

For more information on this press release, contact:

Marilynn Mair, Director of the American Mandolin & Guitar Summer School,

Email: mairmusic@yahoo.com Text or call: 401-861-6825

The American Mandolin & Guitar Summer School, to be held at Roger Williams University from June 15-20, 2026, presents a series of 4 concerts, open to the public, free of charge.

Monday, June 15 at 7:00 PM

Enigmatica – A Plucked String Ensemble

Enigmatica has been performing music together for 25 years. Their program features a diverse repertoire of music from the Baroque to Brazil, including works by Bach, Villa-Lobos, Pixinguinha, and group members. For more information: marilynnmair.com/enigmatica

The Performing Arts Center, Roger Williams University

One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, Rhode Island

Admission free

“The sound of Enigmatica can be described as sparkling, effervescent, fluid, precise, and joyous. The clarity of line they achieve is breathtaking, completely the equal of any string quartet or chamber ensemble playing today.” *Mandolin Magazine*

Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00 PM

AMGuSS Faculty & Friends ~ One Night Only!

The distinguished faculty of the American Mandolin & Guitar Summer School perform with friends on a plethora of plucked-string instruments, and voice. Faculty members have given concerts throughout the world, and bring their distinct backgrounds together to create a unique and varied program.

The Performing Arts Center, Roger Williams University

One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, Rhode Island

Admission free

Thursday, June 18 at 7:00 PM

Music for a Summer’s Evening ~ featuring Fortuna

Fortuna (Catherine Hawkes and Steven Jobe) has been performing original and medieval music for over 40 years. Hawkes and Jobe are both award-winning composers, and their program will include recent compositions with a tip of the hat to their early-music roots.

To open, Marilyn Mair performs a short set of her original duet compositions, inspired by poetry and Brazil, with guitarists Robert N. Martel & Paul Dressel. For more information: marilynnmair.com

The Performing Arts Center, Roger Williams University

One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, Rhode Island

Admission free

“Mair’s a superb mandolin player who has previously brought the instrument to unexpected places, so it’s not shocking to realize she has ideas about creatively positioning it.” Jim Macnie

Friday, June 19 at 7:00 PM

The American Mandolin & Guitar Orchestra

An orchestra of 40 musicians from across the country will perform a variety of music from the Baroque to the 21st century, featuring pieces written especially for them, including a World Premiere piece written to mark the group's 40th year.

**The Performing Arts Center
Roger Williams University
One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, Rhode Island
Admission free**

Press photos attached.

The American Mandolin & Guitar Summer School

One of the first American summer schools for mandolin & guitar, AMGuSS was founded in 1986 to promote the art of ensemble playing for guitar and mandolin family instruments. Yearly sessions combine classical study with exploration of world music, in workshops, chamber ensembles and an all-school plucked-string orchestra. 2026 marks its 40th and final year.

Enigmatica – A Plucked String Ensemble

Enigmatica is a New England-based mandolin ensemble directed by Marilyn Mair. Part chamber orchestra and part plucked-string double-quartet, Enigmatica performs a variety of music: Baroque, Brazilian, eclectic contemporary, and Americana music written by group members and friends. The ensemble features instruments of the mandolin family — mandolin, mandola, and octave mandolin, with 6- and 7-string guitars. Ensemble members come from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. The group has released 5 highly acclaimed CDs.

Fortuna (Catherine Hawkes and Steven Jobe)

Steven L. Jobe holds a Master of Arts in Music History from The Ohio State University. A Rhode Island-based composer, his first major work, the opera “Joan of Arc,” premiered in 1993 in Providence. His first string quartet won the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts Fellowship in Composition in 2006. The commissioned work “The Newman Cantata” premiered in May 2014, and his second opera, “The Legend of the Fairy Melusine,” had its concert premiere in September 2014. Several of his works – a string trio and two concertos – will be published this year by Forton Music in the UK.

Catherine Hawkes completed her DM in Early Music Performance from Indiana University in 2009. She has come to composition more recently, but has produced a number of pieces that have been performed and recorded by Enigmatica. “Passage Work,” commissioned by the New York Mandolin Orchestra on the occasion of their 100th anniversary, was performed in New York in April 2024. Now retired from her professorship at Roger Williams University, she has time to devote to composing duo literature. She and Steve have been performing together off and on since 1980.

Marilynn Mair – mandolinist, AMGuSS Director

Marilynn Mair has shown the world what the mandolin can achieve in the hands of a skillful artist. Internationally praised for her concerts and recordings, she has established classical mandolin in chamber music circles worldwide, earning the title, “First Lady of the American Mandolin”. Marilynn has performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the White House, and Lincoln Center, and internationally throughout Europe, and in Japan, China, and Brazil. She has released two dozen highly acclaimed solo and ensemble CDs, and appeared on numerous compilations. Her latest CD, *Silver Lining of a Quiet Year*, showcases music she wrote in 2020-2021. Marilynn has published 6 books on mandolin with Mel Bay Publications, the two most recent, books of her original compositions. Since 2005 Marilynn has frequently traveled to Rio de Janeiro, where she researches and performs Choro music, a seminal Brazilian style, throughout the city. As well as founding and directing AMGuSS, Marilynn also founded and directs Enigmatica– a plucked-string chamber ensemble now in its 26th year.

Press Photo attributions:

Photo of Fortuna is by Kerry Hopkins

Photo of Enigmatica is by Nate Davis

Photo of Marilynn Mair is by Paul Dressel