



# Your Chance to Shine – November 26 !

by Bill Cohen

It's the "all-open stage" edition of our monthly Folkside Coffeehouse. That's right. Two days after Thanksgiving on November 26, instead of highlighting a featured act, our coffeehouse will be "all open mic."

That means up to 12 different acts will get the chance to take the stage for almost 15 minutes and "do their thing." Since the CFMS definition of folk music and folk arts is so broad, you could do anything



from playing banjo or guitar to playing the harmonica or the kazoo. You could tell a story, you could recite some poetry, or you could sing a *cappella*. You could play the blues, sing a

soulful Americana song, or sing your own original parody of MTA.

As usual, we'll gather at the Columbus Mennonite Church at 35 Oakland Park Ave, beginning the evening at 6 p.m. with our usual open jam. Then, at 7 p.m., we'll go "open stage" for up to 3 hours. You'll be limited only by your own creativity.



## Crookston Concert Nov 13

**Smart, funny, accomplished, passionate, magnetic . . . he entralls and uplifts people in a way few other artists can.** His songs are being made into films and printed in songbooks. He's a bard in the modern world "plumbing for lyrical gold like a social archeologist." On stage he's funny as all get out one moment and transcendent the next. One of local Six Strings Concerts series' performing favorites.

Want a preview? [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xj7U7Mly4aq](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xj7U7Mly4aq)

Questions? [info@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:info@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org).

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### Joe Crookston in Concert

Sun, Nov 13 3-5 pm  
Sponsored by Columbus Folk Music Society

Held at: Maynard Ave Methodist Church, 2350 Indianola Ave, Cols, 43202. Door donation: \$15

# “Songs of Gratitude” Bill Cohen’s Thanksgiving Concert

Music. Art. Friends. Freedom. Food. Parents. Children. Laughter. Emotions. And dozens of other things. We all have so much to be thankful for.

So join Bill Cohen from **7:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday November 25** as he sings a unique concert of songs that express gratitude for all that we have. Playing piano and guitar, he’ll sing songs written by, made famous by, or inspired by, a wide variety of folks – John Denver, the Weavers, Phil Ochs, Louis Armstrong, Don McLean, the Beatles & others. Even Johnny

Appleseed, Jiminy Cricket, and the “old ladies” on the TV show, “Golden Girls.”

The program will take place in the beautiful intimate sanctuary of the **Maynard Avenue Methodist Church at 2350 Indianola in Columbus.**

Besides the music, we’ll hear some thoughtful quotes, reminding us of our many many blessings on Planet Earth. No sermons here but words of inspiration and emotion from sources as varied as Albert Schweitzer, Rod Serling, Gandhi, Einstein, and Buddha.

\$10 per person donations at the door are suggested. Proceeds will go to help Bill’s wife Randi make her annual winter trek to the Dominican Republic. That’s where she serves as a volunteer translator for the International Medical Alliance of Tennessee, a team of doctors and nurses who provide free basic medical care to impoverished Haitian workers who live and work just inside the D.R. border.

**For more info**, contact Bill at (614) 263-3851.

## Opportunity to Share this Thanksgiving. . .



The Annual Community Outreach Thanksgiving Day Dinner was established approximately 31 years ago by various churches on the west side of Columbus, Ohio.

The dinner is held from 10:30am to 1:30pm on Thanksgiving Day **at St. Aloysius Church Family Center, 2165 W. Broad St. in the Hilltop.** The purpose of the dinner is to bring families in the community together for fellowship and to provide a hot meal on the holiday. Many would go without a meal on this day because Thanksgiving falls at the end of the month, funds have

been exhausted, and local food pantries and soup kitchens are closed for the day. In 2015, over 500 meals were served and the crowd grows steadily each year.

For the last two years, a number of CFMS musicians graciously entertained folks at the dinner. Dinner organizer, Sandy Bonneville says: “Honestly, I was shocked, humbled and so grateful to the many musicians that did come out to share their talents over the last two Thanksgivings!

“I tell you they brought such joy to many! So many have asked if they’d be able to come out to play/sing again this year. It takes a ‘special’ group to give up a few hours of their holiday time.”

