

newsletter of The Folklore Society

*edition distributed at
Clamy Brothers (+ Tommy
Makem) concert
2-11-66*

O F G R E A T E R W A S H I N G T O N

VOL. 2, NO. 6

February, 1966

Linda Brennan, Editor

THE BEERS FAMILY--Bob, Evelyne and Martha--will present a concert for the Folklore Society of Greater Washington at 3 p. m. on Sunday, February 13th, in Pierce Hall. The program will consist primarily of Irish-American music with accompaniment on the psaltery, plucked dulcimer, fiddle, fiddlesticks and limberjacks.

Part of the music to be heard will be that of Bob's grandfather George Sullivan, who was born of Irish parents in 1853 in Pennsylvania and whose songs and airs Bob and Evelyne have learned and taught to their daughter Martha. Other music which the Beers perform has been learned from traditional sources such as May Kennedy McCord of Springfield, Missouri.

For more than 15 years the Beers have sung and played at folk festivals. Recently they have appeared at large folk clubs such as Gerde's Folk City in New York. Their festival appearances include those at the National Folk Festival, Newport Folk Festival, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Indian Neck Folk Festival, and the First New York Folk Festival. They have appeared a number of times on the Johnny Carson Show on television and have given concerts at Carnegie Hall in Lincoln Center in New York.

They have recorded for Folkways, Columbia, and Prestige. Their awards have been many. At the age of 12, Bob placed in a tie at an old time fiddlers' contest in North Freedom, Wisconsin, where he spent summers with his grandfather. In 1960, TV Radio Mirror magazine awarded a gold medal to the Beers' television program "On Strings of Song" as the "best TV music program in the western states." In 1964, they won the annual Burl Ives award for "an outstanding contribution in preserving traditional music."

Bob Beers is a professionally educated and trained musician, having served as a concert master and performed as a concert violinist. But, when it comes to old-time fiddling, to quote George Armstrong, "He is a master. He fiddles just as he learned from his grandfather."

The psaltery, on which Bob accompanies Evelyne's songs, is a very rare instrument and seldom heard. It is the earliest ancestor of the piano. The strings are plucked directly with the bare fingers. The fiddlesticks and limberjacks have to be seen to be appreciated.

Tickets will be available at the door. General admission is \$2; members, \$1; and children (under 12), 50¢. Pierce Hall is behind All Souls' Unitarian Church, 16th and Harvard Sts., N.W. A private parking lot is east of 15th and Fuller Sts.

FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

Purpose

The Folklore Society of Greater Washington was formed in October, 1964. We wish to promote both the study and enjoyment of the folk music and folklore of the American people as part of the everyday life in our community.

We hope to:

- Serve as a focal point for individuals in the greater Washington area who are interested in the broad area of American folklore.
- Carry on a program of activities which will spread folk materials and information about them. Although we are primarily concerned with American folklore, we are also interested in the folklore of other countries, particularly that of other English-speaking countries.
- Stimulate the interest of the community in folk materials by means of active participation as well as passive appreciation.
- Stimulate interest in the study of materials relating to the folklore of America.

Benefits to Members

Members are admitted free of charge to the programs which are part of the regular monthly meetings. A substantial discount rate is offered to members at frequent special events. Members also receive discounts at a number of local stores on musical instruments and related items.

As a service to members, the Society publishes a monthly Newsletter, which features news of the Society, a calendar of local and national events, as well as possible record and book reviews, folklore texts, and articles.

Membership in the FSGW affords people the opportunity to become acquainted with others with similar academic and/or performance interests in folk materials.

Members of the FSGW are invited to attend all membership and Executive Board meetings of the organization and to take part in the discussions, serve on various committees, and vote at meetings.

Meetings

Monthly membership meetings, which include planned programs of performers, films, or speakers, are scheduled throughout the year from October through June. Executive Board meetings, where most of the Society's business is conducted, are also open to members.

Programs

Some of the programs and special events which have been presented by the FSGW during its first year-and-a-half have been: a lecture-demonstration on the Appalachian dulcimer, a gospel and blues program, a showing of films, folk-sings, a lecture on American Folklife Research, concerts by Elizabeth Cotton and the McPeake Family, folk music on commercial "Race" and "Hillbilly" records, and Jewish folksongs performed by Tossi and Lee Aaron.

The Society plans to continue this variety of programming. In time, we hope to sponsor a folk festival, promote local collecting, and publish a folklore journal. What we do will depend on the developing interests of the membership.

