



The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

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

www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

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January 15 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 toward the end of the last century, 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.

Asked about this showcase, Ben replied:

Does anyone remember AM radio in the sixties, when you could hear almost any songs back to back? From Frank Sinatra to the Strawberry Alarm Clock, Barry Sadler to the Rolling Stones, or James Brown to Petula Clark. I grew up listening to popular songs that way, and I think it gave me a liking for variety. So you might hear me play odd juxtapositions.

I play songs that appeal to me, and hope they will appeal to others as well. I like to have songs that make you think, as well as songs that make you feel. And music, to me, is a range of emotion – not just pretty and happy, but also ugly and sad. Life has many sides to it, why shouldn't music reflect them?

I do not yet know exactly what I am going to play, but I will include at least one sing-along. Also, there will be a cynical song that will be "answered" by another song – the first in E minor and the second in E major. The second song is one of the few songs that actually made me cry when I first heard it.

One thing you can count on is a variety of music.

I don't know if Ben is taking requests, but if he is I'd like to hear some Elvis and some Bach – he does them both with style!

Franklin & Harpe

Tickets \$12 (\$11 Members)

The Folk Club
Proudly Presents ...
7:15 PM – January 22, 2008
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA



Franklin & Harpe perform 1920s and 1930s blues and ragtime in the Piedmont, Memphis and St. Louis guitar-duet style. They perform some of the best versions you will hear today of such tunes as “Travelin’ Man,” “Ain’t Goin’ That Way,” and “Nobody Knows You When You’re Down and Out.” The duo issued their first CD, “Hokum Blues,” in 1993, and have most recently released their second CD, “Doin’ the Dozens.” The duo has performed throughout the metropolitan area at events such as the Washington Folk Festival, Northern Virginia Folk Festival, Herndon Blues Fest, the DC Blues Society Blues Festival, and the Baltimore Blues Society, in addition to appearances at the National Portrait Gallery and hosts of clubs and cafes.

For the past twenty-three years, Rick Franklin has been playing and singing the Blues at local festivals and community events, as well as various clubs and cafes, both in and around the Washington, DC area. His musical interests are eclectic, reflecting his considerable travels both

domestic and abroad. In addition to the Blues, Rick is an aficionado of everything from African High Life, Brazilian Batucada and Samba to Reggae and Zydeco; musical idioms which, like the Blues, reflect the considerable contribution of the African heritage to the musical scene. Rick's musical style of blues is known as the "Piedmont" style identified with such legendary players like Blind Blake, Blind Boy Fuller and William More along with contemporary players like Virginia residents John Cephas, the late John Jackson and the late Maryland resident, Archie Edwards. Rick has taught guitar to youths and adults and is personally committed to the preservation and diffusion of the Blues, especially amongst the young. Rick has been an Executive Board member of the DC Blues Society and helped organize and performed in the first annual DC Blues Festival.



Neil Harpe is based in Annapolis, Maryland. He's been playing finger-style country blues and ragtime guitar since the 1960s. Harpe produced an album of country blues on the Adelphi Records label back in 1971. Today, he divides his time between performing acoustic blues, collecting and selling vintage guitars (primarily Stellas from the 1920 & '30s), and his "day job" as a painter/printmaker and accomplished artist. Harpe's passion for the blues began at a young age. He learned to play guitar when he was 12 and inspired by Elvis began as a rock & roller. While his peers were listening to the Beatles, the Beach Boys and the Rolling Stones, Neil was listening to the blues musicians: Blind Boy Fuller, Lonnie Johnson, Memphis Minnie and Mississippi John Hurt. Harpe, who has owned hundreds of guitars over the past 30 years has amassed a sizeable collection of “Stella” guitars and has written a book about them. Made between 1900 and 1937, they were the guitars of choice for such blues performers as Charley Patton, Willie Brown and Leadbelly. Visit his website at <http://www.stellaguitars.com>.



Upcoming Performers

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

Small Potatoes – February 19, 2008 – Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso perform "celtic to cowboy" Superb musicianship and showmanship, and award-winning songwriting

Nathan Rogers – Canadian folk singer with legendary family pedigree.

Siobhan Quinn / Michael Bowers – 2006 WAMMIE winner & 2005 Kerrville New Folk finalist team for eclectic blend of Celtic, folk and blues.

