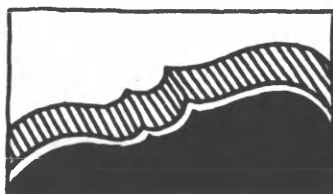


# The Folklore Society of Greater Washington



Box 19114, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC 20036

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVI

No 4

DECEMBER, 1979

PHONE (703) 281-2228

Nancy Schatz, Editor

## December Program: Cliff Haslam

On Friday, December 14, we'll have the pleasure of hearing Cliff Haslam--one of the finest British singers the U.S. has to offer--in a program of ballads, sea shanteys, drinking songs, and other traditional music from the British Isles.

Cliff, who lives in Madison, Conn., was born and grew up in Liverpool, England. His love of traditional music was strengthened, he says, by the attainment of legal drinking age (18), when he began to attend folk clubs at Liverpool's pubs. Whatever the source of his interest, there's no doubt that Cliff now sings a wide variety of songs in a style that is truly representative of England's best folk music. He accompanies himself on concertina and guitar.

Cliff has performed extensively in this country at festivals and coffeehouses; this is his first solo performance for FSGW. He has recorded for Folkways and Living Folk records and is one of the singers featured on the National Geographic Society's album, "Songs and Sounds of the Sea."

The concert begins at 8:30, Friday, December 14, at the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750 - 16th St., N.W. (at Kalmia Road). Admission is free to FSGW members; the cost for non-members is \$2.00. Don't miss this special evening with a fine singer!



## "Nowell Sing We Clear" on December 12

Add a new dimension to the upcoming holiday season with a program of mid-winter carols, NOWELL SING WE CLEAR. We'll gather at Gaston Hall, Georgetown University, on Wednesday evening, December 12. John Roberts, Tony Barrand, Fred Breunig, and Steve Woodruff will present a full program in two parts, beginning with the Christmas story as interpreted in

traditional song, "The Truth Sent from Above." the second half, called "The Twelve Days of Christmas," offers carols of mid-winter rites and celebrations, and concludes with the Christmas Mummers Play, marking the change of seasons.

John and Tony have long been known for their presentation of traditional song, primarily British Isles music. Fred and Steve are especially familiar to New Englanders for their musicianship and calling of traditional dance. Much of the traditional British and American music will be unaccompanied, and they'll bring concertina, fiddle, and accordion as well.

This will be a good oppor- (Continued on p. 2)



NOWELL SING WE CLEAR (Cont. from p. 1)

tunity to bring the whole family for an exciting and entertaining evening of singing and listening to traditional music and lore. Admission will be \$3.00 for FSGW members, \$5.00 for non-members; children under age 12, half-price. Tickets are available in advance by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope, with payment, to FSGW Special Events, P.O. Box 5604, Preston King Station, Arlington, VA 22205. Or just come, on Wednesday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m., to NOWELL SING WE CLEAR, in Gaston Hall, third floor of the Healy Building, Georgetown University, 37th & O Sts., N.W., Washington. There's free parking on campus after 6 p.m.



SUNDAY NIGHT DANCES



The Sunday night dances have been a great success. Thanks to all of you for coming, and I hope we will continue to see you there. Here is the updated and continuing schedule for the dances. They are held in the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, which is right on Chevy Chase Circle, every Sunday evening from 8:30 to 11:00. Admission is \$2.00 for FSGW members and \$2.50 for non-members. Any questions? Call Lisa Kornberg at 949-4890.

- Dec. 2 - Boss Town Buzz Steps.
- Dec. 9 - Kate Charles, a patter-caller from New York City.
- Dec. 16 - Bob Dalsemer calling for the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE.
- Dec. 23 - (No dance)
- Dec. 30 - (No dance)
- Jan. 6 - Bob Dalsemer calling.
- Jan. 13 - Pine Hill Band, from Maine, will be calling and playing.
- Jan. 20 - Boss Town Buzz Steps.
- Jan. 27 - Bob Dalsemer calling.
- Feb. 3 - Lou Shapiro calling.
- Feb. 10 - Boss Town Buzz Steps.
- Feb. 17 - Sandy Bradley, patter-caller from the West Coast, needs no introduction.
- Feb. 24 - Bob Dalsemer calling.

Happy dancing!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING 1979

On Sunday afternoon, December 16, we'll have our annual get-together for Christmas caroling--with a new twist. This year, we will be doing our singing underground! In the Metro system, that is. With an escort from Metro's public affairs department, we will gather at 1:00 p.m. at the 13th & G St. entrance of the Metro Center station (inside the station, but not inside the fare gates). We'll do some singing in Metro Center, and then buy farecards (50¢ each) and sing our way through the system, probably until about 5 or 5:30 p.m. Song sheets will be available for everyone, and we will be inviting the public to join us in some of the season's more familiar songs.

