

# Boston Dyke March: It isn't just for dykes anymore

by **Megan Prock**  
contributing writer

For those who despair about the increasingly tame spectacle of the Pride Parade, take heart: the dykes are on the march. On the evening of June 13 the Dyke March Boston continues its tradition of taking to the streets of Back Bay with a diverse contingent of dykes and allies; everyone from butches with babies to topless trannybois to sultry femmes with sex-positive picket signs.

The Dyke March, sponsored by the Dyke March Committee, is a grassroots event conceived as a non-commercial alternative to the traditional Boston Pride celebration, and 14 years after its founding the event still has its original fighting spirit. One of the key features of that tradition is the committee's commitment to opening the march to all participants, not just self-identified dykes.

"One of the reasons the Dyke March is unique is that we have so many different folks coming to meet and represent the GLBTQ community," says Stephanie Lowitt, a member of the Dyke March Committee. "It is a completely all-inclusive march and rally, and we are very proud of that in Boston."

In addition to the march the event will include live music performances, a rally and an after party.

The festivities begin at 6 p.m. at the Boston Common's Parkman Bandstand. Community organizations and non-profits, including the Boston Alliance of GLBT Youth (BAGLY) and the LGBT Aging Project, will be in attendance, giving participants the opportunity to network and get involved in the community.

"We love to have community organizations come and represent their constituencies and individuals come and represent their own pride," said Lowitt.

The march itself gets underway at 7 p.m. The parade route takes marchers from the Common up Charles Street, heads left on Beacon Street, hangs a left on Arlington Street, turns up Commonwealth Ave., makes another left on Clarendon, and then heads back to the Common via Boylston Street.

Lowitt said anyone is welcome to march in the parade.

"The more the merrier. They don't have to bring signs and noisemakers, and there's no pre-registration. Some folks come immediately at 6 p.m. and some just step off [for the march] at 7 p.m., or some come to the rally."

After the dykes and their friends return to the Common, the rally kicks off at 8:30 p.m. The event will feature live performances by Zili Misik and Lyndell Montgomery, and the committee will invite groups and individuals to make community announcements from the stage.

Bassist/violinist Montgomery has performed alongside Ember Swift for thirteen years and has collaborated with Melissa Ferrick, Fruit, Garnet Rogers and Xavier Rudd. She is now starring in her debut solo show featuring her own original compositions. Zili Misik is an all-female performance group with powerful Haitian, Brazilian and West African rhythms that combine the group's original creations and traditional folksongs. (See "Misik Magic" in Arts, p.1)

Faith Soloway, named "One of America's funniest lesbians" by *Curve Magazine*, will be emceeding the rally. Soloway is a folk artist and former musical director of Chicago's Second City Theatre Company.

Following the rally Kristen Porter, the mastermind behind the late, lamented Dyke Night at Toast, will host the Ballroom Blitz, the official Dyke March after-party, at the Holiday Inn in Somerville. The party will feature DJ Kris Kono and a book signing by lesbian mystery writer Lynn Gravbelle, author of *Meditative Rose*. The first 100 people in the door will receive a "special treat," and everyone will receive a free raffle ticket for the door prizes, including a \$500 basket of goodies from Good Vibrations. Tickets can be purchased on Kristen Porter's website, [www.dykenight.com](http://www.dykenight.com), for \$12, or \$20 for a V.I.P. pass; any available tickets can be purchased at the door, but last year tickets went so fast that organizers had to turn away about 100 people at the door. All proceeds will benefit the Dyke March.

"People can expect a lot of really good music and a lot of fun at the after-party," said Lowitt. "Hopefully the diverse community from the Dyke March will be represented at the after party — Kristen Porter always throws a really good party."

"People come to the Dyke March for all different reasons. Some people come to be social, some people come to make connections and some people come to be political," added Lowitt. "We absolutely want everyone to feel welcome whatever their reason is for coming."

*The Dyke March is still looking for volunteers for stage setup, crowd management, sign distribution, trash pick-up and noisemaker and flyer distribution. For more information on volunteering, send an email to [dykemarch@gmail.com](mailto:dykemarch@gmail.com). For more information on the Dyke March visit [www.bostondykemarch.com](http://www.bostondykemarch.com).*