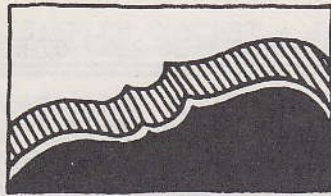


The
Folklore
Society
of Greater
Washington



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

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVI, NO. 5

JANUARY 1980

PHONE (703) 281-2228

Nancy Schatz, Editor

BLACK MUSIC FROM MISSISSIPPI TO BE FEATURED JANUARY 11



Our January Program, to be held Friday, January 11, promises to be one of the most unusual and exciting of the year. We'll be hearing traditional Black music from the South, played in a number of styles and on a great variety of instruments.

Five of the six musicians are from Mississippi. Napoleon Strickland, from Como, Miss., plays the fife in fife and drum bands for local picnics. Using instruments we all associate with colonial American marching units, he and his band play a dance music that defies description; its African roots are unmistakable. Mr. Strickland is also a virtuoso blues harmonica player, plays guitar, and plays blues on a homemade one-stringed instrument known, among other things, as a



"bow-diddly."

Abe Young is a drummer in Napoleon Strickland's band, and also plays blues harmonica. He learned his music from his father and uncles, who were fife and drum musicians. Calvin Jackson, another drummer, is Abe Young's cousin and son-in-law of blues singer R. L. Burnside. He lives near Coldwater, Mississippi.

Jessie Mae Hemphill is one of the few active women instrumentalists in black folk music. A resident of Como, Miss., she plays bass drum in the fife and drum band, blows panpipes, sings blues, and accompanies herself on guitar. Some of the songs she sings are traditional; some are her own compositions.

To blues buffs, Sam Chatmon hardly needs an introduction. He is over 80 years old and is known as "The Mississippi Sheik" and "The Bearcat of the Blues." Mr. Chatmon sings a variety of blues, accompanying himself on guitar. Many of his songs are his own compositions; others are traditional songs from his family's repertoire. He recorded with a family group, the Mississippi Sheiks, in the 1930's, and more recently has recorded solo albums on the Blue Goose and Rounder labels.

David Evans is the only non-Mississippian in the gathering. He lives in Memphis where he works as an Associate Professor of Music at Memphis State University and plays blues guitar in the Beale Street Jug Band. He has produced a number of records from his field recordings of traditional black musicians. Among them is a recording for the Library of Congress of black music from Tate and Panola Counties in Mississippi; (Continued on p. 4)

Mini-Festival! Sampler! See inside ..

MINI-FESTIVAL! JANUARY 26 IN ARLINGTON

It's time again for FSGW's annual Mini-Festival, to be held on Saturday, January 26, beginning at noon, in a new location: the George Mason University Law School, 3401 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington, VA. There's abundant space for workshops and a large dance area.

The Mini-Festival starts with a concert of workshop leaders from 12 - 1, and continues with five glorious hours of workshops (such as blues, sea songs, British Isles songs, banjo styles, parodies, kids, mother, Gospel, and many, many more) from 1 - 6 p.m. There will be craft demonstrations and workshops as well as crafts and records for sale. Refreshments will be available at moderate cost.

The traditional dinner break will be from 6 - 8:30--a great time to get together with friends at one of the numerous restaurants right in the area before returning for the 8:30-11:30 square dance. The dance will be called by Maurice Flowers, who has been calling traditional old-time square dances, including singing and patter calls, for 33 years. He works with his own 3-piece band consisting of fiddle, guitar, and bass, and comes highly recommended by Bob Dalsemer. For those who need a break from dancing, there will be a sampler concert from 9 - 11 p.m.

