

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON - HERNDON

Volume 20, Issue 8

*Preserving the traditions of
Folk Music, Folklore and Gentle Folk ways*

August, 2004

August 10 Showcase – Beth Benedetto’s Sean-nós by Beth Benedetto

Dear Folk Club: Some recycled facts from my last showcase for new people who might otherwise show up at this one and wonder if it is a weird joke that they aren't in on. (Which would not be so different from plenty of our showcases, come to think of it.)

Sean-nós singing is the ancient traditional singing of Ireland, still well-known in the various Gaeltachtaí (Irish-speaking areas) today, but nowadays sung as much in concert halls and at competitions as in its old venue, the kitchen and pub. Many of the tunes are old beyond anyone's guess, and have had umpteen sets of lyrics over the years. Most of the words are no older than the seventeenth century; some of the best Irish poetry written is included in the song repertoire. Areas of Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, West Cork and Waterford all have their own songs and their own styles of singing, sometimes quite different in nature.

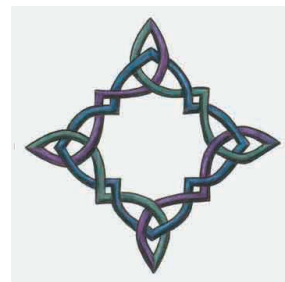
The songs themselves do not tell stories, but instead often refer to a story which everyone already knows. Which can be pretty puzzling if you don't know it. I spend a lot of time tracking down stories. Sometime it turns out nobody remembers the one you want at all, but you can meet really interesting people in the process and hear a lot of OTHER good stories...

Some generally-accepted rules: The song must be in Irish. It must be unaccompanied except for old geezers coughing in the background. It must have ornamentation, either token or excessive. It should not have a chorus. Drinking songs and children's songs are often excluded from the sean-nós label, no matter how old. The singer should not use vibrato, change decibel levels, or show any emotion no matter how heart-breaking the song is (they usually are). All of these rules are frequently broken, and I personally refrain from debating any of them, especially if the other debaters have had three or more pints. Life is too short.

I have been studying this tradition, and the Irish language, for about six years, and by the usual standards will be considered pretty competent if I live to be ninety-three. (So stick around; you may develop a taste for it.) I travel to Ireland once a year or so and have learned great songs from great singers like Nóirín ní Ríain, Lillis Ó Laoire, Antaine Ó Faracháin and Karan Casey, as well as good songs from obscure singers in various Gaeltachtaí. After winning first and second in ladies' sean-nós singing at the Mid-Atlantic fleadh cheoil in New York in 2002 and 2003, I competed in the All-Ireland fleadh cheoil last August where I certainly did not place at all, but felt quite proud to lose to the people who did. The head adjudicator wrote, "Fine traditional style with a richness of ornamentation. You drew out the bitterness of this tragic story clearly. . ." Which is pretty considerable praise, because a sean-nós singer is supposed to make everyone cry, or at least feel lousy.

You can learn a new drinking song at the showcase (not that kind of new - I mean you haven't learned it yet), a very well-known song with a bizarre story and one that's actually funny if you have a strange sense of humor. In honor of the occasion, I am planning to break rule #2 - one of my personal favorites - by asking Mr. Ron Ó Brod to accompany me on the drum for one song which actually has a meter.

Bigi ansin no beidh sibhse in 'ur gcearnog - be there or be square!



Paul Reisler & Amy Speace

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

**The Folk Club
Proudly Presents ...
7:30 PM
August 24, 2004
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA**

Paul Reisler has worked as a song writer, recording artist, record producer, multi-instrumentalist, and teacher of song writing, as well as leader of the musical group **Trapezoid** and as music director for **Ki Theatre** for more than 25 years. Paul's unique, direct, and emotion-filled music is instantly recognizable. It cuts across musical and cultural borders by combining its folk music roots, world music eclecticism, and the precision of classical music with the vitality of contemporary music. He has appeared in more than 3000 concerts and his music has been broadcast on upwards of 1000 radio stations throughout the world. His work has also been featured on dozens of recordings, including recordings of Trapezoid, as a solo artist, and with other artists including John McCutcheon, Si Kahn, Sally Rogers, Holly Near, and Beth Nielsen-Chapman. Paul performs on the hammered dulcimer, piano, as well as both midi and acoustic guitars. Paul's concerts are characterized by an easy elegance that creates an atmosphere of warmth and intimacy. Paul is also a sought-after and popular teacher of song writing. He has worked with the young and old alike, and his new Ki Theatre initiative - Kid Pan Alley - offers opportunities for young people to take advantage of his years of experience as a song writer and recording artist. Even after 25 years, Paul continues to break new ground and "sound barriers" as a teacher of music and as a performer.



