

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON - HERNDON

Volume 20, Issue 12

*Preserving the traditions of
Folk Music, Folklore, and Gentle Folk Ways*

December 2004

December 14 Showcase – Todd Crowley

By Todd Crowley and Dan Grove



A singer of songs, a picker, a strummer...

Todd Crowley sings in a lush baritone, and accompanies himself on the autoharp and assorted other folk instruments. His music centers on the stories of peoples' struggles and victories in the Irish, Scottish, and American traditions. In his performances, he incorporates history and background to make the stories in his music come alive.

Originally from New England, Todd moved with his parents to Hawaii and Illinois before settling in this area. He graduated from Mount Vernon High School, went to Boston to attend Tufts University, and then returned here to teach English and coach basketball in the Fairfax County schools. A traditional Appalachian musician named Bryan Bowers introduced Todd to the autoharp in the early 80's, when Todd was coaching his son. One of the tricks imparted was to tune an autoharp diatonically, dedicating the harp to one key. This gives a full sound compared to normal chromatic tuning, because more strings are ringing at the same time (a chromatically tuned harp can play in multiple keys, but has a thinner sound in each one). So, for his showcase you can expect Todd to bring a separate harp for each key he will sing in.

Todd has performed at the Washington Folk Festival, the Herndon Folk Festival, the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering, Stringfellow's Summer Concert Series, and Common Ground on the Hill. He is a member of the Capital 'Harpers Autoharp Club as well as the Folk Club.

For his showcase, Todd will feature the songs of six of his favorite songwriters. His theme will be "And some of the words are theirs," a favorite line from Norman Maclean's *A River Runs Through It*. Todd has a great love for stories and literature and a strong respect for all storytellers. He thinks some of the best storytellers today are folk songwriters, who are too often overlooked in our mainstream pop culture. To hear whose songs he will feature, you'll have to come to Todd's showcase on December 14.

The Year In Review

2004 is almost over, and it seems appropriate to look back at some of the fun we've shared here at the Folk Club this past year. Those who have taken advantage of being members to purchase tickets for concert nights have had front-row seats for music by some of the finest regional and national performers around. Many thanks again to Ray Kaminsky for booking such fine acts for our club.

As always, the once-a-month showcases have given us great enjoyment and deeper insights into the talents and interests of Folk Club members who entertain us during our regular weekly gatherings. Our popular open mike nights continue to draw new performers and attract new membership – the Folk Club continues to be a living, breathing, growing entity in the diverse Washington music scene. Special thanks go out once again to Chuck Curcio and Ronnie Fox for giving us such a stable home at the Tortilla Factory. Here is a brief list of the acts we've enjoyed at the club this past year:

January:	Concert - Verlett Simon & David Alberding.	Showcase – Laura Schier
February:	Concert – Sparky & Rhonda Rucker.	Showcase – Kathy Martin
March:	Concert – Maggie Sansone & Friends	Showcase – Zen Gospel Trio
April:	Concert – Oscar Brand	Showcase – Inni
May:	Concert - Bob Zentz	Showcase – Ron Goad
June:	Concert – Jack Hardy	Showcase – Ben Hamblin
July:	Concert – Amilia Spicer	Showcase – Bad With Names
August:	Concert – Paul Reisler & Amy Speace	Showcase – Beth Benedetto
September:	Concert – Tim Harrison	Showcase – T.M. Hanna
October:	Concert – Harvey Reid & Joyce Anderson	Showcase – Jim Nagle
November:	Concert – Small Potatoes	Showcase – Kevin Harp

A few other notes are worth mentioning as being relevant to the Folk Club. Members Greg Vickers and Pat Wictor both released new CDs this year. Ray Kaminsky was nominated for a WAMMIE award for last year's CD "Roadhouse Blues". Members Ron Goad, T.M. Hanna, Steve Key and Don Bridges continue to host open mikes and music showcases around the Washington metro area. Dave laFleur left his former job to pursue his dream of being a touring musician. Dave and Beth Hurd once again hosted the annual Folk Club campouts for the 4th of July and Labor Day weekends.

Thanks again to all the volunteers who help organize and operate the club, those who come in every week to setup, operate, and break down the equipment, and the performers who come in every week to entertain us. With your help we can all look forward to another year of enjoying music and laughter together in the friendliest (and craziest!) club in town.