**CFMS musicians are invited to play from 11am to 1pm on Thanksgiving Day.** If you are interested in contributing your

musical talent, please email Diane at: [dboston2@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dboston2@columbus.rr.com).

Another need is for donated, cooked turkeys (sliced or not). If you would like to contribute one, cooked turkeys may be dropped off at the St. Aloysius Family Center (W. Broad St. at Midland Ave.; center is behind the church). Drop off times are: Wednesday, Nov. 23 from 4-6 p.m. and Thursday, Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving morning) from 7-8:30 a.m. There are not facilities to bake turkeys on site. All turkeys are baked /donated by individual donors.

All turkey donations must be confirmed 10 days prior to Thanksgiving Day to ensure enough for service. E-mail or call coordinator Sandy Bonneville at: [rbonnevi@columbus.rr.com](mailto:rbonnevi@columbus.rr.com) or 614-875-5669.

Information article at: [http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/faith\\_and\\_values/2013/11/29/hilltop-church-feeds-needy-on-thanksgiving.html](http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/faith_and_values/2013/11/29/hilltop-church-feeds-needy-on-thanksgiving.html).

# CFMS Gives Thanks... for You !

by Bill Cohen

Thanksgiving is the perfect time to think about all the many ways that folk music fans keep the Columbus Folk Music Society alive and well.

As an all-volunteer group for a quarter century, we couldn't survive and prosper the way we have without so many people giving their time, energy, talent, inspiration, and money.

## And so, we give special thanks to...

- the bakers who create those scrumptious homemade treats that we serve at our monthly coffeehouses and auction off at our fundraisers . . .

- the folks who set up chairs or run the sound equipment or take in ticket money at the door or arrange for featured acts at our coffeehouses . . .

- the people who volunteer as officers and board members of the CFMS, who take responsibility for guiding our group . . .



- the loyal CFMS members who pay their yearly dues so we can

afford to spread the word about folk music to the general community . . .

- the people who've stepped up to lead the annual Central Ohio Folk Festival, planning everything from Saturday night headliners to workshop presenters to children's activities . . .

- the many volunteers who staff the annual folk festival, setting up the stages, hauling in the sound



equipment and dance floor, guarding the musical instruments, and helping entertain children with the instrument petting zoo, music-making and storytelling, and arts and crafts . . .

- the jammers who play in Worthington, the Columbus Commons, the Run the Race Center, Whetstone Gardens, the Laurels Nursing Home, The Columbus Marathon, and other venues, not only raising money for our group but also spreading enthusiasm about folk music . . .

- the musicians who contribute their talent to our



open stages, picnics, and fundraisers . . .

- the listeners who attend so many CFMS and COFF events and express their appreciation . . .

- No doubt we've probably left out some ways that you and other CFMS fans have helped out over these many years.

**The important thing about Thanksgiving is to feel grateful and to give thanks. And for the many many ways you have supported our group, we sincerely say: Thank You, one and all !**

Photo courtesy Victoria K.



# Folk music sprouts in the suburbs

by Scott Alarik

**What follows is an extract from an article penned by Scott Alarik, who covered the folk music scene for the *Boston Globe* for many years. While the article was written in 1997, what it conveys remains more or less timeless and offers many valuable insights on the coffeehouse phenomenon in our present day.**

Article (September 28, 1997) From Deep Community, Adventures in the Modern Folk Underground.  
Used with permission.

When people call Boston the folk music capital of the country, they don't exactly mean Boston.

For more than 50 years, this region has been America's most active and nurturing sanctuary for folk music, but the action these days is mostly in the suburbs. There are a few important urban clubs, notably Cambridge's indestructible *Club Passim*, and a steady stream of major concerts,



but no area in the country can match the vast array of folk clubs that dot Boston's suburbs.

. . .The heart of this grass-roots folk boom is a thoroughly New England phenomenon called the church coffeehouse. The modern folk revival can be traced to the growth in the early '80s of small, grass-roots clubs like the *Homegrown Coffeehouse* in

Beth and Jim Sargent started their *Homegrown Coffeehouse* in 1983 in the parish hall of their First Parish Church.

. . . "In the early '80s, there was just such a drought in the 'burbs for live music," Beth Sargent said. "Acoustic music was something we both loved in college, and we thought other people would love it, too, if they got the chance.

