



A Different Strummer

April 25 FolkSide Coffeehouse brings Nashville Singer-Songwriter Dave Hawkins

Interview by Bill Cohen

Dave Hawkins, a long time friend of Columbus Folk Music Society, will be the featured performer at the April Coffeehouse.

What do others say of his music?

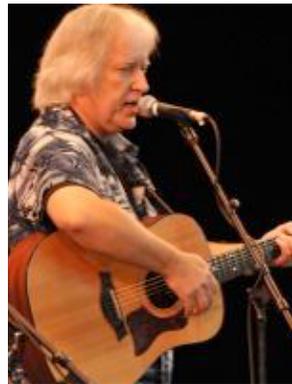
"Dave is a rare find in this world of hyped, derivative and bottom line-driven music. . . .He has broadened his work to include many influences from the best of rich musical forms usually found elsewhere in the world." -- Ian Anderson -- (Jethro Tull)

"Whether Dave Hawkins is singing about the river rolling on or the dying embers of love, he's more interested in putting the song across than making it on CMT. Bravo to him." --Sing Out! Magazine

Bill Cohen: We know you are a veteran performer, and you sometimes go on road tours with your music. With some "guesstimates," give us some idea of the

extent of your travels. How many states have you sung in? How many miles have you traveled? How many performances have you done over the years?

Dave Hawkins: "Veteran Performer?!" OUCH! That's code for "We know you're really old!" :-). I've done 4 or 5 tours over in Ireland/England/Belgium (a



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Bettman & Halpin: "joyful-acoustic-Americana" highlights April 14 Mozart's-CFMS co-sponsored event

Interview by Bill Cohen

We are pleased to announce that we'll be holding our 3rd Mozart's/CFMS co-sponsored event on Tuesday, April 14 at Mozart's Bakery and Piano Cafe located at 4784 N. High Street (Clintonville). Dubbed "Americana / Folk Night" at Mozart's, the evening (7-9 p.m.) will feature **Bettman & Halpin**, a dynamic husband and wife duo originally from Los Angeles (currently residing in Denver).

Both accomplished musicians, between them you'll hear hypnotizing performances on the fiddle, mandolin, guitar and banjo. Vocally, Stephanie Bettman has been compared "to the soaring soprano of Joan Baez and the plaintive emotion of Emmylou Harris." Luke has "a long history in the music biz, having shared the stage with the likes of Merle Haggard, Lone Star and The Steve Miller Band (to name a few). A dynamic and sensitive vocalist



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MAY 2 & 3

CENTRAL OHIO FOLK FESTIVAL 2015: A MUST DO!

The 19th Annual Central Ohio Folk Festival, May 2 & 3, offers American acoustic music at its best – in addition to an extensive children's program and a new dance tent!

This year's festival will again be nestled in the green and refreshing Indian Ridge area of the Battelle Darby Metro Park in the Southwest corner of Franklin County. Mark your calendar for Saturday May 2 through Sunday May 3.



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Bettman-Halpin - from page 1

himself, the harmony blend he and Bettman achieve is chilling and at times simply transcendent."

Touring together nationally since 2008, Bettman & Halpin have been recognized in a multitude of arenas, including:

Subjects of the film "It All Comes Back to Love Tour" which aired on public TV in 2012

Grand Prize Winners in the Southern California Live Acoustic Music Competition

Winners in the Southern California's Topanga Banjo/Fiddle Contest

Music Connection's Top 25 New Music Critiques

Their CD's have received national and international radio play and critical acclaim, reaching the top 10 on the National Folk DJ chart.

More information about the duo can be found at: www.bettmanandhalpin.com.

What a great way to spend an evening, enjoy some good food (Mozart's is also known city-wide for its hand-crafted pastries), in addition to an evening of what promises to be great, great music. If you want to come early for dinner, you are encouraged to do so and enjoy the main dining room at Mozart's. Cover charge of \$5.00.

Bill Cohen: Most of our folks in Columbus have never heard you perform, so let's start with some basics. How do you describe the style of the songs you sing and play? Is it folk or Americana or country or jazz or what?

