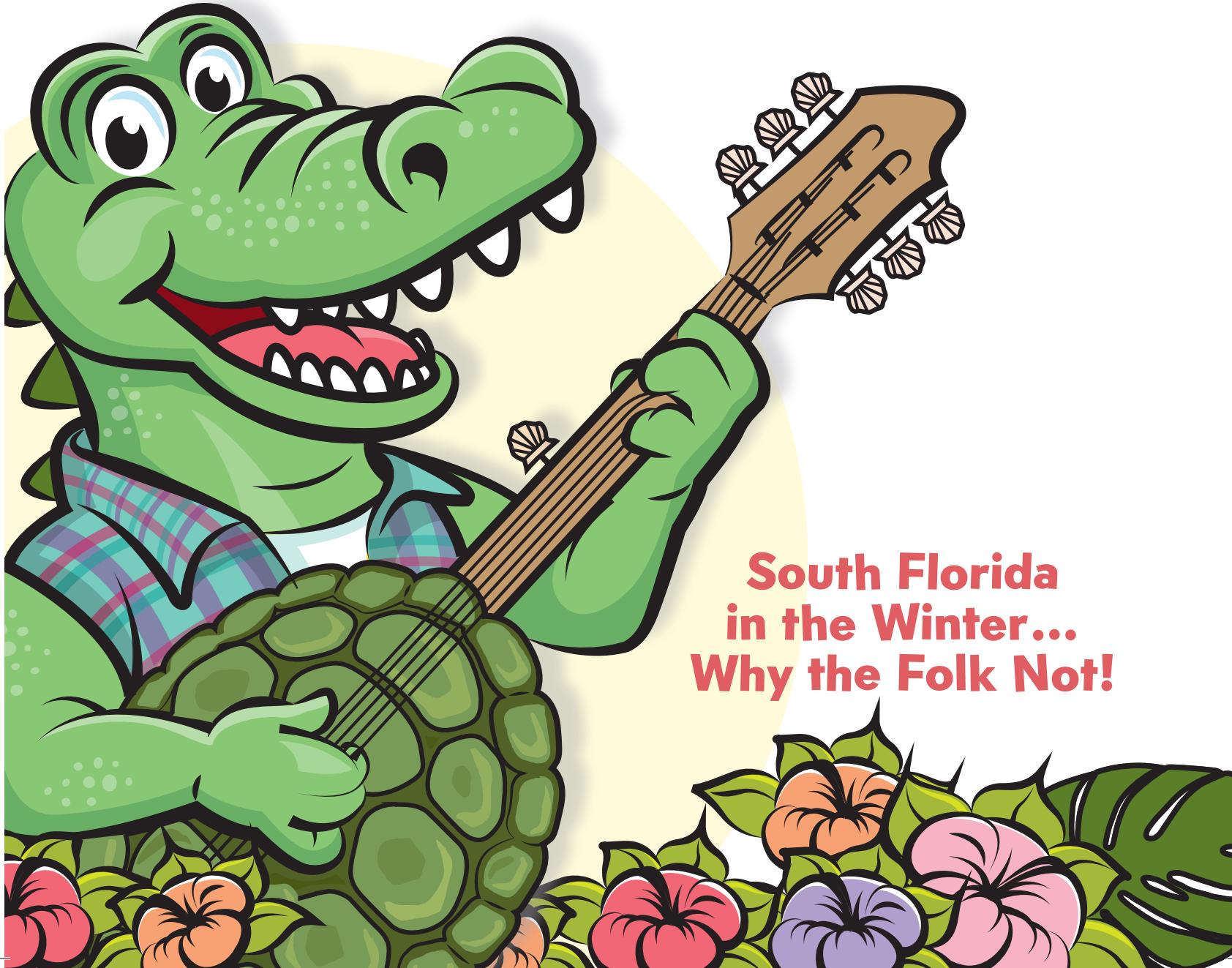


# **SOUTH FLORIDA FOLK & ACOUSTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2026**

**Bergeron Rodeo Grounds  
Davie, Florida**



**South Florida  
in the Winter...  
Why the Folk Not!**

# 2026 SOUTH FLORIDA FOLK AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

## GATOR STAGE

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026**

TIME	ARTIST
5:00 pm	The Buzz! Band
5:30 pm	Flint Blade
6:00 pm	Juna 'N Joey
6:30 pm	<b>South Florida Songwriter Winners</b> Violeta de la Guardia, Andrea Preston, Michelle Pennington, Sarah McCulloch
7:15 pm	The Kennedys
8:00 pm	Mean Mary

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026**

TIME	ARTIST
10:00 am	SONGWRITING COMPETITION
12:15 pm	Rebecca Berlin
12:45 pm	Mike Kinnebrew
1:15 pm	Arielle Silver
1:45 pm	Veronneau
2:15 pm	Dawn Loves Nash
2:45 pm	Elijah Wald
3:15 pm	Twangtown Paramours
3:45 pm	Danny Schmidt
4:15 pm	Miles and Mafale
4:45 pm	Couldn't Be Happiers
5:15 pm	Ruth Wyand
5:45 pm	ANNOUNCE WINNERS
6:00 pm	Ken Holt and the Promise
6:45 pm	Alice Howe and Freebo
7:30 pm	Mad Agnes
8:30 pm	Livingston Taylor

## **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

### **TIME            ARTIST**

11:00 am	Janet Buehler
11:30 am	Frank Critelli
12:00 pm	Goldpine
12:30 pm	Noah Proudfoot
1:00 pm	Tipps and Obermiller
1:30 pm	Scott Low
2:00 pm	Heather Pierson
2:30 pm	<b>SONGWRITING WINNERS ROUND</b>
3:15 pm	Jesse Ruben
3:45 pm	Gypsy Strings Revival
4:15 pm	Danielle Ate The Sandwich
4:45 pm	The Wire Jays
5:15 pm	<b>ROUND: Grace Morrison and Marc Douglas Berardo</b>
