

The Folk Club

Volume 9 Issue 12

of Reston-Herndon
Preserving Folk Traditions

December, 1995

December Showcase - Ray Kaminsky

The Showcase performer for December 12, Ray Kaminsky, is a meticulous performer, in styles ranging from ballads to blues to Christmas music. You'll hear him directly in the Showcase, but you may not realize you've heard his taste and style for years without even knowing it. He books all the guest artists into the Folk Club, and has booked acts around town at various venues for over 15 years. With his wife, Ellen, he created and ran the Club Acoustic several years ago, and most recently they've put the Herndon Folk Festival on its feet, involving the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department in an event that has drawn national acts and rave reviews.

Ray will surprise you. He's a fairly quiet guy, doesn't make a fuss about things most of the time. You'd normally pay attention to the other folks in the room who are making more noise. And you'd miss a lot, because few people speak from such a wealth of experience.

From the South Side (the blues side) of Chicago, Ray worked his way through a chemistry degree at Bradley University in Peoria (the quintessential American heartland town) in 1970. Uncle Sam's enthusiasm for his services brought him to the DC area, first to Ft. Belvoir, then as an instructor with the engineers at Ft. Meade. After managing restaurants, where he first started booking acts, Ray switched into computers, and is now a Senior Technical Analyst at Freddie Mac.

Ray's involvement with music began with rhythm & blues in college, when he learned his first song - the Drifters' *Up on the Roof*, playing a nylon string guitar. He played 5-string banjo for several years, too, and other early influences were Don McLean, Simon & Garfunkel, Pete Seeger, the Kingston Trio (particularly the Tom Paxton songs), James Taylor, Dylan (including the electric transition), and Buffalo Springfield. One of the people Ray booked 15 years ago - Steve Hudson, who will play here at the Folk Club on January 23 - got Ray into fingerpicking guitar styles. Other influences have been Bill Staines, Steve Gillette, John Jackson, and the whole parade at the Folk Club since 1984.

Classic Acoustic, Ray's first recording project, came out several years ago, featuring a wealth of local supporting musicians. His second, a blues project, is in the works, with eight cuts recorded so far. A blues demo tape is completed.

December is starting with a fairly busy week. Ray is playing on the 10th from 1:00 to 5:00 at 2 Fountain Square, Reston Town Center; at our Showcase on the 12th; and at the Sierra Club holiday party on the 13th. He's also playing a private party, and having a birthday (on the 18th) this month. Toss in his job and parenting (his son Daniel is in high school) with all the music, and you wonder how Ray has any spare time. Yet he manages to be a terrific chef, make the world's best cappuccino, and (beginning a 'Showcase Profile' habit of including a bit of embarrassing biographical detail) a regular at the bowling alley. That's right, he bowls!!

And, I'm sure, with the same dedication and artistry he puts into everything else....

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Holiday Party December 19

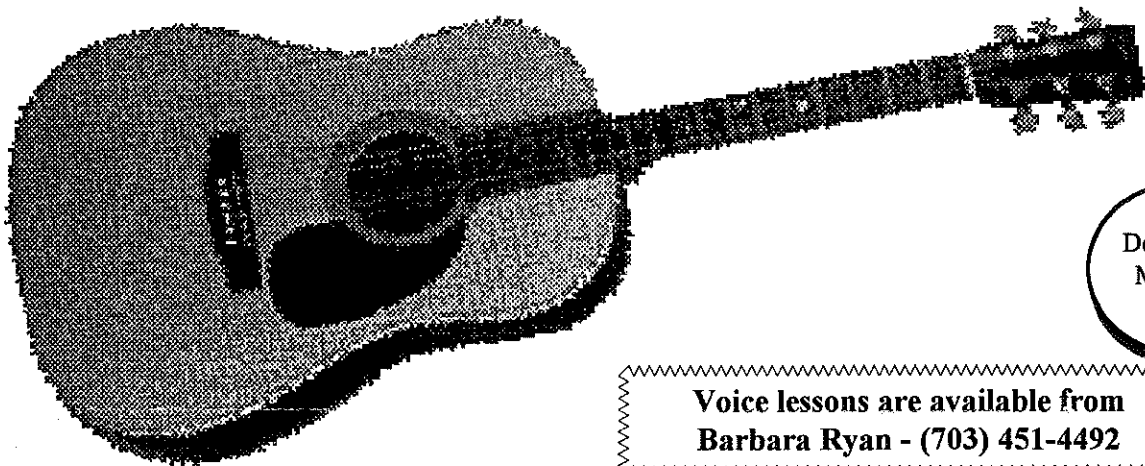
The idea for the holiday party is to get as many people to participate as possible, so the sign-up board will be for one song per person. After everyone has performed their song, we'll go through the list again, and, time permitting, everyone will do a second song. But the idea is to get *everyone* up for at least one song. This means you!

The normal \$1 donation is waived for the party, and special things have happened in previous years. Good cheer to all!