Stephanie Bettman: We play all original music – Americana Folk. We have influences from Folk, Jazz, Blues, and Country. All acoustic instruments: vocals, guitar, fiddle, mandolin, and banjo.

Luke Halpin: If I had to pick one, I'd have to pick Americana because it's an all encompassing word. I don't even think in terms of genre myself. I just write and arrange what feels right to me and then play it on an acoustic guitar, mandolin, fiddle or banjo and let it be what it'll be. Given the instrumentation I guess that lands us firmly in the folk/bluegrass arena. But it's mostly by accident. That being said, I spent my youth playing bluegrass almost exclusively so that is a huge part of my influence.

Bill: How did you each get your passion for music?

Stephanie: I started playing violin at the age of 8, started singing at 13, started dancing at the age of 3. I think I was born with it.

Luke: My passion was instilled in me by my father first and foremost and then later in life by my uncles. I started playing music in a family band when I was 8. My dad handed me a mandolin and a Mel Bay Beginner Mandolin book and said, "Learn how to play, you're in my band".

The passion probably really started when I sat down to figure out a mandolin tune by one of my idols, John Moore, and thought it sounded nearly impossible but figured it out in about 3 hours. When I realized I could do what I thought was impossible, man, what a rush!

Bill: You write much of your performing material, right? Does it have a general message or thrust or outlook on life?

Luke: At this point Stephanie is definitely writing 85% of what we do. She has an amazing talent for looking into the

darkness and finding the light. A lot of our songs are about love, but not the romantic kind. And lately fear has been coming up a lot as well. And I guess that makes sense as fear is the opposite of love. For myself, I like writing the romantic love stuff and as a recovering alcoholic I'll explore some of that as well. I don't like to get too heavy, but I'll touch on it.

Stephanie: [Yes], I write most of the songs; Luke writes the instrumentals and some of the songs. A few are co-writes. Our themes generally deal with life lessons, moving through difficulties, healing, love, death, all kinds of topics. We tell stories too – that go with the songs. People will love it.

Bill: We know you tour around the country these days. What is that like to be a different city every few days, singing in a totally different venue?

Stephanie: A bit discombobulating. ;) Hence forgetting things like these questions! [Editor's Note: they both sent their responses to our interview questions just before midnight, amongst a busy touring schedule on the West Coast!"] We both love traveling, though, but right now we are looking

forward to our two weeks at home before heading out to you in Ohio. Looking forward to meeting you all!

Luke: It's not for everybody but I love it! Sometimes it can feel like you are trying to win over a crowd every night, which can get a little intense, but I think we usually have 'em by the 3rd or 4th song. It's always a treat to come to a town we've been to before and "fans" show up. Then it's super easy. They already love you!!

Bill: Some bemoan the fact that it's mostly older people who attend events that are billed as folk music these days, and that feeds into pessimism about the future of that genre. But you two are obviously much younger than that. Are you hopeful that acoustic and folk music has a future in the USA?

Stephanie: The biggest hurdle is getting younger people to come out to the venues where we (folk musicians) play. If they come, they often love it. Festivals are good for that. I think there is all kinds of room for growth amongst younger music lovers. Kids aren't being taught to appreciate the arts in a focused way, though. Generally, they no longer have the opportunity to learn music at a young age in public schools. We play at listening venues. Most younger crowds don't want to go to a venue if they can't buy alcohol, and we don't want to play bars because no one listens. But bringing kids into Performing Arts Centers helps, bringing artists into the schools helps. I think one of the most effective ways to encourage younger people to appreciate folk music, is to encourage younger people to write and express themselves in those ways.

Luke: I have no doubt that acoustic/folk music will continue. In some ways we need it more than ever. It's alive and well, it's just a little underground right now. I know tons of young acoustic musicians so there is no shortage of performers and the young audiences will be old soon enough. Once they get their kids off to college, we'll start seeing more of them at the venues. . . I hope. :)

**DETAILS FOR MOZART'S / CFMS
"AMERICANA / FOLK NIGHT":**

Date: Tuesday, April 14

Place: Mozart's Bakery and Piano Cafe, 4784 N. High Street (Clintonville).

