

The
Folklore
Society
of Greater
Washington



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

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII, No. 3

NOVEMBER 1976

Al Kehs, Editor

JOHNNY SHINES AT NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Johnny Shines is a traditional bluesman of the first order. He is a major original performer in the rural blues tradition. He was born April 26, 1915 in Frazier, Tenn. on the outskirts of Memphis. His family was musical and he grew up listening to Blind Lemon Jefferson, Charlie Patton, Lonnie Johnson, Leroy Carr and Scrapper Blackwell.

He began playing guitar at 17—mostly in the style of Chester Burnett. In 1941, he moved to Chicago where he got involved with the rapidly growing urban blues scene when not working as a construction foreman.

He formed his first group in 1943 called the Dukes of Swing featuring trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, drums, and guitar. Johnny has made numerous recordings including Chicago—The Blues Today and three discs for Testament Records. Johnny Shines is an intense, powerful singer of the Blues and an exceptional performer, so come out and be prepared for a truly enjoyable evening.

This program was made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. As usual, the program will be held at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750—16th St. NW. FSGW members are admitted free; nonmembers \$2.

SAMPLER CONCERT NOV 19

This month's special event will be a "sampler concert" for which several of your fellow FSGW members have volunteered their time and talents to help us raise money and get a look at some of the wealth of talent that lives locally.

The program will be held Friday Nov. 19 at 8:30 PM at the Washington Ethical Society. Admission will be \$1.50 for members and \$2.50 for nonmembers. The concert will feature the following:

MAGPIE—Terry and Greg have been singing together for about 3 years and have appeared at many of the colleges and clubs along the east coast. They perform traditional Anglo American music on a variety of instruments and also some Blues, Ragtime, Contemporary, and original material.

CAROLINE HOOVER—a fine singer from whom we have heard much too little. Caroline says that she will be singing "Songs of my childhood— and others" — accompanied by her guitar.

HELEN SCHNEYER—needs no introduction. She has been singing ballads and Gospel music for many years and knows hundreds of songs—all great. Helen always gives a warm exciting performance and demands audience participation, so come prepared to bellow your lungs out.

THE SWEETWATER STRING BAND—is composed of five different zany personalities merged into one harmonious whole. Gary Humiston plays fiddle and is the male sex symbol of the group. Ann Houck and Karen Shipp play guitar and sing the sweetest vocals this

continued inside

SAMPLER CONTINUED

side of J.C. and the angels. Sid Netheri plays bass and keeps everybody together and Pete McClerkin plays banjo and grins a lot. Their repertoire includes songs and tunes from American string band as well as Irish tradition. They are loose and relaxed and obviously enjoy what they are doing which means that the audience will invariably enjoy it too.

-Dave

NOV, SCHEDULE FOR BERWYN CAFE

- Nov 6 Magpie-traditional and contemporary folk music done superbly. Unquestionable musicianship.
9:30PM
- Nov 7 Ancient Orphic Mystery Band-
8:30PM traditional music of the British Isles. Fine harmonies.
- Nov 13 Nymphs and Satyrs-instrumental
9:30PM and vocal music of the Renaissance
Phenomenal entertainment.
- Nov 14 Kit Kamien-Blues, old timers
8:30PM and originals with style and perspective.
- Nov 20 Fast Flying Vestibule-one of the
9:30PM more versatile and exciting string bands around.
- Nov 21 Folktellers-folk stories as
8:30PM collected and told by two engrossing and convincing women.
- Nov 27 Sweetwater String Band-country,
9:30PM blues, and bluegrass with swanky harmony.
- Nov 28 Open Sing-a chance to share
8:30PM some of your favorites with us.
-Jeff

CRAFTS FAIR AT ETHICAL SOCIETY

You can sell the products of your craft, pick'n grin and help staff the FSGW table on Nov 20 and 21 at the Ethical Society's EARTH-CRAFTS fair. Folk toys, musical instruments, lessons, weavings, leatherwork - whatever you do or make and want to sell. Call Dolores Nichols 938-4564 or Nan Goland 332-0232 to schedule your time at the FSGW table or to get further information.

-Paul

FIRST FRIDAY OPEN SINGS

The November Open Sing will be held on Friday Nov. 5 at 9PM at the Washington Ethical Society. This month's "leader" will be Wally MacNow and the topic will be "Songs of faraway places!" Come and bring some farout faraway songs to the Ethical society on the 5th.