Upcoming Performers

<http://www.musi-cal.com/search?key=venue&value=Folk+Club+of+Reston-Herndon>

Sheryl Warner & The Southside Homewreckers – Jan 18, 7:30pm \$10/\$9 – soulful and powerful blues/roots
Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer - Feb 15, 7:30pm \$12/\$11 – Grammy-winning folk & children's music artists

The Folk Club – a Brief Review

By Dave Hurd

Every so often it seems appropriate to publish in the newsletter a piece on the roots of the Folk Club we all have come to enjoy and count on. After nearly 20 years in existence (an extremely long existence for an organization made up wholly of volunteers) we find the Folk Club going as strong as ever.

There are few among us who come every week to the Tortilla Factory who were there in May of 1985 when Rose Haskell saw her dream (a gathering of people in a local establishment for music) become a reality. The place was *The Acorn* in the Tall Oaks Center in Reston. A small band of friends, soon augmented by people who heard about this new and wonderful opportunity to perform, listen and enjoy music. Rose's dream of a Folk Club stemmed from her experiences in Britain with her husband John when he was working there. He found the pub (for a relaxing tippie) and she discovered the music of the regulars who met to sing and play and preserve the local music traditions. When they returned to the States she joined with friends Bev and Jack Osburn, Susan Schoebel and others and they searched for a location and convinced the owners of The Acorn this was a good thing, and it was.

Unfortunately, the Acorn was on its last business legs and about 6 months later the brand new Reston Folk Club was looking for a home. We didn't have to go far, just across the plaza at Tall Oaks to *The Red Caboose* where we were welcomed for our weekly hit of music and camaraderie. The attendance continued to swell and Rose had begun to have special guest performers come to the Folk Club on occasion. Many were touring artists from the British Isles (*Alistair Anderson* and *Beggars Velvet* come to mind) and local fare like *The Boarding Party* and *Clam Chowder* whose fare was highly Brit/Scot/Irish influenced. We also saw *John Jackson* as a regular and had *Saffire* among the special guests in that first year or so.

As with most startups there was much change in the group and for us that seemed to be location. The Red Caboose went upscale dining and we no longer fit their image formula and were asked to find another home. This was found in the townhouse community of Jonathon's Keep off Temporary Road in Reston. With this move we gathered many more of the friends who have been with us since our days in Reston and who have contributed greatly to the Folk Club. At Jonathon's Keep we were in a community room and responsible for all of our own setup and cleanup each week. This worked quite well for a while, at least until the community hired an activities director who saw use of the community room in a different light. On the road again.

This time it was on to more far reaching sites and Rose and the crew came across the line to Herndon and Chuck Curcio and Ronnie Fox at the Tortilla Factory. A match made in heaven was begun. Chuck and Ronnie have adopted us as their community service project of the centuries (we're in our second century, and millennium, with the Tortilla Factory as this is written). The Folk Club had landed and we have been here almost every week for going on 18 years (next August). Now that we had a stable home other changes began to happen with the Folk Club. We attracted a whole new batch of folks from the Herndon area, especially the musically oriented people in the Herndon Arts Council circle. Up 'til this time the management of the club had been almost a single person operation (Rose) with volunteers helping make the weekly open mike a success. But life changes occur and graduate school classes and personal direction changes began to take a toll on Rose's time so it was suggested that the Folk Club GET ORGANIZED.

Well, when you get a well meaning group of 15-20 highly involved, intellectual, artistic individuals together to create a more structured organization, you've got at least 30 ways to do anything. So it was with our efforts. Throughout the spring and summer of 1989 we toiled in regular meetings to get organized. We were all friends and the effort wore on everyone. We argued, cajoled, compromised, debated some more and did it all again at least three times. We even incorporated group sing and group hug as mandatory ending of every meeting to make sure we remembered we were all friends working toward a common goal.

Out of this in November came the organization we have today and which is mostly invisible to everyone because it works so well. If you would like details, ask at the Folk Club and we'll share. We implemented the Board of Directors, established membership in March of 1990 at \$12 a year (still the same today) and began a way of doing things that involves a few (but not too many) rules and has withstood the test of time. We haven't made many changes in how things work over the years but we have tried a bunch for short periods. We are interested in your ideas and get them regularly. The main reason is that the "we" referred to is "all of us". There may be a few individuals who seem to be "running things" at the Folk Club, but it is really a collective, working together.

