

The Folk Club

Volume 11 Issue 12

of Reston-Herndon
Preserving Folk Traditions

December, 1997

December 9 Showcase - Mike Ball

Mike Ball is a frequent traveler for his day job as a health care computer systems analyst for EDS, most recently to Pennsylvania, but when he's in town he swings by the Folk Club. Mike first picked up a guitar at age sixteen in his native Baltimore, and was a fingerstyle player from the start, learning Freight Train, Railroad Bill, and Don't Think Twice It's All Right. He added banjo two years later, and spent several years focusing on bluegrass. It was in this bluegrass period that he bought his first good guitar, a Martin, in 1973, and did his first flatpicking, with Doc Watson as his model. He now plays about 90% fingerstyle and 10% flatpicking, and still plays banjo, but not usually in the bluegrass style.

Other influences on Mike's playing have been Gordon Lightfoot, Tom Russell, Dale Miller, Pat Donoghue, and John Hartford. It was from a Dale Miller instructional LP back in the 70's that Mike learned moving bass lines and alternate chord selection, and John Hartford is the one who showed how to play banjo in various styles. Mike has gone to Merlefest for many years, and was at the Augusta Heritage Center for the fourth time this past summer, this time studying swing guitar with Pat Donoghue.

In addition to learning and playing, Mike has been teaching guitar for about six years, for the last four at Victor Litz Music in Gaithersburg. He's a great source of advice on guitar playing, so if you're stuck in your practicing at a certain level, ask him about getting to the next one.

It's about three years ago that Mike first played in public. It "only took me 27 years [of playing] to sit in front of a mike," he says with a smile, but the experience has been uplifting. Mike was first attracted to the Folk Club by fingerstyle guest artists like Roy Book Binder and Ari Eisinger, liked what he found, and joined. Don't miss his showcase!

Avalon in Performing Songwriter

The November/December issue of *Performing Songwriter* magazine has an article by Christine Lavin about the First Annual Avalon Folk Music Festival back in August, which she was the headliner for. Avalon, as many of you know, is a clothing-optional resort, and Christine had a hilarious time adjusting. Several Folk Club members were there, but Christine discreetly gives most people aliases in her article. Still, see if you can't figure out who 'Phil' is, for example, from Christine's description of his opening set....

With media exposure like this, it's a safe bet the Avalon Folk Festival will be back in the pink next summer.



Inside:

Holiday Party Dec. 16

Music tools for PCs

The calendar

Holiday Party

On December 16, we'll have a special Holiday Party format. Each performer will do just one song, and everybody is encouraged to participate. So, if you've never "gotten up there" before, this is the perfect opportunity to do it. If you're a little shy, ask a friend to do a duet, and/or lead the whole room in a song everybody knows - **you can do it!!**

There may be some surprises and even prizes at the party, too, and the dollar donation we request on normal nights is waived to get as many people as we can to come join the fun. See you there!

Computer Music Tools for Musicians

by Dan Grove

(Note: this isn't a comparative review, just comments on two programs I use and think highly of.)

Cool Edit is a very handy, elegant shareware program for editing digital audio on your computer. One of the ways I use it is to record complicated, fast solos from a tape or CD into a hard disk (.wav) file, and then use Cool Edit to slow them down. You can cut the speed of the solo in half, or by any other amount, without changing the pitch, which makes learning much easier. There are expensive machines on the market to do this same thing, and Cool Edit does many other things as well (see below), is free to try, and only \$50 to register. You can download it and its manual from Syntrillium Software, <http://www.syntrillium.com>.

Cakewalk is a MIDI and digital audio sequencing program, which turns your PC into a recording studio. If you have a wavetable sound card, MIDI interface, keyboard for MIDI input, and microphone for audio input, Cakewalk can do an impressive job of freeing you to explore producing, arranging, and composing. MIDI is great for keyboards and drums, and pretty good for bass and many other instruments. Digital audio is best for guitars and accomplished solos, and is, of course, the only choice for vocals. The version of Cakewalk I use (5.0) includes extensive MIDI editing features, and some audio editing. Newer releases promise more audio editing ability, but I use Cool Edit, which integrates seamlessly into Cakewalk's menu and provides excellent reverb, noise reduction, echo, delay, flanging, and filtering. You can get more info, and download a demo or trial version of Cakewalk at <http://www.cakewalk.com/>.

