

The Folk Club of Reston & Herndon

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

FolkClubOfRestonHerndon.org



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🎵 ❤️ ❤️ **Theme Night February 17: Love Songs!** ❤️ ❤️ 🎵

See page 2 for more.

February 10 Showcase – Cindy McConnell

By Jennifer Cooke Katt

She grew up in rural Pennsylvania in the '70s, sang in her high school chorus musicals, learned guitar chords listening to vinyl, cassette, and 8-track folk and classic rock such as Elton John, Carly Simon, and Fleetwood Mac long before they were officially “classic.” She performed in Maryland and West Virginia “dive bars” while in college. Today, her performances have evolved into the mellifluous sounds we’ve come to associate with our friend Cindy McConnell, our February 10 showcase artist.

Cindy’s musical path has been a winding one. As a single mom focused on career and family, performing music took a pause until her son left for college in 2002. With more time — and a new Martin guitar — she jumped back in, performing annually at a Labor Day event in her hometown and regularly at coffee shops, bars, and wineries in Northern Virginia. She also performed annually for more than a decade at greyhound adoption fundraisers in the New York Finger Lakes.

Cindy mainly performs covers, which she makes her own through choosing interesting songs and adding a personal touch and beautiful vibrato vocals. Her covers span folk, classic rock, and a bit of progressive rock, drawing from influences such as (but not limited to) Stevie Nicks, Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, Christine Kane, Elton John, John Prine, Joni Mitchell, Kacey Musgraves, Neil Young, Sheryl Crow, and Tracy Chapman. She’s also now working on original songs, slowly but with good effect: Last year, she wrote a song about the political and moral divisions in our country and how they affect her personally.

Cindy is a natural communicator, recently retired from NIH after a long (albeit cut-short due to DOGE) career informing the public about evidence-based biomedical science. When she’s not playing music, she’s fundraising for a local equine-assisted therapeutic organization or with her own horse, walking her new off-the-track greyhound, or with friends and family, including her two granddaughters. She loves this country, stays politically engaged, and believes folk music and community matter now more than ever.

She’s been a regular at the Folk Club in recent years and is grateful for the friendships she’s found there. Ron Goad and I, and possibly others, will join her for a few showcase songs.





February 17 Theme Night: LOVE SONGS!

Modern folk and classic rock love songs exploded the intimate, community-bound traditions of older folk music into stadium-sized emotions, electric guitars, and mass media, transforming how millions of people understood and expressed romantic feeling. The folk revival of the 1960s, led by artists such as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Joni Mitchell, kept folk's storytelling intimacy but added psychological complexity. These weren't just tales of lovers meeting at wells or sailing away, rather, they were introspective examinations of relationships as they were actually lived. The acoustic guitar remained, but the emotional vocabulary expanded enormously.

Classic rock, meanwhile, turned love into spectacle. The Rolling Stones gave us love as primal hunger in "Beast of Burden" and "Wild Horses." Fleetwood Mac's "Rumours" album became a masterclass in writing love songs while publicly destroying relationships, each track a confession broadcast to millions. Meat Loaf's "Paradise by the Dashboard Light" is an eight-minute operatic saga of teenage lust and lifelong regret. When James Taylor sings "You've Got a Friend," it feels both deeply personal and universal.

The blues influence is woven in to musical patterns, adding sexuality that older folk traditions often coded or avoided. For example, Janis Joplin's raw pleading in "Piece of My Heart" made physical desire and emotional devastation impossible to separate. There are also fascinating hybrids like Neil Young switching between the gentle "Harvest Moon" and the electric rage of "Like a Hurricane," showing how the same relationship might demand completely different sonic approaches.

The storytelling evolved, too. Where traditional folk songwriters might tell you what happened, artists such as Bruce Springsteen in "Thunder Road" created cinematic narratives in which listeners could visualize the scenes and smell the summer night. Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You" is rooted in Appalachian dignity and practical necessity in that love doesn't always conquer all and sometimes you just need to go.

These songs didn't circulate by oral tradition or handwritten lyrics, rather, they were recorded, pressed onto vinyl, broadcast over airwaves, creating a shared emotional language for a generation. A teenager in Tokyo and a truck driver in Texas could both claim "Stairway to Heaven" or "Both Sides Now" as the soundtrack to their own love stories.

Which love songs, traditionally “romantic” or otherwise, speak to you?

