

Shedd Presents 2025-26



The Sugar Beets

Songbook Release Show

Saturday, June 20, The Shedd Institute

Letter of Welcome

Dear Shedd patrons & music lovers! It's your local friends, The Sugar Beets, here with an invitation and a story.

We are thrilled to be returning to The Shedd with a mission that is not impossible, but certainly tricky and a whole lot of fun. To celebrate the release of our first-ever Sugar Beets Songbook, we will be squeezing 36 years of songs by 6 Beets songwriters into one magical evening. Plus, we have a great excuse for celebration! Our lovable keyboard player, Jack McGaughey, was selected as this year's Cykler Song Scholar at the UO School of Music and Dance. Incredibly, Jack's chosen project was to archive the original songs of The Sugar Beets and



*Halie Loren and Megan Bassett of
The Sugar Beets*

publish a bound songbook. How did this come to be? Well, we first had the good fortune to meet Jack in 2017 as a talented high school

student, when his teacher, Beets' keyboard player Scotty Perey, invited him to sit in during our performance celebrating the 75th Anniversary of local public radio station KRVM. Jack then travelled to the UK to attend Paul McCartney's Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts. He completed his degree in music performance and toured the globe before returning to Eugene. We had seized the opportunity to invite Jack to sit in with us, never expecting this turn of events to lead to all of our recordings (finally) being made available on streaming services, and the publishing of a book of our songs, complete with notation, chord charts, and lyrics! The [continued on page 4]

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The John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts presents

The Sugar Beets

The Songbook Release Show



SET I

Cookin'	1992, <i>Paraloocha Moon</i>	Matt Keenan (w/m)
Man With A Plan From Under The Sea	1992, <i>Paraloocha Moon</i>	Marty Chilla (w/m)
Daniel	1993, <i>You're Not Real</i>	Megan Bassett (w/m)
You're Not Real	1993, <i>You're Not Real</i>	Marty Chilla (w/m)
Paraloocha Paraloocha	1996, <i>In Your Dream</i>	Tanya Bunson (w/m)
So Electric	1996, <i>In Your Dream</i>	John Shenon (w/m)
Who We Are	1996, <i>In Your Dream</i>	Megan Bassett (w/m)
Make Ends Meet	1998, <i>Once Upon A Time</i>	John Shenon (w/m)
Higher	1998, <i>Once Upon A Time</i>	Jeremy Wegner, Matt Keenan, Megan Bassett (w/m)
The Green Alligator	1998, <i>Once Upon A Time</i>	John Shenon (w/m)

SET II

Baude's Song	1998, <i>Once Upon A Time</i>	John Shenon (w/m)
The Rubyat	2001, <i>The Sweet Ride Home</i>	Matt Keenan (w/m)
The Final Understanding	2001, <i>The Sweet Ride Home</i>	Marty Chilla, Scott Perey (w/m)
A Little Bit Broken	2005, <i>Secret To Happiness</i>	Marty Chilla, Jeannine Emery (w/m)
If The Heat Don't Go	2005, <i>Secret To Happiness</i>	John Shenon (w/m)
Pretend The Moon	2015, <i>Live & 25!</i>	Marty Chilla, Jeannine Emery (w/m)
A Song All My Own	2015, <i>Live & 25!</i>	John Shenon (w/m)
Song For Brian	2024	Megan Bassett (w/m)
Love Shines On...The Void	2026	Marty Chilla, Jeannine Emery (w/m)

All songs arranged by The Sugar Beets

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fact that our grandchildren, any musician, or YOU, will be able to learn our songs means the world to us, and we'd love for you to come celebrate the occasion with us!

The Sugar Beets started as college students and dorm residents playing music for fun between classes and studies at The University of Oregon in the late 1980's. Initially, we played house concerts and living rooms, covering an eclectic list of traditional songs from the Alan Lomax recordings, bluegrass tunes, and The Grateful Dead. Inspired by founding member John Shenon's writing talent and local songwriters Laura Kemp, Peter Wilde, and The Mad Farmers, we began to write and play our own music, grounded in acoustic folk music and Americana, as well as the starry-eyed innocence and dance-

happy vibe of Eugene in the early 1990's. We performed at The University of Oregon Folk Festival for the first time in 1992 and released the first of six recordings, the debut cassette tape "Paraloocha Moon," that same year. Our songs have continued to evolve over the years, embracing a variety of genres including blues and pop. We look forward to taking a musical walk down memory lane, sharing some new music, and celebrating the songbook with you!