'96 Folk Alliance Conference in DC

The eighth annual Folk Alliance conference is set for February 15 through 18, 1996 (with some preliminary sessions on the 14th, too) at the Renaissance Washington Hotel. The Folk Alliance (officially the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance) holds their conference in a different city every year. The last one was in Portland, Oregon, and the ones after this will be in Toronto and Memphis, so they're not usually so convenient. There are a wide array of panels and workshops, plus showcases, exhibitors (you can be one, too), jam rooms, dances, child care, instrument check areas, and continuous networking. Registration costs a bit of change (with price increases on December 15 and January 15, so it pays to register early), but this year we don't have any hotel or travel costs. So, if you have any interest in ever attending a conference, this is the year!

Call the Alliance at (202) 835-3655 for more info. They moved their international headquarters here to DC in the past year, so even calling for info is local!



Do-Mi-So-
Mi-Do...

Voice lessons are available from
Barbara Ryan - (703) 451-4492

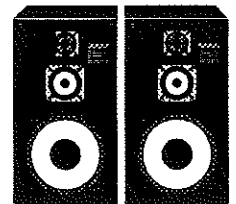
Wanted - Sound System Czar!

The Folk Club needs someone to take overall responsibility for sound production at the club. This means scheduling people to run the sound board on Tuesday nights (except when there's a guest artist), training volunteers, and maintaining the sound system equipment.

The job is not as big as it 'sounds.' The equipment is set up and taken down by very reliable volunteers already (thanks to Jim Rosenkrans and John McConnell in particular!). It's usually only 3 nights per month that need to be scheduled, and there are already at least six 'regulars' who are experienced behind the board. And equipment maintenance is mostly making sure there's a backup for the cables, stands, and mics in case they go bad, with some occasional soldering of loose connections (which can be done with plenty of time because the backups are there).

If you're interested, or for more info, please call Ray Kaminsky at (703) 689-0444.

Thanks!





Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



Dec 10 - Jan 20, 1995/96

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dec 10 1:00-5:00 Ray Kaminsky @ 2 Fountain Sq., Reston Town Ctr. 7:00 Shenandoah Coffeehouse, Reston Community Center	Dec 11	Dec 12 <i>Showcase - Ray Kaminsky and Lottery Drawing</i>	Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 15 8:00 IONA @ Mays Chapel, Timonium MD	Dec 16 8:00 Andrew McKnight @Shenandoah Coffeehs Shepherdstown WV War Memorial Bldg
Dec 17 5:00 IONA @ Barchetta Restaurant, Arlington VA (703) 243-0145			Dec 20	Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 23
Dec 24		Dec 26	Dec 27	Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30
Dec 31 6:45-11:15 IONA @ First Night Alexandria 212 S. Washington St. 8:00 Andrew McNight @Folk Against Drinking & Driving, DC (202) 686-9210		Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4 6:30 Andrew McKnight @ Starbucks Coffee, Cascades, Sterling VA (703) 421-0932	Jan 5	Jan 6
Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9 <i>Showcase Performance and Lottery Drawing</i>	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13
Jan 14 7:00 Shenandoah Coffeehouse, Reston Community Center		Jan 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	Jan 19	Jan 20 8:00 Lisa Taylor @Shenandoah Coffeehs Shepherdstown WV War Memorial Bldg

Folk Club Guest Artists

and Special Events

prices are for nonmembers/members - it pays to join!
all times are 7:30 PM

Dec. 19	Holiday Party	Free
Jan. 23	Steve Hudson	\$6/5
Feb. 20	Small Potatoes	\$8/7
Mar. 26	Chris Proctor	\$9/8
Apr. 23	Anne Hills	\$9/8
May 21	Fred Koller	\$10/9

Folk Club Format

On most nights, the Folk Club is an open mike format with a sign-up board. Each performer gets 12 minutes (or 3 songs, whichever comes first). A \$1 donation is requested.

Showcase Performances

On the second Tuesday of each month, we feature a Folk Club member in a two set (25-minute) "Showcase" performance. To be in a showcase all you have to do is:

- be a Folk Club member (who hasn't done a showcase in 6 months)
- fill out a lottery slip any time in the month before the drawing
- win the drawing (held on the night of the previous month's showcase); and
- practice, practice, practice!

Newsletter Submissions

Club members' performances will be listed in the club calendar, and members' music-related notices (instruction, equipment for sale, etc.) will be listed free of charge.

Articles, reviews, artwork, and other items related to music are welcome, although publication can't be guaranteed.

Contact the editor, Dan Grove, at (703) 742-7993 with submissions or for more information.

The Folk Club

Tuesday nights, 7:30 PM
at The Tortilla Factory
648 Elden St., Herndon, VA
471-1156

President: Larry Mediate
Treasurer: Richard Flinchbaugh
Newsletter Editor: Dan Grove

Board Members:

Ray Kaminsky, Ellen Kaminsky, Lynn Jordan, Bill Davis, Dave Hurd, Jim Rosenkrans, T.M. Hanna

Publicity & Information:

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

Bookings:

Ray Kaminsky (703) 689-0444

MEMBERSHIP · ADDRESS CHANGES · RENEWAL

Check your mail label - your membership expiration date (in Year-Month-Day format, YYYYMMDD) is there. To renew, or to join for the first time, please send your check for \$12, payable to The Folk Club, to membership chair Dave Hurd at the return address below.

He's the one to send any address changes to as well.

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



c/o Dave Hurd

1405 Cottage Street SW

Vienna, VA 22180

Expires 19960301

Mr Richard Flinchbaugh
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Vienna, VA 22182