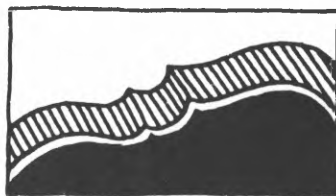


The Folklore Society of Greater Washington NEWSLETTER



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

VOLUME XVI, NO. 8

APRIL 1980

PHONE (703) 281-2228

Nancy Schatz, Editor

GILL BURNS

On Friday, April 11, we'll have an opportunity to hear a new voice from England, as Gill (pronounced Jill) Burns performs her first Washington, D.C., concert on her first United States tour.

Gill, a singer and guitarist, comes from Liverpool, where she was born and raised. A few Washingtonians were lucky enough to hear her when she opened the concert for the Boys of the Lough and the Red Clay Ramblers last year. She is also featured on five cuts of Kicking Mule's "Women's Guitar Workshop" L.P.

Her guitar playing is excellent, with Irish and Morris dance tunes making up a large part of her instrumental repertoire. Gill's singing is clear and expressive. The songs she sings range from the oldest British and Irish ballads to songs in the folk tradition by contemporary songwriters.

The program begins at 8:30 p.m., Friday, April 11. Come in plenty of time to get a good seat, as monthly programs have been packed the last few months. As always, the location is the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750 16th Street, N.W. (at Kalmia Road). Admission is free for FSGW members. The cost to nonmembers is \$2.00..



and A.L. LLOYD

Saturday, April 12, will find another English singer in town. In fact, probably one of the country's best and best-known. A.L. ("Bert") Lloyd will be appearing in a concert cosponsored by FSGW and the Smithsonian Institution's Division of Performing Arts. The concert is at 8 p.m. in Baird Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, 10th & Constitution Aves., N.W.

Bert Lloyd was born in London, but it was world travel that first sparked his interest in traditional music. He worked as a sheep herder in Australia. He traveled the world as a seaman, including two seasons as a bone-gang laborer in the Antarctic whaling fleet. And he later became a journalist, traveling to many countries and developing a keen

--continued--

A. L. LLOYD (Cont. from p. 1)

interest in world music. Along with Ewan MacColl and others, he was one of those involved in the beginnings of the folksong revival in England in the early 1950's.

He has been well-known for many years as a lecturer and performer. His chief interest, of late, has been collecting the folklore and folksong of industry in the British Isles. Another major interest is Balkan music.

Bert Lloyd's recordings are too many to list. He has authored many books, as well, among them The Singing Englishman, Come All Ye Bold Miners, and The Penguin Book of English Folk Songs (with Ralph Vaughn Williams).

It has been more than four years since Bert Lloyd has been in the D.C. area, and this is a great chance to hear an unusual concert by one of Britain's folksong giants.

Tickets for the concert are \$4 for FSGW members and Smithsonian Associates. FSGW members may order their tickets in advance by sending a check or money order (made out to FSGW) to FSGW Special Events, P.O. Box 5604, Preston King Station, Arlington, VA 22205. See you there!



MALCOLM DALGLISH AND GREY LARSEN
IN CONCERT

One of the most popular of last season's programs featured Malcolm Dalglish and Grey Larsen. We're having them back on Friday, April 18, to play traditional American and British Isles music. Malcolm's hammered dulcimer playing wins them many fans. Grey's versatility--playing flutes, concertina, guitar, and fiddle--gains them more. And they both sing.

Their repertoire includes many of the songs that have filtered from England and Ireland through generations of performances and change. They might tell stories, sing unaccompanied ballads or work songs, or play dance tunes from Appalachia or the Midwest.

The evening promises to be a full one--Friday, April 18, 8:30 p.m., at the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750 - 16th St., N.W., in Washington. Admission is \$3 for FSGW members, and \$4 for non-members (half-price for kids).

SACRED HARP SING

Hymn-singing from The Sacred Harp, and a pot-luck supper, will be held on Sunday, April 27, at 4:00 p.m., at the home of Nancy Kokus, near Chevy Chase Circle. Call Nancy at 363-9533 for directions and to let her know what you'll be bringing.



