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# Out To Lunch

*The Finest In Acoustic Bluegrass, Swing & Celtic Music For Over Twenty Years!*



## Inside ...

- About The Band
- Band Member Biographies
- What The Press Says
- And More ...

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## Out To Lunch ...

What happens when you put five musicians together with backgrounds and influences ranging from Bluegrass to Jazz to Celtic to Classical, and give them the common goal of making these varied types music come to life (and have a lot of fun doing it)?

You get Out To Lunch!

Based in the New York metropolitan area, Out To Lunch was "founded" in 1980 ... at first as a loose collection of friends coming together for an occasional "open mike" night. They soon began to "get serious" and refine their sound as they sensed they had something special to offer with shows that had broad appeal to audiences. Over twenty years later Out To Lunch is still delighting audiences with a sound uniquely their own that combines the best of musical warmth and sharpness.

On a typical evening with Out To Lunch one might be treated to a smooth rendition of a classic such as Nat King Cole's "Straighten Up and Fly Right" or Bill Monroe's "Footprints in the Snow". From there, the band might just as easily shift gears and perform a "monster medley" of Celtic dance tunes or some their own inspired original compositions. While each of these tunes will no doubt bear the stamp of Out To Lunch's distinctive sound, the respect for the traditions that these tunes come from is obvious.

The band's unique instrumentation incorporates two mandolins, guitar, fiddle, bass and hammered dulcimer. Their strong vocals blend to create harmonies that are a distinctive part of Out To Lunch's musical charm.

Out To Lunch's self-titled recording (available for order on our web site) has sold extensively, received favorable reviews and airplay on a variety of radio stations.

They have appeared on radio and television, and toured extensively throughout the Northeast.

Out To Lunch offers a variety of programs to accommodate different performance venues; concert settings, education (most typically public school programs) and private parties.

Critics and fans alike praise Out To Lunch's performances as warm, polished, never less than musically dazzling and always marked by lively, fun interaction with their audience.

## Biographies ...

### Howie Bujese

Howie Bujese has been playing the violin for close to thirty years. His earliest memories are filled with music and dancing.

He began his musical career in the 8th grade working with a band playing the YMCA and CYO (Christian Youth Organization) dances and various youth coffeehouses in Northern New Jersey. However it wasn't until he was in his early twenties that he first heard the traditional music of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Smitten, he traveled to the festivals and fiddle conventions throughout the South learning the tunes and eventually entering fiddle contests where he often took top honors. He also honed his craft studying violin with Jay Ungar.

Wanting to dig deeper into the origins of the fiddle tunes he loved, Howie discovered and was soon hooked on the traditional music of the British Isles. He soon found himself traveling to Ireland for an extended stay where he sought out traditional fiddlers and pipers and learned first hand, the styles of the different regions.

Upon his return from the Isles he helped organize the ensemble which would soon become "Out to Lunch" and be the mainstay of his musical endeavors for the next twenty or more years.

Howie lives in Western Connecticut where he also performs with his wife, Pam, in a jazz quartet called "Cool Struttin'" and with various Irish, Bluegrass and swing groups as well as a European style gypsy troubadour group that performs throughout the greater Hudson Valley.



## Press Clippings ...

### Gannet Newspapers ...

**“What’s most impressive about the band is that, whether borrowing from the likes of Bill Monroe, The Ink Spots, Nat King Cole or Norman Blake, it’s combination of talent and dedication makes everything work. Out To Lunch pulls off the transitions from swing tunes to country to traditional Celtic ballads without sounding forced, studious or capricious.”**

### Danbury News Times ...

**“Out To Lunch has gathered a following of not just bluegrass, swing or fiddle fans but of people who simply like to listen to good music played well”**

### Rockland Journal News ...

**“ The String and voice parts mesh evenly, often joyously ... While the band’s at its best in live performance.”**

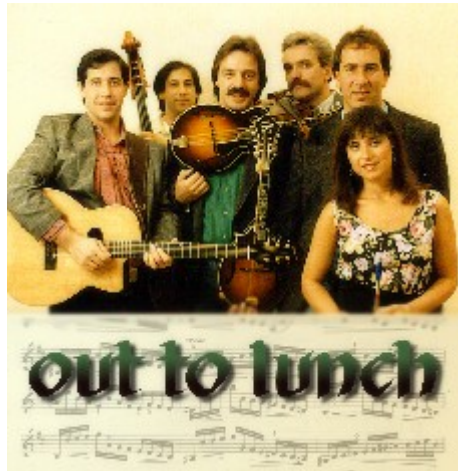
### Lewisboro Ledger

**“Within half a song they were as one. The dual mandolins were an enhancement to sound of the whole band. Guitar and fiddle danced around each other and then around the voice of Mrs. Sassano.”**

### The Danbury Weekly Tribune

**“The Crowd Loved it! The crowd loved everything this band did. Everyone was well entertained.”**

## Recordings ...



On Out To Lunch's critically acclaimed, self titled CD the listener is treated to a great set of material that includes fresh arrangements of Bluegrass, Celtic and Swing tunes along with their own compositions. The recording is packed with great picking and solid, tasteful arrangements that showcase their superb musicianship & singing.

