

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Aug 25-Oct 14 - IONA at The Md. Renaissance Festival
Sep 8 - Hickory Grove, The Del Ray Coffee House (7:30PM)
Sep 8 - Ray Kaminsky, The Del Ray Coffee House (7:30PM)
Sep 18 - Joe Hickerson, at **The Reston Folk Club** (7:30PM)
Sep 22 - Mac Bailey, Club Acoustic, Herndon, Va (8PM)
with Vicky Pratt Keating
Oct 5-7 - Ray Kaminsky, Waterford Home Tours & Crafts
Festival, Waterford, VA
Oct 27 - John Jackson & Scott Ainslie, Club Acoustic in the
Herndon Intermediate School, (8:00PM)

How to become a member? Send or hand \$12.00, checks to **The Reston Folk Club**, to a board member or Dave Hurd at the address below. Membership is for one year and entitles one to a mailed newsletter and discounts to events. Also, to perform in a **Folk Club** sponsored community event, one must be a member (the "open mike" is open to ALL, member or not).

The Reston Folk Club

at The Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA 22070
c/o David Hurd
1405 Cottage Street SW
Vienna, Virginia 22180

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The Reston Folk Club

... Preserving Folk Traditions



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IS IT ART?

by Joe Broderick

"I show 'em this can of Campbell's tomato soup. I say, "This is soup." Then I show 'em a picture of Andy Warhol's painting of a can of Campbell's Tomato Soup. I say, "This is art."

"This is soup."

"This is art." - Jane Wagner -
*The Search For Signs of Intelligent
Life in the Universe.*

Quibble if you will, in fact, I almost insist, but for the sake of starting this discussion, please accept that the creation and performance of folk music is an art form. Generally, art is initially experienced on a subjective level. I like that painting; she dances beautifully; that song really moves me, are common reactions to an art presentation. Yet, too often we run into endeavors to objectively define art. "What is Folk Music?" seems to be our most familiar encounter with this quantitative phenomenon.

These scholarly missives make for fascinating reading and have

their place in historical documentation as art forms progress. Let me propose, however, that they are deadly to the artist and to the growth of any particular art form if taken too seriously. A definition, by definition, outlines limits. To accept a definition of, "What is Folk Music?" objectively limits the creator of the music to working within the accepted parameters of the definition. Therefore, any creation that would seek to stretch the definition, falls outside the accepted and would have no place in a "Folk Music Club."

The artist faces a choice. To work within the definition, limiting the creation to a "paint-by-numbers" effort, or to ignore the definition and follow creative impulses, wherever they may lead. Easy really, for the artist is a societal outlaw. Not living illegally, but refusing mass-marketed, pop definitions of law, art or most anything else, except maybe the purpose and shape of stop signs. It is when the non-artist becomes immersed in the act of defining, creating illusions of the pre-processed McArtist, that the artistic endeavor loses its proper place, that of being subjectively enjoyed.

Kurt Vonnegut Jr. says of the artist, "He meditates. He connects his hand and paintbrush to the deeper, quieter, more mysterious parts of his mind-and he paints pictures of what he sees and feels down there. This accounts for the pleasurable shock of recognition we experience when we look at what he does."-from Palm Sunday. This is the experience I go through as a poet and I enjoy when you, the audience, respond in a way that tells me I have touched something universal among people, with my inner landscape. Yet, I do not fully understand or need to understand the exact process. I would be pompous in assuming or demanding through definition that all poets share the same process.

when I accept anyone else's definition of art, I surrender my power to create from within. Would folk music be where it is today had Dylan accepted Pete Seegar's non-electric definition of the form? Would Van Gogh have painted his masterpieces had he understood the definition of where his inner-vision, his madness would lead? Can any art form survive definition by others, whether it be Isis Queen of the Moon or Jesse Helms?

It is far more productive to use limited observational exposure to practice an appreciation of art forms on a subjective level rather than to try to define exactly what its composition is. To experience the artist and his process is to enter

a fascinating, primal world that has steadily expanded since man took berry juice to stone wall or for the first time, howled at the moon in agony.

Folk Club Celebrates!

The members of the Reston Folk Club celebrated their third anniversary at the Tortilla Factory. THANKS CHUCK! On August 21st the group had a party, complete with cake, to commemorate the closing of the third year and beginning of the fourth year of being at the Tortilla Factory. In the tradition of our festive evenings, everyone signed up to do a single number so that all in attendance could perform if they wished. Balloons filled the air (result of decorating committee overzealous buying) and reminiscences abounded.

Rose Haskell and Joe Broderick each performed original songs relating the odyssey of the Folk Club through the years since our "birth" at the Acorn Restaurant in Reston, and each told a tale of wandering and fun. Others performed the "first song I ever did at the Folk Club" (on the high side), or "the first joke I ever told at the Folk Club" - (GROAN!) Anniversaries do that to people.

The cake was decadent and a good time was had by all. There

are three festive occasions which we celebrate regularly each year and follow the one-number format. They are: The Folk Club Birthday - in mid-May; The Anniversary at the Tortilla Factory - in mid-August; and a Christmas Party - in mid-December. Looking forward to December. THANKS AGAIN CHUCK!

Joe Hickerson at The Folk Club

Joe Hickerson will be the featured performer at the Reston Folk Club on September 18, 1990. Tickets will be \$4.00 (\$3.00 for members) so plan ahead to come see and hear one of the country's foremost folklore scholars.

Joe Hickerson is the head of the Archive of Folk Culture of the Library of Congress and has been a folk music and folklore student for over 35 years. He has performed in hundreds of festivals, colleges, coffeehouses and folk clubs throughout the country and frequently presents lectures on folk culture and music.

His music is English-Language songs and ballads of Irish and Irish-American roots and is mixed with parodies, occupational and labor songs. He has a tremendous repertoire and is legendary in his ability to recall the lyrics to thousands of songs. He is an interpreter of the music he performs.

He preserves and maintains the traditions of the music as it came to him from its sources.

He has three solo albums to his credit (Joe Hickerson with a Gathering of Friends, and Drive Dull Care Away, Vols I & II, Folk-Legacy Label) and numerous recording on which he is a performer or storyteller.

Volunteers, We Thank You!

The Reston Folk Club is an organization of volunteers. But, more than that, it is the volunteers who make it possible to accomplish what we do. As you hear from the master of ceremonies each week (MC = volunteer), anyone can be a volunteer. We have jobs which you see each week, sound system, MC, setting up and taking down the sound system, selling tickets, collecting donations, setting up the information table, putting up signs, etc. We also have certain jobs which aren't so visible but without a volunteer the benefits would not exist. Among these are this newsletter (authors, publisher, mailer, etc.), tickets and flyers for special guests, publicity to the press about Club activities, organizing performances at County and City events and more.

If you would like to be a volunteer, let us know. See anyone who looks like they might know and they will get you to someone who can get you started. Not all tasks are glamorous, but all need someone to do them, and some can be done better with more help. PITCH IN!