



Kora Music and Tales from The Gambia Featured May 9



Dembo Konte (left) and Alhaji Bai Konte (right)

The FSGW monthly program for May will feature music from The Gambia, West Africa, in a concert by Alhaji Bai Konte; his son, Dembo Konte; his wife, Sandra Konte; and Ma Lamini Jobate. The three men all sing and play the kora, an ancient 21-stringed African harp that is made from a large gourd and sounds like guitar, harpsichord, and banjo rolled into one. American-born Sandra sings and serves as narrator. This is Bai Konte's first program for FSGW since 1974, and promises to be a unique evening.

Bai and Dembo Konte and Ma Lamini Jobate are members of the Gambian National Performing Troupe. All three men are featured on a recent Folkways recording, "Gambian Griot Kora Duets." (A griot is both a performer and social historian, able to recount histo-

ries and geneologies in music and song. Bai Konte enjoys the honored position of griot in his native village in The Gambia.)

The musicians will also be featured in the first episode of public television's "Jump Street," a thirteen-segment children's series on the history of black music in America. In addition, they have toured the U.S. and were heard on NPR's "Folk Festival USA" with Taj Mahal and Libba Cotton. Bai Konte also helped Alex Haley promote his book, Roots. (Haley learned of his African ancestors from a kora-playing griot like Konte.)

The concert begins at 8:30 p.m., Friday, May 9, at the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750 - 16th St., N.W. (at Kalmia Rd.) Come in plenty of time to get a good seat--the last few monthly programs have been packed. Admission for FSGW members is free; the price for non-members is \$2.00. Call the Society's Hot-Line, 281-2228, for more information. See you there!

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Guitarist Pierre Bensusan May 15 — See Page 2

FSGW Elections — Don't Forget to Vote!

Pierre Bensusan in Concert

Pierre Bensusan will perform in concert at Georgetown University's Gaston Hall on Thursday, May 15. And who is Pierre Bensusan? Guitarist extraordinaire! Only 23, the Algerian-born Frenchman discovered American folk music shortly after taking up guitar. Within a few years' time, he played mandolin with a jug band, and a bluegrass band, then accompanied banjoist Bill Keith on his European tour. Traditional Celtic music grew in his repertoire, the Scots-Irish fiddle and bagpipe tunes felling from his guitar strings in ways reminiscent of John Renbourn, Burt Jancsh, or Martin Carthy. Pierre has also developed his singing talent, taking on the British Isles balladry along with French folk song. Another element in his strongly traditional performance is the "Musette" music heard decades ago in the streets and cafes of Paris.



Pierre has toured Europe, including the British Isles--reports are that they love him. His crisscrossing of this country about a year ago was received with raves from those who came upon him at little clubs in Vermont, or McCabe's in California, or the Kerrville, Texas, Folk Festival, where 6,000 new-found fans demanded three encores. It's bound to be that kind of concert here, for those who have heard him or his albums (on Rounder, Cazame labels), for skeptics, and for open-minded traditionalists.

This fine evening of guitar and vocal music--and Pierre might add a few surprises--is planned for Thursday, May 15, beginning at 8 p.m. Gaston Hall is on the 3rd floor of the Healy Building, at Georgetown University, 37th and O Sts., N.W., in Washington. Admission is \$4 for FSGW members, \$6 for non-members. Advance tickets are encouraged--mail check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to FSGW Special Events, P.O. Box 5604, Preston King Station, Arlington, VA 22205.

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ART THIEME IN CONCERT

The Folklore Society will present a special concert with Art Thieme on Friday, May 30. According to Emily Friedman, "Art Thieme looks like a mountain man, tells tales like a cracker-barrel philosopher, gets tunes from 91-year-old hoboese, teaches inner-city schoolchildren how to make banjos from fishing twine and paper towel cylinders, and tames unruly audiences by playing "Red River Valley" on the musical saw. He also has probably the largest collection of terrible puns that has ever been assembled, and he multiplies the crime by telling them at every opportunity."

Art lives in Chicago and shares folk songs accompanied on the guitar, banjo, and jew's harp. He collects midwestern folk songs, and this is the theme of his 2nd record on Kicking Mule. His first record, "Outright Bold-Faced Lies," is a masterpiece of live music and tales. His east coast tour is rare, so don't miss this special event on Friday, May 30, at 8:30 p.m. at the Washington Ethical Society auditorium, 7750 16th St., N.W. (at Kalmia Rd.) Admission is \$2 for FSGW members, and \$3 for non-members.

