective of CBC is to bridge racial and ethnic divisions in the Twin Towers community by helping residents develop a greater sense of pride and identity in their own cultural traditions while forming respect and appreciation for the other diverse cultures present in their community.

John Harris, Cityfolk's executive director, explains, "We have always had a strong interest in fostering awareness, understanding and appreciation of folk arts, especially in communities that have little access. Doing this requires expanding our educational initiatives to include more cultural-based learning opportunities—as opposed to skills-based learning—and bringing them directly to those with the least probability of having these opportunities. When we learned of EECSC's goals, we knew this would be the perfect place to begin."

Artist residencies will be the crux of the CBC program. The first residency, set to take place this October, will highlight Appalachian and Mexican-American folk music and dance. It will be presented collaboratively by Dayton's own internationally-acclaimed Rhythm in Shoes and Santiago Jimenez Jr., one of the leading figures in Tex-Mex border music. This residency will include in-school and after-school workshops and performances for area youth; a large community party celebrating the traditions of

both groups through food, music, and dance; and a public performance at Gilly's on Saturday, October 21, where you can



SANTIAGO JIMENEZ, JR., PHOTO BY ANDY SNOW.

see the results of this collaboration.

Future elements of the CBC program include deeper cultural learning and sharing opportunities. Planned projects include "Culture Days" at Miracle Makers, an after-school program at the East End Community School; an oral history project; and a multi-cultural mural project led by Alicia Pagan.

The most challenging aspect of the program, according to Kelsa Rieger, CBC program coordinator and cultural community-development specialist, "will be making sure the program reflects the myriad of voices, ideas and visions that are present in this community. I believe CBC has the potential for great success, because culture is the glue that binds people together, and art is one of the few spaces where you can capture the dialectical characteristics of life. In one mural, one poem, one theatrical performance, you can capture and celebrate many different voices, traditions and experiences. Very few aspects in life can do the same."



## RHYTHM MAN

In conjunction with his World Rhythms concert, Central American musician **Aurelio Martinez** led University of Dayton students in a hands-on workshop on September 18. Photos by Adam Alonzo.

**SANTIAGO JIMENEZ JR.**  
**WITH RHYTHM IN SHOES**  
**SAT.OCT.21 AT 8 PM**  
**GILLY'S**  
**GENERAL ADMISSION \$10**  
**WWW.CITYFOLK.ORG**  
**OR 937-496-3863**