

## Coming Events

April 24th - Mac Bailey at the Folk Club at 7:30

April 27th - Anne Hills at the Club Acoustic at 8:00

With Bill McGinness

May 12th - Carl Zebooker at the Del Ray Coffee House

May 26th - Pete Kennedy at the Club Acoustic

With Silken Steel

May 29th - Doug & Willa Porter at the Folk Club

July 7th - Josh White Jr. at the Club Acoustic

With Ray Kaminsky

### The Reston Folk Club

at the Tortilla Factory

648 Elden Street

Herndon, Va 22070

c/o David Hurd

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# The Reston Folk Club

... Preserving Folk Traditions

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## PERFORMANCE

### TIPS

#### Tu nyng gyap

- By Bill Davis

Finally it's Tuesday, all Weekend you've been practicing, memorizing lyrics, restringing the axe\*, scaring the cat, and otherwise preparing for your - sure to be dynamite - eight minutes of magical, meaningful musical entertaining at the Reston Folk Club. You've consulted your astrologer and the lunar aspects are good. You get to the Tortilla Factory early and sign up in the numerologically correct position - your biorhythms are high, you feel good. The MC tells a bad joke and then introduces you.

You walk to the mikes, there is applause, somebody yells your name from the cheap seats. You start with your practiced patter; "This is a song I learned from ..." You lightly strum a G chord just to check the sound and to make sure you are still INTUNE ---- and ---- and -- you aren't.

You quickly make an adjustment

hoping to dear up the problem. Wrong string, wrong direction, it's worse than it was, "Oh #% ^&&\*", you think (you'd never actually use that kind of language aloud, here, this is, of course, a family show) Everyone is staring attentively and there is a deathly silence (This is a listening club.) You begin to sweat. The guitar is worse now than when you started. You feel like an idiot.

Very perceptive thought. In the age of tuning machines there's no excuse for being out of tune is there?

You need a tuning joke. Something to keep the audience from throwing things while you desperately try to make the guitar sound like itself. Tuning jokes come in a variety of styles and vintages. They are often repeated again and again, however it is considered inappropriate to repeat the same joke more than once in an evening. If you hear a professional use some tuning joke that you like it's OK to use it yourself. You can be sure that he didn't create it, he stole it from somebody else - all the tuning jokes ever created were made up by people who have been dead a very long time.

Here, as a service to the folks

at the folk club, is a sampling of Tuning Humor through the ages:

"Well, this was in tune when I bought it."

"I have to do this once a year whether it needs it or not."

"Oh, so that's what those funny little knobs are for!"

"In folk music it is traditional to play the guitar with one string slightly out of tune - I'm just about there."

"I tune because I care."

"Hey look at me, a professional musician!"

"When you play a twelve string guitar you spend half your time tuning it (pause) and the other half playing it out of tune."

"You may be interested to know that I use the Oppornokity System of Tuning. And remember, Oppornokity tunes but once." (This joke may be stretched out to any desired length and may be embellished to taste.)

"I know it sounds bad, but it would sound worse if I didn't tune it."

"Will somebody please give me an 'A'", audience response "AAAAAAAAAAAAA."

"This guitar is tuned in the key of 'L' (pause) Sounds like 'L' to me."

"This is the very ancient Chinese folksong, *Tu nyng gyap*." Heckler response "Sounds more Vietnamese - it's very Hanoiying."

"Does this guitar sound like itself?"

"If I ever get this in tune, I'm going to weld it."

"Joe?????"

"Does anyone have a tuned guitar that I can borrow??"

"Is my time up yet?"

"Capos are for sissies, real men use bar chords."

"Bass players never tune 'cause you can't TUNAFISH."

"This is in the key of three." (capoing to the third fret)

"I will pause here while I retune the guitar into the drop D tuning in which the sixth string is lowered one whole step from E to D. This produces a very unique and different way of playing the guitar out of tune."

"Picky, picky, picky."

"Well, close enough for...."

- A. Government work
- B. Folk music
- C. Me
- D. Jazz
- E. Other?"

"The guitar is inherently an untempered instrument. Because of the positions of the frets and the nature of the strings it is impossible to play it perfectly in tune."

- 1> This is a great comfort to me
- 2> But I continue to try
- 3> Obviously

"For my next number...."

When all else fails: "Well I guess I'll just sing this accapella ... acapolco ... afterpolo ... archipelago ... unaccompanied!"

Please feel free to use any of the above. Or add your own to the list. An always remember when you consider the vast scope of the Universe, the great Warp and Woof of Creation, the inevitability of Death and Taxes, the great events of history unfolding before our very eyes - *what's a quarter tone off among friends?*

\*Axe - term meaning guitar or other instrument especially when used to make a living. Used mostly by people not making a living.

## Anne Hills at The Club Acoustic

On Friday, April 27, The Club Acoustic will continue its' monthly concert series by featuring critically acclaimed recording artist Anne Hills. The supporting act for Ms. Hills is a local acoustic favorite, Bill McGinness. The show will start at 8:00pm, tickets are \$9 (\$7 seniors / juniors under 12), and the doors open at 7:30. The concert will be held at Herndon's Industrial Strength Theater. Seating is limited and reservations are suggested. To reserve your tickets, or for more info, call (703) 689-0444.

Anne Hills is receiving tremendous attention with the release of her latest album, *WOMAN OF A CALM HEART*. Reviewers are suggesting that Anne Hills' rich, warm, soprano voice inspires comparisons with Joan Baez, Judy Collins, and Joni Mitchell. Like Judy Collins in the 60s, Anne Hills chooses works by the best of today's lesser-known songwriters and then performs them like no other folk singer can. Anne Hills first became a Washington favorite when she toured with Tom Paxton and Bob Gibson in 1985 as "Best of Friends." Her considerable natural talent and infrequent tours in the Washington area combine to make an Anne Hills concert an occasion not to be missed.

Opening for Anne Hills is Bill McGinness, a versatile performer who has been singing folk, blues, and popular songs in minstrel shows, civic events, pubs, clubs and nightspots since he was four years old. His approach to music is eclectic and mirrors a musical background as interesting as some of the venues he plays. Possessed of genuine warmth and humor, Bill fills an evening with music everyone can relate to.

The Club Acoustic is sponsored, in part, by the Council for the Arts of Herndon, and is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of acoustic music. This show is expected to sell out early so reservations are recommended. The Industrial Strength Theater is located 1/4 block east of Herndon Parkway on Spring Street in Herndon's Sunset Business Park, 269 Sunset Park Drive.