

NEWS FROM  
CALLIOPE:  
THE  
PITTSBURGH  
FOLK MUSIC  
SOCIETY

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# Rootz

CALLIOPE

## Dear Friend of Calliope:

We just received good news! The **Grable** and **Heinz** Foundations will fund a major educational outreach program at the **Career Connections Charter High School**. Many of the students there face a future of limited opportunities. Calliope is providing them with the opportunity to learn to play guitar and harmonica. Learning to play music at a young age has been shown to improve learning ability and school performance, as well as boost self-confidence and focus energy on positive outcomes.

Education has long been an essential mission of Calliope. We are privileged to be able to share the experience of hand-made music with at-risk youth. The Heinz and Grable Foundations will support this program for one year. We hope that, with the generous support of the Calliope community, we can be doing this for many more years to come.

*Steve Weber*  
President  
Calliope Board  
of Directors

FRIDAY, 21 MAY 2004  
CARNEGIE MUSIC HALL, OAKLAND

## Join the Inner Circle with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band



Circle the date, don't just save it. May 21, 2004, Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland. That's the Saturday evening that will push country, bluegrass and folk music in Pittsburgh to a new plateau. This is the pre-folk revolution band, coming off three Grammy awards for their *Will The Circle Be Unbroken* trilogy, which still has the critics raving, and has become a classic.

The *New York Post* says it's "One of the great treasures of American music."

*People Magazine* calls it "another triumph," and says the band "keeps its success streak unbroken..." and *Rolling Stone* says "...the venerable Dirt Band heads once more to the well for the musical equivalent of pure mountain spring water."

"This is a real coup for Calliope," says an excited Tricia Tanner, Managing Director of Calliope, "to be able to attract one of the classic bands that helped establish the current bluegrass, country and folk music culture in America. It will be one unforgettable night."

When you think of who has played with them and who they've influenced, you're looking at the cream of the crop, both old and new, players like Roy Acuff, Johnny Cash, Earl Scruggs, Bruce Hornsby, John Hiatt, Chris Hillman, Roger McGuinn and others.

Member tickets go on sale at the beginning of March and non-member tickets will be available on 22 March. Remember, all profits go to help keep this great music alive, through Calliope, one of the pioneers in folk music societies in the US.

## Ask Steve

### For The Love of Uke!



*Why are ukuleles hot again Steve?*

Musical instruments have a way of drifting in and out of fashion. Old instruments often get relegated to attics and closets where they wait to be discovered by subsequent generations. Today, it's not uncommon for me to get asked, "Hey man, got any ukes?"

Surprisingly, the people asking the question weren't from the Arthur Godfrey or even the Tiny Tim generation but were young, hip, and serious. These cats weren't just "tiptoeing through the tulips" either. They were playing full melodies, exploring alternate tunings, and giving the instrument the respect it deserves. Turns out while I hadn't been looking, someone had made the ukulele cool again.

*Is there a musician that sparked the resurgence?*

The quiet Beatle, George Harrison, had taken a very serious interest in the uke and inspired many others to explore it as well. Check out Tom Petty, Paul McCartney, Eddie Vedder, and a host of others.

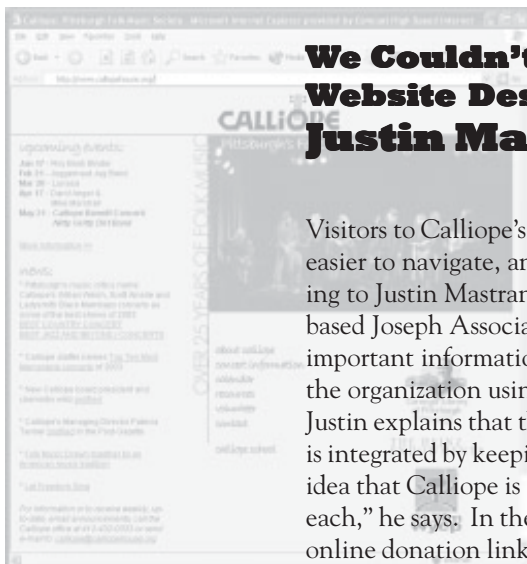
*What is it about the uke that we like?*

It's small, it's light, it's lovable, and easy to play. The standard "My Dog has Fleas" uke tuning is A – D – F# – B. These intervals are similar to the top four strings of a guitar. So if you know your basic guitar chords, you can play the uke! Ukuleles are a great instrument for a child or someone with small hands. Marcy Marxer has a great instructional video for starting a child off with a uke. Ukes come in a host of colors, the nylon strings are easy on the fingers, and they don't break the bank. You can buy a decent uke for less than \$50.

