



The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

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

Volume 22, Issue 11

November 2006



November 14 Showcase – Todd Crowley



by Todd Crowley

We Come With the Dust: Migrant Songs

Woody Guthrie wrote of migrant workers “At the edge of your cities, you see us and then/ We come with the dust and we’re gone with the wind.” Whether Dust Bowl Okies or Rio Grande Mexicanos, migrant workers have always occupied a place in the shadows of the American economy. Woody Guthrie’s songs helped to give a human face to migrant workers, all too often reduced to political fodder. This showcase will feature the stories of migrant workers from within and beyond America’s borders through the songs of Woody Guthrie, Bruce Springsteen, David Massengill, Tom Russell and others. Lift up your great-hearted voices and we will sing the songs of “Tom Joad” and “Jesus y Maria.”

About the Performer



Todd Crowley began singing folk music as a boy when he fell in love with the melodies and the stories folk songs tell. “It is the job of the folk singer to comfort the disturbed and to disturb the comfortable.” –Woody Guthrie. Ever since he started singing folk songs, Todd has felt this pull and tension in the music, at once comforting and disturbing.

In 1981 Todd’s interest in folk music was rekindled when he met and lived with the legendary autoharp player Bryan Bowers. In the 25 years since, Todd has collected autoharps of every kind from vintage Oscar Schmidts to modern luthier autoharps. He also collects mountain dulcimers, bouzoukis, guitars and assorted other folk instruments. Todd and his family often enjoy hosting Todd’s Musical Petting Zoo at area festivals. At present his zoo features fifty different “specimens” from A-Z, (autoharps to zithers).

A high school English teacher of 32 years, Todd received his MA in the Teaching of Writing and Literature from George Mason University in 2005. While studying for his degree, he researched Woody Guthrie’s life and songs and compared him to Walt Whitman, the Great American Poet-

Bard of the 19th Century. Todd maintains that Guthrie’s overall body of work makes him Walt Whitman’s proper heir as the Great American Poet-Bard of the 20th Century.

Todd performs regularly at The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon where he has enjoyed membership since 1996. He also has appeared at the Washington Folk Festival, the Common Ground Roots & Arts Festival, the Phoenix Folk Festival, the Herndon Folk Festival, and the California and Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gatherings. Once a month Todd enjoys the camaraderie of other area autoharpists with the Capital ‘Harpers.

Generally Todd performs as a soloist, but for past Showcases he has been joined by members of his very musical family: wife, Jeanne; son, Christopher; and daughter, Erin. All three are classically educated musicians and performers in their own right. On November 14 any or all of Todd’s family may join him or he may be appearing in his customary solo role.

Bernice Lewis

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

The Folk Club
Proudly Presents ...
7:15 PM – November 28, 2006
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 tremendous acclaim of her career for her album, "Isle of Spirit" (Sanctuary/Blue Bhikku).. "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. Bernice's latest recording "Religion and Release" includes a tour-de-force of folkies like Dar Williams, Ellis Paul, Jennifer Kimball, Brooks Williams, Mark Kelso & Alisa Fineman. "There's not a bad note on it, nor any song that won't hold up to repeated listening." - Seth Rogovoy, Berkshire Eagle
"Lewis' finest achievement. It's a winner from every angle." - Roberta B. Schwartz, Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange



Upcoming Performers

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

Garnet Rogers – January 23, 2007 – Garnet Rogers may be the greatest male interpreter and vocalist performing in the contemporary folk scene... *Sing Out Magazine*

Sparky and Rhonda Rucker – February 13, 2007, \$12/\$11 – Sparky Rucker is an internationally recognized folklorist, musician, historian, storyteller, and author. Rhonda Rucker is an accomplished harmonica, piano player and vocalist.

MUSICAL NOTES



The **Northeast Regional Folk Alliance** is holding its 12th annual conference November 10, 11, and 12 in Monticello, NY. Conference activities will include workshops, panel discussions, seminars, exhibits and showcases. Those interested in finding out more can check out the website at www.nerfa.org

AtLantis House Concerts

Bob and Nina Lantis have announced their next two upcoming house concerts.

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2006: Jody Marshall & Friends present a CD release of Jody's new holiday CD "Carol of the Bells." A magical holiday concert featuring dazzling hammered dulcimer, and a myriad of other delightful instruments.

Saturday, Feb 17, 2007: Nancy Moran & Fett. An evening of "contemporary folk with a rock-n-roll edge" with one of the Four Bitchin' Babes, and her very talented husband, Fett.

All shows begin at 7:30, unless otherwise noted. Reservations are required and a suggested minimum donation of \$15 is requested. Seating is limited, so contact them at: HouseConcerts@Lantis.us or call 571-333-7222

Josh Graves Passes



Dobro master Burkett Howard ("Uncle Josh") Graves passed away on September 30th after a lengthy illness. Attracted to the dobro at an early age, he help revitalize and revolutionize the instrument in the 1950's, after adapting Earl Scrugg's 3-finger banjo-picking style to the dobro, and adding it's distinctive sound to the bluegrass music of the Foggy Mountain Boys. He influenced modern players such as Mike Auldridge and Jerry Douglas, and in 1997 was inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Association's Hall of Honor.

SAW West Market Concert Series

The Songwriter's Association of Washington, in conjunction with the Reston West Market Activities Committee, has announced the lineup of the next several concerts to be held:

Dec. 10, 2006: Jean Bayou and Laura Baron
Jan. 7, 2007: Jeff Talmadge and Pat Wictor
Feb. 4, 2007: David Kitchen and Daniel Lee
Mar. 4, 2007: Susan Greenbaum and Andrew McKnight
Apr. 1, 2007: Greg Vickers and Greg Trafidlo

Concerts are the 1st Sunday of each month, 7:00pm, at the West Market Clubhouse, 1901 Logan Manor Drive, Reston, VA. Donations of up to \$10 per person are encouraged, to help support the functions of SAW and

the West Market Association. Contact Greg Vickers or Ron Goad for further info, or call the clubhouse at (703) 435-3777.

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>

MC Williams

Performing with the Herndon Towne Square Singers in the holiday show, "When Christmas Comes to Town...". At the Industrial Strength Theater, 208 Sunrise Park Drive. Tickets \$10 - check the web site for other info at www.eldenstreetplayers.org/resvdir.htm

12/1: 7:30pm

12/2: 7:30pm

12/3: 2:00pm

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:

11/5/1911 - Leonard Slye (a.k.a. Roy Rogers)

11/5/1941 - Art Garfunkel

11/7/1937 - Mary Travers

11/7/1943 - Joni Mitchell

11/12/1945 - Neil Young

11/17/1938 - Gordon Lightfoot

11/23/1947 - Jack Hardy

11/27/1917 - Merle Travis

And In Passing:

11/2/1966 - Mississippi John Hurt

11/3/2002 - Lonnie Donegan

11/7/1960 - Alvin Pleasant (A.P.) Carter

11/29/2001 - George Harrison

11/30/1996 - Herbert Khaury (a.k.a. "Tiny Tim")

Quote for The Month

"If you make the same mistake 3 times, that becomes 'your arrangement'" ~ Jorma Kaukonen

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: Advertise Here!

SEEKING MUSICIANS: Cornet and harmonica player, experienced, seeks working performer, group, or band based in NoVA (Vienna). Jazz, rock, blues, folk, pop, country. david@savageheart.com

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 Devil's Backbone Overlook
Stephenson, VA 22656