

The Folk Club

of Reston
Herndon

Volume 17, Issue 11



Preserving Folk Traditions



November 2001

November 13 Showcase The Zen Gospel Trio

by Dan Grove

It was on the bus. That's where they met, and where it all got started. They were on the same bus, and they were bound for the same place—the Illinois Correctional Facility for Wayward Girls. The bus was the same, the reform school destination was the same, and one other thing was the same—the tender age at which each of them had committed their transgressions. What was different? A lot. Their backgrounds, for one, ranging from debutante society-ball to hardscrabble truck stop. Another difference was the crimes that had precipitated their journey, ranging from “entrepreneurship” to various forms of serial delinquency. **Sue Schier, Diane LaFleur, and Kathleen Abbott** had little in common, really, except for their proximity on the bus, the leg irons connecting them, their gray uniforms, and the bleakness of their futures.

And then the magic happened—Sue began to hum a soft, plaintive melody, capturing all the angst of her lost childhood dreams, and Diane and Kathleen instinctively harmonized. As the moment intensified, their voices rose, until as one they were channeling the most ancient, most universal, most righteous song of woman and man. Time stopped, the heavens opened, all sins were forgiven, and an inexorable, raging, thunderclap evangelical moment occurred—the birth of the **Zen Gospel Trio**. No, don't be afraid. But, well, OK, maybe a little awe is appropriate.

With their misspent youth behind them, and a pardon from the music-loving Governor of Illinois (who had also, conveniently, been a former client of Diane's), the trio set off into the world. The first gig they landed was with an international organization that gave them new clothes (saffron colored this time, not gray), low maintenance hairstyles, and a full-time performance schedule—they were fixtures at the Peoria International Airport, chanting, singing, approaching strangers with loving smiles, distributing literature and flowers, and

perfecting their act. They later performed for a Unification Church gathering at the world's largest sports stadium, and in the process acquired husbands they'd just met. The Reverend Moon personally blessed their unions, along with several thousand others, and a smattering of children shortly made their entrance known. Praise be! A smattering!!!

The musical spirit soon got the Trio back on the road again, however. With their husbands staying home, content in their role of child rearing and knowing they were supporting the Zen Gospel as best they could, our heroines set out upon a 27-year tour. This tour, the longest in musical history, culminates at the Folk Club on November 13, with a joyous reunion of the Trio and their stoic men and children, plus all the souls they've touched and enriched during their long spiritual quest. Expect an overflow crowd of seekers, soul mates, former clients, alumnae of the Facility for Wayward Girls, Krishna acolytes, Moonie Times subscribers, discarded but ever hopeful lovers, naturists, Witness Protection Program functionaries, debutantes, offspring, the curious, the awestruck, and the usual combobulated Folk Club denizens.

Finally, here's an inescapable revelation that corroborates and authenticates the Zen Gospel Trio's lifetime of commitment. The totality of modern academic mythological inquiry, including mystical Druid runes, Shinto texts, the Apocrypha, Incan symbolism, the Koran, Aboriginal oral tradition, Gnostic revelations, Yoruba creation myths, Talmudic exegesis, Navaho songs, and Eastern mantras, shares a confluence of numerology—all have predicted the ethereal, subliminal sequence of 37, 6, and 5, which corresponds precisely to the number of strings Sue, Diane, and Kathleen will call into resonant consort at their showcase. Be in awe! But fear not, and know that harmony will make you whole as you receive the Zen Gospel Trio.

Small Potatoes

The Folk Club Proudly Presents -
7:30 PM – November 27, 2001
at the Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA

Tickets \$10 (\$9 Members)



Small Potatoes is Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso. This Chicago-based duo has been touring on the folk circuit for years and is quickly becoming less and less of a well-kept secret. They've performed in clubs, coffee-houses across the U.S., as well as major festivals, including the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the Walnut Valley Folk Festival, and Summerfolk Festival in Ontario. Jacquie is a winner of the 1998 Kerrville New Folk Songwriting Contest.

They call themselves eclectic-maniacs. They describe their music as "Celtic to Cowboy" and say it has taken them "years of careful indecision" to come up with a mix of music that ranges from country, blues, and swing to Irish, with songwriting that touches on all of those styles and more. Their two recordings, *"Raw"* and their new album *"Time Flies"*, on Folk Era Records, cover all these styles. **Dirty Linen** magazine called them "one of the most polished, inventive, and entertaining shows on the circuit." **Sing Out!** magazine called *"Time Flies"* a "wonderful, wonderfully eclectic" album and said "Small Potatoes might well be leading mainstays on the folk scene for years to come." *"Time Flies"* has enjoyed wide airplay on NPR and other folk oriented stations across the country. **Bill Staines** says, "These folks are wonderful; fun, energetic, and great musicians. They're two of my favorite performers."

