

April 11, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, PLEASE

East Haddam's First Celebrate America's 250th Event Friday, April 17 at 6:30 PM, Grange Hall, Free Admission. All Ages Welcome Live Music & History Program Explores the Birth of American Sound Presented by Joe Flood and Dr. James Clark

EAST HADDAM, CT — On **Friday, April 17 at 6:30 PM** at the **Grange Hall** (488 Town Street) enjoy an evening with **Joe Flood**, instrumentalist, songwriter, and historian and **Dr. James “Jim” Clark**, a leading expert on Connecticut's fife and drum tradition as they step back in time and share how American music found its voice. *“When American Music Became American,”* is an engaging live program for all ages that celebrates the sounds and stories of a revolutionary America and more. Along with live musical demonstrations and storytelling, the presenters will explore how early American music development was affected by culture and historical events.

Dr. Clark is widely recognized for his work preserving this important musical heritage. He is the founding member and director of Connecticut Valley Field Music, a Middletown-based fife and drum corps established in 1989. He has also served as the Minister of Music at Broad Brook Congregational Church and has mentored musicians across the region. Dr. Clark is the author of *“Connecticut's Fife & Drum Tradition”* (Wesleyan University Press, 2011), considered the definitive history of the form. His research traces the tradition from its European military roots through the Revolutionary and Civil War periods to modern-day performances.

“This entertaining and lively program brings history to life through music,” said Evelyn Morgen, Director of the East Haddam Library System. “It's a unique opportunity for the community to experience the origins of American sound in an interactive and memorable way.”

Sponsored by the Friends of Rathbun Library and the Friends of the East Haddam Free Public Library.



(Photo Caption)

Join us on **Friday, April 17 at 6:30 PM** at the **Grange Hall in East Haddam** for an evening with **Joe Flood (in photo)**, instrumentalist, songwriter along with historian and **Dr. James “Jim” Clark**, a leading expert on Connecticut’s fife and drum tradition as they step back in time and share how American music found its voice.

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