


**April 18 – Theme Night: Spring Songs**

It's a time to hear music that reminds us of the spring season, of freshness and new possibilities.  
See page 2

**April 11 Showcase – Ben Hamblin**

by Ben

**WANTED!**  
PREFERABLY ALIVE  
For not playing folk music at the Folk Club



Ben "Benny" Hamblin  
AKA "The Prez"

**Reward**  
Thirteen-hundred and fifty-two or sixteen-thousand eight-hundred 'n' twenty-one \*  
\* Your choice, in Monopoly dollars

I suppose I should start by sharing some personal history. So: I started my life as a baby, then a toddler, a child, a teenager, a young adult, a mature adult (not necessarily in that order). And now as I'm regressing I'm a big baby. Ask my wife, Gail, she knows.

For those who are new to the Club and don't know my musical history, I started singing at the age of three (so Gail says, but how does she know?) and sang solos in school musicals. Then in junior high carpentry out of desperation I built my first guitar, a teardrop-shaped 4-string that sounded about as good as a cigar box with rubber bands. But it was a start, and I played it so much "I got blisters on my fingers" (just like Ringo!).

Eventually my parents gave in and bought me a fairly terrible Harmony f-hole guitar – a bad choice, but back then I didn't know any better. Eventually when I started working I got a Gibson, then a Yamaha, and later a Guild which I played for many years - until I bought myself a Martin when I retired. Now I have 6 guitars, 2 ukuleles, an electric bass, and a confirmed case of GAS (guitar acquisition syndrome).

The more I played I learned to coordinate singing and playing, and got better at figuring out chords and licks. I never took lessons (until I went to the Swannanoa Gathering music camp after I turned 60). The requisite list of my influences: BeatlesKinksCreamBeachBoysDylanJeffersonAirplaneWhoDonovanLovinSpoonfulTrafficPaul-SimonRandyNewmanNeilYoungJoniMitchellJacksonBrowneSteelyDanElvisCostello. My brother Ron listened to classical music and I liked some of that, too: Beethoven, Brahms, Bach, etc. - and then I discovered Mahler's Resurrection Symphony and he wowed me (and still does).

I heard about the Folk Club in an article about Ray Kaminsky, the prior club president, in the Herndon Observer. It mentioned that he was a regular at something called The Folk Club that met every Tuesday night at the Tortilla Factory. So in November 1998 Gail and I went and were surprised - it was a concert by Anne Hills. I began going fairly regularly and watched and listened for quite a few weeks enjoying the music and the vibe. I was trying to build up the courage to play in front of an audience by myself. Eventually I did and didn't die on stage, so I joined and have been a regular ever since.

The Folk Club is a treasure. I love the sharing of music, the on-the-fly musical collaborations, the Folk Club chorus singing along, the surprises of who shows up, with what instruments, and the unexpected songs they play: originals or covers, different acoustic styles and genres. The Club is first and foremost a listening club, and gives every brave soul a chance to share their passion. We also bring in professional musicians that everyone appreciates and who inspire. I love the many friends I have made at the Club and collaborated with for the last 24 years.

My showcase will be comprised of fun songs – maybe not funny, but fun to me. Still working on who'll be up there with me but I won't be alone. I hope people will enjoy what we do.



## Spring Forward Songs An Open Mic Theme Night Tuesday, April 18

On our post-pandemic alternating months concerts schedule April is an off month, so it's time for another theme night instead. It has proved to be an idea that inspires musicians to bring new songs to the open mic and share them with us. Some are covers that are familiar or new, or original songs that fit right into the theme. The theme nights are a little different and fun, a slight challenge to the performers and the songs chosen are sure to surprise and delight listeners.

This month's theme is a repeat from February last year, but that was on Zoom, so a repeat seems in order since this is the first spring in four years that we feel we are beyond the pandemic (but there are those who need to be cautious because the risk of getting very sick).

As I write this it's late March/early April, a time of the conflict between the remnants of winter and the struggle of warmth to reassert itself. It's ultimately a time of rebirth but there is also friction in the transition — the lime-green shoot emerging from the cool soil; the chilly northwest wind on a blue sky day. It's the “little darling, it's been a long, cold lonely winter” part of “Here Comes the Sun.”

But it's such a wonderful time when so many flowers and trees are in bloom and the sun smiles on us, making us feel new possibilities. It would be great to hear songs that celebrate that.

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.

### Play songs that relate to the season of spring



*While we're encouraging performers to present songs that fit the theme, it's not required.  
However, everyone will appreciate those who play a spring song.*

## **CLUB INFO, ETC.**

### **Next Month: Return to Kilmarnock! – Folk Club Jamboree and Retirement Celebration – Memorial Day Weekend**

Barb and Craig Keeler are going to host us again at Blue Bayou, their home on Chesapeake Bay this Memorial Day. The dates are Friday-Monday, May 26-29, and the address is 72 Point Pleasant Road, Kilmarnock, VA 22482.

If you think you are going, please let them know now. They'd like to know how many are attending, your arrival/departure plans, how many meals you'll have, and if 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 celebrate Craig's retirement, they don't have any spare bedrooms available this time.

