

# The Folk Club

Of Reston – Herndon  
Preserving Folk Traditions

Volume 16 Issue 6

June 2000

## June 20 Showcase – “A Cappella” Pete

by Dan Grove

“A Cappella” Pete Nelson played trumpet for a while when he was young, but since then has chosen to make music only with his voice. He sang in his grade school and high school choruses, and in the choir at the University of Connecticut. Since moving to this area, he has appeared with the Fairfax Choral Society, the Vienna Light Opera Company, and the George Chelena Chorale, and is now gracing the Folk Club with his art. A cappella singing - singing without accompaniment - is quite difficult, and most people trying it find that they don't finish a lengthy song in exactly the same key or on exactly the same pitch with which they started. Pete makes it look easy, but remember he's a professional - don't try this at home!

Over the years, Pete has performed or appeared in HMS Pinafore, Brahms' German Requiem, the Bach Mass in B Minor, the Merry Widow, Die Fledermaus, show tunes, big band arrangements, popular songs from the 20's through the 40's, folk tunes, and the outrageous songs of Tom Lehrer. For his showcase, Pete has chosen to do something new, a selection of children's songs. Several of the songs have animal themes, and you can expect a menagerie including cows, rabbits, octopi, and maybe even a bear or two to populate the proceedings.

The phrase a cappella literally means “according to chapel,” performed without instruments “in the style of the church.” Looking deeper into the word origin, cappella originally meant a hooded cloak worn by Saint Martin, and in turn the Latin root of that (capp) refers to the head (without which the hood would have been unnecessary). A cappella thus doesn't really describe Pete's music beyond the lack of instruments, for while he has some religious music in his repertoire, like the Bach Mass, his a cappella is hardly apocalyptic. And he puts so much heart into it that the head reference doesn't quite hit the nail, either.

Pete visited the Folk Club after the George Chelena Chorale disbanded, and discovered a place that welcomes his eclectic tastes in music and provides a respite from the ups and downs of life. His regular sets are always highly entertaining, and this showcase promises some magic - don't miss it!

### June Schedule

June 6	Newsletter available, Open Mike
June 13	Bill Staines
June 20	“A Cappella” Pete Showcase
June 27	Open Mike

# Bill Staines

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

Anyone not familiar with the music of **Bill Staines** is in for a special treat. For over 25 years, Bill has traveled back and forth across North America, singing his songs and delighting audiences at festivals, folksong societies, colleges, concerts, clubs and coffeehouses. A New England native, Bill became involved with the Boston-Cambridge folk scene in the early 1960's and, for a time, emceed the Sunday hootenanny at the renowned Club 47 in Cambridge. Bill quickly became a popular performer in the Boston area. In 1971, after one of his acts, a reviewer for **The Phoenix** stated that Bill was "simply Boston's best performer." A decade later, both in 1980 and 1981, the annual Readers' Poll of **The Boston Globe** selected him as a favorite performer. In 1991, Bill entered his fourth decade as a folk performer with an international reputation as an artist. Singing mostly his own songs, he has become one of the most popular singers on the folk music circuit, averaging 200 concerts per year.

Bill weaves a magical blend of wit and gentle humor into his performances, and as one reviewer wrote, "he has a sense of timing to match the best stand-up comic." His music is a slice of Americana, reflecting with the same ease, his feelings about the prairie people of the Midwest or the adventurers of the Yukon. Interspersed between original songs, Bill also includes songs ranging from traditional folk tunes to more contemporary country ballads and delights in having the audience participate in many of his numbers. He may even do a yodeling tune or two - having won the National Yodeling Championship in 1975 at the Kerrville Folk Festival.

**The Folk Club**  
**Proudly Presents ...**  
**7:30 PM - June 13, 2000**  
**at the Tortilla Factory**  
**648 Elden Street**  
**Herndon, VA**



A number of Bill's songs have been recorded by other artists including Makem and Clancey, Nanci Griffith, Mason Williams, Glen Yarborough, Jerry Jeff Walker, Grampa Jones, Priscilla Herdman and others. Bill has recorded 18 of his own albums and his songs have been published in 4 available songbooks. Radio and TV appearances have included "A Prairie Home Companion", "Mountain Stage", "The Good Evening Show" and a host of local programs on network and PBS.

## Classifieds

**Acoustic Bass For Sale:** Rarely used, like new \$1000 include stand & cover. Jim Rosenkrans at 301-695-2733, [jimr@rosedalesoftware.com](mailto:jimr@rosedalesoftware.com)

**Come Spring Enterprises:** Professional sound reinforcement by Richard W. Flinchbaugh. Specializing in Folk, Celtic, Traditional and Contemporary Acoustic Music. 703-255-0112

**Julia Rose:** all-original, alternative folk artist. Her debut CD, "Suspended in Air." 410-237-0899, website: [www.erols.com/julia.rose](http://www.erols.com/julia.rose)

**Stringfellow's Beautiful Handcrafted from Around the World:** Sponsors of a summer concert series. Folk Music, Cds, Tapes and they accept instruments and original Cds for consignment. 201 Union St., PO Box 502, Occoquan, VA 22125, 703-494-3755, [stfellow@doubled.com](mailto:stfellow@doubled.com)

**Sandy's Greatest Hits:** Jim Sandy is looking for country/folk artists to help with CD...yes, finally!! Male vocal/guitar, bass, fiddle, harmonica. Female vocal/guitar, flute. Call Jim at 301-481-7645.

