

Cooie's Jazz Ensemble performs jazz standards at Brandon Music June 22nd

On June 22nd Brandon Music welcomes back the very popular Vermont singer, songwriter and guitarist Cooie DeFrancesco. Frequently enjoyed as a solo performer, this time Cooie will be accompanied by her Jazz Ensemble, made up of veteran musicians Robert Gagnon (guitar), Andy Smith (bass), and Rob Zollman (drums),

Cooie DeFrancesco has that special ability to reach the heart of a lyric and brings to it her own special blend of pathos and humor. Each song she performs showcases a true and melodic voice as well as her unique interpretive skills, using expressive vocal arrangements to take a lyric back to its foundation. Her beautiful and full voice is a joy to the soul and her passion for a song's meaning and spirit will evoke the same feelings in the listener. On June 22nd, Cooie performs some of the very best of 20th century jazz classics including the unforgettable, 'All of Me', 'Cry Me A River', 'I'll Be Seeing You', 'As Time Goes By', 'All the Things You Are', 'Dream A Little Dream Of Me', and a special 'Route 66'. So for those who love the jazz standards and enjoy listening to a beautiful, soulful voice reminiscent of Mama Cass or Mary Carpenter then this is the perfect concert.

Music has been Cooie DeFrancesco's lifelong companion, from harmonizing with her family in the car as a child, listening late at night to the artists that still inspire her – until the transistor radio batteries gave out, to finally following her heart and bringing her voice to others personally. Now a regular and much sought after performer Cooie has the ability to touch her audiences, leading their emotional journey through the music that has always brought her comfort.

Guitarist **Bob Gagnon** was raised not far from the Canadian border, began playing and studying the guitar at the age of six, and learned Quebecois fiddle tunes and songs from the American songbook. After studying jazz guitar at Ithaca College, Gagnon returned to Vermont and formed the Bob Gagnon Trio in 1989. He has continued to play in various musical settings that reflect his wide-ranging influences.

Along with a successful teaching career, **Andy Smith** has had an extensive performing career spanning fourteen countries, seventeen states and three continents. He has performed on stages from B.B. King's in NYC and the world famous Imatra Jazz Festival in Finland, to Burlington's Flynn Main Stage. His recording credits include the Grammy nominated Mighty Sam McClain, Prydein, Jazzmosis, Swinging Vermont Big Band, The Main Street Quartet, and others. He performs regularly with Prydein, Small Change, The Bessette Quartet, Tiny Montgomery and many small jazz combos.

A performer for over 40 years, **Rob Zollman** plays jazz, blues, rock, classical, and Brazilian and other ethnic music — including klezmer and Chassidic rock. Currently he plays big band jazz with EnerJazz, original jazz with Chuck Miller's Seven Project, rock with The Keating Five, blues with Left Eye Jump, free jazz with John Fischer's Interface, and frequently plays drums and percussion in musicals. Earlier in his career, Zollman co-founded the Atmost Percussion Quartet, performed with the contemporary music group Relache, and was a classical timpanist and percussionist with the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia.

This event is a part of Vermont Arts 2019 celebrating public funding for the arts.