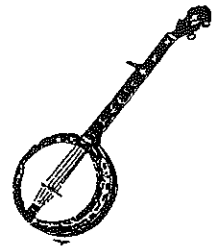




# The Folk Club

## *of Reston-Herndon*

...Preserving Folk Traditions



Vol 9, No 4; April, 1995

### Getting in Tune with yourself: This is the Dawning of the Age of Asparagus

by Bill Davis

So again its Tuesday night and club is crowded. The chips and salsa and beer and the Tortilla Factory special are doing strange things to you which will probably give you a Louis Armstrong rattle to your voice by the time your slot comes up, and try as you might you can't remember the words to the first verse of the song you practiced faithfully six or eight times just that afternoon. Oh well, it'll come to you, or maybe not but at least you're in tune. These days with the proliferation of those magical tuning machines there is probably no good excuse for being out of tune at least as far as your instrument goes. Get your little machine out and clip on a little wire to the peg, or plug in, or slap one of those leech like little perfect pitchers on your ax and even a twelve string can be domesticated almost painlessly. You don't even have to work at it much. These days it's not unusual for six or seven musicians to show up at a rehearsal or a gig with everybody pre-tuned and matching string for string and note for note. Its almost scary, it seems unreal, like finding the perfect parking place right where you want to go, or hitting fifteen green lights in succession. Okay, maybe it takes six folksingers to change a light bulb\* but I think we may be missing something. Remember when it took twenty or thirty minutes to get everyone tuned up and even then it was never quite right. There was social interaction going on there people working together to resolve their differences amicably and peacefully in order to make music together. Folks had to listen to each other, work out a plan and strive for a common goal... "You're flat... up a bit ..." "ping ping ting ting... twang" "Gotta G string?" When folksingers are tuning they can be doing nothing else. That is a phenomenon largely responsible for the impoverishment of many folk artists (who spent time they should be working, tuning) as well as the relatively peaceful relations that exist in the world today (They didn't have time to fight much.)

The electronic tuning devices could ultimately leave us all cold unfeeling clinically perfect singers robbed of the chance to interact and understand our mutual imperfections and to work toward a common goal as a team to produce beautiful music together. It is the imperfections after all that make life interesting, isn't it? The other loss to the

electric pre-tuned is the painfully embarrassing moment of realizing that the air conditioner was not tuned to a perfect B and your very expensive guitar is now hopelessly out of tune. It's even worse if you realize it only after you're into the second verse. If you care you must stop and re-tune and convince everyone that you can really do the job in 10 to 15 seconds and it is worth waiting for. You need a good tuning joke. Musicians who electronically tune their guitars miss out on the fun.

Here are some of the classics:

It was in tune when I bought it.

I tune because I care.

Close enough for Folk music (or whatever you are playing)

I wrote this song and I am expecting royalties from everyone who tunes up.

These strings have never been out of tune before - they were welded at the factory.

This is an ancient Chinese folk song Tun-Ing.

This is an ancient Vietnamese folk song - it's very Hanoiing.

This is the Drop D tuning which is another way to play out of tune.

Twelve string guitar players spend half their life tuning and the other half playing out of tune.

So that's what those little knobs are for!

Of course you half to tune the Bass - you tuna fish don't you?

Its supposed to sound that way. That's the way I sing it.

I play in the key of L. At least it sounds like "L"

I think I'll sing this song Acapulco ... er archipelago... er Propeller you know unaccompanied... it's like an instrumental only you sing and there aren't any instruments.

Does anybody know any good banjo jokes?

Least used phrase in the English language is "Is that the banjo player's Porsche?"

The stage is level if the banjo play drools from both sides of his mouth evenly.

Banjos burn longer than accordions.

What's the difference between a banjo and a Trampoline?

You take your shoes off when you jump on a trampoline.

Onion? Nobody cries when you cut up an banjo.

A twelve string guitar. The banjo is probably in tune.

