

**WEATHERVANE INN TO HOST
SECOND ANNUAL GUITAR LOVER'S WEEKEND
MARCH 31 – APRIL 2, 2006
SPONSORED BY TAYLOR GUITARS**

*Grammy Award Winning Artist Wayne Johnson from Manhattan Transfer
To hold Master Class and perform in benefit concert for PR Kellerman Foundation*

S. EGREMONT, MA, February 12, 2006.....The Weathervane Inn will be hosting the Second Annual Guitar Lover's Weekend sponsored by Taylor Guitars, March 31 – April 2, 2006. The weekend provides guitar lovers of all ages and abilities a unique opportunity to learn new skills, indulge their love of guitars, and meet new jam buddies. Last year's event, featuring Singer-Songwriter Artie Traum, attracted guitarists from as far away as Washington, D.C. and Buffalo, many of whom will be returning this year.

The weekend kicks off Friday night with a cocktail reception and talk by **Steve Sauve of Sauve Guitars**. N. Adams-based Sauve Guitars repairs and builds custom guitars. Steve will be discussing the proper set up and adjustment of acoustic guitars.

Saturday morning, **Grammy winning performing artist and Taylor Clinician Wayne Johnson** will be conducting a two-hour Master Class covering a variety of improvisational techniques. "Improvisation has long been a primary focus for me. I love finding new and simpler ways of looking at what can be a very complex process." One of these techniques he calls "Pentatonic Substitutions." "Here I've found, for all of the more advanced chords and chord scales (used in typical jazz improvisation), a simple pentatonic scale that will work. Guitarists love this one because practically everyone knows a pentatonic scale." Another one of Wayne's passions is playing Latin chord progressions incorporating right hand techniques which allow for independent thumb/ bass lines, chord patterns and percussive effects simultaneously. He's also had quite a bit of experience accompanying singers. He'll shed a little light on this subject as well as talk about equipment. "I have equal time invested in both electric and acoustic guitars. Most acoustic guitarists in the past never had to worry about fx. Now days with the pickup technology, acoustic players have access to a variety of very important pieces of equipment including amps & fx pedals. I'll demonstrate many of them."

In the afternoon, local area musician **Anson Olds** will be holding a Flat Picked Guitar Workshop, covering the mechanics of using a pick, including rules of pick direction. Anson will also talk briefly about playing effective rhythm guitar before delving into the area of flat picking fiddle tunes, and embellishing melodies. Anson was the New England flat picking guitar champion in 1985, and was named the Berkshires "Best Traditional Folk Performer" for 1992 and 1993 by the *Berkshire Eagle*.

The weekend concludes with a concert Saturday night in the Barn of the Weathervane Inn, featuring Wayne Johnson. An Open Mike will follow, with free gifts from Taylor Guitars for all participants. The evening will conclude with a drawing for a free Baby Taylor Guitar. The concert is open to all weekend participants as well as the public. The price of admission for this evening is a donation to the **PR Kellerman Foundation**, a non-profit organization providing free music lessons and instruments to children in Berkshire County who are unable to afford to study music. This foundation has been created in the loving memory of Peter Rodney Kellerman, a Berkshires resident whose life was cut short on 9-11 but whose memory lives on with music. More information about the Foundation can be found at: www.prkellermanfoundation.org.

More information about the Guitar Lover's Weekend can be found at www.weathervaneinn.com or by calling 1-800-528-9580. The Weathervane Inn is offering both a weekend lodging package and an event (non-lodging) pass. The weekend is strictly limited to 50 participants.

About Wayne Johnson

Wayne Johnson joined the pop/jazz vocal group Manhattan Transfer after attending Berklee College of Music in the late 70's. Since then, Wayne has taken plenty of time off from the gig to keep his solo interests alive. Wayne's "Trio", with Bill Berg on drums and Jimmy Johnson on bass, has also been performing and recording since the late '70. With six Trio recordings and two solo acoustic CDs to his credit, Wayne has also recorded and performed with an eclectic group of artists in addition to the Manhattan Transfer. During the last five year hiatus from the Manhattan Transfer, Wayne performed and recorded with Rickie Lee Jones for two years and opened as a solo acoustic act for John Tesh for two years. In addition to recording many sessions for a variety of artists, he toured and recorded with Japanese pop/jazz artist Akiko Yano as well as Lee Oskar of "War". Wayne, along with other label mates on Solid Air Records, won the coveted Grammy at the 47th Annual Grammy

Awards in 2005.

When he is off the road and not performing live, Wayne produces music for a variety of situations and is a guest instructor at M.I.T. (Musician's Institute of Technology) and L.A.M.A. (Los Angeles Music Academy). Wayne's latest solo acoustic venture, *One Guitar*, was released in September of 2003 on Solid Air Records. It is an excursion into adventurous solo acoustic playing with the addition of tapping and hitting the guitar, using a variety of specialized techniques in an improvisational manner, so as to resemble interplay with a real percussionist. The CD was listed #2 out of the top 20 acoustic guitar recordings to own by *Jazziz*.

About Taylor Guitars

Established in 1974, Taylor Guitars has evolved from a small venture between co-founders Bob Taylor and Kurt Listug to the world's most successful and highly regarded manufacturer of high-end acoustic guitars. The company pioneered the use of computer technology, lasers, and other high-tech tools and machinery to craft acoustic guitars with unprecedented precision and consistency. The result is a blend of cutting-edge production and hands-on attention to detail that has distinguished Taylors as some of the most beautiful, musically inspiring, and easy-to-play acoustic guitars in the world. Taylor Guitars is located in El Cajon, California (just outside of San Diego) with dealers all over the East Coast. To find the nearest Taylor dealer and to learn more about Taylor Guitars, visit www.taylorguitars.com/dealers.

About the Weathervane Inn

Located in historic, downtown S. Egremont, and close to all Berkshire area attractions, this landmark home, built in 1786 features 11 guestrooms with private baths, plenty of common rooms for relaxing and socializing, and the "best breakfast" in the Berkshires.