APRIL OPEN SING

"Fools, Kings, and Spring Things"--that's the topic for the April Open Sing. The leader will be Mary Cliff. Singing begins about 9 p.m. on Friday, April 5, and goes until we run out of songs. Admission is \$1 for everyone. The Open Sing is held at the Washington Ethical Society building, 7750 - 16th St., N.W., in Washington.

In May, the topic will be "Parodies," and the leader will be Suzy Mathieu.

JOE AND ANTOINETTE McKENNA IN HOUSE CONCERT

The Folklore Society is delighted to welcome back Joe and Antoinette McKenna. They will present a house concert on Sunday, April 13, in Chevy Chase, MD, at 8:00 p.m.

For those of you who don't recognize the names, Joe and Antoinette are one of the finest musical duos to come out of Ireland in recent years. Joe is a virtuoso (and two-time all-Ireland champion, to prove it) on the Uilleann, or elbow, pipes. He also plays the tin whistle. His wife Antoinette sings traditional songs in both English and Gaelic, and accompanies herself--and Joe--on the Celtic harp.

A house concert is a wonderful way to see these superb musicians up close. Don't forget--April 13 at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$2.50 for FSGW members, and \$4.00 for non-members. For location and directions, call the FSGW Hot-Line, 281-2228.

FAMILY DANCE

The April Family Dance will be on April 19--not the 12th as previously announced--at the Rosemary Hills Community School, Porter Rd. & Sundale Dr. (off East-West Hwy.) in Silver Spring, MD. The dance will begin at 4:30 p.m. and go to about 7:30. Cost is \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for kids. Bring a dish or drink (non-alcoholic) to share for the pot-luck supper which will be at about 6:15 p.m. Lisa Kornberg will be calling this dance, with Julia Saaks playing.

Those who have been to the Family Dances agree that this is a really fun event for the whole family, so pack 'em all into the station wagon and come on out! If you have any questions, or for directions, call the FSGW Hot-Line, 281-2228.

PADDY TUNNEY IN HOUSE CONCERT

Paddy Tunney grew up in Counties Donegal and Fermanagh in Ireland. He learned the old songs of his mother and grandfather on the northern border of the Republic, where Scottish and English traditions freely mingled with the Irish. A member of the Irish Republican Army, he was arrested for transporting explosives and spent some years in the Belfast Gaol. It was there that he learned Gaelic and began writing poetry. He was trained to be a health inspector after his release. Paddy still sings the old songs, and he has collected from all over Ireland. He is a valuable source for many interpreters of British Isles music, especially the Irish.

Paddy Tunney will perform in a house concert at the Schwellings' home in Chevy Chase, MD, on Friday, April 25, beginning at 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 for FSGW members; \$3 for non-members. For location and directions, call the FSGW Hot-Line, 281-2228.

FREE FOOD FOR FESTIVAL?

A major attraction of the Washington Folk Festival is that all of the participants--volunteer staff and performers alike--contribute their time free of charge to make the Festival happen. The one amenity that the FSGW can offer these folks (there were over 500 of them last year) is to feed them a meal as thanks for giving their time and talents. We have very little money to work with, so we are looking for sources--retail grocers, discount markets, restaurants--who might be able to help by providing free food with which we can prepare the meals. Please call Keith Gardiner (573-8111 evenings, or 351-5688 days) if you have any ideas as to whom we might appeal for the food.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL		1	2	3	4	5
			8pm BOARD MEETING Double Decker 9pm Takoma Tap Room		OPEN SING 9pm	8pm Si Kahn concert Dance-McLean 8:30
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
FSGW DANCE 8:30	Folk Hoot 8pm Takoma Tap Room		Double Decker 9pm Takoma Tap Room		PROGRAM 8:30 GILL BURNS	A.L. LLOYD -SMITHSONIAN 8:30
13 CABOMA jam session 2-6 Irish Dance Workshop at A.U. HOUSE CONCERT - J + A McKENNA 8pm FSGW DANCE 8:30	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Folk Hoot 8pm Takoma Tap Room		Possum Trot 9pm Takoma Tap Room	Irish Week (thru 4/23) Paddy Tunney Geo. Mason 8:30	Appalachian Craft Fair - (thru Sun.) MALCOLM DALGLISH GREY LARSEN 8:30	FAMILY DANCE 4:30 Dance + concert - Bluemont 8pm Dance - McLean 8:30 "Mountain Music" Smithsonian 8pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
GOSPEL SING 4pm FSGW DANCE 8:30	Albert Fry lecture Geo. Mason 8:30 Folk Hoot 8pm Takoma Tap Room		Hambone Sweets 9pm Takoma Tap Room		Rumisonko concert -Bluemont 8pm HOUSE CONCERT 8:30 PADDY TUNNEY	Spring Ball 7pm -Bluemont Dance - Wash. Hebrew Cong. - 8pm
27 CABOMA jam session 2-6 SACRED HARP 4pm John McFutcheon -Hagerstown 3:30-7:30 FSGW DANCE 8:30	28	29	30			
	Folk Hoot 8pm Takoma Tap Room		Critton Hollow 9pm Takoma Tap Room			

