

# The Folk Club

Volume 10 Issue 2

of Reston-Herndon  
Preserving Folk Traditions

February, 1996

## February Showcase - Todd Crowley



Todd Crowley's house in Centerville is full of music - his wife, Jeanne, is a flutist with the Fairfax City Band and teaches chorus at Luther Jackson Intermediate School, his son plays clarinet, and his daughter plays flute. While they work mostly on classical music and show tunes, Todd has had a life-long interest in folk music. He started with the old Hootenanny television show, with performers like Burl Ives and the New Christy Minstrels, then Jackson Brown and James Taylor. John McCutcheon, Si Kahn, Stan and Garnet Rogers, and James Keelaghan are more recent influences, along with music from the British Isles. Songs that tell a story hold the greatest attraction for Todd, and you'll see this trend in his showcase.

Originally from New England, Todd moved with his parents to Hawaii and Illinois before settling in this area. He graduated from Mount Vernon High School, went to Boston to attend Tufts University, then came back and has taught English in Fairfax County for 21 years. He currently teaches at Centerville High School, but has also taught at Mount Vernon and Herndon. (His students are lucky - he neither likes nor teaches *Beowulf*, but instead encourages his students in their own creative writing.) While in high school and college Todd played basketball, and then coached for 20 years. He retired from coaching last year, and the additional free time has allowed him to pursue his musical interests.

You'll see Todd playing several of his twelve autoharps during the showcase. The reason for having so many instruments is that each is in a different key in diatonic tuning, which has a much fuller sound than normal chromatic autoharp tuning because many more strings are ringing at the same time. A chromatically tuned harp can play in multiple keys, but has a much thinner sound in each one.

It was a traditional Appalachian musician named Bryan Bowers that first introduced Todd to the autoharp in the early 80's, when Todd was coaching his son in basketball. In addition to his autoharps, Todd collects other instruments, including a piano, an Appalachian dulcimer, a hammered dulcimer, a fiddle, a banjo, a bouzouki, a mandolin, a concertina, six flutes and recorders, and a Celtic harp.

When asked for an embarrassing biographical detail to include in this profile, Todd remembered his first (and last) singing lesson, which happened in college. The teacher tried to get him to relax, but when he tried to sing absolutely nothing came out! Todd never went back, and the first time he ever sang in public was last summer at the Cranberry Dulcimer Festival in Binghamton, New York, more than twenty years later. Those of us who've heard his rich baritone over the last several months at the Folk Club know that while basketball may have lost a great coach, music has gained a strong voice!

Accompanying Todd for his showcase will be one of his students, Paddy League, on bodhran and bouzouki.

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# Small Potatoes

(Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso)

7:30 PM February 20, 1996

Tickets \$8 (\$7 Members)

**"One of the most polished, inventive, and entertaining shows on the circuit"**  
Michael Parrish of Dirty Linen Magazine



Can you follow a tender Irish ballad with a cowboy yodeling song? "Well, nobody's thrown anything yet," say Jacquie and Rich. They say it has taken years of careful indecision to put together a highly eclectic mix of music. "It's a logical outgrowth of not knowing what you want to be when you grow up. We can't decide, our tastes are pretty varied, and we haven't felt a need or desire to specialize in one area." There is no confusion when it comes to the impact of their strong vocal and instrumental work, though, or the breadth of their appeal. They

both sing and do interesting instrumental things with guitars, mandolin, bodhran, flutes, whistles, shakers, mountain dulcimers and other devices that demonstrate their fifteen years of musical experience. They sing serious songs, silly songs, sing-along songs. Sometimes they do traditional traditionally - and sometimes they do it non-traditionally. Their first recording, "Raw" (referring to Potatoes and not other topics known to parents of rap-loving teenagers), reflects their varied musical approach ranging from jazz, blues, western swing and Gospel, to Celtic and contemporary folk influences. You **WILL** have fun at this show!!!

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## Folk Alliance Conference Free Events

There will be many privately sponsored artist showcases and impromptu jams taking place throughout the conference that you don't need to be registered to attend. In addition, an assortment of organized late night jams, song swaps, and dances will be open to all, starting about 9:00 PM on Feb. 14, 8:00 PM on Feb. 15, and 11:30 PM on Feb. 16 and 17 (and going late each night...).

The conference is at the Renaissance Washington Hotel, 999 9th Street NW (9th and I Streets), right next to the Washington Convention Center. At the conference, check with hotel monitors or the hospitality desk for specifics. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington has helped to make these free events possible - thanks!