6:00 pm	Nigel Wearne
6:45 pm	The Janzen Boys
7:30 pm	John McCutcheon



### **South Florida Singer-Songwriter Finalists**

David Counts, Dave Daniels, Violeta de la Guardia, Karen Feldner, Daniel Gallup, Ainara Gastaminsa, Sarah McCulloch, Michelle Pennington, Andrea Preston, Leah Simmons, Colleen Swingle, Brett Vaughn

### **National Singer-Songwriter Finalists**

London Baileigh, Megan Cary, Heidi Huelskoetter, Sue Horowitz, Joseph Leavell, Kat Mahoney, March to August, George Mann, Liz Reed, Doug Spears, Sara Trunzo, Jacqueline Jaxbe Velazquez

## 2026 SOUTH FLORIDA FOLK AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

# WILL MCLEAN STAGE

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026**

TIME	ARTIST
12:00 pm	Round- David Zilmar, Mindy McGee Schleiffer, Bill Ricci
12:30 pm	Bear and Robert
1:00 pm	Andy Wahlberg
1:30 pm	Jimmy Stowe
2:00 pm	Larry Mangum
2:30 pm	Sandy Back Porch
3:00 pm	Ry Rivers
3:30 pm	Brett Staska
4:00 pm	Soulshine
4:30 pm	Joel Zoss

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3:00 pm	Ry Rivers
3:30 pm	Brett Staska
4:00 pm	Soulshine
4:30 pm	Joel Zoss

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026**

TIME	ARTIST
11:00 am	Claire Liparulo, Honey Miller and Lexi Long (round)
11:30 am	Zachary Westervelt, Rebecca Marie, and Hannah Stokes (round)
12:00 pm	Kate Englemeyer
12:30 pm	Bing Futch
1:00 pm	Jennings and Keller
1:30 pm	Monallo
2:00 pm	Norm McDonald
2:30 pm	Jordan Foley
3:00 pm	Reckless Saints
3:30 pm	The Luna Stars: Lou Dominguez, The Brothers King, Wes Malkin, Jamie Granger, Jerry DeMeo
4:30 pm	Rod MacDonald

