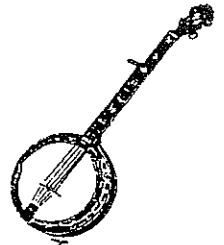




The Folk Club

of Reston-Herndon
...Preserving Folk Traditions



Vol 4, No 8, October, 1991

Purple Onion Opens in Herndon

On September 14, 1991, a new Folk Music opportunity opened in Herndon. *Chesapeake* (you saw them at the Folk Club on the 17th if you were lucky) opened the doors of the *Purple Onion Cafe & Grille* at 201 Elden Street, Herndon, VA. The 28th of September saw Nancy Moran and in October Red Leaf and Ray Kaminsky will be featured (see the calendar).

The Folk Club welcomes the *Purple Onion* to the neighborhood and wishes them well. Get out and support folk music, visit the *Purple Onion* on alternate Saturdays.



Folk Clubbers Have Holiday Getaway Weekend

by Lou Ruffino

Labor Day weekend found 15 Folk Club members in retreat on the slopes of Massanutten Mountain near New Market, Virginia. The outing was hosted by Dave Hurd and held at his "heavenly hillside hideaway."

The event marked the debut and nearly continuous performance of the *New Market Mountain Boys (and Girls)*. This eclectic group provided entertainment in several musical flavors including folk, bluegrass, blues, contemporary, off-color (and key) and original tunes. Featured in the group were Alan (guitar, vocal, drums), Bill and Dave (guitar, banjo, vocal), Jim (guitar, vocal), Joe (guitar, harmonica, vocal and commemorative water color), Lee (and Mike) (guitar, banjo, vocal), Dee, Joan and Renee (guitar, vocal), Robin and Louis (vocal, juggling and crowd control), Lynn and Lou (humming along and applause) as well as several domestic animals with wagging tails.

We will do it again - Be sure to plan to attend. Probably we won't have quite so much food next time, groan!

SWEET GUITAR, WHERE ARE YOUR ROOTS?

by Dick Moore

"There is more in heaven and earth, Horatio, than is dreamed of in your philosophy." (Hamlet: Act I, Scene V)

That lovely, sweet sounding guitar that you play...did you ever wonder from whence it came? Like so many mysteries of music, no one really knows, but there are some intriguing possibilities.

There's mention in ancient writings of various types of stringed instruments. For instance, the lyre is first recorded in Sumerian art around 2800 BC, but probably is even older. And we know that it was a popular instrument in ancient Egypt, although it's now most closely associated with the ancient Greeks. Lyres appeared in Egyptian art about 2000 BC.

Exactly what is a lyre? Well, it's a stringed instrument with a four-sided frame consisting of a soundbox, two arms, and a crossbar. The strings are fastened to the front of the soundbox and run over a bridge to the crossbar.

We also know that lyres were used in medieval times in Britain, Germany, France, and Scandinavia. The earliest examples may have been descended from classical instruments, but medieval European lyres have a characteristic appearance, with the body, arms, and usually the crossbar made from a single piece of wood. Plucked lyres have completely died out in Europe, although bowed lyres—a later medieval development, survive in Scandinavia.

Despite their widespread popularity in ancient times, plucked lyres survive only in the musical cultures of parts of Africa and Siberia. Most interesting are the lyres of Ethiopia, since they demonstrate the two basic lyre types known from earliest times. African lyres are commonly used to accompany singing in religious festivals and in magical rites, particularly those associated with healing.

Then there were bow harps, known in Egypt and Sumeria as early as 3000 BC and widely found today in Africa and Eastern Asia.




But what about our familiar guitar? When did it come to be?

