

Dear Folklore Phories -

I am very disappointed in the attitude of the Folklore Society regarding the presence of children at your programs. Ever since I first became a member of your group five yrs. ago, I have looked forward to having a child old enough to bring to a program to share in the community spirit as well as the music. Tonight I brought my two-yr. old to see Paul Cadwell & Hank Schwartz. I sat in the last row, then took her to the back & stood with her to be as inconspicuous as possible. However, being a normal spontaneous 2-yr. old, she said a couple of words to me, whereupon a woman who I assume

had authority in the society, came & told me that my child's voice was carrying & since the program was being recorded I should leave. She further added that I was disturbing everyone. I must say my impression of what folk music should be ~~was~~ is sharply at variance ~~with~~ with this attitude. I always thought folk music was for all the people - of all ages. I always thought of folk music lovers as tolerant people. Some of my most pleasant memories of folk concerts way before my own child was born was watching the joy & wonder & love of music

awakening on a young child's face.
 Obviously my child is going to
 be deprived of this experience
 by a group more interested in
 preserving a perfect sterile
 recording of the concert than
 in young & old enjoying
 music & brotherhood together.

If this woman spoke for
 the Folklore Society & represents
 what ~~the~~ the society has become,
 I will not renew my membership.
 But, more importantly, I feel
 sad that folk music is on its

★ Island Fanfare • by Alain Berckvitz of France. Design contributed to
 benefit UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. ★ Fanfare dans
 l'île • par Alain Berckvitz (France). Composition offerte à l'UNICEF, le
 Fonds des Nations Unies pour l'enfance. ★ Banda de música isleña • obra
 de Alain Berckvitz, de Francia. Contribución al UNICEF, el Fondo de las
 Naciones Unidas para la Infancia. ★ Остров фанфара • Рисунок
 Алена Берквитча (Франция). Подарок Детскому фонду Ор-
 ганизации Объединенных Наций (ЮНИСЕФ). ★ 岛上的军乐
 队, 阿兰·贝克维兹 (法国) 作。 图案设计赠给联合国儿童基金会。

Way out, because it is becoming
^{restrictive} ~~as~~ ~~stagnant~~, rigid & sterile
 while it pretends to be
 relaxed, loving, & open to all.
 Michelle Schuster

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The Folklore Society

OF GREATER WASHINGTON
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Dear Mrs Schuster,

It is unfortunate that you had such a difficult experience bringing your two-year-old to one of our concerts. It is true still that folk music is for everybody - old and young. However a concert is not for everyone and we must ask that families with young children either keep them at home or make arrangements so that the child will not disrupt the performance. We ask this in deference to other members who have paid to listen to a performer and also to the performer himself. There are certain events to which children are welcome and some to which children are specifically invited (i. e. children's workshops at both the Getaway and the Mini-Festival).

We hope that in some way both you and your family will continue to enjoy folk music.

Sincerely,

Caroline B. Hoover

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Secretary