

Guest Artist

BRETT DENNEN!



Sunday, May 3rd, 2026
Cary Hall, Lexington, MA

Family
FOLK
CHORALE

and



Follen
Choirs

Directed by Chris Eastburn

About Our Professional Musicians



Brett Dennen (*guest artist*) is a songwriter, performer, watercolor artist, and environmental conservationist and outdoorsman. The shows he performs and the events he hosts generate more than good vibes. His impact has been to gather like-minded music fans to consistently try to make the world a better place. After today's show, Brett will continue on with his one-man Art-is-Life tour across the Northeast and beyond — www.brettdennen.live/tour — before directing Camp Dennen the first weekend of June.

Chris Eastburn (*artistic director*) is an arranger, orchestrator, composer and community music inspirer. Working in inter-generational collaboration, he helps create events exploring the gamut of human emotion and experience — from the ephemerality of our precious lives to the explosive joy of collective celebration. Chris's arranging and performing can also be enjoyed at shows around New England and across the country with pops orchestra and chamber ensembles: www.pianomenmusic.com, www.classicrockorchestra.com, etc.



Gary Backstrom (*electric guitar*) is the founder and frontman of the New England based jam band Jiggle the Handle. www.garybackstrom.com

Jonah Backstrom (*drum kit*) is currently a junior at Salem State majoring in music and social work. Drumming for FFC concerts since age seven, Jonah is also a songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist, producing his own albums. Find his folk-related music on streaming platforms under the artist name "Costus St. Paul".

Quinn Eastburn (*guitar*) is a multi-instrumentalist, playing at festivals and shows around New England and beyond. He has assistant conducted for FFC, is currently a student at Berklee College of Music, and plays regularly with his bluegrass band Gentleman's Gambit.

Karl Henry (*bass*) is a Boston-based cellist and bassist who likes to play in multiple styles. www.linktr.ee/karlhenrymusic.

Shaylor Lindsay (*keyboard*) has been the accompanist at the Follen Church since the mid 2000s. She trained as a classical concert pianist and in the past several years has been broadening her range of styles. She maintains a studio at home.

Justin Martinez (*aux percussion*) is a freelance drummer, percussionist and vocalist based in Arlington MA, equally at home with many genres of music including folk, rock, Latin, jazz and Celtic.

Itai Rolnick (*keyboard*) has had a year's long collaboration with Family Folk Chorale. A self-taught musician and jazz enthusiast, he plays keys with the Rolling Gnomes and the Newton Family Singers, and holds down the bass for the Early Bird Specials.

Lexi Ugelow (*vocals, aux percussion*) is a vocalist, pianist, songwriter, expressive arts workshop and music education facilitator based in Cambridge MA <https://www.lexiugelow.com/>

Program

*Songs by BRETT DENNEN
choral arrangements by Chris Eastburn*

Rise and Shine

Ain't No Reason

There Is So Much More

Brett solo song

Blessed

sung by Sierra, Edie, Jory, Addy, Sylvie, the Kids & Teens

Brett solo song

Jenny and Jill

sung by Vega & Ann-Marie

Paul Newman Daytona Rolex

with choir solos by Greg and Nadav

Intermission

People I Love

with choir solos by Colin, Natasha, Edie, Alice, Jan & Joe

When We Were Young

sung by Anne Marie, Colin, Edie, Sylvie, Clara, Marlene, Jory, Alice & the Teens

Brett solo songs

Don't Mess With Karma

with choir solo by Lexi

See The World

with choir solos by Lexi, Reb, Abigail, Peggy, Jan & Eva

Heaven

with choir solo by Lexi

Dancing at a Funeral

with choir solos by Justin, Vega & Andy

About the Family Folk Chorale

We are an inter-generational chorus of over 70 folk ranging from toddlers to grandparents. The Family Folk Chorale welcomes members of every age, race, family status, religious belief and sexual orientation. We believe that all people are capable of expressing themselves artistically through singing and we strive to create a sound that is both engaging and moving, for our own enjoyment and to share with the broader community.

Visit www.familyfolkchorale.org to find out more information on our group and for news about upcoming events.



SAVE THE DATE!