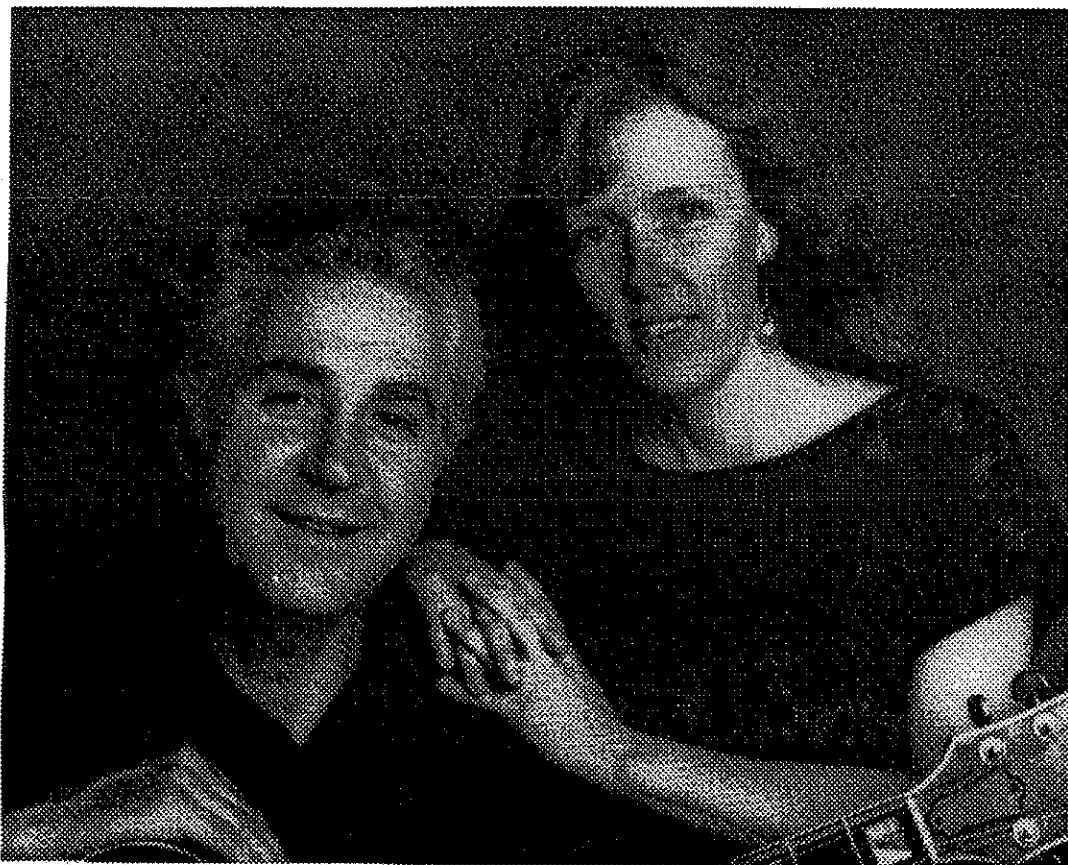
Please add your joke to the list and be prepared. Someday you may have to tune to a concertina.

\* One to change it and five to complain about going electric.

# Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen

Tickets \$9 (\$8 Members)

The Folk Club  
Proudly Presents ...  
7:30 PM  
Apr 25, 1995  
at the Tortilla  
Factory  
638 Elden Street  
Herndon, Va





**Steve Gillette** and **Cindy Mangsen** combine dynamic harmonies, instrumental virtuosity, and dazzling vocal agility to captivate audiences of all ages. Gillette's musical style reflects his roots in country and western music. Though his virtuosity on guitar has been compared to Doc Watson's, Steve is best known as a superb songwriter. His songs have been recorded by a veritable pop-country-folk who's who including Garth Brooks, John Denver, Waylon Jennings, Kenny Rogers and Linda Ronstadt, to name a few; and starting breaking the charts back in the 60's with the classic **Darcy Farrow** recorded by Ian and Sylvia. Steve has performed in 31 countries at over 100 colleges and in numerous music festivals; and has five albums to his credit including **Steve Gillette**, **Back on the Street Again**, **Alone...Direct**, **A Little Warmth**, and **The Ways of the World**. Cindy Mangsen has long been a favorite of fans who favor traditional material, although her repertoire includes contemporary songwriters and original songs as well. Cindy plays guitar, banjo and concertina delightfully, but is renowned for her compelling voice. **Cindy** has appeared on **National Public Radio** and hundreds of venues and festivals. She has two solo albums, **Settle Down** and **Songlines**, as well as **Voices**, a recording featuring Cindy in a trio with **Anne Hills** and **Priscilla Herdman**.



# Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



April 2 - May 13, 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 2  Daylight Savings - set ahead 1 hour	Apr 3	Apr 4 7:30pm Folk Club	Apr 5	Apr 6 7:30pm Frederick Folk Club @ Ceresville Mansion 7:30pm with Susan Graham White	Apr 7	Apr 8 7:30pm Iona @ Del Ray Coffee House, Alexandria Va
Apr 9 Palm Sunday	Apr 10	Apr 11 Showcase Performance Dean Blehert 7:30pm Folk Club	Apr 12	Apr 13	Apr 14 Good Friday	Apr 15 Passover
Apr 16  Easter	Apr 17	Apr 18 7:30pm Folk Club	Apr 19	Apr 20 7:30pm Frederick Folk Club @ Ceresville Mansion 8:00pm Shenandoah Coffeehouse - Middleburg	Apr 21	Apr 22 8:00pm Iona @ Farthing's Tavern - St Mary's City Md 8:00pm Shenandoah Coffeehouse - Shepherdstown
Apr 23	Apr 24	Apr 25 Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen \$ (9/8) 7:30pm Folk Club	Apr 26	Apr 27 7:30pm Frederick Folk Club @ Ceresville Mansion 7:30pm with Fred Small	Apr 28 <small>Fredericksburg Songwriters Showcase - Pickers Supp. With Andrew McEghe - Fredericksburg 8:00pm Shenandoah Coffeehouse - Winchester</small>	Apr 29 Iona @ S. Md Celtic Fest - St Leonard Md
Apr 30	May 1	May 2 7:30pm Folk Club	May 3	May 4	May 5 Cinco de Mayo	May 6 12:30pm Sweet Harmony @ NOVA Folk Fest 8:00pm Open Door Coffee House, Fairlington UM Ch, Alex
May 7	May 8	May 9 Showcase Performance 7:30pm Folk Club	May 10	May 11 7:30pm Frederick Folk Club @ Ceresville Mansion	May 12	May 13

## Coming Folk Club Events

**April 25 - Steve Gillette &  
Cindy Mangsen \$9/8**

**May 23 - Cormack McCarthy  
\$9/8**

**June 13 - Bill Staines  
\$9/8**

**July 25 - Richard Gilewitz  
\$7/6**

**August 15 - Mary Flowers  
\$9/8**

**Sep 26 - Tom & Chris Kastle  
\$7/6**

**Oct 24 - Priscilla Herdman**

**Nov 28 - Roy Book Binder**

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### ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Check your Label - Are you expiring? "19950401" 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!

### The Folk Club

*of Reston - Herndon*  
at The Tortilla Factory  
648 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA 22070  
c/o David A. Hurd  
1405 Cottage Street SW  
Vienna, VA 22180

## Showcase Performances

April 11, the featured performers will be Dean Blehert.

On the first Tuesday of every month we feature a Folk Club member in a showcase two-set (25 minute) 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!

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### The Folk Club

President, Larry Mediate  
Treasurer, Richard Flinchbaugh  
Members of the Board:  
Ray Kaminsky, Ellen Kaminsky  
Lynn Jordan, Bill Davis  
David Hurd  
Jim Rosenkrans, T.M. Hanna

Newsletter Published Periodically  
Editors, Mike Murray & Dave Hurd

### Publicity & Information

Lynn Jordan - (703) 437-7766  
Dave Hurd - (703) 573-6855

### Bookings

Ray Kaminsky - (703) 689-0444

Expires  19960301

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