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4:30 pm	Rod MacDonald

# 2026 FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS AND JAMS



## SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

TIME	ARTIST	
12:00 pm	Rebecca Marie	Feel to Heal: The Power of Music Therapy
1:00 pm	Juna 'N Joey	Vocal Harmony- Country Nashville Style
2:00 pm	Tipps and Obermiller	Songwriting: Don't Forget to Put Your Heart Into it
3:00 pm	Norm McDonald	Show, Don't Tell – Lyrics That Pull You Into the Scene
4:00 pm	Veronneau	From Cowboy Chords to Jazz Guitar: Chord Voicing for Folkies

## DEMO TENT

TIME	ARTIST	
12:00 pm	Bing Futch	Getting to Know the Mountain Dulcimer
1:00 pm	Flint Blade	Everything You Want to Know About the Chapman Stick
2:00 pm	Andy Wahlberg	Demonstrating the Harp Guitar
3:00 pm	Rod MacDonald	Songwriting Requests: If You Have a Request, This is the Place to Hear it
4:00 pm	Frank Critelli	"Sit Down With Rod MacDonald and Elijah Wald"

## 2026 FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS AND JAMS (cont.)

### SATURDAY JAMS

TIME	ARTIST	
12:00 pm	Ry Rivers	Songs about Rain
1:00 pm	Laurie Jennings	Her Story: A song circle where women are invited to share songs shaped by their lived experiences and unique perspectives
2:00 pm	Reckless Saints	Bring Out Your (Grateful) Dead!
3:00 pm	Mean Mary	River Rats and Beach Bums Jam
4:00 pm	Dawn Loves Nash	Folk Swing

### SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

TIME	ARTIST	
11:00 am	Alice Howe & Freebo	The Singer-Songwriter's Toolkit
12:00 pm	Dawn Loves Nash	Conscious Love Story: A Group Songwriting Co-Creation
1:00 pm	Danielle Ate the Sandwich	Soulful Singing and Playing
2:00 pm	Couldn't Be Happiers	Finding Inspiration for Songs in Unique Places
3:00 pm	Elijah Wald	Guitar Style of Mississippi John Hurt
4:00 pm	Heather Pierson	Singing for Every Body

---

## SUNDAY JAMS

TIME	ARTIST	
12:00 pm	The Wire Jays	Newgrass Jam with the Wire Jays
1:00 pm	Gypsy Strings Revival	Come Jam with the Gypsy Strings
2:00 pm	Bing Futch	Old-Time Jam
3:00 pm	The Janzen Boys	Join the Chorus: Harmony Jam with the Janzen Boys
4:00 pm	OPEN JAM	

## SUNDAY KID'S TENT

- 11:30 am Make a Shaker!
- 12-1 pm Mr. Noam's Kid's Corner- Come dance, shake, and sing!
- 1-2 pm Grant Livingston-Songwriting just for kids!
- 2-3 pm Puppet Karaoke - Make a puppet and sing along!

Enjoy some  
“Snappy” tunes!



# HEADLINERS



## Livingston Taylor

Livingston Taylor picked up his first guitar at the age of 13, which began a 50-year career that has encompassed performance, songwriting, and teaching. Born in Boston and raised in North Carolina, Livingston is the fourth child in a very musical family that includes Alex, James, Kate, and Hugh. Livingston recorded his first record at the age of 18 and has continued to create well crafted, introspective, and original songs that have earned him listeners worldwide.

