

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON—HERNDON

Volume 21, Issue 6

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

June 2005

June 14 Showcase – Ben Hamblin

By Dan Grove

Ben Hamblin has loved singing all his life. As a kid, he learned Steven Foster songs, and was frequently chosen to be the lead in school musical productions. He was selected as a tenor for the Massachusetts All-State Chorus for three straight years in high school, and can still sing as high now as he could then. This means the guy can soar, folks, and put goose bumps on your arms!

Singing isn't the only thing Ben had an early love for. In eighth grade woodshop he made a 4-string tenor guitar, and when he played it incessantly his parents got the hint and bought him a full-sized one. He was in a duo in high school with a flutist, had a band in the 80's (he plays electric guitar and bass as well as acoustic), and sang with a church folk group for several years in the mid-nineties. Classical music is another strong love for Ben, everything from Bach to the present, with Beethoven and Mahler his favorite composers.

Ben and his wife **Gail** left New England nine years ago, eager to escape the winters. They chose this area, and now live in Reston. Ben works at Raytheon, and is using his technical skills at the Folk Club, too, where he's one of our top sound engineers.

For his showcase, Ben will perform solo, probably with Gail's harmonies on a song or two. They spent the last two weeks of May traveling in Ireland, primarily the western areas of Donegal and Galway. Ben said he hadn't written a new song in years, but may have come back with one in his pocket - at press time we still don't know. Stay tuned for late-breaking bulletins, film as it comes in, and live news team coverage at the showcase, where a new original may be unveiled!



Lou & Peter Berryman

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

The Folk Proudly Presents 7:30
PM – June 28, 2005
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA



Lou and Peter Berryman write songs of inventive and intelligent humor, in a style mingling Woody Guthrie, Gilbert and Sullivan, Tom Lehrer and post-nuclear polka. A fascination with language, a vision of the world both profound and hilarious, and a whimsical and accessible performance leave audiences with cheeks aching from smiling. In their more than 20 years of performing together, Wisconsin-based songwriters Lou and Peter Berryman have produced 11 albums and 2 songbooks worth of original, sophisticated and wickedly funny songs. Berrymans' songs are being sung around the world, by a legion of professional musicians as well as shower singers everywhere, but no one sings them as well as Lou & Peter themselves. Pete Seeger raves "Lou and Peter Berryman! Long may they wave! Their F-word song, "A Chat With Your Mother" is one of the great American folksongs of the 20th century". Tom Paxton relates "When it comes to being funny, I think I've spent the first thirty years trying to be as funny as Tom Lehrer and the last part trying to be as funny as the Berrymans. They don't come any funnier than that..."

Lou Berryman composes and arranges music, sings and plays piano accordion and button accordion. Peter writes lyrics and music, sings and plays the 12-string guitar. "He'll usually bring part of a song to me," Lou says, "and we'll do the arranging and editing together, see if its enough of a message to write a whole song about. Sometimes it will turn out that somewhere laying around in our various scraps of things is a chorus or idea that fits to make it a whole song. And I'll set a tune to it; I have to figure out whether to use a sharply contrasting melody or a schmaltzy one to carry the words". Peter says "We have songs where the contrast between the mood of the melody and the mood of the lyrics is what makes it funny, like the 'The Death and Dismemberment Polka'".

You will have a fun time with this zany duo! Don't miss their performance at The Folk Club.



Upcoming Performers

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

Ed Miller – July 19, \$10/\$9 - One of the finest singers to come out of the Scottish folksong revival, and an academic folklorist of some note.

Anne Hills – August 30, \$10/\$9 – An award-winning contemporary folksinger renowned as one of the folk music's finest vocalists.

Tom Russell – October 11, \$16/15 – Perhaps the most highly regarded songwriter in Americana music today. This will sell out!