Amy Speace burst onto the scene in the Spring of 2002 with the release of her critically acclaimed debut CD "**Fable**". Based out of NYC's rich lower East Side acoustic scene, Amy spent much of the past year crisscrossing the country in her Ford, armed with an acoustic guitar, her powerful voice, and a truckload of her literate, poetic, and relentlessly hummable songs. Along the way, her music has been played on over 100 radio stations, and she scored an endorsement with Epiphone Guitars. A natural performer who grew up playing piano and clarinet, studying voice and eventually continued her artistic development at **The National Shakespeare Conservatory**. Amy's early 20's were spent acting on the NYC stage and in **films** and **television**, and writing and directing as **Artistic Director** of an **Off Broadway** Theater Company. During this time, Amy discovered her talent for songwriting after buying a \$50 guitar at a pawn shop. Though clearly writing from the perspective of a young NYC woman, Speace shows the influences of Lucinda Williams, Emmylou Harris and Patty Griffin as her touchstones. Amy's story songs paint an Americana portrait with a hooky urban edge. She's currently at work on her follow up recording with James Mastro (The Bongos, Ian Hunter, The Jayhawks), and in Nashville with Russ Long and Chris Grainger (Wilco, Sixpence None the Richer). Sassy, daring and bittersweet, her music is reaching audiences of all ages and keeping them in their seats with her charm and wit.

UPCOMING PERFORMERS

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

Paul Reisler & Amy Speace – August 24, 2004, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$9

Tim Harrison - Sep 21, 2004, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$9, One of Canada's foremost folk artists

Harvey Reid - Oct 12 with \$12/\$11, a modern embodiment of the ancient minstrels.

Small Potatoes – Nov. 9, 7:30 pm, Eclectic acoustic mix of Folk, Celtic, Western Swing and more.

MUSICAL NOTES

The Great Camp Out

By the time you read this, you have already missed the first campout of the year at the fabulous "Double Trouble Estate" in rural Stephenson, VA. Don't make the same mistake twice in the same year. Put the Labor Day campout on your calendar (Sep 4-6, 2004). Contact Dave Hurd (540) 722-0146 for information.



The 2004 Avalon Music and Art Fest

August 13-15 in Paw Paw, West Virginia (www.avalon-resort.com). Really fine performers: John Gorke, Groovelily, Vikki True, Mad Agnes, Carla Ulbrich, Amila Spicer, Eleni Kelakos, Naked Blue, Bill Hudson, Randy Barrett Trio, Were About 9, Doug Alan Wilcox, Tim Dale, Joe Glazer, Doug Van Gundy and Paul Gartner. And of course, at least 2 of our Folk Club members will be performing, Ray Kaminsky and Dave Lafleur! (Another shameless plug for my little bro' Dave!) Good jamming time with friends and good food in the dining hall. At this price, you can't afford to miss it!

The 21st Annual Mid-Atlantic Song Contest

is now taking entries, until Aug. 12, 2004. Top prize is \$1000 cash, free TAXI membership, free SAW membership, inclusion on the Winners' CD, a chance to play your winning song at the D.C. Hard Rock Cafe, and lots of industry exposure! Many other prizes will be awarded. Enter, and you might be among the winners to perform at the annual awards gala at DC's Hard Rock. www.SAW.org

"Pete Durgan"

says, "Pass this on to anyone you think might be interested". Pete's friend, Mike Nicolita, leader of Drivin' Blind is looking for a guitarist/vocalist. Drivin' Blind, is a working, Northern VA Part-Time/Weekend Jam/Classic Rock band, represented by James-Turner Productions. They are looking for a mature rhythm guitarist with killer lead and backing vocals. If you are interested please check out: www.drivinblind.com or, send an e-mail at: drivinblind@earthlink.net. And Pete says, "Hope everything is great with all of you!" Wishing the same for you, Pete.

"Rhythm Bones - It's Dancing With Your Hands!"

The Rhythm Bones Society is having the Bones Fest VIII. August 20-22, 2004, Reston, VA. Join us for a 3-day weekend of performance opportunities, educational workshops, history lessons, jamming and Just Great Fun. Meet fellow bone players from all over North America and places even more exotic. On Sunday afternoon, take part in a public performance to the delight of all, and spread the wonders of the ancient art of Bone Playing. Throughout the Fest live musical accompaniment will be provided for your rattling pleasure. For a registration packet for, or more information about Bones Fest VIII, email BonesFestVIII@att.net. To learn more about the Rhythm Bones Society, go to www.rhythmbones.com.

