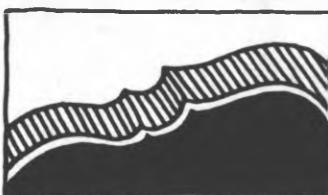


# The Folklore Society of Greater Washington



Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC 20036

# NEWSLETTER

Volume XI, No. 2

OCTOBER, 1974

Nan Goland, Editor

## COME TO THE GETAWAY OCTOBER 11-14!!

The Folklore Society's ninth annual Getaway Weekend will be held October 11 through 14 at Prince William Forest Park near Dumfries, Virginia. Weekend activities will begin Friday night with a 50's Rock and Roll Jam, plus Ghost Stories and Scary Tales at midnight.

Possibilities for workshops on Saturday and Sunday include: Banjo Styles, Jug Band Music, Death and/or After, Sacred Harp Singing, Songs from the Shower, What's in Your Head When You Sing, Sea Songs, Bagpipes, Hammer Dulcimer, Body Music, Bawdy Music, Songs Kids Sing, Hymn Singing, Blues Jam, Occupational Songs, Fiddle Tunes, Country & Western Songs, Harmonica, Vocal Styles, Buying an Instrument, Mountain Dulcimer, Grass Roots Harmony, Technical Square Dance, Alternatives-to-Festivals Discussion, Guitar Styles, Songs of Discovery, and How to Learn a Song. We probably won't have time to do all these, so if something you like doesn't get scheduled, remember there is plenty of time for informal picking and singing.

Cabin assignments and other important information for weekend registrants will be sent out no later than September 27.

Remember, NO PETS will be allowed in the camp this year, at all. This is a park regulation. If we ignore it, we run the risk of not being able to use the park again, ever. We don't want to have to ask anyone to take a pet home, but we will, so please just leave them home in the first place. (There are, of course, other park regulations, too numerous to mention here, which everyone will be expected to follow.)

THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR DAY REGISTRANTS on both Saturday and Sunday. Costs for daily registration are \$2.50 per day for adults, and \$1 per day for children under 16. If you want to camp nearby, contact Prince William Forest Park, Dumfries, Virginia, 22026. If you camp or drive down for the day, plan to bring your own food with you, because no food will be sold at the camp. The deadline for day registration has been extended till October 9, but it is important to register and pay in advance, since no money can be collected at the park. Use the form on the back of your Newsletter, and include total payment with it. Mail to: FSGW Getaway, PO Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, D.C., 20036.

SINCE THE GETAWAY BEGINS ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH,  
THERE WILL BE NO PROGRAM IN OCTOBER!

## OTHER FSGW HAPPENINGS...

### 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION/NOV. 22

A gala event celebrating the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Society is being planned for Friday, November 22, at the Ethical Society. Already in the works are: a concert by as many of the founders as can be corralled into appearing, a midnight square dance, and lots of informal singing. As an enticement for everyone to stay late into the evening celebrating, a light breakfast is planned for sometime around 2 or 3 AM. Anyone interested in helping to plan this event, please call Bill Destler at 699-5816. Everyone else, mark your calendar!

-Bill

### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING/OCTOBER 1

The October meeting of the Executive Board will be held Tuesday, October 1, at 8:00 PM, in the National Folk Festival Association office, Suite 1118 of the Dupont Circle Building, 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW. Board meetings are open to members of the Society, so feel free to attend if you're interested in how the Society functions. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month.

### OPEN SING/OCTOBER 4

The monthly Open Sing of the Society will be held on Friday, October 4, at 9:00 PM, at the Ethical Society, 16th & Kalmia Road NW. Admission is \$1, and refreshments are served. The sing this month will be led by Rich Galloway, whose theme will be "Food." Rich hopes to hear some tasteful songs.

-Bill

*Since some of you receive your Newsletters late, and since the November Open Sing is early, this is to remind you that the November Open Sing will be Friday, November 1. The Open Sing is always the first Friday of every month.*

### SACRED HARP/GETAWAY SUNDAY

Singing from *The Sacred Harp* will take place this month at the Getaway, on Sunday, October 13, probably at 11 AM, so remember to bring your books with you to the Getaway. If you want to come out just for the day, be sure to register in advance by sending in the form on the back of the Newsletter.

-Arlene

### SOUND SYSTEM WORKSHOP/OCTOBER 8

On Tuesday, October 8, at 8:00 PM, Mike Rivers will give a workshop on how to set up and operate the Society's sound system. This session is intended for people who will be running the system during the coming year, and anyone else who is interested in learning how the sound system works, for whatever reason. Call Mike at 892-6117 to get directions to his home in Arlington.