Call the Folk Alliance at (202) 835-3655 for general conference information.

## Folk Club Request Line

Cathryne Stein would like to hear the song *Waltzing Across Texas*. She heard it at a festival in southern California, and would like to hear it again if anybody at the Reston Folk Club knows it.

If anyone else has a request, just let the editor know, and it will be printed here in the newsletter where millions will see it!



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



Sound system and engineer, reasonable rates  
Richard Flinchbaugh - (703) 255-0112



# Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



## Feb 11 - March 23, 1996

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Feb 11</b> Old Brogue Concerts, Gt. Falls, Reservations (703) 759-3309  7:00 Shenandoah Coffeeshouse, Reston Community Center (703)476-4500	<b>Feb 12</b>	<b>Feb 13</b>  <i>Todd            Crowley            Showcase            and Lottery Drawing</i>	<b>Feb 14</b>  <b>Folk Alliance</b>	<b>Folk Alliance Conference</b> Renaissance Washington Hotel		<b>Feb 17</b>  7:30 Red Leaf @ Potomac Overlook Park 2845 N. Marcy Rd. Arlington
<b>Feb 18</b> <b>Folk Alliance</b>  Old Brogue Concerts, Gt. Falls, Reservations (703) 759-3309	<b>Feb 19</b>	<b>Feb 20</b>  <i>Small            Potatoes            (\$8/7)</i>	<b>Feb 21</b>	<b>Feb 22</b>  6:30-8:00 Acoustic Showcase, Starbucks Coffee, Cascades  7:30 Andrew McKnight @ Frederick Folk Club (301) 695-9387	<b>Feb 23</b>	<b>Feb 24</b>  8:00 Wavelengths Coffeeshouse, 27 Fairfax St., Leesburg
<b>Feb 25</b>  Old Brogue Concerts, Gt. Falls, Reservations (703) 759-3309	<b>Feb 26</b>	<b>Feb 27</b>	<b>Feb 28</b>	<b>Feb 29</b>  6:30-8:00 Lisa Taylor @ Acoustic Showcase, Starbucks Coffee, Cascades (703) 421-0932 (free)	<b>Mar 1</b>  7:30 Open Mike, Lucketts Community Center	<b>Mar 2</b>  8:00 Andrew McKnight Richard Flinchbaugh & T. M. Hanna @ Open Door Coffeeshouse, Fairlington UM Church, I-395 & Rt. 7, Alex. (703) 299-8332
<b>Mar 3</b>  Old Brogue Concerts, Gt. Falls, Reservations (703) 759-3309	<b>Mar 4</b>	<b>Mar 5</b>	<b>Mar 6</b>	<b>Mar 7</b>  6:30-8:00 Acoustic Showcase, Starbucks Coffee, Cascades (703) 421-0932 (free)	<b>Mar 8</b>	<b>Mar 9</b>  8:00 Andrew McKnight @ Frederick Coffee & Cafe, (301) 698-0039
<b>Mar 10</b> 5:00-6:30 & 7:00-8:30 IONA @ Old Brogue, Gt. Falls, Reservations (703) 759-3309  7:00 Lisa Taylor @ Shen. Cfhs, Reston Community Center	<b>Mar 11</b>	<b>Mar 12</b>  <i>Showcase            Performance            and Lottery Drawing</i>	<b>Mar 13</b>	<b>Mar 14</b>  6:30-8:00 Acoustic Showcase, Starbucks Coffee, Cascades (703) 421-0932 (free)	<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Mar 16</b>  7:30 Hickory Grove & Red Leaf @ Potomac Overlook Park 2845 N. Marcy Rd. Arlington (703) 528-5406
<b>Mar 17</b> 	<b>Mar 18</b>	<b>Mar 19</b>	<b>Mar 20</b>	<b>Mar 21</b>  6:30-8:00 Acoustic Showcase, Starbucks Coffee, Cascades (703) 421-0932 (free)	<b>Mar 22</b>	<b>Mar 23</b>  8:00 Andrew McKnight @ Wavelengths Cfhs, 27 Fairfax St., Leesburg  8:00 IONA @ Old Stone School, Hillsboro, VA (540) 668-6191

# Folk Club Guest Artists

## and Special Events

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

Feb. 20	Small Potatoes	\$8/7
Mar. 26	Chris Proctor	\$9/8
Apr. 23	Anne Hills	\$9/8
May 21	Fred Koller	\$10/9
May 28	Folk Club 11th Birthday!	Free
June 25	Ari Eisinger	\$8/7

## 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

9712 Cymbal Dr  
Vienna, VA 22182