NOTES OF IMPORTANCE

BOARD MEETINGS: The April FSGW Board meeting will be held Wednesday, April 2, at 8:00 p.m., at the home of Kathy Westra Hickerson, on Capitol Hill in D.C. Board meetings are open to the membership and your participation is encouraged. For directions, call Kathy at 544-4309.

For information about the May meeting, call the FSGW Hot-Line, 281-2228.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The deadline for the May Newsletter is Tuesday, April 15 (that's right--same day as your taxes are due...) Please get your material in on time! **WRITE YOUR ARTICLE OUT** and mail it, as early as possible, to Nancy Schatz, 3312 Glenway Dr., Kensington, MD 20795. Remember to include your name and phone number.

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The fourth annual Washington Folk Festival will be held on June 7 and 8 at Glen Echo Park. We urge anyone who is interested in helping with the Festival to volunteer. We will need help in such areas as food, hospitality, parking, stage and sound crews, and many more. For more information and to volunteer, call Tammy Zeheb (527-4299) or Cheryl Brauner (434-0908), or call the FSGW Hot-Line (281-2228) and leave your name and number.

ELECTION NEWS

Don't think the Presidential primaries are the only game in town--it's time for FSGW elections, too. The Nominating Committee has been working to find candidates for the various FSGW Board positions, and have come up with the folks listed below. But there's plenty of room for more! We'd like to find more than one candidate for each office, so please let the Committee (Tom McHenry, Chairman, 533-1397, and Jody Fitterer, Don Nichols, Bruce Olson, and Tammy Zeheb) know if you'd like to run for office or if you have a candidate to suggest. Or nominations may be made from the floor at the April 11th Program (a concert by Gill Burns; see p. 1). Ballots and biographies will be mailed with the May Newsletter. Let's see more hats in the ring!

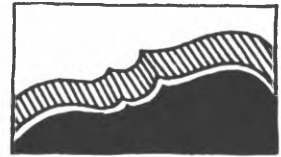
President: Lars Hanslin
Vice President: Bob Clayton
Bill Day
Elise Fischer
Secretary: Susan Schwelling
Treasurer: Nan Goland
Program: Kathy Westra Hickerson
Special Events: Mary Cliff
Publicity: Claudia Kravets
Publications: Nancy Schatz
Membership: Dolores Nichols
Dance: David Olive
Frank Pratkan

At Large (two positions): Cheryl Brauner
Bob Hitchcock
Craig Johnson
Kerry Johnson

GOSPEL SING

The April Gospel Sing will be held on Sunday, April 20, at the home of Susan Carhart, 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 Susan (342-0348) for directions and to let her know what you'll be bringing.

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington



FSGW WEARABLES: T-SHIRTS AND MORE

Get really wrapped up in the FSGW with attractive T-shirts, polo shirts and even windbreakers bearing the Society's name and logo. The prices are as comfortable as the garments, and as the weather gets the same way you'll be able to show up at your favorite concerts, festivals, picnics, offices (it's already happened), car-washes, stampedes and what-have-you suitably clad to spread the word, attract other musicians ("Hey, whatcha wearin'?") and generally avoid losing the shirt off your back.