Time: 7-9 p.m. Come early for dinner in the main dining room or, if you prefer, come for some wine & delicious desserts during the performance. **Cover charge:** \$5.00



Hawkins - from page 1

few times with my friend and fiddle player, Peg Buchanan) and about once a year I head out to the West Coast. [Then] there are the regionals and “run-outs” (packing the car up and out for 1 or 2 gigs then back home.)

This past Winter has found me playing more regional shows, and playing locally in Cincinnati, due to sketchy weather. We’re currently in the process of booking out summer, with a run down to the Carolinas for a [little over a] week and middle Kentucky.

In the early 80s there was a 4 or 5 year period where I was kind of on hiatus - during that time I was director of Folk Liturgy at my local parish. . . of late I would guess I’m performing about 100-150 shows per year. Although I enjoy playing the in-town gigs when I’m home, I really LOVE being on the road!

As far as miles traveled: I’ve just acquired “Davemobile 5” which is a 2014 Prius V. Of my vehicles, [the first and second] each had over 100,000 miles; [the third] had 210,000 and [the fourth] 110,000. So roughly 20,000 - 30,000 miles per year.

Bill: What are your first musical memories?

Dave: Growing up I attended St. James the Less in North Linden. I was stage struck at [age] 8 when members of our kids’ choir were invited to be in the Kenley Players Production of “The Man Who Came to Dinner” with Jack Cassidy, Joan Bennett, and Margaret Hamilton. We were paraded on stage, sang ONE song – *Silent Night* – then paraded off. It was so cool, and I knew I wanted to be on stage from that weekend forward!

Bill: How do you describe the music you play and sing?

Dave: I started off playing Folk; folk music – Peter Paul and Mary, Woody Guthrie, whatever I could pick up from those chord/lyrics books I found at Melfi’s Music Store in Northern Lights Shopping Center. By 7th grade I was one of the few kids at St. James the Less in North Linden who could play 3 chords and strum in time. Father Ken Schroeder and Sister Noreen Malone wanted to get a “Folk Choir” together, so I was enlisted.

I took what I learned there with me when I went off to 4 years in seminary school. In our spare time all the guys with guitars all learned how to play along with everything from America and John Denver to Jethro Tull. Again, all these influences have shaped how I look at my music.

Of course, the music critics have their own “take” on what I do. In general it gets boiled down to what a UK critic said, “Americana Music with his Irish Roots showing.” People at my shows have described me as a cross between John Prine and Johnny Cash, with a bit of Tommy Smothers thrown in.

Bill: Who are your musical influences and heroes?

Dave: Wow! I guess I’ve got a laundry list! When I got my first real guitar at age 8, I used to stand in front of the living room mirror with Peter, Paul & Mary albums on. When I met and befriended Peter Yarrow a few years



Dave Hawkins announcing the Bob Kirby Scholarship award winners at the 2014 Central Ohio Folk Festival

back, my opening conversation with him was, “. . .it’s an honor to meet you! As a youngster I was actually the fourth member of Peter, Paul & Mary.” I then told him about the mirror thing. His response to me was, “I am not THAT old, my friend. And you are not THAT YOUNG!”

My early sets playing live – bars, small clubs and, yes . . . the ground round circuit! . . . were sets filled with John Prine, early Jimmy Buffett, Kris Kristofferson, etc. I’d say Prine had a huge influence because he taught me that you don’t have to be real fancy and play thousands of chords in a song to make it great. [And] of course, Dylan, Baez and all the “old Folkies” – Loudon Wainwright III, Arlo – these folks have all been a major influence on what I do.

That said, one of the biggest impacts on what I envisioned for what I wanted my concerts to become, came with the Loggins and Messina concert in Columbus in 1976. The opening of that show, and the following 2 hours were an amazing mix of showmanship and musicianship that have stayed with me these last 40 years!

Bill: In addition to being a singer, you are also a song-writer. Does it feel different to sing your own compositions, compared to when you sing the songs of others?

