



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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August 2009

August 11 Showcase – The Harley String Band

By Steve Coffee

Harley String Band is: Three talented singer-songwriters who mine the deep veins of American music to produce the occasional rough diamond. Supporting each other on a wide variety of acoustic instruments, they aspire to breathe new life into traditional musical forms. All three band members have won honors in the prestigious Mid-Atlantic Songwriting Contest.



“HSB” consists of **Jim Johnson, Jim Clark, and Steve Coffee**. “The Jims” are longtime Folk Club members and have played there often, but the band has never had a showcase. They plan to fill the stage with guitars, banjos, bouzoukis, and mandolins. They promise to leave the accordion at home and not to spend the whole time tuning.

The band has been together for three years and has played many venues around the DC area, including many Songwriters Association of Washington events. High points of their career include a performance at the 2009 Washington Folk Festival and frequent airplay on Mary Cliff’s Traditions program on WAMU.

The band is represented by the mysterious (well, fictitious) “Granny,” a guitar-toting, Harley-riding old lady who refers to the boys as “the boys.” She’s not only the band’s spokesperson, but their mascot and inspiration. “We hope to be able to both play and ride when we’re her age,” said Coffee. “Not that you’d ever catch me on a motorcycle,” he added. Actually, Johnson is the biker of the group.

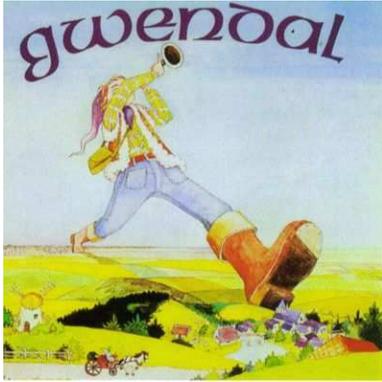


The band has two CDs on the market, one a children’s album and the other a “grownup” album. All the tunes are also available on the major music download sites, “but we’re not sure that most people in our demographic know how to download an MP3 or what to do with it,” allows Johnson.

Early this year the band went “on tour” in Belize and Guatemala. Mostly this means they played at bus stations, town squares, and ferry stops, but they also got invited to house parties and one club gig. “Traveling with a guitar on your back is a very different experience,” says Clark. “Opportunities for interaction with the locals open up that you would never normally have.” They came back with a really nice travelogue video and a cool new prog-folk song about Maximón, the Mayan outlaw deity. (Look it up!)

Get a preview of what’s in store at www.harleystringband.com.

French Folksmen – Gwendal



In 1972, French guitarist **Jean-Marie Renard** gathered five friends of different musical cultures (traditional, jazz, folk, rock'n'roll) around a common passion for Celtic music to form a new group, **Gwendal**. During that time France saw a number of new groups forming, inspired by the Breton and Irish traditional music. Much of this new popularity was created in the wake of the success of French Celtic harpist **Alan Stivell**, whose signing with the Philips recording company in 1966 heralded the birth of the New Breton and Celtic music movement.

In 1974 they released their first album, **Irish Jig**, which featured cover art of a giant marching across a field playing a bombarde* (the band's emblem to this day). What set Gwendal apart during this period was their early adoption of modern rhythmic influences from jazz and rock'n'roll into some of their Celtic tunes. This was enhanced further with the introduction of electric instruments in 1977 on their third album, **Rainy Day**.

The evolution of the band continued in the 80's, with the addition of a synthesizer, and an increasing number of personal compositions included on the recordings. Over more than three decades, the band has continued to morph itself, as musician changes occurred several times. Throughout these changes, the following instrumentation has been the core of the group's sound: metal flute and violin for the melodies, acoustic guitar, mandolin and bass for the rhythm. This sound is anchored by the one remaining musician from the original lineup, **Youenn Le Berre** (flute, bagpipes, saxophone, bombarde), who is the current leader of the group (founder Jean-Marie Renard is the manager).



(current lineup L to R: Jérôme Guéguen, Pascal Sarton, Ludo Mesnil, David Rusaouen, Youenn Le Berre, Jean-Claude Philippe)

For more info about this enduring and endearing musical alliance, check out the following links:

Gwendal.eu/eng (official web site – English language version)

Myspace.com/Gwendalmusic (sound samples)

(* - a Breton instrument in the double-reed family)



Upcoming Performers

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

Side by Side – 25th Anniversary – September 15, \$10/\$9 – Close vocal harmonies and 12-string guitar mastery highlight the longtime collaboration of **Doris Justis** and **Sean McGhee**.

Gordon Bok – October 13, \$14/\$13 – Maine folk musician, singer-songwriter and a leader in collecting, preserving, creating, and sharing a wide variety of rich and intensely beautiful songs of both land and sea.

