

The Folk Club of Reston & Herndon

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

FolkClubOfRestonHerndon.org



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Upcoming Event: Goodnight Moonshine Concert, March 17

See page 2 for more.

March 10 Showcase – John Werntz and Old Town Tradition

by John

John Werntz grew up in the Philadelphia area, where his musical journey began. He says he was born with a bass in his hands; John's mother disagrees. He started playing the upright bass in 1966 during his first stint in seventh grade, laying the foundation for a lifelong passion for the instrument. As a teenager, John listened to rock and pop music (vs. folk, blues, or bluegrass) on FM radio.



During high school, he learned to play classical music under the guidance of exceptional teacher Michael Shahan from the Philadelphia Orchestra. This greatly enhanced John's ability to think musically and play musical phrases rather than individual notes.

After graduating high school in 1972, John began his college life at Penn State. He immediately neglected his studies and began playing bass with two bands, the Whetstone Run bluegrass band and Sunday Drive, a folk group performing original songs. These popular groups played the State College music scene in bars, restaurants, and at music festivals in the 1970s.

In 1996, John moved to the DC area to make use of his electrical engineering degree from Drexel University. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service for more than 40 years before retiring in 2025. In the meantime, he was on the prowl for musicians to collaborate with. You may have noticed that John and Ron Goad are often heard together — this dynamic duo is known as the Chopped Liver Rhythm Section. Yum.

John has also recorded at various studios, contributing to music projects from a wide range of independent songsters.

After retiring from the Shenandoah Run folk group in 2025, John's current bands include Sunny at Midnight, Rick Landers and Heartland, the Tail Chasers acoustic blues band, the Moondiggers, and his longest running band, Old Town Tradition, who join him for his showcase.

Old Town Tradition has been going strong since their debut in Alexandria at the venerable bluegrass venue, the Tiffany Tavern, in January 2012. The band was formed from the remnants of the Mother Pluckers of local renown.

Playing their own blend of bluegrass, folk, blues and Americana roots music, Old Town Tradition has been entertaining DC area audiences for many years. The band features Brian Renzella on guitar, Marlo Lewis on mandolin, Pam Ferguson on fiddle, Evan Sands on banjo, and John Werntz on bass. View a video sampler: <https://youtu.be/TRQr1EF1L4A?si=UkLBYDOGDuZU4t8l>

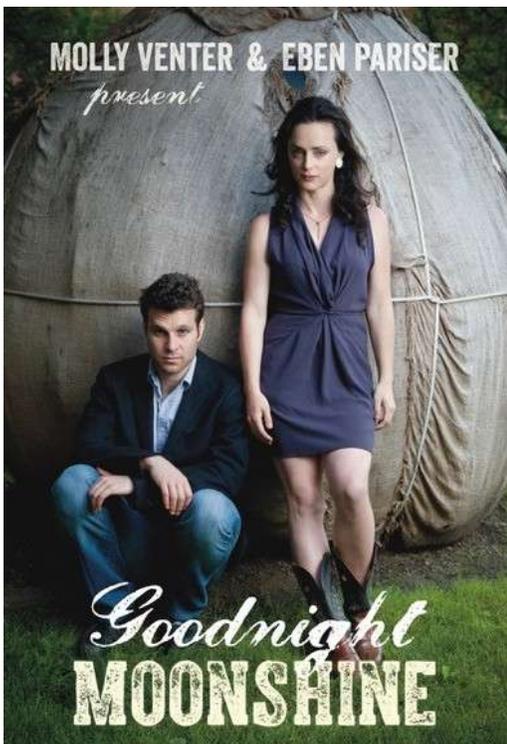


proudly presents

Goodnight Moonshine

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.; Amphora's Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden St., Herndon
Admission: \$15 Folk Club members/\$20 nonmembers

Goodnight Moonshine is a guitar and vocal duet — a musical marriage in all senses. The duo combines the evocative voice and songwriting of Molly Venter with Eben Pariser's adventurous



guitar playing. The result is folk music with a depth of improvisation and tonal subtlety usually reserved for jazz. Molly's enviable voice, which can be called both "biker-chick smoky" (*New Haven Register*) and "like silk" (*American Songwriter Magazine*) has led to worldwide recognition, including via the Tønder Festival, Denmark; Kate Wolf Fest, California; and multiple placements in television and film.

In Goodnight Moonshine, she's in full force as a songwriter. Her trance-induced stream-of-consciousness writing style results in compositions that probe the depths of her inner experiences.

Starting as a blues guitarist in his teens, Eben's imagination was quickly captured by classic jazz, which he studied at the Oberlin Conservatory. "Pariser's harmonic sensibilities are wide, imaginative" (NPR), and his career has involved singing lead and playing bass with Roosevelt Dime, playing drums and being musical director of Red Molly, but it is his love of jazz and improvising on display in Goodnight Moonshine. A natural producer, Eben has eight studio records under his belt for himself and other artists, and recently launched the new record label Equitone Records.

Learn more: www.goodnightmoonshine.com

Purchase tickets in advance Tuesday evenings at The Folk Club, Amphora's Diner Deluxe, or by email @ treasurer.jk.folkclub@gmail.com. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

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. March dates are March 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

Friday, March 13, 7pm: Known for virtuosity and spirit of emotional abandon, **David Jacobs-Strain and Bob Beach** will perform for a second time at The Arts Barn. Reserve your seat and read more @ <https://artsbarnmusic.org/events/>

Friday, March 13, 4pm: Rick Landers & Heartland livens up JV's in Arlington. <http://www.jvsrestaurant.com>

Sunday, March 22, 5-7pm: Mary Ann Redmond, Dan Leonard, Deren Blessman perform at The Old Brogue, Great Falls, VA. \$20 and reservations required: call 703-759-3309. <https://oldbrogue.com/mary-ann-redmond>

Saturday, March 28, 7-10pm: Rob Gould & The Bogey Boys will perform again at Outta The Way Café, Derwood, MD. <https://www.outta.com>

Sunday, May 3, 6:30pm: Save the Date for Jennifer Katt's 6th Song Circle at The Arts Barn, this time featuring [Sherry Stewart](#), [Marilyn Leeseberg](#), [Greg Vickers](#), and [Kevin Whalen](#). Food and drink are provided; \$20 donation suggested. RSVP to jenkatt@comcast.net

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.shenandoahr.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

Folk Club Format

Most Tuesday nights The Folk Club is an open-mic format with a signup 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!

Gentle Reminder: New Classified Advertisements Policy

We're happy to include classified ads in this newsletter. Note though that 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 April and a seller wants it to run in May, the deadline is April 25.

May the best day of your past be the worst day of your future!

~Irish Proverb