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OPEN SING

May's Open Sing will be led by Suzy Mathieu and the topic will be "Parodies and Other Such Nonsense." Singing begins about 9 p.m. in the Ethical Society building, 7750 16th St., N.W. in Washington. Admission is \$1 for everyone and refreshments are available.

In June, Bob Clayton will lead "Roots I, or, Where Were You When the Folk Boomed?"

BOARD MEETINGS: The May FSGW Board meeting will be held Wednesday, May 7, at 8:00 p.m., at the home of Lars Hanslin, in Chevy Chase, MD. Board meetings are open to the membership and your participation is encouraged. For directions, call Lars at 654-4317.

For information about the June meeting, call the FSGW Hot-Line, 281-2228.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The deadline for the June Newsletter is Thursday, May 15. Please get your material in on time! WRITE YOUR ARTICLE OUT, and mail it, as early as possible, to Nancy Schatz, 3312 Glenway Dr., Kensington, MD 20795. Remember to include your name and phone number.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is--and has always been--FSGW policy that any non-FSGW news items are accepted for publication in the Newsletter on a space-available basis, at the discretion of the Editor. As you may have noticed, we're reaching the saturation point--we'd like to publish every item we receive, but we're running out of space. The Editor is not completely arbitrary, but here's how to make brownie points: Write your article out as concisely as possible (1-2 paragraphs should do), being sure to include all relevant details (date, time, place, cost, name and phone number for more info., etc.), and mail it to the Editor before the deadline.

SACRED HARP SING

Hymn-singing from The Sacred Harp, and a pot-luck supper, will be held on Sunday, May 25, at 4 p.m., at the home of Dottie Morrison in Silver Spring, MD. Call Dottie at 871-7652 for directions and to let her know what you'll be bringing.

The schedule for Sunday night dances for the remainder of the season is given below. All dances are at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church at Chevy Chase Circle unless noted otherwise. The cost is \$2 for FSGW members, and \$2.50 for non-members. (Dances marked with asterisks ** cost more to present, and the charge will be \$2.50 for members and \$3 for non-members.)

- May 4 - Lisa Kornberg calling, with the Peascods Gathering. This dance will be at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, 9th & Mass. Ave., NW.
- May 11 - Susan Miley.
- **May 18 - Bob Dalsemer, with Backwoods Stringband.
- **May 25 - Maurice Flowers (calling square dances since the '40's).
- June 1 - Timber Salvage, from Albany, NY.
- June 8 - Kate Charles.
- June 15 - Bernie Chalk, from England.
- June 21 - Mary Harrell (Rhoades).
- June 29 - Boss-Town Buzz-Steps.

Note that the June 29 dance will be the last dance of the 1979-80 season.

GOSPEL SING

The May Gospel Sing will be held on Sunday, May 11, at the home of Kathy Condon in the Mt. Pleasant section of D.C. Singing will begin at 4 p.m. and a pot-luck supper will be served a bit later. Be sure to call Kathy at 462-2875 for directions and to let her know what you'll be bringing.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAY				1 John Jackson 8:30 Community Cafe	2 OPEN SING 9 pm	3
4 CABOMA. jam session 2-6 FSGW DANCE 8:30	5 Folk Hoot 9pm Takoma Tap Room	6	7 8pm BOARD MEETING Cathy Fink - Arty's 9pm Hobotoe - 9pm Takoma Tap Room	8 LC Concert - Armenian music 12-1:30 WFF sound workshop 7pm Joe Hickerson 8:30 Community Cafe	9 PROGRAM: 8:30 GAMBIAN MUSIC	10 Dance - Glen Echo 8:30
11 GOSPEL SING 4 pm FSGW DANCE 8:30	12 Folk Hoot 9pm Takoma Tap Room	13	14 Hambone Sweets 9pm Takoma Tap Room	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE PIERRE BENSUSAN Gayton Hall 8pm Larry Pagan Community Cafe 8:30 Cathy Fink + Bruce Hutton - Arty's 9pm	16 Highlander Center Concert 8pm Backwoods Band Baltimore 8:30	17 Dance - Glen Echo 8:30
18 International Festival - Barrie Day Sch. 1-5 CABOMA. jam session 2-6 Dance - Calvin Run Mill 7pm FSGW DANCE 8:30	19 Folk Hoot 9pm Takoma Tap Room	20	21 WFF sound workshop 7pm Mike Seeger 9pm Takoma Tap Room	22 Bruce Hutton 8:30 Community Cafe	23	24 Dance - Glen Echo 8:30
25 SACRED HARP 4 pm FSGW DANCE 8:30	26 Folk Hoot 9pm Takoma Tap Room	27	28 Double Decker 9pm Takoma Tap Room	29 Art Thieme 8:30 Community Cafe	30 ART THIEME 8:30	31 Dance - Glen Echo 8:30

