

# The Folk Club of Reston & Herndon

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

[FolkClubOfRestonHerndon.org](http://FolkClubOfRestonHerndon.org)



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***Folk Club's 41st Anniversary Celebration: Join Us May 12!  
The Heather Pierson Duo Concert on the 19<sup>th</sup>!***

*See pages 2 and 3 for more.*

## May 5 Showcase – Tom Bodine

*by Tom*



Looking forward to my fourth (or fifth?) showcase at the Folk Club of Reston/Herndon, but the first since December 2015. I fortuitously stumbled upon the Folk Club back around 2005, during the Tortilla Factory Days, and it's really changed my life. This kind and supportive community has provided an incredible opportunity to meet friends, grow as an artist, and connect with so many talented musicians, music lovers, and listeners.

As a child, there wasn't much music played in the house. My earliest musical memory dates to 1964, watching The Beatles on the Ed Sullivan show at a friend's house. Definitely love at first listen! I signed up for band in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and played drums/percussion. Shortly

thereafter several friends and I formed a band: "The Advanced Project" played class parties, talent shows, and the occasional private gig. Around the time I entered high school, I hung up my drum sticks in favor of playing sports, but my love of music never waned. I spent a lot of time at the local record store, listened to music while doing homework, and cranked tunes on the 8-track player in my family's mustard yellow Chevy Nova.

My guitar journey began senior year at St. Lawrence University as a "January interterm" independent study project. I recall working pretty much the entire month on an old folk song called "Way Downtown," made popular by Doc Watson. Damn, it was hard getting the fingers to do what they needed to do! (And damn, not much has changed in the intervening 50 years!)

After graduating from St. Lawrence and spending a winter ski-bumming in Utah, I moved to DC for graduate school. My days of solitary guitar playing ended shortly thereafter when a singer friend persuaded me (after too many beers) to accompany her at an open mic. We scouted out possible venues and decided on Gallagher's Pub in my Cleveland Park neighborhood, a venue that helped launch the career of Mary Chapin Carpenter. Despite my repeated efforts to weasel out, Monica held my feet to the fire and the incredibly creatively named "Tom & Monica" duo was born. Tom & Monica performed in the DC area for several years, during which time I wrote my first few songs and started singing. Musical exploits with various other unsavory characters ensued, but the rest as they say is history, which will go untold as Microsoft Word is telling me I've reached the maximum allowable words for this bio! Hope to see y'all on May 5.



Proudly Presents

# Heather Pierson Duo



**TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026**

Show starts at **7:00 p.m.**

**\$20 (\$15 MEMBERS)**

Requested Donation

**AMPHORA'S DINER DELUXE**

1151 Elden St - Herndon, VA 20170

*Purchase tickets in advance Tuesday evenings at the Folk Club's open mic at The Amphora Diner or by email at [treasurer.jk.folkclub@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.jk.folkclub@gmail.com)*

*Tickets may also be purchased at the door*

[www.heatherpierson.com](http://www.heatherpierson.com)

[folkclubofrestonherndon.org](http://folkclubofrestonherndon.org)

Heather Pierson is a New Hampshire based singer/songwriter, pianist, song leader, and performer with a passion for cultivating joy, both onstage and off. With a toe in each of the realms of New Orleans jazz, blues, vocal chants, instrumental piano, and folk, her multi-genre songwriting places her firmly in a category all her own, one honed by decades of diligent practice and curious exploration.

Whether solo, as a duo, with her trio, or in a community sing, Heather's live performances feature ease at the piano and her bell-tone voice that Americana Highways says 'sounds like timeless wind moving slowly through the trees'.

Each offering Heather makes from the stage is infused with happiness, honest self-reflection, and a genuine desire to connect and share from the heart.

In nearly 25 years on her own record label, Vessel Recordings, she has released sixteen albums

and several singles of original music, including her most recent, Back To The Light. Her most vibrant release yet, Back To The Light was recorded 'live on the floor' at Acadia Recording Company in Portland, ME with her trio mates Shawn Nadeau on bass and Craig Bryan on drums and percussion. Released in September 2024, Back To The Light pulsates throughout with the grooves of New Orleans, the beauty of Appalachia, and Sunday-go-to-meeting celebration.

Born to a Scottish émigré mother and Navy veteran machinist father in Joplin, Missouri, Heather started out life in the single-traffic-light town of Galena, Kansas. Music was constantly spilling out of the speakers of her parents' stereo—a diverse playlist that included such artists as The Allman Brothers, Kansas, Cream, The Beatles, KISS, Cat Stevens, Mario Lanza, Jose Feliciano and Anne Murray.

### 41 Years Young: Happy Folk Club Anniversary!

Join us to celebrate the Folk Club's 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, May 12, 7 pm., at Amphora Deluxe Diner! To provide more chances to perform during this special evening, musicians are welcome to sign up for a one-song, four-minute slot. And, everyone can look forward to delicious, complimentary cake!

So, what's been happening on the music scene since 1985? Back then, a handful of major labels, radio programmers, and MTV executives decided what the world heard. Today, a teenager with a laptop and a TikTok account can break a song globally.

The iTunes era killed the album commercially, but the streaming era revived it as an artistic statement. Because recorded music revenue collapsed and then rebuilt slowly through streaming (albeit at lower profit margins for artists), touring became the primary income source for most musicians — the inverse of 1985.

The vinyl full circle is genuinely fascinating: The format most people declared dead in the early '90s now outsells CDs and represents a growing slice of physical music revenue. In other words, folks are buying objects again. Go figure, and hope to see you on the 12<sup>th</sup>!

