



# 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

SAT  
JUNE  
17  
6:45 -  
8:30 PM



## Pelotones

### RnB-Infused Swing Band

[facebook.com/Pelotones](https://facebook.com/Pelotones)

The Pelotones join the SSSF as part of “Swing-sation Saturday”, as one of three swing bands in a row for listening *and* dancing, starting in the late afternoon

Wayne Gottlieb is the founder and primary composer of the tunes of this great swing band from Ithaca, NY. The band is fronted by two amazing guitarists and vocalists, Wayne and Alex Specker. Harry Aceto, one of Ithaca’s most sought after musicians, plays stand up bass with this group, but Harry is also an accomplished guitarist. Harry is well known as the rhythm guitarist with the gypsy swing combo, the Djangoners and many other groups. Michael Wellen is the drummer for the group- also well-known, as he has been playing with Ithaca bands for decades.

Wayne formed the Pelotones after jamming and taking informal instruction with Alex for several years with the goal of writing his own tunes. He was encouraged to write his own tunes initially by another Ithaca musician, Kathryn Layton. But his primary inspiration came from hearing an obscure musician playing at Trumansburg’s Grassroots Festival, Jo Serrapere. The Pelotones focus their repertoire on dance tunes- selecting bossa, swing, waltz or whatever to fit a certain groove that would be appealing to dancers.

Wayne’s influence comes from a variety of sources such as, Tom Waits, The Mills Brothers and T-Bone Walker. For the creative process, Wayne starts any given composition by himself and gets the basic structure, melody and lyrics established- then other band members help polish off the tunes. The band has a couple of CD’s out which will be available for sale at SSSF.

Wayne plays and sings in several other bands including Zingology, a gypsy swing combo that precedes the Pelotones. Wayne has sung and played on both of Zingology’s CD’s. Wayne also plays with Village Swing, Party of Four (no longer together), Maplewood Jazz, Jesse Collins and Diana Leigh.

You’ll notice that Wayne plays his archtop Eastman guitar- as a lefty (or backwards) as did some other guitarists like Paul McCartney or Jimi Hendrix. Primarily self taught but Wayne has had some instruction gleaned from Denis Winge, Doug Robinson and Alex. Originally from Los Angeles, Wayne has lived in Ithaca for many years. He retired three years ago as a science teacher at the DeWitt Middle School in Ithaca.