



Newsletter of the Folklore Society

OF GREATER WASHINGTON
Box 19303 20th Street Station. Washington D. C. 20036

VOLUME IX, Number 2

OCTOBER 1972

Arlene Rodenbeck, Editor

TRACY SCHWARZ AND THE OL' HOME STRING BAND

Our first monthly program meeting of the season will be held on Friday, October 13, beginning at 8:30 p.m. at the Ethical Society, 7750 16th St. at Kalmia Rd. Tracy Schwarz is known to us for his fiddling and singing with the New Lost City Ramblers and more recently with the Strange Creek Singers. Now he has formed a new band, the Ol' Home String Band, dedicated to the lonesome sound of traditional southern mountain music. This sound, found both in the bluegrass and older string band styles, is a unique part of American music, and as such is gaining stature as a style within a style. The Ol' Home String Band, inspired by such people as G.B. Grayson, J.E. Mainer, and the Stanley Bros., strives to continue the life of this powerful mountain expression by presenting selected established material and by writing and performing new songs and tunes within the traditional boundaries.

Other members of the band include Tracy's wife, Eloise, who plays bass and guitar, Dick "Bear" Staber, who plays the mandolin, and Bob Dalsemer, who plays the banjo (not the dulcimer as you might expect). The group plans to record a 45 rpm record with Rounder Records sometime this fall.

FSGW members will be admitted FREE so remember to bring your membership cards along. Nonmembers will be charged \$1.50 and children 50¢.

Sounds like it's going to be a dynamite program!

WORKSHOPS

FSGW is sponsoring a series of informal workshops this season. They are get-togethers for the purpose of exchanging songs and techniques and will usually focus on a particular instrument or type of song. Both beginners and old hands will find these sessions valuable so be sure to bring your instruments along (even if you never play in public). The workshops will also provide an opportunity to meet others with the same musical interests in more intimate surroundings.

Two workshops will be held this month. A dulcimer (plucked and hammered) workshop will be held in Alexandria at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 14th. Call 578-1025 for directions. A banjo workshop will be held in Chevy Chase at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 20th. Call 949-4552 for directions.

If you are interested in running a workshop and/or are able to hold one in your home, or if you have other questions about workshops, call 652-2692. At the October program we'll have questionnaires available asking about your interests and suggestions.

OPEN SING--This month's open sing will be on Friday, October 6, beginning at 9 p.m. at the Washington Ethical Society, 16th and Kalmia Rd., NW. As usual, admission will be \$1.00 a head with coffee, cookies, wine and cheese provided. We'll be fresh from the Getaway and full of good memories, so we should have a good time.

The regular monthly meeting of the FSGW Executive Board will be on Tuesday, October 3rd, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 718 of the Dupont Circle Bldg., 1346 Connecticut Ave., NW. All members and friends are invited to attend and share your ideas with us.

The EARL WILLIAMS BLUEGRASS BAND and the RALPH CASE DANCERS will be featured in a free concert on Sunday, October 15th, beginning at 2:00 p.m., at Prince William Forest Park, Dumfries, Va. The program is cosponsored by the National Park Service and the National Folk Festival Association.

SINGING FROM THE SACRED HARP AND POTLUCK SUPPER--The October get-together will be on Sunday, October 29th, beginning at 4 p.m. at the home of Louisa Spottswood in Northeast Washington. Please call Louisa at 832-5472 to get directions and food ideas.

For those of you who are not quite sure just what the Sacred Harp is, here's a little explanation. The Sacred Harp is a book of hymns or religious song that are arranged in four parts with the tenor carrying the melody. Although these days singing these melodies is usually called "Sacred Harp singing", it was earlier referred to as "shape note" or "fa-sol-la" singing. Its history goes back to the early days of our country when singing school masters would go from village to village teaching the people to read and sing music by the shape of the notes or by the syllable method (do-re-mi, etc.). The songs were often named after the village in which they were written or first sung; hence you find titles like "Amsterdam" or "Northfield." Our group is quite informal and unorganized; we do not sound like the Norman Luboff Choir. We meet simply because we love this type of singing--it's vigorous, loud, and musically challenging, and beautiful in its own strange way. Why don't you come and find out for yourself what it's like--at any rate the food is always good.

JOURNAL--Now that we have received Volume III to curl up with on quiet evenings, we can start looking ahead to Volume IV, which will be under the editorship of Kay Cothran, who has recently arrived from Georgia to teach eager young folklorists at the University of Maryland. What we need to find now is someone who might be interested in being the "sales and marketing" manager for the Journal. This job would involve handling the financial aspects of the Journal, such as advertising in and of the Journal, sales to nonmembers and institutions, seeking new sources of income for the Journal, etc. As with most things that need to get done for the Society, it requires interest more than skill or experience. If you are interested or want to know more about it, please call Arlene Rodenbeck at 337-4353.

CLANCY BROTHERS WITH LOU KILLEN

Another delightful concert of Irish songs and poetry is coming our way on Saturday, November 4th, at 8:00 p.m., at Lisner Auditorium, 21st and H Sts. NW. It will be cosponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington and Stanley-Williams Presentations. Regular ticket prices are \$5.50, \$5.00, and \$4.50, but FSGW members are entitled to a 25% discount if you mail order your tickets in advance. Use the form below and don't forget to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Tickets are also available at the Talbert Ticket Agency in the Washington Hotel and at Learmont Records in Georgetown, but you won't be able to use your discount at those places.