### Arts Barn Song Circle

**A FEW SEATS STILL AVAILABLE: RESERVE NOW!** Hey music fans, join us **Sunday, May 3,**



**6:30pm**, for host Jennifer Katt's 7<sup>th</sup> Song Circle at Al Hobson's Arts Barn music venue in Herndon — a beautiful listening space on the upper floor of a converted barn. Featured performers are **Kevin Whalen, Sherry**

**Stewart, Marilyn Leeseberg, and Greg Vickers.** Read more about these talented artists and reserve your seats here: <https://artsbarnmusic.org/events>. Admission is complimentary; a \$20 donation is suggested. Food and drinks will be provided but you're welcome to bring something sweet or savory to share.

### More Upcoming Music Events

- **Sunday, May 3, 1pm: Seneca Creek Bluegrass** performs at Brookville Beer Farm, MD. Learn more: [senecacreekbluegrass@gmail.com](mailto:senecacreekbluegrass@gmail.com)
- **Friday, May 8, 7pm: Trio LoCo** performs The Arts Barn, <https://artsbarnmusic.org>

- **Saturday, May 9, 5pm: The Gould Standard** will perform at 7213 Holly Ave. as part of the Takoma Park Porchfest.
- **Rick Landers** has multiple gigs this month beginning May 9; learn more at [www.ricklanders.com](http://www.ricklanders.com)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays each month, 7:30-9:30pm: Joe Shade** performs at MacKenzie's Tunes and Tonics. <https://mackenziesffx.com>
- **Sunday, May 17, 1-3pm: Rob Gould** and his fellow **Bogey Boys — John Trupp, Steve Eckstrom and Greg Marsh** — perform their original tunes on the Worthington Manor Golf Course patio, 8329 Fingerboard Rd, Urbana, MD

### Folk Music Websites & Contacts

#### *Folk Club Members*

- Audrey Adair:** [AudreyJAdair.com](http://AudreyJAdair.com)
- Chris Anderson:** [ChrisAndersonSongs.com](http://ChrisAndersonSongs.com)
- Chasing Magic:** <https://chasingmagic-theband.com>
- Steven Cutts:** [ThePrimeCutts.com](http://ThePrimeCutts.com)
- Bill Davis:** [bil-davis@outlook.com](mailto:bil-davis@outlook.com)
- Jim Fowler:** [www.shoutmusicjim.com](http://www.shoutmusicjim.com)
- Jan Gillies:** [www.jangilliesmusic.com](http://www.jangilliesmusic.com)
- Ron Goad:** [MisterGoad@aol.com](mailto:MisterGoad@aol.com)
- Hickory Grove (Bev & Jack Osburn):** [www.hickoryg.com](http://www.hickoryg.com)
- Pete Hill:** [www.petethefolksinger.com](http://www.petethefolksinger.com)
- Jim Johnson:** [www.jimjohnsonmusic.com](http://www.jimjohnsonmusic.com)
- George Katsos:** [www.submithub.com/link/follow-george-on-social-media](http://www.submithub.com/link/follow-george-on-social-media)
- Jennifer Cooke Katt:** [www.jenkattmusic.com](http://www.jenkattmusic.com)
- Rick Landers & Heartland:** <https://ricklanders.com>
- Shenandoah Run:** [www.shenandoahrun.com](http://www.shenandoahrun.com)
- The Two Peas (Ann Granger and Larry Rice)** [www.thetwopeasmusic.com](http://www.thetwopeasmusic.com)

#### *Others*

- The Arts Barn:** <https://artsbarnmusic.org>
- Focus Music:** [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org)
- Institute of Musical Traditions:** [www.imtfolk.org](http://www.imtfolk.org)

### Folk Club Online

- **Zoom Open Mics:** Every other Monday night at 7:30 pm Al Hobson hosts bi-weekly virtual Folk Club open mics on Zoom. May dates are May 4 & 18. If you'd like to watch or share some songs, send an email to Al Hobson at [alhobson@verizon.net](mailto: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 [folkclubofrestoneherndon.org](http://folkclubofrestoneherndon.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.



**Meets Tuesday Nights @ 7pm**  
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, Ben Hamblin  
**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](http://folkclubofrestonherndon.org)

### Musicians Wanted

Seeking volunteer instrumentalists for English  
Country Dance practice in Sterling VA. Fridays, 7-  
9pm. Must read music and keep a steady tempo. Huge  
fun, great opportunity to learn a new style. Email  
[chelle@keltish.com](mailto:chelle@keltish.com) to learn more.

### Newsletter Content

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit  
upcoming performances, classified ads, reviews,  
articles, and other music-related items. Send your  
ideas and content for consideration to  
[cindy.mccconnell@comcast.net](mailto:cindy.mccconnell@comcast.net)

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!

### May 22-25: 2026 Memorial Day Campout and Music Event!



Hosted by Barbara & Craig Keeler at Blue Bayou, 72  
Point Pleasant Rd, Kilmarnock, VA, this is a Folk Club  
tradition to keep alive in your hearts and minds! Not a  
camper? There are plenty of local accommodations and  
activity options nearby.

Please share this invitation with friends new and older!  
RSVP to Barbara at [bkeeler30@gmail.com](mailto:bkeeler30@gmail.com) or call 804-  
435-1927 (home) or 703-203-8743 (cell).

For more details, visit <https://folkclubofrestonherndon.org>  
and scroll down.