

Songwriter's Night – August 16th

A night celebrating musicians who write original songs.

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August 9 Showcase – Silver Strings, MD

by Richard Weil



"Silver Strings, MD" is a Chesapeake Bay area folk, bluegrass, blues, traditional, and contemporary music string band. Between the five bandmates, all born along the East Coast, they grew up cutting their teeth in folk, jug band, barbershop quartet, rock, bluegrass, country, and folk music ensembles. Formed about three years ago, the group has been invited to play at the Washington Folk Festival, St. Alban's School, the Takoma Park Folk Festival, the Takoma Park VFW, and house concerts.

Paul Loether (guitar, bass, banjo, and vocals) met Richard Weil (guitar, percussion, and vocals) in high school over 45 years ago. Tom Carroll (guitar, vocals, and "Silver Strings, MD" "voice"), Blount Stewart (harmonica and vocals), and Pepper Watkins (guitar, bass, banjo, and vocals) met Paul and Richard several years ago and completed the round of band mates.

"Together Again," a CD of originals and covers, features four of the Strings and was recorded several years ago. The band is making another record due out later this year, tentatively titled "Silver Strings, MD - The Basement Tapes." The band has a Facebook page where you can hear them perform "Sea of Heartbreak," which garnered over 11,000 internet views. In addition, the band typically donates proceeds from its performances to "Shepherd's Table," a local non-profit organization based in Silver Spring, MD, which feeds the homeless 365 days a year.

"Silver Strings, MD" presents a mix of original music and covers which they make their own. Each musician brings truth and enthusiasm to the music being sung or played, and audiences are appreciative of the diverse styles of music offered. It may be a solo, duet, group, or sing-along that weaves the tapestry of this band and warms the hearts of its audiences. "Silver Strings, MD" continues to grow in its song repertoire and energy with the goal of continuing to share the joy of music. The band looks forward to its Showcase performance at the Folk Club!

THE FOLK CLUB

of Reston & Herndon

Songwriter's Night August 16, 2016

When composer Giuseppe Verdi was asked where he got the inspiration to write so many operas he replied, "I worked at it." In that vein, some musicians sometimes get a creative spark, and are driven to "work at it" until they have written a song that satisfies them. Then they usually seek to share it with others by performing it and find out how others respond.



We appreciate the creativity and craft that makes all of this happen, so on August 16th we are having a Songwriter's Night and hoping that songwriters in the area will come forward to share their songs with the audience at The Folk Club. We envision a night when songwriters perform their original songs. In the spirit of inclusion, non-songwriters can play songs written by Folk Club members. Any combination of originality would work: a song with original words and music, an old song with new verses created (a parody, for example), a song made by adding music to existing lyrics (a poem, maybe), or an instrumental song that someone has written.

However, this doesn't mean it's required for all songs to be originals, but it really would be nice if that is the case. Often we hear many (or all) cover songs on a typical night at The Folk Club, some of which we've heard umpteen times. So let's swing the pendulum in the other direction for once! Sure, it's fun to hear and sing along with songs we know, but shouldn't we also encourage creativity? This is a chance to show our support and appreciation to those brave souls who are able to bring something new and different into the world.



Note: This is the second Folk Club theme night. The Early Rock 'n' Roll Night in July was a huge success, so we are doing the same this month since there is no concert scheduled. As was done in July, we will try our best to allow everyone to play and we hope that the performers can be flexible. If you only plan to play one or two songs please let us know. We may extend the evening a bit or change the length of each slot to accommodate all. We went a little later in July but everyone was able to play.

MUSICAL NOTES



Rain Follows the Plow: A Dust Opera

Rain Follows the Plow is a unique, collaborative musical project based on an album-length song cycle about the Dust Bowl, written by Oklahoma native Steve Coffee. It showcases the Americana movement at its best, celebrating authentic folk traditions with freshness and creativity. Throughout 2016, Rain Follows the Plow is being staged as a "folk opera."

In July there were five performances for the 2016 Capital Fringe on Fri 7/8, Sun 7/10, Sat 7/16, Thu 7/21, and Sat 7/23. It was also extended to additional performances due to its appreciative audiences.

Rain Follows the Plow as a one-hour musical revue (slightly shortened due to time constraints) will be performed in Alexandria as part of the Fairfax County Summer Entertainment Series on Friday, August 12, 2016 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309.

"FOLKIES" 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

LABOR DAY Folk Club Campout!!!