 * CANDIDATES FOR FSGW BOARD *
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 * It's election time again--remember to vote! Please read the statements below, written by the various candidates, make your choices (there are several contested positions and this will help you choose; it may also introduce you to some folks you don't know), mark your ballots, and send 'em in. Ballots are inserted in Newsletters (2 for family memberships) and directions for returning them are included.

PRESIDENT

LARS HANSLIN -- I am an old-time banjo player (Powdered Eagle String Band--reasonable fees for Worthy Causes--cash only) and incumbent President of the Folklore Society. I owe my incumbency to, not necessarily in order of significance: (1) Twelve years' membership in FSGW; (2) Two years as Treasurer with nary a single effective IRS inquiry; (3) Several odd years as Member-at-Large; (4) Custodian and hauler of our sound system; (5) Good intentions. I am running again because incumbency needs support this year. If unelected, there is no truth to the rumor that the sound system will be impounded and the Society reported to the IRS.

VICE PRESIDENT

BOB CLAYTON -- Actually, I've been in the Folklore Society so long that I feel that running for office again is like being recycled. I joined FSGW in the spring of 1967, a year after I returned to the Washington area to find a folk boom in progress, and I've been involved in both ever since. I've served as both Program and Special Events chairmen, and once in the dim dark past ran a Getaway (once is enough, thank you!) My platform planks call for the continued existence of the Society, and the issuance of a banjo or fiddle to every newborn child. If I am elected, the War of 1812 will be only a memory, Warren Harding will never again be president, and bluegrass music will be heard on the radio (I only make promises I can keep).

BILL DAY -- Well, it has been a busy year. Last year I said that if I was elected Member-at-Large, I would be available to do whatever I could to help the FSGW. I hereby advise current and future candidates for office to be very careful of promises like that--people listen! During the last year, I have served as co-chairman of the Getaway and of the Mini-Festival, coordinated (!?!!) the Newsletter mailings (some of you who were there may doubt that there was any coordination involved), set up, operated, took down, and carried (oof!) the sound equipment at various events, led the Open Sing, made phone calls, attended meetings, sharpened pencils, cleaned the blackboards, swept the... Well, you get the idea. Furthermore, I survived and had fun and occasionally sat down and made music with nice people. So, all you voters out there, I'm willing to be V.P. if you want me. I think I learned enough as Member-at-Large to be a leader of sorts, as well as continuing to lift and tote. As they say in Chicago, VOTE EARLY--AND OFTEN!

ELISE FISCHER -- I became interested in folk music and dance in the 1960's when we had a weekend coffeehouse in the AYH canoe shack. Since I've moved to the Washington area, I've enjoyed the variety of FSGW programs and their high quality. The low admission prices make these events accessible to the public. I would like to be Vice President in order to do my part to help FSGW continue this type of programming. I have been on several community organization boards and feel I have much practical experience to contribute. My last board position involved everything from recycling glass to grant writing. I'm prepared to tackle problems of any scope and give my best.

SECRETARY

SUSAN SCHWELLING -- During the past year as well as serving as FSGW secretary I was also food chairman for the Getaway. In addition to my continuing support of all on-going regular FSGW activities, as a parent of school-age children, I am interested in the development of more programs for children and families. We attended most of the Saturday afternoon Family Dances, and I support their continuation. I would like to explore ways of making our newer members more involved in the workings of FSGW.

TREASURER

NAN GOLAND -- Why not re-elect me for one more year? I'm just getting into the swing of things.