MUSICAL NOTES



Celebrate Fairfax! 2005 – June 10-12

This annual festival is a favorite with everyone. Held at the Fairfax County Government Center, it brings world-class entertainment to you on four stages. Highlights this year will include **Better Than Ezra**, **The Smithereens**, **Blue Oyster Cult**, and many others. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults, and \$5 for children age 3-10 (children under 3 are free). For more details, visit the website at <http://www.celebratefairfax.org>

Bay Music Festival – June 11

The 24th annual Bay Music Festival will be held in Centerville, MD this year, and will feature noted performers such as **The Nighthawks**, the **Bay Country Gentlemen**, and **The Mary Ann Redmond Band**, among others. Proceeds go to the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, and to local Lions Club charities. Details are on the web at: <http://www.pacificsol.com/baymusicfest.htm>

The **Bluemont Concert Series** kicks off their summer concert series in June. In cooperation with regional governments, the non-profit Bluemont organization helps to bring affordable entertainment of the highest caliber to all communities. For details about specific activities, visit their website at <http://www.bluemont.org>

Monthly Special – DIY Country & Western Song Kit (fill in the blanks from the selections below...)

I met her _____; I can still recall _____
(1) (2) (3)
she wore; She was _____,
(4) (5)
and I knew _____; I'd _____ forever;
(6) (7) (8)
She said to me _____; But who'd have thought she'd _____
(9) (10)
_____ goodbye.
(11) (12)

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|---|--|--|
| 1.
on the highway
in Sheboygan
outside Fresno
at a truck stop
on probation
in a jail cell
in a nightmare
incognito
in the Stone Age
in a treehouse
in a gay bar | 2.
in September
at McDonald's
ridin' shotgun
wrestlin' gators
all hunched over
poppin' uppers
sort of pregnant
with joggers
stoned on oatmeal
with Merv Griffin
dead all over | 3.
that purple dress
that little hat
that burlap bra
those training pants
the stolen goods
that plastic nose
the Stassin pin
the neon sign
that creepy smile
the hearing aid
the boxer shorts |
| 4.
sobbin' at the toll booth
drinkin' Dr. Pepper
weighted down with Twinkies
breakin' out with acne
crawlin' through the prairie
smellin' kind of funny
crashin' through the guardrail
chewin' on a hangnail
talkin' in Swahili
drownin' in the quicksand
slurpin' up linguini | 5
in the twilight
but I loved her
by the off-ramp
near Poughkeepsie
with her cobra
when she shot me
on her elbows
with Led-Zeppelin
with Miss Piggy
with a wetback
in her muu-muu | |

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|---|--|
| 6.
no guy would ever love her more
that she would be an easy score
she'd bought her dentures in a store
I'd never rate her more than "4"
they'd hate her guts in Baltimore
it was a raven, nothing more
I'd have to scrape her off the floor
what strong deodorants were for
that I would upchuck on the floor | 7.
I promised her
I knew deep down
She asked me if
The judge declared
My Pooh Bear said
I shrieked in pain
A Klingon said
My hamster thought
Her rabbi said |
|---|--|

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|--|--|---|
| 8.
stay with her
warp her mind
swear off booze
change my sex
live off her
stay a dwarf
pick my nose
play "Go Fish"
salivate | 9.
our love would never die
there was no other guy
man wasn't meant to fly
that Nixon didn't lie
that Rolands made her high
she loved my one blue eye
she liked "Spy vs. Spy"
that birthdays made her cry
she couldn't stand my tie | 10.
run off
wind up
boogie
yodel
turn green
blast off
black out
bobsled
grovel |
|--|--|---|

- | | |
|---|---|
| 11.
with my best friend
in my Edsel
on "The Gong Show"
with her dentist
with a robot
with no clothes on
in her Maytag
with her guru
while in labor | 12.
You'd think at least that she'd have said
I never had the chance to say
I now can kiss my credit cards
I guess I was too smashed to say
She fell beneath the wheels and cried
She sent a hired thug to say
I pushed her off the bridge and waved
But that's the way that pygmies say
She sealed me in the vault and smirked. |
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ALL AROUND THE TOWN