The T-shirts come in gold or light blue, made of 100% cotton by a major U.S. manufacturer (Stedman). Adult sizes (S,M,L,XL) are only \$5, and children's sizes (also S,M,L,XL) are only \$4. Look around at T-shirt prices elsewhere these days, and then come back and outfit the whole family. Who will be the first fully FSGW-shirted family, or stringband, or soccer team?

The polo shirts offer a 4-button collar and--tah-dah!--a pocket! Made of 50% cotton, 50% polyester in a stylish pique knit, they come in light blue only and the same range of adult sizes. A smaller version of the T-shirt design appears on the pocket, which can be yours (including the rest of the shirt) for \$10.

To extend your season, try a 100% nylon taffeta windbreaker. It has a snap front, two slash pockets, elastic cuffs, drawstring bottom, and raglan sleeves. It comes in gold color and adult sizes only, with the small design, and the unlined version is a mere \$14. To get you through the fall, you can get one fully lined with "Kasha" cotton flannel for only \$18.

You can see all these garments at FSGW's programs and most of its other events, and the T-shirts are available on the spot in most sizes. For the polo shirts and windbreakers, or if we're out of your T-shirt size, you can place an order right at the event. (We're not set up for mail orders yet.)

FSGW GIFTS FOR FOLKIES

In your hurry to give FSGW T-shirts (not to mention polo shirts and windbreakers) to all your friends, don't forget about that other FSGW gift--the one that keeps on giving: a membership in FSGW! We mentioned this back in December for the holidays, but things like birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, and especially un-birthdays, happen all the time. Just send in a membership form, with payment, in the name of the lucky recipient, and indicate that it's a gift (be sure to include your name so they'll know whom to thank). We'll send a membership card, Newsletter, and brochure. Send forms to FSGW, c/o Don Nichols, 307 Broadleaf Dr., NE, Vienna, VA 22180.

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* FSGW Hot-Line: 703/281-2228
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SUNDAY NIGHT DANCES

The Sunday Night Dances get better and better-- here's the schedule for upcoming weeks:

- Apr. 6 - Bob Dalsemer calling.
- Apr. 13 - Bob Dalsemer calling.
- Apr. 20 - (To be announced).
- Apr. 27 - Lou Shapiro calling.
- May 4 - Lisa Kornberg calling; Peascods Gathering playing.
- May 11 - Susan Miley calling.
- May 18 - Bob Dalsemer calling; Backwoods Stringband playing.
- May 25 - (To be announced).
- June 1 - Timber Salvage, from Albany, NY.
- June 8 - Kate Charles returns.

The dances begin at 8:30 p.m. and end at 11:00. They are held at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church on Chevy Chase Circle. The cost is \$2.00 for FSGW members and \$2.50 for non-members.

CLASSIFIED SECTION

BEGINNER'S STEEL STRING GUITAR, practically new, with instruction book, \$30. Morey, 202/966-6084.

WANTED: Words, music--"Honky Red," "Vandy;" old "Reprints from Sing Out." Doug Johansen, 703/367-3078.

LESSONS: Banjo, fiddle, guitar. Contact Craig Johnson, 202/726-8668.

* * *

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 publications; (3) You must send in new copy if you want your ad repeated (3-issue limit per Sept.-Aug. season)--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.

IRISH DANCE WORKSHOP

The Gaelic League of Washington will sponsor an introductory workshop on Irish Ceili dancing with Peggy O'Neill on Sunday evening, April 13, at American University. For time and exact location, call Jo Radner at 244-6367.

APPALACHIAN CRAFT FAIR

The 6th annual Appalachian Craft Fair, sponsored by area Episcopal churches, will be held April 18, 19, and 20, at Kenmore School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road in Arlington, VA. The Fair will include many craftspeople from North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, and will feature music by traditional old-time fiddler Jehile Kirkhuff and friends. Hours for the Fair are: Friday 6 - 10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sunday noon - 6 p.m. Admission is \$1.50 for adults, \$1 for students and senior citizens, and children under 12 are free. For more information, call 379-2527.