DANCE

DAVID OLIVE -- I have been a member of the Society almost from the beginning, and have been interested in traditional folk music and dance since I was a child. I have been active in the Society for the last six years, serving as Getaway Co-chairperson in 1974, acting Publicity Chairperson in 1976, Program Chairperson in 76-77 and 77-78, and Publicity Chairperson in 78-79 (partial). I have played an active part in planning for and working on the last five Mini-Festivals, Getaways, and all the Washington Folk Festivals. As Program Chairperson I tried to present as many ethnic styles as possible, and I had several programs that were half music and half dance, such as Louis and Donna Lamb from Berea, KY. I have always been interested in dance and would favor more dance activities in the Society, including dances that are free to members, like Programs. I would plan to have more dances involving out-of-town callers such as John McCutcheon, Louis Lamb, and Jim Morrison. I plan to concentrate my efforts on improving the Monthly Dances and providing instruction for beginners.

FRANK H. PRATKA -- I have been dancing since 1977 and have attended virtually every Sunday night dance for the past two and a half years. One of my favorite pastimes is organizing dances and related activities. Among those have been the Western Maryland Folklore Society's all-night dances, monthly dances, and special events, the Vernal Equinox Ball, and the upcoming Washington Folk Festival. As a member of FSGW, Baltimore Folk Music Society, Western Maryland Folklore Society, Bluemont Concert Series, and CDSS, I make every effort to maintain contact with dancers and musicians throughout the area. I believe cooperation with our dancing neighbors is very important. Concerning Sunday Night Dances, my primary goal is to maintain the traditionally high quality of dance and music. More and varied learning opportunities should be offered to new dancers so their on-the-job training will be more enjoyable.

MEMBERSHIP

DOLORES NICHOLS -- Experience; that's the main reason to elect me Membership Chairperson. I held the office for two years (July 1976 to June 1978) and have been helping as part of the Membership Committee since then. I have also tried to be involved in as many activities of FSGW as possible--planning the last three Getaways, the Washington Folk Festival (at Glen Echo), Open Sings, and Picnics.

PROGRAM

KATHY WESTRA-HICKERSON -- If you enjoyed this past year's programs and even if you haven't, please reelect me Program Chairman for 1980-81. I'd like to do it again.

PUBLICATIONS

NANCY SCHATZ -- My "platform" consists of the 9 Newsletters published since last September. I've enjoyed doing them, but have often wished for a 36-hour (at least) day; this next year I have the promise of some experienced help with some of the Newsletters, and that's the next best thing.

PUBLICITY

CLAUDIA KRAVETS -- I am new to the Folklore Society and impressed with the scope and vitality of its activities and the dedicated teamwork that supports it. I want to contribute to that effort by sharing my expertise in public relations. I established a positive press relations program for a community arts center evaluating and redefining policy; targeting, researching, and writing copy; and selecting and arranging production of visuals. Currently I direct the publicity effort for the Washington Folk Festival. My willingness to be elected to this job is a way of saying THANKS for all the good times.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MARY CLIFF -- I have had a long association with folk music, including several years on the FSGW Executive Board, singing of traditional music in (dim, dark) past years, and seven years bringing folk music to Washington area radio audiences. As current Special Events Chairman, I have tried to bring you those performers who would not otherwise play concerts in Washington. With so large a Society, we have a broad range of tastes to satisfy. I am always open to suggestions for programs. We are working toward a children's series for next season, and maybe one BIG concert.

LARRY ALPERT -- It is well known that the general health of a folklore person is determined by accessibility to music performed by or written about blacksmiths, union leaders, sheep herders, miners... as accompanied by dulcimers, guitars, uilleann pipes... and as danced to the styles of morris, contras, squares, etc. This explains the excellent health of FSGW members in April, and the acute neurosis and paranoid behavior seen among folkies in Tonopah, Nevada. An avid folk enthusiast, and past member of folklore societies in New York and Boston, and former host of a weekly radio Folk Music show in upstate New York, I would greatly welcome the pleasure and responsibility of serving as at Large Board Member in working to enhance FSGW activities and our collective sanity.

BOB HITCHCOCK -- Despite my famous name, I am not into horror movies. I have been a member of the Folklore Society ever since I moved to D.C. about 2 years ago, and have participated in a number of events, such as the Mini-Festival, Getaways, and Open Sings. My main musical interests are English songs and sea shanteys (not filthy songs as some people would have you believe). I am also a member of the Georgetown Shantey Singers and a little-known English group called Warm Beer. I started singing folk songs when I was 5 years old, and have been actively singing ever since, on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Although I have never served on the board of an organization like the FSGW before, I have run folk clubs on a part-time basis in the United Kingdom, and maybe if I can remember anything about it, the FSGW might benefit. If I am fortunate enough to be elected to the Board, I will do whatever I can to help promote the activities of the Society.