Much love,

Megan Bassett
& The Sugar Beets



Cover photo: Bob Williams

The History of The Sugar Beets



Founding member John Shenon, 1989

The John & Marty Experience (1988)

by Marty Chilla

I had always known that I would move to Eugene to attend the University of Oregon after I graduated from North Bend High School. I grew up on the Oregon coast and moved into the university dorms in the fall of 1988. I didn't know a single soul. I followed my brand-new roommate to a nearby dormitory to attend a party with some friends he knew from High School. They were into things like "shooting hoops," "keg parties" and "studying." That wasn't my jam. In the back of the party, I saw a young man playing guitar alone in the corner and he introduced himself as John Shenon. One of the first things I noticed was that John had a formal and measured way of speaking. I learned later that his mother is British, which partly explained this. He was incredibly intelligent, funny and insightful for a young man in his late teens. We began to play open mics together as "The John and Mar-

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John H. Haines
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ty Experience.” John and I were playing guitars on a bench one day when we waved to a young woman carrying a violin case. We invited her to jam with us. Tanya had been raised playing classical music and had never played music in a free and playful way before. Our duo became a trio called “The Sugar Beets,” and we began adding new classmate members by chance or destiny and became a full band by 1990. In 1993,



Back: Scotty Perey, Megan Bassett, Matt Keenan, John Shenon, Marty Chilla; Front: Tanya (Voxman) Bunson, Scott Heron

John transitioned to being a behind-the-scenes songwriter and has rarely appeared in public since then. The Sugar Beets still get together with him to play music for fun and to hear his new compositions. John played guitar, banjo and mandolin for the first three years of The Sugar Beets. John recommended his multi-instrumentalist friend Jeremy Wegner to take his spot and said, “Jeremy would be a perfect Sugar Beet.” Jeremy had seen John playing banjo on 13th street in the early 1990’s. They joked and bonded after John played an obscure Bob Dylan bootleg tune they both knew called “The Cough Song.” “That was the end there...right before I coughed.”



Top to bottom and left to right: Megan Bassett, Tanya (Voxman) Bunson, Marty Chilla, Scott Heron, John Shenon, Matt Keenan

The First Road Trip

by Matt Keenan

It was the summer of 1990. We were just barely in our 20s and playing music together for less than a year. Having only played a handful of gigs around campus, when Matt’s mom, Mary, hired the band to play at her annual neighborhood party, it was pretty exciting! It was a road trip! We hit I-5 in Matt’s 1971 VW bus to go put on a “psychedelic bluegrass” show for Mary’s neighbors. We were elated. We were on tour! It was a great feeling. The next morning, we were so high on life. We made pancakes and spontaneously decided to make a pyramid in the front yard. Why not! We have the photo as evidence and a memory we will never forget.



The First Show: Doug Daniel’s Studio, Eugene, OR (Mar. 30, 1990)

by Tanya (Voxman) Bunson

I remember being so excited for our first “real” show at Doug Daniels Studio. My housemate, Carol, designed a super fun poster advertising the show with a whimsical character wearing fiddle shoes. She labeled us as “Psychedelic Bluegrass.” I plastered 13th Street with posters, covering telephone poles, coffee shop windows, and every bulletin board I could find. The studio was small but packed. My parents had driven 9 hours to see us,



Poster by Carol Shennk

bringing along a boom box to record the show on cassette, even though it was taking place in a recording studio. When it was time to go on, the room erupted in cheers. Friends and family filled the space. Even the soon-to-be Sugar Beet keyboard player, Scotty Perey, was in the audience... Everyone in the room was there to fully support us before we had played a note. Magic was in the air that night and has remained for 36 years.

Willamette Valley Folk Festival (2000)

by David Burham

This picture was taken in the early 2000s. Marty is dazzling in his multi-colored shirt, laying down his rock-steady rhythm. The violin I'm playing in this picture is the acoustic instrument I also play when performing with the Eugene Symphony. I was soloist with my high school orchestra in 1976, and the director of the orchestra suggested I get a better violin for the performance. I was living in Omaha, Nebraska at the time, and my or-



From Left: Dave Burham, Jeremy Wegner, Matt Keenan and Marty Chilla.

chestra's conductor and I went downtown to visit the Nielsen Violin Shop. I tried 10 different violins that day, narrowed it down to two, and my director chose the one I have now. Once I played the instrument I now have (which I've used on all Sugar Beets recordings), I didn't want to go back to my previous violin. I can still remember where I was standing in my grandfather's apartment when he asked: "Do you like it?" I told him that I loved it. His reply was: "Well, just between you and me and the fence post, let's get it for you." I'm playing that same instrument this evening.



