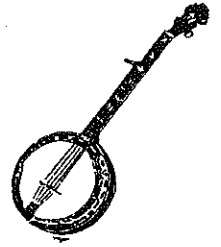




# The Folk Club

## *of Reston-Herndon*

### *...Preserving Folk Traditions*



Vol 8, No 2; February, 1994

#### **The Philadelphia Folk Festival Some First-Timers' Account**

By Nina and Brian Gilmartin

For the Philadelphia Folk Festival, it was the thirty-second year. For us, it was the first. Among the thousands who spent three days in August, there were lots of old-timers and other first-timers, but it was easy for everyone to relax and enjoy all the pleasures the festival had to offer.

We drove up to Schwenksville, PA on Friday morning in our rented Winnebago and pulled into the heavy camping area in the afternoon. We parked as close as possible to the vehicles in front and to the right, and before long, others had pulled as close to us. We wouldn't move again until late Sunday night. Everything we needed was right there.

The heavy camping area and the concert area were separated by the tent camping area, a vast sea of canvas and nylon. This was the land of the all-night partiers. Some folks carried in sofas and tables, flew their own unique banners, and made it a home away from home. It was an annual reunion for many people.

In the concert area, there were three small stages and the major festival stage. Performers

took to the small stages at 11 AM. Each hour, a new musical theme—humor, blues, fiddlers, sea songs, and many others—would unite a small group of artists who took turns playing songs with that theme. For us, it was fun to wander back and forth between stages to hear as much music as possible from artists we know and like and from

others we were eager to discover. With so many talented people taking turns playing great songs, we were in musical heaven.

While this musical tapestry was unfolding each day, off in the shady Dulcimer Grove, there were storytellers, puppet shows, and juggling classes

for the children. Up in the crafts area, there were artists, from blacksmiths to weavers, with goods for sale and demonstrations of the skills and materials that go into their crafts.

At 4 PM, the main stage came to life as the small stages closed for the day. The main stage, with its stacks of speaker columns and video projection screens, brought the scattered crowds together for some wonderful performances. These made us eager for the evening concerts.

Around 6 PM, the concert area cleared and folks returned to their camps to relax, socialize, and prepare for the evening show at the main stage.



Main Stage at the Philly Folk Festival

The food and sanitary facilities were clean and plentiful. Each morning there was also available a tractor-drawn wagon going to a local fire hall for breakfast. The tractor made the round-trip journey continuously throughout the morning. There were food booths in the concert area and in the camping areas too. They opened early and closed late.

Because the afternoon temperatures were near 100 degrees, water was essential, and the water spigots scattered around the grounds were important social gathering spots. People would joke and swap stories, waiting their turns to fill bottles, soak their heads, and take a long drink. There were lots of people with spray bottles and water guns who wandered around the festival cooling off anyone who looked wilted by the heat. People took care of one another. The atmosphere throughout the week-end was friendly and peaceful.

The evening concerts drew the largest crowds because many people only bought tickets for the evening shows. Michael Cooney, a man of 1000 songs, and Gene Shay, a disc jockey and Philadelphia legend, MC'ed the concerts and delighted the audience between performers by telling jokes that festival goers had submitted throughout the day.

The performers were excellent. From world music to bluegrass, from gospel to blues, and more, every artist thrilled the crowd, leaving it cheering for more. At times, the quantity and quality of the music we heard overwhelmed us.

It was truly a special week-end. We befriended someone who was there for her twentieth festival. It's so easy to keep going back for more.

For information or tickets, write to the Philadelphia Folk Festival, 7113 Emlen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119, or call 1-800-556-FOLK. Maybe we'll see you there.

## Who's Got Rhythm?

by Bernard Argent & Barbara Ryan of "Iona"

Sometimes in the scramble to find the chords and learn the words, the fine points of rhythm and timing get set aside, or pushed under the blanket of "Good enough for Folk Music!"

Rhythm is not an afterthought in folk music. It is at the root of traditional song and dance music from all over the world. As contemporary folk music drifts further from its roots, don't imagine it can stand to lose this basic ingredient. Listen to the best of popular music, whether folk, rock or even Broadway show, and you will hear that each piece lays down a distinct and memorable rhythm, just as it has a tune, a key and words.

The role of timing is often not well understood. Timing is to rhythm as your actual speed is to the posted speed limit when you drive. It is an essential part of the interpretation, giving your performance its unique signature. Every musician should know that timing is one of the keys to holding the audience's interest. To get toes tapping, stick rigidly and exactly to the center of each beat. This is a dance trick, well known to bluegrass fiddlers and banjoists. Lead the beat slightly to raise excitement or lag to create suspense. But like tinting paint, a little rhythmic variation goes a long way - too much leads to just a murky gray!

Next time you are working up a new song, think hard about the rhythm. Work on the timing, plan your interpretation around the emotional structure, and practice with a metronome. If you are playing someone else's song, after you have learned the notes, play along with the recording until you understand the rhythm. Remember, even a tone deaf listener can hear the beat!

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**Voice Lessons are available  
from Barbara Ryan -- (703)  
451-4492**



# Folk Club of Reston-Herndon



January 30 - March 12, 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 30	Jan 31	Feb 1 Showcase Performance Diane Martini 7:30pm Folk Club	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5
Feb 6 IONA at the Old Brogue - Great Falls	Feb 7	Feb 8 7:30pm Folk Club	Feb 9	Feb 10 Vickie Pratt Keating Deirdre Murphy 8:00pm Frederick Folk Club - Deli Creations - Frederick	Feb 11	Feb 12
Feb 13 IONA at the Old Brogue - Great Falls	Feb 14	Feb 15 7:30pm Folk Club	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18	Feb 19
Feb 20 IONA at the Old Brogue - Great Falls	Feb 21	Feb 22 Showcase Lottery Draw Chris Proctor (\$7/ 6) 7:30pm Folk Club	Feb 23	Feb 24 8:00pm Frederick Folk Club - Deli Creations - Frederick	Feb 25	Feb 26
Feb 27 IONA at the Old Brogue - Great Falls	Feb 28	Mar 1 Showcase Performance 7:30pm Folk Club	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5
Mar 6 IONA at the Old Brogue - Great Falls	Mar 7	Mar 8 7:30pm Folk Club	Mar 9	Mar 10 8:00pm Frederick Folk Club - Deli Creations - Frederick	Mar 11	Mar 12

## Coming Folk Club Events

- February 22 - Chris Procter** \$7/6
- March 29 - Anne Hills** \$7/6
- April 26 - David Massengill** \$7/6
- May 17 - Tommy Sands** \$10/9
- June 14 - Bill Staines** \$8/7
- July 26 - The Mollies** \$6/5
- Aug 23 - Pete Kennedy & Maura Boudreau** \$7/6

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**ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!**  
Check your Label - Are you expiring? "19940201" 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!

## Showcase Performances

February 1, the featured performer will be Diane Martini.

On the first Tuesday of every month we feature a Folk Club member in a showcase two-set (25 minute) performance. To become one of these "showcase" specials all you have to do is 1) be a member of the Folk Club, 2) fill out a lottery slip by the last Tuesday of the month, 3) win the drawing and 4) practice, practice practice!

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### The Folk Club

President, Larry Mediate

Treasurer, David Hurd

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Ray Kaminsky, Ellen Kaminsky

Lynn Jordan, Bill Davis

Richard Flinchbaugh, Liza Cobb

Jim Rosenkrans, T.M. Hanna

Brian Gilmartin, Nina Gilmartin

Newsletter Published Periodically

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