“It’s like watching a National Geographic special, all these army ants come in with baked goods and coffee and chairs and tables. . . A stage gets set up, a sound system, usually a tapestry with the coffeehouse’s name hanging behind the mikes. I watch this big, empty church hall turn into a nice little folk club right before my eyes.”

- Garnet Rogers

Needham and the *Uncommon Coffeehouse* in Framingham; run by volunteers, driven by community-based audiences indifferent to the latest pop trends, and fueled by remarkable performers who eschew the bright lights of pop-stardom for the living-room closeness of the coffeehouse.

Although people of all ages come, our audience draws heavily from the boomer generation. They like that it's something nearby, something they can bring their kids to if they want, something comfortable and social and friendly to do on a Saturday night.”

Folk Music in Suburbs - page 6

## 13 OCT 2016 The Nobel Prize in Literature 2016

is awarded to **Bob Dylan** “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition”.

### Tom Waits says:

“It’s a great day for Literature and for Bob when a Master of its original form is celebrated. Before epic tales and poems were ever written down, they migrated on the winds of the human voice and no voice is greater than Dylan’s.”

### Bruce Springsteen’s statement (released from his new book):

“Bob Dylan is the father of my country. *Highway 61 Revisited* and *Bringing It All Back Home* were not only great records, but they were the first time I can

Nobel Prize awarded to Dylan - page 6

## SERIOUSLY FOLKS, POST THIS ON YOUR FRIG!

## SAVE THE DATE. . .

**The Saturday Music Jam at Worthington Farmers' Market 9:30-11:30 am** – each Saturday at The Shops at Worthington Mall (the location of the market and jam during the winter months) beginning in November. All are welcome to play. Consider bringing a chair.

**Wednesdays, Nov 9 & Nov 23: 2-3pm. Jam at Laurels of Worthington (for Memory Care Unit)** – 1030 N. High St., Worthington. Contact Dan Clarke at [dan41n@att.net](mailto:dan41n@att.net) for additional info or to be put on e-mail list.

**Sunday, Nov 13: 3-5 pm. Joe**

**Crookston in Concert, sponsored by the Columbus Folk Music Society.** Held at: Maynard Ave Methodist Church, 2350 Indianola Ave, Cols. \$15 donation at door. questions: [info@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:info@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

**Saturday, November 26: FolkSide Coffeeshouse. 6pm Open Jam; 7-10pm All Open Mic Night** (15 min slots). Held at: *Columbus Mennonite Church*, 35 Oakland Park Ave, Cols. Suggested donation at the door: \$7; students \$5; CFMS members \$5; under 12 free. Handicap accessible. See Bill Cohen at event to sign up.

## Want to find out more about the Columbus Folk Music Society and it's events?

Visit:

[www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](http://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

**OR** you can join as a member. Benefits include: camaraderie with fellow folk music lovers in town, discounts on certain admissions, this monthly newsletter and the comfort of knowing that all events are family friendly! A membership form is provided on the last page of this newsletter.

## FOLLOWING OUR OWN. . .

**Friday, Nov 4, "Songs of Struggle 1960-1965" Concert featuring Bill Cohen and Paisha Thomas – 7pm** at St. Philip Episcopal Church, 166 Woodland Ave, Cols. They will sing songs early civil rights demonstrators sang before non-violently facing racist mobs. Includes vintage film footage of movement's triumphs & tragedies. Free admission; freewill offering.

