

CourantCommunity

The Hot Flashes To Play At Audubon Center Jan.7



The Hot Flashes will perform at Connecticut Audubon Center in Glastonbury on Jan. 7. (Marilyn Catusus/Contributed Photo)



By **Steve Smith**
Staff Writer

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Veteran bluegrass musician Amy Gallatin plays a "home" concert in Glastonbury around this time every year, and usually brings along a guest musician (or several).

This year is no different, as Gallatin will be joined by five other musicians, collectively known as The Hot Flashes, with which she has played for many years, at a show on Jan. 7 at the Audubon Center.

The Hot Flashes first started approximately 14 years ago. The idea was an all-girl, female harmony group, but with male backing musicians, which worked to great success. The Hot Flashes played together heavily for approximately three years, including a tour of Europe, before going their separate ways for about a decade.

The musicians all happened to be at the same bluegrass festival two years ago, and decided to jam backstage.

"It was like, 'Wow!' It was almost like we had never left," Gallatin said. "It was strange how all of that stayed with us. The vibe was still there, and we had remembered all of our old arrangements and stuff."

The group had decided to do one show later that summer, which was well-received by fans who remembered them.

"That kind of surprised me," Gallatin said. "It just sort of took off from there. It seemed to have a synergy."

The Hot Flashes' music is more diverse than the bluegrass outfit, the Stillwaters, who are Gallatin's usual "partners in crime."

Peggy Harvey plays sax, harmonica, fiddle, and viola, and Gail Wade plays banjo and guitar. Both ladies sing, along with Gallatin, who also plays guitar and percussion.

The men, affectionately referred to as the "Men-o-pause," include Roger Williams on the resophonic guitar (aka dobro), J.D. Williams on the mandolin, and John Urbanik on the upright bass.

"It's a boatload of talent," Gallatin said.

"We do a lot of swing-y, cow-girl stuff, as well as some bluesy tunes," Gallatin said, also describing the show as "authentic."

"There's no autotune. There's no electrification," she said. "There are no synthesizers. This is really authentic music. The kids who seek this music out, that's what they're looking for. It's very intimate. There's not a lot of technology between us and the audience. It's music the way it used to be played – like in someone's house or at a party."

Gallatin credits Harvey with making the harmonies sound perfect.

"Peggy plays all of these different instruments, and has an ear for arranging," she said. "She arranges all of these harmony notes so that they fall in the perfect spot. That is pretty magic."

The audience will hear songs of Gallatin's they are familiar with, including some from Hank Williams, Louis Jordan, and Johnny Mercer, as well as the Roy Orbison/Joe Melson-penned "Blue Bayou."

"We have songs that are favorites with the crowd, and of course we'll do all of those," Gallatin said.

The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 7, at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center, 1361 Main St., Glastonbury.

Tickets are \$15 for CAS members \$20 for non-members, children under 12 are admitted for half price. Please visit the center or call 860-633-8402 to reserve your seats. Reservations are recommended.