From top-40 hits “I Will Be in Love with You” and “I’ll Come Running,” to “I Can Dream of You” and “Boatman,” the last two recorded by his brother James, Livingston’s creative output has continued unabated. His musical knowledge has inspired a varied repertoire, and he is equally at home with a range of musical genres—folk, pop, gospel, jazz—and from upbeat storytelling and touching ballads to full orchestra performances.

Livingston has never stopped performing since those early coffeehouse days, shared the stage with major artists such as Joni Mitchell, Linda Ronstadt, Fleetwood Mac, Jimmy Buffett, and Jethro Tull, and he maintains a busy concert schedule, touring internationally. He is a natural performer, peppering his shows with personal stories, anecdotes and ineffable warmth that connect him to his fans. His relaxed on-stage presence belies the depth of his musical knowledge, and fans might just as often be treated to a classic Gershwin or something from the best of Broadway.

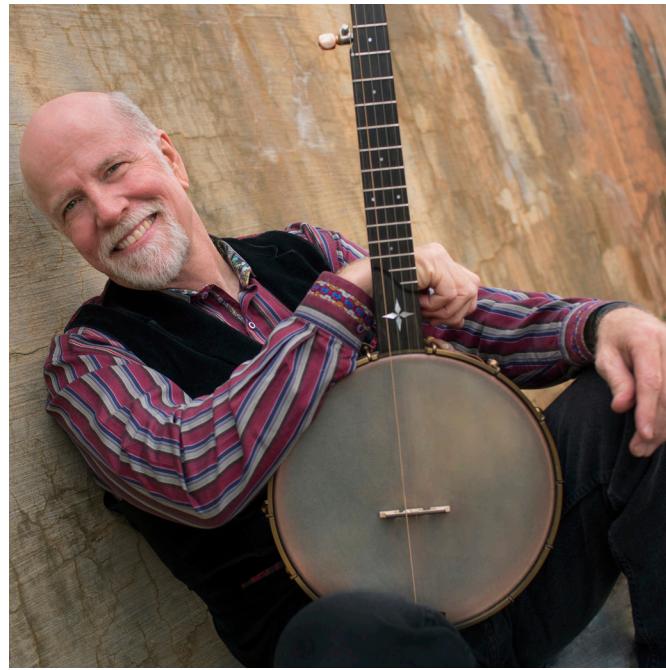
Livingston is a full professor at Berklee College of Music, where he has taught a Stage Performance course since 1989. He teaches young artists invaluable lessons learned over the course of an extensive career on the road; the course is consistently voted the most popular at the College. His high-selling book, *Stage Performance*, released in 2011 offers those lessons to anyone who is interested in elevating their presentation standards to professional standards.

Livingston’s 50th year of making music was celebrated by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh and Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, both declaring January 18, 2017 “Livingston Taylor Day”.

## John McCutcheon

From such inauspicious beginnings, John McCutcheon has emerged as one of our most respected and loved folk singers. As an instrumentalist, he is a master of a dozen different traditional instruments, most notably the rare and beautiful hammer dulcimer. His songwriting has been hailed by critics and singers around the globe. His thirty recordings have garnered every imaginable honor including seven Grammy nominations. He has produced over twenty albums of other artists, from traditional fiddlers to contemporary singer-songwriters to educational and documentary works. His books and instructional materials have introduced budding players to the joys of their own musicality. And his commitment to grassroots political organizations has put him on the front lines of many of the issues important to communities and workers.

The Washington Post described John as folk music's "Rustic Renaissance Man," a moniker flawed only by its understatement. "Calling John McCutcheon a 'folksinger' is like saying Deion Sanders is just a football player..." (Dallas Morning News). Besides his usual circuit of major concert halls and theaters, John is equally at home in an elementary school auditorium, a festival stage or at a farm rally. He is a whirlwind of energy packing five lifetimes into one. In the past few years alone he has headlined over a dozen different festivals in North America (including repeated performances at the National Storytelling Festival), recorded an original composition for Virginia Public Television involving over 500 musicians, toured Australia for the sixth time, toured Chile in support of a women's health initiative, appeared in a Woody Guthrie tribute concert in New York City, gave a featured concert at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, taught performance art skills at a North Carolina college, given symphony pops concerts across America, served as President of the fastest-growing Local in the Musicians Union and performed a special concert at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. This is all in his "spare time." His "real job," he's quick to point out, is father to two grown sons.