Clockwise from front: Brianna Bassett, Matt Keenan, Dave Burham, Scotty Perey, Jeremy Wegner, Chris Palmer, Marty Chilla, Megan Bassett

A New Songwriting Collaboration

w/ Jeannine Emery
by Marty Chilla

I met Jeannine Emery after she tore a tag off one of my guitar lesson flyers in 2002. She began taking guitar lessons with me and as we got to know each other better, I learned that she was taking lessons because she was hoping to put her lyrics to music. I began helping her with that and we both enjoyed what each other did. As we continued working together, I told her I thought that her songs were good, and I asked if I could bring them to The Sugar Beets. Jeannine and I work together in two ways. The first way is that she sings her songs, and I find chords that work with what she is singing. Two examples of this are "A Little Bit Broken" and "Secret to Happiness." The other way we work is what I would call "mosaic mode." Jeannine gives me her notebooks, and I cobble together a collage of different pieces and turn them into verses, cho-



rases and bridges. Examples of this are "Pretend the Moon" and "Love Shines On (The Void.)" Jeannine Emery and John Shenon are two of the six songwriters in The Sugar Beets and are crucial to what we do. They are not on stage with us, but we are grateful for this opportunity at The Shedd to put a spotlight on their crucial role and to honor their work.



Promo photo 2003-07

The "Green Alligator" on a Chariot

by Matt Keenan

2010 was a fun year for The Sugar Beets. Now that Matt and Megan had three kids, we had slowed down our hectic gig schedule to playing mostly shows in town and we were enjoying ourselves. It was the band's 20th anniversary, and we wanted to celebrate the milestone. We were hired to play the main stage at the Oregon



Country Fair that summer, and we wanted to create a big celebration in the main stage meadow. This was a perfect place for the Green Alligator to make an appearance. The “green alligator with a red dress on” is a line from a song by Beets’ founding member John Shenon that became a mascot for the band over the years. We thought it would be fun if the alligator arrived at the main stage show carried on a chariot. We got to work constructing a full-sized chariot in Matt and Megan’s backyard. We decorated it with sequins and found six strong friends to carry it. We hand-dyed and painted



*“Silver Ball” 25th Anniversary,
McDonald Theater, 2015*

silk banners that said, “GET YOUR FREAK ON,” and got friends to carry them through the crowd. The Eugene-based marching band Samba Ja was also going to the fair, so we invited them to join in the festivities. Samba



*From Left: Matt Keenan, Megan Bassett, Halie Loren, Jeremy Wegner,
Dave Burham, Paul Biondi and Beau Eastlund on drums*

Photo credit: Bradley Cook

Ja came from the fair entrance, fairgoers gathering as they marched, like a piper. They ushered the “Green Alligator” to the stage behind the silk banners before joining us on the song “Higher.” It was an epic amount of pageantry. One of the highlights was when Marty invited his mom Barb Chilla to the stage to lead the crowd in some dance moves. Somewhere, there’s a very fun video of this favorite memory.

Emerald Park (2022)

by David Burham

There is nothing quite like playing a summer concert under the trees on a beautiful summer day. Emerald Park, out River Road, is a gor-

geous place to perform, with room for dancing and space for those who simply wish to sit and enjoy the music. The stage is among the best in town, and is large enough for our entire band, and guest artists. In this picture, that sax player is the wind virtuoso, Paul Biondi. It is a moving to see people of all ages dancing in the green grass. Megan and Halie lead the audience through nearly three hours of music. Long-time fans frequently sing along with our original songs, and everyone chips in to support the programs for kids the park offers. The community and spirit of the Emerald Park Concerts are a true joy and honor for us all.



