



The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

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

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June 2007

June 12 Showcase – Todd Crowley

We Shall Overcome: Songs of Protest and Peace

By Todd Crowley and Dan Grove

The great civil rights leader James Farmer wrote this account of the Freedom Riders in his autobiography *Lay Bare the Heart*:

“The jailer rushed to our cell block, eyes red from lack of sleep. Trembling...he shouted, ‘Y’all have to stop that singing.’

“Leroi Wright ...swung his fist toward the ceiling and yelled, ‘Come on, let’s sing some more. Let’s let ‘em know we’re here and let ‘em know who we are.’

“They needed no urging:

If you can’t find me in the backa the bus;

You can’t find me nowhere,

Oh-h, come on up to the fronta the bus,

I’ll be ridin’ up there.

“We sang it over. And over. Women’s voices wafted through the doors and crevices of another wing.... From another floor, white Freedom Riders answered, changing a few words:

If you can’t find us in the fronta the bus;

You can’t find me nowhere,

Oh-h, come on back to the *backa* the bus;

I’ll be ridin’ back there.

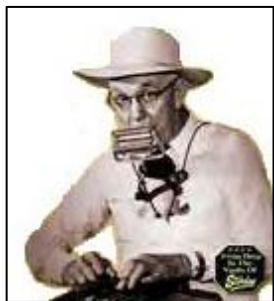
“The jailhouse rocked with songs of the Freedom Riders. Predawn Jackson [Mississippi] had never heard the likes of it before.” (10)

From jailed Freedom Riders in Mississippi to peace activists in Northern Ireland, from Victor Jara of Chilean New Songs Movement to Joe Hill of Utah Mining Camps, songs have served to protest injustice and inspire, unite, and comfort those involved in the struggle around the world for peace and human rights. Todd Crowley’s showcase will celebrate the great Songs of Protest and Peace.

Singing in his lush baritone and accompanying himself on several autoharps (he has a different one for each key), Todd will feature songs he’ll be teaching at Common Ground on the Hill during Traditions Week II. Common Ground, held every summer at McDaniel College in Westminster MD, is Walt Michael’s visionary music & arts camp designed to bring together diverse peoples and cultures. Todd encourages everyone in the Folk Club to visit www.commongroundonthehill.com and consider spending a week in July studying everything from African drumming to Irish penny whistle.

Todd also took his *We Shall Overcome* workshop to the California Autoharp Gathering in May, where he opened the Gathering for such folk icons as Peggy Seeger and Bryan Bowers. After retiring as an English teacher and basketball coach in the Fairfax County Public Schools, Todd is shaping a new career in song, featuring research skills that match his performances. Don't miss this showcase!

Lesser-Known Music Legends: "Pop" Stoneman



Born on May 25, 1893 in Carroll County, Virginia (close to what would later become Galax) Ernest Van "Pop" Stoneman was brought up in a family steeped in the music of the Blue Ridge Mountains. His mother had died when he was three, and he was raised by his father and several musically-inclined cousins who introduced him to the instrumental and vocal traditions of the Appalachians. His musical career started in 1914 while he was working at a cotton mill in Fries, Virginia. Using an autoharp he had crafted with parts from an old piano, he recorded a tune on a "home recording machine" owned by a co-worker.

In 1918 Ernest married Hattie Frost, another local musician. They would later start a family whose musical influence would be felt for decades, but for now he kept music as a hobby, playing mostly for friends and his own enjoyment.

In 1924, Ernest heard a record made by Henry Whitter. He felt confident that he could make a better recording, and determined to change his career and his life. Traveling to New York, he cut two songs for the Okeh label, including what would become the first million-selling record for country music, *"The Sinking of the Titanic"*. He was directed during several sessions on the Okeh and Victor labels by Ralph Peer. In 1927, he helped Ralph conduct the legendary Bristol Sessions, and was the first of five acts to records for those sessions, including the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers. By now, Ernest had added other family members to his recordings for a full string band sound. Between 1924 and 1929, he recorded some 200 songs, but by 1932 the Great Depression finally forced him to move his family (now with nine children) to the Washington D.C. area.



Ernest and Hattie



The whole family struggled through dire poverty until 1941, when Ernest obtained a more regular job at the Naval Gun Factory. In 1947, the Stoneman Family won a talent contest at Constitution Hall that gave them six months' exposure on local television. In 1956, "Pop" won \$10,000 on the NBC-TV quiz show *The Big Surprise* and sang on the show as well. That same year, the **Blue Grass Champs**, a group composed largely of his children, were winners on the CBS-TV program *Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts*, and Mike Seeger recorded "Pop" and Hattie for Folkways.

Ernest decided to retire from his job and the Champs went full-time to become the Stonemans. They did albums for Starday in 1962 and 1963, and in 1964 they went to Texas and California, cutting an album for World Pacific, playing at Disneyland, on some network shows and at several Folk festivals. In 1965, they went to Nashville, where they got a contract with MGM Records and started a syndicated TV show. In 1967 they received CMA's "Vocal Group of the Year".

