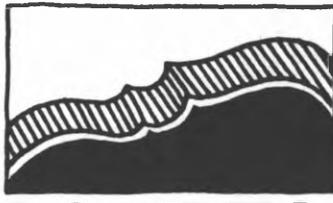


The  
Folklore  
Society  
of Greater  
Washington



Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC 20036

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII, No. 8

APRIL 1977

Al Kehs, Editor

## APRIL'S PROGRAM WILL FEATURE BILL CLIFTON & RED RECTOR AND THE LITTLE WONDERS

Bill Clifton has a host of impressive credentials as a promoter of Bluegrass Festivals including the first Bluegrass Festival in the US at Luray, VA in 1961. He has also been a consultant on the Cambridge Folk Festival in England, their finest celebration of the English Folk heritage. Even more impressive is his reputation as a musician and performer. He has over 15 albums to his credit on such labels as Starday, London, and Mercury. Bill is a premier banjo picker and has performed with Hedy West and other well-known folk performers. Lately he has been making yearly forays to the US from England, where he has been living for the past 14 years, to play folk festivals with Red Rector.

Red is a pioneer mandolin player who has been a member of the network radio show Old Chisolm Trail that was produced in New York by Alan Lomax and which featured such greats as Woodie Guthrie, Lee Hayes, Cisco Houston, Sonny Terry, Burl Ives and many others. Known as "Mr. Taste of the mandolin", Red has a great sense of humor which was frequently taxed by Frank Smith who used to introduce him as the world's largest midget.

Together they will be performing Ballads and songs in the style of the old "brother" acts. Bill and Red will be doing the first part of the program from 8 PM to about 9:30, so remember to come early. As usual, the program will be held at the Washington Ethical Society 7750 16th St. NW Admission is free to FSGW members, \$2 to others.

The second half of the program will feature the Little Wonders - one of the finest traditional black gospel groups still singing. First formed in 1941, the Little Wonders have been singing together for 36 years and are better than ever. Although they reside in Havre de Grace, Md., their popularity has taken them far afield for over 2000 performances during their storied career, including 3 performances at the Kennedy Center in 1975 as part of the kickoff activities for the nation's bicentennial celebrations. "Come and get religion" with one of the finest groups singing traditional music anywhere.

This program is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

-Dave and Bill

## SPRING SAMPLER--APRIL 15

The sampler concerts were started in the earliest years of the FSGW to showcase the remarkable variety of remarkable musicians within the Society's own ranks, and this spring's offering sure proves the point.

\* F.F.V. - A five-piece band representing about a dozen instruments and a chorus of voices, with old-time country music, Irish dance tunes, and a few originals. Jesse and Terry Winch, Alan Oresky, Joe Stork and Ric Sweeny bring the usual assortment of tools plus such others as tenor guitar and banjo, Irish button accordion, dobro and bodhran.

\* The Ancient Orphic Mystery Band - The Washington area seems to be blessed with a lot of the best unaccompanied singers around, and the Orphics will help prove it. Karen Seim, Elise Kress and C.B. Heineman may call to mind the Young Tradition and other visions in their music of the British Isles, with a few instruments rung in as well.

\* Jeff Deitchman - He brings in so many people to sing at the Berwyn Cafe that you may never have heard his own gentle renditions of country songs, new tunes--and a beautiful surprise for your eyes and hands as well as your ears.

\* Ted Strader - One of the absolutely best--and least heard--performers I know. Warm, crisp, and satisfying, everything he touches turns to toe tapping, whether it's a Woody Guthrie song, a Brownie McGhee-style blues or even a rare unaccompanied tune such as "Charles Guiteau."

All in all, quite a mixture of music. It all happens on Friday, April 15, at 8:30 PM in the Washington Ethical Society auditorium (7750 16th St NW at Kalmia). It's only \$2 for FSGW members and \$3 for others. The performers are all giving themselves gratis, because the other aim of the samplers is to help the FSGW go right on doing what it's been doing so well for a dozen years. So bring every friend and relative you can find, help keep the FSGW tree watered, and bring a smile to your ears. (A song to your nose?)

-Jonathan

## APRIL FOOL'S DAY OPEN SING

An article in the recent issue of "Tradition", the newsletter of the National Council for Traditional Arts, includes this definition of an "April Fool" from *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, published in London in 1785 by Captain Frances Grose:

Anyone imposed on, or sent on a bootless errand, on the first of April; which day it is the custom among the lower people, children, and servants, by dropping empty papers carefully doubled up, sending persons on absurd messages, and such like contrivances, to impose on every one they can, and then to salute them with the title of April Fool.

Since the Open Sing falls on April Fool's Day, I've (Nan Goland) chosen "Jokes, tricks, and such like contrivances" for the theme. So impose on everyone you can during the day, then come out to join the other low people, children, and (cilil) servants who make the sing such fun. It's Friday, April 1 at 9 PM at the Washington Ethical Society, 7750-16th St. NW (at Kalmia Rd.). The donation of \$1 at the door includes refreshments.

