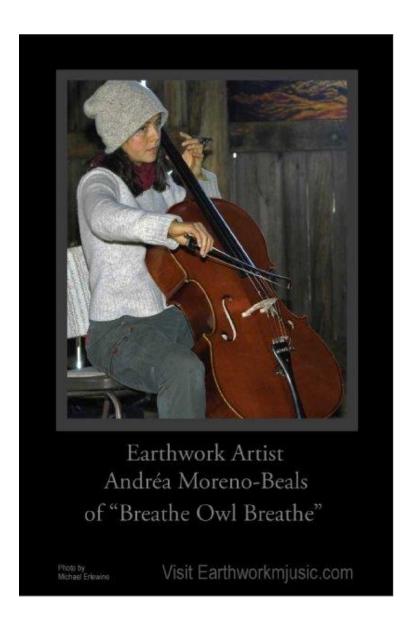
## EARTHWORK MUSIC COLLECTIVE ARTISTS November 29, 2009

By Michael Erlewine (Michael@Erlewine.net)

## Taken at Michigan

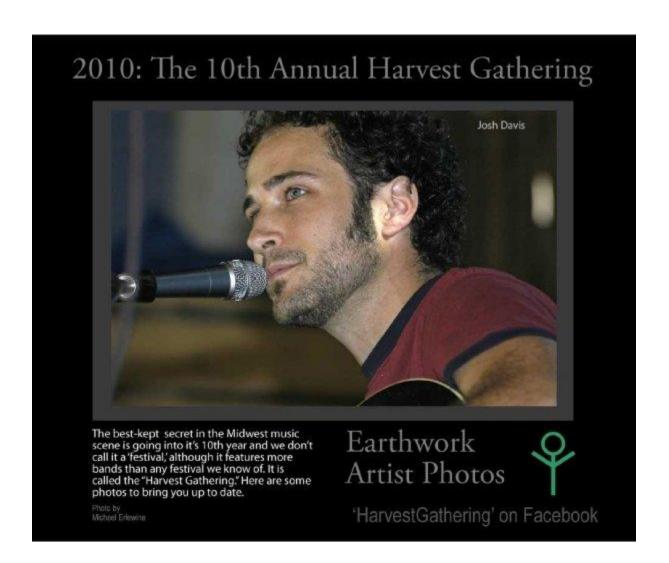
The Earthwork collective of musicians is a tight-knit group of full-time musicians, who share their music and themselves with the rest of us, making for a life rich in friendships and events. Here are some of the main members of the collective.



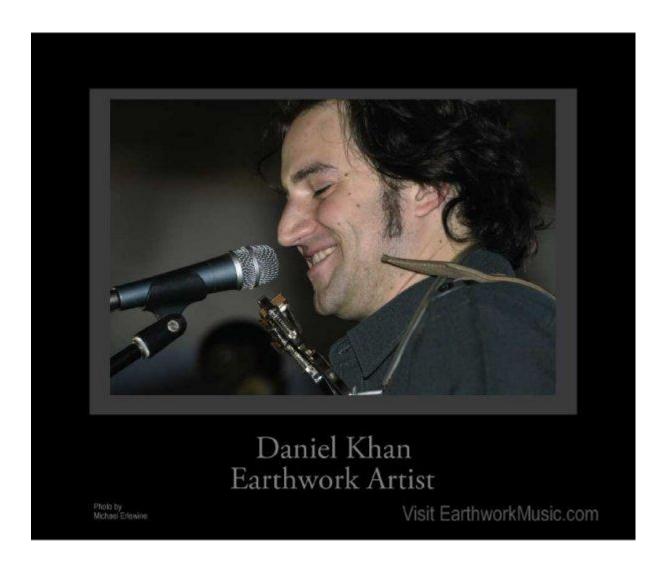
Andrea Moreno-Beals is a co-founder of "Breathe Owl Breathe," along with her partner Micah Middaugh. A classically-trained cellist, her wonderful music graces the albums of many Earthwork musicians.