**Friday, Nov 4: Whinestopper – 8-11pm** at Tara Hall, 274 E. Innis Ave, Columbus. No Cover.

**Saturday, Nov 5: The Folk Ramblers – 7-10pm** at [Java Central Coffeeshouse](#), 20 S. State St, Westerville, OH.

**Tuesday, Nov 15: Blue's Swing – 8pm** at [Natalie's Coal-fired Pizza](#), 5601 N High St, Worthington.

**Friday, Nov 18: Whinestopper – 8-11pm** at Shamrock Club, 60 W. Castle Rd, Columbus.

**Saturday, Nov 19: Blue's Swing – 7pm** at [Java Central Coffeeshouse](#), 20 S. State St, Westerville.

**Friday, Nov 25: Thanksgiving Concert by Bill Cohen – 7:30-9pm** Held at: Maynard Ave Methodist



## Welcome to Our New and Returning

### Members:

Mike Barrie  
 Madalyn & Roger Benjamin  
 George Bennett  
 Linda Bolles  
 Sandy Bonneville  
 Diane and Kathleen Boston  
 Dan Clarke  
 Howard Davis  
 Greg Denby  
 Robert Dunham  
 Dan & Pat Epley  
 Ruth & Hugh Farthing  
 Charlie Flowers & Denise Bronson  
 Karen Fries  
 Mike Hale  
 Stephan Hopkins  
 Jim Luckhaupt  
 Linda McDonald  
 Art & Sharon Mittenbergs  
 Michele Murphy, Pam Temple  
 Larry Myers  
 Tom Nagel  
 Mary Lee Raines  
 Cindy Ramsey  
 Pam Raver  
 Shelbiana Rhain  
 Betsy Salt  
 Beth Scherer  
 Teresa Schleifer  
 Steve Seiple  
 Larry Staats  
 Karen & Denny Stephens  
 Judy Swabby  
 Sandi Vitek  
 Dagmar Wolcott  
 Carl Yaffey & Debbie Shaw

Church, 2350 Indianola, Cols, OH.  
 \$10 donation at door (see pg. 2).

**Friday, Nov 25: Blue's Swing – 9-midnight** at [Rambling House](#), 310 E Hudson \$5 Cover.

Folk Music in Suburbs - from page 4

. . . While nearly all of today's biggest folk-pop stars, from Suzanne Vega to Shawn Colvin to Dar Williams, cut their musical teeth at local church coffeehouses, most of the artists who headline these coffeehouses have fashioned careers designed for the small stages. Here is where they feel that this most

personal of music forms, which has its roots in family kitchens and hearthsides, is best displayed.

Singer-songwriter Garnet Rogers

is a perfect example. A major folk star in his native Canada, he has repeatedly rebuffed serious offers from major record labels, preferring to release CDs on his own Snow Goose Records and to steer his career down the smaller, slower roads that lead to homey venues like the *Homegrown* and the *Uncommon*.

. . . Rogers says he revels in the up-close immediacy of the church coffeehouse, most of which have average audiences of 125 to 175.

"One of the things I really like about these church coffeehouses is the volunteer aspect; this is part of their social life, they've given up an evening out of their week to make this hall someplace I can play."

"It's like watching a National Geographic special, all these army ants come in with baked goods and coffee and chairs. . . . A stage gets set up, a sound system, usually a tapestry with the

coffeehouse's name hanging behind the mikes. I watch this big, empty church hall turn into a nice little folk club right before my eyes." It takes a special kind of performer to work these rooms, one who thrives on spontaneity, happy to discard the greatest-hits list and wrap the evening around moments of surprise and discovery. They are



“ . . . Every time a new coffeehouse comes along that gets people out of their own playrooms and meeting their neighbors, I think we're taking a big step toward fixing what's wrong with our society.”

- Michael Moran, *Uncommon Coffeehouse*

what audiences turn out for, those off-script moments that make coffeehouse shows so memorable.

. . . [Michael Moran, manager of Uncommon Coffee house, says] "You're never more than 30 feet from the performer. . . There is a connection being made that you're not going to get in a big music hall.

. . . Most church coffeehouses draw heavily from the local community, with ages ranging from teenagers to seniors. For many, the fame of the artist is secondary to the town-social aspect of the evening. . . . Though the *Uncommon* occasionally gets a one-night beer license for a dance, the rule-of-thumb at these places is that they are alcohol and smoke-free. They are valued as friendly, nonthreatening places to go alone, as couples or in groups. It is a guiding etiquette that people can be as social or as private as they please.

Rogers said, "Everybody expects a smooth performance, but coffeehouse audiences also want surprises. . . A lot of the audience is there for the coffeehouse as much as for me; they come for the season. That lends a certain level of familiarity, because they feel so comfortable there.

Moran says, "What we are really fighting here is that people are used to spending their lives in front of their television sets, letting other people live their lives for them. I remember when I was growing

up, I knew all my neighbors . . . So every time a new coffeehouse comes along that gets people out of their own playrooms and meeting their neighbors, I think we're taking a big step toward fixing what's wrong with our society."