FLAPJACK DAY

The Fairfax County Park Authority will sponsor Flapjack Day on Sunday, March 30 (rain date April 6), from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., at Colvin Run Mill Park, Great Falls, VA (5 miles west of Tyson's Corner on Rt. 7). Activities include samples of flapjacks, hoecakes, and grits--all made from grains ground in the mill--cooked over open fires by volunteers and staff; a whole-grain recipe contest (If you are interested in entering the contest, you must call Conny Clough, 759-2771, for information on contest rules); tours of the Park's 19th-Century operating grist mill; and music from noon to 5 p.m. by Cathy Fink and Craig Johnson. Admission is \$1.50 for adults, 75¢ for children under 16. Remember--March 30, or rain date April 6.

WESTERN MARYLAND FOLKLORE SOCIETY MONTHLY DANCES

The WMFS sponsors two monthly dances: First Saturdays at the Men's Club in Shepherdstown, W.Va. (formerly at Keedysville School) and Third Fridays at the Grange Hall in Leitersburg, MD. Both dances begin at 8 p.m., with music by Contraband of Bluemont and calling by Slim Harrison and guest callers from throughout the region. For information and directions, call Carole Lafferman, 301/824-5265, or Liz Reisberg, 301/432-8020.

NEWS FROM BLUEMONT

The Bluemont Concert Series, Ltd., is a non-profit Virginia corporation presenting a number of events, many of them involving traditional music and dance, each month. In April, their events will include a concert on April 25 at 8:00 p.m. by Rumisonko (a group which has performed its music of the Andes in concert for FSGW and at the Washington Folk Festival); a dance and concert on April 19 at 8:00 p.m. featuring Alistair Anderson (a fine concertina player from England, who appeared for FSGW last summer at Glen Echo with the High Level Ranters); and the Bluemont Country Dance Spring Ball on April 26 at 7:00 p.m. All events are held at the Bluemont Schoolhouse. Bluemont is about 40 miles west of Tyson's Corner, just off Route 7 where the highway crosses the Blue Ridge (check your map). If you would like to receive news from Bluemont regularly, write Bluemont Concert Series, Ltd., Bluemont, VA 22012, for subscription information.

MARYLAND FOLKLORE SOCIETY MEETING

On Saturday, May 3, the Maryland Folklore Society will hold their annual meeting at the Davis Public Library at 6400 Democracy Blvd. in Bethesda. The meeting, which will run from 1 - 4:30 p.m., will include brief presentations on local traditions and reports from local organizations involved in preserving and documenting folk arts; traditional entertainment; and officer elections. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you want further information, or wish to prepare a presentation, contact Barry Pearson, 454-4150.

CAPITAL AREA BLUEGRASS AND OLD-TIME
MUSIC ASSOCIATION (CABOMA)

In April, CABOMA will meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays (rather than the usual 1st and 3rd):

Apr. 13 - Jam session 2-6 p.m., plus a special mini-concert at 3 p.m. featuring Bill Rouse and the Uptown Grass Band. Admission is free for CABOMA members, \$2 for non-members.

Apr. 27 - Jam session 2-6 p.m. Members and first-time visitors free; others \$1.

The location is the Lyon Park Community Center, corner of N. Fillmore St. and Pershing Dr., Arlington VA. For more information, call Joanie Schmeer, 941-9282.

SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE

20/30 Vision of the Washington Hebrew Congregation is holding a Square and Contra Dance on Saturday, April 26, from 8 p.m.-11 p.m. The caller will be David Teitelbaum, with music by the Powdered Eagle Stringband. Refreshments will be served. The Washington Hebrew Congregation is at the corner of Massachusetts Ave. & Macomb St., N.W. For more information, call 232-4242.

SATURDAY DANCES IN McLEAN

Dances are held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month at the McLean Community Center, 1236 Inglewood Ave., McLean, VA. The dances feature old-timey music, squares, clogging, round dances, and contras. Lou Sahpiro is the caller. Instruction for beginners is from 8-8:30 p.m., with the regular dance from 8:30-11:15. There's parking, good acoustics, and lots of room to dance. Upcoming dances feature:

April 5 --Steve Hickman (fiddle) and John Carter (guitar)

April 19--Hambone Sweets stringband.

For more information, call 790-9248.