The Family Folk Chorale's

Summer Celebration at Picadilly Farm

Winchester, NH

on Saturday June 20th at 1:00

Come early, bring the family and some chairs, and enjoy a free concert while hanging out with us at this lovely farm. Free local ice cream for all!

Located just east of Brattleboro, Picadilly is a family farm growing high quality, certified organic vegetables and stewarding the land for the community with love and care.

www.picadillyfarm.com for more information and directions.



About Follen Church

Follen Church is an inclusive, caring, and welcoming Unitarian Universalist community in Lexington, Massachusetts. Follen has a dynamic music program, and offers a multi-generational choir program for children, youth, and adults, and also draws on the talents of many skilled soloists, and professional musicians.

Follen also hosts “Follen Folk Nights,” showcasing a diverse range of performances from both emerging and established artists. See www.follenfolkknights.org/ for more information and to buy tickets.



Special Thanks

To all of the generous and enthusiastic volunteers helping out today and to Geneva Cooper and the Waldorf School of Lexington for welcoming the FFC there for our rehearsals.

And to all the organizers of this event, including the FFC board!

Thanks to Barbara Meikle and the Bill Meikle Visiting Artist Fund which makes it possible for FFC to bring in guest artists on a regular basis.

PLEASE SING ALONG WITH US!

See The World

Days go by
Get out and see the world
Days go by
Get out and see the world with your own eyes



Dancing at a Funeral

Now's not the time to be so sad and mournful
We are going to this funeral and we'll be dancing the night away
So so so
Don't be so shy, we are living and we're dying
We are laughing and we're crying every single day

For a link to all the lyrics to all the songs, scan the QR code or visit <https://www.familyfolkchorale.org/dennen>



Family Folk Chorale Members Singing Today:

Family Folk Chorale Members Singing Today: Diane Appel; Aviva Argote and Rafa Riman; Becky Binns, Greg Gettel, and Elsie & Eli Binns-Gettel; Beth Cain, Jenny Cain, Hiram, Mira, & Audrey Parikh; Michael & Ceci Cooper; Geneva Cooper; Meredith Culhane; Jane, Maeve & Thea Hammer; Sandra & Miki Galiwango; Richa Gawande; Christophe Gerard; Paul Green; Christian & Theo Hague; Eva Helm-Halberstadt, Michael, Clara & Marlene Halberstadt; Henry Kaufman & Leo Hope-Kaufman; Neeti & Amal Jha; Suzanne Langridge; Sara Levine; Jonathan McIntyre; Joe Michaud & Ellen Schreiber; Andy Migner; Sara & Elisabeth Milone; Ginny Morrison; Susan Norris, Hazel, Silas & Miriam Schrauth; Kevin O'Connor; Sasha, Geoff, Tristan, Natalia, Andrei & Niko Oxnard; Reb, Justin & Vega Pearl-Martinez; Pam Tassara & John Powell; Walter Strauss, Charles Strauss & Cristie Reich; Peggy Rose; Danielle Schumann-Olivier; David Cooperman, Lucy, Micah, Ezra & Cyrus Thiboutot; Robyn Vogel; Janet Westerhoff; Peter Young

Follen Choir Members Singing Today:

Allegra Atkinson & Addison Porter; Evie Bergeron; Sophie Evett; Gordon Hardy; Kathy Hoben; Clare Hurley; Adela Kozin; John Lawlor; Jamie Leutz; Jan Maier; Alice Markelz; Jerry Mechling; Emily Cause, Edie & Sylvie McCall; Linden Eithier; Nalini Mohan; Veera Mylapore; Natasha Olchanski; Tegan Rabinowitz; Anna Schneider; Kerri, Anne Marie & Colin Spilker; Eleanor & Arthur Stockton; Nadav Tanners; Jory & Leona Feingold Thoryn; Lexi Ugelow; Jen & Sierra Vandiver; Aoife Willerjee

Horns:

Trumpets: Greg Gettel (horn coach), Robert John & Tristan

Saxes: Mike C. & Geoff (alto), Ryan Spilker (tenor) & Richa (baritone)

Aux Percussion:

Justin, Lexi, and Henry

Masters of Ceremony:

Aviva Luz Argote & Kerri Spilker



*In the morning you rise and shine
Rise and shine
Spread your wings a new day awaits
In the morning you will find
You will find
You put a smile on someone's face*