

The Folk Club of Reston - Herndon

Volume 19, Issue 5

May, 2003

Preserving the traditions of
folk music, folklore, and gentle folk ways

May 6 Showcase – Ray Kaminsky

By Dan Grove

Ray Kaminsky has been busy since his last showcase. The Washingtonian recently wrote that Ray, “who studied Piedmont style under **John Cephas**, is also among the finer Delta style acoustic players.” His last recording, *Ghosts of the Blues*, won a 2001 Wammie Award, and his next CD, *Roadhouse Blues*, will be out in July, featuring Folk Club members **Jack Fretwell** and **Ron Goad** and the rest of the winning *Ghosts* team. He still coordinates the Herndon Blues Festival, which he founded, and is our beloved Folk Club President.

These current facts are easy to gather, and Ray is fairly straightforward in discussing them. But when you try to delve into the past, Ray becomes enigmatic, and his normally sparse conversational style becomes downright parsimonious. As Ray’s fame has grown, interest in his roots has swelled, and musicologists and historians have done extensive research trying to get an

accurate picture of Ray’s formative years. If Ray himself would only talk about them! The job has been made considerably more difficult by the fact that most of the eyewitnesses, the old-timers, are now stricken with geriatric memory problems, and their stories contradict each other in most key respects. And the women – far too many, and covering too wide an age range, to all have been involved as they say – confound the researchers with an oral history that’s nebulous in spite of its detail. Nonetheless, some consensus has emerged, and the researchers have agreed on the following set of events.

The earliest traces of Ray’s music appear on wax cylinder recordings made at the dawn of the last century,

some of them later transferred to 78-RPM vinyl. Sometimes a solo artist, sometimes with sidemen, Ray played under pseudonyms such as Blond Ray Blues, Gutter Ball Paul, Zorro, IBMJCL, and the Flunk Brethren. Most of these sessions were in Chicago, where Ray was probably born. Fleeing hard times, and undoubtedly some female trouble,

he later showed up at scattered points down the Mississippi, eventually teaming up with a colorful riverboat scalawag named **Captain Jack Fretwell**. Captain Jack was famous for carrying as many concealed harmonicas on him as he did pistols, and for his ability to draw any of them out and put them to work with lightning quickness. “Captain Jack could shoot a man in any key,” is the most common comment the old-timers have about him. Unfortunately, Jack won’t talk about the past either, except for some incoherent mumbling about a riverboat acquaintance named “Belle.”

Jack will join Ray for the showcase, which will be a great chance to hear these legends in person. Please join us as we celebrate the startling longevity of their artistic collaboration, stretching back over 80 years. Ray has gained a reputation for his culinary skills as well, which suggests he may still be recording under pseudonyms. A modern session man known for guitar licks like Ray’s is identified on recordings only as the “Pampered Chef.” When asked if he is the Pampered one, Ray only mumbled, “Oh, that Depends....”

To learn more about Ray, check out his web site at: <http://www.musi-cal.com/search?performers=Ray+Kaminsky>



BERNICE LEWIS

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)



The Folk Club
Proudly Presents ...
7:30 PM
May 20, 2003
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA

Bernice Lewis is the winner of the Berkshire Music Award for Best Contemporary Folk Performer and a finalist in Kerrville's New Folk Songwriting Contest. Her new ballad, "Bridges That Hold," was included in the PBS-TV "Lifelines" documentary starring Peter, Paul and Mary.

Lewis' performances feature blues, bluegrass and folk presented in a multi-faceted vocal style that has been compared with **Nanci Griffith** and **Bonnie Raitt**. Lewis' expressive voice can be sweet, tender, inviting and vulnerable at one moment, or off-handed in one of her dry humored works. She honed her remarkable vocals by studying vocal improvisation with 10 time Grammy winning vocalist/conductor Bobby McFerrin.

