

The Gayville Hall Gazette

Gayville Hall's 13th Season Continues with Hay Country Jamborees, Jami Lynn, Hank Williams Tribute, and More

Gayville Hall's 13th season continues on **Saturday, August 3**, at 8 p.m. with our monthly musical variety show, "**The Hay Country Jamboree**," starring the great East of Westville and "Acoustic Christmas" guitarist and singer, **Boyd Bristow**, Gayville Hall regulars **Nick Schwebach** and **Owen DeJong**, and our very special guest for the evening, guitarist and singer **Jim Groth** of Valley Springs.

We had been trying without success to get Groth back on our stage after his stellar performance in a show of Beatles tunes with Connecticut singer Bill Lauf here in 2003. One of the region's most versatile singers and musicians, Groth has performed a wide range of old-time American popular music and will trade great old tunes with Boyd, Nick and Owen in a fast-paced two-hour show. You shouldn't miss.

On **Sept. 7**, banjo virtuoso and funnyman **Dan Kilbride**, Gayville Hall country music hosts **John and Susan McNeill**, and the duo of fiddler **Owen DeJong** and guitarist and singer **Nick**

Schwebach will return for another Saturday night of "**The Hay Country Jamboree**." These guys and gal pioneered the show, of course, and we promise that a good time will be had by all.

Mark Saturday, **Sept. 21**, on your calendar for "**A Celebration of Hank Williams**" at Gayville Hall, which we will be presenting in remembrance this



Jim Groth

year of the great country singer and songwriter's 90th birthday (Sept. 17). The **McNeills**, **DeJong**, and **Schwebach**

first performed this show 12 years ago to a standing room only crowd, and it has remained very popular. There are no better songs in

country music than Hank's, and Schwebach's classic, country steel guitar and DeJong's acclaimed fiddling provide a beautiful setting for John and Susan's great vocals.

Iowa's "Singing Farmer" **Ervin Pickhinke** joins **John, Susan, Nick**, and **Owen** at "**The Hay Country Jamboree**" on Saturday, **October 5**, at 8 p.m. Ervin's strong, clear voice proj-

ects a pure country sound, and his repertoire is classic country, as is the McNeills'. Nick and Owen will add old-time tunes that your grandparent's loved, the fabulous songs of Fats Waller, the Gershwins, Hoagy Carmichael, early Duke Ellington, and other greats of "American Popular Song." It will be a great evening of music.

On **October 12**, the rising, young singer-songwriter **Jami Lynn** of Rapid City returns to Gayville Hall for "**Jami Lynn and Friends**," our two-hour



Jami Lynn

show of old-time popular and folk songs and original tunes accompanied by **Dylan James**, a Black Hills string player who has been performing, touring, and recording with Lynn for two years.

They will be joined by a familiar face on our stage from the trio Good People and recent "jazz

jam" shows, the wonderful Sioux Falls singer **Becca Gehm**, who will be singing some classic old-time American popular tunes. The great Sioux City piano player, **Terry Brooks**, the senior

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Jim Groth, Jami Lynn Bring Big Talent to the Gayville Hall Stage

Many great musicians have graced the stage at Gayville Hall through the years, but the ones that really resound with audiences seem to be local or have local ties.

Nearly all of Gayville Hall's shows these days feature great local talent like John and Susan McNeill, Dan Kilbride, Nick Schwebach, Owen DeJong, and others.

Here's a look at two musicians who grew up in this region who will appear at Gayville Hall this fall. The first, Jim Groth, is one we hope can play more frequently at Gayville Hall. The other -- Jami Lynn -- has become a yearly favorite at Gayville Hall.

Valley Springs musician **Jim Groth** loves music. In fact, the longtime guitarist and singer, who first played professionally in 1965, says he appreciates every genre of music.

"I really like everything," he says. "And every genre has

somebody that I love."

Groth, who retired last year from Lincoln High School where he taught native studies, has been a musician for five decades, playing with numerous rock and rhythm-and-blues bands since the 1960s. He was inducted twice into the South Dakota Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the bands The Pilgrims and The Starfires. He is currently a member of the trio Trefoil, an Irish band out of Sioux Falls, and plays most frequently now as a solo act. He is a South Dakota Arts Council Artist-in-the-Schools and is a regular (the "family band") on South Dakota Public Radio's "Rock Garden Tour" show.

Groth's musical influences include country music legend Jimmie Rodgers, The Beatles, Joni Mitchell, Doc Wat-

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Old and New Talent Has Big Impact on Gayville Hall Shows

Boyd Bristow of Sioux Falls is legendary in South Dakota music circles, a true “musician’s musician,” who is also loved by the public. Boyd is making his fourth appearance in less than a year at Gayville Hall on August 3 and we hope that we can keep the string of appearances going.

Boyd says he is looking forward to performing at “The Hay Country Jamboree” with his old friends and bandmates from Poker Alice, Owen DeJong and Nick Schwebach, and with his great musical friend from Valley Springs, Jim Groth.

