

February 21 – Open Mic Theme Night – Protest Songs

When some songwriters feel that something is not right, they write a song of protest. Let's share some.
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February 14 Showcase – Bill Davis

by Bill



I arrived at the Folk Club in 1987 at the last meeting held at the Red Caboose, and like many first-timers I just listened. The people who performed that night were all great. They sang songs, some of which I knew, but, well, they sang them a lot better than I did. Some did songs they wrote, and songs I'd never heard before. John Jackson was there that night, and Marty Ottobre and Joe Coe, Sue Schoebel, Tim Davis, Rose Haskell, and a 16-year-old kid named Mark Elliott. Then there was some guy who tried to cover a couple of John Denver songs - I think he'd thank me for not remembering his name, but everyone listened and everyone applauded anyway. I made up my mind that I'd be better off doing songs that I wrote myself, or songs that hadn't made the hit parade, or songs that the audience could sing along with. I wanted to not be the guy who did a song someone else did better. I'd been thinking I might do "Streets of London," but someone requested that Joe Coe do it, and he nailed it. Okay, plan B.

I had two dollars in my pocket that night (Flight Instructors were not highly paid). One of those dollars went into the bucket a young kid passed around, and the other went for a cup of coffee, "Keep the change." The next week when I showed up at the Red Caboose with my 12-string guitar there was a note on the door - the Folk Club was no longer meeting there, with directions to Jonathan's Keep off Temporary Road. The Red Caboose was going to candles and tablecloths, looking for a more upscale clientele.

My repertoire back then consisted of songs I'd learned as a kid, songs from the Great Folk Scare of the 60's, songs from church, and camp songs. Think Peter, Paul & Mary, Tom Paxton, Phil Ochs, Simon & Garfunkle, Pete Seeger. Under the heading of "songs I wrote myself," my opus numbers went all the way up to one - a song about my pilot friends who engaged in aerobatics competition. The second song of my first Folk Club set was one I had learned back in 1968, done by The Brothers Four - "The Sloth" by Michael Flanders.

Folks listened and applauded, and I was hooked. The time the Folk Club was at Jonathan's Keep was the most productive period of songwriting I have ever had. Many of the songs I consider to be my best, and probably an equal number of my worst, came out of that period. Between theater with the Elden Street Players, singing at the Folk Club, and performing with Somos el Mar, I spent a lot of time crafting the connection between the artist and the audience - making the story and the music exist in the magical space between.

I now live in the town of Shenandoah, VA, and can look out my bedroom window through the trees at the train yard and the Shenandoah River, the sunsets over the Massanutten ridge, and the lights of the ski area at night. So, this showcase will be just me, no big band, but do sing along, let's make the music happen.



Protest Songs, An Open Mic Theme Night Tuesday, February 21

February is one of the off-months during our September to June concert season: no concert. Instead, we're having a theme night – something different and fun, to mix things up a bit and give a (slight) challenge to the musicians.

This month the theme is protest songs. These are songs that point out injustices or wrongs, and delivered with the hope that music can indeed change the world. Some might think that is wishful thinking, but undeniably music does have the power to stir emotions and bring attention to worthy causes. Over the decades, protest songs have led the way, offering a powerful and passionate testimony to those suffering, while urging listeners to lend support and solidarity in response.

There is no shortage of great historical protest songs, and with all of the crazy events of the last few years many more are being written all the time. I don't think examples are needed so no list this time (a few are shown in the picture below) – that way we're more likely to be surprised.

To be clear to those who want to sign up and play, this is a suggestion for coming up with songs to sing for this one night - but please play whatever you want and we'll enjoy that. But it gives you an incentive to look at your repertoire of songs and present those that follow the theme - or learn a new song or two.

For our theme nights not every song fits the theme, but it's interesting anyway to see what people come up with. This month the challenge is to:

Play songs that protest the way things are



While we're encouraging performers to present songs that fit the theme, it's not required. However, everyone will appreciate those who show us a different protest song.

CLUB INFO, ETC.

Return to Kilmarnock! – Folk Club Jamboree and Retirement Celebration – Memorial Day Weekend

Barb and Craig Keeler are going to host us again at their lovely home on Chesapeake Bay this year (that must mean things are right again at Blue Bayou). The dates are Friday-Monday, May 26-29, and the address is 72 Point Pleasant Road, Kilmarnock, VA 22482. It's the sixth time they've opened their home to us, and we are so thankful. This is advance notice and Barb and Craig would appreciate the same from you so they can make plans.

If you think you'll be going, please let them know when you'll be attending, how many will be with you, how many meals you will have, and whether you plan to camp out (804-435-1927, 703-203-8743, or bkeeler30@gmail.com). Also contact them if you have questions or need more information. Note: With family coming to help celebrate Craig's retirement, there may not be any bedrooms available this time.

Open Mics on Zoom

Al Hobson hosts bi-weekly virtual Folk Club open mics on Zoom. This month the dates are Mon Feb 6 and Mon Feb 20. 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 show.

Open Mic Recording on YouTube

For those who cannot be at the Amphora or who'd like to see the open mic later, a link is on our Event Calendar (https://folkclubofrestonherndon.org/?page_id=918, select the link below the date, then the YouTube link). We record the open mic on Tuesday night, and upload and post it to YouTube the next day.

MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO

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

Chris Anderson ChrisAndersonSongs.com

Ron Goad – email: MisterGoad@aol.com

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

Jan Gillies www.jangilliesmusic.com

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

Stevie Wade Potter, acoustic musician
www.steviewademusic.com

Sherry Stewart

- Wed Feb 8 at 7 PM at Franklin Park Arts Center, Purcellville, VA – Quartet Show (in person or online)
- Fri Feb 17 at 8 PM at Three Whistles, Arlington, VA – Duo Show

- Sat Feb 25 at 7 PM at Café Sazon, Arlington, VA – Quintet Show

www.facebook.com/SunnyatMidnightMusic

Steven Cutts ThePrimeCutts.com and Spotify, Apple Music, and Soundcloud

Audrey Adair AudreyJAdair.com

Shenandoah Run (including Bob Melissinos, John Werntz, Ben Hamblin, Jim Johnson)

- "Where the Heart Is": A Joint Concert with Singer-Songwriter Lynn Hollyfield, at The Lyceum, Alexandria, VA; Sat, Feb 11, 7:30 PM; tickets available online or at the door (no fee)

www.shenandoahrun.com

MUSICAL NOTES



Focus Music

- ilyAIMY and Ayreheart – Sat Feb 11 at 7 PM, Catonsville Arts Guild Clubhouse, Catonsville, MD 21228

- 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

- FunkLore, Ukraine Benefit – Thu Feb 17 at 7:30 PM, Seekers Church, Washington, DC

- Breabach – Mon Feb 20 at 7:30 PM, St Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD

- Class of 88 with Jon Carroll, Deanna Bogart, Bill Starks – Mon Feb 27 at 7:30 PM, St Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD

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

Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW)

- **Concert (in-person): Jake Blount** – Thu Feb 23, 6 PM, Library of Congress Jefferson Building, 10 First St SE, Washington, DC

- Go to <http://fsgw.org/> for more information.



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 signup 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, treasurer.folkclub@gmail.com.

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: The Folk Club of Reston & Herndon; 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"
(<https://www.facebook.com/rhfolkclub>)

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

CLASSIFIEDS

MUSIC GEAR

- Ukuleles for sale, including Kamaka, Martin, Cordoba, and Kala. Contact TM at pressroom@birdphluph.com for prices or pictures. Also Taylor GS Mini, Cordoba Mini II, and other guitars.