

Cradle Switch is a five-piece acoustic Americana group, based in Cambridge, New York. Tunes include originals and a range of songs drawing from bluegrass, country, folk and a little blues. With ballads as well as up-tempo rhythms, the group's lyrics can be on the darker side (along the lines of Buddie & Julie Miller or Judith Edelman), but some sweet love songs are in there too. They also cover contemporary songs by writers like Lindi Ortega, Steel Drivers and HoneyHoney as well as classic tunes like 'I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry' and 'Long Journey Home'. Cradle Switch performs new songs to be released on the group's first album, plus fan-favorites, at Brandon Music on March 4 at 7:30.

Singer-songwriters Ferrilyn Sourdiffe and Dave Lawlor swap out guitars for banjo and mandolin, while Kate Ritter brings it on the fiddle, along with some angelic vocal harmonies to add to Sourdiffe and Lawlor's robust vocals. Singer-songwriter David Cuite adds some bounce on the upright bass as well as lead and harmony vocals and David Norman throws in some percussion (and has been known to wear his special washboard tie to gigs).

Many of the group's original lyrics are written by honorary band member Chip Macdonald. Sourdiffe says "He dreams these things in the night and emails them to us. He says there are a bunch of guys, from another place and time, in a phone booth on old Route 66 that send them through the ether."

Ferrilyn Sourdiffe is a singer-songwriter and guitar player currently performing with Dafé Brudäjo, The Ransom Notes, and the occasional pickup band, in the VT/NY/MA tri-state area. Ranging from folk and country to blues, jazz and rock & roll, her music has been heard on WAMC, WRPI, WVPR, WSPN and other stations in the northeast as well as venues like Caffè Lena, The Egg, Clark Art Institute, Bennington Museum, Hubbard Hall and many other venues and events. Caffè Lena describes Sourdiffe's voice as "reminiscent of Billie Holliday and Tracy Chapman—but a bit more accessible..."

After hopes of a professional baseball career came to a grinding halt following a failure to make the 8th grade baseball team, David Lawlor decided on a career in jazz; though his inability to learn more than four chords put him on the fast track to pursue folk and bluegrass. Inspired by the guitar playing of Dave Rawlings and mandolin work of Frank Wakefield, Lawlor buckled down and got really good at both instruments, adding singer-songwriter to his resume as well. He has performed with several groups in the Cambridge, New York area for the last several years.

Kate Ritter, originally from the Berkshires, currently lives in the Adirondacks. She joined Cradle Switch in 2011, stemming from weekly porch music sessions with David Norman, Sourdiffe, and friends. Ritter began studying classical violin at age six, and fell in love with folk fiddle during course work at Bennington College with upstate New York fiddler John Kirk. Since then, she has also continued performing as a Celtic/Swedish/bluegrass duo with guitarist Sam Clement in the southwestern Vermont region, and with the farmer-based folk/rock band Ploughman's Lunch throughout Essex County, New York as well as others.

Dave Cuite is primarily a jazz acoustic bassist who also dabbles in bluegrass and avant-garde improvisation. He currently plays in the Jeff McCrae Quartet, the Leah Carroll group Aviva, the Darryl Kniffen trio, and is a regular freelance bassist in Southwestern Vermont and the Saratoga region of New York. The Dave Cuite Quartet has been a regular ensemble for the Hubbard Hall Gala in Cambridge, New York for the past six years. In NYC he has performed at The Knitting Factory and CBGBs among many other venues and was the bassist for the jazz ensemble classes at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music for eight years. He has played at One Caroline Street, 9 Maple Ave., the Hall of Springs, the Saratoga Race Track and SPAC in Saratoga Springs. He is a regular performer at the Bennington Museum, the Bennington Garlic Festival, the Vermont Arts Exchange, Southern Vermont Arts Center and numerous venues around Southwestern Vermont.

Drummer David Norman is the alum of several bands, and a collector of a wide range of percussion instruments. He has performed at The Vermont Arts Exchange in Bennington, Caffè Lena in Saratoga Springs, the Egg in Albany, Hubbard Hall in Cambridge, New York, Bennington College, and uncountable bars, cafés, restaurants and events in the VT/NY/MA area. In between gigs he can be seen (and heard) drumming on the dashboard of his truck.