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

Ray Kaminsky

<http://www.musi-cal.com/search?key=performers&value=Ray+Kaminsky>

Somos El Mar, www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Steve Key Music Showcases www.stevekey.com

Wednesdays: 7-10pm, Stella's, 1725 Duke St., Alexandria VA, 703-519-1946

Sundays: 7:30-10pm, Westside Cafe, Frederick, MD

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

- 6/10/1910 – Chester Arthur Burnett (aka "Howlin' Wolf")
- 6/14/1909 – Burl Ives
- 6/18/1942 – Sir Paul McCartney
- 6/19/1914 – Lester Flatt
- 6/22/1936 – Kris Kristofferson
- 6/23/1929 – June Carter Cash
- 6/26/1893 – "Big" Bill Broonzy

And In Passing:

- 6/4/2001 – John Hartford
- 6/9/1964 – Alton Delmore
- 6/15/1980 – Bob Nolan
- 6/29/1974 – Cass Elliot

Quote for The Month

"A song will outlive all sermons in the memory."
~ Henry Giles

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON-HERNDON

Meets Tuesday nights, 7:30pm at The Tortilla Factory
648 Eldon Street, Herndon, VA

President: Ray Kaminsky

Treasurer: Dave Hurd

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

Publicity: Sue Schier

Bookings: Ray Kaminsky

Newsletter: Bob Hampton, Dan Grove, Ray Kaminsky, Dave Hurd

Newsgroup: Dianne Lafleur

Website: Tom Shabala

FOLK CLUB FORMAT

Most Tuesday nights the Folk Club is an open-mike format with a signup board. Each performer has 12 minutes, which includes setup time. On the 2nd 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; and 4) be prepared to be featured in the next newsletter!

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified ads, articles, reviews, artwork and other music-related items to Bob Hampton at bhampton@ossva.com. Information should be received 1 week prior to the end of the month for the next month's newsletter. Items will be published on the basis of music-related interest, timeliness, and available space.

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE

Advance ticket purchases for Guest Artist concert performances can be made on Tuesdays at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact Dave Hurd, 110 Devil's Backbone Overlook, Stephenson, VA 22656, (540) 722-0146

TUNE-IN TO THE FOLK CLUB

If you enjoy the music and company, become a member! The cost is nominal, just \$15 per year. Along with the opportunity to participate in Showcase drawings, you get a \$1 discount on the ticket price of guest artist concerts (up to 2 tickets per show). Buy 2 tickets to every show and you've

saved a bundle! Join up on Folk Club Tuesdays, or call a board member for info.

NEWSGROUP

The Folk Club newsgroup is a great way of keeping in touch with what's happening around town and beyond. Find it at www.groups.yahoo.com by doing a search for **FolkClubofRestonHerndon**

WEBSITE

The Folk Club has its own website at:

www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

Hop online and keep up with the latest happenings!

INFO LINE

For general folk club information contact Sue Schier at (703) 435-2402



Classifieds



Cabin Studios Open For Business

Let Folk Club member Les Thompson help you with your next recording project. Record your CD in a relaxed but professional environment. Cabin Studios is located near Leesburg Virginia. Take a visual tour of the studio at WWW.Cabinstudios.com. Visit the web site for equipment and rates. We are experienced in all music genres, but we specialize in acoustic music. Studio phone number is: 1-703-777-7770. Just leave a message and number.

FOR SALE: Whirlwind IMP2 Direct Boxes. These boxes accept a high-Z, 1/4" phone input, and output low-Z XLR. They also have a ground lift switch, and allow for a 1/4" pass-through. All units are used but in good condition. \$20 each. Call Marjorie Myers at 703-450-2393.

WANTED: Your old 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, Ellington, CT 06029.



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c/o Dave Hurd
110 Devils Backbone Overlook
Stephenson, VA 22656