Patience, patience. First we have to consider the lute, which is similar to the guitar in many ways. All lutes

October 1991

Reston Folk Club




SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7:30pm Folk Club Showcase Performance J Conner Cable (Lynn McLarty)	2	3	4	5 8:15pm Eileen Joyner at Open Door Coffee House Cox Farm Fall Festival Ray Kaminsky at Waterford Festival
6 Cox Farm Fall Festival Hickory Grove at Colvin Mill	7	8 Tortilla Factory Private Party - we move to Wed	9 7:30pm Folk Club 7:30pm Eileen Joyner at B Gordon's Market	10	11	12 8:00pm Red Leaf at Purple Onion Cox Farm Fall Festival
13 Cox Farm Fall Festival	14  Columbus Day (Observed) Thanksgiving Day (Canada) Cox Farm Fall Festival	15 7:30pm Folk Club Beggar's Velvet	16	17	18	19 Cox Farm Fall Festival
20 Cox Farm Fall Festival Hickory Grove at Sully Plantation	21	22 7:30pm Folk Club	23	24	25	26 8:00pm Ray Kaminsky at The Purple Onion Cox Farm Fall Festival
27  Daylight Savings--set back 1 hour Cox Farm Fall Festival Ray Kaminsky at Maggie's in Middleburg	28	29 7:30pm Folk Club Showcase Lottery Draw	30	31  Halloween		

November 1991

Reston Folk Club



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5 7:30pm Folk Club Showcase Performance	6	7	8	9 12:00pm Hickory Grove at Franklin Post Office Pavillion
10 Ray Kaminsky at Maggie's in Middleburg	11 Veterans Day	12 7:30pm Folk Club	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 7:30pm Folk Club Tom Lewis	20	21 Ray Kaminsky at Maggie's in Middleburg	22	23
24	25	26 7:30pm Folk Club Showcase Lottery Draw	27	28 Thanksgiving 	29	30
					1 8:15pm Side by Side at Open Door Coffee House Congratulations Tress & Joe	2

comprise a resonating belly and a neck, and have strings that run from near the base of the belly along the full length of the neck. Plucked folk lutes are popular in many parts of the world and are made in many different shapes and sizes. Important differences include the relative length of body and neck, the shape of the back, the number of strings, and whether there are frets. Chinese, Japanese, and Indians all have related instruments, as do the Russians.

The Lute was one of the most popular instruments of renaissance Europe. At though similar to instruments known as early as 2000 BC in Mesopotamia and 1500 BC in Egypt, the lute apparently appeared in Europe only in the 10th century AD, but by the 15th century was in regular use as a consort and accompanying instrument.

Lutes were favored by professional musicians, while an instrument known as the cittern was cheaper and easier to play, making it more an instrument for amateurs. The cittern featured a fretted neck and wire strings varying in number. Developed about 1300, the cittern had been ousted by the 19th century by...you guessed it...the GUITAR.

Probably introduced to Spain by the Arabs, the guitar is believed to have been established throughout Europe by the late 14th century. During the 17th century, the guitar rose to prominence as an instrument much easier to play than the more fashionable lute.



The Reston Community Center has invited the Folk Club to entertain participants in its "FolkWalk" on October 12 (a Saturday). We are looking to People to sign up for 1/2 hour sets from 7:30AM to 12:30PM. We are currently planning not to have a sound system, but that may change. Travel costs will be covered. "Upbeat music is desired.

Contact Lynn Jordan!



ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

Check your Label - Are you expiring? "19910901" is expiring with this issue. Don't miss an issue - Don't miss the benefits of the Folk Club. Please send in your membership check (\$12.00) to keep your membership active!

How do our guitars compare with their predecessors? Well, the classical, or Spanish, guitar has changed little since the 16th century, but, as you know, popular folk guitars are now produced in a variety of styles.

My favorite guitar was one developed in the 19th century by a man named Ritter. It had a very short, wide neck and 24...count them...24 strings. Just imagine trying to tune that during your eight minutes in the folk-club spotlight. That's an average of three strings a minute.

And finally, a word about the social and romantic status of the guitar. Flutes are often associated with love-magic, were used exclusively as a serenade instrument by young American Indian men in certain areas, and, in India, served as the instrument of Krishna, the divine lover; but stringed instruments also have their romantic status. The lute and the mandolin had a particularly romantic history in European courtship ritual, while in Mexico today, the guitar upholds its reputation as the instrument par excellence for serenades and seductions.

So you have your choice. Strum, serenade, or seduce. Or mix them together and take full advantage of a summer evening.



The Folk Club

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