We were all there...and Greg Vickers did great job of being "Not Quite There"

Greg Vickers, famous for songs like "I'm Going to Heaven and Your Not", had one great party at Jammin' Java last month. Congratulations Greg! Folk Club was there in force, along with nearly half of Northern VA and we all had a grand time. The dudes at my office love "I Think I'll Sue Mc Donald's For Making Me Fat".

The Reston Multicultural Festival

will be held Saturday, September 18, from 10am-6pm, at the Lake Anne Village Center. Entertainers wanted (for nothing or next to nothing). To perform, contact Haywood R. Hopson, Sr., Special Events Director, at the Reston Community Center, 703-648-2838.

Takoma Park Folk Festival – Sept 12, 2004

The annual fall festival is looking for volunteers. The performers and workshops are great. Support your local musicians and have a great time. Good food and vendors too.

Dear Folks,

I really am moving to Arbutus, MD, but I intend to stay active in Folk Club for a long time yet. So I'm doing one more issue of the newsletter. When I took on this task, it enriched my knowledge, my friendships and my life in ways that I cannot begin to enumerate. Thanks for the music and the love.

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

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

T.M. HANNA w/the Justis League (Doris Justis & Mike Diller)

8/20 Avalon, Paw Paw, WV 9 PM - 12 304-947-5600
9/10 Avalon, Paw Paw, WV 9 PM - 12, 304-947-5600
9/12 Bluemont Fair 12:45 - 1:30PM

"PETE" DURGAN

Last Thursday of the month, Band Showcase, 9:00 pm, Luna Park Grille, 5866 Washington Blvd, Arl., VA 703-237-"LUNA". visit www.waux.com/lunajam

LEN JAFFEE

Call the location first to confirm.
8/14, 7:30-9:30 Borders in Sterling

RAY KAMINSKY

8/15, Avalon Music and Art Festival, 11:50 - 12:40, Paw Paw, WV

D.R. LAFLEUR (DAVE)

Thursdays and Fridays 12-2 PM at Potbelly's in Reston VA
8/2, Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 8 PM, 703-255-1566
8/6, Caribou Coffee, 5562 Norbeck Rd., Rockville, 7:30-9:30pm,
8/7, Charles Town Visitors Center, 1:30-3:30 PM
8/7, 7-9 PM The Daily Grind, 215 E Main St., Front Royal, VA, 540-655-3556
8/13, Avalon Folk Festival, appearance between 12 & 1:30 PM
8/13, 9-12 Mid Cowboy Cafe North, 4792 Lee Hwy, Arl., VA, 703-486-3467
8/14, Esotericas, 25 S. King St., Leesburg, 8-10 PM, 703-777-4642
8/19, Afterwords @ Kramer Books, 1517 Conn. Ave. NW, DC, 9-12 midnight
8/20, Newsong Festival, WV, midnight at the Cardinal Cafe,
8/21, Newsong Festival, WV, Live Round
8/22, Newsong Festival, WV, between 3 & 4:30 on the Main Stage.

SOMOS EL MAR www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar

WEB GRANT

Sundays, 7 pm, Amerigo, 1381-A Beverly Road, McLean, 703-893-6886

don bridges www.donbridgesongs.com



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 and Newsgroup: Dianne Lafleur

Web Site: Tom Shabala

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 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

TUNE INTO THE FOLK CLUB

You enjoy the music and the fun. 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 at the Folk Club, or call a Board member for information.

NEWSGROUP

The Folk Club now has a chatty little newsgroup. Its great for finding out what is going on around town and beyond. Find it at www.groups.yahoo.com by doing a search for: **FolkClubofRestonHerndon**

Yes Virginia, the Folk Club does have our
very own **WEB SITE!**
www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com



Classifieds

Keith Young Dulcimer for sale: Custom concert Appalachian dulcimer, walnut & butternut, ebony fretboard, pearl inlay, planetary tuners. Ex. condition. Many extras. I \$540. ibstrumin@earthlink.net.

Guitar wanted: Acoustic six string with pre-amp, good tone, pleasant action & reasonable price. Call Inni at 540-323-4444.

G-37 Guild (1975) for sale: Beautiful blond, with spruce top, rosewood neck, and a curvey backside. Crisp, big sound. Excellent condition. Always had medium strings, only one owner. Only played on Blue Mondays. \$750. 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.

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

Email your ad to dlafleur2@yahoo.com.



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