Membership

Membership in the Folklore Society is open to anyone interested in various aspects of folklore and folk music. Dues for family membership are \$7.50 per year; individual membership, \$5.00.

FEBRUARY 26--Open sing headed by Jonathan Eberhart--8:30 p.m., Union Methodist Church, 814-20th St., N.W., Wash., D.C. Members free; non-members, \$1.00; students, 50¢.

Praying and Crying with Mother and God--Songs of salvation, sorrow, saccharinity, and occasional foot stomping. All welcome, especially singing. If you want to participate in the Sing, call Jonathan Eberhart during the day at NO. 7-2255.

MARCH 11--nominations of FSGW officers/ discussion meeting/ two films to be shown. 8:30 p.m., Pierce Hall (behind All Souls' Unitarian Church) 16th & Harvard.

MARCH 26--open sing run by Mike Rivers.

APRIL 8--more nominations/ musical program. 8:30 p.m., Pierce Hall.

APRIL 30--open sing.

MAY 13--election of officers/ speaker to be announced. 8:30 p.m., Pierce Hall.

JUNE 10--musical program to be announced. 8:30 p.m., Pierce Hall.

MEMBERS! PLEASE present your membership cards at the door when you attend any of the Folklore Society functions.

CLUBS IN THE WASHINGTON AREA FEATURING FOLK MUSIC

THE BRIDGE--2027 Nichols Ave., S.E., phone 581-8155 (run by Neighbors, Inc.) occasional folk music, although not primarily a folk music club--also other art forms.

THE REAL DIRT--Hillandale area in Silver Spring--Friday nights only--folk music and poetry. Anyone interested, call Jo Feldman JU. 7-9163.

THE GATE TO--Church-operated coffee house, open on Friday and Saturday nights from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m. 16th and Newton, N.W.

THROUGH THE GATE--Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 4th and Independence, S.W. Phone LI. 7-8676. Performers invited.

SEVENTH SON--1782 Florida Avenue, N.W. Phone 462-9480. Open every night from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Performers invited. Paid entertainment with cover charge Friday and Saturday nights. Recently featured have been Flora Molton, Ed Morris, and Rusti Clark.

CELLAR DOOR--M Street in Georgetown--gradually working out of their folk music--now including more non-folk performers. Phone 337-3390.

***Hardly any folk music is heard now at the Lute and Lyre at 10th & K, N.W. The Carapan and the Second Act are added to the list of clubs who have gone out of business, along with the Shadows, Endor Inn, Ontario Place, and the Unicorn.

Schedule for John Dildine's Folk Music Radio Program, Station WAMU-FM 88.5 mc
Fridays, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

- Feb. 4 - Child Ballads in England and America.
- Feb. 11 - Music by the Beers Family. Fiddle, psaltery, dulcimer and singing by an American family with a tradition of music making.
- Feb. 18 - Recordings from the Archive of Folksong of the Library of Congress.
- Feb. 25 - Interview and singing of Chuck and Nan Perdue.
- Mar. 4 - Folk Culture of 1920's and 1930's on records.
An interview with Richard Spottswood, local collector of old Jazz, Blues, and Hillbilly recordings and producer of records.
- Mar. 11 - "The City Billies" ... Neo Country Music.
Music made by young city people patterned after older country music string bands.
- Mar. 18 - "Bluesmen-Then and Now" -- rediscovered blues singers as they sounded on their original recordings and as they sound now.
- Mar. 25 - "The Right Way" -- a survey of several folk songs and their different versions showing how different the same basic song can appear.

**John Dildine, Publicity Chairman for the FSGW, has recently been named to the Board of Directors of the National Folk Festival Association, Inc.

The local chapters of the American Musicological Society and Music Library Association will meet at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 12th at the Smithsonian Institution, Museum of History and Technology (auditorium). Papers to be given are "A Group of Masses by Joseph Eybler 1764-1846", "Definition and Stylistic Uses of the Violone 1500-1700", and "Toward Musical Information Retrieval."

 * TO JOIN THE SOCIETY, fill out the form below. Checks should be made out to:
 * Folklore Society of Greater Washington
 * P. O. Box 19174 - 20th Street Station
 * Washington, D. C. 20036
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 * Name _____
 * Address _____
 * _____ zip _____
 * Phone _____
 *
 * Circle one: family \$7.50 single \$5.00 mailing list only