Her versatile guitar work shows the polish of working with folk legend **Dave Von Ronk**, Alex DeGrassi and Guy van Duser. She has shared the stage with the likes of **John Gorka** and **Tom Paxton**. Bernice's songs are well crafted, seamless portraits which create vivid images. She has the wonderful ability to sing them from inside her characters so that she conveys their nuances as well as their stories with wit, concern and eloquence.

Her third album, "Open Lines and Signals" received rave comments across the country for its comedic knockouts "I Need A Wife Too" and Michael Smith's "King Tut" to the introspective and heart tearing "Break This Circle" and "Your Backroads". Lewis has appeared on radio performances for National Public Radio, "Bound for Glory", "Live from Studio One"; and in festivals such as Winnepeg, Kerrville, Tucson, Baystate Woman's Fest, Pumpkin Sail on the Clearwater (Seeger's).

Hailed variously as "a rising star" by the Washington Post and "in the forefront of her generation of singer-songwriters" by SingOut! magazine. Lewis has garnered the greatest acclaim of her career for her most recent album, "Isle of Spirit" (Sanctuary/Blue Bhikku). "Ambitious...her best album to date," said the Boston Phoenix. "Wonderful songs...an instant classic," declared Alan Rowth, moderator of the Internet's influential Folk_Music Digest. "A musical and lyrical tour de force that should propel Lewis to the uppermost ranks of the new-folk crowd." proclaimed the Berkshire Eagle about "Isle of Spirit," which was produced by Adam Rothberg, best known for his work on Dar Williams's debut album.

Don't miss her return engagement!!!

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. Follow the directions. Do a search for: FolkClub ofRestonHerndon. Once you get signed up just bookmark, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FolkClubofRestonHerndon/>

Get an email identity and have fun. If you have any problems, email me at dlafleur2@yahoo.com, or give me a call at 703-560-9239. Dianne Lafleur

HOUSE CONCERT

Fang and Harney
are putting on a house concert
May 17, 2003 at 8:30 PM

with The Colleen Shandly Band

◇ County ◇ Rock ◇ Blues ◇ Original ◇

Put on your dancing shoes and come on over!

1111 Shaker Woods Road, Herndon, VA

For more info call: 703-430-0456

TRADITIONAL MUSIC SOCIETY

Last Spring, a small group of Reston-Herndon Folk Club members began to meet at the Lake Anne Coffeehouse, to swap songs and tunes. We have decided to simply meet from 4 to 6 p.m., 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 rls2@erols.com, he will put you on the round-robin email list, and you will hear from him.

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.

Alfredo, the owner of the Coffeehouse, has been immensely hospitable to our little group, and we have been having a most enjoyable time. 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 PERFORMANCES

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

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>

"And speaking of upcoming performers...."

John McCutcheon needs a keyboard!

John McCutcheon who will be performing at the Folk Club, Tuesday, Oct. 14, has requested a keyboard for his performance. **So is there anyone out there who could lend us an operational, 88 weighted key, electric piano with foot pedals for the Oct 14th Concert?** And yes, it really must be full size 88 keys, weighted like a normal acoustic piano. Ray has had problems getting commitments on rentals from local music stores on numerous occasions for the Blues Fest. If you can help, please contact: Ray Kaminsky, 703-689-0444.

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

FOLK CLUB MEMBER PERFORMANCES

You'll find Folk Club members in every joint in town!

