



The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

Preserving the traditions of Folk Music, Folk Lore, and Gentle Folk Ways

Volume 22, Issue 9

September 2006

September 12 – T.M. Hanna

by Dan Grove



Thomas Michael Hanna disappeared from the small western Pennsylvania village of his birth many years ago. The locals still talk, of course, about the lad with a penchant for good-natured mischief, Vernor's ginger ale, and girls. Oh, and music, too, let's not forget that.

"TM," as he came to be called, started playing and writing songs very early, but nobody could figure out where he got his inspiration. In a bucolic village of less than 100 people, with hills and valleys and woods and creeks all over, he seemed to channel a different universe. Folks marveled at TM's bent for banging on bongos and singing surf songs, like he was an alien plopped into their midst. Well, perhaps "marveled" is the wrong word, a tad euphemistic for the actual reaction. TM found it easier to remove himself to more private places to tinitinnabulate and extol the atolls, places where his family and neighbors wouldn't hear him. Initially this was out in the woods around the town, where he could furtively pursue his art. On one of these outings he stumbled upon someone else's remote spot for furtive activity, a clandestine stash of, um, well, "art" magazines – he wrote a song about it, of course. Maybe he'll do it for the showcase,

with bongos and Dick Dale surf guitar for accompaniment... but we digress.

TM soon began exploring the world far beyond the village, and has seen most of this country up close. He's tinkered at playing almost every instrument imaginable, but has settled on the mandolin as his ace axe. His musical tastes have expanded, too - he's got a remarkable knowledge of Pop and Folk musicology, especially about American songwriters of the last 200 years. Mention a song, and he'll know all about its writer and recording history. To top it off, he's a witty stand-up comedian for the patter between songs.

Over the years, TM has performed with a variety of groups, like the Justis League, the Space Time Gourmets, the Mad Cows, and the Porch Monkeys. He's played all over, but keeps coming back to the Folk Club because it's the only place where his eccentricities are overshadowed by everyone else's, and the challenge to rise to our level is inspiring.

TM has been working at Melody Music in Sterling for the last year or so, teaching harmonica, banjo, and mandolin as well as guiding customers through sundry musical paraphernalia. He also helps out with Big Bear Productions, Scott Twiford's live sound company, and just finished running sound for the Avalon Folk Festival. Those of you who were there saw a part of TM that few have ever seen – his upper lip! Yes, to ward off the heat at the festival, he cut his hair and shaved. That lip hasn't been seen in 30 years, and it just may be coaxed into an appearance at the showcase, too... ya gotta be there to find out!

Lee Murdock

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

The Folk Club
Proudly Presents ...
7:15 PM – September 19, 2006
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA



Lee Murdock has uncovered a boundless body of music and stories in the Great Lakes. There is an amazing timelessness in this music. Great Lakes songs are made of hard word, hard living, ships that go down and ships that come in. The music is grounded in the work song tradition, from the rugged days of lumberjacks and wooden sailing schooners. Murdock comes alongside with ballads of contemporary commerce and revelry in the grand folk style. Lee's fans have discovered a sweet water treasure in his songs about the Great Lakes, finding drama and inspiration in the lives of sailors and fishermen, lighthouse keepers, ghosts, shipwrecks, outlaws and everyday heroes. With a deeper understanding of the folk process, Lee's repertoire combines historical research and contemporary insights. Making folk music for the modern era, Lee Murdock's work is a documentary and also an anthem to the people who live, work, learn and play along the shores of the Great Lakes today. Lee Murdock began his performing career in the Chicago area in the mid 1970's, expanding his repertoire of blues and popular music as his interest in folk music and the maritime tradition grew. Interestingly, it was a one-week residency with the Philadelphia Folksong Society which first linked Lee's musical identity with the Great Lakes. After a week of in-school performances which they sponsored, Lee took their enthusiastic response to heart, and

has been taking his Great Lakes music programs to school children and adult and family concerts ever since. Educational programs continue to be one important aspect of the 150 shows Lee presents every year in the U.S. and Canada.

"The premier interpreter of songs and tales about the Great Lakes ... Murdock's regionalist approach does the area proud."

Paul-Emile Comeau, Dirty Linen Magazine



Upcoming Performers

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

John Stewart – October 10, 2006 \$16/\$15 – This legendary folksinger and former member of The Kingston Trio will no doubt play to a sold-out house. Get your tickets early!