Dave: As the years have gone on, I’ve grown comfortable in my own songwriter skin. Early on I would do what many/most songwriters tend to do. . . apologize! Whenever I do a workshop I can count on a few of these folks coming into the workshop. “I’m an accountant. I’m just trying to write songs.” WRONG! This person is a songwriter who happens to also be an accountant!

Sometimes I’ll sit with one of the songs I wrote 30+ years ago and try to perform it the same way I did when I first wrote it. I suddenly realized that, over the years of maturing and simply writing, the older, more polished songwriter in me is able to see exactly where that old song wanted to go, and what may have been a “good song” actually had great qualities that needed to be massaged to where it needed to be.

Thanks to the years of experience, and loads of mentoring from really great songwriting peers, I’ve gotten to the point where honestly, there are times when I’m performing that I don’t even realize, “Oh, this song is one of mine!” It really is a surreal experience when that happens! I’ve had wonderful experiences, for example in Nashville when fairly successful musicians have come up and asked about a particular song I’ve performed and ask, “Was that a Prine song?” WOW!

Details for upcoming FolkSide Coffeehouse

Date: Saturday, April 25

Place: FolkSide Coffeehouse held at *The Columbus Mennonite Church*, 35 Oakland Park Ave., Columbus, OH

Time: 8 p.m. – Dave Hawkins 6-7 p.m.
Open Jam; 7-8 p.m. Open Mic

Suggested donation: \$7.00; CFMS members \$5.00; Students \$5.00; under 12 free

Columbus Songwriters Association

– local group exists to benefit Singer-Songwriter artists



The following article features a local association that offers opportunity and support for local aspiring singer-songwriters. The Columbus Songwriters Association has also very willingly worked with the CFMS to bring some talent to the Central Ohio Folk Festival. See what they are all about and if you are a singer-songwriter, you might want to consider joining them!

Interview by D. Boston

D. Boston: Tell us a little about CSA (Columbus Songwriters Association): when and why it was founded and what it is like in its present form.

Joey Hendrickson: CSA began when 25 songwriters met at a coffee shop. I gave a presentation on how to do music a little differently – and all [the] songwriters have become members. The goal: more benefits for all. We realize that a group of musicians working together can achieve much more than one musician working alone. The benefits have been proven. Partnerships with our community, workshops that attract music industry professionals, projects that connect local stores with local music, performance opportunities that attract listening audiences, and new information about the music industry are all shared in our community today. Currently, we involve nearly 250 songwriters in our resources. I'm proud to say that the majority of our members participate, to accomplish all of these benefits and more.

Diane: It sounds as though both of you (Joey Hendrickson & Derek DuPont) had a part in its founding, although Joey does a lot of the day-to-day management. Probably both of you bring different and necessary talents to the table to make the whole thing work. Can you talk a little more about this and the individual parts you play?

Joey: I was a Junior at The Ohio State University. I filed CSA as a c-corporation with a non-profit mission, and then worked on the 1023 during my Senior year in college. I filed the 1023, and the IRS recognized us as a 501(c)(3) right

before I graduated from college. We launched our first Board of Directors meeting under non-profit status with just three members, and have slowly grown our board to support our mission.

I do manage a lot of the day to day, and also propose the planning for our annual operations during our board meetings. This planning includes vision for growth, a marketing plan, and a lot of unique models that helps us consider our value with our partnerships, performances, and educational initiatives. I've been working directly on CSA-related projects including our music publishing documentary, *Local Music Shelf*, *How To Build A Music City* initiative, and attracting music industry to see and hear our songwriting community.



Part of the core group of the Columbus Songwriters Association

Derek supports our partnered relationships with organizations like CD102.5, PromoWest, and helps supply our members with paid performance opportunities in the community. As a member of our board, he supports our planning and operations. Together, we manage CSA social media, website, and our monthly events. Our other board members, Orion DiFranco and Christopher Bosca, also support the organization through leadership, volunteer support, and fundraising for our operating budget.

