

**Wilson, Ward, & Orsini.** Drawing on their long history of playing together and their wide ranging musical experience, Wilson, Ward, and Orsini will bring you a mix of tunes from New England, Celtic, Quebecois, and Cape Breton traditions as well as a bit of bluegrass, Uncle Dave Macon, and other surprises. George Wilson's high energy but nuanced fiddle sound has enlivened dances all across the country and his comic songs to banjo have brought smiles to the faces of audiences for the past half century. Frank Orsini's sweet fiddle and mandolin harmonies and bluegrass rifts have made him a sought after band member for just as long. Josh Ward, when not inventing high precision machining techniques, has been adding his delicate guitar chords to the mix.

**Frank Orsini** has been one of the prominent acoustic musicians of Upstate New York. He plays violin, viola and mandolin, and has recently taken up Celtic harp. A versatile fiddler, singer and seasoned ensemble player, he has been on numerous recordings and been a member of many established groups with a strong following including the Whipper-Snappers, the Upstate Bluegrass Band and the High Flyers. Frank's repertoire and expertise is extensive and spans Elizabethan and Early music, Celtic, Bluegrass, Country, and Blues as well as dance tunes from olde England, New England, Canada, Appalachia, American swing and Cajun.

**George Wilson** has performed and recorded with the popular "Fennig's All-Star String Band", featuring Bill Spence on hammered dulcimer, since 1975. He has performed and recorded with the "Whippersnappers" (Wilson, Peter Davis and Frank Orsini) since 1976. He plays at contradances, festivals and dance camps on both coasts and in between with Selma Kaplan, Groovemama, the Beaudoin Legacy, Bruce and Sue Rosen and more. Additionally he performs with the trio Peter, Paul & George (with Peter Davis and Paul Rosenberg), presenting hundreds of dance and music programs in "Homespun Community Dancing" in elementary, middle school and high schools.

**Josh Ward** is a Glens Falls native who was known by his high school friends as the source for Bob Dylan lyrics and chords. He and George Wilson and Frank Orsini began playing music together then and have never stopped. He is an inventor and machinist as his day job but music has always filled his life. Also a builder and woodworker, he just completed his first hand made guitar.

## Fiddle Festival - Performer Bios

**Fern Bradley** is a regional favorite dance caller and instructor in the Hudson Valley and Capital Region. New and experienced dancers alike appreciate her relaxed teaching style, her warm voice, and her knack for choosing dances that are just the right fit for the mix of dancers on the floor.