

Runaway Home December 12 Concert Canceled

Former Folk Club member Mark Elliott, who joined us while in high school, was taken from us too soon. Memories and tributes on page 2

December 5 Showcase – Jim Nagle

by Jim



Hi Everyone,

I feel like the dog that caught the car. In past instances when I won the showcase drawing, I would have decided within several days on songs and personnel for the show. This time I'm way behind, partly due to my idea of doing this performance mostly solo. I have the good fortune to have so many occasional and regular collaborators that I could have a different band for each song, but stage logistics being what they are I know that would not be optimal. I'll conclude this prelude by saying that since the pandemic, I have been particularly grateful for the regular collaborators I've had, Rick Landers and Rosie Licks (Tom and Sherry).

Right now, I have 4-5 songs which I've wanted to do for a long time but was somewhat intimidated by, or wasn't confident in how well I could do them. I'm still working on those, but am secure in the knowledge that I can go to old

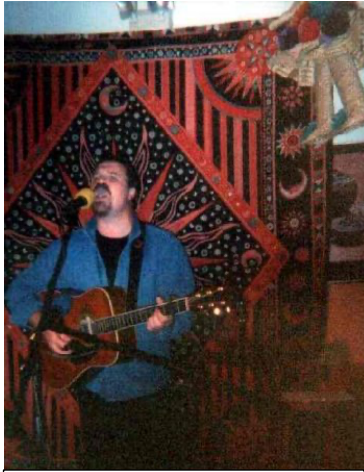
standbys if I decide the new ones aren't ready for prime time. I've gotten a bassist, my friend John Werntz, to hopefully keep me on track and give me feedback on these new (to me) songs.

Many members have probably noticed I gravitate to songs which have a message that I feel strongly about, and these new songs follow in that tradition. A couple of the songs are a little off the beaten path, but in one case quite the opposite, an iconic song which all will recognize at once.

Finally, I will say (again) - one thing that has kept me coming back to the Folk Club is the nurturing environment that has been a trademark as long as I have been attending, 20 years or more. I'm always grateful for the words of encouragement fellow members take the time to pass along.



Mark Elliott, 1967 - 2023



From The Folk Club in the 1980s -

Mark was still in high school when The Reston Folk Club was launched and he came to the weekly get-togethers with his parents and his teacher to perform and socialize. His talent was obvious and he soon took off in lots of different directions to improve and share his music with others, and eventually enjoy a career in music. We will keep him in our hearts for sure! Peace, Mark!

Rose Haskell – Founder, The Folk Club of Reston/Herndon

Memories of Music with Mark

It must have been about 1985 (give or take a year) when we first met Mark Elliott at the Reston Folk Club in Reston, VA (subsequently renamed The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon). Mark came to the Tuesday night open mike with his parents, Phyllis and Courtney. We were pleasantly surprised to meet a 17-year-old avid Kingston Trio fan. But there he was, an excellent singer and guitar player at the open mike performing songs like MTA, Hard Traveling, Greenback Dollar. And, he sang songs he had written himself.

One of the first of Mark's songs that I recall was one about a special needs boy, from the perspective of his brother. If I remember correctly, part of the refrain went "He may be slow, but he's always right on time." It was a poignant story and for a while I assumed the song was autobiographical; I thought Mark had a special-needs brother. I later learned Mark was an only child. That he had the empathy and imagination to write such a song was impressive.

At some point my wife Beverly and I, and Mark, decided it might be fun to get together and work up some vocal trios accompanied by two guitars and a banjo. It turned out to be a lot of fun. We would usually meet at our house and work up three songs to present at the Tuesday night Reston Folk Club open mike. One of the first songs we did was "Early Morning Rain".

We eventually had enough repertoire to perform in public and did from time to time. We struggled to find a decent name for our trio. Eventually Mark's dad, Courtney, told us he had been saving for a rainy day, a great name for a band. He decided to let us use it. The name was "New Horizon" taken from the line "out on the new horizon" from the Bob Lind song "Elusive Butterfly." We loved the name and used it. We managed to book a few paying gigs from time to time as "New Horizon".

Eventually Mark decided he needed to move on and pursue his musical career solo. We were disappointed, but it made perfect sense and so we were supportive. Mark began recording his first album in Tim Davis's home recording studio "West Texas East Recording". Bev and I provided some of the backup vocals, guitar and banjo. It was our first studio recording experience and a great deal of fun. The album is titled "Common Ground" and showcases Mark's original songs.