Diane: The Columbus Folk Music Society is excited to work with the CSA in bringing some additional talent to our annual Central Ohio Folk Festival. Last year, several of your members performed in our Showcase Tent. This year some more of your members will be performing and CSA members, Dani Harness and Eric Clemens, in addition to performing, will also be giving a

workshop entitled "Songwriting/Power of Harmonies." From our viewpoint, this is a wonderful collaboration between the CFMS and CSA. Do you want to add any comments?

Joey: Eric and Dani understand harmony better than anyone I know. Their music moves people because of the way the two blend. They know how to create soul with their counterpoint, and the vibe of their performances will take your breath away. Truly, you don't really need to breath when you listen to them. It's a different experience. :)

I met Eric as he was starting to refine his sound. As long as I've known him, he's always been eager to perform. He has that passion that it takes to be on the full-time path. He ended up taking a break from college to pursue his music, a decision I also made before completing college. But when Eric met Dani, and Dani met Eric, the vibe of their music grew tremendously. There is something truly amazing about the music they create. Again, that soul. And I hope to hear their secrets at the Central Ohio Folk Festival.

Diane: Where do you envision the CSA going in the future and what do you think is the strongest thing it has to offer the Central Ohio community of musicians?

Joey: CSA is a ground floor for the music community in Columbus. We focus on songwriters. But we end up impacting many more people and professionals in our community. I think the strongest part of our organization is creative identity. We are a community of creators, who are practicing creation every day. We stand firm in our ability to produce new songs, new ideas, and we're developing new ways for our creation to be valuable. Through our creative identity, we're teaching others what we're learning, spreading our creative energy, and offering music resources that grow Columbus through entrepreneurs, audiences, city leaders, and songwriters, too.

During our growth in the past two and half years, CSA has been a sort of testing ground for music business ideas that

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SAVE THE DATE. . .

 The **Saturday Music Jam** at the **Worthington Farmers' Market 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.** – every Saturday at *The Shops at Worthington* mall (the location of the market and jam thru April). All are welcome to play. Consider bringing a chair.

 **Tuesday, April 14: CFMS/ Mozart's** present: **"Americana / Folk Night at Mozarts: featuring Bettman & Halpin."** 7-9 p.m. At *Mozart's Bakery and Piano Cafe*, 4784 N. High Street (Clintonville).

Come early for dinner in the main dining room or, if you prefer, come for some wine & delicious desserts during the performance. Cover: \$5.00

 **Saturday, April 25: FolkSide Coffeehouse** featuring **Dave Hawkins. 6 p.m. Open Jam; 7-8 p.m. Open Mic; 8 p.m.: Dave Hawkins.** Held at the *Columbus Mennonite Church*, 35 Oakland Park Avenue (just East of High St. & one block North of E.N.

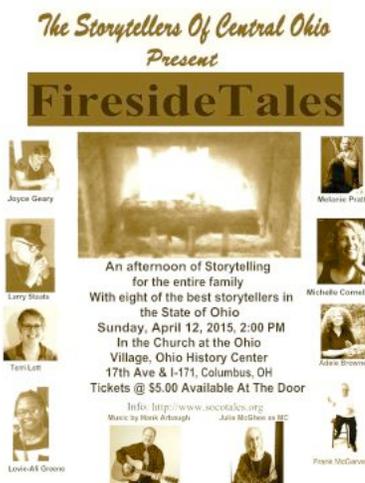
Broadway), Cols, OH. \$7.00 donation; Students \$5.00; CFMS members \$5.00; under 12 free.

 **May 1, 2, 3 - Central Ohio Folk Festival.** *Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park; Indian Ridge area; follow the signs.* **Friday: "Meet & Greet/Jam" 6-9:30 pm** (Cedar Ridge Lodge); **Sat.: 8:30 am - 10 pm; Sun.: 10 am to ~ 5:30 pm** (park closes at dark).