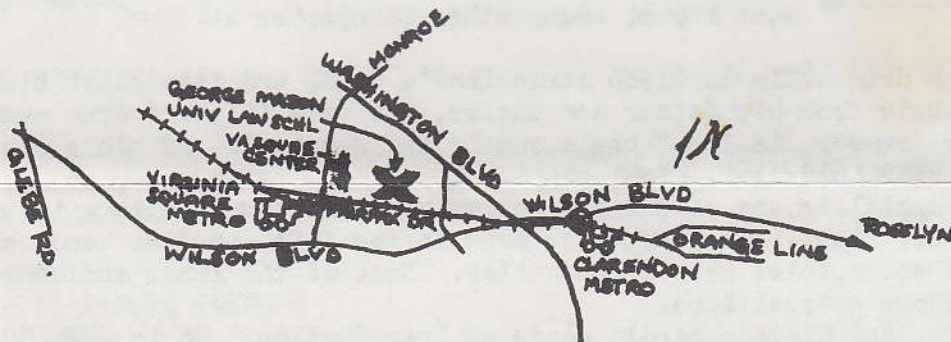
The George Mason University Law School is in the old Kann's Department Store at Virginia Square, near Clarendon Circle--just one block from the Virginia Square station on Metro's new Orange Line. For those who wish to drive, there are two large free parking lots (on either side of the building) available for our use.

You may buy tickets for the entire Mini-Festival, or for either the daytime or evening activities, at the door, or save some money by getting your tickets in advance. Prices are as follows:

	Advance sales		At the door	
	All day	Half day	All day	Half day
Adults	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$5.00	\$4.00
Children 7-13	\$2.00	\$1.50	\$3.00	\$2.00

Children 6 and under will be admitted free. Payment for advance tickets must be post-marked no later than Saturday, Jan. 21. Please fill out the order form below, make your check payable to FSGW, and mail both to: FSGW Special Events, P.O. Box 5604, Preston King Station, Arlington, VA 22205.

If you need further information, call Linda Lieberman at 526-0584.



FSGW MINI-FESTIVAL - ADVANCE TICKETS

Name _____ Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Address _____

No. of tickets:	All day	Half-day
Adult	_____ @ \$4 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$3 = \$ _____
Children	_____ @ \$2 = \$ _____	_____ @ \$1.50 = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Mail to: FSGW Special Events, P.O. Box 5604, Preston King Station, Arlington, VA 22205.

SAMPLER CONCERT - JANUARY 19

Samplers have long been a tradition in FSGW. They give us a chance to enjoy the talents of some of our own members, who may be either professional musicians or just closet performers. On Saturday evening, January 19, at the Washington Ethical Society, we'll present a varied program of Yiddish music, stringband, old-timey, and some recently written songs.

The MILL RUN DULCIMER BAND will appear fresh from their first official recording session. Keith Young, Kit Connaway, Woody Padgett, Neil Walters, and Robin Gaiser play mountain dulcimers, naturally, and autoharp, guitar, banjo, bass, and harmonica. They sing, too, in the Western and Carter Family traditions. They adopted their name after a number of gigs at Colvin Run Mill in Fairfax, Va.

ABE BRUMBERG will sing Eastern European folk songs in Yiddish. He once teamed with Joe Glazer on a humorous political album called "My Darling Party Line." In real life, he's a Soviet specialist, editor and publisher, and is currently a fellow with the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. His strong voice will be accompanied by accordionist Bob Jacobs.

CRAIG JOHNSON is a recent addition to the Washington music scene, hailing from Ann Arbor, Michigan. He writes and sings his own songs, some of which have been recorded by others. Mostly he performs old-time music on banjo, guitar, and--if he can be talked into it-- fiddle.

CATHY FINK has also recently taken up residence here. A Baltimore native, she spent several years in western Canada, playing old-timey music and early bluegrass. With Duck Donald, she made a pair of albums and travelled the U.S. and Canada. She still travels and performs widely, playing primarily banjo and guitar, and singing the old songs.

It should be a lively evening of fun music. The Sampler begins at 8:30 p.m., on Saturday, January 19, at the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750 - 16th St., N.W., near Kalmia Rd. Admission is only \$2 for FSGW members, and \$3 for non-members; half-price for children under 12.