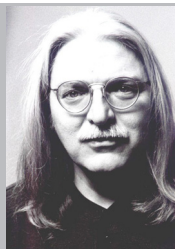
I am sorry and embarrassed to say that Jim Groth last appeared here in 2003. I tried a few times to book him, but our dates never matched up. Groth is a wonderful singer and guitar player that you should have been seeing regularly. You need to come to our show on August 3 and meet and hear the great Jim Groth, one of South Dakota’s finest. Okay?

We first became aware of the talented young South Dakota singer-songwriter Jami Lynn in 2010 and booked her three times that year while she was still living and working in Vermillion, where she had graduated with a degree in vocal performance from USD. We would have loved to have had her continue performing that frequently, but her move to Rapid City before the 2010 season meant that we have only been able to book her once a year since 2011.

This year’s performance, Jami’s sixth here, is on October 12. You should come and see the show. She’s an outstanding performer of traditional old-time music and writes songs that have the same feel and emotional qualities as the old. She’s bringing her musical partner of two years with her this time, a Black Hills native and string player named Dylan James who has per-

From the HOUSE

by Gayville Hall Proprietor Doug Sharples



formed and toured extensively with Jami and is on her third CD.

Also in this show are two other performers who have really started to make themselves at home on the Gayville Hall stage, singer Becca Gehm of Sioux Falls and pianist Terry Brooks of Sioux City.

Becca is a great, young interpreter of classic American popular songs, especially ones going back to the 1920s, ‘30s, ‘40s, and ‘50s. She started performing at the hall with the trio Good People, which has made eight appearances here, but more recently has also performed with the Public Domain Tune Band and guests in three Gayville Hall “jazz jams.”

Brooks is a phenomenal professional piano player with many credits in L.A. and Las Vegas, where he played in the shows of Bill Cosby, Whoopi Goldberg, and others.

He first played at Gayville Hall in 2008 with the C.J. Kocher Quintet, returned in 2010 for two “Hay Country Jamborees” which also featured Jami Lynn, and, along with another show or two, performed in two of our “jazz jams” last September and this past June in which he helped back Becca.

We are really looking forward to these August 3rd and October 12th shows featuring some new and old talent.

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Home of Old Time Music

Profiles: Groth and Lynn Gayville

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son, and many others.

At his August 3 appearance at Gayville Hall, Groth will play some Jimmie Rodgers, a little Bob Dylan, maybe a Beatles tune or two, and some original songs, he says. He is looking forward to the performance.

Singer-songwriter Jami Lynn, who was raised on a farm in northeast South Dakota, began singing folk and bluegrass music at the age of 13. By the age of 16, she had taught herself to play the guitar and was accompanying herself, as well as writing her own music.

Since then, Lynn’s career has taken off. She released her first album while still an undergraduate student at USD studying vocal performance. Her second album, *Sodbusters*, was well received and has been featured on several radio and television programs and garnered international attention from critics in France and the Netherlands.

Last April, Lynn and her current musical partner Dylan James (who appears with Jami Lynn at Gayville Hall on October 12) released Lynn’s third album, their first together.

“The album has done really well for itself!” she said. “We paid it off in the first three weeks of our tour.”

The duo’s tour started in Watertown and took them to Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina, Tennessee, Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota again.

Lynn, who has appeared at Gayville Hall five times before, is looking forward to her Gayville Hall appearance in October.

“I look forward to the crowd at Gayville because they *really* appreciate good music,” she said. “It’s so much fun performing with musicians that I don’t often get to collaborate with!”

At the October 12 show, Lynn says Gayville Hall patrons can expect “some excellent speedy picking from Dylan James, tight vocal harmonies, and a few old tunes they probably haven’t heard in a while.”

Great Late Summer and Fall Shows of Our 13th Season

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member of the ensemble, will accompany Gehm, as well as Lynn and James on some tunes, play a couple solo piano pieces, and the foursome may join together on several others. An exciting show is guaranteed.

On **Nov. 2**, Gayville Hall will present our last **"Hay Country Jamboree"** of the season, which will feature the **McNeills, Dan Kilbride, Nick Schwebach, Owen DeJong, and guests** in another extravaganza of old-time tunes, country, bluegrass, folk and humor.



Becca Gehm

"Waylon, Willie and the Boys" are the inspiration for our **November 16th** show, starring our fabulous country foursome – **Owen, Nick, John and Susan**. It is always one of our most fun shows of the year, so don't forget to make a reservation.

The finale of 2013, presented on **December 7**, will once again be **"A Poker Alice Christmas,"** starring the **Poker Alice Band** and singer **Brenda George**. Owen and Nick's five-piece



band and the great country singer team up to perform swinging tunes from their eclectic repertoires and seasonal favorites.

All shows at Gayville Hall are on Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 at the door, or \$15 reserved. Call 605-267-2859.