Sunday, April 12, 2015

The Storytellers Of Central Ohio (www.socotales.org) are presenting an afternoon of Storytelling and Music for the whole family. Music will be provided by local musician, Hank Arbaugh, and the storytelling will be by eight of the best storytellers in Ohio: Adel Browne, Michelle Cornell, Melanie Pratt, Joyce Geary, Lovie-Afi Greene, Terri Lott, Frank McGarvey, and Larry Staats. **Time is from 2-4 p.m. and location is the Ohio History Center, Ohio Village Church, at I-71 & 17th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43211.** Master of Ceremonies will be Julie McGhee, also a Master Storyteller.

Tickets will be available at the door for a donation of \$5.00. Parking is free.



Don't forget

– the slate of nominations for Officers/Board of Directors for the Columbus Folk Music Society will be announced at the April Coffeehouse. This happens every year. You may want to get involved! Anyone who is interested or knows of anyone who might be interested in serving on the board should contact cfms_leaders@columbusfolkmusicociety.org.

FOLLOWING OUR OWN. . .

Saturday & Sunday – April 25 & 26: The HardTackers – perform at the *Ashville Viking Festival*. In the Village of Ashville (30 minutes south of Downtown Columbus); Village Park area. Various Historic/ Living History groups from throughout the area will be represented.

Tuesday, April 28: Joanie Calem 6:30-7:30 p.m. – *Folk Music Presentation for the Kids* at *Grove*

City Library, 3359 Park St., Grove City, OH 43123

Wednesday, April 29: Joanie Calem – 7:15 p.m. – *Folk Music Presentation for the Kids* at *Columbus Metropolitan Library, Whetstone Branch* in the public meeting room, 3909 N. High St. Columbus, OH 43214.

Sunday, April 26: Social Action Song Swap – 1- 3 p.m. –(hosted by Joanie Calem & Leslie Zak).

If you are a musician and have songs you would like to share or if you are a music fan and have songs that you would like to sing along with, come along! And if you just feel like listening, come along as well! Run as a "Round Robin," everyone gets a chance to share a song as we go around the room. Northwood High Building, 2231 N. High St, Artspace Rm. 100. Questions? Contact Joanie at: jcalem@columbus.rr.com

Central Ohio Folk Festival - from page 1

Among the many **free aspects** of the weekend:

- **A humongous pot-luck supper Friday night** (6-9:30pm at Cedar Ridge Lodge area) followed by the “worst song in the world” contest and plenty of jamming. The Friday night gathering is primarily geared to festival performers, presenters, CFMS members and volunteers and for folks wanting to register the evening before.
- Special festival opener on Saturday morning (10am) – **a giant sing-along** led by Bill Cohen and Carl Yaffey and featuring classic songs made famous by Pete Seeger, the Weavers, Peter Paul and Mary, Kingston Trio, Bob Dylan, Tom Paxton, & others.
- **Hourly concerts** Saturday and Sunday by soloists, duos, and various bands. You’ll hear a wide range of styles of folk music –

“the music of the folks” – from old-time to bluegrass to Irish traditional to Americana to clever and astute singer-songwriters. You’ll hear: work songs, slave songs, Celtic tunes,



love songs, 1960’s protest, old English ballads, lullabies, singer-songwriter originals, and more. Also featured will be locally known storytellers skillfully weaving fascinating tales.

- **A new folk-dancing tent** featuring Square Dance on Saturday (1-3pm) and Contra Dance on Sunday (12-2pm) with instructions on how to learn the dances. The dances are for beginner & seasoned participants alike! Other performing dance groups include Irwin Academy for Irish

Dance, the Hillel folk dancers and Easy International Folk Dancing with music provided by Mixed Bag.

- **Showcase Tent for young musicians** dedicated to younger performers and featuring Suzuki violin, old time music, various singer-songwriters and young folk / bluegrass bands.
- Special **children’s programming** Saturday and Sunday with performers leading kids’ songs and telling tall tales. Plus an “instrument petting zoo” to let children handle and even try their hand at playing various folk instruments.
- **Drum circle** (5-6:30pm Saturday) where everyone is invited to bang on a drum, a log, a tree stump, or any other rhythm instrument. It’s always mesmerizing, participatory, and just plain fun.
- **Informal spontaneous jamming** by anyone with an instrument or voice.
- **A closing song/jam circle** (4pm on Sunday) to wind up the weekend’s festivities.

