

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON - HERNDON

Preserving the traditions of

Vol. 19, Issue 3

Folk music, Folklore, and good Folk ways

March 2003

MARCH SHOWCASE

BETH BENEDETTO AND THE STORY OF SEAN-NOS SINGING



DEAR FOLK CLUB, THE STORY OF SEAN-NÓS SINGING IS A LOT MORE INTERESTING THAN THE STORY OF MY LIFE, SO I WILL SPARE YOU THE STORY OF MY LIFE.

"SEAN-NÓS" MEANS OLD-STYLE - REALLY OLD. POSSIBLY THE CELTS WERE SINGING THE SAME WAY WHEN ST. PATRICK LANDED IN THE 5TH CENTURY AS THE TRADITIONAL SINGERS IN THE VARIOUS GAELTACHTAÍ (IRISH-SPEAKING AREAS) TODAY. SOME OF THE TUNES ARE LIKEWISE SHROUDED IN THE MISTS OF TIME AND ARE ON THEIR UMPTEENTH SET OF LYRICS; BUT MOST OF THE WORDS DATE BACK NO FARTHER THAN THE 17TH CENTURY, MAKING THEM PRACTICALLY BRAND-NEW.

ALTHOUGH A SLOW, UNMETERED, HIGHLY-ORNAMENTED STYLE IS MOST IDENTIFIED AS "THE" SEAN-NÓS, THERE ARE MANY OTHERS, SUCH AS THE STARKLY BEAUTIFUL, BARELY ORNAMENTED STYLE OF WESTERN DONEGAL. OTHER TRADITIONAL HOTBEDS OF SONG ARE THE GALWAY, KERRY AND WATERFORD GAELTACHTAÍ. SOME OF THE FINEST POETRY WRITTEN IN IRISH APPEARS IN THESE SONGS, CONTAINING STUNNING IMAGERY, FASCINATING AMBIGUITIES AND A DEPTH OF EMOTION WHICH IS USUALLY WELL CONCEALED BY THE SINGER. BUT THE FINEST SINGERS WILL HOLD YOU UNDER A SPELL AND TAKE YOU TO VERY FAR-AWAY PLACES.

THIS TRADITION CAME CLOSE TO EXTINCTION BY THE 1970'S, BUT HAS MADE A REMARKABLE COMEBACK, WITH MANY YOUNG SINGERS RISING UP TO FOLLOW THE OLD. WHEN I TRAVEL TO IRELAND IT'S EASY TO TRACK DOWN SONG WORKSHOPS AT ANY TIME OF YEAR. MOST OF THESE ARE CONDUCTED IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE, SO I'M LEARNING THAT TOO ALONG THE WAY; BUT SIN SCÉAL EILE, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY. THERE ARE ALSO A SLEW OF COMPETITIONS, ONE OF WHICH I'M HOPING TO TAKE PART IN THIS AUGUST. I QUALIFIED LAST YEAR BY WINNING A REGIONAL COMPETITION, BUT WASN'T ABLE TO GET OVER FOR THE FINALS. (IS THAT ENOUGH ABOUT ME, DAN?)

THE BULK OF THE SEAN-NÓS REPERTOIRE ARE LOVE SONGS, ALL SAD, BUT FOR MY SHOWCASE I HOPE TO INCLUDE A DRINKING SONG (YOU CAN SING ALONG), A DROWNING SONG (NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH #1), A HOMESICK SONG AND ONE ABOUT THE LITTLE PEOPLE WHICH YOU'D BETTER HOPE DOESN'T BRING THEM DOWN UPON US.

BIGÍ ANSIN NÓ BEIDH SIBHSE IN 'UR GCEARNÓG
- BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

Bill Staines

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

The Folk Club
Proudly Presents ...
7:30 PM - April 22, 2003
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA



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 slige 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.

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.