January						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 HAPPY 1980!	2 8 pm BOARD MEETING Double Decker 9 pm Takoma Tap Room	3	4 OPEN SING 9 pm	5 Dance-McLean 8 pm
6 FSGW DANCE 8 pm	7	8	9 Hobotoe - 9 pm Takoma Tap Room	10	11 PROGRAM: MISSISSIPPI MUSIC 8:30 pm	12
13 GOSPEL SING 4 pm FSGW DANCE 8 pm	14	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 St. Regis String- band - 9 pm Takoma Tap Room	17	18	19 Dance-McLean 8 pm SAMPLER 8:30 John Jackson - Balto 8:30
20 FSGW DANCE 8 pm	21	22	23 Hambone Sweets 9 pm Takoma Tap Room	24	25	26 MINI- FESTIVAL Noon-6; 8:30-11:30
27 SACRED HARP 4 pm FSGW DANCE 8 pm	28	29	30 Double Decker 9 pm Takoma Tap Room	31		

NOTES OF IMPORTANCE

BOARD MEETINGS: The January FSGW Board meeting will be held Wednesday, January 2, at 8 p.m., at the home of Nan Goland in D.C. Board meetings are open to the membership and your participation is encouraged. For directions, call Nan at 332-0232.

For information about the February meeting, call the FSGW Hotline, 281-2228.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The deadline for the February Newsletter is Tuesday, Jan. 15. Please write your article out and mail it, as early as possible, to Nancy Schatz, 3312 Glenway Dr., Kensington, MD 20795. Please include your name and phone number.

KUDOS: Thanks to all of the folks who have helped get our Newsletters ready for mailing each month! Extra special thanks go to Joanne Turner, K. C. King, Dick Rodgers, and (especially) Bill Day, all of whom did noble service last month when 1700 Newsletters had to be unfolded, stamped with a date change, refolded, and sealed. We managed to get the Newsletter out only 48 hours later than originally planned!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: As you would no doubt realize if you thought about it, volunteer organizations such as FSGW need volunteers in order to function. FSGW remains the greatest entertainment bargain in town because lots of good folks give their time to make it work--they do it because it's fun! You can have fun too, and meet a lot of nice people--just call any Board member or call the FSGW Hotline (281-2228) and let us know what sorts of things you'd like to help with (telephoning? clean-up? Newsletter mailing? transportation? graphics? publicity mailing and distribution? sound? Festival-related jobs? volunteer recruitment?) and how we can get in touch with you when we need you. Thanks!

GOSPEL SING

The January Gospel Sing will be held on Sunday, January 13, at the home of Russ Scarato in College Park, MD. Singing will begin at 4 p.m., and a pot-luck supper will be served a bit later. Be sure to call Russ at 301/345-7978 for directions and to let him know what you'll be bringing.

PROGRAM: MISSISSIPPI MUSIC (Cont. from p.1)

the record features some of the musicians we'll be hearing on the 11th.

Be there! This is without doubt a program you won't get a chance to hear again. The date: Friday, January 11. The time: 8:30 p.m. The place: the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750 - 16th St., N.W. (at Kalmia Rd.). There's no charge for FSGW members (a Great Deal!); nonmembers pay \$2.

FAMILY DANCES

There will be no January Family Dance because of the Mini-Festival. However, Kate Charles will be here the second Saturday in February to call a Family Dance. Watch the February Newsletter for details.

CLASSIFIED SECTION

4-STRING DULCIMER, concert quality. Consider madolin trade. Rosewood pegs, body; mahogany fingerboard. Will, 703/821-0834.

MUSICIANS' SUPPLIES? Telephone "BANDAID." Standard inventory; example: Martin strings \$3.68 sextet. Information, prices, communication, 301/891-2471.

