



# 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)

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## May 12 Showcase – Bernie Muller-Thym

by Dan Grove



**Bernie Muller-Thym** has a job, a wife, and two children. If this sounds like he's having a normal life, the rest of the story will convince you he's not. For example, he lived in 38 different states before he turned 16 years old. His father was a peripatetic Army linguist who spoke French, all the other Romance languages, Mandarin, Vietnamese, German, and Russian, and received way more than his share of Purple Hearts. Bernie's mother is from Honduras, and he spoke German and Spanish when he was very young. He finally landed here in the DC area for high school at Bishop Ireton in Alexandria, where he ran track and played soccer, and then went on to NoVaCoCo and George Mason.

Musically, Bernie idolized Stevie Wonder when he was young, then Elvis Costello, Cool & the Gang, and DC's own Starland Vocal Band. He started playing bass in his brother's band, and studied classical voice for several years in college before realizing he wanted to rock a lot more than he wanted to be a classical baritone.

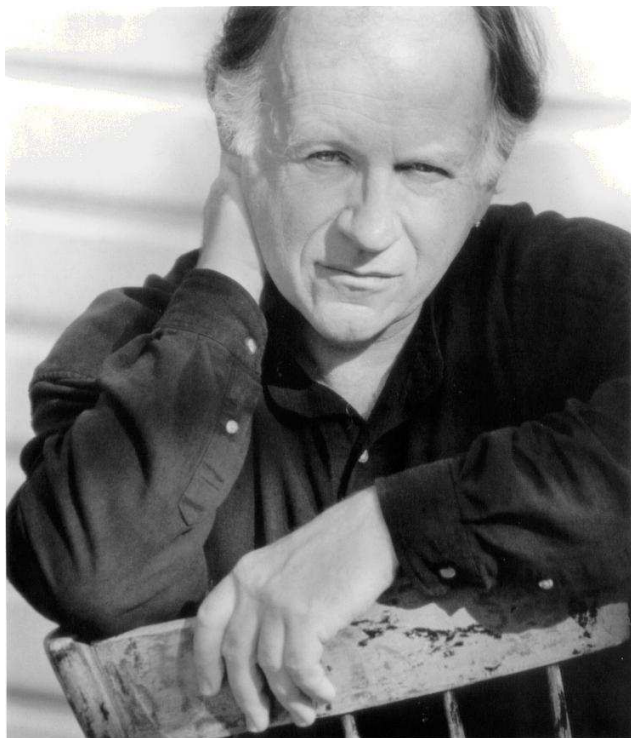
Bernie had some fun in a band called Dow Jones & the Industrials for a while, and then the muses began to smile - he answered an ad in the City Paper for Doo-Wop singers. After some juggling of personnel, **DaVinci's Notebook** was launched. They worked up some songs and entered a regional contest called the Mid-Atlantic Harmony Sweepstakes Festival, taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place. A couple of years later, in 1997, they won the thing, and the Washington Post wrote them up. Then the Today Show sent a crew along to document their trip to the national competition, resulting in a long segment that was aired nationwide. They didn't win anything at the nationals, but got tremendous publicity and had a marvelous run of popularity. Described as "Bobby McFerrin and 'Weird Al' Yankovic colliding on stage," they appeared at most of the major venues on the tour and on Comedy Central, and released CDs in '95, '98, and '01. Even though they broke up in 2004, you'll still find them haunting YouTube and college iPods.

Bernie had plans to go solo after DaVinci, but a bout of uncharacteristic stage fright dissuaded him, and he took several years off. He's back now, performing with **Larry Mediate** and **Ron Goad** in the **Zen Consultants**, doing occasional seminars like a recent performance workshop for the Songwriters' Association of Washington, and gracing us with this showcase. He'll be doing mostly original songs from his eclectic pen, and featuring some innovative techniques. Don't miss it!