CRAIG JOHNSON -- This biography has given no end of trouble. I have been advised to delete the chapter on my formative years and the sparkling reminiscences of my university days. Such experiences apparently do not recommend me for Member-at-Large. My agent does suggest I mention my long-time involvement with traditional music and that at one time I was on the board of directors of the Ark Coffeehouse in Ann Arbor. In spite of this enforced abridging of my biography, I retain a great respect for the FSGW, and would be glad to take on my share of work for the Society.

KERRY JOHNSON -- As a relatively new member of FSGW, I feel that I can contribute ideas which would help initiate new members into the Society. I am particularly interested in promoting a diverse range of folk music, and in more explanation of the origins of folk music for newer members.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! June 7 and 8 are the dates for the 4th annual Washington Folk Festival at Glen Echo Park, presented by the Folklore Society and co-sponsored by the National Park Service. Two days of superb American and international music, dance, and crafts all by Washington area residents who donate their time and talent, and all free of charge, rain or shine! More details next month. Meanwhile....

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We urge anyone who is interested in helping with the Festival (it's fun!) on June 7 and/or 8 to volunteer. Even 2 hours of work would be greatly appreciated. We need help on stages and with hospitality, food, parking, and many other areas. For more information and to volunteer, call Cheryl Brauner (434-0908) or Tammy Zeheb (527-4299), or leave a message on the FSGW Hot-Line (281-2228). Thanks!

SOUND WORKSHOPS! Workshops for sound technicians for the Washington Folk Festival will be held at Glen Echo Park from 7-10 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, and Wednesday, May 21. For information, call K. C. King (229-6546 evenings).



CLASSIFIED SECTION

HAMMERED DULCIMERS--fine tone, quality, from \$300; stands and accessories. Bob Clayton, 703/671-1975.

CONCERTINA--new Bastari treble, case, books, \$200. Finely crafted hammered dulcimers, negotiable. Bob, 703/471-9710; 703/620-2112.

PIANO WANTED--will haul away discarded instrument or pay under \$200. Karen, 301/344-2089 or 202/667-4856.

SWAP GUITARS--your six-string steel for my twelve. Sharon, early morning and evenings, 301/585-9527.

BANJO LESSONS--old-time and bluegrass styles, all levels. Cathy Fink, 202/882-0842.

WANTED: BODHRAN (Irish drum) or info. on local purchase source. M. Sanders, 202/763-2261 or 301/589-3769.

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PLEASE READ THIS: The Newsletter has recently received a number of classified ads from folks who either ignored or misunderstood the rules. All of this may seem restrictive, but our space is so limited that we can accept only ads that comply.

LOST & FOUND: Any article lost or found at any FSGW event, or lost or found instruments, songbooks, or other folk accoutrements (within reason), may be advertised FREE.

WANTED/FOR SALE: You may advertise folk-related items (no puppies, real estate, or used cars, please) for \$1.

The ground rules are: (1) You must be an FSGW member and identify yourself (include surname, please). (2) Ads must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication. (3) You must send in new copy if you want your ad repeated (3-issue limit per Sept.-Aug. season)--ads will not be held over. (4) The \$1 fee must be enclosed. (5) Ads must be within the 15-word limit--sending in extra money will not allow you extra words. (6) Ads must include a phone number (with area code) or address in the copy and must be accompanied by a name and phone number for the Editor. (7) Ads must be relevant to FSGW's purpose ("...preserving and promoting the traditional folk arts in the greater Washington, D.C. area.").

Send your copy to Nancy Schatz, 3312 Glenway Dr., Kensington, MD 20795.

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCES AT GLEN ECHO PARK

The Spanish Ballroom swings again as the season for dancing gets underway at Glen Echo Park. All dances feature live music, and all ages--including beginners--are welcomed. The dances are held on Saturday nights from 8:30-11:30 p.m., and adult admission is \$2. The schedule for May is as follows:

- May 10 - Polish Folk Dancing, with Trojaki Dance Circle.
- May 17 - Square, contra, and clog dancing. Caller Lou Shapiro, with music by the Backwoods Band, featuring Mac Benford (banjo), Claudio Buchwald and Susie Rothfield (fiddles), Eric Thompson (guitar), and Joe Fallon (bass). Come early, as this dance may be a sellout.
- May 24 - Square, contra, and waltz dancing. Caller Bob Dalsemer, with music by the Boss-Town Buzz-Steps.
- May 31 - Square and contra dancing. Callers Bruce Strand and Nina Perkins. Music by Timber Salvage Band from New England.