BOB DEVLIN, streetsinger extraordinaire--also a powerful songwriter. His new album "STRING RAMBLER" available. 202/667-0601.

WANTED: Knowledgeable person to coach an individual in singing folk and other styles. Sharon, 301/585-9527.

IRISH DANCING CLASSES: Children, teens, & adults, all levels. Call Jeanne McGrath, 703/471-6371 (Baltimore 301/866-3097).

- - -

FSGW members should mail their 15-word (or less) ads, enclosing \$1 for each WANTED /FOR SALE ad (LOST & FOUND ads free) by the 15th of the month prior to publication, to Nancy Schatz, 3312 Glenway Dr., Kensington, MD 20795. Make sure your ad is relevant to FSGW's purpose and include a phone number (with area code) in the ad and your name and number for the Editor. Thanks!

SUNDAY NIGHT DANCES

OPEN SING

The Sunday night dances will continue at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church on Chevy Chase Circle. Dances begin at 8 p.m. and end around 11. Admission is \$2 for FSGW members and \$2.50 for non-members. The winter schedule is:

- Jan. 6 - Bob Dalsemer calling a special benefit dance (see below).
- Jan. 13 - Pine Hill Band from Maine, with New England squares & contras.
- Jan. 20 - Boss-Town Buzz-Steps.
- Jan. 27 - Bob Dalsemer, & the Buzz-Steps.
- Feb. 3 - Lou Shapiro calling.
- Feb. 10 - Mary Rhodes will be back doing English country dances.
- Feb. 17 - From the West Coast, Sandy Bradley, with patter-call squares.
- Feb. 24 - Bob Dalsemer calling.

SPECIAL NOTE: The January 6th dance will be a special benefit dance for Michael Cooney. The dance will begin at 8:00 and will include a concert by the one & only Rock Creek, who are coming together especially for this occasion. Hope to see you there!

JOHN JACKSON IN BALTIMORE

The Baltimore Folk Music Society will present John Jackson, one of the last of the old time country bluesmen, in a concert of blues, ragtime, and gospel music on January 19. Jackson, who lives in Fairfax, VA., has performed all over the U.S. and Canada, as well as in Europe, Japan, South America, and the Caribbean, and has recorded four albums on the Arhoolie and Rounder labels. The concert will be at Lovely Lane Church, 2200 St. Paul St. in Baltimore, on Saturday, January 19, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$2.50 at the door. For further information, call 998-8541.

CLOGGING CLASSES AT GLEN ECHO

Classes in Appalachian clog and flatfoot dancing will be offered at Glen Echo Park starting January 21. For more information, on course content, call Adam Hubbell (462-6281) or Carol Chernikoff (234-5372). For registration information, call Glen Echo at 492-6282.

Ring out the old year, ring in the new! Remember an Old Song; Learn a New Song-- that is the theme of the January Open Sing. It takes place on Friday, January 4, at 9 p.m. The leader will be Janice Cole, and the location is the Washington Ethical Society building, 7750 - 16th St., N.W. You pay only \$1 to come in and enjoy the music.

In February, Rita Ferrara will lead the Sing with "Songs of the Wild and Woolly West: Cowboys, Indians, Gamblers, Miners, Hanging Judges, and Painted Women."

STRINGBANDS AT TAKOMA TAP ROOM

- Jan. 2 - Double Decker Stringband.
- Jan. 9 - Hobotoe Stringband.
- Jan. 16 - St. Regis Stringband, from Saratoga Springs, NY.
- Jan. 23 - Hambone Sweets Stringband.
- Jan. 30 - Double Decker Stringband.

Located at 8210 Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring, the Takoma Tap Room will feature 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 dance tunes, or wear your clogging shoes and join in the action too!