*How do I find other uke players? Are there uke jams?*

Pittsburgh has a popular banjo club, an up and coming mandolin orchestra, and sure enough, a ukulele club – the Pittsburgh Chamber Pot Music Society. For information on the Pittsburgh uke scene, drop an e-mail to emarch333@yahoo.com or info@acousticmusicworks.com.

Steve Miklas is co-owner of Acoustic Music Works, an all-acoustic music shop on Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill.



### We Couldn't Do It Without Website Designer Justin Mastrangelo

Visitors to Calliope's relaunched website will notice it's better looking, easier to navigate, and chock full of more news and information. According to Justin Mastrangelo, Director of New Media for the Washington, PA-based Joseph Associates, "the first goal of the new site is to display the most important information up front and to allow the user to learn more about the organization using an intuitive design and easily navigated layout." Justin explains that the Calliope School is separated from the main site, but is integrated by keeping some of the same design elements. "This enforces the idea that Calliope is a "two sided" organization with distinct objectives for each," he says. In the future, look for music sampling, local artists and online donation links.

## Up Next From Calliope

### Lunasa

20 MARCH 2004



Like the younger generation of Nashville musicians who have pushed the boundaries of bluegrass into jazz and beyond, Lunasa has sought to redefine Irish music by going right to the heart of its rhythms. The result of their efforts is not far from what Bela Fleck or Edgar Meyer have done in the United States—marrying jazz-rock bass lines and a harmonic sensibility to an older rural music.

“There are lots of great melodies in Irish music but often people don’t hear the rhythms underneath,” says founding member Sean Smyth. “We

try to relate the swing or energy out of the music, using new rhythms, letting each instrument add its own unique layer. We’ll play the same tune over and over, searching for the groove, exploring it. We let the music find its pulse.”

Lunasa is composed of bassist Trevor Hutchinson, guitarist Donogh Hennessy, flute player Kevin Crawford, uilleann piper Cillian Vallely, and All-Ireland fiddle and tinwhistle champion Sean Smyth. Lunasa has released four albums, including *Lunasa*, which is a mix of concert and studio tracks and *The Merry Sisters of Fate*, which won the Association for Independent Music’s Award for Best Celtic Album in 2002.

*For tickets contact ProArts at 412-394-3353 or order online at [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org). Tickets are \$23 (advance), \$25 (door), and \$13 (student rush).*

## Meet the Calliope School Faculty Ceinwen King-Smith Beginning Voice

Ceinwen is the kind of person who might make you feel inadequate. After all, the Calliope School Beginning Voice teacher can sing in 16 languages, and has sung in choirs in Poland, Brazil and Canada. Not just professionally accomplished, Ceinwen volunteers as a singer with the Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, and with Friends in Harmony, a small group that performs primarily at nursing homes. According to Ceinwen, music can take you to exotic and strange places. Once the Squirrel Hill resident, “literally sang for my supper in China,” and earned a week of free hotels and meals. She’s also spent some time in dance bars (who hasn’t?), singing in English, Russian and Chinese. Ceinwen feels strongly about sharing her love of singing with kids, and recently made a CD of English children’s songs for Chinese kids who want to learn English. What’s the best piece of advice Ceinwen shares with her beginning voice students? Don’t be afraid, sing your heart out, and have fun doing it.

## **Check out PACO**

### **An Internet Radio Home for All Acoustic Pittsburgh Music**

Born January 1, 2004, PACO (Pittsburgh ACOUSTIC, <http://www.live365.com/stations/daveg12>) is devoted to all acoustic, all Pittsburgh musicians, all the time. According to founders David Graham and Mark Stroup, the goal of PACO is “to showcase acts that can be seen live in Pittsburgh, to make their music familiar to local listeners, and to encourage Pittsburghers to attend live events. Our plan is to play cuts from acoustic artists, even if the particular cut is somewhat electric.” Musicians you’ll hear on PACO include Cherylann Hawk, Robert Wagner, James Hovan, Rank Strangers, Ben Hartlage, Mark Dignam, and Laurie Shea. Still in its infancy, PACO expects more musicians to join the roster as word spreads.

On the techy side, says Graham, “You may have to download and install the Live365 player to listen. The player window shows the track and artist name. You have the choice to listen for free (with advertisements), or to pay for commercial-free listening.” Graham and Stroup are in the process of building a web page to support and explain the station, and to list local acoustic events. To find out more information about how to get your music on PACO, or see pictures of PACO artists, you can visit <http://home.comcast.net/~DavidBGraham/>.



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