MUSICAL NOTES



Dan Fogelberg Passes

Dan Fogelberg passed away at his home in Maine on December 16, 2007. He had been diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer in 2004.

His interest in music was fostered at an early age by his father, the heralded conductor at various high schools and colleges, and his mother, a classical pianist. His hit song, "The Leader of the Band" paid tribute to his father's influence.

Having played with rock bands around his hometown of Peoria, Illinois during his early teen years, he started performing solo while attending college at the University of Illinois. His later popularity was enhanced by his ability to combine poignant, folk-style songs with livelier, upbeat soft-rock music. This blend often made me think of something between James Taylor and Kenny Loggins.

In 2002, fans elected Dan to be one of the first 10 inductees to the Performers Hall of Fame at the Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado.

Workers Unite for Utah Phillips

Utah Phillips, longtime activist/songwriter, and member of the **Industrial Workers of the World**, has had to retire from performing due to chronic heart problems, just as medical treatments are demanding more money. In response, the Local 1180 of the **Communications Workers of America**, and the Detroit and James Connolly branches of the IWW have released the following resolution:

Bruce "Utah" Phillips is a truly unique American treasure. Not just a great folksong writer and interpreter, not just a great storyteller, Utah has preserved and presented the history of our nation's working people and union movement for audiences throughout the world. His recorded work keeps these songs and stories alive. He has spoken up against the injustices of boss-dominated capitalism and worked for peace and justice for more than 40 years. Now Utah finds himself unable to continue performing due to severe heart problems. We wish to honor and recognize his great talent, spirit and love for the working people and the union movement of the United States. Therefore, we move to pass this resolution in gratitude for all he has done and will continue to do in his work and life. We also wish to contribute \$_____ to Utah Phillips in appreciation and in solidarity as he and his wife, Joanna Robinson, deal with his health and the loss of his ability to work.

It is hoped that other unions, anti-war and labor-affiliated organizations will respond in kind by passing this or similar resolutions in appreciation for all Utah Phillips has done for the cause of unions and peace.

Mountain Dulcimer Week – July 6-11, 2008

Mark your calendars for this event co-directed by Folk Club members **Ralph Lee Smith** and **Maddy MacNeil**. For more info, contact Ralph, 703-435-7420, email ralphleesmith@comcast.net

Groundhog Day Concert – Feb. 2nd, 2008 8:00pm

"Bluegrass and Beyond" featuring Danny Knicely at the Carver Center, 200 Willie Palmer Way, M.S. 78W Purcellville, VA 20132. Tickets \$15 in advance available at www.sunspotpro.com

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

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

T.M Hanna, www.birdphluph.com

Somos El Mar, www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Demetrios Liadis

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

Tomy Wright

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

Ron Goad – hosting the following SAW events:

- Every Monday 8pm, showcase at The Brewer's Alley, Frederick, MD. <http://www.Brewers-Alley.com>
- 3rd Thursday and 4th Tuesday each month 7:30-11pm, variety 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 at MisterGoad@aol.com

Chelle Fulk (with Keltish)

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

Doris Justis

<http://www.dorisjustis.com> - Folk, original, and contemporary music

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

- 1/3/1945 – Stephen Stills
- 1/6/1924 – Earl Scruggs
- 1/9/1942 – Joan Baez
- 1/10/1943 – Jim Croce
- 1/12/1905 – Woodrow Maurice "Tex" Ritter
- 1/19/1939 – Phil Everly
- 1/20/1889 – Huddie Ledbetter a.k.a. "Leadbelly"
- 1/21/1941 – Richie Havens
- 1/27/1930 – Bobbie "Blue" Bland

And In Passing:

- 1/1/1953 – Hank Williams
- 1/2/1974 – Woodrow Maurice "Tex" Ritter
- 1/13/1864 – Stephen Foster
- 1/20/2002 – John Jackson

Quote for The Month

"I would teach children music, physics and philosophy; but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all the arts are the keys of learning."

~ Plato

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 Beffel, Bill Davis, TM Hanna, Lynn Jordan, Ellen Kaminsky, Chris Kramer-Harnage, Sue Schier, Ron Goad, Bob Hampton

Publicity: Sue Schier

Bookings: Ray Kaminsky

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

Newsgroup: Dianne Lafleur

Website: Bob Hampton

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

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 meetro@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
Stephenson, VA 22656