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCES IN McLEAN

Regular dances are held at the McLean Community Center, 1236 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA. These dances are generally on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays, and Lou Shapiro usually calls. The dances feature old-timey music, squares, clogging, and occasional contras. Elementary instruction is from 8:00-8:30, with the regular dance from 8:30-11:15. Upcoming dances will feature:

- Jan. 5 - Hobotoe Stringband.
 - Jan. 19 - Joel Bluestein on fiddle.
 - Feb. 2 - (no dance)
 - Feb. 16 - Steve Hickman on fiddle.
- For more information, call 790-9248.

KEVIN PERDUE

Kevin Perdue, one of the sons of Chuck and Nan Perdue (two of the Folklore Society's founding members) was killed in an automobile accident on December 3, at the age of 19. The Perdues, who now live in Madison, Virginia, were familiar presences during the Society's early years, and Chuck and Nan recently sang at our 15th-Anniversary gathering.

The National Council for the Traditional Arts is setting up a Kevin Perdue Memorial Fund at the University of Virginia, where Chuck is a professor of folklore. Kevin, who played the banjo, was raised in and around Virginia's Blue Ridge country, and the fund will be used for the acquisition of additional materials related to the Blue Ridge for the University's folk archives. The FSGW Board has voted a contribution to the fund, and additional contributions may be sent to:

The Kevin Perdue Memorial Fund
c/o The National Council for the Traditional Arts
1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036.

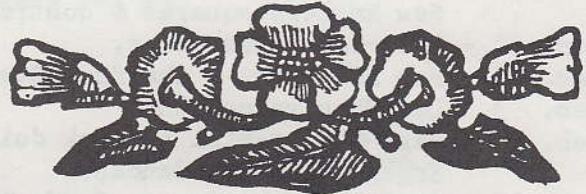
SEAN LEE INJURED

Sean Lee, 16, who attended the founding meetings of FSGW as a toddler, was seriously injured in an auto accident in early December. There was severe damage to both legs, and Sean is pretty much encased in casts except for one arm. He will be hospitalized for several months. At this point, about all he can do is listen to music on his cassette recorder. This summer he began to be quite interested in blues, and he would love to hear more.

Any FSGW members who have music cassettes (blues especially, but also rock and bluegrass) and would be willing to give or loan them to Sean should call his mother, Carol Bruce, at 281-9376, or leave a message during business hours at 558-2475. Carol can tell you where to mail them or arrange to pick them up. Also, Sean would love to receive cards and notes from any FSGW folks, so let him hear from you!

SACRED HARP SING

Hymn-singing from The Sacred Harp, and a pot-luck supper, will be held on Sunday, January 27, at 4:00 p.m., at the home of Frank Evans in Arlington, VA. Call Frank at 527-2059 for directions and to let him know what you'll be bringing.



UPDATE ON MICHAEL COONEY

Folksinger Michael Cooney, who was badly injured in an auto accident in August, has had to undergo further surgery recently for chronic subdural hematoma, an unexpected result of his injuries. Michael had tried to start working again this fall, but because of this new problem, he will be unable to perform for several months. The insurance settlement has not yet been reached, so Michael is still in need of funds for his rapidly mounting medical costs. Thanks to all of those who have already contributed, and for those who would still like to help, your contributions in any amount may be sent to The Michael Cooney Trust Fund, c/o Estelle Klein, 87 Gloucester St., Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1M2, Canada. Front Hall and Rounder Records are supplying Michael's records for the next few months, and making them available at folk-music events all over the country, so if you buy one of these fine albums this winter, you can be sure all of the money will go to help Michael.

The Folklore Society's dance on Sunday, January 6, will be a benefit for Michael, and all profits will go to the Trust Fund. This promises to be an especially good dance, with Bob Dalsemer calling, and including a special concert by Rock Creek. See p. 5 for details.

FSGW is also planning a special benefit concert for Michael in February--watch for details in next month's Newsletter!

* PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY! *

Gaelic League Programs

The Gaelic League has now chartered a branch in D.C. Their goal is to promote the study and use of the Irish language, music, and culture in the area. Their program will include classes, lectures, concerts, films, etc. In January:

Beginning Irish class--12 sessions, starting Jan. 22. Call Kevin DeVany (522-2178).

