

# The Folk Club

of Reston  
Herndon

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Preserving Folk Traditions



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## September 11 Showcase Simple Gifts Ensemble

**S**imple Gifts Ensemble is a recorder quartet that plays a diverse repertoire of music, including early Renaissance, classical, American folk, international, and contemporary tunes. They've played at the McLean Symphony pre-concerts, the Mount Vernon Christmas Candlelight Tour, the Rockville Civic Center, area bookstores, weddings, receptions, and private functions. The group members are Nina Anmahian, Shauna Simon, Jeff Galyon, and Axel Starz. They play soprano, alto, tenor, and bass recorders, all of them switching instruments as needed. Their wonderfully eclectic CD, *Musical History Tour*, will be available at their showcase, or can be ordered from their website ([www.simplegiftsensemble.com](http://www.simplegiftsensemble.com)), which has a link to download samples of their music, too).

The group was born while Nina was working for the Music Educators National Conference. She was told her first day on the job that she had to join the staff recorder ensemble, no experience necessary. With her musical background (she's played piano since she was five), Nina picked it up pretty quickly, and soon got together with other people who wanted to play frequently. She met Shauna at one of their first gigs, and Shauna joined the group as it evolved. The two of them have watched the group go through many metamorphoses, until Nina met Jeff while working at a corporate job, and Shauna met Axel at a music store. The four of them clicked, and have been inseparable ever since.

Shauna teaches elementary music in the Montgomery County school system, and has private recorder and piano students.

Axel runs his own music business, the Alexander School, with locations in Rockville and Arlington, and played in a recorder quartet while growing up in Germany.

Jeff builds websites for The Washington Post, and learned to play recorder as a youngster in rural North Carolina while performing in a summer outdoor drama about the Waldensians (a medieval religious group).

Nina has been passionate about music as long as she can remember – and probably a few past lifetimes as well! She's been a Folk Club member since around 1990, but has been missing for the past couple of years while she put herself through massage therapy school. She graduated last year, and now has her own private therapeutic massage business in Herndon, called *Living in Harmony*. Pick up a brochure at the showcase - all Folk Club members get 10% off their first visit!

It's not often we have artists who cover music from the 15th through 19th centuries, from Susato through Handel, Mozart, and Beethoven, and then explore the 20th with selections from the Shakers, barbershop quartets, Scott Joplin, and more. Don't miss the Simple Gifts Ensemble showcase!