For more information, call Glen Echo Park, 492-6282.

CONCERT FOR HIGHLANDER CENTER

Charlie Sayles, Bernice Reagon, Hazel Dickens, and Rev. Frederick Douglas Kirkpatrick will perform at a tribute concert on May 16, at 8:00 p.m., at the People's Congregational Church, 4704 13th St., N.W., honoring the Highlander Center in New Market, Tennessee. Admission is \$3.00.

For 53 years, the Highlander Center has been committed to helping poor people develop the skills, confidence, information, and strategies they need to gain more power over their own lives. Highlander has been a strong force in the preservation and innovation of old and new songs of protest and resistance. To reserve tickets for the concert, send your checks to: Highlander Concert, 1000 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. Call 338-7542 (days) for information.

BACKWOODS BAND IN BALTIMORE

The Baltimore Folk Music Society will present a concert of old time American country music featuring The Backwoods Band on Friday, May 16. The Backwoods Band was formed in early 1979 by banjo player Mac Benford after the disbanding of the well-known Highlands String Band. The new band features some of the best stringband musicians from the East and West Coasts. Their music is rooted in the spirit of the southern stringbands of the 1920's and 1930's, and includes dance tunes, mountain songs, blues, Cajun music, gospel songs, and early swing.

The concert will be at the Lovely Lane Church, 2220 St. Paul St. in Baltimore, on Friday, May 16, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door only and are \$2.50. For more information, call 301/837-5638.

MUSIC AT ARTY'S RESTAURANT

Arty's, a small, pleasant restaurant in the Colesville Shopping Center at New Hampshire Ave. & Randolph Rd. in Silver Spring, is presenting folk and country music and other entertainment every night. Tuesday is their open mike night. Cathy Fink will perform there May 7, and Cathy Fink and Bruce Hutton will be there on May 15, from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. There is no cover charge and food and drink prices are reasonable. For more information, call Arty's at 384-2336.

CAPITAL AREA BLUEGRASS AND OLD-TIME MUSIC ASSOCIATION (CABOMA)

CABOMA will hold jam sessions on Sunday, May 4, and Sunday, May 18, from 2-6 p.m., at the Lyon Park Community Center, corner of N. Fillmore St. and Pershing Dr. in Arlington, VA. Members and first-time visitors free; others \$1.00. For more information, call Joanie Schmeer, 941-9282.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL AT BARRIE DAY SCHOOL

The Barrie Day School, 13500 Layhill Rd., Silver Spring, MD, is sponsoring an International Festival on Sunday, May 18, from 1-5 p.m. The purpose of the Festival is to develop children's awareness of and appreciation for cultures other than their own. The theme of this year's Festival is North and South America. The Festival is aimed at children but interesting to adults as well. Admission is free. For further information, call Joan Herron at the School, 871-6200.

NOONTIME CONCERTS AT LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress is once again presenting its outdoor concert series. On the second Thursday of each month (May-Oct.), from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m., you can hear free music on the Neptune Plaza in front of the main Library of Congress building, on 1st St. between East Capitol and Independence Ave., S.E. In case of rain, the concerts will be held indoors.

On Thursday, May 8, the concert will feature Armenian music and dance with Leo Sarkisian and his group playing the kanon, oud, clarinet, and guitar, and Eleanor Caroglanian demonstrating Armenian folk dances.

WEDNESDAYS AT TAKOMA TAP ROOM

The Takoma Tap Room, 8210 Piney Branch Rd., Silver Spring, features 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 tunes, or bring your clogging shoes and join the fun! The schedule for upcoming Wednesdays is:

- May 7 - Hobotoe Stringband.
- May 14 - Hambone Sweets Stringband.
- May 21 - Mike Seeger.
- May 28 - Double Decker Stringband.
- June 4 - Hobotoe Stringband.
- June 11 - St. Regis Stringband from upstate New York (the Official Olympic Old-Time Square Dance Band!)