At the moment we have slots for members of the Board that are unfilled and are always looking for people to step in. We're probably the highest paid volunteer organization in the world, no money just great personal satisfaction. And it couldn't happen without the regular support of the 40-60 people who show up on Tuesday evenings to sing and listen. Thank you.



Home Sweet Home

MUSICAL NOTES



House Concert - Dec.12th, 6:00pm

Sterling Study Group is sponsoring their third house concert on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 6:00 PM, featuring Michael Bowers, Siobhan Quinn and Jerry Bresee. Tickets are \$10. Connee Chandler is the contact person. Call (703) 406-3427 for the address, directions to the house and ticket sales. Check the website at Sterlingstudygroup.org for more information.

American Folk Blues Festival – Vol. 3 DVD

Filed in Germany during the annual fall AFBF tours that ran from 1962-69, these DVDs showcase rare video footage of blues greats such as Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Junior Wells, Willie Dixon, and others. The first two DVDs were released in August 2003, and garnered both a Grammy nomination and a KBA (Keeping the Blues Alive) award from the Blues Foundation. The highly anticipated 3rd volume has just been released. Blues fans rejoice!

ALL AROUND THE TOWN

You'll find Folk Club members in every joint in town!

Ray Kaminsky

<http://www.musi-cal.com/search?key=performers&value=Ray+Kaminsky>

12/4: 7:00pm Robinettes Coffee, 20693 Ashburn Rd, Ashburn, VA Info: (703)729-1050

12/11: 6:30pm Finewine.com, 20 Grand Corner Ave # A, Gaithersburg, MD Info: (301)987-5933

T.M. Hanna

EVERY Thursday night 9 - 1 AM hosting Acoustic Open Mic at the The Inn Zone Restaurant & Sports Lounge Falls Church, VA.

Somos El Mar, www.schoolshows.com/somoselmar

Don Bridges, www.donbridgesongs.com

Steve Key, www.stevekey.com

Music Showcase, Sun. 7-10pm, Austin Grill, 919 Ellsworth Dr. @Georgia Ave., Silver Spring MD, 20910, 240.247.8969, www.austingrill.com

12/5: Featuring Verlette Simon, plus Julie Loyd, Baron & Barron, Might Could, Fred Smith, Alastair Mook

12/12: Featuring Janet Griffin

12/19: Christmas Bummer Song Night with Dead Men's Hollow, Doug Alan Wilcox, BanjerDan, David A. Alberding and many more!

Music Showcase, Mon. 7-10pm, Frederick Coffee Company, 100 N. East St. @Church, Frederick MD 301.698.0039

12/6--Featuring Kathryn Mostow from Seattle, plus Julie Loyd, Ben Hulan & Amy Sullivan, David LaFleur and Gina DeSimone

12/13--Featuring Michelle Swan, plus Michael Jantz, Tomy Wright

12/20--Featuring Laura Secker

12/27--Featuring Karyn Oliver

Dave laFleur

Every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at Potbelly's in Reston from 12-2 PM, 571-203-0750

Every Thursday Open Mic at Port City Java in Hagerstown, MD, 6:30-9:30 PM, 301-790-5040

12/3: Esoterica in Leesburg, VA, 7-9 PM, 703-777-4642

12/4: Bistro Bethem, Fredericksburg, VA, 10 PM- 1 AM, 540-371-9999

12/5: Art-O-Matic Cabaret Stage, 5 PM, 3rd & H St. NE Wash. DC

12/10: The Exchange, Winchester, VA, 8-10PM, 540-678-0600

12/11: The Mudd Puddle, Frederick, MD, 7:30-9:30 PM, 301-620-4323

12/13: Frederick Coffee Company Open Mic, 8-8:15PM, 301-698-0039

12/17: Antoinettes, Martinsburg, WV, 7:30-9:30PM, 304-260-0385

12/31: The Exchange, Winchester, VA, 8-12 Midnight, 540-678-0600

MONTHLY MILESTONES

Born This Month:

J.J. Cale – 12/5/1938

Harry Chapin – 12/7/1942

Tom Waits – 12/7/1949

Alvin Pleasant (A.P.) Carter - 12/15/1891

Phil Ochs – 12/19/1940

Alton Delmore – 12/25/1908

John Hartford – 12/30/1937

Paul Stookey – 12/30/1937

Mike Auldridge – 12/30/1938

John Denver – 12/31/1943

And In Passing:

