

# The Folk Club

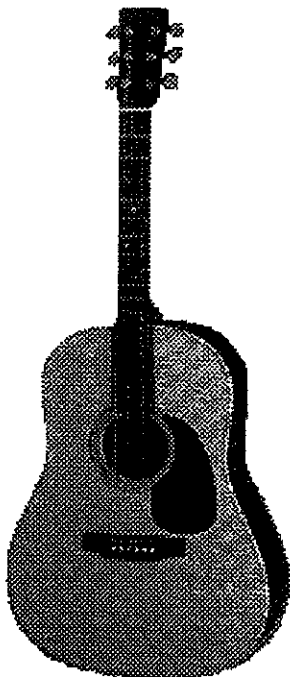
Volume 11 Issue 2

of Reston-Herndon  
Preserving Folk Traditions

February, 1997

## February 11 Showcase - Eric Sommer

Eric Sommer was born in Boulder, grew up in Southeast Asia, first got serious about music in Denmark, lives in DC, and thinks of the Boston area as home. He currently has two businesses, doing marketing and communications (with Lotus and Netscape among his clients) and sales force lead generation, but for most of his life Eric has been a professional musician.



A USIS function in Bangkok, Thailand, was Eric's first public performance - at age seven, while his family was there with the State Department. He also performed at the Trolley in Bangkok, and after moving to Lexington, Massachusetts, in the late 60's, he hung out at Passim's and The Plow and the Stars. After some college, Eric set off hitching around Europe, and found himself broke but with a guitar in Aarhus, Denmark. He made his living performing there at Gabarie and Den Hoi, and to this day hates the peppermint schnapps that everyone drank.

Returning to Boston in 1973, Eric hooked up with Don Law Productions, and through them and others he was booked to open for and/or perform with a wide range of people, including Buddy Guy & Junior Wells, Dave Van Ronk, Spider John Koerner, the Byrds, Little Feat w/Lowell George, David Bromberg, Leon Redbone, John Mayall and the Bluesbreakers (on the *Room to Move* tour), Cap'n Swing (later to become the Cars), the James Montgomery Blues Band, and the Dead Kennedys. During most of this time Eric was a solo act, but he also appeared with a pickup band called Sparky and the Blades, and fronted The Atomics, a progressive rock power trio (guitar, bass, and drums).

Musical influences include Bill Staines, Bert Jansch, Davey Graham, the Cars, Elvis Costello, the Allman Brothers, Steve Howe, and Brian May. Another major influence was Mick Goodrich, a guitarist for the Gary Burton Quartet and Eric's instructor at the Berklee College of Music from 1976-78.

Eric came to DC in 1982, and later took some time off from music. He started playing again a year and a half ago, and finds getting back to music to be great fun. When asked if he had any messages for our extensive readership, he said he wanted us to be clear that he hates Kathy Lee Gifford, that he wants to work for world peace, and that his favorite color is blue.

Don't miss Eric's showcase, it promises to be very entertaining!

### Inside:



*Lucy Kaplansky*

# LUCY KAPLANSKY

7:30 PM February 18, 1997

Tickets \$9 (\$8 members)



Since her career's beginning, critics have envisioned a big future for singer-songwriter Lucy Kaplansky. John Rockwell of the New York Times was the first, observing that it would be easy to predict stardom for her. When you hear her sing, his reasoning becomes clear. She has a voice unlike anyone else recording today. It is fluid, agile, and strong, and when she joins it with another, as she does with Shawn Colvin on *The Tide*, the harmonies are delightful. Lucy's crucial influences came from the voices of Mary McCaslin and Cindy Mangsen, and from her collaboration

with Emmylou Harris and Gram Parsons, who continue to influence her work today.