In addition to the old familiar tunes, we'll need some volunteers to do less well-known numbers as soloists or in small groups. Please call Kathy Hickerson at 544-4309, evenings, if you'd like to volunteer to do a special song or two.

Also, there will be at least one rehearsal before the caroling session so we can decide on some songs and practice our harmonies. (It's quite likely that there will be some media coverage of the event and we don't want to seem too disorganized.) Please call the FSGW hotline number, 281-2228, for the date, location, and time of the rehearsal.

Those high, vaulted ceilings should provide splendid acoustics and a great setting for singing. See you there, Sunday, December 16, at 1:00 p.m., at the 13th & G St. entrance of the Metro Center station. Call Kathy if you want to volunteer for a solo song; call the hotline for information on the rehearsal. Fa la la la la....!

DECEMBER OPEN SING

On Friday, December 7, Alan Mackall and Carly Gewirtz Mackall will lead the December Open Sing. Their topic is "Gods and Other Beings of Power." The location is the Washington Ethical Society building, 7750 - 16th St., N.W., in Washington. Starting time is about 9 p.m. (don't worry about being late--there's no such thing for this event). Refreshments are available.

Janice Cole will lead the January Open Sing on Jan. 4, with the topic, "An Old Song and a New Song."

NOTES OF IMPORTANCE

BOARD MEETINGS: The December FSGW Board meeting will be held Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m., at the home of Mia Gardiner, in Falls Church, VA. Board meetings are open to the membership and your participation is encouraged. For directions, call Mia at 573-1315.

For information about the January meeting, call the FSGW hotline, 281-2228.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The deadline for the January Newsletter is Friday, Dec. 14. The holidays will make the timing particularly tight this month, so PLEASE help out by getting your material in ON TIME. Mail it all to Nancy Schatz, 3312 Glenway Dr., Kensington, MD 20795. Please include your name and phone number. Remember--Dec. 14!

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA!

Give your favorite closet folkie a membership in FSGW! Send a membership form, with payment, in the name of the lucky recipient, and indicate that it is a gift (include your name so you can get all the thanks you deserve). We'll send a membership card, Newsletter, and brochure. Be sure to allow enough time before the holidays! Send forms to FSGW, c/o Don Nichols, 307 Broadleaf Dr., N.E., Vienna, VA 22180.

SACRED HARP SING

Hymn-singing from The Sacred Harp, and a pot-luck supper, will be held on Sunday, December 30, at 4:00 p.m., at the home of Julie Guroff in Bethesda, MD. Call Julie at 530-5356 (best time is about 6 p.m.) for directions and to let her know what you'll be bringing.

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CLASSIFIED SECTION

FOUND: Long-handled spatula at FSGW annual picnic. 202/362-3053.

FOUND: White sock, yellow & black striped, at Getaway, cabin E-3. 202/362-3053.

LOST: Cello rosin in blue cloth and plastic case, at Getaway. 202/362-3053.

FOR SALE: Mandolin, Ventura V-900. Good sound for old-timey & bluegrass. \$150, case. 703/765-2426.

TRADITIONAL IRISH FIDDLE LESSONS with James Kelly of Dublin. Reasonable. Call Judy Walsh evenings. 301/864-2385.

IRISH DANCING CLASSES: Children, teens, & adults, all levels. Contact Jeanne McGrath at 703/471-6371.

BOB DEVLIN, streetsinger extraordinaire--also a powerful songwriter. His new album "STRING RAMBLER" available. 202/667-0601.

FOR SALE: Recorder, Kung (Swiss), alto, wood, Baroque. Good condition. \$30. Michael, 202/363-6893 (eves.)

HOUSE OF MUSICAL TRADITIONS - CATALOG \$1. 305 So. Washington St., Berkeley Springs, W.Va. 25411.

IRISH INSTRUMENTS: flutes by Michael Copeland, Ralph Sweet. Call 304/258-3300, House of Musical Traditions.

HAMMERED DULCIMERS by Bo Leyden of Contraband, in stock. 304/258-3300, House of Musical Traditions.

LAP DULCIMERS: solid cherry \$120; walnut/spruce \$150; koa/spruce \$170. Musical Traditions 304/258-3300.

