



**STEVE ZAKON-ANDERSON** has now danced, called, taught and organized contra dances for over 40 years. In that time, Steve has called and taught at dance events in 43 states, and a number of other countries. Steve is appreciated by dancers for his skill at programming the right dances for the hall, for his clear and efficient teaching and for his sense of humor. Steve embraces the role of facilitator in aiding the joyful connection between the music on the stage and the dancers on the floor.



**SUE ROSEN** A leading caller of contras, squares, English country dance and family dance programs, Sue has been actively calling for 30 years in the Boston area, across the country, and overseas. She has built a collection of great dances and has written contras that have become part of the standard repertoire of dance callers across the contradance world. She is known for creating a sense of joy and excitement wherever she calls.



**TOD WHITTEMORE** has been calling dances for forty years, having been lucky enough to begin his career at the time when famous callers Ralph Page and Duke Miller were still active in the Monadnock Region. Tod has called dances all over the world, and is known for his humor, energy, and infectious love of dancing. Whether calling a classic square or a modern contra dance, Tod's goal is to create joy and connection through movement and music.



**DAVE LANGFORD** is an experienced and versatile fiddler and guitarist and fiddle teacher from the Boston area. A veteran of 30+ years of playing for public dances, weddings, parties and late night sessions, Dave combines multiple styles of fiddling with fierce energy and drive. He has been a staff member for music and dance weeks at Pinewoods, Ogontz, Mendocino, Augusta and Christmas Country Dance School at Berea KY as well as hundreds of weekend dance events around the US and beyond. Among the groups he has been a part of: Big Bandemonium, The Latter Day Lizards, Les Z Boys, Childsplay, and Stomp Rocket.



**BRUCE ROSEN** has been part of Boston's contra and English country dance community since the mid-70s as a dancer and musician. His rock solid piano and guitar accompaniment is sought after by many of New England's best contra dance musicians. Bruce also plays piano for English country dancing, appearing frequently in Jamaica Plain (MA), as well as other New England venues. As part of Boston's traditional music scene, he plays guitar at Irish sessions and in performance with the West Newton Ceili Band, and drives the rhythm at Old Time music jams on the banjo ukelele. Bruce has collaborated on four recordings of New England contra dance music.



**RANDY MILLER** is a New Hampshire treasure. Musician, artist, publisher, teacher, preservationist, and historian, Randy has made singular contributions to the preservation of the musical, historical, and artistic traditions of New Hampshire. He has played fiddle, piano, and accordion for contra dances for over 45 years and toured nationally and internationally, bringing New England dance music to the world. Moreover, he has been a welcoming mentor to other musicians, leading jam sessions at Irish pubs and participating in the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts' Traditional Artist Apprenticeship program, sharing his knowledge to guide young musicians. Lately, he has taken to YouTube and Facebook, recording traditional music and stories to reach new audiences. His career, spanning the decades, makes him a living link to New Hampshire's music and dance heritage.



**SYLVIA MISKOE** of Concord, NH is recognized statewide for her deep and long-lasting influence on New Hampshire's traditional music and dance. As an inspiring musician, teacher, publisher, and founder of the Strathspey and Reel Society of New Hampshire, her contributions to our state's musical lore (particularly Scottish and French-Canadian music and New England Contra-dancing) are legendary. Sylvia's Scottish country dance band, The White Cockade, is the oldest band of its type in New England. Sylvia has served on the Board of Directors for the New Hampshire Gathering of the Scottish Clans and is involved in the music at the New Hampshire Highland Games. She was one of the traditional artists who represented New Hampshire at the 1999 Smithsonian Folklife Festival and also at the Northwest Folklife Festival.



**NAT BACKES** is a versatile musician based in Nelson, New Hampshire, known for their contributions to the New England traditional music scene. They began their journey accompanying fiddle tunes on guitar at the Nelson contra dance, a hub for community folk music. Nat later expanded their repertoire and honed their fiddling skills as a street performer in Denver, Colorado. Currently, Nat performs with various traditional music ensembles, including bands like Trip to Nelson and the Harlow's All Stars. They are also a key participant in events such as New Hampshire Fiddle Madness, which showcases Celtic and New England fiddle music alongside renowned regional musicians.



**SAM ZAKON-ANDERSON** is a dynamic contra dance musician known for his lively and innovative piano playing. Based in New England, Sam brings a fresh energy to the tradition, blending rhythmic precision with inventive harmonies. He frequently performs with various ensembles including Stove Dragon and with Casey & Molly. Captivating dancers with his infectious enthusiasm and deep understanding of the dance form, Sam's music is celebrated for its ability to inspire both joy and connection on the dance floor.



### **SUGAR RIVER BAND**

The Sugar River Band plays traditional fiddle music from New England, Cape Breton, and Sweden on fiddles, piano, accordion, and flute. The family group is led by Jane Orzechowski with Francis on piano, bouzouki, and accordion; Russell, Neil, Sophie on fiddle; and Sarah Bauhan on flute. The Sugar River Band has performed at the Christmas Revels in Hanover, and regularly performs at the Revels North Summer Solstice festivals. Regionally, they have performed at the New England Folk Festival and the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts and the Indian Neck Folk Festival in Connecticut.