Mark cultivated a relationship with Tom Paxton who advised, "If you are serious about being a songwriter, you really need to move to Nashville." Those of us who knew Mark in his Reston Folk Club days are impressed by his musical successes, and proud to have known him.

Jack Osburn – Founding Member of The Folk Club with his wife Bev

On December 12th, when Runaway Home (Mark and Gary) were supposed to perform, we invite anyone who has memories of Mark to sign up and share them for a few minutes. Musicians may want to sing a song as a tribute to Mark.



- To Ryman Auditorium
With Gary Culley in 2016

CLUB INFO, ETC.

Annual Holiday Party

Get ready for our annual holiday party, on Tuesday December 19th this year. Wrap up your unused CDs (remember them?) for the raffle, put on some holiday attire, and slide over to Herndon's Amphora Diner for musical joy and humor, with tuneful reflections on the holiday season. We'll be handing out raffle tickets at the door, and dessert is provided – all for free. Hope to see you there! Remember, this is a round-robin night (each act on the sign-up board gets one song, so everyone can add to the merriment).

Day After Dec 25

Yes, there will be an open mic at the Amphora on Tue Dec 26. Expect a gathering of friends sharing songs. You know, like always.

Open Mics on Zoom

Al Hobson hosts bi-weekly virtual Folk Club open mics on Zoom. The only date this month is Mon Dec 11. If you'd like to watch and listen in, or share some songs, then send an email to Al Hobson at alhobson@verizon.net by Sunday evening. Let him know if you plan to perform or listen and he'll send you the Zoom link for the 7:30 PM show.

Open Mic Playback

For those who would like to see the open mic after the fact, go to https://folkclubofrestonherndon.org/?page_id=918. Select the link below the date, then the YouTube link. We record it on Tuesday night and put it up the next day.

MUSICAL NOTES



Al's Arts Barn

- Sat Dec 2 at 7 PM in Herndon, VA – Sam Robbins, often described as an “old soul singer songwriter” will perform. He's a Nashville based musician whose music evokes classic 70's singer songwriters with a modern, upbeat edge. Sam gained recognition from extensive touring and was one of six 2021 winners in the Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk competition, one of the largest and most prestigious songwriting competitions in the country.
- Reserve seats or get more info at artsbarnmusic.org.

World Folk Music Association (WFMA)

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

Focus Music

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

Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW)

- Tue Dec 19 7:30 PM, A Celtic Christmas Concert with KA/PO (Karen Ashbrook & Paul Oorts), Andrea Hoag, and Eileen Estes at Church of the Ascension, 633 Sligo Avenue, Silver Spring MD 20910. Also online via Zoom.
- Go to fsgw.org for more information.

Institute of Musical Traditions

- Mon Dec 4 7:30 PM, Nordensong “Song of Aino” album release concert, with special guest Andrea Hoag.
- Mon Dec 11 7:30 PM, Annual Celtic Holiday Show with Robin Bullock, Ken Kolodner & Elke Baker
- Thu Dec 14 7:30 PM, Music of Midwinter with Windborne, a vocal quartet.
- All shows at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD.
Go to www.imtfolk.org for more information.

Barns at Wolf Trap

- Go to wolftrap.org for more information.

MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO

Bill Davis – email: bill-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
- Sunny@Midnight (Sherry Stewart, Jeff Smith, Marcy Cochran, John Werntz, and Ron Goad), Dec 17 7 PM at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna, VA. “Break My Heart” album release show & celebration. Doors open at 5:30. See any band member for the best tickets or order online <http://www.jamminjava.com>. Hear the new record at [Jeffrey T. Smith - Sunny@Midnight](mailto:Jeffrey.T.Smith-Sunny@Midnight) or your favorite streaming service.
www.facebook.com/SunnyatMidnightMusic

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

Audrey Adair AudreyJAdair.com

Shenandoah Run (including Bob Melissinos, Ben Hamblin, Jim Johnson)
www.shenandoahrun.com

The Two Peas (Ann Granger and Larry Rice) - Harmony in Acoustic Music – twopeasharmony@gmail.com

George Dacre
AcousticAyre.com

The Fabulous Retronauts (including John Druitt, Al Hobson, Walt Lazear)
[Fabulous Retronauts](http://FabulousRetronauts)



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

- For sale: Gold Star GF100HF \$1143.28. Cordoba 28T \$123.47. Matching Red Valley Mandolin and Mandola \$2231.53. For more info, etc. contact TM at pressroom@birdphluph.com.

- 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 or 703-899-5144.