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FSGW Newsletter will run your classified ads for LOST & FOUND (free), or WANTED/FOR SALE (\$1 for 15 words) items. Ground rules: (1) You must be an FSGW member; (2) Ads must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication; (3) You must send in new copy if you want your ad repeated (3 issue limit)--ads will not be held over; (4) The fee must be enclosed; (5) Ads must be within the 15-word limit; (6) Ads must include a phone number (with area code) or address in the copy and be accompanied by a name and phone number for the Editor; AND (7) Ads must be relevant to FSGW's purpose (see back page). Send your copy to Nancy Schatz, 3312 Glenway Dr., Kensington, MD 20795.

### HARMONY SISTERS AT COMMUNITY CAFE

On Thursday, December 13, the Community Cafe in Bethesda will present the Harmony Sisters--Alice Gerrard, Irene Herrmann, and Jeanie McLerie.

Alice has been interested in traditional music for many years, and has performed and recorded with many fine musicians, including Hazel Dickens, the Strange Creek Singers, and her husband, Mike Seeger. She plays guitar, banjo, autoharp, back-up piano, and fiddle. Irene has a strong background in classical music, and has been involved with traditional music and early jazz for about 10 years. She plays cello, piano, fiddle, mandolin, pennywhistle, and dulcimer, and has performed in stringbands and with Italian, Eastern European, Swedish, Cajun, and early jazz bands in addition to her work as a classical musician. Jeanie became interested in traditional music through the Carter Family's recordings, and has done American, British Isles, and French Cajun music. She plays guitar, fiddle, and charango, has played at a number of major festivals, and has several LP's to her credit.

They bring all of this talent and experience together as the Harmony Sisters, singing and playing a broad range of music, from old-timey to Cajun to modern country and original tunes, on a wide variety of acoustic instruments.

You can hear all of this on December 13, at the Community Cafe and Bookstore, 4949 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda, MD, starting at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$2. For more information, call 986-0848.

### WINTER CRAFTS FESTIVAL

The Winter Crafts Festival will be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg, MD., December 7, 8, and 9. 200 artists and craftspeople will be displaying and selling their work. The show is indoors, and craft demonstrations, plenty of food, and hourly gift-certificate drawings will add to the fun. Admission is \$2.50 for adults (children 12 and under free), and there's lots of free parking. Hours are: Fri. noon-9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call 301/831-9191.

### OLD-TIME MUSIC AT TAKOMA TAP ROOM

The Takoma Tap Room in Silver Spring is now featuring old-time music on Wednesday nights. In December, the featured performers will be:

- Dec. 5 - Double Decker Stringband--first-place old-time band, 1979 Deer Creek Fiddlers Convention.
- Dec. 12 - Hobotoe Stringband, with the McClurkin Brothers (from Sweetwater Stringband) and Dennis Botzer (from Potboiler Stringband).
- Dec. 19 - The Harmony Sisters, with Alice Gerrard, Irene Herrmann, & Jeanie McLerie, singing & playing a wide variety of music, mostly based in the mountain South.

The Takoma Tap Room is at 8210 Piney Branch Rd., Silver Spring, MD. The music begins at 9:00 p.m., and there is a \$2.00 cover charge. For more information, call Bruce at 270-2217.

### "NOWELL SING WE CLEAR" IN BALTIMORE

The Baltimore Folk Music Society will present Nowell Sing We Clear, a program of carols from the British and American folk traditions, on Friday, December 14, at 8:30 p.m., at the Lovely Lane Hall, 2200 St. Paul St., Baltimore. Admission is \$3.50. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. For more information, call Bob Dalsemer at 301/889-8541. So, if you can't manage to see this program in Washington on Wednesday the 12th, you can still see it in Baltimore!

### CLANNAD AT GASTON HALL

On Sunday, December 2, the Irish Music and Dance Series will present its 7th concert, with the exciting new vocal harmony and instrumental group from Ireland: Clannad! A family group from the Donegal Gaeltacht, they have recently produced a shock wave throughout Ireland and Europe with their unique approach to the traditional music of western Ireland. Tickets are \$5.00. The concert will be at 7:30 p.m. at Gaston Hall on the Georgetown University campus (37th and O Streets, N.W.). Free parking on campus.

### JAPANESE KOTO CONCERT

The Washington Toho Koto Society and the Japan-America Society will co-sponsor a concert of koto music by the Koto Ensemble of Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, on Thursday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m., at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, MD. Admission is free; donations will be appreciated.

Directions: Beltway to Old Georgetown Rd. north, past Georgetown Square shopping center on left, then turn left onto Rock Spring Dr. to school.

For further information, call 223-1772.

### JAMES WHITMORE AS WILL ROGERS

James Whitmore assumes a relaxed slouch, yanks on a cowboy hat, and slides a stick of gum in his mouth to complete his transition to Will Rogers. He starts twirling a rope while cracking jokes. The twirling soon stops, but the jokes go on for nearly two hours. The fourth return of "Will Rogers U.S.A." to Ford's Theater celebrated Rogers' 100th birthday and marked the issue of another postage stamp in his honor.

