



“DUTCHMEN ON PARADE”

Kris and the RIVERBEND DUTCHMEN

“The Album that Defines the Modern Dutchmen Sound”

An informational release flyer for fans, radio programmers, presenters, and media outlets

About the Album

“DUTCHMEN ON PARADE” is a 20-track statement album built around the rich Upper Midwest dance-band tradition, performed with the size, polish, and energy of a modern professional ensemble. It brings together classic Dutchmen polkas, laendlers, waltzes, American standards, and new material in one cohesive listening experience. The result is not nostalgia for nostalgia's sake, but a living sound: bright horns, concertina, disciplined rhythm, strong arrangements, and a repertoire that respects history while sounding fully alive in the present.

For longtime dancers, the album feels like a well-lit ballroom on a full floor. For radio stations and reporters, it offers a useful snapshot of why this style still matters. For new listeners drawn in through the award-winning film “Song & Dance”, the project serves as a companion piece, extending the story of regional music, resilience, and community into recorded form.

Recorded At: Barefoot Music Studios, Ltd. Madison Lake, MN

Release Date: June 13, 2026

Format: CD & USB 20 tracks

Core sound: Dutchmen polkas, laendlers, waltzes, standards, vocals

Signature trait: Big horn section and concertina-led front line

For fans of: Traditional Midwest old-time dance music with new compositions and fresh arrangements

Web: www.RiverbendDutchmen.com

ALBUM RELEASE PARTY:

June 13, 2026 – 7PM until 10PM

MANKATO EALGE'S CLUB BALLROOM

708 N. Riverfront Drive

Mankato, MN 56001

Why This Release Matters

Kris and the Riverbend Dutchmen are part of a shrinking circle of large-format Dutchmen-style bands still working regularly with a substantial horn section. That matters. The old dance-band sound of Minnesota and Wisconsin was built on arrangement, blend, phrasing, and momentum, not merely on song choice. This album leans into that full architecture rather than reducing the music to a smaller, simplified format.

The band's profile has grown through live appearances across the Upper Midwest, national television exposure on Mollie B Polka Party and KEYC-TV's Bandwagon, recurring dances and festival bookings, and steady radio play on old-time programming across the United States and Canada. Prior Riverbend releases include Grab a Little Sunshine; Enjoy Yourself; Partners, Brothers, and Friends; Smile; Summer Sounds; and a DVD Mollie B Polka Party release.

“DUTCHMEN ON PARADE” also arrives at a moment when interest in the band has expanded through “Song & Dance”, the award-winning documentary aimed at old-time music. The film links the history of old-time dance bands with a deeply personal family story and has helped introduce the Riverbend Dutchmen to broader audiences beyond the ballroom circuit.

Regular Members

Performer	Role and Background
Kris Keltgen	Bandleader, concertina, vocals. Founder of the band and owner of Barefoot Music Studios. Began performing in childhood, later immersed himself in the concertina and launched the Riverbend Dutchmen in 2009.
Myron Muehlbauer	Tenor sax, trumpet, clarinet. Arranger, historian, and 2025 Minnesota Music Hall of Fame inductee whose five-decade performance record makes him one of the scene's most respected veterans.
Rick Keane	Trumpet, flugelhorn, trombone, vocals. A lifelong horn player, community historian, and 2026 Minnesota Music Hall of Fame inductee.
Jens Jensen	Trumpet, flugelhorn, trombone. Veteran Dutchmen player, educator, composer, and arranger, with original contributions including Elmo's Polka and Lomira Laendler.
Jerry Kahle	Tenor sax, clarinet, trumpet. A 2016 Minnesota Music Hall of Fame inductee and one of the busiest sidemen in old-time music.
Crystal Malek	Drums, tenor sax. Original Riverbend member whose steady drive and musical heritage have helped shape the band's identity since 2009.
Mike Budin	Bass guitar, tuba. Veteran low-end anchor with more than three decades in regional old-time music.
Nancy Buckentine	Piano. Keyboard stylist from Cologne, Minnesota, with deep church and dance-band experience.
Kevin Johnson	Tenor sax, clarinet, trumpet. Multi-instrumentalist and music educator who adds modern precision to the band's traditional sound.
Gary 'Bud' Schroeder	Tuba, banjo, bass guitar. Veteran of the New Ulm and Mankato old-time scene, heard here as an important supporting voice in the broader Dutchmen tradition.

Guest Performers on the Album

Greg George - Southern Minnesota guitarist and Barefoot Studios collaborator with deep ties to the regional music scene.

Billy Nobel - Nashville pianist and touring/session keyboardist known for work with Tim McGraw and Faith Hill.

Andy Ellison - Nashville session player and touring steel guitarist whose credits include national television and major-country touring work.

Theodora G. 'Teda' - Versatile professional vocalist and songwriter featured as a guest voice on the album.

Fletch Archerd - North Mankato multi-instrumentalist and educator contributing additional instrumental color.