Lucy began her career singing in Chicago, but has long been a fixture of the Greenwich Village music scene. She made her mark as a Folk City regular, as part of the Fast Folk Co-op crowd, and with Song Project, a group which earned critical acclaim. In those days Lucy was sharing the stage with colleagues who attained significant popularity, including Nanci Griffith, John Gorka, Suzanne Vega, the McGarrigle Sisters, and Shawn Colvin. Lucy and Shawn performed as a duo for years, and Lucy appeared on Shawn's Grammy-winning debut, *Steady On*, on Griffith's *Lone Star State of Mind*, and on three of Gorka's albums. Lucy also landed soundtrack credits singing with Vega on *Pretty in Pink*, and with Griffith on *The Firm*.

Lucy's latest album, *The Tide*, is a great collection of songs, including three stellar originals and others penned by some of her favorite artists: Richard Thompson, Bill Morrissey, Cliff Eberhardt, Robin Batteau and Sting.

"She's one of my favorite singers in the world. Her voice is irresistible. When I hear her sing, I can't think of anything else." - John Gorka

## Rhythm 101

As you listen to music in "standard" 4/4 time (you can count it out 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +, etc), the **downbeat** refers to beats 1 and 3, and the **backbeat** refers to beats 2 and 4. Try clapping along to some recorded music, and you'll find that the backbeat - the 2 and 4 - are the accented beats in almost all cases. It sounds and feels best to clap on those beats (it actually sounds sort of Wonder Bread bad to clap on the 1 and 3; Sparky Rucker, for example, made gentle fun of people who clap "on the beat," as he called the downbeat).

The exceptions to this general rule are traditional Irish music, in which clapping on the downbeat is normal (although a migration toward the backbeat is evident as Irish music becomes more Americanized), and marches such as John Philip Sousa's, in which you might as well clap on all the beats.

A fun variation to the standard backbeat is to clap four times per measure like this:  
one and **two and** three **and four** and one and **two and** three **and four** and one and **two and** three **and four** and...

(think of the intro to *My Boyfriend's Back* by the Shangri Las... Enjoy!)

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

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

# IN CONCERT

(Folk Club members' local performances - send your schedule to the editor to be included)

## IONA

Feb 19, 8:30 PM, Music Americana Showcase, Bad Habits Grill, 5444 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA, (301) 933-5265 ext 3  
Mar 9, 5:00 & 7:00 PM, Winter Concerts at the Old Brogue, Great Falls, VA (see venue listing below)

## Kevin James

Feb 2-3 & 23-24, 8:00 PM, Ireland's Own, 132 N. Royal St., Alexandria VA, (703) 549-4535  
Feb 6 & 20, 9:30 PM, Quigleys, 3201 New Mexico Ave., DC, (202) 966-0500  
Feb 7-10, 8:00 PM (9:00 PM Fri. & Sat.), Murphy's of Alexandria, 713 King St., Alexandria VA, (703) 548-1717  
Feb 11-15 & 25-28, Mar 1, 9:00 PM, Flanagan's, 7637 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda MD, (301) 986-1007  
Feb 16, 2:00 PM, Borders Books, 4420 Mitchellville Rd., Bowie MD, (301) 352-5560

## Ray Kaminsky

Feb 6, 7:00 PM, Cascades Starbucks (see venue listing below)  
Feb 21, 7:30 PM, Borders Books, Baileys Crossroads VA, (703) 998-0404

# LOCAL VENUES

(Folk Club members are listed in boldface - the Folk Club's events are listed on the back page)

**Winter Celtic Concerts** - Sundays, shows at 5:00 and 7:00, in the Snuggery at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, Georgetown Pike (Rte 193) and Walker Rd., Great Falls, VA, (703) 759-3309 *Reservations Recommended*  
Feb 2 - Celtic Thunder  
Feb 9 - Elke Baker w/Dave Weisler & Ralph Gordon      Feb 16 - The Poor Clares      Feb 23 - Moonfire (Jody Marshall, Cathy Palmer,

**Club Acoustic Productions House Concert Series** - Sundays in Herndon, 6:30 PM socializing, 7:00 PM Concert. For reservations (required) and directions call (703) 689-0444  
Feb 23 - Erica Wheeler      Mar (tbd)      Apr 20 - Maria Sangiolo