Hank Williams at 90: Forever a Classic at Gayville Hall

Hank Williams just won't go away. Nor should he, in my estimation. He's been deceased for many decades now, but he's discussed constantly, and his music is more performed and enjoyed than ever. Hank came on the scene, and Hank's still on the scene. And those who like good ol' country music are all the better for it. Lots of musical changes have occurred over the years, with a great ebb and flow of stars and personalities. Hank Williams has an unequalled staying power. He just won't go away.

I read recently that the Williams' estate is making more money than ever before in royalties from the catalog of Hank's songs. Little wonder, as even though country music has undergone a lot of modernization, someone's always recording one of the classic Hank William's songs. I know of no other musical personality who has had the profound, lasting influence and impact on American music as Hank Williams. Whether one likes or approves of country music at all, it is undeniable that there's something about his simple, accessible music that we just can't get out of our heads and hearts. His music has become a permanent part of our language and expression. Indeed, it is not too much to conclude that the brief life of this Alabama guitar

From
the
STAGE



by Gayville Hall MC John McNeill

strummer and the songs he wrote and performed have become fundamental in our culture. His person and oeuvre transcend all our polyglot American differences. He's something of who we are, regardless of our colors, ethnicities, origins, and sophistications. There's just no getting around it.

Hearing or playing a Hank Williams' song is like a breath of fresh rural air. It means no traffic jams, no complex government, no imponderable social issues, and no stultifying formalities. Hank Williams' music gives us a break from these kinds of things - and, anymore, we sorely need such respite. Hank is never off-putting. He's always within easy reach. He's never inimical. He's a good guy we can count on to always be our musical pal, whether we ourselves are particularly musical or not.

There's some irony in that, too, because his personal life, in all its

briefness, was stormy, and not a very happy one. But we aren't intended to be Hank Williams' analysts. Ours isn't to figure him out. It's unnecessary and inappropriate for us to try to explain Hank Williams. He was an unvarnished and plain-cloth country singer who happened to sing out sufficiently for us to find much pleasure in his little song-stories, his three-chord melodies, and his RFD expressions. And we've been finding it for a long time, now.

You can find Hank Williams tunes at Gayville Hall every season. There's always a Hank song or two being performed from the GvH live-music stage. In fact, we're going to feature our Hank Williams Show this September in honor of Hank's 90th birthday. An entire evening of all Hank Williams songs. You should come out for this. Many GvH patrons come out every time we do this show, having now seen it a dozen or more times. We pour all we have into the "Hank Show" - as we call it. Come be a part of it with us. When we look out from the stage and see you in the audience, we won't be able to keep from singing, "Hey, Hey Good Lookin".

Hank Williams just won't go away, and Gayville Hall is here to prove it.

Gayville Hall
 PO Box 249
 Gayville, SD 57031
 (605) 267-2859

**Gayville Hall's 13th Season
 continues with 8 great shows!**



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VISIT:
www.gayvillehall.com
 for updated show information.

GAYVILLE HALL'S FALL SEASON 2013

Aug. 3: "The Hay Country Jamboree"

GAYVILLE HALL'S MONTHLY MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW
 starring Jim Groth, Boyd Bristow,
 Owen DeJong and Nick Schwebach

SEPT. 7: "The Hay Country Jamboree"

GAYVILLE HALL'S MONTHLY MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW
 starring Dan Kilbride, John & Susan McNeill,
 Nick Schwebach and Owen DeJong

**SEPT. 21: "A Celebration of Hank Williams"
 (90th Birthday)**

GAYVILLE HALL'S POPULAR TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT LEGEND
 starring John & Susan McNeill, Owen DeJong, and Nick Schwebach

OCT. 5: "The Hay Country Jamboree"

GAYVILLE HALL'S MONTHLY MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW
 starring Ervin Pickhinke, John & Susan McNeill,
 Owen DeJong and Nick Schwebach

OCT. 12: "Jami Lynn & Friends"

THE FABULOUS SINGER-SONGWRITER RETURNS
 starring Jami Lynn, Dylan James, Becca Gehm, and Terry Brooks

Nov. 2: "The Hay Country Jamboree"

GAYVILLE HALL'S MONTHLY MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW
 starring John & Susan McNeill, Dan Kilbride,
 Owen DeJong and Nick Schwebach and guests

Nov. 16: "Waylon, Willie, & the Boys"

GAYVILLE HALL'S TRIBUTE TO THE TEXAS COUNTRY SCENE
 starring John & Susan McNeill, Nick Schwebach and Owen DeJong

DEC. 7: "A Poker Alice Christmas"

RING IN THE SEASON WITH THIS GREAT BAND AND COUNTRY SINGER
 starring The Poker Alice Band with Brenda George

GAYVILLE HALL, 502 Washington Street, Gayville
Tickets: \$12.50 at door, \$15 reserved. Call 605-267-2859. Shows start at 8 p.m.