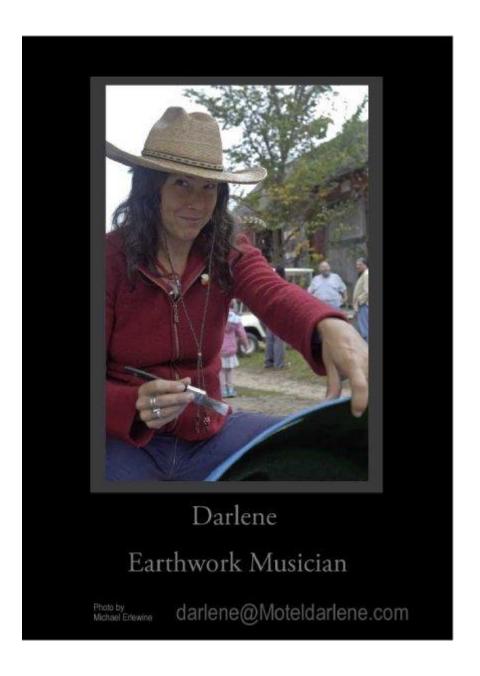
Earthwork musician Chris Dorman is a newcomer to the collective. His first album "Begin Again" recently became available.



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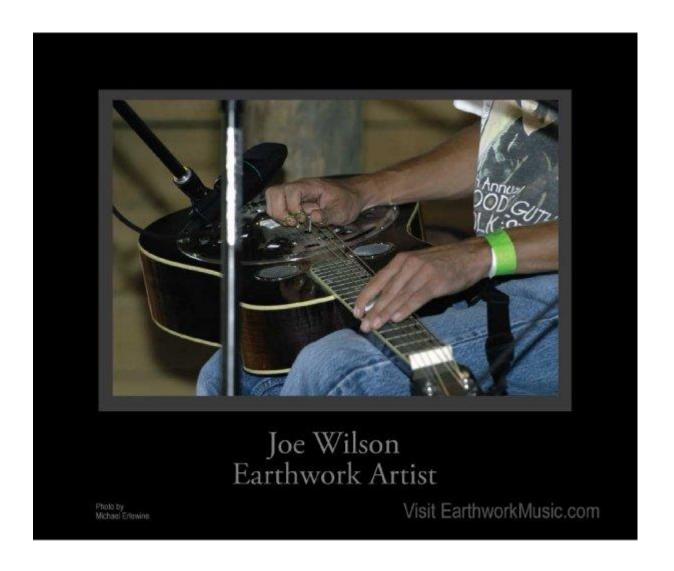
Dan Khan who spends most of his time in Berlin these days is an expert at Klezmer music, a celebrated songwriter, and a performer extraordinaire. A cutting-edge performer, Khan's yearly set at the gathering is always packed.



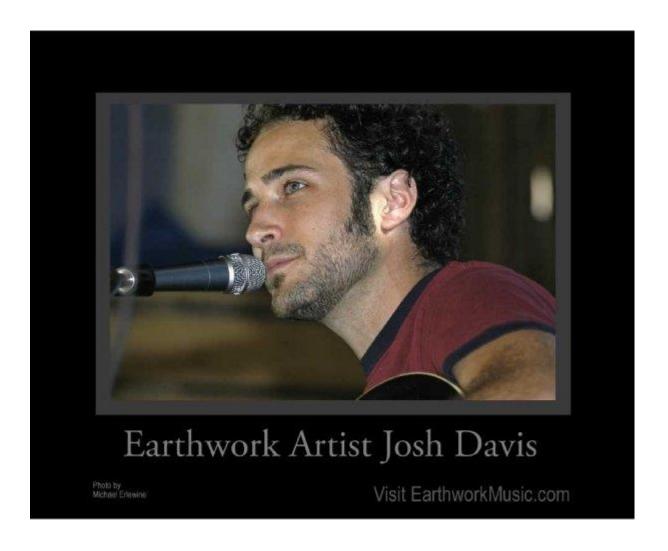
Darlene is a well-known musician who travels widely either on her motorcycle or her campervan. Her performance is always a peak event at the Harvest Gathering each year, and she also is one of the permanent staff members and oversees much of the festival organization.