Track Guide

Selection	Context
1. Parade Polka	Title track rooted in Pepi Huber's Marianka Polka, later recorded in 1957 by Fezz Fritsche and the Goosetown Band. Arranged here by Myron Muehlbauer, it sets the tone for the album's bright, horn-led Dutchmen character.
2. Elmo's Polka	Composed by Jens Jensen in 1973 and presented here in its first complete arrangement. A cheerful original with deep Riverbend DNA.
3. Meditation Waltz	A graceful 1950-era waltz by Virgil Wagner, later arranged by Frank Melmer. The Riverbend treatment leans into classic ballroom warmth.
4. Harbor Lights	The 1937 standard, arranged by Myron Muehlbauer and sung by Kris Keltgen, reimagined with an old-time dance band glow. Trumpet solo by Rick Keane.
5. Putzig Polka	Ray Dorschner's salute to Zittau, Wisconsin, whose old German name, Putzig, inspired the title. A buoyant nod to place and heritage.
6. Faded Love	The Bob Wills classic, delivered as a duet by Kris Keltgen and Rick Keane, bringing a Western swing thread into the album's broader vintage tapestry.
7. Beer Barrel Polka	One of the world's most recognizable polkas, revived here through Randy Dorschner's arrangement with full dance-floor purpose.
8. Winter Garden Waltz	Ray Dorschner's whimsical and nostalgic waltz, drawn from the Pleasant Peasant songbook.
9. Pretty Girl Polka	Associated with Elmer Scheid and embraced by the Riverbend Dutchmen as a theme song. Arranged by Myron Muehlbauer and Jens Jensen.
10. Angry	A 1924 jazz standard that closes with a Dixieland twist, showing the band's ability to stretch beyond strict polka borders while staying period-authentic.
11. Clarinet Laendler No. 1	Karel Echtner's 1935 composition, popularized by Lawrence Duchow in 1938. A cornerstone laendler with real Upper Midwest pedigree.
12. All of Me	The American standard recast through Myron Muehlbauer's arrangement, connecting jazz-era songwriting to the Dutchmen dance hall.
13. Red Raven Waltz	A signature Midwest waltz first popularized in 1939 by Lawrence Duchow and his Red Raven Orchestra.
14. Blackjack Polka	Ray Dorschner at his punchy, energetic best, carried here by a polished modern horn section.
15. Lomira Laendler	A new Jens Jensen composition from 2023, receiving its first recording on this album and giving the project a living, forward-looking pulse.
16. Policeman's Polka	An Alois Elias classic presented in a distinctive Jens Jensen arrangement with minor-key turns that give the piece unusual color.
17. Waltz No. 17	A graceful Karel Echtner waltz with prewar roots and enduring ballroom elegance.
18. Clarinet Laendler No. 2	Companion piece to Clarinet Laendler #1, completing a pair of beloved Midwest clarinet showcases.
19. Loveless Polka	Josef Poncar's Chodounska polka under its familiar U.S. title, tracing a line from Czech roots to American dance-band repertoire.
20. Tennessee Waltz	Recast by Kris Keltgen in 6/8 rather than standard waltz time, featuring an emotional vocal and a soaring trumpet solo by Jens Jensen.

Connection to “Song & Dance”

“Song & Dance” is the award-winning documentary produced by Barefoot Music Studios and Publishing, Ltd. The film explores the story of old-time music in the Upper Midwest while also following the personal journey of Evelyn Keltgen, whose life and recovery helped inspire Kris to learn concertina and ultimately form the Riverbend Dutchmen.

That connection gives **“DUTCHMEN ON PARADE”** added context. The album is not simply a collection of dance tunes. It represents the same cultural mission found in the film: to preserve the joy, musicianship, and social value of old-time music while proving that the tradition still has contemporary relevance.

MEDIA NOTE

Dutchmen on Parade is designed to work both as a dance record and as a historical listening document. For radio programmers, feature writers, and presenters, it offers a rare combination of authentic repertoire, living tradition, and high-level musicianship from artists who remain active on stage.

Selected Profile Points

The Riverbend Dutchmen continue to appear at longstanding Upper Midwest dance venues and festivals, including recurring dates at Ballrooms and Festivals across Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Their active 2026 public schedule reflects a working band with real traction rather than a purely archival project.

Kris Keltgen's broader work through Barefoot Music Studios and Publishing Ltd., connects the album to a larger preservation effort that includes recording, film production, songwriting, and regional storytelling. That larger ecosystem helps explain why **“DUTCHMEN ON PARADE”** feels both historically informed and unusually intentional in presentation.

Selected Previous Releases

Grab a Little Sunshine; Enjoy Yourself; Partners, Brothers, and Friends; Smile; Summer Sounds; and the Riverbend Dutchmen on Mollie B Polka Party DVD release. Together, these projects trace the band's development from energetic regional favorite to one of the most visible modern carriers of the Dutchmen style.

Contact and Links

Band website: <https://www.RiverbendDutchmen.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/riverbenddutchmen/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@Hoolerie>

Film website: <https://www.SongandDancetheMovie.com>

E-Mail: info@riverbenddutchmen.com