# Michael Smith

Tickets \$12 (\$11 Members)

The Folk Club  
Proudly Presents ...  
7:15 PM – May 19, 2009  
at the Tortilla Factory  
648 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA



Michael Smith is a veteran songwriter whose name may be unfamiliar but whose songs are almost universally known. Michael Smith has been singing and writing since the early 1960's and his rich and challenging songs have been recorded by more than 30 performers. The list includes **Jimmy Buffet, Steve Goodman, Suzy Bogguss, Jerry Jeff Walker, Liam Clancy, Gordon Bok, The Four Freshman, Spanky and Our Gang, Small Potatoes, Anne Hills** and many others. But until he received critical acclaim for the music he composed for Steppenwolf Theater's 1988 production of *The Grapes of Wrath*, Michael, unlike his many great songs, remained relatively unknown. It was after *The Grapes of Wrath* moved to Broadway and received **Tony Awards** for **Best Play** and **Best Director** that Michael became something of an overnight success - however, he was anything but. He had already put in 20 years of dues paying on the folk club circuit, his travels extending from Florida to the Midwest to California. **Steve Goodman's** recording of *The Dutchman* in 1973 on his now legendary album *Somebody Else's Troubles*, formally introduced Michael's songs to a large audience, and propelled *The Dutchman* into Michael's most popular song. Because Steve Goodman was Chicago based and had been playing several of Michael's songs in his act, it opened a lot of opportunities for Michael in Chicago.

Besides *The Dutchman*, which Suzy Bogguss covered on her #1 selling Aces album, Michael Smith classics and their interpreters include Spoon River, a song inspired by the stories of Edgar Lee Masters, which was also recorded by Goodman. **Jimmy Buffet** recorded *Elvis Imitators*, Michael's tongue in cheek ode to the King's legions. *Dead Egyptian Blues*, a song about ex-pharaohs and their riches was recorded by **Trout Fishing in America** and **Bernice Lewis**. Since then, Michael has been performing regularly, both as a solo act and in a duet with with **Anne Hills**. He recorded his third album for Flying Fish, *Time* (1994), and recorded a duet album with Anne Hills called *Paradise Lost and Found* (1999). He has also continued to write music for theatre, including for a Colorado Children's Theatre production of *The Snow Queen*. Most notably though, in 1993 Chicago's Victory Gardens Theatre premiered his autobiographical play *Michael, Margaret, Pat and Kate*. The play **won four Jeff Awards** (the Chicago Theater Union's equivalent of the Tony), for Best Original Music, Best Production, Best Actor In A Revue, and Best New Work. February 2000 finally sees the official release of the music from *Michael, Margaret, Pat and Kate* by Wind River Records in February 2000.

Michael has performed at dozens of major folk festivals including the **Kerrville Folk Festival, Black Mountain Festival, and Philadelphia, Owen Sound, and Winnipeg Folk Festivals**. He has also appeared on a number of radio programs including WUMB's Circle in the Stream, interviews with **Studs Terkel** on WFMT, a series of interviews on *All Things Considered* and *Good Evening* on NPR as well as interviews for the BBC in London for *All Things Considered*. Michael continues to write songs, tour regularly, do songwriting workshops as well as perform frequently with Anne Hills. Though sometimes elusive to the spotlight, Michael Smith has had a long, eclectic career as a musician. His songs are played and known throughout the world. Considered by his peers to be one of today's most intelligent, literate songwriters it is a wonder he managed to stay hidden to so many others for so long.



## Upcoming Performers

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

**Laurie Rose Griffith / Peter Mealy** – June 16, \$12/\$11 – An award-winning folk duo with great vocals and stunning musicianship

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

## MUSICAL NOTES

### Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival will be held at the **Reston Town Center** on May 16 and 17, running from 10am until 6pm both days. The art festival is produced by the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE), a non-profit organization that was founded in 1974 to enrich community life by promoting involvement and excellence in the visual arts.

This year's festival includes artwork from more than 220 artists, as well as great food, children's entertainment, and an array of musical acts lined up by **Dan Grove** and **Ron Goad**. The musical lineup includes Scott McKnight, Lisa Taylor, David Kitchen, and our own **Greg Vickers**, along with many others.