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Jack McGaughey, Sugar Beets band member and UO Cykler Song Scholar

Starting the Songbook Project

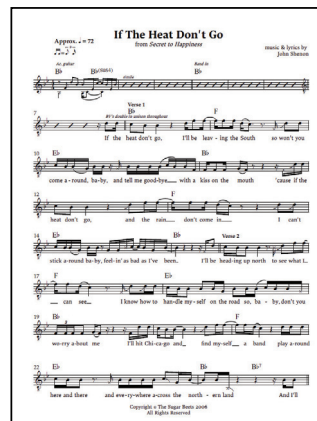
by Jack McGaughey

In May of 2025, I was awarded one of two positions in the Edmund A. Cykler Song Scholars program at the University of Oregon. The aim of this year-long research scholarship was to encourage the exploration of under-explored song repertoire. My proposal outlined my plans to archive the music and stories of The Sugar Beets through both the digitization and online distribution of audio recordings and the creation of a songbook. This book, intentionally titled “Vol. I,” is the starting point in a larger undertaking that will extend far beyond the scope of this year-long project, and I

am incredibly grateful for the many hands, hearts, and creative spirits that have contributed along the way.

Exploring the Songs

What do these songs mean? While that’s for you to decide, here’s my two cents: I am going to go out on a limb and say, while recognizing my extreme bias, that I think The Sugar Beet’s music is very good. Listening to the songs chronologically tells a story of the band’s evolving musicality, interwoven in many ways with their life stories. Lyrically, the songs cover a wide swath of topics, musing about anything from life, love and loss to dancing, spirituality and good cook-



ing. They seek to find meaning in being alive. Who am I? Who are we? Who are YOU?

They also take the listener on journeys—physically, mentally, and spiritually—painting vivid vignettes along the way. Deities manifesting on Earth. Voices on high laughing at you with impunity. Calls to action. Expressions of grief. The trip that I’m trippin’ when you’re trippin’ the trip. Questions... answers?

Many of these songs capture a spirit of buoyant joy that’s remarkably chill, like it’s looking at you with a knowing twinkle in its eye. A throughline of tongue-in-cheek psychedelia undergirds this body of work as it changes



over time. The band’s earlier material, notably *Paraloocha Moon* and *You’re Not Real*, wears its folk and bluegrass influences on its sleeve, reverberating with a raw, driving excitement that makes you feel like you’ll get called to take the next solo. With an identity firmly rooted in those first two cassettes, the band rounds a corner with *In Your Dream*, moving forward into the CD era with a broader sonic palette and a deeper bench of original material. Tight vocal harmonies and thrilling instrumental riffs are cemented as two hallmarks of The Sugar Beets’ sound, presented with an even silkier production style on *Sweet Ride Home* and *Secret to Happiness*. What it all means, I don’t know, nor would I be foolish enough to claim to, especially as a latecomer to the party. What I do know is that the music tells a story that’s unfolding to this day. The Sugar Beets story is a story of community, and this songbook is a testament to the thousands and thousands of people who have been moved by this music for 36 years and counting. Whether you’re a longtime Sugar Beets fan, an alien life form stumbling across this ancient text in a crypt several eons from now, or a stressed-out newbie trying to learn the set list, let the songbook be the tool that it needs to be for you — even though you’re not real.

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PERSONNEL

The Musicians

Marty Chilla

Guitar/vocals/songwriting

Matt Keenan

Electric bass/standup bass/songwriting

Megan Bassett

Vocals/hand percussion/songwriting

Jeremy Wegner

Guitars/mandolin/banjo/sitar/

sarod/songwriting

David Burham

Concert violin/electric violin/vocals

Halie Loren

Vocals/hand percussion

Paul Biondi

Woodwinds

Jack McGaughey

Piano/keyboards/vocals

Jeff Alberts

Drums

Scott Perey

Keyboards/guitar/vocals/songwriting

Tanya Bunson

Fiddle

Brianna Bassett,

Vocals

MARTY CHILLA is a founding member of The Sugar Beets. His musical journey began with piano lessons at the age of seven in his hometown



of North Bend, Oregon. At 12, he found his true calling with the guitar and began studying with Bill Harkleroad (aka Zoot Horn Rolo of Captain Beefheart and

his Magic Band). While attending the University of Oregon in the late 1980's, Marty met a fellow musician named John Shenon and they began performing as "The John and Marty Experience." In the fall of 1989, John Shenon greeted and recruited a violin player named Tanya Bunson, who was passing by a bench in front of the University of Oregon dorm where John and Marty had been jamming together. This connection set in motion the creation of

The Sugar Beets, and it was soon after that other members from the dorms began to join in. For over three and a half decades, Marty has continued to play music with The Sugar Beets and many other bands, as well as teaching guitar to aspiring musicians of all ages.