### HYMN SING & POT LUCK DINNER/NOVEMBER 3

Hymn singers, the time has come for us to show the Sacred Harpies (and everyone else) that we know how to have a good time, too, so put this date on your calendar now. On Sunday, November 3, at 5:00 PM, we will have a hymn sing and pot luck dinner at the home of Nan and Paul Goland, 2853 Ontario Road NW, Apt. 504. Bring your songbooks and hymnals, and bring food to share with others. Call Nan at 332-0232 if you need help deciding what to bring, or if you need directions.

-Nan

## OTHER FSGW MATTERS...

### DIAL-A-FOLK: 920-2067

As most of you already know, the Society now has its own telephone number. When you call this number, you will hear the smiling voice of Mike Rivers giving you a recorded run-down of upcoming events, plus a phone number to call for further information or directions when that is appropriate. You will also be given a chance to record your name, phone number, and a brief message if you would like to have someone call you back, or if you want to leave a message for one of the Board Members. Messages will be checked regularly and forwarded to the appropriate people. This is the place to leave word about specific membership problems, but if you just want to rap about the Society in general, ask questions, or make suggestions, you are encouraged to call Debbie Hutton at 270-2217. She would enjoy hearing from any member or prospective member.

### WORKSHOPS AND MORE WORKSHOPS

Again this year, we will be having a series of workshops, each focusing on a particular instrument or theme. Participation by all is encouraged. The first of these will be the hymn sing on November 3. Debbie Hutton would like to hear from any member who has suggestions for workshops, or who would like to host a workshop in their home. Would someone like to host a fiddle workshop sometime in November? A large house with separate rooms would be ideal. Please call Debbie at 270-2217 if you have either ideas or a house to offer.

### WHAT SOME FOLKS ARE DOING...

#### MIRIAM DVORIN CONCERT/OCTOBER 19

On Saturday, October 19, at 8:30 PM, Miriam Dvorin will give a free concert of Yiddish songs, accompanying herself on guitar and autoharp. The address is 7712 Mowatt Lane in Hyattsville, Md.

### BERWYN CAFE/SATURDAY NIGHTS

On Saturday nights there's live music after dinner at the Berwyn Cafe. The music starts at about 9:30, it's free, there's no cover or anything. Actually, you could call early and see what's for supper and who's for desert. The food is real good. The place is particularly suited to traditional or classical music--there's never any electric. If you play and would like to do a night or a set, call Jeffrey at 587-5865, or leave word at the cafe, 345-2121. Performers are paid by the hat.

There's good munching available--herb teas, hot and cold cider (in season), fresh fruit, and your general organic stuff, so don't worry about that.

The cafe is on Berwyn Road, about a mile north of College Park, off Route 1. The last Saturday of each month is open sing night unless otherwise scheduled. The other times there'll be real neat people to croon to you'n. Michael Quitt, Bruce Hutton, Merle and Carly, and Those Awkward Years (a *Sacred Harp* group) are among the cafe's regulars. Dinner starts at 6:00 so you can make a night of it.

-Jeffrey

### THE SINGER'S STUDIO HOOTENANNIES

Every Wednesday and Thursday night from 8 to 12 there is an open hoot at The Singer's Studio, 4614 Wisconsin Ave. NW. (right next to the K-B Studio 1-2-3 Theater). While Wednesdays are suggested for less experienced musicians, and Thursdays for those accustomed to sing in public, some come on both evenings. There are no auditions. You join the circle progression in order of arrival and sing several times throughout the evening. The early comers sing the most.

These hootenannies are particularly liked by songwriters singing their own material and continually attract the most talented in the area. There is no need for mikes and no distracting

#### THE SINGER'S STUDIO, CONTINUED

noise. An excellent piano is part of the intimate, comfortable setting. Listeners are always welcome.

The only charge for the evening is an admission of \$1.50. Refreshments are offered free. For further information call songwriter/host Bill Flanders at 966-1344.

-Bill

#### BLEUGRASS OPEN SING/OCTOBER 18

On the third Friday of every month, the Ethical Society hosts a Bluegrass Open Sing. This is an informal evening for folks to get together for the purpose of making music and having a good time. A donation of \$1.00 at the door covers the cost of wine, cheese, and other refreshments inside. The next Bluegrass Open Sing will be Friday, October 18, at 9:00 PM.