"Celtic Myth in Literature" course at American University. Call Jo Radner (686-2450).

Reading of an Irish folk play, "One Evening's Glean," by the Prism Theater. Date not set; call Jo Radner (686-2450).

Film, "The Villages," on Irish-speaking district of Dingle, Co. Kerry. Call Coilin Owens (370-3849).

Irish Gaelic reading group, Tuesday evenings. Call Coilin Owens (370-3849).

Call any of the above for information on the Gaelic League and to get your name on the mailing list.

DANCES IN KEEDYSVILLE, MD.

The Western Maryland Folklore Society, the folks who brought you the All Night dance, is now sponsoring First Saturday dances in Keedysville, MD. Music is provided by Contraband of Bluemont, VA., and calling is by Slim Harrison and guest callers from D.C., Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. An old-fashioned cake walk is held at each dance and refreshments are available.

Dances are held at the school in Keedysville, and begin at 8 p.m. on the first Saturday of the month. Admission is \$2 (\$1.50 for WMFS members).

Directions: Take I-270 and I-70 past Frederick, & exit at Alternate Rt. 40 to Boonsboro. Turn left at light in downtown Boonsboro onto Rt. 34, & go abt. 3 mi. to Keedysville. Take 1st left after Keedysville city limits sign, cross RR tracks & pass bank & P.O. Take next left (Dog St.), then 1st right (Keedysville School Rd.). School is 2 blocks ahead at end of road.

For information, call Frank Pratka (202/234-2775) or Liz Reisberg (301/432-8020).

COLLEGE COURSES OF INTEREST

The Department of Music at the University of Maryland offers a graduate program leading to a master's degree in musicology. The program integrates historical musicology and ethnomusicology, with its goals being to acquire a "humanistic understanding of music-making in all its aesthetic and behavioral complexity." The full cultural resources of the Washington area, as well as courses from the Departments of Anthropology, Sociology, History, and other behavioral and social sciences are drawn on for this program of study. For further information on requirements, course offerings, costs, and other details, write to Dr. Carol Robertson, Dept. of Music, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. 20742, or phone 454-2501.

George Washington University will offer several interesting folklore courses on the undergraduate and graduate level this spring semester. Courses include Women's Folklore; Rituals of Life and Death; The Uses of Folklore in the Modern World; History and Folklore of Work and Occupations, Folklore of the American South; and Readings in Folklore Studies; a Graduate Seminar. Registration is January 10-12. For information on course content, call Dr. Jack Santino at the G.W. American Studies Office (676-6070). For registration information, call the G.W. Undergraduate Admissions Office (676-6040).

* FSGW Hot-Line: 703/281-2228 *

IRISH DANCERS

The first male Irish dancers from the Washington/Baltimore area to attend the World Championships of Irish Dance are John McGrath, age 8, and Patrick McGrath, age 6, both of Herndon, Va. Their teacher is their mother, Jeanne McGrath, director of the McGrath Academy of Irish Dance & Music, Washington, D.C. The two boys qualified to go by winning in their respective age categories at the Eastern Regional Irish Dancing Championships held Thanksgiving weekend in New Jersey. The first dancer to qualify was Nancy O'Flaherty of Leesburg, Va., also a McGrath dancer.

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 membership? _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____
Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

WANT TO JOIN! ENCLOSED IS:

<u>Individual</u>		<u>Family</u>	
1 year	\$8 ()	1 year	\$12 ()
3 year	\$24 ()	3 year	\$36 ()
1 yr. contr.	\$25 ()*	1 yr. contr.	\$25 ()*
1 yr. sust.	\$50 ()*	1 yr. sust.	\$50 ()*
Life	\$150 ()*	Life	\$225 ()*
Out-of-town membership (see below)		\$4	()

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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