

The Folk Club

of Reston
Herndon

Volume 18, Issue 9



Preserving Folk Traditions



September 2002

September 10 Showcase - T. M. Hanna

The following is a recent interview with T. M.

Folk Club Newsletter: T.M., how are you?

TM: That depends, what have you heard?

FCN: Nothing much, but I know people wonder about you because we haven't seen that much of you lately.

TM: Well, if people would like to see more of me, I would recommend a trip to the Avalon Resort on the 13th of September. I'll be performing there and they can pretty much see all of me if they like.

FCN: Are you currently performing with a band?

TM: In the past I've played with several small ensembles, such as *The Wings of Truth, Flinchbaugh and Friends, Somos El Mar, The Porch Monkeys, Jeffry and the Fishermen, Pete Brown and the Mad Cows* and, of course, *The Space Time Gourmets*. Lately I have been mostly

playing with myself, but cut back because I was developing tendonitis in my elbow. I've tried putting a band together, but every time I get a good guitar player, good bass player, and good lead singer together, they realize they don't need me and move on. The hardest part for any band, I think, is finding a cool name.

FCN: How did you get started playing music?

TM: I started writing songs and soon realized that, as hard as it is to get people to listen to original songs when you play and sing well, it's much harder when you don't play at all and have a limited vocal range. So I started to teach myself guitar, and ended up being the third guitarist in a trio during my college days. I switched to banjo, but it didn't fit the stuff we were playing, so I tried harmonica, pennywhistle, and finally mandolin. I took some violin lessons in college, but it didn't take. I played bass in a polka band briefly while in the Air Force, but they caught me at it.

FCN: So you're self-taught?

TM: Yes, for the most part. I did take some mandolin les-



sons at the Augusta Heritage Week thing about 3 years ago, but I don't think it hurt my playing that much. I would like to say that I play by ear, but in truth I just play whatever the voices in my head tell me to play.

FCN: Any advice for players just starting out, or new songwriters?

TM: I hear lots of players who know how to play, but haven't learned when not to play. What you don't play is as important, if not more important, than what you play. Unless your instrument is the featured instrument in a particular song, you need to try to enhance the song and make the person you're backing up sound better. You have to have respect for the song. Also, try to concentrate on

a particular style of music that you really enjoy. One problem I've always had is that I love so many kinds of music, it's sometimes hard to focus on any one particular type or style. As for songwriters, if you want your songs to be remembered, they have to have something about them that stands out as being different or clever, otherwise they just fade away along with the hundreds of thousands of other songs I've heard. I should add that I listen to a lot of touring folk musicians who play and sing well enough to cover up the fact that their songs are somewhat pedestrian. Always remember that a good song will stand up to any number of arrangements much better than a good arrangement of an average song will stand up to other arrangements.

FCN: Will you be performing solo at your showcase?

TM: Well, unless they back out, I'll be joined by **Eric Forthman** and **Dan Grove**.

FCN: Thanks T. M.

TM: I could go on.

FCN: I know, and you usually do, but we're out of space.

Richard Berman

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

The Folk Club
Proudly Presents ...
7:30 PM
September 17, 2002
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA



Richard Berman “has the gift,” said Utah Phillips after hearing Richard sing at the Kerrville Folk Festival’s Ballad Tree in 1992. And Richard has used that gift to write many songs that tell moving, true stories. “Gil’s Song,” that prompted Utah’s appraisal, is the tale of a Wyoming sheepherder’s one brief attempt at closeness and its consequences. Humor, too, is part of Richard’s performance, as in “Monopoly,” his first-person account of the power of that game on behavior, and “The Kids Are Back,” his take on the latest stage in family development, both from Richard’s second CD, *Love Work and Play*. His third CD, *Dreamer*, includes his first songs of requited love, “A Love Song” and “Here and Now.” Both CD’s were chosen “One of the Best Folk Albums” of 1996-1998 by WFMT’s “Midnight Special.”

Richard first received national recognition in folk circles for his work by winning the 1992 Napa Valley Folk Festival’s Emerging Songwriters Contest. He was selected to take part in the Troubadour contest at the 1994 Telluride Blue Grass Festival and won the 1995 South Florida Folk Festival’s songwriting contest. He was a finalist in the 1999 Tucson Folk Festival’s songwriting contest and a winner of the 1999 Sierra Songwriters Festival contest. In 2000 Richard was a finalist at The Wildflower Festival’s and Kerrville Folk Festival’s songwriting contests and winner of the Rose Garden Coffeehouse’s songwriting contest. Over the past nine years, Richard has performed throughout the Northeast, Southwest, California, England and Wales. “When I first heard Richard, I was transported back to the rich songs of John Phillips in the ‘60’s. It was the folk music scare all over again.” – Ray Kaminsky

In Concert

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

Acoustic Jam: 3rd 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.

Where? House Concerts: Call Kim Kaplan (301-588-5314) or email her (jkkaplan@erols.com) for information, reservations and directions.