Garnet Rogers – November 10, \$14/\$13 – Charismatic Canadian performer & singer songwriter.

MUSICAL NOTES

Folk Club Anniversary Party – August 18th

The Folk Club will be celebrating its 22st anniversary at the Tortilla Factory this month. We'll be following our standard party night music format (single-song slots), and giving out CD's as door prizes. Come on out and help us party!

Folk Club Campout – September 5th–7th

The annual campouts are one of the oldest traditions of The Club, having been held in one form or another since 1986. Dave has been hosting the get-togethers since 1990. Come help Dave and Beth (and everyone else!) celebrate their annual Labor Day Folk Club Campout. Meals are provided (for a small contribution charge), so pack up your tents, drinks, and instruments and come on out to the beautiful Double Trouble Estate in Stephenson, VA. See Dave or Beth at The Club for more info, and be sure to make your reservations by September 3rd.

Folk Music Trivia Quiz

See how much you know about some basic Folk Music songs and icons of the 60's with this quick quiz. The answers appear at the bottom of the page (if you need them!)

1. Which Folk group was John Denver a member of from 1965 to 1969?

- a. Chad Mitchell Trio
- b. The Kingston Trio
- c. The New Christy Minstrels
- d. The Brothers Four

2. Which song did The Highwaymen take to the top of the charts in the Fall of 1961?

- a. Bless You
- b. Wings of a Dove
- c. Michael Row the Boat Ashore
- d. Sacred

3. What was Donovan's first and only U.S. Number One hit?

- a. Mellow Yellow
- b. Sunshine Superman
- c. Catch the Wind
- d. Wear Your Love Like Heaven

4. What was Peter, Paul and Mary's only Number One single on the US Billboard Hot 100?

- a. Blowin' in the Wind
- b. I Dig Rock 'n Roll Music
- c. Puff (The Magic Dragon)
- d. Leaving on a Jet Plane

5. The Kingston Trio had the first Folk genre Number One hit on the US Billboard charts in 1958. What was it?

- a. Where Have All the Flowers Gone?
- b. Tom Dooley
- c. The Tijuana Jail
- d. The Reverend Mr. Black

6. During the first month of 1963 which folk group took a song titled "Walk Right In" to Number One in the US?

- a. The Rooftop Singers
- b. The Seekers
- c. The Limeliters
- d. The New Lost City Ramblers

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

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

Larry Mediate larry-mediate.com

T.M Hanna, birdphluph.com

Somos El Mar, schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Ric Sweeney (a.k.a. – 'Mr. Rain')
myspace.com/ricsweeneysilverlinings

Ron Goad – MisterGoad@aol.com

NEW! – Mondays, 7-10pm, hosting open mikes at **Jammin' Java** in Vienna, VA. jamminjava.com

- Mondays 7:30pm, SAW-BSA-BMI Variety Showcases at Brewer's Alley, Frederick, MD. (when not at Jammin' Java) myspace.com/roddeacey

- 2nd Thursday each month 7:00pm, SAW-BMI concerts at The Athenaeum, Old Town Alexandria.
NVFAA.org

- 3rd Thursdays and 4th Wednesdays, 7:00-11pm, SAW-BMI Variety Showcase at Bangkok Blues, Falls Church, VA. bangkokblues.com

Scott Malyszka
cdbaby.com/cd/scottmalyszka / feelthewag.com

Demetrios Liadis myspace.com/demetriosjam
or call 571-247-8969

Tomy Wright

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

Doris Justis

dorisjustis.com - Folk, original, and contemporary music

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

8/1/1931 – "Ramblin" Jack Elliot

8/1/1942 – Jerry Garcia

8/4/1901 – Louis Armstrong

8/8/1944 – John Renbourn

8/12/1929 – Alvis Edgar "Buck" Owens, Jr.

8/14/1941 – David Crosby

8/22/1917 – John Lee Hooker

8/27/1925 – Carter Stanley

And In Passing:

8/6/1973 – Lizzie Douglas (a.k.a. 'Memphis Minnie')

8/9/1995 – Jerry Garcia

8/13/1951 – Dan Fogelberg

8/15/1958 – "Big" Bill Broonzy

8/16/1938 – Robert Johnson

8/16/2005 – Vassar Clements

8/19/1959 – "Blind" Willie McTell

8/21/1918 – Orville Gibson

8/29/1976 – Jimmy Reed

Quote for the Month

"If the King loves music, it is well with the land."

~ Mencius

Answers to Quiz:

1 - a ; 2 - c ; 3 - b ; 4 - d ; 5 - c ; 6 - a

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: Chris Kramer-Harnage

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 newsletter editor 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

FOLK CLUB MEMBERSHIP

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

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, or give them to Ray Kaminsky at The Club



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c/o Dave Hurd
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