



# The Folk Club



Of Reston – Herndon  
Preserving Folk Traditions

---

Volume 14 Issue 10

October 1999

---

## October 19 Showcase - Mike Ball

Interstate 64 performs a lateral bisection across our great wide country and about one third of the way going east to west, I found him in a roadhouse outside St. Louis. The Hawaiian shirt and nattily banded panama hat clashed with the red and white gingham linens that marked the table tops strewn with long-necked "Bud" empties. We talked for a while as he sipped iced tea and he told me of his musical conquests on the West Coast and in the ever-evolving Texas swing and blues scenes.

He agreed to come back to the East Coast and a few days later I left him in the Baltimore area near Fells Point. That was 1971 but it was a few moves and States later; I never knew what happened to him until 1997 when I ran into him in Herndon at the Tortilla Factory at a little folk music venue. He had a new hat but the shirt looked strangely similar to the one he was wearing that night in St. Louis.

I had never really heard him play so I was amazed at his techniques and skill with so many different kinds of music. His mastery of genres ranged from blues to country, Broadway to swing, and bluegrass to R&B. The more than twenty-five years separating our last meeting must have been filled with many guitars and many days and nights of practice and performance that honed his native talent and solidified his studied musicianship.

I asked him where he'd been all these years and all he would say was, "After years of wandering aimlessly, my life changed one night during a big storm. I curled up next to a big stone to sleep that night. When I awoke I discovered I had been sleeping at the foot of the Tomb of the Unknown Guitar Player. After that things were different and I didn't have to sell my soul to become the guitar player I am today". Now he travels the country in his car with his guitar and a Pat Donahue doll glued to the dashboard.

This month's showcase offering has Mike Ball in front of (or is it behind) the microphones. It could be a night to remember or a night that you will want to remember to forget.

-----Sparky

---

## In Concert

 Local performances by members of The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

### Jim Houck & Friends

November 13 7:30-9:30

Barnes & Noble - Reston Town Center

November 20-21 International Skating Institute

Brianna Chapman will skate to "Loving Smiles" from the CD Blue Ridge Kind of Love

December 3 - Coffee House of Occoquan

**ACOUSTIC JAM** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month from 1 - 4 P.M. at Frying Pan Park Country Store in Herndon. Call Yvonne Johnson at 703-437-9101 for details.

Email your performance dates for the next newsletter to [cd7158@erols.com](mailto:cd7158@erols.com).

**The Folk Proudly Presents  
Bryan Bowers  
7:30 PM - October 12, 1999  
at the Tortilla Factory 648 Elden Street Herndon, VA**



Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

Bryan Bowers is the acknowledged world virtuoso on the autoharp. Bower's creativity and talent have won him induction into the Frets Magazine Gallery of Greats after five years of winning the stringed instrument, open category of the magazine's readers' poll. This distinction put Bowers along side other luminaries, such as Chet Atkins, David Grisman, Stephan Grappelli, Itzhak Perlman, Tony Rice, Bob Wasserman and Mark O'Connor recognized for their personal accomplishments. In 1993, Bryan was inducted into the Autoharp Hall of Fame to stand only with Maybelle Carter, Kilby Snow and Sara Carter. Virtually self-taught as an autoharpist, Bryan created his own five-finger individual note playing technique that makes this instrument multi-dimensional. But what is most amazing is that Bowers can take this quaint instrument and his own sometimes strident voice, forge them with his charismatic personality and create a beautiful, contemporary sound.

Bowers lovingly plays the classics. In personal appearances and on his album "Home, Home on the Road", he ripples through "Dixie", Grandfather's Clock" and a Stephen Foster medley. He also can't pass up a joke like the "Four Wet Pigs", "Aura" or "The Scotsman" that are lively additions on the stage. Bryan addresses the specter of age in "Old Lovers", which on his album "For You" was scintillatingly accompanied by our own northern Virginia legends The Seldom Scene. The Washington Times reported "...This man makes more music from an autoharp than you can imagine from a 12 string guitar and a harpsichord combined. He has more stage presence and charisma than any stage performer in recent memory." Folk Music lauded Bryan's works with "...Dealing strictly on a musical level, my favorite of the entire festival was autoharp virtuoso Bryan Bowers. Bowers has taken what is a very simple instrument to play and does things with it that cannot be physically done." The Folk Club is grateful to welcome back Bryan as part of the annual Herndon Arts Week, which is sponsored by the Council for the Arts of Herndon.