## Mean Mary

Mean Mary (Mary James) grew up off the beaten path, and her music never forgot it. A multi-instrumentalist and songwriter with deep folk roots and a Southern Gothic streak, she's built a global following and earned praise for a life that, as one article put it, "reads more like an adventure novel." She's the creator of viral music videos—with over 40 million views on YouTube—and an endorsing artist for Deering Banjos, serving as their Goodtime Ambassador.

Her newest album, *Woman Creature*, topped multiple Best of the Year lists; *Country Music People* called it "a haunting, high-caliber work from a fearless songwriter." Born in Geneva, Alabama, and raised in Florida, Mary learned to read music before words and recorded her first album at six. Known for a voice described by *No Depression* as "hauntingly rich, fierce, and flexible," she continues to tour with electrifying performances and cinematic songwriting.



# TRIBUTES



## **Jean Hewitt “Queen Jean”**

**March 29, 1928–December 9 2025**

Jean Hewitt was one of the original movers & shakers of Friends of Florida Folk, Inc.–founded in 1982 to be recognized for its commitment to helping the Florida musicians & artists. In 2001, Jean was one of the folks living in the Sarasota area to form the Sarasota Folk Organization.

SaraFolk held successful festivals and hosted music nights for many years at the Sarasota Sailing Squadron.

The Will McLean Festival was a longtime favorite for Jean. She would enjoy sitting at the Friends of Florida Folk Merchandise booth and soak up the music and the sunshine. Jean was hard to miss at the merch tent, with her snow-white hair, joyful smile, tie-dyed overalls and enthusiasm. Through the course of her years as the leader and impetus of FOFF she was able to attend a number of other festivals in Florida where she brought the Friends of Florida Folk merchandise tent.

Jean, and her husband Bill Hewitt, held regular music jams and then a few concerts at their Sarasota home, where many musical collaborations and friendships were born. As the years rolled on, Jean became an important and supportive presence as a board member, for Foff & SaraFolk, while allowing for others to take on the physical tasks at hand.

She lived a very full and happy life and those who knew her, knew just how special she was for all of her wonderful 97 years. Her passing leaves a big tie-dyed heart-shaped hole in the Florida folk community. We will remember her with love!

**Ms. Goody F.O.F.F**



## **Bruce S. Hecksel (1967-2025)**

Bruce was an extraordinary musician and artist that exuded joy in every note he played and brushstroke he made. He was a master guitarist who created and performed with his wife Julie in the folk duo of Patchouli & the instrumental guitar project Terra Guitarra. They played over 5000 shows around the world together, touring over 28 years, locally for the Broward Folk Club & at the SFFF several times.

At his memorial service Julie spoke, “Bruce was a Melody man. He felt color, light and joy in the melodies that he heard. He wrote melodies that danced and sparkled and moved. Bruce was also a Harmony man. His ability to create the perfect chord in that ephemeral place was sheer alchemy and created a third voice between us that I can only describe as Love. Bruce’s voice, not just his singing voice, but his melodies, his harmonies, his lyrics and his guitar expressions reached out to so many people. And I am so grateful now for that returning outpouring of Love to me at this time as I celebrate Bruce and hear the songs he continues to play for us all.”

Patchouli was almost done recording their 23rd album when Bruce passed away. Several of the songs Bruce wrote during his 3 year battle with stage IV lung cancer. Julie has been finishing up the project and it will be released in early 2026.