FOLK CLUB MEMBERS START TRADITIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

By Ralph Lee Smith

Last Spring, a small group of Reston-Herndon Folk Club members began to meet at the Lake Anne Coffeehouse, from 4 to 6 p.m. every other Saturday Afternoon, to swap songs and tunes. Alfredo, the owner of the Coffeehouse, has been immensely hospitable to our little group, and we have been having a most enjoyable time. We want to invite others who may be interested, to join us.

When it comes to such things as giving lovers of folk music a welcoming forum for gaining performing experience and confidence before an audience and a microphone, nothing beats the Folk Club. We have a different purpose. We circumscribe our interests and activities by the following guidelines: no singer-songwriter material, and no bluegrass. Our interest is traditional folk music, approximately prior to 1940. We do not perform for each other, but, rather, exchange songs, song words, and folk song information.

We are busy and happy. Marcy Cochran has borrowed Ralph's old cigar box fiddle, and we have been experimenting in using it in a string band grouping. In her hands, the remarkable old instrument has come back to life and sounds like a Stradavarius! Sally Carroll has been bringing her bones, and we have been learning how to fit them into old-time tunes. Ralph has been giving Kay Schubert and Kathy Clark some help with their dulcimers, along with words and dulcimer tablature for some tunes. At this writing, Kay and Kathy are mounting a sustained assault on Johnson Boys, and it is clear that they will soon master it.

We have decided to simply meet on all Saturday afternoons when people can make it, preceded by an email round-robin to see who can come. If you will email your interest to Ralph at rd@herndon.com, he will put you on the round-robin email list, and you will hear from him. Join us! We are sure you'll like it, and we would like to have you! And if you have never sampled Alfredo's coffee, sandwiches and desserts, you have been missing something!

UPCOMING PERFORMERS

Mar 25, 2003, 7:30pm \$10/\$9 Bryan Bowers - The Yoda of dulcimer and a consummate story-teller.

Apr 22, 2003, 7:30pm \$10/\$9 Bill Staines - An icon of the American Folk scene, one of the great song-writers and story-tellers.

May 20, 2003, 7:30pm - Bernice Lewis. A great New England singer song writer. Tue Jun 24, 2003

June 24, 2003, 7:30pm \$10/\$9 Anni Clark -Award winning song writer receiving rave reviews.

Jul 22, 2003, 7:30pm \$10/\$9 Liz Materson / Sean Blackburn - Western swing and comedic masters Liz Masterson & Sean Blackburn.

Sep 23, 2003, 7:30pm \$10/\$9 Alistair Moock - Story songs that rival John Prine and Harry Chapin.

Oct 14, 2003, 7:30pm \$15/\$14 John McCutcheon - Fabulous folk artist, hammer dulcimer player, story teller and more.

Updates are available at:

<http://www.musi-cal.com/search?key=venue&value=Folk+Club+of+Reston-Herndon>

Something New on the Web!

Folk Club has an Internet newsgroup! It allows us to freely exchange information of general interest to all. Take a couple of moments to find it and give it a try. The calendar feature is great. Put your gigs there & let others know about upcoming

events. You will have to go through the process of getting a Yahoo address and password, but Yahoo won't sell your address to the spam businesses.

To find the Newsgroup: Go to Yahoo and click on the little word "Groups" at the bottom page. Mid-page is the "Join a Group" section. Click on Music-->Genres-->Folk and Traditional-->Folk and Traditional Groups. At this point you get a list of 400+ groups! Do a search for FolkClubofRestonHerndon.

You can skip all of this nonsense and go directly to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FolkClubofRestonHerndon/>

Get an email identity and have fun. If you have any problems, email me at: diafleur2@yahoo.com, or give me a call at 703-560-9239.

Dianne Lafleur

"Celebrating Spring With The Web Grant Trio"

March 23rd, Sunday 3:00 to 5:00 p. m.

For several years I have enjoyed Tuesdays at the Folk Club. In addition to Folk Music, I enjoy live jazz. I am hosting a live jazz concert by The Web Grant Trio at my home in Vienna. The musicians are world-class -piano, bass and drums. Their style ranges from the big band era to just moving out with the music.