---

### **Classified**

**Acoustic Bass For Sale:** Rarely used, like new \$1000 include stand & cover. Jim Rosenkrans at 301-695-2733.

**Come Spring Enterprises:** Professional sound reinforcement by Richard W. Flinchbaugh at 703-255-0112.

**Julia Rose:** all-original, alternative folk artist. Her debut CD, "Suspended in Air." 410-237-0899

**Stringfellow's Beautiful Handcrafted from Around the World** 703-494-3755, stfellow@doubled.com

**Sandy's Greatest Hits:** Male vocal/instrumental. Female vocal/guitar, flute. Call Jim at 301-481-7645.

**The Folk Club Proudly Presents**  
**Peggy Seeger**  
**7:30 PM - Tuesday, October 26, 1999**  
**at the Tortilla Factory, 648 Elden Street, Herndon, VA**



Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)

45 years of concerts, more than 20 solo and over 100 joint recordings and numerous original songs (among which are the classic *Ballad of Springhill* and *Gonna Be An Engineer*) have made Peggy Seeger a legend in her time. Ruth Crawford Seeger's daughter, Pete and Mike's sister, Ewan MacColl's life-partner and Neill, Calum and Kitty's mother, she refers to herself as "very much my own woman." Her 35-year residency in England gave her a unique European perspective. Her concerts, in which she makes full use of voice, 5-string banjo, guitar, English concertina, autoharp, piano and a wicked sense of humor, include an astounding range of traditional Anglo-American songs and finely crafted contemporary pieces. Her lectures and work-shops on songwriting, ballad-singing and the feminist content of her repertoire are entertaining, informative and forward looking. The Peggy

Seeger Songbook, *Warts and All*, is a tour de force of 150 of her songs, drawings, photographs and biographical notes.

Peggy has performed at venues such as the Bolshoi Ballet Stage in Moscow, Carnegie Hall, Philadelphia Folk Festival and Augusta Heritage Week. She has recorded for Argo (Decca), Blackthorne, Cooking Vinyl, Fellside, Folk Lyric, Folkways, Rounder Records, Rykodisc, and the Smithsonian/Folkways series. Seven half-hour BBC radio programs were devoted to her life, as well as *A Kind of Exile* - a Granada TV 60 minute documentary. Peggy is also a sought after lecturer, leading workshops that explore the image and roles of women from the 1600s onward. The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon offers its sincere thanks to the Council for the Arts of Herndon for its support of our concert series. Come in and see a legend!

---

**Membership                      Address                      Changes                      Renewals**

To join The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon, send or hand your check for \$12, payable to The Folk Club, to Dave Hurd at the return address on this newsletter.

If you are already a member, your membership expiration date, in year-month-day format (YYYYMMDD), is on the mailing label on your newsletter. It is your responsibility to renew each year. If you move, send Dave your new address so you don't miss an issue.

Folk Club Format

On most Tuesday evenings, the Folk Club is an open mike format with a sign-up board. Each performer has **12 minutes**, including setup time. This allows three songs if you set up FAST.

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 you have to:

- be a Folk Club member who has not done a showcase in 6 months.
- fill out a lottery slip any time in the month before the drawing
- win the drawing on the night of the current month's showcase
- prepare to be featured in the next newsletter!

Newsletter Publication

Folk Club members may submit performance calendars, classified advertisements, articles, reviews, artwork and other items to Carol Deakin at cd7158@erols.com. All items must relate to music and be emailed in WordPerfect or rich text. Information must be received one week before the first day of the month in which you want it published. Items will be printed on the basis of music related interest, timeliness and space available with club information being the first priority.

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

Tuesday nights, 7:30 P.M.  
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, T.M. Hanna, Sue Beffel,  
Dave Hurd, Steve King, Sue Schier,  
Carol Deakin  
**Publicity & Information:**  
Lynn Jordan (703) 437-7766  
**Bookings:**  
Ray Kaminsky (703) 689-0444

1999 Guest Artists

All prices \$10 Non-member, \$9 Members - it pays to join!

- 10/12/99 Bryan Bowers Herndon Arts Week
- 10/26/99 Peggy Seeger
- 11/16/99 Bluesworks
- 01/25/99 Bob Franke w/ Lui Collins
- 02/22/00 Libby Dutton and David Alberding - Split Bill
- 03/00 tbd
- 04/25/00 Chuck Pyles
- 05/23/00 Michael Smith

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon  
c/o Dave Hurd  
1405 Cottage Street SW  
Vienna, VA 22180



Expires 20000301  
Mr Richard Flinchbaugh  
9712 Cymbal Dr  
Vienna, VA 22182