Voice lessons are available from
Barbara Ryan - (703) 451-4492

Come Spring Enterprises
Professional Sound Reinforcement by
Richard W. Flinchbaugh
Specializing in Folk, Celtic, Traditional
and Contemporary Acoustic Music
Phone: (703) 255-0112

IN CONCERT

(Folk Club Members' local performances - send your schedule to the editor to be included)

IONA

Dec 5 - 7:30 PM, House Concert, Hidden Springs Farm, 438 Riverbend Rd., Great Falls, VA (703) 759-2440

Dec 13 - 7:30, Del Ray Coffeehouse, Del Ray United Methodist Church Hall, 100 E. Windsor Ave., Alex., VA (703) 549-4848

Dec 31 - 2:00 & 3:00 PM, Sully Mansion, 3601 Sully Rd. (Rte 28), Chantilly, VA (703) 437-1794

Jan 4 - 2:00 PM, Rockville Civic Center Park, Rockville, MD (301) 309-3007

IN CONCERT (CONT'D)

Don Bridges

Dec 6 - 12:30 PM, Scottish Christmas Walk, Alexandria Little Theater, 600 Wolfe St., Alex., VA (703) 549-0111 (*Bridges to Bliss*)
Dec 12 - 8:00 PM, Foster Brothers Coffee House, Cleveland Park, 3515 Conn. Ave NW, DC (202) 364-7128 (*Bobbie & Don*)
Dec 14 - 2:00 PM, Totally 4 Kids, 47100 Leesburg Pike, Sterling, VA (703) 404-0497 (*Bobbie & Don*, children's show)
Dec 19 - 8:00 PM, Foster Brothers Coffee House, Cleveland Park (see Dec 12 listing - *Bridges to Bliss*)
Dec 20 - 8:30 PM, New Deal Cafe, Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD (301) 397-2208 (*Bobbie & Don*)
Dec 31 - 6:00, 7:45, 9:30 PM - First Night Alexandria, Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. (703) 838-6323 (*Bridges to Bliss*, children's show)

Ray Kaminsky

Dec 5 - 9:30 PM, American University, 4400 Mass. Ave., NW, DC
Dec 18 - 7:00 PM, Cascades Starbucks (see venue listing below)
Dec 19 - 8:30 PM, New Deal Cafe, Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD (301) 397-2208

LOCAL VENUES

(Folk Club members are listed in boldface - *the Folk Club's events are listed on the back page*)

The Americana Stage - 8:00 PM, in the storefront adjacent to the Leesburg Restaurant, 9 South King St., Old Town Leesburg, (703) 777-3292 (Concert info hotline (703) 777-3523)

The Cafe Florian - 8:00 PM, Davies Memorial Unitarian Church, 7400 Temple Hill Rd., Camp Springs, MD (301) 292-6482
Dec 6 - Liquid Didj, Steve Boston opening Dec 13 - Open mike, sign up starts at 7:00, three song limit

The Courtyard - 6108 Arlington Bld., Falls Church, VA (In the Willston Center, across Rt. 50 from Seven Corners Center), (703) 533-2828, <http://door.net/courtyard>

Frederick Folk Club - 8:00 PM, Brunswick City Park Building, 655 East Potomac St., Brunswick, MD (301) 834-4264

Potomac Overlook Coffee House Concert Series - 3rd Saturday monthly, 7:30 PM, at the Potomac Overlook Park Nature Center Auditorium in north Arlington, VA. Bring a flashlight to make your way down the park road. (703) 528-5406. **Red Leaf** (Lea Coryell, Joan Kennedy, Dennis Doyle, and Martha Doyle) is the house band, and will open for the featured acts. Dec 20 - Jody Marshall & Moonfire

Shenandoah Coffeehouse Reston - 2nd Sunday monthly, 7:00 PM, Reston Community Center, 2300 Colts Neck Rd., Reston VA (at the back of the Hunters Woods Shopping Center), (703) 450-7600.

