

THE SKIFFLE MINSTRELS

HILLBILLY ★ ROCKABILLY ★ HONKY-TONK

Five-Time ArtVoice Best of Buffalo Winners!

ABOUT THE BAND

An eccentric bunch of Buffalo musicians, The Skiffle Minstrels have become dancers' favorites throughout western and central New York. The band plays country-western and Cajun standards as well as upbeat originals with a swinging beat that gets 'em on the floor. But don't take our word for it . . .

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

"The Skiffle Minstrels play classic songs of classic songwriters, country blues, swing and honky-tonk, and originals which merit being played in the same sets as Hank Williams. **It's listening music, it's dancing music played with energy and joy.** I've also had the privilege of hosting them live on my radio show twice. They are great in the small radio studio, but the dance hall is their domain."—*Scott Regan (WRUR Radio, Rochester, NY)*

"Dancers love The Skiffle Minstrels! They play music that's just **perfect for all kinds of dancing**—country and Cajun two-step, swing, waltz, zydeco, blues—in one fun-filled, high-energy package!"—*Esther Brill and RJ Ruble (Partner-Dance Teachers)*

"The Skiffle Minstrels infuse this old-time music with **so much exuberance and heart** that their joy radiates from the stage."—*Eric Times-News*

"The Skiffle Minstrels are **a hard-working and crowd-pleasing bunch.**"—*Buffalo News Gusto*

"Playing a joyous set of fiddle, accordion, guitar, bass, drums, and plenty of vocals, the Skiffle Minstrels have **an infectious good time** on stage."—*ArtVoice TV*

"It is a wonderful treat to witness a group with such range, talent and joy, that can float across many genres, and more importantly appeal to all ages. They are helping to keep alive vital musical traditions and introduce new generations to **wonderful, infectious music.** Their mix of original tunes, time-honored classics, and fresh interpretations of standards make for a blast of a night!"—*Megan Callahan (Musician)*

“A couple of us went to catch a show by The Skiffle Minstrels. The plan was to see some good music and talk about planning an event. Well, nothing got planned because **we could not divert our attention from the band** long enough. If you are ever looking for something fun to do [. . .] these guys are it.”—*Buffalo Rising*

“I have to give an overwhelming thumbs up to The Skiffle Minstrels for the music they play and the way they play it. It’s **played with passion, craft, and energy**. Song choices are vast and tasteful. I love to dance and The Skiffle Minstrels deliver the beat, rhythm, and melodies for a full set of both couple and freestyle dancing. It’s a blast anytime they play. Foxtrot, swing, two-step, waltz, west-coast swing, even a rhumba now and then.”—*Kim Wayne (Dancer)*

“**I felt like I was at a 1960’s Tennessee barn dance**—and judging by the packed dance floor, the crowd seemed to be taken back in time, too. A great night!”—*Jason Bravo (Musician)*

AWARDS

- Best New Original Band (Buffalo Music Awards, 2010)
- Best Country Band (ArtVoice Best of Buffalo Awards, 2010)
- Best Folk/Bluegrass/Old-Time Act (ArtVoice Best of Buffalo Awards, 2009)
- Best Folk/Bluegrass Act (ArtVoice Best of Buffalo Awards, 2008)
- Best Genre-Defying Act (ArtVoice Best of Buffalo Awards, 2007)
- Best Folk/Acoustic Group (ArtVoice Best of Buffalo Awards, 2006)

DISCOGRAPHY

WBFO On the Border: Wednesday Night Concerts, Volume 1—2008

The nineteen-song compilation features some of the outstanding talent from Western New York—including The Skiffle Minstrels’ “All Night Diner,” recorded during a live-to-air concert in August, 2008.

Homespun—2009

The Skiffle Minstrels’ first CD, *Homespun*, is—as the name implies and the genre demands—a collection of homespun songs, simply recorded without overdubs. From the liner notes: “We recorded these songs at the SKRRAM club in Buffalo, NY—a combination living room, bar, rehearsal hall, and supper club (featuring Mama K’s home cooking). We all played together in this 20x25 room, skipped the overdubs, punch-ins, and effects, and tried to create something to share our music.”

BAND BIOS

PAUL TODARO—Bass, Vocals

Paul discovered skiffle inadvertently and saved his life; he no longer takes it as seriously. He is a self-taught bassist and devoted follower of Hank Williams, Hank Penny, Hank Snow and all the other Hanks of country music. He is a founding member of The Skiffle Minstrels and believes music is for dancing, laughing, and falling in love.

PHIL KNOERZER—Guitar, Harmonica

Phil is no stranger to Americana music—back in 1971, he was a founding member of The American Flyer Jug Band. A self-taught guitarist and harmonica player, he’s a founding member of The Skiffle Minstrels.

RON KOWALEWSKI—Accordion, Vocals

An educator, entertainer, and accordionist, Ron’s passion for Zydeco and American roots music infuses many Skiffle tunes with a taste of the bayou. Keep an ear peeled for his original tune “Two-Step Gorilla” in the set list.

GUS RUSSO—Drums

Gus is a veteran drummer who spent fifteen years with Buffalo legends LeeRon Zydeco and the Hot Tamales. He has also played with the late keyboardists Stan Szelest and Joe “Groove” Madison, saxmen Jimmy Tudini and Bobby Militello, guitarists Doug Morgano and Bobby Falk, and with singers from Barbara St. Clair to Gretchen Schultz. He is happy to be the newest member of The Skiffle Minstrels.

MAGGIE ZINDLE—Fiddle, Vocals

Maggie has been fiddling around with The Skiffle Minstrels for five years. She started the violin when she was eight, quit when she was eighteen, and picked it up again—in the guise of a fiddle—in 2005. When she isn’t whooping it up at a local honky-tonk, she is a hired gun soprano with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, a member of Actor’s Equity, and married to Tom Zindle (*a.k.a.*, The Fiddler’s Beau).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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