



The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

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

www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

Volume 26, Issue 1

January 2010

January 12 Showcase – Ellen James

by Dan Grove

When Ellen James last graced the Folk Club with a showcase, it was February of the year 2000. This is the article about her from nine years and eleven months ago:

Piano at eight, clarinet at ten, cello at twelve, oboe and English horn in high school, and then harpsichord in college. Ellen James explored all of these instruments, growing up in a home where her father played trombone in a big band, her mother sang folk music, and her two older brothers were blasting Blue Oyster Cult. With all these influences, Ellen today is drawn to an intersection of the classical and folk traditions, and appreciates those who can merge the two in a way that avoids both the snobbery of some classical aficionados and the reverse snobbery of some folkies. She cites Richard Dyer-Bennett and Bartok as prime examples of artists who have succeeded at this.

For the last ten years, Ellen's instruments of choice have been the harp and the most difficult instrument of all she's undertaken, the voice. She has arranged her own versions of songs, and created original harp instrumentals. Specializing in traditional Celtic music has gotten invitations to appear with local groups MoonFire and Ceoltoiri, as well. Outside of music, Ellen currently studies Tae Kwon Do, and has a husband and a five-year-old son (who sings, of course!).

Ellen's life has another theme that's almost as strong as music, and that's a love of animals. She got a B.S. in Agriculture from Rutgers, studying sow maternal behavior (and, coincidentally, observing that sleeping newborn piglets wiggle their ears when their researcher hits a high E). She spent a year working with horses at an organic farm on the Scottish Isle of Mull, and also did a stint cleaning stalls for the U.S. Equestrian Team at Diamond Jim Brady's stables (which have great acoustics). Ellen then spent two years training seeing eye dogs, but the constant pavement pounding made her look for work where she could get off her feet.

That led to a couple of years as a life drawing model. It turned out the artists were very happy to draw Ellen while she was playing her harp, so she is probably the only musician on earth who has gotten paid to practice. Of the experience, she says that as a result she would feel, oh, natural, performing at the Avalon Folk Festival....

Don't miss Ellen's fluid harp and clear soprano!

The 2010 update:

- She's been back to Scotland.
- Musically, she mostly gets hired to play for solemn-right-of-passage-type events, but punctuates that with an annual appearance at the Sci Fi Convention in Baltimore (of which there are song stories we can't print here).
- She has a pet sitting and dog walking business in Leesburg that's growing rapidly by word of mouth. The name of it is still up in the air, but she likes the sound of *Arfwork and Meowzic*.
- Oh, yes, naturally, she's played at Avalon.
- Her son is now 15 and eager to get his Learner's Permit. He's praying the DMV will consider his Mom a responsible enough adult for the shotgun job.

Once again, don't miss Ellen!

The Folk Club

of Reston-Herndon

Preserving Folk Traditions

proudly presents

HUNGRYTOWN

Ken Anderson & Rebecca Hall

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Tickets \$12 (\$11 MEMBERS)

Show starts at 7:15 p.m.

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



Hungrytown is the new self-titled offering from celebrated musical duo **Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson**. Their deceptively simple compositions are rooted firmly in folk tradition; "in fact, Hungrytown's music offers such an aura of authenticity—in titles and in tunes—it could be easily mistaken for original trad transcripts," declares Lee Zimmerman of *Performing Songwriter*, and Rachel Nones of the *Feminist Review* raves "*Hungrytown* is American folk music at its zenith." Early reviews of the CD have landed the group daily airplay on XM Radio's "The Village," and Hungrytown songs are beginning to appear on playlists across the country, including Boston's *WUMB*, New York's *WFUV* and Philadelphia's *WXPN*. Rebecca is an award-winning songwriter whose two previous solo albums were released to much critical acclaim. She has been dubbed "a new folk classicist" by the *Boston Herald*

and her stark ballad "O Lord," written from the point of view of a death-row prisoner, has been covered by legendary songsmith **David Olney**, among others. Ken is a roots music visionary, and a self-tutored scientist of pop culture, who deftly combines disparate elements--the keening wail of a '60s folk harmonica, a rushing creek of bubbling Appalachian fingerpicking, a heartstring-tugging oboe and even a string trio, to create the seamless musical fabric woven only in Hungrytown. "Anderson has a knack for crafting rich arrangements that don't clutter things up," writes Casey Rea of *Seven Days*, and his characteristic restraint is evident throughout *Hungrytown*, lending graceful support to Rebecca's plainspoken songs.

More information and discography on-line at: <http://www.hungrytown.net/home.html>

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

UPCOMING CONCERTS include: Spook Handy-2/23/10 Samuel James-3/23/10 Del Rey-4/27/10

MUSICAL NOTES

MASC Awards Gala – January 11th

The awards for the 25th Mid-Atlantic Songwriting Contest will be held at 4pm on Sunday, January 11th at Jammin' Java in Vienna, VA. The contest is promoted by the Songwriters Association of Washington each year, and sponsored by industry groups such as BMI, TAXI, Oasis CD Manufacturing, and the Folk Alliance. Tickets are \$5 in advance (or for SAW members), and \$7 at the door.

WFMA Benefit Concert - January 22nd & 23rd (from WFMA.net)

Tickets are now available on-line for the 24th Annual World Folk Music Association Benefit Concert Weekend, Friday and Saturday, January 22-23, 2010 at the Birchmere Music Hall in Alexandria, VA.

Finally back at the Birchmere - where you can enjoy a tasty meal and maybe a sip of your favorite beverage at the same table where you'll be watching two big nights of music featuring the The Women of Folk Music. The performers scheduled to appear include: **Herdman, Hills & Mangsen, SONiA & disappear fear, Catie Curtis, The Nields, Maura Kennedy** (perhaps with a guest?), **Hot Soup!, Lisa Taylor, Doris Justis** (perhaps also with a guest?), **Carolyn Hester, Lea**, a tribute to **Liam Clancy** and additional performers to be announced.

Order your tickets now (at a 5% discount through January 10) and get ready to join us in January.

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

- Non-concert Mondays, 7-10pm at **Jammin' Java** (see JamminJava.com for schedule), hosting showcases

- 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

Tomy Wright

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

Scott Malyszka

cdbaby.com/cd/scottmalyszka
feelthewag.com

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

Doris Justis

dorisjustis.com - Folk, original, and contemporary music

Dulcie Taylor

dulcietaylor.com
myspace.com/dulcietaylor

Bo Carneal

myspace.com/bocarneal

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

1/1/1942 – "Country" Joe McDonald
1/2/1936 – Roger Miller
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
1/10/1976 – Chester "Howlin' Wolf" Burnett
1/13/1864 – Stephen Foster
1/20/2002 – John Jackson

Noteworthy Events:

1/1/60 – Johnny Cash plays a free show for the inmates at San Quentin prison (Merle Haggard is in the audience)
1/2/76 – *Austin City Limits* premieres on PBS – first guest: Willie Nelson
1/11/67 – Jimi Hendrix Experience records "Purple Haze"
1/13/62 – Chubby Checker's "The Twist" goes number one again. Only time in history a song goes #1 on separate occasions
1/15/72 – Don McLean's "American Pie" to #1 on the U.S. charts
1/27/56 – "Heartbreak Hotel" is released, eventually to become Elvis's 1st gold record

Quote for the Month

"A composer is a guy who goes around forcing his will on unsuspecting air molecules, often with the assistance of unsuspecting musicians."

~ Frank Zappa

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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