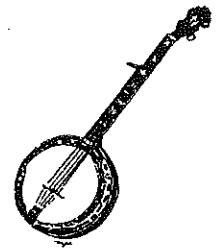


# The Folk Club

## *of Reston-Herndon*

### ...Preserving Folk Traditions



Vol 7, No 2; February, 1993

#### Folk Music Carol

by Terry Lewis

(Ed Note: This article was submitted too late for the December or January issues, but it is never too late for holiday spirit!)

Marley was a folksinger, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that. His favorite song was "The Water is Wide."

Scrooge knew he was a folksinger? Of course. How could it be otherwise? It was Scrooge's favorite song, too.

Oh, he was a cantankerous old curmudgeon, was Scrooge. He wouldn't even listen to a song if it was less than fifty years old.

One day he was sitting in his music room, strumming his acoustic guitar, when he saw, without the room undergoing any intermediate process of change, the ghost of his friend, Marley.

Oh, didn't I mention that Marley was dead? I'm sorry, I thought I had. Yes, Marley was as dead as Hamlet's father.

Scrooge was not at all comfortable with this situation. He noticed that Marley was covered with sheet music, and asked him about it.

"I wear the songs that I ignored in life," his former friend replied. "Unless you learn to appreciate more music, you are condemned to suffer my fate."

"What is that?" asked Scrooge.

"To spend the rest of eternity listening to Barry Manilow records."

"No, Marley, no! For pity's sake, spare me!"

"It was for pity's sake that I came. You will be visited by three ghosts."

"Couldn't you come up with something more original?"

Marley took offense to this, and he started yelling and stomping about and making enough noise to wake the... well, he made a lot of noise.

"Okay, okay," said Scrooge. "When do these

visits start?"

"At the beginning of the next paragraph," said the ghost.

And true to his word, this being the beginning of a new paragraph, Marley vanished and an entirely different specter appeared before Scrooge.

"I am the Ghost of Folk Music Past," said the Ghost of Folk Music Past.

"Long past?" asked Scrooge.

"I didn't think you recognized any other kind."

"Quite right."

"Come," said the Ghost, and as he waved his arm the scene changed.

Scrooge found himself outside of a small home, where a young man sat in a chair playing a stringed instrument and singing "Black is the Color." An older man rode by on a horse and paused to listen.

"That's a fine song, lad," the old man said when it was through.

"I just finished writing it," the youth said. "Do you really like it?"

"Aye."

"Maybe I could sing it at the next folk festival," the young man said hopefully.

The older man merely laughed. "But it's not a folk song, my lad. You just wrote it. A folk song is something that's traditional. This is a new song."

The writer hung his head in disappointment. Scrooge turned to the Ghost.

"Do you mean that this is the man who wrote 'Black is the color of my true love's hair'?"

"It is," replied the Ghost.

"Who is he?" asked Scrooge in amazement. "What is his name?"

The Spirit cocked a ghostly eyebrow at him. "Do you really want to know?"

Scrooge thought of all the songbooks that credit the song to "Traditional."

"No!" he cried, clapping his hands over his ears lest he hear the young man's name by accident. "Forget I said anything!"

In doing this he had closed his eyes but briefly, but when he opened them he saw that the scene had changed again. Scrooge saw himself as a young man. He was at a contra dance, and yet he stood off by himself while others joined in the gaiety.

Presently (or in this case I guess I should say pastly) Scrooge was approached by a charming young woman with long blond hair, soft green eyes, and a small, slender body. I would describe her in more detail, but my wife may be reading this.

She held out her hand to Scrooge and beckoned, but he shook his head and she went off to find another partner.

"Why wouldn't you dance with her?" the Ghost asked.

"Because that isn't a folk song," snapped Scrooge.

"Your loss," shrugged the Spirit. He waved his hand and they were once again in Scrooge's music room.

"I must leave you now," said the Ghost. He glided slowly across the room, the window magically opened, and he drifted out, plummeting to the pavement and breaking several small bones.

Scrooge suddenly felt a strong desire to play his guitar, but as he turned he was confronted with another Spirit.

"I am the Ghost of Folk Music Present," intoned the Spirit.

"Bah!" snorted Scrooge. "Oxymoron!"

"Would you wish me to be called the Ghost of Contemporary Acoustic Music?"

"I wish to be left alone!"

"I can't do that. It would make for a pretty boring story."

"Oh, all right," grumbled Scrooge. "What have you got to show me?"