**Potomac Overlook Coffee House Concert Series** - 3rd Saturday monthly, 7:30 PM. At the Potomac Overlook Park Nature Center Auditorium in north Arlington, Va. Bring a flashlight to make your way down the park road. (703) 528-5406. **Red Leaf** is the host band, with the following guests: Feb 15 - Blues Works      Mar 15 - Barb Martin      Apr 19 - Terra Nova

**Shenandoah Coffeehouse Reston** - 2nd Sunday monthly, 7:00 PM, Reston Community Center, 2300 Colts Neck Rd., Reston VA (at the back of the Hunters Woods Shopping Center), (703) 476-4500  
Feb 9 - **Andrew McKnight**, Jerry Bresee, John Rickard      Mar 9 - Laurie Rose Griffith & Peter Mealy, Susan Graham White, Terry Gonda  
Apr 13 - Amy & Jennie, Barb Martin, Frank Gotwals

**Shenandoah Coffeehouse Shepherdstown** - 3rd Saturday monthly, 8:00 PM, War Memorial Building, corner of King and German Streets, Shepherdstown WV, (540) 687-6759  
Feb 15 - **Andrew McKnight**, Randy Barrett, and another TBA      Mar 15 - Unfortunate Rakes, Jerry Bresee, Keith & Joan Pitzer

**The Americana Stage** - every Thursday, 8:00 PM, in the storefront adjacent to the Leesburg Restaurant, 9 South King St., Old Town Leesburg, (703) 777-3292 (Concert info hotline (703) 777-3523)  
Feb 6 - TBA      Feb 8 (Saturday) - Claire Lynch & the Front Porch String Band      Feb 13 - Larry Keel Experience & Furnace Mtn Band  
Feb 20 - TBA      Feb 27 - Dan Conoscenti w/Naked Blue

**Starbucks Coffeehouse, Cascades** - every Wednesday & Thursday, 7:00 PM, 21021 Southbank St. Sterling VA, (703) 421-0932  
Feb 5 - Randy Barrett      Feb 6 - **Ray Kaminsky**      Feb 12 - **Andrew McKnight**      Feb 13 - Suzanne Michele  
Feb 19 - **Lisa Taylor**      Feb 20 - Christina Muir      Feb 26 - Bill Parsons      Feb 27 - Marge Calhoun

**Starbucks Coffeehouse, Northpoint Village** - every Wednesday, 7:00 PM, 1444 Northpoint Village, Reston VA (703) 787-9341  
Feb 5 - Dave Alberding      Feb 12 - **Lisa Taylor**, Randy Barrett, & Suzanne Michele      Feb 19 - Steve Hudson      Feb 26 - Doris Justis

**Starbucks Coffeehouse, Burke Center Plaza** - every Wednesday, 7:00 PM, 6003-A Burke Ctr. Pkwy, VA (703) 250-2292  
Feb 5 - Carolyn Jane      Feb 12 - Doris Justice      Feb 19 - Marge Calhoun      Feb 26 - Jeff Aug

**Stringfellows** - every Saturday, 6:00 PM, 201 Union St., Occoquan, VA (703) 494-3755  
Feb 1 - Anthony Gergosian      Feb 8 - Joe Potente      Feb 15 - Kevin Artz & Tim Noone      Feb 22 - Frank Donlan  
Mar 1 - Matthew Smith      Mar 8 - Joe Potente      Mar 15 Jeff Stapleton      Mar 22 - Suzanne Michele

# Folk Club Guest Artists,

## Showcases, and Special Events

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

|         |                       |         |
|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| Feb. 11 | Eric Sommer Showcase  | n/a     |
| Feb. 18 | Lucy Kaplansky        | \$9/8   |
| Mar. 18 | The Unfortunate Rakes | \$11/10 |
| Apr. 29 | Garnet Rogers         | \$10/9  |
| May 20  | Bruce Davies          | \$9/8   |
| June 17 | James Mee             | \$7/6   |

## 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 or <dangrove@erols.com> 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  19970301

Mr Richard Flinchbaugh

9712 Cymbal Dr  
Vienna, VA 22182