



THE MARITIME MUSIC & TRADITION SOCIETY
presents
**THE 2026 SYMPOSIUM
ON THE MUSIC OF THE SEA**
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June 12, 2026



9 A.M.

EARLY-NINETEENTH-CENTURY CHANTY STYLE AND
THE FABULOUS JOURNEY OF 'GROG TIME O' DAY'

Dr. Gibb Schreffler

Gibb Schreffler is Associate Professor of Music at Pomona College in Claremont, California. An ethnomusicologist whose earlier research focused on hereditary-professional drummers and folk dances of the Punjab region of South Asia, his recent work charts the development of American maritime laborers' work-songs. His publications include the books *Dhol: Drummers, Identities, and Modern Punjabi* (2021) and *Boxing the Compass: A Century and a Half of Discourse About Sailors' Chanties* (2018), along with a wide variety of scholarly journal articles. He is a frequent Symposium presenter.

10 A.M.

REWRITING THE HISTORY OF THE SHANTY: NEW EVIDENCE, NEW ORIGINS, NEW
NARRATIVES

Dr. Mollie Carlyle

Dr. Mollie Carlyle is a musicologist whose research spans historical musicology, ethnomusicology and critical heritage studies. She completed her PhD at the University of Aberdeen in 2024, where her dissertation examined the life and legacy of 'the last shantyman', Stan Hugill, and the cultural afterlives of maritime song traditions. Her forthcoming monograph traces the transformation of shanties from shipboard labour songs to global popular culture. Dr. Carlyle's research is informed by interdisciplinary, decolonial and historically-grounded approaches, and contributes to broader debates on music, memory and representation across transnational and postcolonial contexts.

11 A.M.

BROADSIDES, BALLADS AND FIFE TUNES OF SALEM:

FROM THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND BEYOND

Bob Strom

Robert Strom is Educational Adviser at North Shore Community College. He has devoted years to researching the rich and diverse maritime past of his home, Salem Massachusetts, and documenting and performing its contribution to the world of sea music. He has published *Old Salem in Ballad and Song*, *Old Salem at Sea in Ballad and Song*, and *The Unique Book of Songs of the Sea*. With Jennifer Strom, his recordings are *'round the bend* and *Heading Home*.

LUNCH BREAK

1:15 P.M.

CITIZENS OF THE SEA: OUR HEARTS ARE ENSLAVED

Dr. Stephen Sanfilippo

Stephen Sanfilippo has been a singer, researcher, academic writer, and teacher of historic songs of the sea since the 1970s. A United States Navy veteran, he received his Ph.D. in History from Stony Brook University; he is a retired assistant professor at Maine Maritime Academy. Active at the University of Maine at Machias, he has led the Chantey Sing at the Pembroke (Maine) Library since 2006 and edits the monthly newsletter *Seasons: from Sunrise to Sunrise*. He has presented many times at this Symposium. Stephen and his wife Susan divide their time between Pembroke, Maine, and Southold, New York.

2:15 P.M.

TOLL, TOLL THE BELL: LITTLE NELL OF NARRAGANSETT BAY

Benedict Gagliardi

The Vox Hunters are a musical trio consisting of Armand Aromin, Flannery Brown, and Benedict Gagliardi. Collectively and individually, they are key features in the traditional music and social singing communities of Rhode Island and greater New England. Their punny name reflects both their endeavors to bring voices into their singing community, and their pastime as local song researchers.

3:15 P.M.

VOYAGEUR SONGS OF THE FUR TRADE ERA

Lynn Noel

From 1988-2005, Lynn Noel toured Canada, the Great Lakes, and northern New England with a living history roleplay of the North West Company voyageur Lisette Laval Harmon. This work allowed her to collect dozens of voyageur songs in the oral tradition. In 1995, her book *VOYAGES: Canada's Heritage Rivers* was named Best Conservation Publication of the Year by the Natural Resources Council of America (NRCA). Lynn has put voyageur songs to work at the paddle and continues to present programs on voyageur song at events including the 2026 Flurry Festival and NEFFA 2026.