Oklahoma was still Indian Territory when Rogers was born there in 1879. He was proud of his five-sixteenths Cherokee blood, and liked to joke that his ancestors met the Mayflower.

Rogers' popularity developed from a silent rope-trick act. He first added comments about the tricks, then started ad-libbing about current events, using the day's headlines as material.

The Cowboy Philosopher poked fun at the American people, and they loved it. Politicians were favored targets. Washington was called "the national joke factory"; he liked to visit here "to see what our hired help is doing."

He was at the height of his popularity in 1935 when he was killed in a plane crash in Alaska with his friend Wiley Post. An entire nation mourned his death.

--Nan Goland

FSGW CHRISTMAS PARTY

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FAMILY DANCE

The holiday season is a time for friends to gather and celebrate together, so that is exactly what FSGW will do on Saturday, December 22. The evening will start with a concert by an old friend, Heather Wood. Originally from England, Heather is now residing on this side of the Atlantic. If you have been to the last two Getaways, you will remember her high spirits and fine songs. For those of you who have not been lucky enough to meet her, you can get a sample of her music on the recordings of the Young Tradition, but one or two songs cannot compare with an hour or more of Heather.

The concert will be followed by refreshments. FSGW will provide punch (good, but don't count on anything quite as spectacular as that at the 15th Anniversary Party). We are asking each of you to bring along some seasonal munchies (e.g., cookies), but don't worry if you can't bring anything--you can get in anyhow.

Following the food, a group from the Gospel Sing will start caroling. After they finish, the singing will be open to everyone.

All of this will begin at 8:30 p.m. on December 22, in the Washington Ethical Society building, 7750 - 16th St., N.W. Admission will be \$2.00 for FSGW members, and \$3 for non-members.

FSGW's second Family Dance is scheduled for December 15 at the Chevy Chase Elementary School. The school is located on Rosemary St. (the traffic light just north of Bradley Blvd. on Connecticut Ave.), one block west of Connecticut--follow the signs. Bob Dalsemer will be calling, and the Powdered Eagle Stringband will provide the music.

The dance will begin at 4:30, with a pot-luck dinner for one and all about 6:00 p.m. Note that there will be no oven available to warm up your pot-luck dishes, so try to bring hot things in chafing dishes or such-like, and bring along a hot-tray if you have one.

Admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 12. If you need further information, call Lisa Kornberg at 949-4890. See you there!

GOSPEL SING

The December Gospel Sing will be held on Sunday, December 9, at the home of Karen and Eric Martel in Northwest Washington. Singing will begin at 4 p.m., and a pot-luck supper will be served a bit later. Be sure to call Karen and Eric at 882-9639 for directions and to let them know what you'll be bringing.

December						1
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Clannad 7:30 FSGW DANCE 8:30	3	4	5 BOARD MEETING 8 pm Double Decker 9pm Takoma Tap Room	6 Koto Ensemble 7:30	7 Winter Crafts Festival (thru Sun.) OPEN SING 9pm	8
9 GOSPEL SING 4pm FSGW DANCE 8:30	10	11	12 NOWELL SING WE CLEAR 8 pm Hobotae 9pm Takoma Tap Room	13 8:30 Harmony Sisters Community Cafe	14 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Nowell Sing We Clear - Balto. 8:30 PROGRAM - CLIFF HASLAM 8:30	15 Happy Hanukkah! FAMILY DANCE 4:30
16 FSGW DANCE 8:30	17	18	19 Harmony Sisters 9pm Takoma Tap Room	20	21	22 FSGW CHRISTMAS PARTY 8:30
23 30 4pm SACRED HARP	24 31 Happy New Year!	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29

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, c/o Don Nichols, 307 Broadleaf Dr., N.E., Vienna, Virginia 22180.

### 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? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to help the Society in some way? \_\_\_\_\_

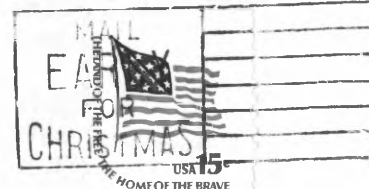
Interests (music, dance, crafts, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Anyone living outside the Greater Washington area may subscribe to the FSGW Newsletter only, in lieu of getting full membership, if they do not plan to vote or have free admission to programs. The cost for out-of-town membership is \$4.

\* A portion of the contributing, sustaining, and life memberships is tax deductible.

FSGW HOT-LINE: (703) 281-2228

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## FIRST CLASS

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