"Pop" passed away on June 14, 1968 at the height of his popularity, but his children continued to record through the 70's. Daughter Roni, often referred to as *The First Lady of the Banjo*, also became a regular on the smash hit TV show *Hee-Haw* as Ida Lee Nagger, the "Ironing Board Lady".



Upcoming Performers

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

Bill Staines – August 14, 2007, \$12/11 – Bill has become one of the most popular singers on the folk music circuit today and averages around 200 concert dates a year.

Laura Baron/Pat Wictor – September 18, 2007, \$12/11 – A great special pairing of bluesy folk artists/songwriters with wonderful vocals and musicianship.

MUSICAL NOTES



It Was a Graveyard Smash...



Bobby "Boris" Pickett, who co-wrote the #1 hit *The Monster Mash*, passed away on April 25th after suffering from Leukemia. His famous tune, recorded with a group referred to as *The Crypt-Kickers*, held the top spot in the Top 40 for two weeks prior to Halloween in 1962. The song made two comebacks

in the US charts, in 1970 and 1973 (where it reached #10), and in October of 1973 it reached #3 in the UK charts.

His daughter Nancy was at his side when he died. He leaves behind two grandchildren, Jordan and Olivia. The Sunday, May 13 2007 episode of the Dr. Demento show featured a documentary retrospective of Pickett's work.

Still Famous After All These Years

On May 23 **Paul Simon** became the first-ever recipient of the Library of Congress **Gershwin Prize for Popular Song**. The newly created award recognizes the profound and positive effect of popular music on the world's culture. In the 1960's Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel become immensely popular by bringing an urbane, literate sensibility to their unique blend of Pop and Folk music. It seems fitting that this new award is named after George and Ira Gershwin, who brought a sense of panache and classical sophistication to the popular music of the day, in essence "making a lady out of Jazz".

A concert to celebrate the award took place the same night at the Warner Theater, and it will be broadcast on June 27th at 9pm EDT on local PBS stations. Performers included friends and prior collaborators, including: Jerry Douglas, Art Garfunkel, Philip Glass, Alison Krauss, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Lyle Lovett, Stephen Marley, James Taylor, Buckwheat Zydeco, and others.

Braddock Nights Concert Series 2007

Info for this perennial and popular series of free concerts in Northern Virginia is now available online. This year, there will be Friday shows at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield (don't miss the fabulous *Genetically-Altered Jug Band*), and at Royal Lake Park in Fairfax (gotta see *King Teddy!*). On Thursdays, there will be a variety of cultural heritage celebrations at the newly-renovated Ossian Hall Park in Annandale (see *Beth Benedetto* on Irish Heritage Night, June 14th).

For complete listings, check the web site at:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/braddock-nights.htm>

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>

Somos El Mar, www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Demetrios Liadis

Contact Demetrios on line:

www.myspace.com/demetriosjam or call him at 571-247-8969

Tomy Wright

Contact Tomy at tomy@tomywright.com, 301-637-5707

www.tomywright.com

Beth Benedetto

Fairfax Irish Cultural Heritage Night, June 14, 7:00 - 9:00. Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive, Annandale, VA.

Chelle Fulk (with Keltish)

Contact Chelle at 703-471-1968, or check out the website at: <http://www.keltish.com>

Ron Goad – hosting the following SAW events:

- Every Monday 8pm, showcase at Brewer's Alley, Frederick, MD. <http://www.Brewers-Alley.com>
- First Sunday each month 7:30pm, West Market Concert Series, West Market Clubhouse, 1901 Logan Manor Drive, Reston, VA.
- Third Thursday each month 6-10pm, open mike and showcase at Bangkok Blues, Falls Church, VA. <http://www.bangkokblues.com>
- Last Saturday each month 12:30-4:30pm, theme shows at Red Rocks Café, Centreville, VA. <http://www.restaurant.com/redrocks>

Contact Ron directly for info on attending and/or signing up for any events: MisterGoad@aol.com, 703.266-7060

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

- 6/3/1897 – Lizzie Douglas (a.k.a. "Memphis Minnie")
- 6/9/1902 – Nehemiah "Skip" James
- 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
- 6/5/1977 – "Sleepy" John Estes
- 6/9/1964 – Alton Delmore
- 6/14/1968 – Ernest "Pop" Stoneman
- 6/15/1980 – Bob Nolan
- 6/21/2001 – John Lee Hooker
- 6/29/1974 – Cass Elliot

Quote for The Month

"Music should strike fire in the heart of man, and bring tears to the eyes of woman" ~ Ludwig Beethoven

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!

FOR SALE: Fender Acoustasonic 30 Acoustic Amplifier - barely used \$225.00 Contact Demetrios 571-247-8969 or mettro@msn.com

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 Devils Backbone Overlook
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