-Nan

#### LITURGICAL ARTS FESTIVAL/OCTOBER 26

Sacred Harp types are invited to come to a Liturgical Arts Festival being held by the Dumbarton United Methodist Church in Georgetown on Saturday, October 26. The purpose of the Festival is to explore the varieties of worship experience, new and old, and to that end they have invited us to give a "demonstration" of Sacred Harp music. We'll make it very informal, tell them something about the music, and ask everyone to join us in singing some of our favorites. The festival runs from 10 AM to 6 PM, but our part will be at 2 PM. The church is located at 3133 Dumbarton Ave. NW. Arlene Rodenbeck is coordinating this thing, so call her if you have any questions at 337-4353. Also participating in the festival are Jonathan Eberhart, Helen Schneyer, et al., who will be doing a workshop on "folk hymns" beginning at 3 PM, which should be good. This festival is open (and free) to all and will include visual arts as well as other musical events, so it sounds pretty interesting.

-Arlene

#### FOLK WISDOM & EARTH CRAFTS/OCTOBER 26-27

On Sunday, October 27, at 11:00 AM, a program entitled "Folk Wisdom in American Music" will be presented at the Ethical Society, 7750-16th St. NW. The program, which is being planned by Nan Goland, will feature songs and readings which contain gems of folk wisdom.

The Sunday program is part of the Earth Crafts Exhibit and Sale being held on Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27, from 1 to 9:00 PM. On show and sale will be such things as American Indian crafts, pottery, plants, pillows, weaving, batik, macrame, jewelry, quilts, candles, sleep lofts and platforms, farm produce, and home-made bread. Also featured during the weekend will be craft demonstrations and informal music making. Meals and snacks will be available. There is no charge for attending either the craft show or the Sunday program.

-Nan

#### CLASSES OFFERED BY ARLINGTON COUNTY

A number of interesting classes in folk music will be offered by the Arlington County Recreation Division under a grant from the Virginia Council on the Arts. Reed Martin will teach classes in Bluegrass Banjo and Old Time Banjo beginning October 22. Speedy Toliver will teach Old Time Banjo at the beginning and intermediate levels, beginning October 10. Aubrey Smith will teach Old Time Fiddle at beginning and intermediate levels, beginning October 10. Archie Edwards will teach a class in Delta Blues Guitar beginning on October 1. Fees for the above classes are \$20 for residents of Arlington County, \$30 for non-residents. A course in constructing a dulcimer will be offered by John Ware, starting on October 16. The fee is \$60, which includes all materials. Want to learn to call square dances? That's being offered, too, starting on October 14. For further information, or to join one of the classes, call Lynn Mailloux at the Arlington County Recreation Division, 558-2152.

IF YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE FOLKS whose Newsletter seems to always be late, check to see that it has 10¢ postage on it. Members' Newsletters should be sent by first class mail, so, if you are a member, but your Newsletter has only 1.7¢ postage on it, let Don Nichols know at 751-3162, or leave a message for him on the FSGW line.

## --CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

OCT. 1 - BOARD MEETING

4 - OPEN SING

8 - SOUND SYSTEM WORKSHOP

11-14 - GETAWAY

18 - BLUEGRASS OPEN SING

19 - MIRIAM DVORIN CONCERT

26 - LITURGICAL ARTS FEST

26-27 - EARTH CRAFTS

27 - "FOLK WISDOM" PROGRAM

NOV. 1 - OPEN SING

3 - HYMN SING

22 - ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Many thanks to the folks who contributed to this issue:

Jeffrey Deitchman  
Bill Destler  
Miriam Dvorin  
Bill Flanders  
Linda Ford  
Debbie Hutton  
Mike Rivers  
Arlene Rodenbeck

Items for the November Newsletter can be given to me at Society events, or mailed to me at 2853 Ontario Road NW, #504, Washington, D.C., 20009. The deadline is October 17. And please, put your news in writing!

Here is a list of the 1974-75 Board Members and their phone numbers:

President  
Helen Schneyer . . . . . 949-4552

Vice President  
Debbie Hutton . . . . . 270-2217

Treasurer  
Rich Galloway . . . . . 864-0723

Secretary  
Pat Chambers . . . . . 337-0960

Program  
Jonathan Eberhart . . . . . 667-0778

Special Events  
Bill Destler . . . . . 699-5816

Membership  
Don Nichols . . . . . 751-3162

Publications  
Nan Goland . . . . . 332-0232

Publicity  
Bette Hamman . . . . . 933-3295

Members-at-large  
Mary Cliff . . . . . 536-6900  
Lars Hanslin . . . . . 543-0956

FSGW PHONE NUMBER:

920-2067

If by some strange chance this issue of the Newsletter reaches you before the end of September, let me remind you of two events:

1. Bruce Hutton will give a concert at the Ethical Society on Friday, September 27 at 8:30 PM. (\$2.00)
2. There will be a *Sacred Harp* sing on Sunday, September 29 at 4:00 PM. Call Arlene Rodenbeck at 337-4353 for details.