APPALACHIAN MUSIC AT SMITHSONIAN

"Mountain Music Homecoming," a concert of traditional Appalachian music sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, will be appearing in Washington on Saturday, April 19, at 8:00 p.m., in Baird Auditorium at the Smithsonian Museum of History and Technology. The local appearance is part of a national tour, and is co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Office of Folklife Programs and the National Council for the Traditional Arts.

All elements of the mountain music tradition will be traced in the performance, from the brooding power of ancient English and Irish ballads, the close harmonies of "brother" duets and the soaring 4-part harmonies of the gospel tradition, to the spirited lift of old-time stringband music and the incessant drive of bluegrass. Artists appearing in the show include banjo player Don Stover, guitarist and fiddler Clint Howard and Fred Price, Ron Thomason of the traditional bluegrass band Dry Branch Fire Squad, and others.

Tickets are available by mail by enclosing \$5.00 for each ticket, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, and mailing it to: Mountain Music Homecoming, NCTA #1118, 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Tickets are also available at Record and Tape, Ltd., 1900 L St., N.W.

WEDNESDAYS AT TAKOMA TAP ROOM

The Takoma Tap Room, 8210 Piney Branch Rd., Silver Spring, features old-time stringband music every Wednesday from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Admission is \$2. Come prepared to hear some rousing old-time songs and tunes, or bring your clogging shoes and join the fun! The schedule for April is:

Apr. 2 - Double Decker Stringband.

Apr. 9 - Double Decker Stringband.

Apr. 16 - Possum Trot Stringband ("My favorite old-time stringband playing in California today"--Jody Stecher)

Apr. 23 - Hambone Sweets Stringband.

Apr. 30 - Critton Hollow Stringband, from Paw Paw, West Virginia.

ALL NIGHT DANCE

SPECIAL NOTE: Reservation forms for the Western Maryland Folklore Society's All Night Dance, to be held May 10, are now available at the FSGW Sunday night dances. Check the events table or see Frank Pratkan. If you want to come, you should register now--capacity is limited and we expect to sell out early.



FOLK HOOT MONDAYS AT TAKOMA TAP ROOM

Each Monday evening there is an open mike for traditional music at the Takoma Tap Room, 8210 Piney Branch Rd., Silver Spring, MD. Sign-up starts at 8:00 p.m. The host for the hoot is Bruce Hutton, and there is no cover charge! So come on out and share your music with us--or just come to listen and meet new friends.

MORE FOLK MUSIC ON RADIO

There is a new folk music show on the radio these days--Sundays, that is, from 10:05 p.m. to midnight, on WMAL, AM 63. It's called "Sundayfest," and the regular host is John Lyons (Bill O'Connor takes over occasionally). There is a theme for each week's show, which should be listed in the "radio high-lights" columns of the Post and Star. The shows for April will feature: Apr. 6 - "The Canadian Connection;" Apr. 13 - "American Rhythm and Blues;" Apr. 20 - "Diamonds in the Rough" (women stars in folk music); Apr. 27 - "The Sounds of New Orleans."

HINT: The best way to get more folk music on the air is to listen to the shows that are on, and let the stations know you'd like more.

IN MEMORIAM

LOUIS BEAUDOIN

French-Canadian fiddler Louis Beaudoin died last month. Long recognized as one of the best fiddlers of French-Canadian dance music, he appeared in recent years at many major festivals. The reels, jigs, and waltzes Louis played were taught to him by his father, but played with a style all his own. His love of the music and of the members of his musical family was evident to all whenever Louis played. He will be sorely missed.

JOHN JACOB NILES

One of the first musicians to bring folksongs to the concert stage, John Jacob Niles died last month at the age of 88. He was born and spent most of his life in Kentucky. From his mother, he learned to play the piano; his father taught him local ballads and folksongs, and gave him his first dulcimer. Niles traveled through the southern U.S. collecting folksongs and published a number of them in such volumes as The Ballad Book of John Jacob Niles. He made numerous recordings, and also wrote many folk-style songs, including "I Wonder As I Wander" and "Black Is the Color of My Truelove's Hair."