For a complete listing of all the entertainment, check the festival web site at:  
<http://restonarts.org/Festival/entertainment2009.htm>

### Folk Club Campout – May 23<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

Come out and celebrate with Dave and Beth (and everyone else!) at the annual Memorial Day Folk Club Campout. Meals are provided (for a small contribution), so pack up your tents, drinks, and instruments and come on out to the Double Trouble Estate in Stephenson, VA. See Dave or Beth at The Club or visit the RHFC website for more info, and make your reservations by May 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Peach Bottom Fiddle & Strings Camp – June 15-19

Registration is now open (to the first 25 applicants) for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual camp at Peach Bottom Farm, located along the "Crooked Road" of old-time music in Independence, VA. This year's instructors include Daniel & Amy Carwile, April Verch, Steve Kilby, Stanley Widener, Jerry Correll, and Brian Grimm.

Tuition includes meals, snacks, and 5 hours of lessons per day, along with evening concerts, jams, and other "surprises".

For info contact Patti Rickman at (303) 796-9049, or email her at [peachbottomfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:peachbottomfarm@yahoo.com), or visit the web site at <http://www.peachbottomfarm.com>.

## ALL AROUND THE TOWN

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

**Larry Mediate** <http://www.larry-mediate.com>

**5/2:** at Bangkok Blues, Falls Church, VA with the Zen Consultants: <http://www.bangkokblues.com>

**T.M Hanna**, [www.birdphluph.com](http://www.birdphluph.com)

**Somos El Mar**, [www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar](http://www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar)

**Ric Sweeney (a.k.a. – 'Mr. Rain')**

<http://www.myspace.com/ricsweeneysilverlinings>

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

**NEW!** – Mondays, 7-10pm, hosting open mikes at **Jammin' Java** in Vienna, VA. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com)

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

– 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month 7:00pm, SAW-BMI concerts at The Athenaeum, Old Town Alexandria.  
<http://NVFAA.org>

– 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 7:00-11pm, SAW-BMI Variety Showcase at Bangkok Blues, Falls Church, VA. <http://www.bangkokblues.com>

### Scott Malyszka

<http://cdbaby.com/cd/scottmalyszka>

<http://www.feelthewag.com>

**Demetrios Liadis** [www.myspace.com/demetriosjam](http://www.myspace.com/demetriosjam) or call 571-247-8969

### Beth Benedetto

**5/27**, 7:30pm – Irish Singer's Circle, The Irish Inn, Glen Echo, MD.

Also online at [www.cookstudios.com](http://www.cookstudios.com). Click on Celtic Juice, YouTube, selection #1: "Sean-nós singing with Beth Benedetto".

### Tomy Wright

Contact Tomy at [tomy@tomywright.com](mailto:tomy@tomywright.com), 301-637-5707

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

### Doris Justis

<http://www.dorisjustis.com> – Folk, original, and contemporary music

### Lee Bock

<http://www.leebocksongs.com/>

## MONTHLY MILESTONES

### Born This Month:

5/1/1939 – Judi Collins

5/2/1924 – Theodore Bikel

5/3/1919 – Pete Seeger

5/5/1901 – "Blind" Willie McTell

5/9/1914 – Clarence Eugene "Hank" Snow

5/10/1909 – "Mother" Maybelle Carter

5/10/1946 – Donovan Leitch

5/15/1935 – Bruce "Utah" Phillips

5/17/1942 – Henry St. Clair Fredericks (a.k.a. Taj Mahal)

5/24/1941 – Bob Dylan

5/25/1938 – Hoyt Axton

5/31/1938 – Peter Yarrow

### And In Passing:

5/7/1972 – Rev. Gary Davis

5/11/1979 – Lester Flatt

5/11/1999 – Shel Silverstein

5/13/1979 – Bob Wills

5/14/1997 – Mel Bay

5/15/2003 – June Carter Cash

5/23/2008 – Bruce "Utah" Phillips

5/26/1933 – Jimmy Rodgers

### *Quote for the Month*

*"Life can't be all bad when for 10 dollars you can buy all the Beethoven sonatas and listen to them for 10 years."*

~ William F. Buckley Jr.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
110 Devils Backbone Overlook  
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