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Previewing the second semester of live music at Hamilton

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Village of Clinton may not be a major media center, but every semester Campus organizations like CAB, IMF, WHCL and the Music Department work tirelessly to bring exciting, talented and even world-renowned musicians to perform on our snowy campus. This semester's concert lineup looks particularly promising, with acts like Josh Ritter, The Thermals and Indie deity Jeff Mangum having performed national headlining tours within the past year and others like folk princess Anais Mitchell showing the potential to do so soon. *The Spectator* will be running full previews and reviews of these shows over the course of the semester, but here's a quick look at what we're looking forward to this semester. Of course, there could always be more shows announced later, so make sure to keep an eye out for those.

Poor Old Shine, January 24

The Acoustic Coffeehouse series in the Barn kicks off with this six-piece band that formed at UConn in 2011. With traditional instruments like banjo, mandolin, pump organ and washboard, the group embraces American folk traditions while adding their own sense of "honesty and hand crafted creativity." The group released an official live recording this summer, which you can check out on their website, PoorOldShine.com.

Josh Ritter, February 12

With five records, national tours, a novel and even Top 40 success in Ireland, singer-songwriter Josh Ritter has proved himself as a leading voice in modern folk music. A master of narrative songwriting, Josh's playful and charming stage presence has won over audiences worldwide. His long-awaited sixth album *The Beast In Its Tracks* comes out March 5 and contains some of his most intimate writing to date. Josh will kick off his spring tour at the Egg in Albany the night after his Hamilton performance.

Jeff Mangum, February 14

Best known as the leader of Neutral Milk Hotel, who released the im-



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After a lengthy hiatus, Jeff Mangum will stop at Hamilton on his 2013 comeback tour.

mortal album *In The Aeroplane Over The Sea* in 1998, Mangum is one of the most revered and mysterious figures in recent rock history. Mangum disbanded Neutral Milk after a short tour in 1998 then retreated from the public eye, avoiding performances for a decade. He resumed performing live in 2008, playing mostly Neutral Milk Hotel songs, although he only played infrequently until 2011 when he first seemed intent on a comeback. His 2013 spring tour will be his first official tour since the late '90s. Hamilton is Mangum's only scheduled college appearance of 2013. The show will be held in the Chapel.

Amy Porter, February 23

Having appeared at Carnegie Hall and other esteemed venues, Porter is a celebrated and award-winning concert flautist. After eight years in the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra she assumed the position of Professor of Flute at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance. She will be performing Aaron Copland's Duo for Flute and Piano and JS Bach's Prelude in C minor from the Cello Suite #5 in Wellin Hall.

Felice Brothers, February 28

Hailing from the (somewhat)

nearby Woodstock, NY area, the Felice Brothers have emerged from their modest start performing in New York City subway stations to become a mainstay on the growing folk rock scene. They've opened for bands like Bright Eyes, Old Crow Medicine Show, Dave Matthews Band and Mumford and Sons over the past few years, and played festivals like Bonnaroo, Mountain Jam and Newport Folk Festival. In 2012 they digitally released a collection of songs entitled "God Bless You, Amigo" to raise funds after the tragic loss of their beloved Winnebago. They're also opening for fellow Coffeehouse performer Josh Ritter on a leg of his tour this coming May.

Masters of Traditions: Celebrating Irish Music, March 2

Having established themselves as a duo, Irish violinist Marin Hayes and Irish-American guitarist Dennis Cahill have assembled an esteemed group of Irish folk musicians to tour in celebration of the unique art form. With an accordion, vocalist, uilleann piper and extra guitars and fiddles, they've assembled a group with the intention of exposing "the details and nuances of Irish traditional music." The Masters will perform in Wellin Hall.

The Thermals, March 8

Formed in 2002, The Thermals describe themselves as "a post-pop-punk trio from pre-Portlandia-Portland, Oregon." Representing Sub Pop Records, The Thermals have released five studio albums, most recently 2010's *Personal Life*, and they finished recording their sixth just before Hurricane Sandy hit their studio in Hoboken, NJ this fall. Even though it's been almost three years since their last album, the band calls their new material "a true scrappy and scratchy return-to-form for The Thermals, with all the raw power and unhinged adolescent energy that made their early LP's so insanely enjoyable."

CAB Concert, April 5

While the CAB Concerts team hasn't yet revealed the acts for their spring concert, their recent shows with Theophilus London and Wynter Gordon, Janelle Monae, Ra Ra Riot, Phantogram and LCD Soundsystem have all been amazing, so chances are we won't be disappointed. This year they say the headliner will be an alternative/indie rock band that released an album last year and their latest EP on January 22, this past week! Keep your schedules clear and keep your eye out for an announcement about this show!

Symphonia, April 5

The group formerly known as the Syracuse Symphony has had some financial challenges recently, but through it all they keep coming back to fill Wellin Hall with beautiful music, much to the delight of the Hamilton and Clinton communities. For this performance JoAnn Falletta will be conducting conducting Scheherazade by both Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and Maurice Ravel, with soprano Susan Platts featured on the Ravel Scheherazade.

Ben Williams and Sound Effect, April 6

2009 Thelonious Monk Competition Winner and Concord Records artist Ben Williams is one of today's most esteemed young jazz bassists. Even though he just released his debut album *State of Art* in 2011, Williams has performed with icons like Wynton Marsalis, Herbie Hancock, Pat Metheny and Benny Golson, as well as his own combo, dubbed Sound Effect. The group will perform in Wellin Hall.

Anais Mitchell, April 18

After opening for Joe Pug in October, Anais Mitchell will return to the Barn to headline her own edition of the Acoustic Coffeehouse series this April. Since her last visit to The Hill the Vermont native and Middlebury alum has recorded a new album, composed completely of 19th Century English and Scottish ballads collected by legendary folklorist Francis James Child. The album is expected sometime in 2013, possibly in time for her return to Hamilton.

Class & Charter Day, May 10

Like the April 5 CAB concert, this year's Class and Charter day performers have yet to be announced, but past years have featured acts like Passion Pit, Super Mash Bros., Dr. Dog, Dirty Projectors, Sam Adams, White Panda and Downbeat Keys, so you know it's going to be a party. Without exposing too much, CAB says this year's headliner has been on the top of the iTunes charts recently. Historically the acts have been announced in March or early April, so check back then.



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Celebrated flautist Amy Porter (left) performs in Wellin Hall on February 23, and The Felice Brothers (right) will play at coffeehouse February 28.