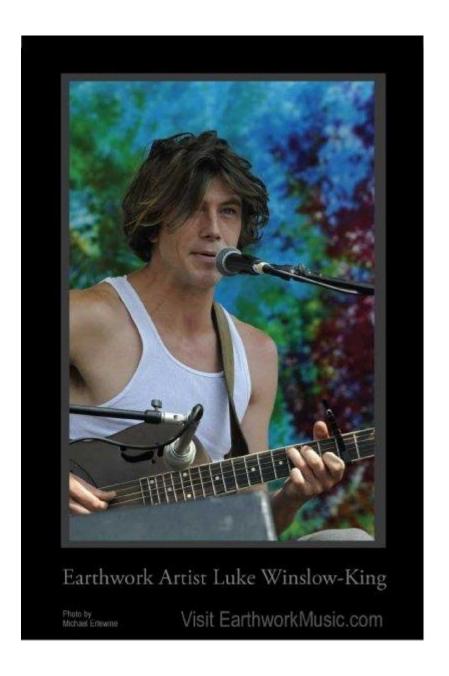
Jen Sygit has a voice that embraces blues and the folk idiom effortlessly. With many albums to her credit, Sygit is in demand throughout the Midwest.



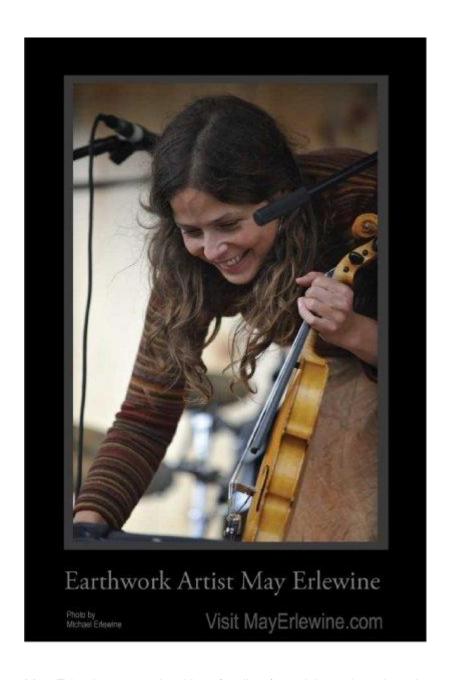
Joe Wilson is the lap and pedal-steel player for the roots group "Steppin' in It," and co-founder of the steel-guitar duo "Steals Heal the World." Sorry, I don't have a better picture, but Joe Wilson's playing is the way steel guitar should sound.



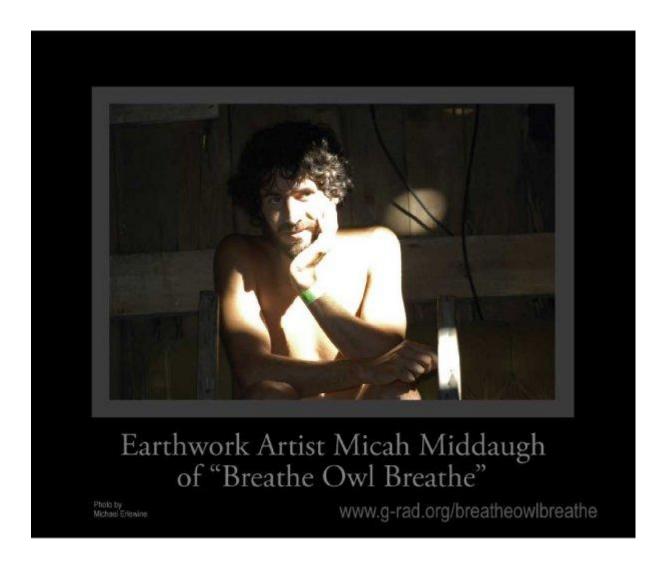
Singer, songwriter, and expert guitarist Josh Davis performs lead vocals for the roots group "Steppin' in It," and he has a career as a solo performer as well. With a voice that can sing the blues or the most subtle ballad, and a songwriter of real merit, Davis is much sought after in the music community. Davis also plays a mean piano.



