FSGW PROGRAM DECEMBER 8

The Midwest is full of old and well established ethnic music traditions with only a few, usually older people to uphold them. Malcolm Dalglish and Grey Larsen, two young musicians from Cincinnati, Ohio, perform material based on what they have learned from such people. Although music of Ireland and the British Isles has been their main emphasis (being the mainstay musicians at an Irish pub in Cincinnati and having focused their recent record album "Banish Misfortune" on such material), their performances include unaccompanied ballads, stories, hymns, work songs and dance tunes from the Appalachian mountains thru the Ohio River Valley and North. They perform on a variety of traditional instruments, including hammer dulcimers, Irish flute, tin whistle, English concertina, fiddle, guitar, plucked dulcimer, piano, spoons, bones, tambourine, and their own bodies (HamBone). The combination of Grey's sturdy bass voice and versatility as a young one-man band, and Malcolm's tenor voice with unusual skills as a hammer dulcimer player and builder makes a performance by them an exciting, enjoyable experience.

The program will be held at the Washington Ethical Society, 16th & Kalmar Sts. N.W. on Friday, December 8th at 8:30 p.m. Admission is free to FSGW members and $2.00 to non-members. The January program will be Jane Sapp.

*****************************************

Special event on December 2nd to feature Tom Paley, traditional guitar & banjo.

See Page 2 for further info.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Tom Paley is one of a handful of artists who led the way towards a style-conscious revival of traditional folk and early country music. In the early years of the "folk boom" when a flood of musicians by mere virtue of using a guitar or banjo were called folk singers, Paley was among the few whose knowledge of traditional music was shaping their own interpretations of ballads, string band material, and country blues.

Along with Mike Seeger (who performed at the Hicks benefit) and John Cohen (our last program), Paley was an original member of the New Lost City Ramblers. Since parting from that group and the country (he now resides in England), his U.S. appearances have been rare. Last year he appeared at the San Diego Folk Festival and earlier this fall he played a folk festival at Goddard College in Vermont. It's been about 10 years, however, since he has been heard in the D.C. area.

Fans of Tom Paley's work with the N.L.C.R. and of his solo work from that period will be pleased to find that his taste has remained with traditional guitar and banjo styles. A recent LP on Kicking Mule shows a strong bent towards respecting the styles of his sources (folks like Sam McGee, John Hurt, Rev. Gary Davis, The Delmore Bros.) while at the same time investing much of his own creativity and vitality in the music.

**This concert will be held at the Ethical Society Bldg., 7750 16th St., N.W. At 8:30pm on Sat. December 2nd. Admission will be $2.00 for members and $4.00 for non-members.

-----------------------------

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA! GIVE A MEMBERSHIP TO THE FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON. IT'S A GIFT THAT WILL LAST THE WHOLE YEAR THRU.

-----------------------------
FSGW CHRISTMAS SQUARE DANCE

Jim Morrison from Charlottesville, Va. will call a monthly dance Dec. 16th from 8-11 p.m. in the gymnasium of the North Bethesda Junior High School. Jim is great with beginners and children, as well as with experienced dancers. He specializes in Southern Mountain Big Circles and Running Sets. Music will be played by the infamous Violet Hill Swamp Donkeys, and there will be a special performance by Washington's own Footloose Cloggers. Directions: From the beltway, go South on Old Georgetown Rd. thru 2 traffic lights. Turn right on Johnson Ave. and follow Johnson until it dead-ends at the school. Admission is $2 for FSGW members and $2.50 for non-members. Students are $1.

Nina

OPEN SING ON DECEMBER 1st, 9 p.m.

One of the most interesting and varied categories of folk songs are those involving animals. Some are children's songs; some are about pets or work animals; some deal with creatures generally regarded as pests; some are realistic, some fantastic, some allegorical. Songs of many types may include references to animals. Let's see what kind of bestiary we can come up with at this month's open sing, December 1, at about 9 p.m., at the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 16th and Kalmia Rd. N.W. Admission is $1, refreshments included. So find all your feathered, furry, and finny friends and join leader Bill Day for "Birds, Beasts, Little Fishes, and Various Vermin in song!"

The January Open Sing, January 5th, will be led by Bob Hitchcock, who has chosen the topic, "The Farmer, His Farm, His Life and His Demise."

Nancy

FSGW SUNDAY NIGHT DANCES

The regular FSGW Sunday night dances are now being held at the Masonic Temple Hall, 3501 12th St. N.E. corner of 12th and Monroe St. about 6 blocks East of the Catholic U. campus and 1 block E. of the Brookland-Catholic U. Metro station. The dances are from 8 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Admission is $2 for members and $2.50 for non-members.

