

July 19 Theme Night – Train Songs

A chance for our musicians to come up with a variety of styles and surprising songs mentioning trains.
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July 12 Showcase – Rich Battaglia

by Rich



Rich is excited and delighted to be doing the Member Showcase, although he's a little intimidated talking about himself in the third person. But here goes.

His creative journey has been long, meandering, arduous and continual. Originally from South Philadelphia, music started with second grade clarinet, continuing through middle school orchestra and chorus. He then was recruited to play in a Mummers Parade string band and migrated to sax.

Rich was catapulted into adolescence by the song 'Do-wah-diddy' on AM radio. That's when playing guitar and bass started. The first show he did was at a cub scout meeting, playing Twist and Shout and You Really Got Me with The Locusts. At 14, he joined a working band, The Rockets: Weddings, socials, Bar Mitzvahs, but the best were Draft Parties. That meant no old standards, just Rock & Roll all night. The fact that some poor soul was getting sent off to 'Nam made the partying all the more intense. Playing with The Rockets lasted till he left for college, where he transitioned into folk songs. Donovan, Dylan, Eric Anderson, Leonard Cohen. Now a solo performer, there were small gigs and jams here and there, and the writing of songs began.

Rich became interested in classical guitar while getting his degree in mathematics at Temple University (graduating *NOT magna cum laude*, but *skinna da teetha*). After a two-year break,

he enrolled in the Temple College of Music, majoring in composition and guitar. It was nerve wracking and soul freeing. Playing for the string department jury at the end of every semester shredded his nerves, only reversed at the end. But singing with the choral department expanded and widened his musical universe. He was accepted for the elite Concert Choir, and sang with the chorus many times, singing with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy, both at the Philadelphia Academy of Music and Carnegie Hall in pieces that included The Verdi *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Choral Fantasia*..

That math degree wasn't a complete waste: It landed him a job with AT&T. He got transferred to New York and hooked up with the National Improv Theater in Chelsea, where he studied, performed, and taught. He moved to the Washington, D.C., area after he was married and formed the improv troupe Now This! He later taught improv at a few schools and for 10 years has led a neighborhood improv troupe, System One Thinking.

He was also a member of a group of musicians in Garrett Park from 2003 through 2019. They met for jams twice monthly at the Garrett Park Town Hall and did quarterly coffee houses for the community. Many different bands, trios and duets were put together with a strong group of musicians.

Rich helps run the Donoharm Farm Second Saturday concerts, in Germantown MD. A number of Folk Club members have performed there and there will be more opportunities for Folks in the future.

For the showcase, Rich will do a mix of original tunes and covers, both solo and with Ben Hamblin, Ron Goad and John Wertz.

Rich is so fortunate to have run into Ron Goad at the farm last year, which is how he found the Folk Club, so blame Ron. When Rich was at the Memorial Day Jam at Nancy's in Luray, he knew he was blessed and found a musical home with some great Folks.



Train Songs - A Folk Club Theme Night

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

For the last few years we have picked one of the nights in July and August (months when we don't schedule concerts) and defined a suggested musical theme for performers to follow. It seems to work. It gives performers incentive to research different kinds of music and come up with songs which follow the theme and interpret them in their own style.

We're going to do it again this year. We have picked a theme for July 19th, and the challenge is on:

Play only songs mentioning trains - with different points of view and varied styles

Many musicians will want to do the Steve Goodman song *City of New Orleans* or *Freight Train* by Lizzie Cotton, and those who sign up early or who're lucky may be able to sing them. But most should be prepared to play something else. There are many others to choose from, like *Folsom Prison Blues*, *The Ballad of John Henry*, *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, *Mystery Train*, *The Midnight Special*, *The Wreck of the Old 97*, *This Train Is Bound for Glory*, *Dixie Flyer*, *500 Miles*, *Downbound Train*, *Rock Island Line*, *Paddy on the Railway*, *The Ballad of Casey Jones (The Brave Engineer)*, *Wabash Cannonball*, *Long Train Running*, *I've Been Working on the Railroad*, *Last Train to Clarksville*, *Downtown Train* – to mention just a few.



Need more inspiration? Here's an extremely long (exhaustive?) list: [Wikipedia - List of Train Songs](#). Or maybe you've written your own train song.

While we're encouraging performers to present songs that fit the theme and mention trains, it's not required. However, we appreciate those who are able to do that. Also, if more people sign up than we can fit in by 9:45 PM we will extend the evening to allow everyone to play (possibly only one song).

CLUB INFO

Live Open Mic Streamed to YouTube

We are live streaming the open mic from the Amphora every Tuesday night, for those who cannot be there and would like to see the performances (and for those who'd like to see how they did after the fact). The YouTube link is posted to the Event Calendar on our website (https://folkclubofrestonherndon.org/?page_id=918).

Select the open mic link below the date; the YouTube link will be at the top of the description by 7:15 PM on Tuesday night (or the next day for ticketed guest artist concerts).

Virtual Open Mics Continue

Al Hobson continues hosting bi-weekly virtual open mics on Zoom. This month the dates are Monday July 11 and Monday July 25. If you'd like to share some songs, or watch and listen in, send an email to Al Hobson at alhobson@verizon.net by Sunday evening and let him know if you plan to perform or not. He'll send you the Zoom link for the 7:30 PM online open mic.