Folk Club Artist Jennifer Cooke Katt has released a new album of 18 never-before-recorded originals! Tune in and learn more: www.jenkattmusic.com



Folk Club Zoom & Videos

Zoom Open Mics: Every other Monday night at 7:30 pm Al Hobson hosts bi-weekly virtual Folk Club open mics on Zoom. February dates are February 2 & 16. 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 in or perform; he'll send you the Zoom link.

Tuesday Night Open Mic Videos: To view 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 shows the link is blocked, right-click the link then choose the option to open it in a new tab or window.

More Upcoming Music Events

Saturday, February 7, 7pm: Award winning folk singer/songwriter **Halley Neal**, performs at The Arts Barn. Reserve your seat and read more @ <https://artsbarnmusic.org/events/>

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7-9pm: **Rick Landers** will perform as part of a Songwriters' Circle at the New Deal Café in Greenbelt, MD. Learn more at www.newdealcafe.com or call 301.474.5642.

Folk Music Websites & Contacts

Folk Club Members

Audrey Adair: AudreyJAdair.com

Chris Anderson: ChrisAndersonSongs.com

Chasing Magic: <https://chasingmagic-theband.com>

Steven Cutts: ThePrimeCutts.com

Bill Davis: bil-davis@outlook.com

Jim Fowler: www.shoutmusicjim.com

Jan Gillies: www.jangilliesmusic.com

Ron Goad: MisterGoad@aol.com

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

Pete Hill: www.petethefolksinger.com

Jim Johnson: www.jimjohnsonmusic.com

George Katsos: www.submithub.com/link/follow-george-on-social-media

Jennifer Cooke Katt: www.jenkattmusic.com

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

Shenandoah Run: www.shenandoahrun.com

The Two Peas, Ann Granger and Larry Rice:
www.thetwopeasmusic.com

Others

The Arts Barn: <https://artsbarnmusic.org>

Focus Music: www.focusmusic.org

Institute of Musical Traditions: www.imtfolk.org



Meets Tuesday Nights @ 7 p.m. ET
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: Cindy McConnell
Website: Al Hobson, Ben Hamblin
Facebook: Ben Hamblin
Lifetime Members: Rose Haskell, Ray & Ellen
Kaminsky, Dave Hurd (in memoriam) & Beth Drumheller

Keep in Touch!

Find out more about The Folk Club:

Website: folkclubofrestonherndon.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rhfolkclub

General Info: Contact Sue Schier @ 703.435.2402

Newsletter Content

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified ads, articles, reviews, and other music-related items. Send your ideas and content for consideration to cindy_mcconnell@comcast.net

Final Notice: Folk Club Newsletter Distribution

This past December, The Folk Club newsletter transitioned to a digital-only format; print copies are no longer mailed to members, although as always, we provide some print copies at Amphora. This change is helping to reduce volunteer time as well as environmental impact.

Our newsletters are sent via email to club members with email addresses on file. They're also available [online](http://www.folkclubofrestonherndon.org) at www.folkclubofrestonherndon.org

If you have an extenuating circumstance that requires we send a print copy by mail, please email Al Hobson at hobson.allen@gmail.com

Folk Club Format

Most Tuesday nights The Folk Club is an open-mic format with a sign up board. Each performer is allowed 8 minutes.

Folk Club Membership

Become a member today! The process is the same if your membership has expired. Write a check to "The Folk Club" in the amount of \$15 for one year or \$60 for 5 years. *Please DO NOT write 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 (mobile or landline), and residential address. You may also Venmo your dues to @Jennifer-Katt-1. Sorry, but we cannot accept payments through the website.

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 perform one, you must: 1) be a paid-up Folk Club member who has not performed 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!

New Classified Advertisements Policy

Approved ads will run for one month only unless a seller notifies the newsletter editor that they want to continue running the ad, and if so, provides any relevant updates about items, pricing, etc. The deadline is the 25th of each month, i.e., if an ad runs in March and a seller wants to it to run in April, the deadline is March 25.

Music Gear for Sale

June Apple Hammered Dulcimer, #277, excellent condition, soft case; and **Yamaha C-40 Guitar**, very good condition, soft case: Both formerly owned by the beloved Mary Jenkins. You name the prices and sale monies go to The Folk Club. Contact Sue Beffel @ 703.626.0828/Subeffel@gmail.com

Martin guitar 000-15 w/ hard-shell case, solid mahogany, great condition. Pricing negotiable; contact Marjorie Myers @ 703.476.4544/mm@stonepiano.com

2021 Martin HD-28E and case (Fishman Aura VT Enh) \$2,600. Contact Al Hobson @ president.folkclub@gmail.com

Ukuleles, banjos, guitars, and mandolins. Contact TM @ pressroom@birdphluph.com