December 3- Lou Shapiro calling with music by the Boss-Town Buzz-Steps.

December 10- Caller to be announced, music by the Boss-Town Buzz-Steps.

December 17- Special Christmas Dance Party called by Bob Dalsemer with music by the Boss-Town Buzz-Steps.

December 24 & 31- No Dancing.

January 7th- Dances resume.

SACRED HARP SING

Hymn singing from the "Sacred Harp" will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 4 p.m. Arlene Rodenbeck will host at her house in Mount Pleasant. Call her for info and directions at 462-3667. We will have our usual amazing potluck supper so mark your calendar and get ready to rattle those pots and pans.

P.S. Does anyone know who will be our host in January? I don't! Call me at 585-7065 if you get any ideas.

Karen

GOSPEL SING

This month's Gospel Sing will be on December 10th in Kensington, Md. at Nancy Schatz's house. Singing will begin promptly at 4 p.m. Bring a potluck dish and your voice. Please call Nancy at 933-3073 to let her know what you will be bringing.

Kathy

FSGW ANNUAL MINI-FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR FOURTH SATURDAY IN JANUARY!!

An event always to be looked forward to, the mini-festival schedule and other info. will be in the January newsletter. Meanwhile, if you have any ideas for workshops or other suggestions call Debbie, 270-2217.
DECEMBER FEATURES AT THE RED FOX
MONDAY NIGHT FOLK HOOT

Dec. 4 - Tom Paley (see special event article on page 2).

Dec. 11 - Malcolm Dalglish * Grey Larsen (see program article on page 1.

Dec. 18 - Cathy Pink - Last heard with Duck Donald, Cathy is taking a busman's (bus person's) holiday relaxing between tours with a visit to the D.C. area. She will be joined in her feature set by Alice Gerrard. Then it is back to Canada where she and Duck are putting together a four piece band. For fans of Cathy and Duck's recordings some news; good and bad. The bad news is that their first LP on Likeable Records is now unavailable. The good news; their 2nd album is now out and available in the States on Flying Fish records. It's great and features fiddling on several cuts by Graham Townsend.

The Red Fox Inn, at Fairmount Ave., Bethesda, has an open stage for traditional folk music on Mondays at 8:30 p.m. Feature sets are from 9:30 - 10:30 with a $1 cover charge. For further info. call Bruce Hutton, 270-2217.

XMAS CAROLLING

"carolling: to sing in joy; sing; warble." (definition from Webster's)

Traditionally members of the Folklore Society have gathered together each holiday season, in various neighborhoods, for carolling. If you are interested in hosting an evening of carolling, call Debbie, 270-2217. Locations for carolling will be announced at the December 8th program and will be on the FSGW hot-line after that.

FSGW BOARD MEETING, DEC. 6th, 8 P.M.

The December Board meeting will be held at Lars Hanslin's home in Chevy Chase, Md. (654-4317). The meetings are open to the membership.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15th

Please mail articles to 3313 Hemlock Dr. Falls Church, Va. 22042 or call 573-8111.

COMMUNITY CAFE' 4949 BETHESDA AVE.

Thursday nights at the Community Cafe brings you traditional music at 8:30 p.m. Natural vegetarian food and good snacks are available. $1 and $2 donations are requested. All money goes to the musician.

Dec. 7 - Dennis Botzer - "Dr. D." the purveyor of the 80's. He plays the banjo, piano, fiddle, and guitar.

Dec. 9 - Bob Clayton - Bob does old timey music on the 5 string banjo, fiddle and guitar. Bob has published an instruction book on the 5 string banjo.

Dec. 14 - Chicken Spankers - Back by demand, the Chicken Spankers are an innovative bluegrass band from the Eastern Shore featuring Jim Hale on banjo.

Dec. 21 - Wally Macnow - Wally sings a bunch of stuff.....some traditional folk, sea shanties, British ballads a capella-whatever he does you will enjoy.

Dec. 25 - Happy Holidays Everyone!

Dec. 28 - Call the cafe for scheduled musician.

JOE HICKERSON & KATHY WESTRA AT THE SONGSMITH

Capitol Hill performers Joe Hickerson and Kathy Westra will be featured at the Songsmith on December 15th and 16th in a program of folk music titled "The Holiday Connection: Traditional Christmas Songs and Related Seasonal Fare." There will be 2 shows each evening, at 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. with a nominal admission for each show. The Songsmith is located at 319 Seventh St., S.E. between Pennsylvania Ave. and "C" St. For further info call 554-5133.

