



The Folk Club

of Reston-Herndon

...Preserving Folk Traditions



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Sing For Long Life!

Barbara Ryan

Tears

by Richard Flinchbaugh

God's
crying!
He weeps
tears of
sadness, as He
looks over the
brown earth. The
lazy grass begins to
turn emerald green, as
His tears give nourishment.
Tiny green specks begin to
grow and unfold from twigs
and branches. The bare trees
begin to clothe themselves in
garments of green leaves. Little
green spears poke their way
through the ground. Topped By
bright yellow flowers, they stand
proudly in the breath of God. More
tears, tears of joy, for the world
is silently emerging from its
slumber and springing to life.
Rainbow colors fill the fields
and gardens. From dreary
browns to lively colors,
the world miraculously
changes under the
loving eyes
of God.

Too often I've heard folk singers say, "Voice lessons? Oooh no! I don't want to lose my natural singing voice " To which I invariably reply, "Unfortunately, you could."

Playing the instrument that is your body is much like playing any other instrument, with one exception if you abuse it, you lost it, and, in the extreme, maybe even your life as well. The sad truth is that our "natural" voice is our speaking voice and when pushed to be louder, higher, lower or stronger, is not adequate to meet the demands. Either the pitch is off, the tone shrill or strained or, after an hour, your voice is "gone". Forcing your voice to perform beyond its limits will more than likely lead to the development of nodes on the vocal chords or, ultimately, to cancer of the throat, if some authorities are to be believed.

The good news is that there is a lot more to the voice than just the speaking range. Learning to fully utilize the capabilities of your vocal instrument will not only make singing much easier, but the depth of tone, the extent of range and your instinct for correct pitch will amaze and astound! Be assured: I'm not advocating candidacy for the Metropolitan Opera. It would however, be a vastly improved aural environment if more singers could achieve the right pitch, be able to hit that top note or be heard beyond the first row without a mike. Sort of like a smoke-free room. (And, singers, you should all be smoke-free!)

With any instrument, lessons expand your awareness of that instrument and develop your

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ability to do anything you want with it. With your voice, the difficulty factor is increased because you are working blind and can't even feel your instrument with your hands. This is all the more reason to have some help figuring out how it works.

Above all, I'm a folk musician and defend to the death your right to interpret music however you wish But I have a rough time listening to any instrument that is misused, whether it's a fiddle played screechingly, an off-beat drum that overpowers everything else, or a voice that is off pitch. Any musician does.

So singers, discover your voices! It's hard work, unlearning the mechanisms of your speaking voice to relearn singing techniques, but oh! so very worth it. A real life saver you might say...

Barbara Ryan started singing in coffee houses and at anti war rallies in the 60's. In her 20's, her 3½ octave dramatic soprano voice was "discovered". She studied with 4 teachers and sang in operas and as a choral soloist for ten years. In the 80's, she returned to her first love -folk music- a much happier and healthier singer than when she started. She now performs with the Celtic group, IONA, and gives voice lessons for folkies (surprise!). You can reach her at (703) 451-4492 if you're interested.



**Happy Birthday to US -
Happy Birthday to US -
Happy Birthday to the Folk
Club - Happy Birthday to
US!!!**

May is the month of flowers, it marks the return to short sleeves and comfort, to rain that soothes, to sun that tans, to workers who don't (or don't want to) AND it is the birthday of the Folk Club. We are going to be eight (that's all of one hand and most of the other - it's ALL of your fingers).

We are going to celebrate on the 18th of May at the Tortilla Factory, there will be cake and party format where we each do one number and pass to the next person and go around until the time runs out.

Hoping you will join us for another in what we hope will be a *very* long series of birthdays - Don't order dessert that night - Mom's is making a special cake just for you - all the folkies. Chuck even says he won't be mad if you don't order dessert - just have another taco.



Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



May 2 - June 12, 1993

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 2 5:00pm Red Leaf - NoVa Folk Fest - Jefferson Pk, Arlington	May 3	May 4 Showcase Performance Bill Davis 7:30pm Folk Club	May 5 Open Mike - Tiffany Tavern - Richard Flinchbaugh <i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	May 6	May 7	May 8 7:00pm Bull Moose (Lea Coryell) at Lee Comm Ctr, Arlington
May 9  Mother's Day	May 10	May 11 7:30pm Folk Club	May 12 Open Mike - Tiffany Tavern - Richard Flinchbaugh	May 13	May 14	May 15 Carey Creed - Folk Alley Armed Forces Day
May 16	May 17	May 18 8th Folk Club Anniversary 7:30pm Folk Club	May 19 Open Mike - Tiffany Tavern - Scott Twiford	May 20 <i>Ascension Day</i>	May 21	May 22
May 23	May 24	May 25 Showcase Lottery Draw 7:30pm Folk Club	May 26 Open Mike - Tiffany Tavern - Richard Flinchbaugh	May 27	May 28	May 29 Campout at Hurd's Cabin
May 30 Campout at Hurd's Cabin Pentecost	May 31 Campout at Hurd's Cabin Memorial Day (Observed)	June 1 Showcase Performance 7:30pm Folk Club	June 2	June 3	June 4	June 5 2:00pm Red Leaf - Herndon Festival
June 6	June 7	June 8 7:30pm Folk Club	June 9	June 10 <i>Corpus Christi</i>	June 11	June 12 Red Leaf at Del Ray Coffeehouse Kaminsky Pickin' Party

Classified Ads

FOR SALE - Martin D-18 Guitar -
Owner says no reasonable offer will be laughed at. (ed. Well, this guy does laugh at a lot of things!) **Contact T.M. at (703) 430-3497.**

WANTED - F (ed. that's ANY kind of F) **to travel, attend folk festivals and generally be companion for personable, humorous, trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent scout ... oops - folksinger.** (ed. This guy's sounding

desparate gals - better give this one a look see!)

Contact P.O. BOX - BLAIR - at the Folk Club, most any Tuesday.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Check your Label - Are you expiring? "19930501" 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

May 4, the featured performer will be **Bill Davis.**

On the first Tuesday of every month we feature a Folk Club member in a showcase two-set (25 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

President, Larry Mediate

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Ray Kaminsky, Ellen Kaminsky

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Richard Flinchbaugh, Liza Gelderloos

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