NCTA FESTIVAL CALENDAR AVAILABLE

DON'T LEAVE HOME without the 1980 Calendar of Folk Festivals published by the National Council for the Traditional Arts. Containing information on over 1500 festivals in the U.S. and Canada, it is the largest and most complete directory of folk and community celebrations published. Order your Calendar by sending a \$4.00 check or money order to: 1980 Calendar of Folk Festivals, National Council for the Traditional Arts, 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., #1118, Washington, D.C. 20036.

FOLK HOOT MONDAYS AT TAKOMA TAP ROOM

Each Monday there is an open mike for traditional music at the Takoma Tap Room, 8210 Piney Branch Rd., Silver Spring, MD. Sign-up starts at 8 p.m. Host for the hoots is Bruce Hutton, and there's no cover charge! Come on out and share your music with us-- or just come to listen and meet new friends.

DANCE CLASSES IN ROCKVILLE

The City of Rockville Recreation Dept. is offering an 8-week course in traditional square dance, taught by FSGW member Yona Chock. The class will cover a cross-section of dances, from New England contras to Southern circles to Western squares, with historical background information provided along the way. It is a family group with children included, and welcomes experienced dancers who will drop in to help fill out the squares. The group meets at Broome Middle School on Twinbrook Pkwy. in Rockville, MD, Wednesdays from 7-9 p.m., April 16 through June 4. For more information, call Yona Chock at 881-7409.

MUSIC THURSDAYS AT COMMUNITY CAFE

The Community Cafe in Bethesda is starting its Thursday night concerts again, and they have a fine lineup for May:

- May 1 - John Jackson - Blues. "In a musical genre that has been widely adopted by white urban middle-class musicians, Jackson is an outstanding survivor and example of the rural black roots of the style...Those who want the real thing should see him live." (Unicorn Times, April 1980).
- May 8 - Joe Hickerson - Ballads, songs, and choruses sung by the head of the Library of Congress' Archive of Folk Song, and Folk-Legacy recording artist.
- May 15 - Larry Penn - The singing truck driver from Milwaukee will be in town for the National AFL-CIO Labor Song Conference and he will sing his original labor compositions.
- May 22 - Bruce Hutton - "Old-time" American folk music performed on a wide variety of traditional folk instruments including guitar, banjo, mandolin, autoharp, and mouth bow.
- May 29 - Art Thieme - In a rare East Coast appearance, this master of puns from Chicago tells outrageous stories and sings folk songs accompanying himself on guitar, banjo, and jew's harp.

The concerts will begin at 8:30 p.m. each Thursday, at the Community Cafe and Bookstore, 4949 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda, MD. While you're there, you can browse through a wide selection of books and crafts, and enjoy natural food snacks and drinks. Admission is \$2.00. For more information, call the Cafe at 986-0848.

(SPECIAL NOTE: The Community Cafe will be presenting Sandy Greenberg, from Nova Scotia, at 8:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, May 13. Other details are the same as for Thursday nights.)

DANCE AT COLVIN RUN MILL

There will be a special dance at the Colvin Run Mill on Saturday, May 24, from 7-11 p.m. Musicians will be Alan Jabbour on fiddle and John Carter on guitar, with Lou Shapiro calling. The dance will be held inside the 19th-Century operating grist mill, located on Rt. 7, five miles west of Tyson's Corner, VA. Admission is \$3.50 per person, and reservations are required. For further information and for reservations, please call Connie Clough at 759-2771.

MISSISSIPPI BLUES ON WETA-TV

"The Land Where the Blues Began," an hour-long television tour through rural Mississippi, explores the roots of the blues created by blacks through decades of struggle and difficulties in the South. The documentary, funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, examines black culture in the penitentiary field "hollers," lively, emotional church meetings and the special mirth of the bar-room poets. Mississippi performers in the program are Lonnie Pitchford, Napoleon Strickland, Clyde Maxwell, Beatrice Maxwell, Lucius Smith, Bud Spires, Jack Owens, Walter Brown, Eugene Powell, Sam Chatmon, Wilbert Puckett, J. T. Tucker, George Johnson, Joe Savage, William S. Hart, Bill Gordon, Belton Sutherland, the Rev. Caesar Smith, James Hall, and Johnny Brooks. Their music and their stories will be presented on WETA-TV (Channel 26) at 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 4. Check local listings for airdates and times outside the Washington area.

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) _____

WE 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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