

The Folklore Society

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

P. O. Box 19174 • 20th Street Station • Washington D. C. 20036

VOL. 3, NO. 1

October, 1966

Linda Brennan, Editor

FSGW OPENS SEASON WITH SEEGER

America's troubador, Pete Seeger, comes to Washington October 21 and 22 for two appearances to open this season's concert series sponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington in association with Stanley-Williams Presentations.

The two concerts are scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings, October 21 and 22 at 8:30 p.m. at Lisner Auditorium, 21st and H Sts., N.W. Tickets are priced at \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$4.00 and may be obtained by mail order from Stanley-Williams Presentations, 1715 - 37th St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20007. Folklore Society members can receive a 25% discount when writing for tickets, and prices are as follows: \$1.50, \$1.85, \$2.25, \$2.60, and \$3.00. Tickets may be purchased at the door, although writing for tickets is recommended. Please fill out the form which appears on page 2 of this newsletter if you wish to order tickets.

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Probably the best-known and most influential of all American folksingers, Pete Seeger's claim that "I can get any audience singing" has yet to be disputed.

Since 1935, when he first acquainted himself with indigenous American music at a square dance festival in Asheville, North Carolina, Seeger has been traveling the land singing, playing, learning and teaching folk music to two generations of his countrymen. In addition, he has visited every continent, enriching the musical vocabulary of the world.

"How to Play the Five-String Banjo", a booklet which he authored, has sold hundreds of thousands of copies, teaching people everywhere how to make their own music.

According to folk musicologist Alan Lomax: "...the night twenty-five years ago when Pete first met Woody Guthrie - you can date the renaissance of American folk song from that night. Pete knew it was his kind of music, and he began working to make it everybody's kind of music. What he cares about is getting everybody to sing. He believes in it with an unswerving fervor and nothing is going to divert him - not the threats of politicians nor the temptations of big money. It's a pure, genuine fervor, the kind that saves souls."

In addition to his concert appearances and his recordings (he is now on the Columbia label) Pete Seeger currently hosts a regular one-hour television program on New York's UHF Channel 47.

Pete Seeger's tremendous popularity, which extends far beyond the regular folk music followers, has resulted in sold-out performances for his previous Washington appearance. Thus the two concerts on succeeding nights have been scheduled to handle the expected capacity audiences.

Other artists scheduled to appear this season include the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem on November 26, Judy Collins on January 14 (tentative), and Buffy St. Marie on May 6. Further details will be published in later newsletters.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for reserve tickets to the Pete Seeger Concert, sponsored by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, in Lisner Auditorium at 8:30 p.m. October 21 (Fri.) and October 22 (Sat.).

No. of Tickets at Regular Price for October 21 (Fri.) or October 22 (Sat.)

_____	\$2.50	_____	_____
_____	\$3.00	_____	_____
_____	\$3.50	_____	_____
_____	\$4.00	_____	_____

No. of Tickets at FSGW Member Discount Rate

_____	\$1.50	_____	_____
_____	\$1.85	_____	_____
_____	\$2.25	_____	_____
_____	\$2.60	_____	_____

MAIL THIS FORM TO: Stanley-Williams Presentations, 1715 - 37th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20007

-----MEMBERS!-----

The boards of directors of the Philadelphia Folksong Society and the Folklore Society of Greater Washington recently entered into an agreement whereby members of both the FSGW and Philadelphia Folksong Society are entitled to reciprocal membership admission privileges to functions of both organizations.

This does not include receiving a newsletter from the other's organization or voting privileges in that organization.

*** If you do not have a current card, contact George Simpson, Membership Chairman, at Em. 5-5996.

Pete Seeger

sings



*"I would place Pete Seeger
in the first rank of American
folk singers."*

Carl Sandburg

PETE SEEGER sings

From August 1963 to June 1964, Pete Seeger undertook a unique world-wide concert tour. Along with his family, he visited the following countries: Samoa, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, India, Kenya, Tanganyika, Nigeria, Ghana, Italy, Israel, England, Holland, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Poland, USSR, Scotland and Ireland.

This was one of the most unusual tours ever undertaken by an American performing artist without governmental support. We are printing some of the reviews Pete Seeger received in these countries:

NIGERIA: "American Sings In Yoruba"

"Mr. Pete Seeger, the white America folk singer currently touring Nigeria, stunned spectators at the Mbari Club, Ibadan, when he sang two Yoruba songs with flavour and brightness . . ."

DAILY TIMES, LAGOS, NIGERIA

AUSTRALIA: "Ovation From 1500 at University"

"Pete Seeger demonstrated the proof of his reputation as an extraordinarily gifted entertainer . . . His particular talent seems to lie in the ease with which he strikes up a complete harmony of thought and feeling with his audience . . . The folksongs he sang . . . were from America's Deep South, its industrial north, from college campuses and from some of the countries he has studied in his travels . . . But mostly he stayed with the folk songs that strike a hundred different definitions in as many minds . . ."

DAILY TELEGRAPH, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

INDIA: "Has A Deep Love For American Folk Songs"

"One was made aware of a rich heritage that is so far largely unexported, and his genuine persuasive charm convinces even the most distrustful listener . . . At the conclusion Mr. Seeger was regaled with an outburst of most enthusiastic applause, particularly from the younger members of the audience whom he had captivated."

