

The Folk Club

Volume 13 Issue 3

of Reston-Herndon

March, 1999

March 9 Showcase: The Porch Monkeys



Among collectors of vintage 78's the opportunity to obtain a Porch Monkeys platter on the Vocalion label is like getting ones mitts on the holy grail carved in black shellac. Although these disks were pressed on inferior material and therefore assault the listener with a blizzard of pops and scratches when the needle hits the groove, the intensity and artistry of these songs is simply breathtaking. Little is known about the genesis of this epochal combo, conflicting stories shrouded in myth and legend abound but musical historians have been able to piece together some basic facts...

In 1932, while operating a corn whiskey still outside of Yazoo City, Mississippi, Harny Monkey made the acquaintance of Fang Monkey—a bawdyhouse madam from Memphis looking to expand her franchise to the levee camp and turpentine workers clustered in the area. After sampling each others wares they joined forces and established the Mud Puddle Gulch barrel-house, located near Friars Point and famously advertising “Liquor in the front—Poker in the rear—live entertainment on week-ends.” The venture was an immediate success and became a favorite stop for entertainers and a motley assortment of colorful delta characters. During the week when business ran slow, one was certain to find Harny and Fang out front on the porch playing with an ever-changing band of the South’s musical elite.

And so it happened that on a fateful 4th of July in 1933, into this milieu wandered T.Monkey, an asparagus grower from Appalachia who’d lost his farm in a mudslide—now meandering through the South, mandolin in hand, song in heart, Navy-cut Player a-danglin’ from his lip, picking for small change and getting the occasional gig portraying Abe Lincoln in minstrel shows. Later that same (historic) day staggered onto the porch Jellyroll Monkey, a lapsed Baptist preacher who’d turned to a life in the blues after being “persuaded” to abandon his calling by the men in his congregation... apparently they disapproved of his hands-on approach to faith healing the women parishoners. Four disparate souls cosmically joined, they clicked immediately and the rest is, as they say, history.

Sadly, as it so often happens with great talents joined, their days together were numbered, within 2 years interpersonal conflicts and “artistic differences” split them asunder; not, however, before they were scouted by Columbia’s local rep and waxed those 3 classic platters. Happily, time does heal most wounds and so over the ensuing decades the Porch Monkeys have reunited on rare occasions to re-create the old magic, which shines as brightly now as it did in those days so long ago and far away...



Julia Rose CD Release Party March 16

Come celebrate Julia’s first release,

Suspended in Air

on her own label, Dr. Bewildered Records.

"Julia Rose is a beautiful songstress with a powerful voice at all the right times." -PITCH Magazine

Inside: MoonFire



MoonFire

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

The Folk Club Proudly
Presents - 7:30 PM -
March 23, 1999
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA



Formed in 1996, MoonFire (Elise Kress, Jody Marshall and Cathy Palmer) performs what one reviewer called "power chamber-folk music." Traditional Celtic, English and American instrumentals and songs form the foundation of the ensemble's sound, with settings ranging from classical to contemporary. MoonFire also features original music in both traditional and modern folk styles. In addition to concert performances, this versatile trio enjoys developing other musical projects. They recently created and recorded an original score for the Washington D.C. Studio Theatre's production of "The Steward of Christendom," by Irish writer Sebastian Barry.

OhMoonFire has appeared with the Wheeling West Virginia Symphony, at the Potomac Celtic Festival, Kennedy Center, Birchmere, Folger Shakespeare Library, and the White House.

Elise Kress (lead vocals, flutes, penny whistle, guitar) has been performing in the Washington, D.C. area for 20 years. A founding member of The Ancient Orphic Mystery Band and The New St. George, Elise has appeared at area clubs such as the Bayou, the Birchmere and the Philadelphia Folk Festival. Elise was music director of "The Stewardship of Christendom", and teaches computer music at the Levine School of Music.

Jody Marshall (hammered dulcimer, keyboard, vocals, bodhran) has performed at venues ranging from the Kennedy Center to the Maryland Renaissance Festival. She is a creative keyboard accompanist and a popular dulcimer teacher in settings such as the Augusta Heritage Arts Center and the Upper Potomac Dulcimer Festival. Jody is a founding member of the folk trio, Ironweed.

Cathy Palmer (violin) has won both national and international awards for Celtic fiddling. Well known for her work with the Celtic band, Connemara, she has performed at venues across the east coast, including Boston's Fanuil Hall and the Prism coffeehouse. The Washington Post calls her album "Fiddler Play the Light," a "fresh perspective on Celtic Music."

IN CONCERT

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

Ray Kaminsky

4/10 8-10pm Del Ray Coffeehouse, United Methodist Church, 100 E Windsor Ave, Alexandria, VA 703-549-2088
with JOHN JACKSON

Dean Blehert, poetry

3/24 6-7:30pm Jewish Community Center, 1529 16th Street N.W. DC, 202-518-5900

3/27 2-4pm Reston Barnes & Noble, Spectrum Center, Reston VA, 703-471-7907

In April, Dean will be on a book tour to Asheville NC, Nashville TN, and the Austin TX International Poetry Festival.

Julia Rose

Mar 12, Fri, St. Elmo's Coffee, 2400 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alexandria, 8pm

Mar 19, Fri, Barnes and Noble, Reston, 7:30pm

Mar 26, Fri, Bibelot Inc, 1819 Reisterstown Rd, Baltimore, 410.308.1888

Apr.17, Sat, Eureka Joes Cafe, NEW YORK CITY. 7pm, 212.741.7500

The Coalition to Save Evans Farm presents:

MARCH MUSIC FEST

with Bill Danoff, Grace Griffith with Paul Nahay, MoonFire, Sanjay Mishra, the Grandsons, Dulcie Taylor & Franklin Taggart, the Columbia Brass Quintet, Burnett Thompson, and more!

8 PM, March 10 and 11 at the Alden Theater, McLean, Virginia

\$15 per evening or \$25 for both

For ticket information and reservations, call (703) 448-8208.

<http://www.saveevansfarm.org>

Stringfellows

Northern Virginia's only folk music store, owned by club members Sandy and Dave Caouette and home of hand-crafted instruments from around the world, is looking for **instruments and original CDs for consignment sale.**

(703) 494-3755 or stfellow@doubled.com

Folk Club Guest Artists,

Showcases, and Special Events

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

Mar. 9	Porch Monkeys Showcase	n/a
Mar. 16	Julia Rose CD Release Party	n/a
Mar. 23	MoonFire	\$10/\$9
Apr. 27	Small Potatoes	\$10/\$9
May 18	Jack Williams	\$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.

The editor, T.M. Hanna, is temporarily offline. You can contact the stunt editor, Dan Grove, at (703) 742-7993 or <dangrove@erols.com> with submissions or for more information.

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

Tuesday nights, 7:30 PM
at The Tortilla Factory
648 Elden St., Herndon, VA
(703) 471-1156

President: Larry Mediate
Treasurer: Richard Flinchbaugh

Board of Directors:
Sue Beffel, Bill Davis, Dan Grove,
T.M. Hanna, Dave Hurd, Lynn Jordan,
Ray & Ellen Kaminsky, Jim Rosenkrans

Publicity & Information:
Lynn Jordan (703) 437-7766

Bookings:
Ray Kaminsky (703) 689-0444

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



c/o Dave Hurd

1405 Cottage Street SW

Vienna, VA 22180

Expires 12/19990301
Mr Richard Flinchbaugh

9712 Cymbal Dr
Vienna, VA 22182