## GUITAR TUNING

by Eddie Alkire

Many guitarists are frustrated because of their attempts to tune the guitar to pure (acoustically correct) chords. These players have sensitive ears that prefer pure intervals. They tune their guitar beautifully pure on one chord only to find that the next chord form is unacceptable. In many instances they assume there is a flaw in the workmanship on the fingerboard. Their problem is not in the construction of the guitar. It is one of pure tuning versus equal temperament.

First, check the condition of the guitar. A warped neck can cause strings to pull out of tune in the upper positions. A movable bridge may be misplaced. Old worn strings will play out of tune on the finest instrument. A guitar free of these common flaws can be correctly tuned for playing in all keys by using the system of equal temperament.

Since the guitar is an instrument of fixed pitch, the strings must be tuned to tempered intervals, not pure. Equal temperament is the name given to a system of dividing the scale into twelve equal half steps. Train your ear to accept tempered intervals and you will be much happier with your guitar.

When the steps listed below have been followed correctly, the guitar will be as perfectly tuned as it could be, nevertheless, when you have finished, your sensitive ear may notice that on each major chord form there is always one string slightly high. If you start adjusting a particular string on a certain chord form, you only compound the problem because the next chord form will be completely objectionable. Tune the guitar as instructed and let it stand.

Now for the tuning instructions. You must not use harmonic tones at the seventh fret as a point of reference, as is occasionally ill-advised. Harmonic tones at the seventh fret are pure fifths. In equal temperament each fifth must be lowered slightly. To tune by harmonics at the seventh fret will make the guitar sound entirely unacceptable on some chords.

On the other hand, all harmonics at the twelfth and fifth frets, being one and two octaves above the open strings, are useful as reference tones in the following instructions.

**Tuning the FIRST and SIXTH strings:** The E, open first string must be in pure unison with the harmonic of the E sixth string at the fifth fret. When these two strings have been properly tuned with each other, continue as follows.

**Tuning the FOURTH string:** Play a harmonic on the sixth string at twelve, and as this harmonic sounds, adjust the fourth string until the tone E on the second fret is in pure unison. Now you have the E, open first string, E on the fourth string at the second fret, and E, open sixth string tuned pure.

**Tuning the SECOND string:** Play a harmonic on the fourth string at twelve and as this sounds, adjust the third string until D at the seventh fret is in pure unison.

## **GUITAR TUNING, Continued**

**DOUBLE CHECK:** Play a harmonic on the G string at twelve, and as this tone sounds, play G on the first string at the third fret. The two tones should be in pure unison. If they are not, either you are at fault or the instrument doesn't fret true at seven. Go back to the beginning and carefully check each step up to this point. If the tones are still faulty, then readjust the third string until the harmonic at twelve is in unison with the first string at three. Do not tamper with the first and fourth strings because it is the third string you are trying to bring in tune. When you have the first, sixth, fourth, second, and third strings in tune, in that order, continue with the remaining fifth string.

Tuning the FIFTH string: Play the tone A on the third string at the second fret. Listen carefully and adjust the fifth string until the harmonic at twelve is in pure unison.

When the above steps are followed correctly, the strings will be tuned perfectly to equal temperament, and your guitar should be playable in any key.

Remember when Mike Rivers showed us how to use this method? It was at one of the Getaway workshops, last year, I think. Seemed simpler than this, somehow. Anyway, the above article is taken from an article reprinted in "The Folknik," Volume VII, No. 3, May-June, 1971. Where or when it originally appeared is not known.

## DAY REGISTRATION - GETAWAY IX

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

## PHONE

## **ADDRESS**

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU A MEMBER?**

PLEASE LIST ALL PERSONS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING:

**NAME**

**AGE GROUP**

**DAY/DAYS**

## PRICE

**TOTAL: \$**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/We want to join! Enclosed is:

\$5.00 - One year, individual       \$15.00 - Three year, individual

\$7.50 - One year, family       \$22.50 - Three year, family

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in helping the Society in any way? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a renewal? \_\_\_\_\_ Change of address? \_\_\_\_\_

-----

Folklore Society of Greater Washington  
P.O. Box 19303, 20th Street Station  
Washington, D.C. 20036



JONATHAN EBERHART  
1715 - 19TH ST. N.W. #4  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009