Lea Coryell

9/21 Bluemont Fair, Purcellville, 4pm
at the E.E. Lake Store

TM Hanna

9/13 Avalon Resort, Paw Paw, WV, 8:30pm

Ray Kaminsky: (www.earbuzz.com/raykiminsky)

9/21&22 Snickerville General Store, Bluemont, Va.
22nd with Jack Fretwell 11am-4pm
9/26 Starbucks, Sterling, 7pm
10/5&6 Waterford Home Tours & Crafts Exhibit,
Waterford, 10am-5pm

Somos El Mar:

9/3 Herndon Senior Day Care Center, 2pm
9/5 Arden Court, Potomac, 2pm
9/6 The Virginian, Fairfax, 7:15pm
9/7 Green Meadows, Dover, Del., 2pm
9/8 Luther Towers, Dover, Del., 2pm
9/9 Meadows at Brook Grove, Sandy Spring, Md.,
3:30pm
9/11 Brook Grove Nursing, Sandy Spring, 1pm
9/12 Leewood Health Center, Annandale, 6:30pm
9/13 Engleside, DC, 2pm
9/14 Westminster, Lake Ridge, 2:30pm
9/15 Hebrew House, Rockville, 2:30pm
9/16 Burke Health Care Center, Burke, 2pm
9/17 Goodwin House, Alexandria, 7:30pm
9/18 Atria Manressa, Annapolis, 2:30pm
9/19 Washington House, Alexandria, 7pm
9/20 Sunrise at Countryside #1A, Sterling, 2pm
9/20 Sunrise at Countryside #2, Sterling, 3:15pm
9/22 Genesis Elder Care, Milford, Del., 3pm
9/25 River Run Apartments, Woodbridge, 3:30pm
9/27 Asbury Methodist Garden, Gaithersburg, 2pm
9/28 Bartholomew House, Bethesda, 2pm

Vic's Music Corner presents:

at O'Brien's in Rockville (www.victorheyman.com)
9/11 Kate Wolf Tribute night
9/25 Bill Staines, Judith Kate Freidman opening

2002-2003 Guest Artists & Special Events

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

10/15/02 —**Woody Mann:** All-World guitarist—New Age to Folk to Flamenco to Blues

11/19/02 —**Johnny Irion & Sarah Lee Guthrie:** Folk music from the past and present

3/25/03 —**Bryan Bowers:** Master of the sutoharp, master entertainer, singer & storyteller

5/20/03 —**Bernice Lewis:** One of the finest singer-songwriters in today's Folk Scene

6/17/03 —**Anni Clark:** *Jam Magazine's* Female Artist of the Year—a wonderful folk singer-songwriter

Getting in Tune With the Folk Club

You've been coming for some time now, and we know you enjoy the music and the fun. Don't you think it's time to become a member? The cost is minimal, just \$12 per year, and besides the opportunities to participate in showcase drawings, you will receive \$1 off the ticket price of visiting artists (up to two tickets per show). If you buy two tickets every show, you've saved the membership fee two times.

Join us today. You can sign up at the Folk Club or call a Board member for information.

GET YOUR TICKETS!!

Advance purchase of tickets to concerts by Guest Artists (*see page 2 every month except December*) can be made at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact:

Dave Hurd
110 Devil's Backbone Overlook
Stephenson, VA 22656
540-722-0146

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: Dave Hurd

Board of Directors: Sue Beffel, Bill Davis, TM Hanna,
Lynn Jordan, Ellen Kaminsky, Chris Kramer-Harnage,
Sue Schier.

Publicity: Sue Schier

Info Line: 703-435-2402

Bookings: Ray Kaminsky, 703-689-0444

Membership is \$12 per year.

Classifieds

Classified ads and performance listings will be published if received the 3rd week of the month before publication from members whose dues are current.

Email your ad to irene@caboyer.com.

For Sale: Mandoblaster 5-string electric mandolin, Washburn M-5 (Jethro Burns model) mandolin, very rare Gibson C-1 (1931) mandolin, Ovation electric-acoustic custom Balladeer Guitar (many surface scars), Ukelin.
Contact tm.hanna@pressroom.com.

For Sale: G-37 Guild - big, beautiful blond, 26 years old, with a good neck. This dreadnought sounds full and clear. Solid guitar with hard case with key lock. \$650
Contact dlafleur2@hotmail.com

WANTED: Recycle your guitar strings. The Second Strings Project has distributed over 10,000 sets to the world's most depressed regions. Send complete sets only to Kevin Deame, 28 Ladd Road, Ellington, CT 06029.

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 must:

- 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 music related items to Irene Boyer at irene@caboyer.com. All items must be emailed in MSWord, WordPerfect, or ASCII text format. 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 3/1/03

Mr David Hurd
110 Devil's Backbone Overlook
Stephenson, VA 22656-1900