The Songsmith offers a variety of music 6 nights a week: Tuesday-Songwriters' Showcase; Wednesday- Folk Music; Thursday- Blues; Friday- Folk Music; Saturday- Country and Bluegrass; Sunday- Open Mike. Admission is $2 except for Tues. and Sunday when it is $1. The December schedule was not available at press time, except for Joe and Kathy's Holiday program, so call 678-9600 for more information.
IN MEMORIAM

The roots of the traditional music of which many of us are so fond grow older with passing time. In slightly more than a year, no fewer than eight traditional musicians, well known to the Folklore Society of Greater Washington and to many others, have passed away. As 1978 draws to an end, I would like to take a moment with all of you to remember them. They enriched our lives and we will miss them.

Estil C. Ball of Rugby, Virginia was a country storekeeper who became widely respected for his guitar playing and his rich store of gospel and children's songs and ballads. Much of Estil's time was devoted to music and many young men of the area were tutored in string bands he organized. He also headed a gospel quartet, the Friendly Gospel Singers.

Maybelle Addington Carter, one of the three members of the original Carter Family of Hiltons, Virginia, began her career in the kerosene-lit one-room schools of S.W. Virginia and continued for more than fifty years. Her guitar playing influenced generations of country guitar players with many of the arrangements of older tunes and songs becoming standards.

Wilbur ('Big Chief') Ellis, from Birmingham, Alabama, learned to play the piano as a child although his family did not own one. His Aunt had a piano and Chief would visit her on such pretexts as mowing the lawn, just to get his hands on it. He was the master of barrel-house blues piano stylings, as well as an outstanding jazz player.

Arthur (Peg Leg Sam) Jackson left an indelible impression at hundreds of small towns of the South he visited with medicine shows. His stock of jokes, patter, songs, and tunes seemed inexhaustible. Peg Leg Sam began playing his favorite instrument, the harmonica, by the age of twelve and began his lifelong ramblings in his early teens.

Jim Olin from St. Louis, Missouri was an organizer of the Missouri Corn Dodgers, a well-known revival old-time string band in the mid-west. Jim was widely respected for his diligence in collecting the music of the old time musicians of Missouri and Arkansas. A powerful bass singer and brilliant banjoist and fiddler, he separated his performing from that of the older musicians he collected. He is buried near Joe Politte, whom he helped bring to the public.

Joe Politte of Old Mines, Missouri was a waggoner and miner in his youth and later became a noted horse and mule trader. Old Mines is the last remaining enclave of the Mississippi Valley French, and Joe had a distinctive and large repertoire of Missouri French tunes. He learned fiddling from his father and neighbors and delighted people with his playing and mule trading stories.

Malvina Reynolds, born of immigrant parents in San Francisco, California at the turn of the century, was a prolific songwriter. Many of her songs have been recorded by Pete Seeger, Harry Belafonte, Joan Baez and other artists. She was primarily interested in writing songs based on labor and the folk tradition, songs with a social content, topical songs because "I feel as though they are necessary". Most notable may be "Little Boxes."

Frank Warner was a devoted and renowned collector, preserver and interpreter of American traditional folk music, collecting folk material from all along the Eastern seaboard and bringing to the general public such names as Frank Proffitt, Yankee John Galusha and Lena Bourne Fish. His performances were authentic and he often sang in the unaccompanied traditional manner. His sons, Jeff and Gerret, accompanied their parents on "song-catching" trips and both now are performers carrying on the tradition.
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 D.C. 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 of Greater Washington, P.O. Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington D.C. 20036.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Is this a new address? Yes____ No____ (If more than one last name, please indicate preferred name for alphabetical filing.)

Is this a renewal or a new membership? Renewal____ New____

Name_________________________________________________ We want to join! Enclosed is:

Address__________________________ Individual____ $6 one year;____ $18- 3 year

City__________________________ Family____ $9 one year;____ $27- 3 year

State________ Zip Code________ Out-of-town____ $3

Phone(home)____ (work)________

Are you willing to help the Society in some way?_______________________________________________

Interests (music, dance, crafts, etc.)___________________________________________________________

Anyone living outside the Greater Washington area may subscribe to the FSGW newsletter only, in lieu of getting a full membership, if they do not plan to vote or have free admission to programs. The cost for out-of-town memberships is $3.

FSGW HOT LINE: (703) 281-2228

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: For the December newsletter the deadline is November 16th. Please mail articles to 3313 Hemlock Dr. Falls Church, Va. 22042.

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON
P.O. BOX 19303, 20TH STREET STATION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20036

FIRST CLASS MAIL