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, CALCUTTA, INDIA

ISRAEL: "A Meaningful Experience"

"The farewell performance in Jerusalem . . . was . . . a meaningful experience . . . we heard and watched a superb performer . . . he had his listeners in the palm of his hand. They were for the most part students—

young men and women almost indistinguishable in their tribal garb of slacks and bulky sweaters. Most of them seemed to know Seeger's songs by heart, and had no difficulty in getting them to join in . . ."

THE JERUSALEM POST, ISRAEL

ENGLAND: "The Most Impressive Audience Participation"

". . . Seeger crouches forward on long slim legs, his green shirt rolled at the sleeves, jersey discarded on the floor among a pile of instruments—a long necked banjo, a guitar, a bamboo whistle—singing without programme from his enormous repertoire . . . He had (the audience) sing and yodel and hand-clap, the most impressive audience-participation the Royal Festival Hall can ever have seen . . ."

LONDON DAILY MAIL

ITALY: "An Understanding and Communion"

". . . Pete Seeger sang, as if he were the leader of a typically American choral performance . . . he succeeded in getting of fans that jammed the Teatro Olimpico to sing the air of the English ballads . . . the contrapuntal psalm-singing of "We Shall Overcome" . . . above all the young singer wanted to obtain was an understanding and communion . . ."

GIRONALE D'ITALIA, ROME

USSR: "Charmed A Capacity Audience"

"The banjo-and-guitar playing singer charmed a capacity audience in Tchaikovsky Concert Hall with a diversified program that ranged from an American Indian canoe song to Pilgrim ballads and modern songs of protest such as "We Shall Overcome", a theme song of civil rights marchers . . ."

MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT, NEW YORK TIMES

FOR BOOKING INQUIRIES

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200 WEST 57th STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019

IN CANADA

Samuel Gesser Productions Inc.
1110, Rue Sherbrooke St. W.
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PRINTED IN U.S.A.



NEW ENGLAND

Folklore Productions
176 Federal Street
Boston, Mass.

The KICK^IN' MULE...

Well, the mule is still kicking feebly as FSGW begins its third folk year. We have recently returned from the Beers Family Folk Festival and the Philadelphia Folk Festival and, as I write this, are on the way to the Georgia Festival of Music. I am beginning to feel like the tom cat who said to his pole cat girl friend "I have enjoyed about as much of this as I can stand!" The Beers Festival was fairly small, intimate, and, for the most part, beautiful. It was strongly slanted toward family singing, and there were some areas of folk music totally unrepresented, e.g., sea chanties and negro music. I think the greatest thing about the Beers Festival was the abundant opportunity for performers and audience to get together. This was almost impossible at Philadelphia. I think the programming was improved at Philadelphia this year but the physical arrangements have a long way to go. I am speaking of the high price for abominable food, iodine tasting coffee, lack of drinking water, etc. The festival was in a new location this year and I expect facilities will much improve next year. A suggestion for Philadelphia: Why not have a SHOWCASE WORKSHOP? Let it run for 24 hours if necessary but let every man, woman and child who thinks he (or she) has to sing a song before an audience get in a lick. After this is done maybe we can have a ballad workshop in which only ballads will be sung. Oh well...

I am in the midst of writing an article on Folk-Sayings for Sing Out magazine. If any of you out there have any you would like to contribute, write me at the FSGW address and let me know what they are, where they are from, and any other information you may have on them.

I had originally planned to write about Water Witching this time, but I lost my willow wand and that will have to wait until next month. The official U. S. Geological Survey position is that there ain't no such thing, however...

Chuck Perdue
President

FSGW CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 14: "Shadows of Long Ago and Far Away" is the title which Peter Seeger has given to one hour and 40 minutes of folk music film which he has edited from his extensive library. The FSGW will be showing this film at its first regular program meeting of the season at 8:30 p.m. in the Washington Gaslight Auditorium, 11th and H Sts., N.W. on Friday, October 14. The film contains rare material of legendary American singers Leadbelly and Woody Guthrie, plus music from many other countries. Mr. Seeger has compiled the film from his personal library at the request of many people in this country who have been wanting to see this material. The film is in rough form and is available only to folklore groups, so this is a rare opportunity to see material not generally available. Admission to this and other monthly meetings is free to Folklore Society members with membership cards. The public is invited and admission for non-members is \$1.00. Memberships can be obtained at any meeting.

OCTOBER 19: Executive Board Meeting/8:30 p.m. / Rm. 700 - 1200 - 17th St., N.W. Washington, D.C. / all invited to attend.

OCTOBER 29: Open sing to be held at 8:30 p.m. in Union Methodist Church, 814-20th St., N.W. Members 25¢ ; non-members, 50¢. Open sings are planned for the last Saturday of each month and will be held at Union Methodist Church.

NOVEMBER 2 & 16: Executive Board Meeting/8:30 p.m. / place to be announced.

NOVEMBER 18: New York State ballad singer, Sarah Cleveland, from Hudson Falls, N. Y. will be singing for the FSGW meeting on Friday, Nov. 18 at Union Methodist Church, 814 - 20th St., N.W. at 8:30 p.m. Mrs. Cleveland is a traditional singer who has recently recorded for Folk Legacy Records. She has a singing background which includes her mother and father who both sing. From her mother she learned rare old ballads, and from her father she learned Irish music hall songs. Among the songs which she sings are several ballads which have been collected from her for the first time in this country.

Anyone interested in singing at Arlington coffeyhouse Behind the Wall, contact John Meador at home 522-6835, or office 386-3661. Located at 3507 Columbia Pike in the Arlington Presbyterian Church, Behind the Wall is open Friday nights from 9pm to 1am.

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RETURN REQUESTED