MATT KEENAN provides the heartbeat of The Sugar Beets, anchor-



ing the band's eclectic and soulful sound. His bass playing is the glue that binds their diverse influences and unique song-

writing. Matt's melodic yet grounded style serves the song first, whether he's locking into a groove or driving a high-energy jam. His chemistry with the ensemble creates the foundation for the band's signature harmonies and acoustic tex-

tures to shine. Matt is also a civil engineer, running a local engineering office. Some of his projects include PeaceHealth Riverbend Hospital and Eugene Riverfront Park. Whether on stage or in the office, he's in demand, but his most important role is father and husband. For Matt, fatherhood means blending professional life with a loving commitment to family, along with his wife Megan Bassett, the band's vocalist.

MEGAN BASSETT began singing

in middle school and largely credits music as having saved her during difficult times. She began "jamming" with the founding members of The Sugar Beets



in 1989 as a sophomore in college at

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UO, where she also enjoyed singing with the UO Gospel Choir. After finishing her degree in Global Studies with a focus on Latin America and Spanish Language, she was honored to have the opportunity to sing in Spanish with the Eugene salsa orchestra, Caliente (1994-1998). Megan and her husband, bass player Matt Keenan, met shortly before the jam became The Beets. Together, they have had the privilege of raising three beautiful souls (Rohan, Pearl and Sean Keenan) while being part of countless festivals, tributes, weddings, memorial services, inaugurations and celebrations throughout the PNW. The songbook is a dream come true for the whole family.

JEREMY WEGNER discovered the Sugar Beets at a campus show in the early nineties and by 1994 had joined the band as a full member, making him one of their longest-serving players. Playing all things strings, his musical skills add textural depth to the

Sugar Beets' sound, from a raga-tinged sitar line where you least expected it,



to mandolin that shifts the feel from PNW barn dance to something closer to "Irish countryside." You can see

Jeremy perform with a number of

local bands and singer-songwriters, including the Klezmonauts, Maya Love, Magpie's Pitchfork, Laura Kemp, Peter Wilde and Walker T. Ryan. Recently retired from a long career as a biologist at the University of Oregon, music now has his full attention.

DAVID BURHAM is recognized for his versatile artistry as a violinist and luthier. He has been the violinist and vocalist with

The Sugar Beets since 1999. His soulful, high-energy fiddling has helped define the band's signature sound. A classically-trained virtuoso, Burham has also dedicated 42 years to the Eugene Symphony. He translates his performance expertise into David Burham Custom Violins, handcrafting world-class 4- to 8-string electric instruments. Whether performing on stage or mentoring students in his Springfield studio, Burham remains vital to the Pacific Northwest's musical scene.



HALIE LOREN is an international, award-winning jazz/pop singer-songwriter hailing from Alaska and Oregon. Since beginning her professional musical path at the age of 14, she has been driven by a passion for authentic story-telling through music. Over the past two decades, her award-winning original songs and albums

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have topped charts (including Billboard Jazz Japan and iTunes Canada), and her songs and music videos have been streamed by millions of listeners globally. Her shows on four continents in Performing Art Centers, Jazz Clubs, and outdoor festivals—from intimate trio shows to collaborations with orchestras—have brought Loren critical acclaim as an "absolutely riveting and truly original artist." (*FestivalPeak*) Alongside her solo career, Loren has been a member of numerous groups, including as a vocalist with The Sugar Beets since 2007. She counts her time with the Beets as a treasured experience that has greatly enriched her life both musically and personally.



PAUL BIONDI was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1957. His older brother Fred, who was a professional Jazz drummer, motivated Paul to study and perform music at a very young age. He first picked up a saxophone at the age of 8 and eventually went on to study music at The Berkeley School of Music.

Paul has worked with many orchestras, symphonies, big bands, and horn sections that have backed up many indi-





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vidual artists and world-famous groups, including jazz musicians Jimmy Smith, Jack Sheldon, Tex Beneke, Horace Height Jr., The Righteous Brothers, The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Drifters, The Platters, The Cadillacs, The Shirelles and numerous others. Since moving to Eugene in 2004, Paul has become a member of the Rainy Day Blues Society and the Willamette Jazz Society and has been playing music mostly in the Pacific Northwest. He donates time to help fundraise for many Lane County non-profits like Food for Lane County, MDA, The University of Oregon's Duck Football with coach Mike Bellotti, as well as Legal Aid. He has been playing with The Sugar Beets since 2007.