Come to the celebration and get together with folkies. These gatherings are worth the trip.

### **Open Mics on Zoom**

Al Hobson hosts bi-weekly virtual Folk Club open mics on Zoom. This month the dates are Mon Apr 3 and Mon Apr 17. If you'd like to share some songs, or watch and listen in, send an email to Al Hobson at [alhobson@verizon.net](mailto: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 Recordings**

For those who cannot be at the Amphora and would like to see the open mic later, a link is on our Event Calendar ([https://folkclubofrestonherndon.org/?page\\_id=918](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 (4K takes a while).

## **MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO**

**Bill Davis** – email: [bil-davis@outlook.com](mailto:bil-davis@outlook.com)

**Chris Anderson** [ChrisAndersonSongs.com](http://ChrisAndersonSongs.com)

**Ron Goad** – email: [MisterGoad@aol.com](mailto:MisterGoad@aol.com)

**The Aloha Boys (including Glen Hirabayashi)**  
[www.alohaboys.com](http://www.alohaboys.com)

**Jan Gillies** [www.jangilliesmusic.com](http://www.jangilliesmusic.com)

**Hickory Grove (Bev & Jack Osburn)**  
[www.hickoryg.com](http://www.hickoryg.com)

**Stevie Wade Potter**, acoustic musician  
[www.steviewademusic.com](http://www.steviewademusic.com)

– Sat Apr 29 at 2-5 PM with John Georgiou at Naked Mountain Winery in Markham, VA

**Sherry Stewart**  
[www.facebook.com/SunnyatMidnightMusic](https://www.facebook.com/SunnyatMidnightMusic)

**Steven Cutts** [ThePrimeCutts.com](http://ThePrimeCutts.com) and Spotify, Apple Music, and Soundcloud

**Audrey Adair** [AudreyJAdair.com](http://AudreyJAdair.com)

**Shenandoah Run (including Bob Melissinos, John Werntz, Ben Hamblin, Jim Johnson)**  
[www.shenandoahrn.com](http://www.shenandoahrn.com)

**The Big Cheese Band** (Larry Rice, daughter Lea, Chris, and Holly Rose)  
[www.thebigcheesemusic.com](http://www.thebigcheesemusic.com)

## **MUSICAL NOTES**



### **Shanna in a Dress**

Sat Apr 8, 7:30 pm, Earp's Ordinary/Fairfax  
[www.earpsordinary.com](http://www.earpsordinary.com)

### **Greg Greenway**

Sat Apr 8, 7:30 pm, \$25, Chrysalis Concert Series, Bull Run Unitarian Universalists, Manassas, VA  
[www.bruu.org/www2/special-events/](http://www.bruu.org/www2/special-events/)

### **David Jacobs-Strain & Bob Beach**

- Fri Apr 14 at 7 PM, Arts Barn, Herndon, VA - \$20 suggested donation  
- Go to [artsbarnmusic.org](http://artsbarnmusic.org) for more information.

### **Hickory Grove**

- Hickory Grove (Bev & Jack Osburn, Larry Tapper, Ralph Gordon) play The Walk on the Hill and Green - Sun Apr 30 2-5 PM in Vienna, VA, free admission. The stage will be the porch of the log cabin at 288 Windover Ave NW in the Windover Heights neighborhood.

Additional info at: [www.viennava.gov/walkonthehill](http://www.viennava.gov/walkonthehill)

### **Focus Music**

- Lara Herscovitch w Juliet Lloyd – Sat Apr 15 at 7:30 PM, Island Pride Oasis, 617 S Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 – \$25/\$30 or paid webcast  
- Nordic Fiddlers Bloc – Sun Apr 23 at 7:30 PM, Tikvat Israel, 2200 Baltimore Rd, Rockville, MD 20851 – \$25/\$30  
- Go to [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) for more information.

### **World Folk Music Association (WFMA)**

- IONA – Sat Apr 29 at 7 PM, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, Mount Vernon, VA - \$25 live or streamed  
- Go to [www.wfma.net/index.htm](http://www.wfma.net/index.htm) for more information.

### **Institute of Musical Traditions**

- Dervish – Fri Mar 10 at 7:30 PM, [Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Rd, Rockville, MD](http://SaintMarkPresbyterianChurch.org)  
\$25+\$2/\$30  
- Go to [www.imtfolk.org](http://www.imtfolk.org) for more information.

### **Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW)**

- The Faux Paws – in person concert on Sat Apr 22 at 7:30 PM, Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St NW, Washington, DC – \$25 or \$20 for members  
- Go to [fsgw.org](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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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**

- For Sale: Late 40's early 50's Gibson lap steel. Ukuleles, including Kamaka, Martin, Cordoba, and Kala. Contact TM at [pressroom@bird-phluph.com](mailto:pressroom@bird-phluph.com) for prices or pictures.

- For sale: A signed Keith Young lap dulcimer made in November of 1980, #557. It is in excellent condition but has not been played in many years. Cloth case included. Selling for \$444 OBO. Please contact Shana Spiegel at [shana.spiegel@gmail.com](mailto:shana.spiegel@gmail.com) or 703-899-5144.