MUSICAL NOTES



Focus Music

- Go to www.focusmusic.org for more information.

World Folk Music Association (WFMA)

- Go to www.wfma.net/index.htm for more information.

Institute of Musical Traditions

- MAD Week Faculty Concert (Irish Musical Arts & Dance Week), Wed July 20th, 7:30 PM, Berman Center, 13300 Arctic Ave, Rockville, MD.

- Go to www.imtfolk.org for more information.

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW)

- Go to fsgw.org for more information.

MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO

Bill Davis – email: bil-davis@outlook.com

Chris Anderson ChrisAndersonSongs.com

Ron Goad – email: MisterGoad@aol.com

Harley String Band (Jim Clark, Jim Johnson and Steve Coffee) www.harleystringband.com

The Aloha Boys (with Glen Hirabayashi)
www.alohaboys.com

Jan Gillies www.jangilliesmusic.com

Hickory Grove (Bev & Jack Osburn)
www.hickoryg.com

Stevie Wade Potter, acoustic musician
- Duo with John Georgiou on Sun, Jul 24 from 2 to 5 PM at Naked Mountain Winery, 2747 Leeds Manor Rd, Markham, VA 22643
www.steviewademusic.com

Sherry Stewart
www.facebook.com/SunnyatMidnightMusic

Steven Cutts ThePrimeCutts.com and Spotify
- *Seems Like Old Times*, a new collection of five old-timey songs (recorded with Cathy Fink, Kimber Ludiker, Marcy Marxer, and Jim Robeson) is available at <https://theprimecutts.com/seems-like-old-times>

Jeff Smith HumanWilderness.com

Jillian Matundan JillianMatundan.com

- With Marcy Cochran, Fri, Jul 22 at 8 PM @ Hawk & Griffin in Vienna, VA

- With Marcy Cochran, Sun, Jul 24 at 5 PM @ The Wharf DC in Washington, DC

Audrey Adair AudreyJAdair.com



of Reston & Herndon

Meets Tuesday nights, at 7:15 PM ET at Amphora Diner Deluxe,
1151 Elden Street, Herndon, VA

President: Ben Hamblin **Treasurer:** Al Hobson

Board of Directors: Bill Davis, TM Hanna, Ron Goad, Sue Schier, Bill Farrar, Cheryl Hennessy, Connee Chandler, Jim Clark, Nancy Truax, Steve Potter

Publicity: Dan Telfer

Bookings: Steve Potter

Newsletter: Ben Hamblin, Dan Grove, Steve Potter

Website: Al Hobson, Ben Hamblin

Facebook: Ben Hamblin

Lifetime Members: Rose Haskell, Ray & Ellen Kaminsky, Beth Drumheller

FOLK CLUB FORMAT

Most Tuesday nights the Folk Club is an open-mike format with a sign-up board. Each performer has 8 minutes, which includes setup time.

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

On the 2nd Tuesday of the month (usually), we feature a "Showcase" of a Folk Club member in a 24-minute performance. To do a Showcase you must: 1) be a paid-up Folk Club member who has not done a showcase in the last 12 months; 2) fill out a lottery slip and place it in the "drawing bucket"; 3) win the drawing on the night of the current month's showcase; and 4) be prepared to be featured in the next newsletter!

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified ads, articles, reviews, and other music-related items for the newsletter. Items will be published on the basis of music-related interest, timeliness, and available space. Send your input to newsletter editor Ben Hamblin at FolkClubOfRestonHerndon@gmail.com.

RESERVE YOUR CONCERT SEATS

Donations can be made in advance for Guest Artist concert performances on Tuesdays at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact Al Hobson, 810 Elden St, Herndon, VA 20170, alhobson@verizon.net.

The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon

c/o Al Hobson

810 Elden St

Herndon, VA 20170

FOLK CLUB MEMBERSHIP

If you enjoy the music and company, become a member! The process is the same if your membership has expired. Make out a check to "The Folk Club" in the amount of \$15 for one year or \$55 for 5 years. Please DO NOT make the check to Al Hobson. Send the check to: Reston/Herndon Folk Club; c/o Al Hobson; 810 Elden St; Herndon, VA 20170. Please provide your name, email address, phone # and type, and residential address. By the way, we are looking into a way to accept online payments in the future.

KEEP IN TOUCH

There are several ways you can keep in touch, or find out more about The Club: **Website:** FolkClubOfRestonHerndon.org

Facebook: Search for "The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon"

General Info: Contact Sue Schier at (703) 435-2402

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

- Your old guitar strings! The Second Strings Project has distributed over 10,000 sets to the world's most depressed regions. Send complete sets only to Second Strings, P.O. Box 234, Nederland, CO 80466.

MUSIC GEAR

- For Sale: Taylor GS Mini (Rosewood) w/bag \$438.62; Cordoba Mini II EB-CE \$237.21. Both are in very good shape.
Contact TM at pressroom@birdphluph.com

LESSONS

- Private guitar lessons available on-line, FaceTime or Zoom. Flexible learning techniques including reading, ear and applied music theory. Contact Eric Forthman: email: eric.forthman@gmail.com; phone: 571-329-9875.