



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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November 17 Showcase – Ric Sweeney

by Ric

In February of 1965 I was detaching from a university and attaching to the mystery, mythology and allure of the blues, especially what was then called “country” blues and is now more aptly titled “pre-war” blues. For a few years previous to '65, the “rediscovery” of several legendary (at least to some of us) figures who had recorded rural Afro-American music in the 1920's and 30's revealed the prospect that more of these musicians were alive and able to perform.

Sam Charters was a prime mover in these matters and produced an LP of the 1930's recordings of the Brownsville Tennessee bluesman Sleepy John Estes accompanied by (among others) Yank Rachell on mandolin and Hammy Nixon on mouth harp. Although highly regarded in the blues community for his tight emotional vocals, home town subject matter and the poetry of his verses, Estes received relatively little attention compared to some other rediscovered performers of the blues revival. But he was my favorite.

The Unicorn coffee house was the top venue of its kind in Boston proper. One day as I walked past there was a placard announcing the appearance of Sleepy John Estes and his Tennessee Jug Busters. That night I was there with some friends to see the trio consisting of John, Yank and Hammy. After the show we approached them and in the course of the conversation we learned that they were paying much more than they could afford to stay at the “colored” hotel on Huntington Avenue where performers such as B. B. King and Chuck Berry stayed when playing Boston. Add to this the expenses of food and travel and they were about at the breakeven point. The next thing I know I had invited them to stay in my Cambridge apartment and they had accepted. My apartment was in a dilapidated, uninsulated, frame and shingle building in the Central Square area. They had to make do with a cheap, cot-like sofa and some miscellaneous cushions. Yank brought back some food to cook (one of his past professions) or we would eat at a local diner. They talked about experiences with guys like Robert Johnson or Bill Broonzy as casually as I might speak about my friends or acquaintances.

Hammy Nixon was a temperamental man and after a week he returned home. The club owner wanted to reduce their pay by a third. Yank, who bore most of the responsibilities, maintained that they were to be paid as a unit. Yank was a big, dark-complexioned man with a worried countenance. When relaxed he was thoughtful and engaging. His composition “Hobo Blues” is a minor blues standard and for years he had been the primary accompanist of John Lee (the original Sonny Boy) Williamson. It was poignant to hear Yank call out to Sonny Boy in a song, although his old friend had been stabbed to death decades ago. One of the greatest thrills of my life was waking up one morning to the sound of my favorite song at that time, “Floating Bridge,” emanating from my living room in live performance by its creator. I had admired John's singing and his verses, but I was surprised how well he played guitar in a solo acoustic setting. John was a remarkably upbeat and steady personality. I never heard him complain. He was, however, obviously dependent on Yank.

After two weeks at the Unicorn, John and Yank were ready to go home. On their last night at the club, a friend of mine, Dan Chernoble, brought his reel-to-reel and recorded one of their sets. The next morning, just before they departed for the bus station, Dan set up the recorder in my apartment and we recorded John alone and accompanied by Yank, and a few solos by Yank. Yank was too worried about catching the bus to recall the words and/or music to his best-known piece, “Hobo Blues.” This was the first “rediscovery” tour of these two great musicians, at least in the East, and these may be the only recordings to emerge from the event.

The Folk Club

of Reston-Herndon

Preserving Folk Traditions

proudly presents

GARNET ROGERS

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Tickets \$14 (\$13 MEMBERS)

Show starts at 7:15 p.m.

**Back Room at
The Tortilla Factory**
648 Elden Street, Herndon, VA

The artist encourages attendees to bring non-perishable packaged or canned food items for our local food bank



In a darkened Ontario bedroom, lit only by the amber glow from an old floor model radio, two young brothers aged 6 and 12 lay in their beds, listening to the country music broadcasts from the Grand Ol' Opry, and practiced their harmonies. Two years later, the youngest one was playing the definitive 8-year-old's version of "Desolation Row" on his ukulele. He soon abandoned that instrument to teach himself the flute, violin and guitar.

Within ten years, and barely out of high school, **GARNET ROGERS** was on the road as a full-time working musician with his older brother **STAN**. Together they formed what has come to be accepted as one of the most influential acts in North American folk music.

