



# The Folk Club of Reston/Herndon

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

[www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com](http://www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com)

Volume 36, Issue 4

April 2020

## **April 21 Concert – Toby Walker - Cancelled**

How do you get to Carnegie Hall?

See page 2

## **The Days the Music Died? Never!**

### **In This Unprecedented Time, Music Is Needed More Than Ever**

It happened so fast.

- Brooks Williams notified our booking agent Steve Potter that he had to cancel our March 17<sup>th</sup> concert (rescheduled to May 2021).
- The Folk Club Board unanimously agreed with Ben Hamblin's proposal to cancel our Tuesday night open mics until April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Larry Mediate decided to postpone his April showcase until we meet again.
- Toby Walker cancelled his April 21<sup>st</sup> concert and is rebooked for January 2021.

And now, sadly, we are cancelling our Tuesday Folk Club open mics until further notice – no vote needed this time. We must follow the guidance of government authorities and practice physical distancing, until restaurants are able to reopen and groups of people can socialize again.

At this moment we are at the point that businesses are closed except for essential services, and most people are required to stay in except for essential needs. An essential need for us is sharing music, and we feel disoriented that we are not able to do that in the company of our friends at the Amphora every week.

To bridge the gap, and at the urging of some members, Ben looked into whether a video meeting app would work for us, and which one would be best. He landed on Zoom, and held two trial sessions with a few members. Everyone agreed it helped bridge the gap between us and we felt connected, in spite of some audio/video issues. Don Brown said "I can't express enough how much it meant to my mental health."

So until the human world is on an even keel again, the Folk Club plans to hold a virtual open mic every Tuesday night at 7:30 PM ET. An email addressed to all members will include the information everyone needs to connect through the internet.

Those who want to perform will send an email and an ordered list will be sent to all members before the event begins. The initial plan is to have each performer play one song (round robin format). These sessions will probably be a little rough around the edges at first, but they will improve as we all get used to it.

Also, some Folk Club members have expressed concern about the impact on our Tuesday night wait staff. Since the Amphora is only open for delivery or take-out they are facing an income shortfall. We are taking up a collection to help them through this. Anyone who would like to contribute, please send your check to Dave Hurd at 110 Devils Backbone Overlook, Stephenson, VA 22656. He doesn't take credit cards (yet).

This is a difficult time, but we all must do what is right to minimize the impact of the novel coronavirus on mankind (it's sobering to put it that way). We can also share our love and express ourselves as best we can. Musicians are finding creative ways to share their talents while being physically separated – online concerts from home, neighborhood and porch performances, etc.

We should all look forward to the day when we can meet together again at the Amphora. What a celebration that will be!



# THE FOLK CLUB

of Reston & Herndon

## The Secret to Good Chops

by Dan Grove

No, not pork or lamb.... We're talking playing ability, on whatever instrument you choose. As songwriters, we want to get our music heard, but unless we can afford to hire musicians for gigs we have to accompany ourselves. Playing an instrument is fun, and surprisingly easy if you go about it right. The secret to good chops is simply adopting good practice habits – do the **right thing**, at the **right speed**, at the **right time**.

The **Right Thing**: this means you shouldn't waste your time on something that's a dead end. A teacher, instructional book/tape/video, or jamming partner can show you the things to work on that will give you the best foundation for continued success. This is outside the scope of this article, so you're pretty much on your own here...

The **Right Speed**: this is the most important thing to learn about playing an instrument. The right speed is *slow*, never speeding up to the point where you lose form. It doesn't matter what the instrument is, or what level of ability you've attained. Let's use guitar as an example, since it's what so many of us play. If you're just beginning, learning how to finger C, F, and G chords, for example, take your time and make sure that every string rings freely, unmuffled. As you practice changing from one chord to another, there is a speed you can go at that keeps perfect form (all the strings ringing), and there is a speed that's too fast, where things get sloppy. *Stay slow, and over time the speed will develop naturally.* You advanced players, working on complex fingerpicking patterns, solo runs, or tonal effects, for example, are in the same boat. If you go too fast, or allow sloppiness even at the slow speed, you'll develop bad habits that are very hard to break. *An extremely useful device to have is a metronome*, which will keep you steady at slow speeds and let you speed up gradually. Patience is rewarded, and haste will haunt you!

The **Right Time**: this is truly good news. Most of us can't find enough time to practice, but it doesn't really take that much. The secret is that several short practice sessions a day are better than one long one. Twenty minutes in the morning, twenty at lunch, and twenty at night are better than an hour all at once. Recent research shows that learning fine motor skills, like learning from a textbook, involves transferring the learned material from short-term to long-term memory, which takes several hours. Two or three transfers per day beat one, and fit our schedule better, too! A solid hour or two every now and then, going over things you've already mastered, is essential to retain things, but when you're learning something new at slow speeds, the law of diminishing returns applies.

The **right thing**, at the **right speed**, at the **right time** will take your chops where you want to go, and get your songs out into the world in style. Good luck!