### **Marie Ann Nofsinger**

**April 27, 1956 - Dec. 14, 2025**

Marie was born in Massachusetts, but when she moved to our state in 1981, she became Florida and Florida became her. Singer, guitarist and songwriter extraordinaire, she gave us deeply moving songs of love and loss. Compassionate songs of comfort and strength. Witty songs full of controversy. And of course, so many songs about her adopted state of Florida. She could be crazy funny or deadly serious, almost all at the same time, all the while letting you know that you were not alone.

Proud member of the notorious Florida Folk Outlaws, Marie was small in stature, but with a stunning presence and honey smoked voice that you couldn't help but love. She wielded her dreadnaught Gibson J 200 guitar, which was almost as big as her, like a sword, cutting to the heart of the matter, like she was singing just for you.

She was known for her trademark cowgirl hat that she wore tucked down tight on top of her wild curly mane of blond hair. And then of course, there were her fancy boots. "Boots" was the title of one of her albums. Another was "The Wildlife Rides Again." Marie was also often a featured guest on a slew of other artists' recordings.

She performed everywhere from B. B. King's Blues Club in New York City to the very depths of Florida, gracing festivals, watering holes, stages, environmental gatherings and nonprofit benefits with her talents.

After moving from Delray Beach FL., where she had worked at The Amp Shop & Music Parlor for several years, Marie spent her next 10 years in Naples FL.

She loved her little house that she shared with her older rescue kitty, Grace. In between gigs, she worked as a medical coder and more recently part time at the Naples Botanical Gardens. The beach was her sanctuary.

She spent the last six months of her life in her own home with hospice care. In that time, she was also graciously tended to by fellow Naples musician Tim Mcgeary, his daughter, Tiffany, and his wife Carol.

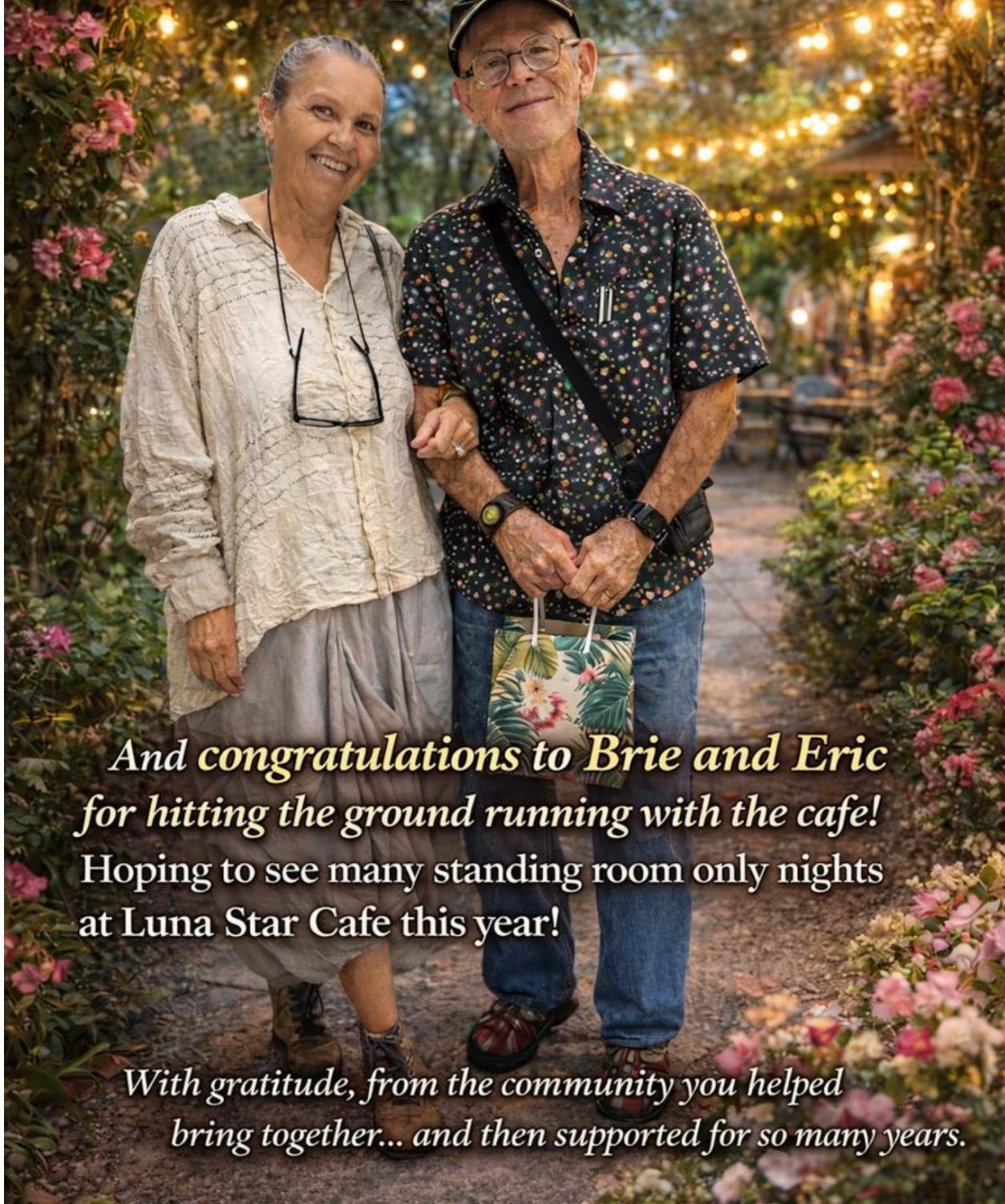
Marie, cheerful till the end, was never in pain and she passed from this world with friends and loved ones around her.