Since then, Garnet Rogers has established himself as 'One of the major talents of our time'. His powerful physical presence - close to six and a half feet tall - has a voice to match. With his "smooth, dark baritone" (Washington Post) his incredible range, and thoughtful, dramatic phrasing, Garnet is widely considered by fans and critics alike to be one of the finest singers anywhere. His music, like the man himself, is literate, passionate, highly sensitive, and deeply purposeful. Cinematic in detail, his songs "give expression to the unspoken vocabulary of the heart" (*Kitchener Waterloo Record*). An optimist at heart, Garnet sings extraordinary songs about people who are not obvious heroes and of the small victories of the everyday. As memorable as his songs, his over-the-top humour and lightning-quick wit moves his audience from tears to laughter and back again.

More information and discography on-line at: <http://www.garnetrogers.com/>

TICKETS available: Tuesdays at The Folk Club or by e-mailing Dave Hurd - DAHurdSr@cs.com

UPCOMING CONCERTS include: Bryan Bowers-12/1/09 Hungrytown-1/19/10 Spook Handy-2/23/10

MUSICAL NOTES

DCBU Fall Concert

The D.C. Bluegrass Union (dcbu.org) will be holding their Fall Concert on November 14th at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church, VA. The performers this year will be **The Gibson Brothers** and **Chester River Runoff**. Tickets are \$22 (\$18 for members) and can be obtained by calling Regina at (703) 916-0655, or emailing her at derzon@verizon.net.

Ralph Stanley Publishes Memoirs:

(from Folkwax.com)

Dr. Ralph Stanley's behind-the-scenes autobiography, *Man of Constant Sorrow: My Life & Times* now in book stores is being spotlighted by the 82-year-old mountain singer's recent appearance at Carnegie Hall.

Co-written with music journalist Eddie Dean, the book chronicles in Stanley's own distinctive voice, his rise from poverty, and a broken home in rural Virginia to his musical pairing with his older brother, Carter, and the creation of the trailblazing Stanley Brothers sound to his career culmination as a multiple Grammy winner, member of the Grand Ole Opry and recipient of the National Medal of Arts.

WFMA Celebrates "Women of Folk Music"

(from WFMA.net)

The "Women of Folk Music" will be featured at the **24th Annual World Folk Music Association Benefit Concert**, set for Friday and Saturday, January 22-23, 2010 at the Birchmere Music Hall in Alexandria, VA. Confirmed performers include **SONiA & disappear fear**, **Anne Hills**, **Maura Kennedy**, **Priscilla Herdman**, **Cindy Mangsen**, **The Nields**, **Lea** and others to be announced.

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

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

Somos El Mar, schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Ron Goad – MisterGoad@aol.com

- 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

12/6, 1-3pm – Reston regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive in Reston VA.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rr/>

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

Dulcie Taylor

dulcietaylor.com

myspace.com/dulcietaylor

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")

Noteworthy Events:

11/3/50 - Stanley Brothers record "I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow"

11/6/65 - Opening night for San Francisco's Fillmore West. Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane perform

11/7/2001 - "I am a Man of Constant Sorrow" from "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" wins CMA single of the year

11/9/55 - Everly Brothers first studio recordings

11/11/77 - Riders in the Sky is formed in the parking lot of Nashville Club *Phranks and Steins*.

11/14/51 - Hank Williams TV debut on "The Perry Como Show", performing "Hey, Good Lookin'"

11/19/55 - Carl Perkins records "Blue Suede Shoes"

11/20/61 - Bob Dylan begins recording his debut album

11/22/57 - Tom & Jerry (Simon & Garfunkel) first appear on American Bandstand

11/28/25 - "The WSM Barn Dance" begins broadcasting. Later to be renamed The Grand Ole Opry.

Quote for the Month

"I can never make up my mind if I'm happy being a flute player, or if I wish I were Eric Clapton."

~ Ian Anderson

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON-HERNDON

Meets Tuesday nights, 7:15pm 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: Felicia Strickland, 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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