Ray Kaminsky

5/2 8:30 pm, at Avalon Resort, Critton Hollow Rd., Paw Paw, WV (304)947-5600

5/1 3 pm-6 pm, Ray w/ Jack Fretwell at Tarara Winery, 13648 Tarara Lane, Leesburg, VA (703)771-7100

5/23 8:30 pm, Ray w/ Jack Fretwell at Famous Dave's, 917 Quince Orchard Road. Gaithersburg, MD (240)683-0435

5/7 8 pm \$10 Ray w/ Jack Fretwell, at Weil Sing House Concerts, 7617 Takoma Avenue, Takoma Park, MD Dinner 7:30pm - covered dish welcome - please call to arrange to be there. (301)587-8839

T.M. Hanna

5/4 11am for the Sterling Study Group at the Hampton Inn in Cascades Shopping Ctr., VA the Sterling Study Group

5/24 9 pm to 12 pm TM Hanna and friends at the American Legion Post 85 in Arlington

Zen Gospel Trio

5/31 Sat. 12:30 - 2 pm at The Sierra Café and Market, 10120 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, VA 703-757-9265 (**Our first paying gig!**)

High Mileage

5/30 7 pm High Mileage (Harny, Fang, Mark Casale and Tom Shabala) at Avalon Resort, Critton Hollow Rd., Paw Paw, WV (304)947-5600 .

Pete and Wayne Durgan

5/29 9:00 Luna Park Grill, The Luna Park Band Showcase is hosted by **Pete Durgan** and **Soulbender (Wayne Durgan on Guitar & Andy Douglas on Drums)**. **Soulbender** plays at 9:00, **Mahala** plays at 10:00 (a fabulous African band w/ **Eric Schwarz** on Keys and **Kalimba**, Confidence Man plays at 11:00(they're a rock band) For Info: Maria "Pete" Durgan, 703-481-0552, mdurgan@waux.com for music info: <http://www.waux.com/petegigs.htm> 5866 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA 703-237-"LUNA"

Somos el Mar

Check out our web site: www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar

5/1 2:30 pm Morningside, St. Charles, MD

5/2 2:30 Culpepper Baptist, Culpepper, VA

5/3 10am Johnson's Landing, Sterling, VA

5/4 7pm New England

5/5 7pm, Reed's Landing, Springfield, MA

5/6 3pm Ocean View, Beverly, MA

5/8 3:30pm Methodist Home, Washington, DC

5/10 2pm Heartfields, Philadelphia, PA

5/11 1:30pm Fairmont, Manassas, VA

5/13 2pm Herndon House, Herndon, VA

5/14 4pm Goodwin House Health Ctr, Alex., VA

5/15 3:16pm Genesis, Milford, DE

5/18 2pm, Potomac Valley, Rockville, MD

5/20 1:30pm Mt. Vernon Adult Day Care, Mt. Vernon, VA

5/23 2:30 Tel Hai Circle, Phila. PA

5/24 10:30 Cathedral Village, Phila., PA

5/25 2pm, Bartholomew House, Bethesda, MD

5/27 6:45pm Brighton Gardens, Chevy Chase, MD

5/28 1:14pm Brook Grove Nursing Home, Olney, MD

Note from the Editor:

I attended a singing workshop with Penny Nichols last weekend and it was great. Penny Nichols also did a house concert the night before at Maria "Pete" and Wayne Durgan's house, and it was excellent. I want to thank Pete for offering this workshop and concert to the folk club members because I learned an amazing amount in that 3 hour workshop. If you have a chance to catch Penny Nichols, don't miss her. She is a

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 1) be a Folk Club member who has not done a showcase in the last 6 months. 2) Fill out a lottery slip and place it in the "drawing bucket". 3) Win the drawing on the night of the current month's showcase. 4) Be prepared 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 dlaflleur2@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,

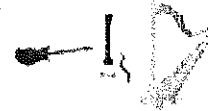
Stephenson, VA 22656, 540-722-0146

GET IN TUNE WITH THE FOLK CLUB

You've been coming for some time now. You enjoy the music and the fun. Why don't you 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.

Classified:



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 dlaflleur2@yahoo.com

For Adoption: Baby Taylor, mahogany, with gig bag. Adorable, potty trained, very good condition. \$250 adoption fee. Call 703-734-8292 or e-mail: ddemox@aol.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 3/1/04

Mr David Hurd^{cc}
110 Devil's Backbone Overlook
Stephenson, VA 22656-1900