Bernice Lewis – November 28, 2006 \$10/\$9 – Bernice is a stunning vocalist and song writer, a fixture on the coffeehouse circuit and NPR's Mountain Stage.

MUSICAL NOTES



Takoma Park Folk Festival – September 10

Now in its 29th year, this annual festival features great food, crafts, and music of all types. **Folk Club** favorites **Lea Coryell & Ralph Lee Smith** will be among the many talented acts. The festival runs from 11am to 6:30pm, and is free for all. This year's festival will take place at the **Takoma Park Middle School**, 7611 Piney Branch Rd, Takoma Park, MD. Call 301-589-0202 for more info, or visit the website at <http://www.tpff.org>

Bluemont Fair – September 17 & 18

Come join the fun at the 37th annual celebration of this terrific country fair. Great entertainment, including many **Folk Club** members. Food, crafts, and fun for the whole family. Visit the website for further details: <http://www.bluemontfair.com>

SAW Funny Song Festival – September 10

The SAW West Market Concert Series has announced a special event that breaks from their traditional two-performer format. Numerous artists will perform their favorite original humorous songs. Among the talent will be several **Folk Club** members, including: **Dan Grove, Greg Vickers, Jim Johnson, Jim Clark, and Bill Davis**. Contact Greg Vickers or Ron Goad for more info, or call the West Market Clubhouse at (703) 435-3777

Folk Pirates of the Caribbean?

What's so great about a bunch of salty, rum-soaked songs? Well, check it out ... Johnny Depp is the executive producer of **Rogue's Gallery: Pirate Ballads, Sea Songs & Chanteys**, a 43-song double disc that arrives in stores Aug. 22. Featuring the likes of Lou Reed, Nick Cave and Bryan Ferry (among others), it offers fresh interpretations of ancient maritime chants.

Director Gore Verbinski came up with the idea while working with Depp on their second Pirates of the Caribbean film, *Dead Man's Chest*. Johnny was delighted when some top musicians, such as Bono and Sting, chimed in, just for the fun of it. He swears, "It's one of the greatest records I've ever heard in my life. It really is shocking." Verbinski added, "I've always believed Johnny is a musician first and the actor thing is just his day job."

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

That's right – they don't just play at The Folk Club!

Ray Kaminsky

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

9/16: Noon-3pm, Bluemont Fair at The Winery in Plaster's Field

9/16: 4:15-5pm, Bluemont Fair at BCC

Jane Tatum (with Laurel Branch)

9/16: 3:45pm, Bluemont Fair at Neilson's Field

Todd Crowley

9/16: 11:15am-Noon, Bluemont Fair at Nielson's Field

Lea Coryell

9/10: 12 noon, with Ralph Lee Smith at the Takoma Park Folk Festival

9/17: 10:30am-12:30pm, with Joan Kennedy at the Bluemont Fair, Nielson's Field

T.M. Hanna & Friends

9/17: 3:45-5pm, Bluemont Fair at Nielson's Field

Somos El Mar, www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Miles In Trail (Demetrios Liadis and Bo Carneal)

www.milesintrail.com

Ron Goad

Last Sat. monthly, SAW Showcase Night at Red Rocks Cafe and Tequila Bar, 13850-F Braddock Road, Centreville, Va. 20121, (703) 266 7060

First Thur. Monthly, SAW presents Ron Goad's Upstairs at The Firehouse, 3988 University Dr., Fairfax, VA, 22030, (703) 383-1030

Steve Key Music Showcases www.stevekey.com

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

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

9/?/1893 – "Blind" Lemon Jefferson

9/5/1930 – Shel Silverstein

9/5/1946 – Loudon Wainwright III

9/8/1897 – Jimmie Rodgers

9/10/1945 – Jose Feliciano

9/11/1945 – Leo Kottke

9/13/1911 – Bill Monroe

9/17/1923 – Hank Williams

9/19/1941 – "Mama" Cass Elliot

9/21/1934 – Leonard Cohen

9/27/1928 – "Uncle" Josh Graves

And In Passing:

9/9/1996 – Bill Monroe

9/12/2003 – Johnny Cash

9/20/1973 – Jim Croce

9/26/1937 – Bessie Smith

Quote for The Month

"Guitarists spend half their time tuning and the other half playing out of tune" ~ Anonymous

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: Armen Karimian

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. Just go to: <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/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



Folk Club Members: Sell Your Stuff Here!

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
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