JOHN McCUTCHEON IN HAGERSTOWN

John McCutcheon will be making one of his rare area appearances with a concert and dance on Sunday, April 27, in Hagerstown, MD. One of the finest hammered dulcimer players to be heard anywhere, John will be giving a free concert at 3:30 p.m. Beginning at 7:30 he will call a special dance to benefit the Western Maryland Folklore Society.

All activities take place at the Hagerstown College Auditorium, 751 Robinwood Dr., Hagerstown (6 miles from intersection of I-70 & Rt. 40 west). For information and directions call Carole Lafferman, 301/824-5265, or Hagerstown College, 301/790-2800.

FESTIVAL & SYMPOSIUM AT MYSTIC SEAPORT

FSGW member Bob Walser, who is now the official chantey-man at Mystic Seaport Museum in Connecticut, sends word of a festival and symposium on "Traditional Music of the Sea" at the Museum on June 13-15. Activities will include a concert of sea songs and music from Ireland and the U.S. Pacific Coast, a symposium on traditional music of the sea, featuring a number of recognized authorities in the field, a series of music and dance workshops (some of them held aboard the Museum's ships), and, of course, an opportunity to see the splendid exhibits permanently on display at the museum. Registration fee is \$20 (\$10 for Mystic Seaport Museum members) and includes concert ticket, symposium tuition, admission to all festival events, and general admission to the Museum for 2 days (Sat. & Sun.). For more information and a registration form, write to Membership Dept., Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, CT 06355.

SI KAHN IN BENEFIT CONCERT

Singer-songwriter Si Kahn is performing in Washington Saturday, April 5. One of the finest topical writers working, he's released two LP's of his own material and many of his songs have been carried across the country by other performers. Drawing on the musical traditions of Appalachia and the South, Si uses his songs in his work, and the songs about mining and cotton mills, about farmers and other working people relate directly to his community organizing and union activity. They are the kinds of songs that are likely to outlive the struggles they tell about.

Si Kahn will perform at the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750 - 16th St., N.W., on Saturday, April 5, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$5--a benefit concert by and for the Citizen/Labor Energy Coalition, a non-profit grassroots network of community groups working toward a new national energy policy.

--Mary Cliff

CRIS WILLIAMSON IN CONCERT

Roadwork and Friends present Cris Williamson in concert, Saturday, May 3, at 8:00 p.m., at DAR Constitution Hall, 18th & D Sts., N.W. Tickets are \$6. There will be special seating for the handicapped, signing for the hearing-impaired, and free child care. For more information, call Roadwork and Friends, 234-9308.

IRISH WEEK EVENTS

Irish Week, a series of free lectures and performances, will be held April 17-23 at the George Mason School of Law in Arlington. Two of the events are in the realm of folklore:

On Thursday, April 17, at 8:30 p.m., Paddy Tunney, traditional folksinger, collector, and storyteller from Ireland, will present an evening of songs and stories woven into a lecture format. He is author of The Stone Fiddle, and has made many recordings. An enormously popular talker, with strong views about the folk revival, he claims to be "Irish to the marrow, a dedicated hater of pop and cant and shamrockery, a lover of the old ways and rare songs and raving poetry."

On Monday, April 21, at 8:30 p.m., Albert Fry of Belfast (currently President of the Gaelic League) will speak on the language and song of Donegal. He has spent much of his time in the Donegal Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking district), where he has mastered the language and scores of the traditional songs. He has made several recordings, and has appeared on British and Irish television and radio many times.

George Mason Law School is in the former Kann's Dept. Store in the Virginia Square shopping center. (Those of you who came to FSGW's Mini-Festival in January have already been there). It's 1 block from the Va. Square Metro stop (orange line), and there is plenty of free parking next to the building, at the junction of Washington Blvd. & Fairfax Dr.

Other Irish Week events include an archeological lecture, a slide presentation on contemporary Irish art, a 1-woman dramatic evening, a poetry evening, a literary lecture--all free, between Apr. 17 and 23.

For more information, call C  il  n Owens at the Geo. Mason English Dept. (323-2220) or at home (370-3849).

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 member? _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

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

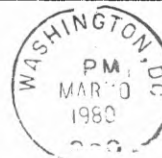
Interests (music, dance, crafts, etc.) _____

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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