The band makes fine use of some outstanding guest performances, including Marty Cutler's driving banjo solos on "The UnReel", and Bill Monroe's classic, "Footprints In The Snow". Dan Gold lends some tasteful percussion to "Sideslip" and "The Luncheonettes", JoAnne & Marybeth DeSarle, provide some powerhouse vocals on "It's The Girl"

### Track Listing:

Back In Nagasaki ~The Unreel ~ Cold Hard Rain ~ Straighten Up & Fly Right ~ Arthur's Rose ~ Mean To Me ~ John David's Reel / Morrison's Jig ~ Footprints In The Snow ~ Side Slip ~ Lonesome ~

## Biographies ...

### Larry Cohen

Larry Cohen's ability as a monster bass player, musical arranger and record producer first earned him public recognition through his work with the highly innovative bluegrass band Tony Trischka and Skyline.

During his Skyline tenure, Larry toured extensively throughout North America, Europe and Japan and accompanied many top musicians including Alison Krauss, Bela Fleck, Darol Anger, Mike Marshall, Jerry Douglas, Mark O'Connor, Peter Rowan, David Bromberg, Vassar Clements and Nanci Griffith.

He has since produced albums for Barry Mitterhoff, Jay Ansill, Akira Satake and Mark Cosgrove and enjoys a busy performing and teaching schedule.

A joy to watch on stage as well as to listen to, Larry's approach is informed by his comprehensive background in classical, jazz and rock music as well as by his innate musicality.



### Susan Sassano

With a voice that is at once powerful and emotive, Susan Sassano has appeared in a variety of venues, for audiences large and small, from Colorado to New York (and lots of places in between).

A native New Yorker, Susan started singing at an early age performing with local choral groups. In her first notable public singing performance, she was cast in a PBS musical production with a score written by Angelo Badalamenti, with whom she also studied classical flute. Susan studied music at Brooklyn College and later studied voice with Lucy Joffe of The Westchester Conservatory. *(cont'd.) ...*



## Biographies

*(Susan Sassano cont'd)* ... She has performed with several bands in the North East, easily adapting her voice to musical styles ranging from rock to country, swing and bluegrass. For many years she served as musical director for the PARC Telethon, an organization dedicated to bringing aid and resources to children and adults with disabilities. Susan also served as president of The Hudson Valley Musician's Alliance. One of her long time favorite experiences is singing in the group, "The Luncheonettes" with fellow Brooklyn-ites Marybeth & Joanne DeSarle.

In addition to her work on Out To Lunch's CD Susan can be heard on Lora Lee Amram's recording, "The Other Side", as well as on several other recording projects.

## Wayne Fugate

Mandolinist Wayne Fugate has developed a reputation for his versatility, having adapted the mandolin to and mastered musical styles as diverse as bluegrass, jazz and classical. Wayne studied extensively with mandolin virtuoso Barry Mitterhoff and credits him as being one of his primary musical influences. He further developed his technique under the tutelage of Mike Marshall.



He has performed with a host of bluegrass and acoustic music's finest including Tony Trischka, Hazel Dickens, Walt Michael & Co and Winfield guitar champion, Mark Cosgrove. Wayne has also been a member of The New York Mandolin Orchestra ... an orchestra comprised mandolin family instruments with an 80 year plus tradition of performing classical music.

In addition to Out To Lunch's own CD, Wayne's recording credits include contributions to Ben Freed's critically acclaimed CD "Speed of Sound" and "Sugar Tree Stomp", Folksinger / songwriter Dean Friedman's "Songs for Grownups", Bob Green's "Bluegrass & Other Traditional Music", Tom Hanway's "Bucket of Bees", Wretched Refuse StringBand's self titled CD and others.

## Biographies

*(Wayne Fugate cont'd)* ... Wayne has performed in a variety of venues ranging from coffee houses to festival stages. He has performed at Carnegie Hall as a member of "The Clef Club" orchestra under the direction of Maurice Peress. This concert was later broadcast on National Public Radio with narration by Wynton Marsalis.

Wayne is featured on mandolin, mandola, guitar and hammered dulcimer with Out To Lunch.

## Michael Sassano

Multi- Instrumentalist Michael Sassano began studying guitar at age 12 and within 6 months was in his first band playing rock music in his native Brooklyn, NY. His musical tastes run the gamut from rock to folk to country to bluegrass to swing and beyond. He has been playing the mandolin for over 25 years and has been greatly influenced by his first teacher, the renowned Jay Ungar. He has also studied with Andy Statman.



With Out To Lunch, Michael showcases his inimitable style of "drive and blend" on mandolin, guitar, mando cello, and mandola.

Michael has performed with notables that include David Amram, Walt Michael and Co. and Barry Mitterhoff. He recorded and helped compose a musical sound track with David Amram for the play, "Chickadee".

Michael has appeared on numerous recordings including a recent project with the bluegrass group, Too Blue.

In addition to Out To Lunch, Michael keeps a busy schedule by performing on a regular basis with The Soy Boyz, Too Blue, Mike Burns and North Country as well as with Lisa's Pieces, a band in which Michael gets to flex his considerable guitar playing muscles.

He has appeared at clubs and festivals throughout the North East and Canada.