Dec 14 - The Unfortunate Rakes, David Alberding, Marc Carraway Jan 11 - Tom Prasada-Rao, John Rickard, Furnace Mountain Duo

Shenandoah Coffeehouse Shepherdstown - 3rd Saturday monthly, 8:00 PM, War Memorial Building, 102 W. German St., Shepherdstown WV (540) 687-6759

Dec 13 (2nd Saturday) - Michael DeLalla, Leslie Tucker, Jerry Bresee Jan 17 - Dana Robinson, **Les Thompson & Stephanie DeLage**, Christina Muir

Starbucks Coffeehouse, Burke Center Plaza - every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 PM, 6003-A Burke Ctr. Pkwy, VA (703) 250-2292

Dec 3 - Lisa Taylor Dec 10 - Steve Hudson Dec 17 - Damion Wolfe

Starbucks Coffeehouse, Bailey's Crossroads - every Wednesday, 7:00-9:00 PM, 3544 S. Jefferson St., VA (703) 845-0029

Dec 3 - Mary Byrd Brown Dec 10 - The Resonators Dec 17 - John Fahres

Starbucks Coffeehouse, Cascades - every Thursday, 7:00-9:00 PM, 21021 Southbank St., Sterling VA, (703) 421-0932

Dec 4 - Jeff Aug, John Fahres, Randy Barrett Dec 11 - Damion Wolfe Dec 18 - **Ray Kaminsky**
Open mike every other Wed, sign up 6:00, start 6:30, host: Dec 3 Jerry Bresee Dec 17 Andrew McKnight

Folk Club Guest Artists,

Showcases, and Special Events

prices are for nonmembers/members - it pays to join!
all times are 7:30 PM

Dec. 9	Mike Ball Showcase	n/a
Dec. 16	Holiday Party!	Free
Jan. 27	Randy Barrett Trio	\$9/8
Feb. 24	Les Sampou	\$9/8
Mar. 24	IONA	\$10/9
Apr. 28	Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen	\$10/9

Folk Club Format

On most nights, the Folk Club is an open mike format with a sign-up board. Each performer gets 12 minutes (or 3 songs, whichever comes first). A \$1 donation is requested.

Showcase Performances

On the second Tuesday of each month, we feature a Folk Club member in a two set (25-minute) "Showcase" performance. To be in a showcase all you have to do is:

- be a Folk Club member (who hasn't done a showcase in 6 months)
- fill out a lottery slip any time in the month before the drawing
- win the drawing (held on the night of the previous month's showcase); and
- practice, practice, practice!

Newsletter Submissions

Club members' performances will be listed in the club calendar, and members' music-related notices (instruction, equipment for sale, etc.) will be listed free of charge.

Articles, reviews, artwork, and other items related to music are welcome, although publication can't be guaranteed.

Contact the editor, Dan Grove, at (703) 742-7993 or <dangrove@erols.com> with submissions or for more information.

The Folk Club

Tuesday nights, 7:30 PM

at The Tortilla Factory

648 Elden St., Herndon, VA

(703) 471-1156

President: Larry Mediate
Treasurer: Richard Flinchbaugh

Board of Directors:
Ray & Ellen Kaminsky, Lynn Jordan,
Bill Davis, Jim Rosenkrans, T.M. Hanna,
Sue Beffel, Dan Grove, Dave Hurd

Publicity & Information:
Lynn Jordan (703) 437-7766

Bookings:
Ray Kaminsky (703) 689-0444

MEMBERSHIP · ADDRESS CHANGES · RENEWAL

Check your mail label - your membership expiration date (in Year-Month-Day format, YYYYMMDD) is there. To renew, or to join for the first time, please send your check for \$12, payable to The Folk Club, to membership chair Dave Hurd at the return address below.

He's the one to send any address changes to as well.

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



c/o Dave Hurd

1405 Cottage Street SW

Vienna, VA 22180



Expires 12/1998 19980301

Mr Richard Flinchbaugh

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