**Still Available through Birdphluph Music:** Good Things Take Time by TM Hanna and Bare Facts, recorded live at Avalon Folk Festival, by Bill Davis. Contact Birdphluph Music, PO Box 131, Sterling, VA 20167 or [www.birdphluph@pressroom.com](mailto:www.birdphluph@pressroom.com)  
Members wishing to purchase Michael Smith CDs or his songbook may write Artists of Note, PO Box 11, Kaneville, IL 60144.

## In Concert

Local performances by members of  
The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

### Ray Kaminsky

6/08 Borders Books, 5871 Crossroads Center Way (Baileys Crossroads) Falls Church, VA with Jack Fretwell on harmonica. 7:30pm  
Info: 998-0121

6/24, Potmac Overlook Regional Park, 2845 Marcey Road, Arlington, VA 7:00pm  
Info: (703)528-5406

### T.M. Hanna

6/02 6:30 - 9pm Zigs, Alexandria

6/07 8 to 11pm Zig, Alexandria

6/09 Ledo's Pizza, Tysons Station, Falls Church, 9pm to 12.

6/16 6:30 - 9pm Zigs, Alexandria

6/17 8 - 11pm Bennigans, Tysons Corner (tentative)

6/29 10:30 - 12:30 Zigs, Alexandria

### James Houch & Friends

6/10 Stringfellows of Occoquan, 7-9 pm

6/16 Borders Books, Sterling 7:30-9:30pm

6/30, Borders Books, Sterling 7:30-9:30pm

8/11-13 Avalon Folk Festival

**ACOUSTIC JAM** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 1 - 4 P.M. at Frying Pan Park Country Store in Herndon. Call Yvonne Johnson at 703-437-9101 for details.

## Herndon Blues Fest

July 22, Noon-9pm

All acoustic blues at Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, VA. 703-437-9101. Artists include Ray Kaminsky, Neil Harpe, Sheryl Warner & Greg Kimball, Mary Flower, Paul Rishell & Little Annie Raines, John Jackson, Little Bit of Blues and Paul Geremia.

Email your performance dates for the next newsletter to [cd7158@erols.com](mailto:cd7158@erols.com).

**The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon**

Tuesday nights, 7:30 P.M.  
The Tortilla Factory  
648 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA  
703-471-1156

**President:** Ray Kaminsky  
**Treasurer:** Richard Flinchbaugh  
**Board of Directors:** Ellen Kaminsky, Lynn Jordan,  
Bill Davis, T.M. Hanna, Sue Beffel, Dave Hurd,  
Mary King, Sue Schier, Carol Rogers, Chris  
Kramer-Harnage,  
**Publicity:** Sue Schier **Telephone:** Mary King  
**Bookings:** Ray Kaminsky 703-689-0444

**2000 Guest Artists**

**And Special Events**

Most tickets for Guest Artists are  
\$10 Non-member, \$9 Members  
It pays to be a Folk Club member!

06/13/00 Bill Staines  
07/18/00 Mark Bailey & Chris Rosser (split bill)  
08/22/00 Folk Club's 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the  
Tortilla Factory Restaurant  
08/29/00 Dana Robinson (\$8/\$7)  
09/19/00 Darryl Purpose (\$8/\$7)  
10/10/00 Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer  
11/14/00 Catfish Hodge  
12/19/00 Holiday Party

Folk Club Format

On most Tuesday evenings, the Folk Club is an open mike format with a sign-up board. **Each performer has 12 minutes, including setup time.** This allows three songs if you set up FAST and the songs are of moderate length.

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 you have to:

- be a Folk Club member who has not done a showcase in 6 months.
- fill out a lottery slip any time in the month before the drawing
- win the drawing on the night of the current month's showcase
- prepare to be featured in the next newsletter!

Newsletter Publication

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified advertisements, articles, reviews, artwork and other items to Carol Deakin at cd7158@erols.com. All items must relate to music and be emailed in WordPerfect. Information must be received one week before the first day of the month in which you want it published. Items will be printed on the basis of music related interest, timeliness and space available with club information being the first priority.

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon  
c/o Dave Hurd  
110 Devil's Backbone Overlook  
Stephenson, VA 22656

Expires 20010301

Mr Richard Flinchbaugh  
9712 Cymbal Dr  
Vienna, VA 22182