



# Newsletter of the Folklore Society

OF GREATER WASHINGTON  
P. O. Box 19303 • 20th Street Station • Washington, D.C. 20036

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George A. Simpson, Editor

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## JANUARY PROGRAM - FOLK MUSIC AND FOLKLIFE FROM THE BIG LAUREL, NORTH CAROLINA

Peter and Polly Gott, who since 1961 have lived as active residents of the Big Laurel area of North Carolina, northwest of Asheville, will bring their musical instruments and stories of life in their community to present a program of folksong, folk music and story for the Society's first event of the new year at 8:30 p.m., Friday, January 10, in the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750 - 16th Street NW., Washington, D.C.

In 1961, the Gotts left New York where Peter had been a chemistry major at Cornell University, and moved to the Big Laurel area. They sought out bearers of folk tradition, adopted the living of the community, and were welcomed. With their neighbors, they formed a string band which plays regularly for functions in the vicinity.

The Gotts' work is evidenced in the Folkways LP "Old Love Songs and Ballads from the Big Laurel," which Peter recorded with John Cohen of the New Lost City Ramblers. The recording contains a broad sampling of music and song from the area, and introduced to the general public Dillard Chandler who later appeared at large folk festivals. It also documented the use in that area of the picking, or mouth bow.

The Gotts, whose appearance here is being arranged by Scott Odell of the Smithsonian Institution, sing, and play numerous folk instruments. Among them are the banjo, fiddle, guitar and autoharp.

Admission will be free to Society members, one dollar for non-members, and fifty cents for children. Memberships will be available at the door.

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### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed find check in the amount of (\$5.00 yearly individual membership) or (\$7.50 yearly family membership).\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please line through inappropriate wording.

Note: Despite claims made by others, membership in the Folklore Society is still the best deal in town.

SITAR PLAYER IN CONCERT

There will be a concert on the ancient Indian stringed instrument - the sitar - in an intimate setting at 8:00 p.m., Friday, January 3, in the Wesley Methodist Church, Connecticut Avenue and Jenifer Street NW., Washington, D.C. The artist is Debu Chaudhuri of New Delhi, ranked by experts among India's top dozen sitar players. Chaudhuri, 32, has been playing since he was eight years old. He plays accompanied by the intricate rhythms of the Indian drums known as the tabla. The concert's sponsor is the American Guitar Foundation, 1816 M Street NW., Washington, D.C. Tickets at \$3.00 each may be obtained from the Foundation or by calling Mrs. Marcelle Jones at 356-6697. Folklore Society member Joe Glazer, recently returned from a five-week tour of India, will make a guest appearance, singing from "Songs I learned in India."

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COLLECTANEA:

Open Sing, 8:00 p.m., Saturday, January 25, Union Methodist Church, 814 - 20th Street NW., Washington, D.C. Admission is free...Sacred Harp Sing and Pot-Luck Supper will be held in January. For details, call Mary Helen Shortridge at 654-0412... Newsletter subscription is now \$2.50 per year; this entitles subscriber to ten monthly issues and three supplements. The Newsletter and its supplement are sent free to members. Members also are sent the regular Newsletter by first-class mail, insuring fairly speedy and safe delivery. All others receive their Newsletter under a third-class permit.

The Smithsonian Institution has on exhibit in its Hall of Musical Instruments, Museum of History and Technology, a panoply of greatly enlarged photographs, texts, and a programmed sequence of slides with accompanying music on music making country style. The show, arranged primarily by Scott Odell, focuses on the fiddle, dulcimer, banjo, and picking bow...John Thomas Scharf, nineteenth-century author of a history of Maryland, which recently was reprinted by Tradition Press (a subsidiary of Folklore Associates), also wrote a history of Western Maryland. This history, in two volumes, has just been reprinted by Regional Publishing Company, 521 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, Maryland 21202..."John Jackson 'Vol. 2'" is available for \$5.00 from Arhoolie Records, P.O. Box 9195, Berkeley, California 94719. John Jackson is a member of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, and has been almost since the very beginning. He has appeared at numerous Society concerts, sings, and meetings, and performed at Newport, Chicago, and Philadelphia folk festivals.

The Cellar Door's schedule includes John Denver (with the Pozo Seco Singers), January 27 - February 1, Tim Hardin, February 17 - 22, and the Modern Jazz Quartet, February 3 - 8.

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