The Spirit pointed, and Scrooge turned around to see a young singer/songwriter whom he had

successfully kept out of the local folk festival. As he watched, he was struck by the young songwriter's resemblance to the composer of "Black is the Color." He realized that they were in a smoker bar and, even though the young man was clearly singing, his voice could not be heard above the noise.

"What is it?" asked the Ghost, noticing the look on Scrooge's face.

"Nothing," snorted Scrooge.

"Something I think."

"I was just thinking that perhaps I should have let him sing in the folk festival. That's all."

"Well, my time is up," said the Ghost.

"Already?" asked Scrooge, surprised.

"Hey, it's a small newsletter," replied the Ghost, and he vanished.

Scrooge was beginning to get used to these apparitions by now, so he was not surprised when he looked to his left and saw a strange, hooded figure. Not surprised, but not pleased either.

"Am I in the presence of the Ghost of Folk Music Yet to Come?" asked Scrooge, trembling.

The hooded figure nodded.

"You are here to show me what will be folk music in the future?"

Again the hood nodded once, and held out a CD.

"Spirit, before I look at this CD, tell me one thing," begged Scrooge. "Is this folk music that will be, or folk music that might be only ."

The Ghost merely thrust the CD into Scrooge's hands. He held it up to the light and looked at it. It was the latest album from Megadeath!!!

With a scream, Scrooge suddenly awoke in his music room, and vowed to change his outlook.

He had no further intercourse with spirits (stop snickering), and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep folk music well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us!



And so, as Tiny Tom observed, "I never knew just what it was, and I guess I never will."



# Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



January 31 - March 13, 1993

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2 Showcase Performance Barbara Ann Roszko Groundhog Day 7:30pm Folk Club	Feb 3 7:30pm Carey Creed at Kate's Bistro - Alexandria	Feb 4	Feb 5	Feb 6
Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9 7:30pm Folk Club	Feb 10 7:30pm Carey Creed at Kate's Bistro - Alexandria 8:00pm Bagels & Ballads - Fairfax	Feb 11	Feb 12  <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	Feb 13 Lea Coryell at Del Ray Coffee House
Feb 14  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	Feb 15 <i>President's Day</i>	Feb 16 7:30pm Folk Club	Feb 17 8:00pm Carey Creed at Music Americana Shwcs - Bad Habits 8:00pm Bagels & Ballads - Springfield w/ Steve Key	Feb 18 Terri Bocklund at Fokal Point - Columbia, Md	Feb 19	Feb 20
Feb 21	Feb 22 Carey Creed at Old Brogue - Great Falls <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	Feb 23 Showcase Lottery Draw 7:30pm Folk Club	Feb 24 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:30pm Carey Creed at Kate's Bistro - Alexandria	Feb 25	Feb 26 Carey Creed at Old Brogue - Great Falls	Feb 27 Carey Creed at Old Brogue - Great Falls
Feb 28	Mar 1	Mar 2 <i>Tommy Sands (</i> <i>\$10/8)</i> 7:30pm Folk Club	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5	Mar 6
Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9 <i>Showcase Perform- ance</i> 7:30pm Folk Club	Mar 10 Bagels & Ballads - Fairfax w/ Iona	Mar 11	Mar 12	Mar 13

## Folk Club Members Release Albums

Two of the Folk Club's members are releasing albums this month.

Carey Creed has just completed an album of original songs - "*Plum Branch*". The album will be available in February and she will be having an album release concert in the near future.

Scott McKnight released an album in January containing traditional and old-timey music called "*All is Well*".

**Be sure to support your local folksingers!**

Tommy Sands returns to the Folk Club March 2, 1993, you won't want to miss that one!

Tickets are \$10.00  
and \$8.00 for members.

Note: Date change from last Newsletter!

### ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Check your Label - Are you expiring? "19930201" is expiring with this issue. Don't miss an issue - Don't miss the benefits of the Folk Club. Please send in your membership check (\$12.00) to keep your membership active!

## Showcase Performances

February 2, the featured performer will be **Barbara Ann Roszko**.

On the first Tuesday of every month (in March it will be the 2nd Tuesday) we feature a Folk Club member in a showcase two-set (24 minute) performance. To become one of these "showcase" specials all you have to do is 1) be a member of the Folk Club, 2) fill out a lottery slip by the last Tuesday of the month, 3) win the drawing and 4) practice, practice practice!

### The Folk Club

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Jim Rosenkrans

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