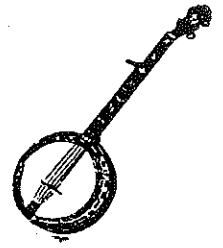




The Folk Club

of Reston-Herndon

...Preserving Folk Traditions



Vol 6, No 4; April, 1992

WHERE HAS ALL THE SINGING GONE?

*By listening to rather than making music
we've lost touch with a joyous experience*

How would your friends react if at your next party you suggested gathering around the piano for a sing-along? With amazement? Distaste? Horror?

What seems like an unusual suggestion at a party today was a natural and welcome part of socializing for many Americans just 40 or 50 years ago. That fact is that "we don't have a singing culture in America the way we used to," says the University of Maryland's Daphne Harrison in the **NEW YORK TIMES** (April 24, 1991).

Although membership in choral groups is still strong, the **TIMES** reports, informal everyday singing is in a definite slump. But why the change in a nation where pioneers carried songbooks across the country in their wagons?

Technology is the real culprit, most experts agree. With radios, personal stereos, compact disc players, and all the other assorted and relatively inexpensive gadgets at our disposal, Americans have just become more accustomed to listening to music than to making it.

And that's a shame, observes German jazz writer, author, and producer Joachim-Ernst Berendt, who claims that singing can make you feel as good as sex. Berendt, who produced the three-CD set *Voices: A Compilation of the World's Greatest Choirs* (Mesa, also available on cassette), hypothesizes in **ROLLING STONE** (June 13, 1991) that "The basic situation of modern man is being separated from nature, from the universe, from other people. And there are just a few media to overcome this separation". Meditation and love are two; the other, he claims, is singing. "That's why people love to sing in choirs," he says. "This feeling of unity, of oneness...is a spiritual experience usually you only have in love".

Singer Bobby McFerrin, taking the spiritual ben-

efits of music one step further, is convinced that singing can be healing as well as unifying. Last New Year's Eve, he organized a 24-hour chant and meditation at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral that was aimed at "healing in mind, body, and spirit."

Using music as a healing force is a long-held interest of McFerrin's, reports **NEW AGE JOURNAL** (March/April 1991), but he "didn't start thinking of it consciously until [he] became a singer and found that there were times, after a really good sing, [when] it was like running energy, really good, positive energy. When you're singing," he explains, "you're employing the breath in a rhythmic way. It can do a lot to slow your thought process down."

With all these benefits (could singing even replace therapy?), is there hope for a revival of informal group singing in America? Mitch Miller thinks so: "People are just dying for a chance to sing," he told the **TIMES**. And McFerrin fervently hopes so: "We're losing touch with a really valuable part of ourselves, which is our ancestral memory - the genetic memory of the old songs, the old chants, the old rhythms." On a more prosaic level, there's the reason music teacher Naomi Flanders gives for why singing should be revived: "It's fun. And it makes you feel good."

- Lynette Lamb

Reprinted from the *Utne Reader*. Sep/Oct 1991 and provided by Brian Gilmartin (shown below).




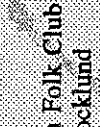




April 1992

Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

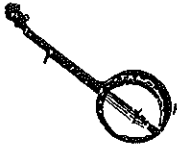





| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|--|---|----------|--|---|
| 5 Daylight Savings--set ahead 1 hour  | 6 | 7 7:30pm Folk Club Showcase Performance  | 1 8:00pm Terri Bocklund at the Weathervane, Frederick, Md April Fools Day | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 7:30pm Folk Club  | 8 Terri Bocklund, Bagels & Ballads Fairfax Location | 9 | 10 Terri Bocklund at Coffeehouse at Otterbein, B'more | 11 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 7:30pm Folk Club Terri Bocklund Washington Folklore Soc Showcase  | 15 Terri Bocklund, Bagels & Ballads, Springfield Locn | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 7:30pm Folk Club Showcase Lottery Draw Roy Book Binder (\$8/7) | 22 | 23 | 24 Sarah Baron at The Potter's House, Adams Morgan | 25 Terri Bocklund at Weathervane, Frederick Md |



May 1992

Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|--|----------|--------|--|
| 3 | 4 | 5 7:30pm Folk Club Showcase Performance | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 10 Mother's Day  | 11 | 12 7:30pm Folk Club | 13 Terri Bocklund, Bagels & Ballads, Fairfax Location | 14 | 15 | 16 Armed Forces Day  |
| 17 10:00am Ray Kaminsky at Notre Dame Academy, Middleburg VA | 18 | 19 7:30pm Folk Club 7th Birthday | 20 Terri Bocklund, Bagels & Ballads, Springfield Locn | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 Memorial Day (Observed)  | 26 7:30pm Folk Club Showcase Lottery Draw Bill Staines (\$877) | 27 Terri Bocklund at Weatherwane, Frederick, Md | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Hickory Grove at St Marks Lutheran Ch, Annandale | | | | | | |



Reprinted from "Deanotations", Aug 1990
Without Permission, but with forgiveness (I hope), ed.

Showcase Performances Continue

On the first Tuesday of every month (April 7) we continue to feature a Folk Club member in a showcase three-set performance. To become one of these "showcase" specials all you have to do is 1) be a member of the Folk Club, 2) fill out a lottery slip by the last Tuesday of the month, 3) win the drawing and 4) practice, practice practice!

We look forward to seeing you in future months as we have enjoyed those who preceded you.

New Folk Club Information Source

As if you don't have to face enough electronic gadgets, the Folk Club now has another answering machine for you to listen to. Just call (703) 573-6855 and follow the instructions. It is Dave Hurd's phone so just skip the uninteresting other stuff.

Need Something Musical?

Looking for a good buy?

Music City in Manassas will match or beat any deal you can find in the DC area!

8783 Commerce Ct., Manassas

(703) 368-0161 (Special for Folk Club Members)

The Folk Club

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Treasurer, David Hurd

Members of the Board:

Ray Kaminsky, Ellen Kaminsky

Lynn Jordan, Joe Navarrete

Bill Davis

Newsletter Published Periodically

Editor, David Hurd

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Dave Hurd - (703) 573-6855

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Check your Label - Are you expiring? "19920401" is expiring with this issue. Don't miss an issue - Don't miss the benefits of the Folk Club. Please send in your membership check (\$12.00) to keep your membership active!

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