True to her outlaw roots, let's not say she's gone, not really. Let's just say one of her favorite phrases: she's just "Runnin' from the Law."

Rest in peace, sweet Marie.

**Val "Wisecracker" Caracappa**

Thank you *Alexis and Keith*  
for 29 years of music, community  
and friendship.



*And congratulations to Brie and Eric  
for hitting the ground running with the cafe!*

*Hoping to see many standing room only nights  
at Luna Star Cafe this year!*

*With gratitude, from the community you helped  
bring together... and then supported for so many years.*

The Scottish American Society of South Florida



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[tinyurl.com/NovaSonsMarch26](http://tinyurl.com/NovaSonsMarch26)

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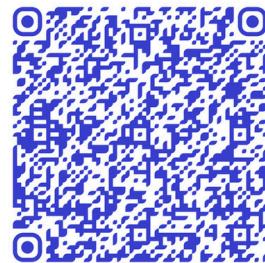
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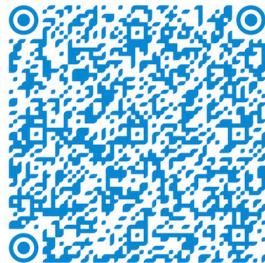
Saturday (Will McLean Stage)



Friday Night



Saturday (Gator Stage)



Sunday (Gator Stage)



Sunday (Will McLean Stage)



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Arlene Boumel-Vice President  
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Bill Wunderlich-Treasurer  
Bruce Feldman-Parliamentarian

## **Members at Large**

Grace Moses, Mary Lerrick, Evan Frankel, Lou Dominguez, Cecelia St. King

## **Festival Staff**

Co-Directors-Jeff Jacob and Elyse Brunt  
Music Directors-Arlene Boumel and Elyse Brunt  
Songwriting Chairperson-Cecelia St. King  
Treasurer-Bill Wunderlich  
Raffle Table-Mary Lerrick and Kat Guth  
Folk Club Table-Bruce Feldman, Debra Arguimbau  
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**Special thank you** to Gary Wein for the mural for both the Gator Stage and the Will McLean Stage.

Thank you for attending the  
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Alligator!**



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