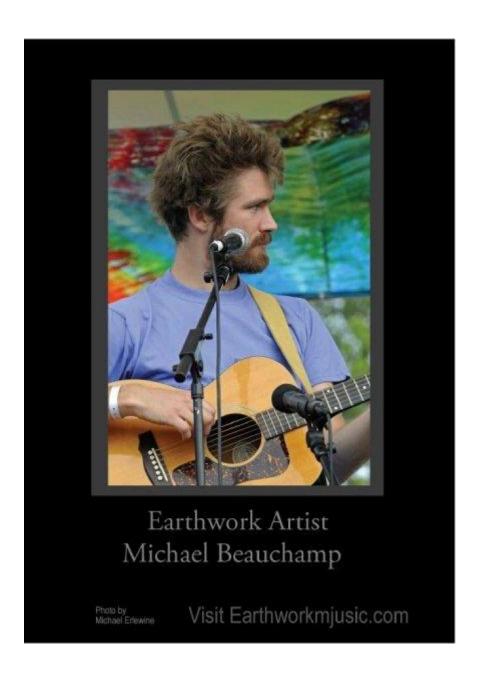
Luke Winslow-King is a Michigan musician who has learned his musical trade on the streets of New Orleans. Classically trained in composition, Luke Winslow-King found what he really needed to learn in the venues and streets of New Orleans, where he continues to spend much of his time.



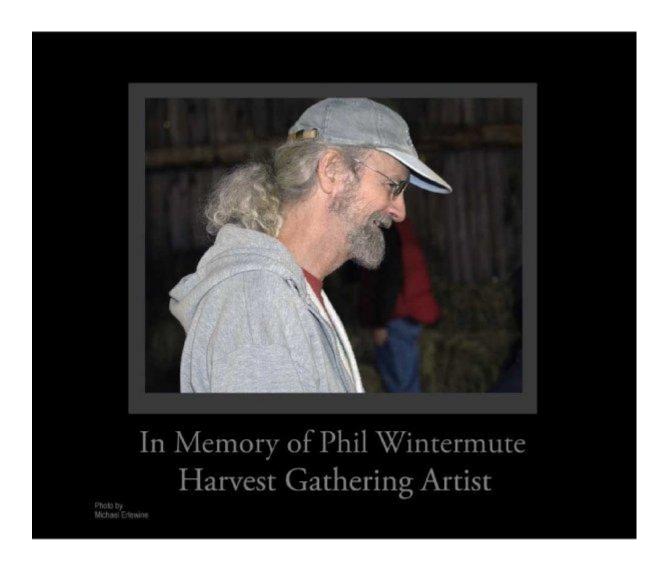
May Erlewine was raised in a family of musicians. I ought to know, because I am her dad. She has played all over America and was featured on "A Prairie Home Companion," with her companion Samuel Seth Bernard. Erlewine has many albums available and her songs delight listeners of all ages and walks of life.



Micah Middaugh, co-founder of "Breathe Owl Breathe," is a singer/songwriter of extraordinary ability, but also an accomplished artist, and a marathon runner. Micah's humor and penchant for spontaneity are part of what makes his group so popular.



