

Deb Brisson and the Hay Burners at Brandon Music

Deb Brisson and the Hay Burners are a group of veteran Addison County performers, led by Brisson's powerful, expressive vocals, who make their Brandon Music debut on Saturday, June 3 at 7:30 p.m. Their songs are real and heartfelt, ranging from soulful and bluesy to rocking alt-country. With an album of original music, "Heart-Shaped Stone," to its credit, the band plays a mix of its own work and favorite covers by artists such as Natalie Merchant, Alabama Shakes, Coldplay, the Talking Heads and more.

Brisson brought the band together several years ago, to work on songs that she, original bassist Pete Ryan, and guitarist Mark Pelletier were writing. "Pete and I started playing around with a few tunes," she recalls, "and then we met Mark, who was extremely prolific in songwriting, and we decided to see what kind of sound and interest we could create. Our drummer John Wallace, who's also very creative, had access to Lion Tone Recording Studio in Middlebury, and from there came the 'Heart-Shaped Stone' album and our first gigs."

Backing Brisson's guitar and vocals are Pelletier on guitar and vocals, Wallace on drums, Carl Boss on bass and vocals, and Doug Wilhelm on congas, percussion and harmonica.

"I think if I had to pick a genre for our music, it would be Americana," Brisson said — "but it really is a little bit of everything. I think the sound is becoming distinctive. Mark's Telecaster style brings that country 'chicken picken' sound on top of the driving bass and percussion. I think my vocal style changes a bit from song to song, but I've always gravitated to a soulful, passionate feel. I love music, I feel it deeply and I want the crowd to feel it as well. I think that comes through with this group."

"The creative process is super challenging — sometimes long and arduous, but sometimes very quick," she added. "The process with my bandmates is so much fun, and when we finally get the tune together and play it for folks it's so rewarding. It takes time and practice and an openness to modify thinking and styles. To do this successfully with a group, and have a solid end result we can all be proud of, is just fantastic."

Their original compositions are only half of what this powerhouse group is known for. Many of their cover songs have been kicking around in different forms and arrangements in other bands, but have come to fruition with the spark of Brisson and the Burners' arrangements. Come see an extraordinary Vermont band on the rise!

This event is a part of Vermont Arts 2017, celebrating public funding for the arts.

Concert tickets are \$20. A pre-concert dinner is available for \$25. Reservations are required for dinner and recommended for the show. Venue is BYOB. Call (802) 247-4295 or e-mail info@brandon-music.net for reservations or for more information. Brandon Music is located at 62 Country Club Rd. Brandon, VT 05733 www.brandon-music.net