



SUSQUEHANNA SUMMER SOLSTICE FEST

week
END

Series
LINEUP

CONCERTS

A Celebration of American Roots Music
SusquehannaSolsticeFest.com

WED JUNE 16 - SUN JUNE 18, 2023
French Azilum, PA

SUN
JUNE
18

2:45 -
4:00 PM



JOE JENCKS

AWARD-WINNING FOLK ARTIST

joejencks.com

Internationally renowned folk, roots, and Irish musician, Joe Jencks- coming all the way from DeKalb, Illinois. A dual U.S. / Irish citizen, Joe sings with a lyric baritone voice that has the edgy richness of a good sea-salt caramel. A 25-year veteran of the international Folk circuit, an award-winning songwriter and celebrated vocalist based in the Chicago area, Joe delivers engaged musical narratives filled with heart, soul, groove, and grit.

Many of Joe's Celtic and Irish-infused original tunes are #1 Songs and #1 Albums as reported by Folk DJ (Folk Alliance International) and SiriusXM Radio. Jencks has released 17 albums & EPs thus far in his career, comprised largely of original songs, with select covers that pay homage to musical heroes such as Pete Seeger, Cat Stevens, and Luca Bloom. Joe performed with Pete on multiple occasions including a large social justice concert at Cleveland City Hall (OH).

Joe grew up in Rockford, Illinois, the youngest of 7 children in a very musical family. His father was an engineer and his mother a Special Ed. teacher, but both were musical and instilled Joe and his siblings with a deep sense of the value of music, art, social awareness, and creativity. His Grandfather, Felix Kilbride, immigrated to the US in 1914 carrying a single suitcase and a songbook from Ireland, to remind him of his home in Athy, County Kildare.

Like many of his musical mentors, Joe is committed to many social justice issues. His performance at SSSF will be on the eve of "Juneteenth" a significant day in American history. It marks the day 2 ½ years after the Emancipation Proclamation — when the last enslaved persons were finally released from bondage, and overt slavery in the U.S. was finally ended.

Joe's earliest musical influence outside the family was his elementary school music teacher — Dorothy Paige-Turner. Dorothy later formed the Black Theater Ensemble (BTE) in Rockford, IL. She invited Joe to be a member of the ensemble when he was 14 years old. And for the next 5 years, he helped to tell stories of oppression and liberation in U.S. history. It was a transformative experience for Jencks, solidifying for him the power of art to educate, illuminate, and uplift human stories of love, hope, struggle, and freedom.

Pete Seeger once said to Jencks, "A song does not have to be about the revolution, to be revolutionary." In this spirit, a Joe Jencks performance is a synergistic merging of multicultural and multigenerational narratives, equally revealing of the human heart, struggles, and hopeful triumphs.