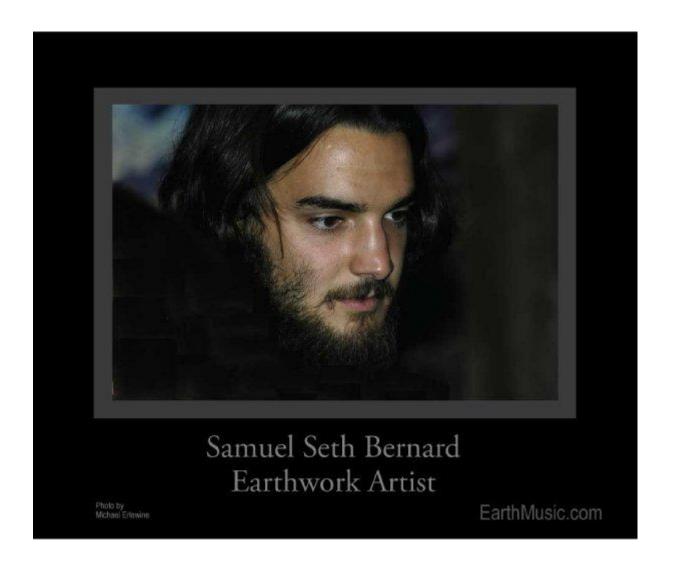
Michael Beauchamp is another relatively newcomer to the Earthwork-music collective, so I have not had an opportunity to hear him as much as I would like. Beauchamp has a bright and shining voice, and is fine guitar player. He also has a CD available.



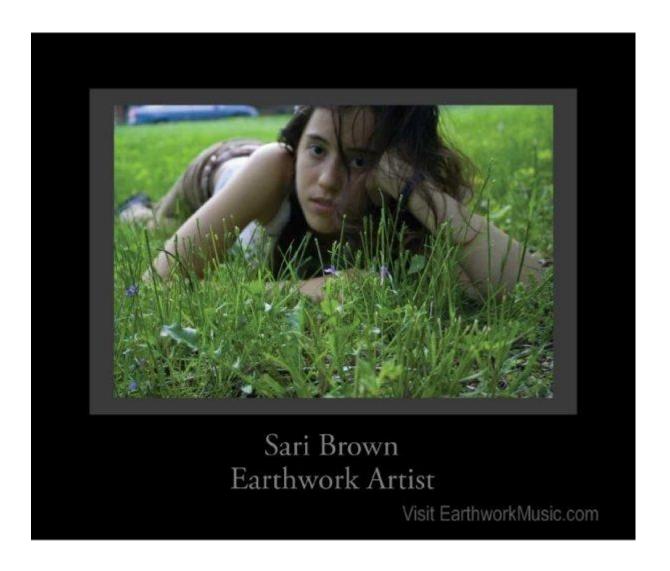
Veteran Earthworker Phil Wintermute, unfortunately for us, has passed on. Wintermute was an integral part of helping the collective to grow and move forward. His one album, "A Handful of Dirt," is a treasure that we all can share.



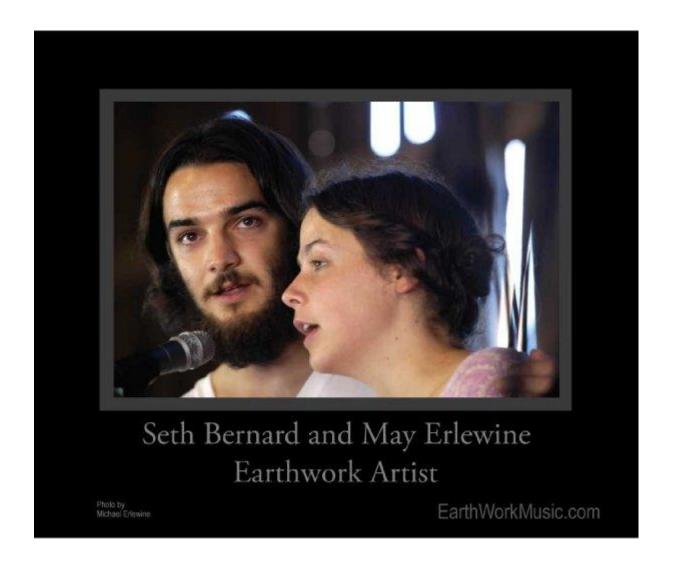
Rachael Davis is a nationally-known star and recording artist, an extraordinary singer, who has solo albums and also is part of the group "Shout Sister Shout." Rachael and May Erlewine do lovely harmonies together.