House Concert - Hosted by Malinda Joyce Sutcliffe

Light Refreshments After Concert

Space Is Limited - RSVP and For Directions

contact: Malinda at 703-759-2918

Contribution of \$20.00 Suggested To Benefit The Musicians)

OUR VERY OWN - IN CONCERT

Ray Kaminsky and Jack Fretwell

3/1 Sat. 8 pm Celebration Coffeehouse, Falls Church 703-277-3331

3/13 Thu. 6:30 pm Starbucks, McLean, 703-241-9480

5/18 Sun. 3 pm Tarara Vineyards, Leesburg, 703-771-7100

Somos el Mar in February

Mar 3 Morningside House, Laurel, MD 3:30 p.m.

Mar 6, Eden Park, Rutland, VT, 3:00 p.m.

Mar 7, Haven Health, Rutland, VT 2:00 p.m.

Mar 8, The Gables, Rutland, VT 2:30 p.m.

Mar 10, The Fairmont, Manassass, VA 2:00 p.m.

Mar 11, Spring House, Silver Spring, MD 3:00 p.m.

Mar 12, Brandermill Woods, Mithilodian, VA 7:00 p.m.

Mar 14, Sunrise at Countryside, Sterling, VA, 2&3 p.m.

Mar 15, Brandon Oaks Health Care, Roanoke, VA 5 p.m.

Mar 16, Georgetown Retirement, Wash. D.C. 2:30 p.m.

Mar 17, Potomac Valley, Rockville, MD 2:00 p.m.

Mar 17, Washington House, Alexandria, VA 7:00 p.m.

Mar 18, Goodwin House, Health Center, Alex., VA 4 p.m.

Mar 19, Levandale, Baltimore, MD 7:30 p.m.

Mar 20, Johnson's Center, Potomac Falls, VA 6:30 p.m.

Mar 21, Methodist Manor Health Center, Seaford, DE 3pm

Mar 27, Methodist Home, Washington DC, 3:30 p.m.

Mar 28, Brighton Gardens, Rockville, MD 7:00 p.m.

Mar 31, Woodbine, Alexandria, VA 2:00 p.m.

Check out our web site:

www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar

T.M. Hanna

Mar 15, American Legion in Arlington w/ the Cruxxx Valley Crooners.

Mar 26, St. Elmo's Pub, Alex. with Doris Justice

Mar 27, Starbucks, Cascades, VA with Doris Justice

Mar 29, American Legion, Arlington, with The Justice League

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON-HERNDON

Meets Tuesday nights, 7:30 p.m. at The Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street, Herndon, VA

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

Bookings: Ray Kaminsky 703-689-0444

Newsletter: Dianne Lafleur 703-560-9239

FOLK CLUB FORMAT

Most Tuesday nights, the Folk Club is an open mike
format with a sign-up board. Each performer has 12
minutes, which included set-up time.

On the second Tuesday of the month, we feature a
"Showcase" of a Folk Club member in a 25-minute
performance.

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

To be in the Showcase, you must:

Be a Folk Club member who has not done a showcase in
the last 6 months.

Fill out a lottery slip and place it in the "drawing bucket".

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 Dianne Lafleur at dlafleur2@yahoo.com. Information
should be received one week before the last day of
the month in which you want it published. Items will
be published on the basis of music related interest,
timeliness, and space available.

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

Advance Purchase of tickets to concerts by Guest
Artists 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

GET IN TUNE WITH THE FOLK CLUB

You've been coming for some time now. 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.
Along with the opportunities to participate in showcase
drawings, you get a \$1 discount on 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 up today. Sign up at the Folk Club, or
call a Board member for information.

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 lafleur22@yahoo.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. Spruce top, Rosewood neck, 26 years
old, Crisp, big sound. Great condition. Always had medium
strings, only one owner. Only played on Blue Mondays. \$650.
Contact lafleur22@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.

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

Expires 5/1/04

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