An uncharacteristic amount of planning ahead makes it possible to also name the leader and topic for December. Dave Olive will lead us in songs about Santa and other "mythical " creatures.
-Al

CLOGGING WORKSHOP AND EVENING DANCE

The D.C. Country Dancers are sponsoring a clogging workshop with evening dance. The Green Grass Cloggers from Greenville, N.C. will conduct the workshop and the music will be provided by Steve Hickman and the --Violet Hill Swamp Donkeys? The event is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13 in Caldwell Hall on the campus of Catholic University, 620 Michigan Ave. N.E. The workshop will run from 2 to 5 PM followed by the dance from 8 to 10:30 PM. Cost is \$4.00 for the workshop and \$2.00 for the dance or \$5.00 for both. For advanced registration or more information call:

Rodger at 338-4397(202)
Bruce at 338-7377
or Nina at 229-8723(301)
-Al

SQUARE DANCE

Pioneer Women will sponsor a Square Dance on Saturday, Nov. 13. The Dance will be called by Bob Dalsemer with live music featuring Reed Martin, Mike Holmes, Pete and Caroline Hoover. It will be held at 8PM at Connecticut Park School on the corner of Greenly and Bushey Drive in Wheaton. Donation, \$3 per person. Refreshments. For more information or directions, call 946-2246.
-Rebecca

The DEADLINE for the December Newsletter will be Nov 23. Mail articles to Al Kehs 11443 Cherry Hill Rd. #103 Beltsville 20705.

JAVANESE WAYANG

Karl Signell, a local ethnomusicologist, has organized a Javanese Wayang or shadow play. A traditional Gamelon orchestra (similar to the one that performed for the FSGW on a program last year) will provide background music. The epic saga of mythic warriors battling a demon army will be narrated in English and the presentation will be held in the center of a room so that the audience may view either the shadows on one side or the puppeteers and orchestra on the other. The event will take place Sunday, Nov 21 at 7:30 PM in the Adult Education Building at the U. of Md. (corner of Univ. Blvd. and Adelphi Rd.). Admission is FREE.

-A1

SINGING FROM THE SACRED HARP AND POT LUCK SUPPER

This month's sing will be held on Sunday, Nov 7, beginning at 4PM at the home of Dottie and Bob Morrison in Takoma Park. Call them at 270-5642 to get directions and make food arrangements.

The Sacred Harp and The Christian Harmony, the two books we use at these gatherings, are shape-note hymnbooks that are collections of hymns and gospel tunes arranged in four-part harmony. They are part of a Southern singing tradition that started in the 18th century and is still alive today, primarily in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi.

The gatherings are a good opportunity to sing with others in an informal atmosphere. Everyone brings something to share with others for the potluck. Extra books are available if you don't have one; you can also buy them for \$3.75 each from Arlene Rodenbeck. -Arlene

--CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--

- Nov. 5 - OPEN SING
- 7 - SACRED HARP
- 12 - PROGRAM - JOHNNY SHINES
- 13 - CLOGGING WORKSHOP
- 13 - SQUARE DANCE
- 19 - SAMPLER CONCERT
- 20-21 - CRAFTS FAIR
- 21 - WAYANG
- DEC. 3 - OPEN SING

MONDAYS - RED FOX INN
SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS - BERYN CAFE

SOME IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- President
Bill Destler.....699-5816
- Vice-President
Mary Cliff.....536-6900
- Treasurer
Lars Hanslin.....554-0880
- Secretary
Mia Gardiner.....573-8111
- Program Chairman
Dave Olive.....265-7011
- Special Events Chairman
Jonathan Eberhart.....667-0778
- Membership Chairman
Dolores Nichols.....938-4564
- Publications Chairman (Newsletter)
Al Kehs.....937-4773
- Publicity Chairman
Nan Goland.....332-0232
- Members-at-large
Wally Macnow.....546-3771
Tom McHenry.....554-8535

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION, CALL THE FSGW HOTLINE 281-2228

This Newsletter is published by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional folk arts in the greater Washington, DC area. Membership in the Society is open to all who wish to help pursue these goals. Membership benefits include free admission to programs, reduced admission to special events, the Newsletter by first class mail, plus workshops, sings, and more. To join, fill out the form below, enclose your check and send to the Folklore Society, PO Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC, 20036.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/we want to join! Enclosed is:

_____ \$6 - One year, Individual

_____ \$18 - Three year, Individual

_____ \$9 - One year, Family

_____ \$27 - Three year, Family

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHECK ONE: New Membership _____ Renewal _____ Is this a change of address? _____

Are you interested in helping the Society in some way? _____

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Enclosed is \$2 for a one-year, out-of-town FSGW Newsletter subscription:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Folklore Society of Greater Washington
PO Box 19303 - 20th Street Station
Washington, DC 20036



FIRST CLASS MAIL