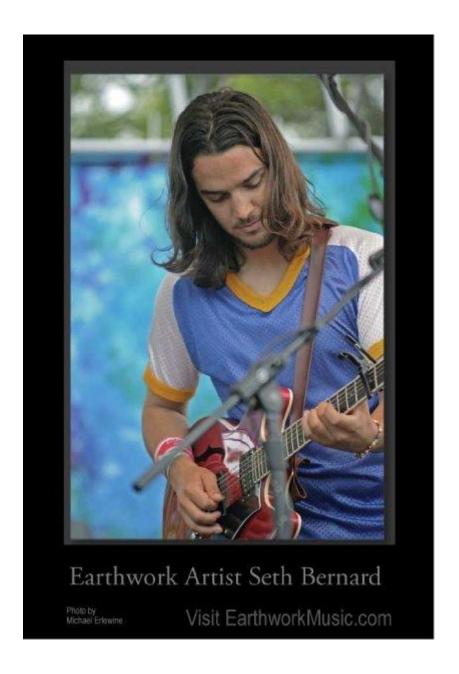
Samuel Seth Bernard is the founder and prime mover of the Harvest Gathering and, along with his partner May Erlewine, continues to be its motivating force. Bernard has many solo albums as well as duo albums with May Erlewine.



Sari Brown has been an integral part of the Earthwork collective almost since the very beginning. Brown has a number of albums out, including her recently released "The Color Suite."



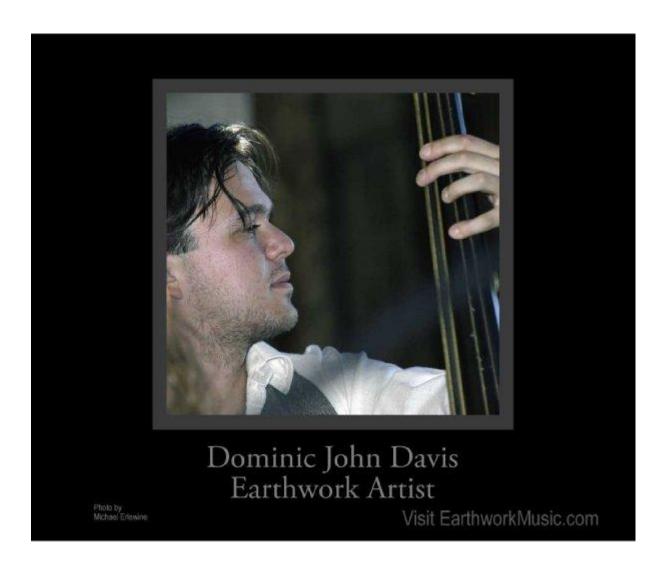
Seth Bernard and May Erlewine as a duo are a happening thing, not only here in Michigan but from coast to coast. Bernard is a sophisticated and powerful guitar player and singer and he perfectly compliments the voice of May Erlewine. Both Seth and May have written albums singly and as a couple, songs that have inspired many.



Just a word about the guitar skills of Seth Bernard. I am considered by some a bit of a music expert and have written/edited many books on music. And I love guitars. Seth Bernard plays about as sweet a guitar as I could imagine and this is aside from his remarkable singing and songwriting skills.



"Steels Heal the World" consist of the Earthwork musicians Drew Howard and Joe Wilson, both steel players teaming up to offer up some very wonder steel-guitar music. Their new album is just a wonderful treat for my old ears.



Dominic John David is the go-to-guy when it comes to bass players and appears on scores of albums.