

**Come to a free Celtic Christmas concert at Amenia Town Hall Auditorium, Sun. Dec. 15 at 2pm  
-- a budding local Christmas tradition and a holiday gift from the Town of Amenia.**

The artists include David Paton, who carries the folk music tradition of his parents, Folk Legacy Records founders Sandy and Caroline Paton of Sharon CT. Dave is a virtuoso on the hammer dulcimer and English concertina, whose ringing and reedy acoustic tones conjure up 19th century holiday celebrations. Joseph Sobol, a recent arrival in Amenia, is a nationally known composer and exponent of the contemporary cittern, a lush modern variant of a Renaissance ancestor of the guitar. He has released five CDs, both solo and with his group Kiltartan Road.

Special guests include Claudine Langille on vocals, tenor banjo and mandolin. Along with the great former Bothy Band frontwoman Triona Ni Dhomnaill, Claudine was a co-founder of Touchstone, one of the seminal American Irish bands of the 1980s. She currently leads Vermont's foremost Celtic ensemble, Gypsy Reel. Claudine has played music with Dave Paton in various settings since the mid-1980s, most recently this November at Sheffield's Dewey Hall in a trio with Joseph Sobol.

Louis Quinn Jr. comes to us from an illustrious Irish music family in Queens, NY. His father, Louis Quinn Sr., immigrated from Co. Armagh in the 1930s and the Quinn family hosted and played with many of the legendary Irish immigrant musicians of the mid-20th century, from influential early recording artist Michael Coleman to Louis Jr.'s godfather, the noted Irish tune composer Ed Reavy. Lou is also an accomplished classical violinist and a member of the Danbury Symphony Orchestra. Returning from last year's ensemble is Ambrose Verdibello, a versatile fiddler and guitarist whose repertoire ranges from Irish to old-time to jazz. He has been active for many decades as a performer and teacher around the Hudson Valley with bands such as the Strawberry Hill Fiddlers, Hudson Valley Flyers, and Southern Schoolhouse Rascals.

There will be singalongs to holiday songs and dance tunes familiar and new, plus free refreshments at intermission. Last year's Amenia Celtic Christmas Concert was hailed by local press as "... more than just a musical event; it was a beacon of warmth in challenging times. The blend of Celtic tunes, holiday spirit, and communal joy served as a reminder of the power of music to bring people together, offering joy and hope in the heart of the holiday season."

Take a relaxing break from the Christmas shopping frenzy with some delightful Celtic Christmas music, courtesy of Amenia Town Hall and the Upstate Celtic Allstars.