Happening September 3-5, 2016 at the home of Dave Hurd and Beth Drumheller in Stephenson, VA., For the 16th year here and 26th year total; this event gives Folk Club fans a chance for three days of socializing and music. See Dave or Beth on Tuesdays for flyers or look on the web site for information.

MONTHLY MUSICAL QUOTE

"For a songwriter, you don't really go to songwriting school; you learn by listening to tunes. And you try to understand them and take them apart and see what they're made of, and wonder if you can make one, too."

- Tom Waits

MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO

T.M Hanna tmhanna.net

Bill Davis (w/Somos El Mar)
schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Chris Anderson <http://chris-anderson.info>

- Monthly, 2nd Saturday, Harried Americans Happy Hour, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., Epicure Cafe, Fairfax, VA. <http://harriedamericans.com>. The show includes comedy, poetry, and music, geared to adults - and is free, with a suggested donation of \$10.

Ron Goad MisterGoad@aol.com

- 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays 7:30 to ? p.m. (open mic at 10 p.m.), SAW Variety Showcases at Epicure Café, Fairfax, VA [Epicurecafe.org](http://epicurecafe.org)

- Monthly, 2nd Monday at Brewer's Alley, Frederick, MD. Contact Ron Goad for more information.

Harley String Band (Jim Clark, Jim Johnson and Steve Coffee) www.harleystringband.com

The Aloha Boys (Glen Hirabayashi and Isaac Ho'opi'i)
alohaboys.com

Jan Gillies

- 3rd Friday, 8 to 10 p.m., Jan & Neil host an open mic at Lost River Grill/TK Lounge in Lost City, WV.

George Dacre
www.acousticayre.com



Meets Tuesday nights, 7:15 p.m. at Amphora Diner Deluxe
1151 Elden Street, Herndon, VA

President: Ben Hamblin **Treasurer:** Dave Hurd
Board of Directors: Sue Beffel, Bill Davis, TM Hanna, Lynn Jordan, Sue Schier, Ron Goad, Bob Hampton, Laura Kelmelis, Bill Farrar, Jim Clark
Publicity: David Litwack, Sue Schier
Bookings: Steve Potter (concert flyers by Jim Clark)
Newsletter: Ben Hamblin, Dan Grove, Jim Clark, Dave Hurd
Website: Cheryl Hennessy
Facebook: Cheryl Hennessy
Lifetime Members: Rose Haskell, Ray & Ellen Kaminsky, Dave Hurd

FOLK CLUB FORMAT

Most Tuesday nights the Folk Club is an open-mike format with a sign-up board. Each performer has 12 minutes, which includes setup time.

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

On the 2nd Tuesday of the month (usually), we feature a "Showcase" of a Folk Club member in a 25-minute performance. 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 Ben Hamblin at newsletter@restonherndonfolkclub.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.

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon
c/o Dave Hurd
110 Devils Backbone Overlook
Stephenson, VA 22656

RESERVE YOUR CONCERT SEATS IN ADVANCE

Donations can be made in advance for Guest Artist concert performances on Tuesdays at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact Dave Hurd, 110 Devil's Backbone Overlook, Stephenson, VA 22656, (540) 722-0146, or dahurdsr@cs.com.

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 recommended donation for guest artist concerts (up to 2 donations per show). Join up on Folk Club Tuesdays, or call a board member for info.

KEEP IN TOUCH

There are several ways you can keep in touch, or find out more about The Club:

Website: www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

Facebook: Search for "Folk Club of Reston Herndon"

General Info: Contact Sue Schier at (703) 435-2402

Classifieds

LESSONS

- Private guitar lessons in Alexandria. Flexible learning techniques including reading, ear and applied music theory. Contact Eric Forthman: ecfmm@verizon.net; 703-400-7264.

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 Second Strings, P.O. Box 234, Nederland, CO 80466.

FOR SALE

- Martin D-41 acoustic guitar, purchased new two years ago from Guitar Center. In excellent condition, sounds beautiful, and plays like butter. A strap button and a K&K Pure Mini pickup system have been added. Lists for around \$4,500 new. Asking \$3,500 for this two year old. Contact Jim Johnson: jimjohnson@verizon.net or call 703-913-7408.

- 2014 Taylor 814CE Grand Auditorium with ES2, purchased new two years ago from Guitar Center. In excellent condition- an absolutely gorgeous guitar. Lists for \$3499 new. Asking \$2600.00. Contact Al Hobson at alhobson@verizon.net or 703-371-6524.