

The Folk Club of Reston & Herndon

Preserving the traditions of Folk Music, Folk Lore, and Gentle Folk Ways

FolkClubOfRestonHerndon.org



Volume 41, Issue 4

April 2025

Upcoming Events

Theme Night – April 15th

Song Circle at Al's Art's barn – Sunday, May 4th

Linda McRae Concert – May 25th

Memorial Day Weekend Jam on the Bay

April 8 Showcase – Shenandoah Run

By Bob and Ben

In the early '60s Bob Melissinos was a folk musician in Greenwich Village and shared stages with the likes of Cass Elliot (The Mamas and the Papas), The Highwaymen, and Robert Guillaume. As a member of The Coachmen and other groups, he performed at the 1964 World's Fair, The Bitter End and other clubs, and numerous colleges and universities. Eventually life intervened (he married, raised a family, and probably worked his tail off) and music took a back seat, even though he always loved it.

Then about 14 years ago Bob had a hankering to get back into making music, and inspired by The New Christy Minstrels and their song *Today* (his favorite folk song) he cast about for singers and players who could do the song justice, as well as other favorite folk songs. And that is how Shenandoah Run was born, and it evolved into a group whose aim is to bring back folk and Americana music and keep it vital and fresh.

It has been the key to the success of the band through the years. We pay tribute to both folk and Americana music, featuring soaring harmonies and top-notch musicianship designed to entice listeners to sing along with the band. Sharing the feeling of the music with everyone has been the goal of this band and our primary focus.

We perform at a wide variety of locations in the DC area and beyond. Many of these places have featured Shenandoah Run multiple times and we often play to large audiences. For outdoor spaces we have brought in some of the largest audiences the venues have experienced.

Last year the current musicians of Shenandoah Run worked over a period of seven months to record and mix our third CD, *Daughter of the Stars*, which was released last October. All of us will be squeezing onto the Folk Club stage for our third Showcase: founder and manager Bob Melissinos (vocals, guitar), original members John Werntz (bass) and Joe Dickey (banjo), Renee Moyer (vocals, percussion), Jill Nelson (vocals, octave guitar, percussion), Leslie Smile Hoyle (vocals, violin), Ben Hamblin (vocals, lead guitar), Jim Johnson (vocals, guitar, mandolin), and Ron Goad (percussion). Sing along!

For more information, please visit our website at www.shenandoahrun.com.



Photo credit: Steve Pendlebury.



A Folk Club Theme Night – Tuesday, April 15th Songs from the American Folk Music Revival

In months when we don't have a concert scheduled the RHFC will have a "Theme Night" that 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.

For April, we're suggesting songs be from the American folk music revival (early 1950's to late 1960's). That is the period from roughly 1950 to 1969 where, as Ralph Lee Smith reminded us when we were in the Tortilla Factory, many folk singers and songwriters congregated in Greenwich Village in New York City, as well as other US artist colonies. Artists like The Weavers, Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Josh White, Lee Hays, Lead Belly, Burl Ives, Odetta, Harry Belafonte, The Kingston Trio, The Brothers Four, Peter, Paul, and Mary, The Chad Mitchell Trio, The Limelighters, The New Christy Minstrels, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, The Freedom Singers, Phil Ochs, Tom Paxton, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Dave Van Ronk, Judy Collins, Tom Rush, Fred Neil, Gordon Lightfoot, Billy Ed Wheeler, Arlo Guthrie, John Denver, Harry Chapin, John Hartford, The Clancy Brothers, The Smothers Brothers, and many others.

There's a lot to choose from, so try to select a folk song (or two) from those decades that isn't heard often enough. If you choose a well-known song, be prepared if someone plays it before you get your chance.

While we're encouraging performers to present songs that fit the folk revival theme, it's not required. However, we appreciate those who are able to do that.



Song Circle – May 4th!

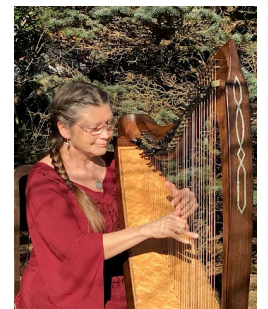
QUESTION ...What do a space scientist, a word magician, a SAW Grand Prize winner, and an accomplished harpist have in common? They will all be part of the next Song Circle at Al's Arts Barn on May 4, at 6:30 pm! Come and hear some of our Folk Club members in a more in-depth way in a beautiful listening venue. Four performers will alternate sharing their songs. Jennifer Katt will host. Performers include Jim Thorne, Joan Kennedy, Rob Gould, and Ellen James.

When: May 4, Sunday, 6:30 pm

Where: Al's Arts Barn

Why: Because you love music! And variety!

RSVP: Jenkatt@comcast.net or at <https://artsbarnmusic.org/events/> (scroll down)



CLUB INFO, ETC.