Stanley-Williams Presentations
1715 37th St., NW.
Washington, DC 20007

TICKET ORDER FORM

Enclosed is a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check for \$_____ for tickets to the Clancy Brothers concert at Lisner Auditorium on November 4th, beginning at 8:00 p.m. I have specified the number of tickets at each price:

FSGW members:	_____ @ \$4.15	_____ @ \$3.75	_____ @ \$3.40
Non-members:	_____ @ \$5.50	_____ @ \$5.00	_____ @ \$4.50

The Rev. Pearlie Brown, well known gospel singer from Georgia, did a few concerts in the area in August, and while he was here his house burned down back home. Several groups are trying to raise the \$6000 needed to help replace his home. FSGW will probably either sponsor or cosponsor a benefit concert in November to help meet that goal. Meanwhile if any of you are interested you can send contributions to the fund for Rev. Brown to P.O. Box 1805, Madison, Wisconsin 53701.

THE CONCERTINA NEWSLETTER is a free magazine for players and collectors of concertinas, melodeons, flutinas, accordeons, mouth organs, and jews harps. It talks about the history and development of metal reed instruments and how to repair and recondition them and also how to play them. To subscribe, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to The Concertina Newsletter, c/o Neil Wayne, Editor, University of Nottingham, Sutton Nonington, Leicestershire LE12 5rd, England. Better check on what the overseas postage is first.

FOLK MUSIC ON RADIO

Here's a list of radio programs currently heard on the local FM stations that are devoted to folk music. The "purity" of the music presented varies, but some of these are really good:

Monday-Friday	1:00-5:00	p.m.	WETA	P.M. with Dick Cerri
Monday	5:00-6:00	p.m.	WAMU	John Dildine & Folk Music
Wednesday	9:30-10:00	a.m.	WBJC	Folk Roots (Baltimore)
Thursday	8:30-9:00	p.m.	WAMU	Bluegrass Unlimited
Saturday	6:00-9:00	a.m.	WAMU	Country Road
	2:00-3:00	p.m.	WAMU	John Dildine & Folk Music
	6:00-8:00	p.m.	WETA	Dick Cerri Show
	11:00-1:00	p.m.	WAMU	Contemporary Folk
Sunday	6:00-8:00	p.m.	WETA	Dick Cerri Show
	6:30-7:00	p.m.	WAMU	Bluegrass Unlimited

THE BLUEGRASS SONGBOOK contains 88 bluegrass and old time mountain tunes, lots of your favorites, with full music and chords for each song. You can get it by sending a \$4.00 check or money order to Bluegrass Songbook, Muleskinner News, Rt. 2, Box 304, Elon College, N.C. 27244.

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HOW ABOUT JOINING US? Membership in the Folklore Society of Greater Washington entitles you to free admission to our monthly programs, half-price at Special Events, first-class postage on the Newsletter, the Society Journal, access to the tape archives and the Exchange Publications, discounts at programs sponsored at Lisner Auditorium (see page 2), and lots of good times.

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Membership Form

I (We) wish to join the Society; enclosed is \$5.00 (individual)____\$7.50 (family)____ for a year's membership. This is a renewal____ / address change____.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Would you be interested in helping the Society in any way? Yes____ No____ Depends____



OOPS! A gremlin snuck into the Newsletter last month and put the wrong phone number in for Gene Anderson. The correct number to call if you have questions or problems concerning membership is 578-1025, evenings and weekends.

FOLK MUSIC FESTIVALS, FIDDLERS' CONVENTIONS, ETC.

Here are some coming up in the next few months that are within 500 miles of Washington. These are taken from the list compiled by Joe Hickerson at the Archive of Folk Song, Library of Congress.

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| October | 6-7 | Cobb Bluegrass Festival, North Georgia State Fairgrounds, Marietta, Georgia |
| " | 6-7 | Springs Folk Festival, Springs, Pennsylvania |
| " | 6-8 | Fall Music Festival, Towns County High School, Hiawassee, Georgia |
| " | 6-8 | 4th Annual Indian Summer Bluegrass Festival, Take It Easy Ranch, Callaway, Maryland |
| " | 7 | Fiddlers' Convention, Granite Quarry, North Carolina |
| " | 7 | Fredericksburg Dog Mart, including Fiddlers Contest, Fredericksburg, Virginia |
| " | 7 | Old-Time Fiddlers Convention, VFW Building, Hillsville, Virginia |
| " | 7 | West Virginia State Championship Fiddlers Contest, 36th Mountain State Forest Festival, Elkins, West Virginia |
| " | 13 | 3rd Annual Maryland State Banjo Contest, Southern High School, Oakland, Maryland |
| " | 13-21 | 105th Annual North Carolina State Fair (includes Folk Festival), Raleigh, North Carolina |
| " | 14 | 5th Annual Maryland State Fiddlers Contest, Southern High School, Oakland, Maryland |
| " | 28 | Bluegrass Day, Park Center, Charlotte, North Carolina |
| " | 28 | Old-Time Fiddlers Convention, Pine Hall, North Carolina |
| November | 17-18 | 7th Annual Collinsville Lions Club Old Time Fiddlers Convention, Recreation Center, Collinsville, Virginia |
| " | 18 | 9th Annual North Carolina State Fiddlers Championship, Cool Springs School, Cleveland, North Carolina |
| " | 23 | Lake Norman Fiddlers Convention, Lake Norman Music Hall, Terrell, North Carolina |
| " | 23-26 | 3rd Annual South Carolina State Bluegrass Festival, Convention Center, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina |
| " | 25 | Old Time Fiddlers Convention, Courtney, North Carolina |

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