

Bethesda, Md.

Dec. 14, 1965

Professor Arthur Kyle Davis

English Department

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, Va.

Dear Prof. Davis:


A "Folklore Society of Greater Washington" has recently been formed, the programs of which may be of interest to students and faculty at Charlottesville.

This Saturday, Dec. 19, at 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the new Hawthorne School, Sixth and I Sts. SW., Washington, D.C., there will be an illustrated lecture and performance on the traditional Appalachian dulcimer. John Putnam will show some of his collection of slides of handmade instruments. Howard Mitchell will discuss his methods of constructing dulcimers and perform on the instruments.

The January program, scheduled for January 23, will feature three Negro blues and gospel singers from the Washington area.

If there is anyone in your department, who may be interested in these types of program, I'd appreciate your forwarding this information.

Sincerely yours,


George A. Simpson
Special Events Chairman
5600 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, Md. 2014

Bethesda, Md.

Dec. 8, 1965

Messrs. L. Martin and E. Dalton

W T O P

40th and Brandywine Sts. NW.

Washington, D.C.

Dear Messrs. Martin and Dalton:

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington was recently formed.

It has had one program-meeting already. This was a concert-lecture on the Scottish bagpipes.

Opening is a December program-meeting on the traditional Appalachian dulcimer with slides of pictures of numerous examples of mountain dulciners and an actual demonstration of techniques of playing. In January, the Society will present local blues and gospel singers as part of its program-meeting. Both of these events will be held in the auditorium of the new Hawthorne School building in Southwest.

Also, in January the Society has scheduled an open folksing at the Cameron Street recreation center in Alexandria.

We would like, if possible, to discuss the Society and its proposed purposes and its scheduled events over the air on FYI or some other program.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Simpson

Chairman of Special Events
Folklore Society of Greater Washington
265-5996

(5600 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, Md. 2014)

Bethesda, Md.

Dec. 8, 1964

Mr. Steve Allison

W W D C

8800 Brookeville Road

Silver Spring, Md.

Dear Mr. Allison:

There's a new local group -- "The Folklore Society of Greater Washington" -- which has scheduled a program-meeting this month on the traditional Appalachian dulcimer, a January program-meeting ^{presenting} ~~in~~ local blues and gospel singers, and an open folksing also in January. The first two events are to be held in the auditorium of the new Hawthorne School building in Southwest, the last mentioned event is to be held in the Cameron Street recreation center, Alexandria.

As Chairman of Special Events for the Society, the last event is my responsibility and I (and perhaps some other representative of the Society) would like to discuss this events and other functions and purposes of the Society with you on the air.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Simpson
George A. Simpson, EM 5-5996

Bethesda, Md.
Dec. 3, 1964

Mr. Lee Fones
Director of Recreation and Parks
Alexandria Recreation Department
1605 Cameron Street,
Alexandria, Va.

Dear Mr. Fones:

Pursuant to a telephone conversation yesterday with Mrs. Carrol at the Cameron Street Recreation Center, I'd like to request the use of said center for the evening of January 8, 1964. The group I represent -- The Folklore Society of Greater Washington -- would like on that evening to present a folksing, with some of the traditional folksingers in the Washington area participating.

We understand the fee for the evening, from 8 p.m. till closing, would be \$20. We also understand that it is possible to charge admission. In the past our policy has been, concerning the latter, to admit members free and to charge non-members a nominal fee based on the cost of hall and talent. This nominal fee is applicable to annual dues if the full dues are paid within 30 days after the event. We would like for this event to charge non-members 75 cents and 50 cents for members. We do not anticipate having more than 150 attending, which I understand is the number of folding chairs available. Our membership is only 70.

There will be no refreshments served. This is strictly a folksing, a concert.

I would appreciate your consideration on this request, and also, if the request seems reasonable and likely to be granted, would appreciate your informing us of such regulations as must be adhered to, and such other pertinent details as to the responsibility for setting up chairs, the place to pick up keys (if there is no attendant), etc.

The nature of your hall at the Cameron Street recreation center sounds just right for the type of function we plan and we would like very much to be able to use it.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Simpson
George A. Simpson
Chairman of Special Events
The Folklore Society of Greater Washington

5600 Lone Oak Dr.
Bethesda, Md. 20014
365-5996



City of Alexandria, Virginia



All-America City

December 4, 1964

Mr. George A. Simpson
Chairman of Special Activities
5600 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, Md.

Dear Mr. Simpson:

Please fill this reservation form and return to me as soon as possible. This letter also confirms your reservation. We hope that you and your guest enjoy the use of our facilities and that your affair is a success.

Sincerely,

(Mrs) Sarah C. Carroll

Sarah C. Carroll
Supervisor of Centers

"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"

Bethesda, Md.
December 1, 1964

Office of Community Relations
Room 909
Washington Gas Light Co.
1100 H St. NW.
Washington, D.C.
Attn: Mr. Whitt

Dear Mr. Whitt:

Confirming our conversation by telephone earlier today, I'd like to ask if the auditorium at the main offices of the Washington Gas Light Co. would be available to the Folklore Society of Greater Washington on the evening of January 8, 1965.

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington is a not-for-profit society recently formed "to further the understanding, investigation, appreciation, and performance of the traditional folk music and folklore of the American people". The quotation is per our By-laws. In practice, we plan to present lectures by academicians and leading authorities on folklore and folk music. We plan to present concerts of traditionally oriented folksingers. We hope to draw into our society those with a desire to learn more about folklore and folk music as an academic discipline, and to learn more about authentic folklore and folk music as opposed to what is being peddled off these days as such. Our first meeting in November included a demonstrated lecture on the traditional bagpipes. The December meeting will be an illustrated and demonstrated lecture on the Appalachian dulcimer. On January 8, we plan to hold a folksing, showing the various forms of folksong, the changes folksong undergoes from one tradition to another and the various functions of folksong.

There is a question as to charging admission. Our present membership is about 70. In the past we have advertised thru community announcements on radio and press notices in newspapers the nature of our events. Non-members attending the event have the option of joining the society by payment of dues within 30 days after the event. If they choose not to join, we have charged them a nominal admission (\$1 in the past) mainly to cover the cost of the hall and mailing announcements, and the remainder of the dues is payable within 30 days. If they choose not to join, the nominal admission is charged also. Members are, of course, admitted free. The question is whether there is any proscription in your policy against such procedure.


The President of our society is John Dildine, who since 1957 has had a folk music program on WASH-FM. The Program Director is Joseph Hickerson,

who is in the Folk Music Archives at the Library of Congress.

We have no office. As a return address we've been using the address of Jim Lee, our membership chairman, who lives at 2607 N. Winchester Street, Arlington 13, Virginia. Jim is a reporter with the Washington bureau of Fairchild newspapers and Executive Editor of The Folk Music Yearbook. It was Jim who spoke, I believe, with Mr. Reynolds.

I'd appreciate your help in this request, and if there is any question you may have please feel free to call. My office number is OL 6-4443.

Sincerely yours,


George Simpson
5600 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, Md. ~~208~~ 2014