Rogers said, "If you look at the demographic of who goes to the church coffeehouse, they tend to be people who are leading an examined lifestyle. They're people who tend to read a lot, are serious about music. . . You're free as a performer to express deeper ideas with these people.

"There's more of an organic gardening approach to modern folk music. . . . Folk music is just a more humane and involved atmosphere; as opposed to getting frisked by a big bouncer as you fall into the Enormo-dome to watch your favorite star on the Jumbotron. Do you want that, or do you want to actually be included in the fun? That's what it's all about."

*Nobel Prize awarded to Dylan - from page 4*

remember being exposed to a truthful vision of the place I lived. The darkness and light were all there, the veil of illusion and deception ripped aside. He put his boot on the stultifying politeness and daily routine. . . . The world he described was all on view, in my little town, and spread out over the television that beamed into our isolated homes, but it went unmentioned on and silently tolerated. He inspired me and gave me hope. He asked the questions everyone else was too frightened to ask, especially to a fifteen-year-old: 'How does it feel... to be on your own?' A seismic gap had opened up between generations and you suddenly felt orphaned, abandoned amid the flow of history, your compass spinning, internally homeless. Bob pointed true north and served as a beacon to assist you in making your way through the new wilderness America had become. He planted a flag, wrote the songs, sang the words that were essential to the times, to the emotional and spiritual survival of so many young Americans at that moment.

"I had the opportunity to sing *The Times They Are A-Changin'* for Bob when he received the Kennedy Center Honors. We were alone together for a brief moment walking down a back stairwell when he thanked me for



*Bob Dylan, 1974. Photo by Jim Douthitt*

being there and said, 'If there's anything I can ever do for you...' I thought, 'Are you kidding me?' and answered, 'It's already been done.'"

**From Leonard Cohen:**

"To me, [the Nobel win] is like pinning a medal on Mount Everest for being the highest mountain. . . ."

**And from Joan Baez:**

"His gift with words is unsurpassable. Out of my repertoire spanning 60 years, no

songs have been more moving and worthy in their depth, darkness, fury, mystery, beauty, and humor than Bob's. None has been more of a pleasure to sing. None will come again."

**Charles Cicirella writes:**

"Bob winning the Nobel Prize. Sounds like a no brainer doesn't it? Well that is if you aren't closed minded and believe that song writing isn't actually writing. Think about it. Why is Steinbeck winning a Nobel Prize acceptable while Dylan winning it is to some blasphemy? Isn't it or at least shouldn't it be based on what that said writing may invoke inside of you because on that basis Dylan's writing is second to none. I could now quote a thousand (literally a thousand and even that number is low) killer lines by this heavyweight parser of words, but I leave that for you to do. Actually though we're all living with his lines every day of our lives because the man's writing has not only shaped our culture it has changed it and if that doesn't make him deserving of a Nobel Prize than what does? Congratulations Bob!"

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**Next Issue in December**

**We're on the web!**

[www.columbusfolkmusicociety.org](http://www.columbusfolkmusicociety.org)

**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  I'm new to this  I'm back for more

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ (Eve.): \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address(es) (if a household membership): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership renewals are due annually by September 30th. For new members, please check one of the membership levels listed below & pro-rate the amount of your check as indicated. If joining during the month of:

Feb-April: Your membership level amount x .5

May-July: Your membership level amount x .25

Aug-Oct: Your membership level amount as listed

Nov-Jan: Your membership level amount x .75

Individual \$20

Sponsor \$100

Gold (Life Member) \$500

Household \$25

Patron \$200

Yes! Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities within the organization.

Good Friend \$50

Silver \$250

**Please Note: Membership amounts are tax-deductible.**

Please send completed form and payment to:  
The Columbus Folk Music Society  
P.O. Box 20735, Columbus, OH 43220

In an effort to be both fiscally and environmentally responsible, we will send a full-color, interactive newsletter via e-mail unless you request a hard copy be mailed to you.

I enjoy the annual Central Ohio Folk Festival (early May): Lots 5 4 3 2 1 Not (please circle one)