Zoom Open Mics

Every other Monday night at 7:30 pm Al Hobson hosts bi-weekly virtual Folk Club open mics on Zoom. April dates are April 14th and 28th. If you'd like to watch or share some songs send an email to Al Hobson at alhobson@verizon.net by Sunday evening. Let him know if you plan to listen or perform and he'll send you the Zoom link.

Tuesday Night Open Mic Videos

To see a video recording of the Tuesday night open mic, go to the folkclubofrestonherndon.org [Event Calendar](#). Select the link below the date, then the YouTube link. If YouTube says the link is blocked, right-click the link, then choose the option to open it in a new tab or window.

MUSICAL NOTES



Al's Arts Barn - <https://artsbarnmusic.org/> 810 Elden St, Herndon, VA

Sat, 4/12 @ 7 PM – Halley Neal

Halley Neal is an award-winning folk singer and songwriter whose live shows center on themes of positivity and peace.

Focus Music - Visit www.focusmusic.org for more information.

Sun. 4/6@7:30 PM, Falcon Ridge Most Wanted: Tina Ross, Alex Radus and Louie Lou Louis.

Episcopal Church of the Ascension. 633 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910

A very special night of songwriters in the round, featuring this year's Falcon Ridge Folk Festival's "Most Wanted" emerging artist winners.

Sat 4/26 @7 PM - Patrick O'Flaherty

Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church | 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria, VA

Patrick is an award-winning singer and songwriter and a highly respected player of the harmonica, bouzouki, mandolin, button accordion, banjo, and mandola.

Chrysalis Concert Series: Bull Run UU Church, Main St. Manassas, VA 20110 email: chrysalis@bruu.org for more info!

Sat Apr 26 @7:30 PM, Kray Van Kirk

Kray van Kirk is an award-winning fingerstylist, lyricist, and captivating songwriter.

Visit www.krayvankirk.com

Institute of Musical Traditions – www.imtfolk.org

Mon, Apr 14 @ 7:30PM – Reverie Road

Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Rd, Rockville, MD

MEMBER PERFORMANCES & INFO

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

Chris Anderson ChrisAndersonSongs.com

Ron Goad – email: MisterGoad@aol.com

Jan Gillies: www.jangilliesmusic.com

Hickory Grove (Bev & Jack Osburn)

www.hickoryg.com

Rick Landers and Heartland: <https://ricklanders.com/>

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

Sherry Stewart (Sunny@Midnight)
www.facebook.com/SunnyatMidnightMusic

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

Audrey Adair AudreyJAdair.com

The Two Peas (Ann Granger and Larry Rice) - Harmony in Acoustic Music –
<http://www.thetwopeasmusic.com/>

Chasing Magic (including John Druitt, Al Hobson, Walt Lazear) ChasingMagic-TheBand.com

George Katsos georgekatsos.com

Memorial Day Weekend – Folk Club Jamboree!

Barb and Craig Keeler will host us again at Blue Bayou, their home on Chesapeake Bay, 72 Point Pleasant Road, Kilmarnock, VA 22482 from Friday May 24th to Monday May 27th.

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.

Come to the celebration and get together with folkies and share music, food, and conversation on the Chesapeake. These gatherings are worth the trip!



of Reston & Herndon

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

President: Al Hobson

Treasurer: Jen Katt

Board of Directors: Bill Davis, TM Hanna, Ron Goad, Sue Schier, Ben Hamblin, Bill Farrar, Connee Chandler, Jim Clark, Nancy Truax, John Cantrell

Publicity: Dan Telfer, Kevin Nordlie

Bookings: John Cantrell

Newsletter: Louis Klein, Dan Grove

Website: Al Hobson, Ben Hamblin

Facebook: Ben Hamblin

Lifetime Members: Rose Haskell, Ray & Ellen Kaminsky, Dave Hurd (in memoriam) & 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 Louis Klein, lklein21@gmail.com

RESERVE YOUR CONCERT SEATS

Donations can be made in advance for concert performances on Tuesdays at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact Jen Katt, 13529 Wood St, Woodbridge, VA 22191-1338, treasurer.jk.folkclub@gmail.com.

The Folk Club of Reston & Herndon
c/o Jennifer Katt
13529 Wood St
Woodbridge, VA 22191-1338

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 \$60 for 5 years. Please DO NOT make the check to Jen Katt. Send the check to: The Folk Club of Reston & Herndon; c/o Jen Katt; 13529 Wood St; Woodbridge, VA 22191-1338. Please provide your name, email address, phone # and type, and residential address. Sorry, we cannot accept online payments.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rhfolkclub

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

Newsletter ideas: Louis Klein: lklein21@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS

MUSIC GEAR for Sale

- For Sale: Ukuleles, banjos, guitars, and mandolins. Contact TM at press-room@birdphluph.com for more info.