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HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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BMC presents 24th annual New Year's Eve concerts

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TEXT BODY:

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The Brattleboro Music Center (BMC) presents its 24th annual New Year's Eve concerts Wednesday, Dec. 31.

A ~~beloved local~~ tradition for over 25 years, the Amidon-Bode-Murphy-Tracy families continue to bring their ~~unique bundle of family-friendly, joyful~~ songs along with ~~soaring fiddle~~ traditional tunes to a musical celebration to close out the year. The BMC ~~is delighted to welcome~~s Emily Miller₇₄ of the

Sweetback Sisters ~~renown~~, joining this year's cast as a ~~very~~ special guest.

Performances are set for 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and will also feature popular performers Keith Murphy, Becky Tracy, Zara Bode, and Stefan Amidon.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$5 for ages 6–14, and free for children 5 and under. They are available online at bmcvt.org, by calling the BMC at 802-257-4523, or emailing info@bmcvt.org.

Guitarist Keith Murphy, also playing guitar, mandolin, piano, and foot percussion, and fiddler Becky Tracy will heat up the hall with fiercely intelligent and driving play arrangements of dance tunes and traditional songs. These musicians of these two superb musicians has graced stages have performed in dance and concert halls and theaters around the country. Both have played important roles as tradition-keepers and innovators in their teaching, playing, and arranging.

~~They~~ Murphy and Tracy are founders and teachers of the Traditional Music program at the BMC, and Murphy is ~~d~~Director of the Northern Roots Festival.

While the dynamic pair of ~~Zara~~ Bode and ~~Stefan~~ Amidon is not known as a “duo” per se, they are greatly admired as the faces behind ~~musical sensations~~ the band The Sweetback Sisters and Zara Bode's Little Big Band. Amidon is a master percussionist, multi-instrumentalist, and expressive bass singer. Bode is a powerful vocalist of rare versatility that captivates audiences year after year with her gorgeous interpretations of songs old and new. Both artists are sure to delight with their marvelous and often perform often eccentric musical selections.

Rounding out the program is ~~Emily~~ Miller, a West Virginia-based singer, fiddle player, and ~~a~~Artistic ~~d~~Director of the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, West Virginia. Growing up immersed in old-time and country music, she has devoted her career to preserving, sharing, and teaching that music. She also tours and records with groups including The Sweetback Sisters, The Starry Mountain Singers, and with her husband, Jesse Milnes.

46 She has performed on national radio programs such as *Mountain*
47 *Stage* and *A Prairie Home Companion*, as well as in concert
48 halls and festival stages across the country.

49 Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$5 for ages 6–14, and free for
50 children 5 and under. They are available online at bmcvt.org, by
51 calling the BMC at 802-257-4523, or emailing info@bmcvt.org.

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