

February Theme – Blues Night – February 20

Let's hear it for blues music, which originated in the American Deep South and now circles the globe.
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February 13 Showcase – Shenandoah Run

by Bob

In the 50s and early 60s, folk music was considered the music where stories were told, stories created by a growing number of talented storytellers, who shared their lives and experiences through poetry and song. This translated to a different look at the “slice of life” that each poet and singer experienced. As other forms of music were rather quickly overtaking the music world, the growth of folk music waned and, over time, the voices of troubadours were diminished. As the world of music changed, other forms of music were expanding. Consequently, folk music was not. The state of music continued to change and the one form of music that was not growing was folk music. Some of that focus was about to change.



In 2011, Shenandoah Run was formed to bring back folk music and keep it alive and fresh. This has been the key to the success of the band. We pay tribute to both contemporary folk and Americana music, featuring our top-notch musicianship and soaring harmonies, designed to entice the listener to clap their hands or sing along with the band. Delivering this music has been the goal of this band and has been our primary focus.

Shenandoah Run is comprised of Leslie Smile Hoyle (vocals and fiddle), Joe Dickey (banjo), founder Bob Melissinos (vocals and guitar), Jim Johnson (vocals, guitar, and mandolin), Ron Goad (drums), John Wertz (bass), Renee Moyer (vocals and percussion), Ben Hamblin (vocals and lead guitar), and Jill Nelson (vocals, guitar, and percussion). The group performs at a wide variety of venues in DC and beyond. Many of these venues have featured Shenandoah Run multiple times as we bring in large audiences, as many as 1,200 patrons. For outdoor venues, we bring in some of the largest audiences the venues have experienced.

For more information, kindly visit our website at www.shenandoahrun.com. We are currently booking performances through the end of 2024 (please contact Bob Melissinos at 703-244-5525 or rmelissinos@shenandoahrun.com).



Folk Club Theme Night: The Blues

February 20, 2024

The blues is a musical genre that has a long history – it’s beginnings go back to the 1860s in the Deep South – and has many different forms that are all called the blues but are unique to themselves. It originally sprang from spirituals, work songs, chants, and simple ballads by Black musicians. And one could say that, in the 20th century, jazz, rhythm & blues, and rock ‘n’ roll all had their roots in the blues.

What kind of blues do you want? There are country blues, Delta blues, Piedmont blues, Chicago blues, West Coast blues, and electrified blues rock. Acoustic blues practitioners include Son House, Mississippi John Hurt, Skip James, J. B. Lenoir, Taj Mahal, and Reverend Gary Davis; of course, Eric Clapton’s *Unplugged* brought it to a new generation.

Classic blues is 12-bars, but there are 8, 9, and 16-bar songs, too. Lyrically, the usual way is to sing the same line twice and then sing a new one (AAB) for each verse. The “normal/abnormal” chord progression is I I I I IV IV I I V V I I, with 7th chords thrown in ad lib; the melody scale has a flatted third and seventh, sometimes fifth (but the real blues notes are in between, that’s why they bend those strings!). But there are myriad variations to all of these elements of the blues.

Bottom line, there are so many different types of blues songs to play – those airing personal woes or complaints, or with double-entendre lyrics, or funny wordplay, whatever. All of this should make it easy for open mic musicians to come up with songs, and hopefully not step on each other’s toes (by choosing the same song).

So come and see what blues songs your friends choose to groove on. It’s sure to be interesting, enjoyable, and a blast.



Mississippi Fred McDowell



Ma Rainey, “Mother of the Blues”



Stevie Ray Vaughan



B. B. King & Lucille

Note: The theme nights have been going since 2016, and they are fun and filled with surprises. It’s an opportunity to try something a little different and have a good time with it. We encourage performers to play songs that fit the theme. Of course, that doesn’t mean it’s required: anyone who signs up this night can play whatever they want, and that will be fine, too. But everyone will appreciate those who find appropriate tunes and share them with us.

MUSICAL NOTES



Al's Arts Barn

- Sat Feb 10 at 7 PM in Herndon, VA – Tom Bodine and John Cantrell, a double-bill concert. Tom Bodine's songs encompass the wonders of nature, the importance of friends and family as we travel through this life, and in his case, the significant role of music on his journey. He believes in the cathartic and healing power of music in individual lives and the larger world. His 2012 album "Bring Me Back" was nominated for a Washington Area Music Association "WAMMIE" award for Best Contemporary Folk Album. John Cantrell was musically inspired in the 70s to play the guitar, write songs, and perform around his college campus, but due to family and career obligations played infrequently for 20 years until his youngest child went off to college. For the past 15 years he has been playing regularly and writing songs, and began performing again recently. His songs are a mix of adult contemporary, bluegrass, and country styles about love, loss, joy and sorrow, discovery, and protest.

- Reserve seats at artsbarnmusic.org.

World Folk Music Association (WFMA)

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

Focus Music

- Sat Feb 10 at 7:30 PM, Tina Ross at Island Pride Oasis, Gaithersburg, MD

- Sat Mar 2 at 7:30 PM, Amy Speace at Island Pride Oasis, Gaithersburg, MD

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

Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW)

- Sat Feb 10 at 7 PM, Concert at the Lyceum: Seán Gavin and Colm Gannon, Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum

- Thu Feb 15 at 7 PM, Live! At the Library with Rev. Robert B. Jones, Sr., Library of Congress, Washington, DC, free but tickets needed

- Go to fsgw.org for more information.

Institute of Musical Traditions

- Sun Feb 11 at 4 PM, A Benefit for Jim & Marianne Robeson, hosted by Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, with Seldom Scene, Tom Paxton, Bonnie Rideout, Debi Smith, Tom Teasley, at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, Rockville, MD.

Go to www.imtfolk.org for more information.

Barns at Wolf Trap

- Wed Feb 21 8 PM, Glen Phillips and Shawn Mullins

- Thu Feb 22 at 8 PM, This Is The Kit, Sam Amidon opening

- Go to wolftrap.org for more information.

The Hamilton

- Sat Feb 10 at 8 PM, Beatles Love Songs and George Harrison Tribute, Washington DC

- Go to www.thehamiltondc.com for more info

CLUB INFO, ETC.

Open Mics on Zoom

Al Hobson is hosting bi-weekly virtual Folk Club open mics Monday nights on Zoom. The dates this month are Mon Feb 5 and Mon Feb 19. If you'd like to watch and listen, or share some songs, 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.

Note: If YouTube says it's blocked, right-click a link, then choose the option to open the link in a new tab or window.

MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO

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

www.facebook.com/SunnyatMidnightMusic

- Tue Feb 6 at 8:00 PM, Sunny@Midnight at the New Deal Café SAW Open Mic (6:30 – 9:30)

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

Chasing Magic (including John Druitt, Al Hobson, Walt Lazear) Chasing Magic

George Katsos georgekatsos.com

- Sat Feb 17 at 1 PM, Paradise Springs Winery, Clifton VA

- Thu Feb 29 at 7:30 PM, Mackenzie's Tunes and Tonics, Fairfax VA



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.