

newsletter of  
*The Folklore Society*  
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

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

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Geo. A. Simpson, Editor

AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC AND JAZZ  
FEATURED ON FILM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

THE SOCIETY'S FIRST PROGRAM MEETING of the season will feature showing of Blind Gary Davis, The People of Johns Island, South Carolina: Their Faces, Their Words and Their Songs, and The Jazz Museum Story. Streetsinger Reverend Gary Davis was filmed as he sang in Harlem. The Johns Island film is an intensive folklife study of a Negro community for years isolated from the mainstream of American culture. The jazz film treats of the history of jazz in New Orleans.

PETE SEEGER is featured in two more films to be shown. In one, an experiment in abstract art titled Lines Horizontal, he supplies background music. In the other, a short history of American folk music titled To Hear Your Banjo Play, he performs and narrates. Other performers in the latter film are Woody Guthrie, Texas Gladden, Horton Barker, Brownie McGhee and Sonny Terry and Margot Mayo's American Square Dance Group.

AN EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION will be Traveling for a Living. Its subject is a British folksinging group called the Watsons, who sing unaccompanied and in harmony. The Watsons are shown researching and performing folksongs.

THE MEETING is at 8:30 p.m., Friday, October 13, in the Washington Gas Light Company auditorium, 11th and H Streets NW., Washington, D.C. Admission is free to Society members. Memberships will be available at the door. The public is invited. Non-member admission is one dollar.

JUDY COLLINS AT LISNER  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

JUDY COLLINS returns to Lisner auditorium, George Washington University, 21st and H Streets NW., Washington, D.C., at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, October 14. The concert is under the auspices of the Society and Stanley-Williams Presentations. Hailed by Time magazine as "the major contender for the feminine folk music crown," she played to a capacity audience in her last Lisner appearance. Tickets for that concert were sold out in advance.

Tickets at \$4.00, \$3.50, \$3.00 and \$2.50 are available at Talbert Ticket Agency, Willard Hotel; Learmont's in Georgetown; the Alexandria Folk-Lore Centre, 323 Cameron Street, Alexandria; or by sending check and self-addressed, stamped envelope to Stanley-Williams Presentations, 1715 - 37th Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20007.

Members of the Society receive a discount only when ordering by mail. Member ticket prices are \$3.00, \$2.75, \$2.25 and \$2.00.

Stanley-Williams Presentations  
1715 - 37th Street NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

TICKET ORDER FORM

Enclosed please find self-addressed, stamped envelope and check in amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for ticket(s) to Judy Collins concert, October 14, in Lisner.

Regular: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$4.00 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3.00 Member: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3.00 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$2.25  
\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3.50 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$2.50 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$2.75 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$2.00

minutes he sort of dozed off to sleep, this preacher did. He happened to think about the cat and looked over, and was a great, big, spotted dog with the biggest red eyes and red tongue looking at him. The preacher commenced to batting his eyes and looking. He commenced to getting bigger. All at once the preacher just rolled up and went right out the window, and left, but wasn't long - said the spook was too much for him. He went and told what he saw and there was another preacher come in. He was going there and gonna stay. He went on in and made him up a good fire and sat there. Finally, after he sat there a while, and the fire got to going good, all at once something rolled down the fireplace and knocked fire all over the floor everywhere. The old preacher jumped up and took the broom and swept it back. He didn't see nothing. He sat there and finally two little dogs appeared there - sat down on the fireplace there. After a while they turned in and got bigger and bigger and the old preacher setting there kept a-looking at 'em smoking his pipe and singing a hymn - Nearer My God to Thee. Finally formed into two little boys and then they formed into two men. The preacher asked 'em, said, "What in the name of the Lord do you want?" They said, "The first people that was here killed us and buried us here and buried us down underneath the floor." They said, "If you'll dig us up and tell everybody where we're at we'll go away and never come back no more." The next day he went and told the people what he found and said, sure enough they did, they dug up and found two dead bodies down underneath that floor where people had killed 'em and buried 'em down underneath there and the house never was spooky no more after that.

Chuck - Where was this house? Up there in the country?

John - I don't know where it was at. I've heard her tell that but I don't know where it was at.

#### SLAVES COME BACK AS ANIMALS

Gerry - Cora, was it you who said one of the reasons you don't eat possums is because they're the ghosts of the old people that come back from slave time?

Cora - That's what they tell me. You ever look at a possum and see if he ain't got hands. You look at a possum and if he ain't got human being's hands... My father told me that and they have.

John - Well, mole have too!

Cora - Well, they're old time people and so is monkeys.

Nan - Any kind of animal that has human hands?

Cora - That's what they tell me - they come back.

NOTES: FOX AND THE RABBIT: This is a variation of Type 2, "The Tail Fisher". In this case it is a rabbit, not a bear, that gets his tail made short. See Dorson (1967, p. 89-91) and Harris (1921, p. 122-126) for other versions of this tale. THE PREACHERS AND THE SPOOKS: Motifs E281, "Ghosts haunt house"; H1411, "Fear test: Staying in haunted house"; E423.1.2, "Revenant as cat"; D412.1.3, "Transformation of cat to dog"; E421.3.6, "Ghost as dogs with glowing tongues and eyes"; E423(b) - Baughman - "Revenant as spirit animal changes shape from that of one animal to that of another, usually in quick succession"; D313, "Transformation of canine animal to person"; D56.1, "Transformation to older person"; E545.19.2(c) - Baughman - "Proper means of addressing ghost. Person must ask, 'In the name of the Lord, why troubleth thou me?'"; E413, "Murdered person cannot rest in grave"; E231, "Return from dead to reveal murder"; and E451, "Ghost finds rest when certain thing happens". I haven't found this tale anywhere else though, of course, all the Motifs occur in various tale collections. SLAVES COME BACK AS ANIMALS: Motif E612, "Reincarnation as wild animal". This is a belief rather than a tale. Cora will cook and serve Opposum but will not eat any herself.