-Nan

## HOUSE CONCERT--MISSISSIPPI BLUES

James "Son" Thomas, black bluesman from Leland, Miss., will give a house concert on Sunday, April 10th at 3 PM at the home of Phil Saunders (off Wisconsin near Sears). You might have heard Thomas play at the Festival of American Folklife last summer (and maybe you even saw some of his sculpture!). He plays solo electric guitar (no band) and sings up a moving storm. Admission is only \$2, so call Phil at 362-4264 for directions and come on out.

-Jonathan

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

For those of you who actually pay attention to such things, the deadline for the May issue of this fine newsletter will be on April 23. Thanks again to Al Bromborsky who faithfully helps to mail these things out each month.

-Al

## ELECTION NEWS

The results of several long intense meetings of the nominating committee are:

PRES Jonathan Eberhart and  
Nan Goland  
V.P. Mary Cliff and Tom McHenry  
SECTY Nancy Shatz and Stephanie Faul  
TREAS Linda Lieberman  
PROGRAM Wally Macnow and Dave Olive  
SPECIAL EVENTS Debbie Hutton  
Kathy Westra  
DANCE Martin Holmer  
PUBLICITY Jesse Cohen  
PUBLICATIONS Mia Gardiner  
MEMBERSHIP Dolores Nichols  
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE Jeff Deitchman  
Susie Robbins Steve Hickman  
Riki Schneyer

Further nominations will be accepted from the floor at the April program. More information about this will be available when somebody finds a copy of our constitution or by-laws.

-Al

## SINGING FROM THE SACRED HARP

This month's get together and pot luck dinner will be held Sunday April 17th at the home of Peggi Bruton in Takoma Park. There are extra books to share or purchase and newcomers are always welcome. The singing begins around 4 PM. Call Peggi at 589-0614 for directions and supper ideas.

-Arlene

## APRIL AT THE BERWYN CAFE

2nd-Rock Creek-Bill Destler, Tom McHenry and Wally Macnow singing chanties, ballads & folk songs.  
9th-Cathy Fink & Duck Donald to be held at the Wash. Ethical Society at 8:30PM. Admission \$2.50. Blues, bluegrass, old timey & trad. songs.  
16th-David Jones-An Englishman with a voice like honey. Ballads, etc.  
23rd-Port City Promenaders-Bob Dalsemer, Linda & Steve Hickman prove that they can sing as well as they play dance music.  
30th-Helen Schneyer-great ballads, gospel, spirituals & schmaltz. Programs start around 9:30 PM.

## --CONCISE CALENDAR OF EVENTS--APRIL--

1 FRI OPEN SING  
8 FRI PROGRAM  
10 SUN HOUSE CONCERT  
14 THU ALISTAIR ANDERSON  
15 FRI SAMPLER CONCERT  
16 SAT RALPH PAGE WORKSHOP  
17 SUN SACRED HARP SING  
23 SAT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
29 FRI NEIL ROSSI

MONDAYS -- RED FOX INN  
TUESDAYS -- DANCING AT C.U.  
SATURDAYS -- BERWYN CAFE

## LOCAL CONCERTS

14th-Anderson/McComiskey -- Alistair Anderson will be featured in concert at the Hand Chapel, Mt. Vernon College, Foxhall & W St. NW at 8 PM. Also featured will be a half hour set by Billy McComiskey (of the Irish Tradition) who will play accordion & melodeon.  
29th-Rossi/MAGPIE -- Neil Rossi will perform his usual wide range of music (on fiddle & guitar) at Friends Meeting House, 2111 Florida Ave. NW (2 blocks off Conn.)  
Admission is \$2 to either concert at the door. For more information call 683-3551.

-Ed

## RALPH PAGE WORKSHOP

Ralph Page will lead an afternoon (2 - 5) workshop and an evening (8-11) dance at the Glen Echo Ballroom on Sat. April 16th. New England contras and squares will be featured. Cost-workshop-\$3, dance-\$3, or both \$5. For more info call Roger 338-4397 or Bruce 338-7377 or Bill 585-7916. -Al

## FOLK CLASSES STARTING SOON

Group instruction in Appalachian Dulcimer by 4 (FSGW members) experienced teacher/performers, Kieth Young, Woody Padgeth, Madeline Macneil Mason, & Phil Mason. Six weekly sessions for \$24 on Mon. eves. beg. April 18. Call 941-1071.  
3 FSGW members are also teaching at Glen Echo for the term beginning April 11. Susan Cahill is teaching Old timey banjo & Clogging, Steve Hickman is teaching beg. and int. dance fiddling, and Bruce Hutton is teaching Old timey mandolin and Appalachian dulcimer. Bluegrass guitar and banjo are also offered. Fees for these courses average about \$24 and you can get more info by calling 492-6282. -Al

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, DC 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, PO Box 19303, 20th Street Station, Washington, DC, 20036.

-----  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

I/we want to join! Enclosed is:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$6 - One year, Individual

\_\_\_\_\_ \$18 - Three year, Individual

\_\_\_\_\_ \$9 - One year, Family

\_\_\_\_\_ \$27 - Three year, Family

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE: New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ . Is this a change of address? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in helping the Society in some way? \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Enclosed is \$2 for a one-year, out-of-town FSGW Newsletter subscription:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Folklore Society of Greater Washington  
PO Box 19303 - 20th Street Station  
Washington, DC 20036



FIRST CLASS MAIL