JACK MCGAUGHEY is a musician, composer, and educator from Eugene, Oregon. Jack took piano lessons from Sugar Beet Scotty Perey before traveling across the pond to study at Paul McCartney's internationally renowned Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts (BA [Hons] Music '20). After living in the UK and touring internationally for several years, Jack moved back to Eugene and began playing with the Sugar Beets in 2023. He completed his Masters in Music Composition at the University of Oregon this spring ('26) and is enrolled in the Music Theory Ph.D. program for the fall. In May of 2025, Jack was awarded an Edmund A. Cykler Song Scholar research award by the UO's School of Music and Dance. Through the program, he created a 'living archive' for the Sugar Beets, broadening accessibility to the band's extensive back catalogue of beautiful songs and ensuring they can be enjoyed well

into the future. He is the creator of the songbook being released today.

JEFF ALBERTS As a drummer in the Eugene area for over 30 years, Jeff Alberts has performed with many of the area's most well-known musicians and bands including The Deb Cleveland Band, Unstuck in Time, The Fighting Instruments of Karma Marching Band/Chamber Orchestra, Swang, The Miller Brothers, Concrete Delta, and The Dubious Rubes (to name a few). Although he has never been an official member of The Sugar Beets, Jeff has performed with them on many occasions dating back to the early 90's when the band first formed, and he is thrilled to have the opportunity to once again join The Sugar Beets for this special performance. When he is not playing music, Jeff enjoys traveling and camping with his wife Michelle and their dog Coco.

SCOTT PEREY Scotty moved to Eugene from the Big Sky country Montana in 1988 and began playing with The Beets in 1990. He finished his degree in Music Composition from the University of Oregon in 1994 and spent the next decades building his private music teaching practice, developing the music program at the Imagine That Summer Adventures theater camp, performing as musical director and professional wrestler Rumbles "Dogbreath" Hangnail for the Shedd Institute's Magical Moombah, and riding freight trains. In recent years, he has expanded his Music

Compass teaching program into China. He is translating his "Doctor Zolatti's Guitar Game" music theory curriculum into Mandarin, liaising with students and fellow music educators alike and fostering a cross-cultural, bilingual bridge between countries. Scotty passed the baton to Jack for Beets' keyboards in 2023.

TANYA BUNSON, a founding member of the Sugar Beets, has fiddled her way into many people's hearts. She loves it most when music builds community and lifelong friendships. In addition to playing the fiddle, Tanya is excited to see some of her song creations come into fruition with her current local femme-empowered band Pants with Pockets. Tanya also plays with the Peter Wilde



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Band, Walker T. Ryan Trio, Fiddeli-cious with Fiddlin' Big Sue and David Helfand and the Majestic Ensemble. While her foundation started with classical music, her musical world shifted the day she became a Sugar Beet in the fall of 1989 and she has been enjoying the fun ever since.

BRIANNA BASSETT Joining in 1995, Brianna spent 13 years captivat-ing Sugar Beet audiences with belted leads and soulful harmonies along-side her sister Megan. Brianna's beau-tiful voice can be heard on The Sugar Beets' recordings *In Your Dream*, *Sweet Ride Home* and *Secret to Happi-ness*. Transition-ing from her pro-fessional singing career, Brianna now brings her compassion and dedication



to the healthcare field as a registered nurse. After working many years in the Portland area, she has returned to the Willamette Valley to be closer to family and friends, like The Sugar Beets and Megan and Matt's kids, who call her "Auntie Mia."

JEANNINE EMERY is a songwriter whose work blends heartfelt story-telling with melodies rooted in folk, country, and Americana traditions. Known for a writing style that cap-tures everyday moments with emo-tional clarity and warmth, Jean-nine's songs re-sonate with audi-ences through their honesty and relatabil-ity. Since 2006, The Sugar Beets have brought many of her songs to life, weaving her voice into their enduring sound. Her long-standing connection to The Sugar Beets continues through this special project to celebrate the group's legacy with a curated song-book. Jeannine is honored to be in-



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cluded in this concert and to contrib-ute to the ongoing story of the band and their music.

JOHN SHENON is a founding member of The Sugar Beets and the composer of roughly half of The Sugar Beets' original music. John grew up in Palo Alto, CA and moved to Eugene, Oregon in the fall of 1988 to attend the University of Oregon. In the uni-versity dormito-ries, John Shenon met Marty Chilla and the two of them began performing at open mics as "The John and Marty Experience." The Sugar Beets formed as Marty and John made more connections and invited others to join their music jams. The Sugar Beets played their first pub-lic concert on March 30, 1990. In 1993, John transitioned from a perform-ing role to being a behind-the-scenes songwriter, and he continues to be a vital part of the band.