When you see Small Potatoes perform, you hear two great voices, some fine guitar playing, and a touch of tin whistle, flute, mandolin, bodhran and other percussion toys. Together they present a truly rare blend of vocal, instrumental, songwriting and arranging talents; that provides the audience with traditional songs that seem fresh and new, and contemporary songs that seemed steeped in tradition. They even yodel. And they also pay attention to the little things, the warmth, the humor and a rapport with audience that makes them one of the most popular acts around.

One may also consider bringing along the smaller family members to this concert. Small Potatoes began doing children's shows two years ago. Jacquie was a Girl Scout until she was about 30, and with years of troop leading and camps, has taught a ton of songs for kids. Rich, on the other hand, never went to camp - he is what you would call "Camp Song Challenged". He points out, however, that he was once a kid and, judging by the number of times he's been told to grow up, may still be one. All this adds up to fun for kids and parents. Everyone is encouraged to participate with sing-alongs, stomp-alongs and pantomime.

In Concert

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

Acoustic Jam: 3rd 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.

Where? House Concerts: doors open at 7, music begins at 7:30. Call Kim Kaplan (301-588-5314) or email her (jkkaplan@erols.com) for reservations and directions.

Ray Kaminsky: (www.earbuzz.com/raykiminsky)

11/10 Ben's Whole Hog Barbecue, Manassas, 7:30pm
w/Jack Fretwell & Ron Goad, special mystery guests...

11/29 Starbucks, Sterling, 7pm

12/14 St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, Alexandria, 8pm

Wyn Walke

11/16 Border's Books, Bailey's Crossroads, 7:30pm

11/17 Cowboy Café South, Arlington, 9pm-1am
w/LoDown



GET YOUR TICKETS!!

Advance purchase of tickets to concerts by Guest Artists (see page 2 every month except December) can be made at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact:

Dave Hurd
110 Devil's Backbone Overlook
Stephenson, VA 22656
540-722-0146

Other Venues & Artists of Interest

Vic's Music Corner

O'Brien's Pit Barbecue, Rockville
Info from: rebaheyman@compuserve.com
Or 301.984.1897
2nd & 4th Wednesdays

The Birchmere

A sampling of Upcoming Shows
www.birchmere.com

- 11/14 Gaelic Storm
- 11/17 Tom Paxton, w/ Lena & Sanford Markley
- 11/23 Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad
- 11/30 Livingston Taylor
- 12/1 Susan Werner & Erin McKeown
- 12/8 Walter Beasley
- 12/14 Susan Bogguss "A Swinging Little Christmas"
- 12/26 DaVinci's Notebook
- 12/29 Hank Williams Tribute, featuring Robin & Linda Williams, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Bill Kirchen, Ricky Simpkins, Dave Giegerich & Mark Schatz
- 12/31 Seldom Scene & Auldridge, Bennett, Gaudreau
A Bluegrass New Year's Eve

2001 Guest Artists & Special Events

Most tickets for Guest Artists are \$10 Non-member, \$9 Members. It pays to be a Folk Club member!

- 11/27/01 — Small Potatoes
- 1/29/02 — Randy Barrett & Dulcie Taylor
- 2/26/02 — Akire Bubar & Garth Ross
- 3/26/02 — The Kennedys
- 4/23/02 — Peter Keane
- 5/21/02 — Jerry Bresee & Michelle Swan
- 6/18/02 — Kate MacLeod
- 7/23/02 — Chuck Pyle
- 8/20/02 — Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnnie Irion

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

Tuesday nights, 7:30 p.m.

The Tortilla Factory
648 Elden Street
Herndon, VA
703-471-1156

President: Ray Kaminsky

Treasurer: Dave Hurd

Board of Directors: Sue Beffel, Bill Davis, TM Hanna,
Lynn Jordan, Ellen Kaminsky, Chris Kramer-Harnage,
Sue Schier.

Publicity: Sue Schier

Info Line: 703-435-2402

Bookings: Ray Kaminsky, 703-689-0444

Membership is \$12 per year.

Classifieds

Classified ads and performance listings will be published if received the 3rd week of the month before publication from members whose dues are current.

Email your ad to irene@caboyer.com.

For Sale: Sound System—Peavy 6-channel Mixer, Monitor Amp, Speakers, and Monitor.

Contact TM at birdphluph@pressroom.com.

WANTED: Recycle your guitar strings. The Second Strings Project has distributed over 10,000 sets to the world's most depressed regions. Send complete sets only to Kevin Deame, 28 Ladd Road, Ellington, CT 06029.

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 and the songs are of moderate length.

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 must:

- 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 are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified advertisements, articles, reviews, artwork and other music related items to Irene Boyer at irene@caboyer.com. All items must be emailed in MSWord, WordPerfect, or ASCII text format. 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

c/o Dave Hurd

110 Devil's Backbone Overlook
Stephenson, VA 22656

Expires 7/1/02

Ms Sue Beffel
1511 Farsta Court
Reston, VA 20190