## **NEW MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT OFFER**

The Folk Club membership has been \$15 a year for some time now. One of our members asked Dave Hurd to consider a lifetime membership option. He and Ben thought about it but didn't think it would be very popular. However, we decided to try a discounted multi-year membership. We think it will benefit members who might forget to renew on time - and also those volunteers who maintain the member list (guess who? Ben and Dave). So for a trial period – until the end of May – current, renewing, and new members can renew or join for 5 years for \$55 (the Five for Fifty-Five plan) if they wish. Note that any current member can extend their membership by 5 years during the trial period regardless of their current expiration date. Also, we do not plan to give refunds for any reason. If you do this, you'll be making a commitment to the longevity of The Folk Club.

## **MUSICAL NOTES**



Note: Many organizations are hosting or promoting online concerts. Go to their website for more information.

### **Focus Music**

- Go to [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) for more information.

### **World Folk Music Association (WFMA)**

- Go to [www.wfma.net/index.htm](http://www.wfma.net/index.htm) for more information.

### **Institute of Musical Traditions**

- Go to [www.imtfolk.org](http://www.imtfolk.org) for more information.

### **The Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW)**

- Go to [fsgw.org](http://fsgw.org) for more information.

## **IN PASSING**

- Eric Taylor, who played a concert for us in March 2013, has died. Nancy Griffith, who was once married to him said, "If you miss an opportunity to hear Eric Taylor, you have missed a chance to hear a voice I consider the William Faulkner of songwriting."

## **MUSICAL QUOTE**

"May you live in interesting times." – Ancient Chinese Curse (?)

## **MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO**

**T.M Hanna** [tmhanna.net](http://tmhanna.net)

**Bill Davis** [bill-davis@comcast.net](mailto:bill-davis@comcast.net)

**Chris Anderson** - [chris-anderson.info](http://chris-anderson.info)

- Check online calendar for upcoming performances. Also producing shows for the Harried Americans Band.

**Ron Goad** [MisterGoad@aol.com](mailto:MisterGoad@aol.com)

- Hosting concerts at Café Montmartre, Reston, VA  
[cafemontmartre.com](http://cafemontmartre.com)

**Harley String Band (Jim Clark, Jim Johnson and Steve Coffee)** [www.harleystringband.com](http://www.harleystringband.com)

**The Aloha Boys (with Glen Hirabayashi)**

[www.alohaboys.com](http://www.alohaboys.com)

**Jan Gillies** [www.jangilliesmusic.com](http://www.jangilliesmusic.com)

**Hickory Grove (Bev & Jack Osburn)**

[www.hickoryg.com](http://www.hickoryg.com)

**Stevie Wade Potter**, acoustic musician

[www.steviewademusic.com](http://www.steviewademusic.com)

**The Stewart Sisters (with Sherry Stewart, Jim Nagle, Niels Jonker)** [www.thestewartsisters.com](http://www.thestewartsisters.com)

**Steven Cutts**

[ThePrimeCutts.com](http://ThePrimeCutts.com) - streaming and downloads

**Jeff Smith** [humanwilderness.com](http://humanwilderness.com)

**John DuRant**

[troubadourjohn.com/upcoming-performances/](http://troubadourjohn.com/upcoming-performances/)







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, Bill Farrar, Jim Clark  
**Publicity:** David Litwack, Sue Schier  
**Bookings:** Steve Potter  
**Newsletter:** Ben Hamblin, Dan Grove, Steve Potter  
**Website:** Cheryl Hennessy  
**Facebook:** Cheryl Hennessy, Ron Goad  
**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, and other music-related items for the newsletter. Items will be published on the basis of music-related interest, timeliness, and available space. Send your input to newsletter editor Ben Hamblin at [newsletter@restonherndonfolkclub.com](mailto:newsletter@restonherndonfolkclub.com).

#### **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](mailto:dahurdsr@cs.com).

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

#### **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](http://www.restonherndonfolkclub.com)  
**Facebook:** Search for “The Folk Club of Reston Herndon”  
**General Info:** Contact Sue Schier at (703) 435-2402

#### **CLASSIFIEDS**

#### **FOR SALE**

- Banjos (and a guitar) for sale! I'm helping a friend sell her collection; 1) J. Reynolds JR500G 6-String Guitar Banjo/Banjitar - Mahogany Finish, \$200. 2) Yamaha guitar in cheap case, red interior, FG335 II, made in Taiwan, \$200. 3) 5-string Banjo, Blueridge, with new Roadrunner gig bag, \$300. 4) Gold Tone Dojo: Resonator Banjo, \$750. 5) Five-string Rover Banjo with Superior Case gig bag, \$200. Call or text Chelle at 301-366-5579. Thank you!

#### **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.

#### **LESSONS**

- Private guitar lessons in Alexandria. Flexible learning techniques including reading, ear and applied music theory. Contact Eric Forthman: [ecfmn@verizon.net](mailto:ecfmn@verizon.net); 703-400-7264.  
- 5-string banjo. Scruggs and melodic. In Haymarket. Monday or Tuesday. \$25/hr. Age 8 and up. Contact Bruce Gair at [wbgair@gmail.com](mailto:wbgair@gmail.com). First lesson free as a sample. No obligation.