Carter Stanley – 12/1/1966

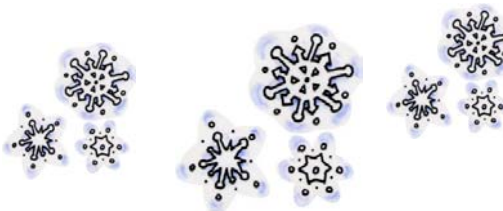
Rabon Delmore – 12/4/1952

Huddie Ledbetter (aka 'Leadbelly') - 12/6/1949

John Lennon – 12/8/1980

Quote for The Month

"All music is folk music – I ain't never heard a horse sing a song." - Louis Armstrong



**HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND
KWANZAKAH!**

THE FOLK CLUB OF RESTON-HERNDON

Meets Tuesday nights, 7:30pm at The Tortilla Factory
648 Eldon Street, Herndon, VA

President: Ray Kaminsky

Treasurer: Dave Hurd

Board of Directors: Sue Beffel, Bill Davis, TM Hanna, Lynn Jordan, Ellen Kaminsky, Chris Kramer-Harnage, Sue Schier

Publicity: Sue Schier

Bookings: Ray Kaminsky

Newsletter: Bob Hampton, Dan Grove, Ray Kaminsky, Dave Hurd

Newsgroup: Dianne Lafleur

Website: Tom Shabala

FOLK CLUB FORMAT

Most Tuesday nights the Folk Club is an open-mike format with a signup board. Each performer has 12 minutes, which includes setup time. On the 2nd Tuesday of the month, we feature a "Showcase" of a Folk Club member in a 25-minute performance.

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

To be in the Showcase you must: 1) be a Folk Club member who has not done a showcase in the last 6 months; 2) fill out a lottery slip and place it in the "drawing bucket"; 3) Win the drawing on the night of the current month's showcase; and 4) be prepared to be featured in the next newsletter!

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION

Folk Club members are encouraged to submit performance calendars, classified ads, articles, reviews, artwork and other music-related items to Bob Hampton at bhampton@ossva.com. Information should be received 1 week prior to the end of the month for the next month's newsletter. Items will be published on the basis of music-related interest, timeliness, and available space.

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE

Advance ticket purchases for Guest Artist concert performances can be made on Tuesdays at the Folk Club or by prepaid mail. Contact Dave Hurd, 110 Devil's Backbone Overlook, Stephenson, VA 22656, (540) 722-0146

TUNE-IN TO THE FOLK CLUB

If you enjoy the music and company, become a member! The cost is nominal, just \$12 per year. Along with the opportunity to participate in Showcase drawings, you get a \$1 discount on the ticket price of guest artist concerts (up to 2 tickets per show). Buy 2 tickets to every show and you've

saved a bundle! Join up on Folk Club Tuesdays, or call a board member for info.

NEWSGROUP

The Folk Club newsgroup is a great way of keeping in touch with what's happening around town and beyond. Find it at www.groups.yahoo.com by doing a search for **FolkClubofRestonHerndon**

WEBSITE

The Folk Club has its own website at:

www.RestonHerndonFolkClub.com

Hop online and keep up with the latest happenings!

INFO LINE

For general folk club information contact Sue Schier at (703) 435-2402



Classifieds



FOR SALE: Keith Young custom concert Appalachian dulcimer. Walnut & butternut, ebony fretboard, pearl inlay, planetary tuners. Excellent condition. Many extras. \$540. Email ibstrumin@earthlink.net

WANTED: Acoustic 6-string guitar with pre-amp, good tone, pleasant action, and reasonable price. Call Inni at 540-323-4444

FOR SALE: 1975 Guild G-37 guitar. Beautiful blonde with spruce top, rosewood neck, and a curvy backside. Crisp, big sound. Excellent condition. Always had medium strings, only one owner. Only played on Blue Mondays. \$750. Email lafleur22@hotmail.com

WANTED: Your old guitar strings! The Second Strings Project has distributed over 10,000 sets to the world's most depressed regions. Send complete sets only to Kevin Deame, 28 Ladd, Ellington, CT 06029.



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c/o Dave Hurd
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