For die-hard music lovers, **dozens of hour-long workshops** (over 45 in all) will also be held. The topics range from playing Irish jigs on the dulcimer to Bluegrass mandolin to song writing to Cajun fiddle to Old-time banjo to beginning fiddle, guitar and banjo (loaners available in the beginner workshops). Registration for the entire weekend of workshops will cost \$40 (\$30 if pre-registered), but registrants will receive a bonus --- free admission to a special Saturday night concert. It will feature the well-known Columbus group, Grassahol, playing bluegrass and beyond and opened by the folk duo, Dawson Cooper Band. Pre-registration form can be found at www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/COFF.html.

“This festival is family entertainment at its finest,” says Art Mittenbergs, one of the

festival’s organizers. “And while we’re enjoying the entertainment, we can learn a lot of history. That’s because folk music often focuses on the lives and struggles of ordinary folks -- sailors, farmers, immigrants, minorities, factory workers, lovers, slaves, and miners.”



“The park setting couldn’t be more perfect, especially as it greens up for Spring,” adds Art’s wife Sharon, the other co-chair/director of the festival which is presented by the Columbus Folk Music Society in cooperation with the Metro Parks and WCBE 90.5FM. “Families can hike the park trails or have a picnic, and then settle in for the hourly concerts or the children’s arts and crafts area or instrument petting zoo.”

Festival-goers will find it easy to stay the whole day because a food vendor truck will be on-site. Plus, park visitors are free to bring in their own picnic lunches & dinners.

It’s a simple recipe. Mix together hundreds of squirrels and birds, more than 25 guitar players, tens of thousands of trees, a dozen banjo pickers, one nationally-recognized scenic river, a few storytellers, assorted mandolins fiddles harps and dulcimers, and hundreds of musicians and music fans.

Mix thoroughly for 2 days outside under an open sunny Spring sky. And there you have it – the 19th annual Central Ohio Folk Festival! A folk music festival - it’s what we call “America’s acoustic music at its best.”

Please check out our website for more details; it includes a listing of all our performers and all of our workshops. So... come on out... and bring your family and friends!



Folk Festival Needs Your Help

(nope, we’re not talking \$)

Money is nice, but volunteering your time and energy to the upcoming Central Ohio Folk Festival is even nicer.

To make everything run smoothly, we need folks to volunteer in several different ways, and you may be able to choose what kind of help you’d lend a hand with – safeguarding instruments in our lock-up tent, helping

children enjoy the arts and crafts area or the instrument “petting zoo,” registering people who pay to attend our workshops, welcoming dance groups and singer-songwriters to their special tents, and more.

Even if you can help out just for a couple hours, it will help spread the work load and put this year’s festival on the road to success. To volunteer, contact Randi Cohen ASAP at RandiCohen@columbus.rr.com or at (614) 263-3851.

As folk duo Mustard’s Retreat proclaim in their beloved tribute to the unsung heroes who make folk festivals happen: “Let’s hear it for the volunteers.”

Columbus Songwriters - from page 4

improve the music community. For example, Local Music Shelf launched right after CSA did. Today, Local Music Shelf distributes local music to retailers



Singer-songwriter performers at one of CSA's Showcase events

all around Columbus. It has stayed true to the vision of connecting local stores with local music. Recently, Local Music Shelf has been building a way to stream and license local music into stores, brands, and organizations. The concept gives stores another option other than Spotify, that helps local musicians get paid, but also adds value to the bottom line of businesses.

With this example in mind, I think the future of CSA involves identifying the value of local music and helping our creators to work together to build it. Not just for the songwriters and musicians, but for the other stakeholders in our community, too. We have so much talent in our music community. And we can do a lot of extraordinary things with it when we work together.

Diane: What would you say to someone who might be interested in joining the CSA?

Joey: I always ask them about their passion, first. If their passion is for music, they'll find purpose in our community no matter the experience level or end goal they have in mind. We have many types of people with a whole lot of passion. There's something good here for everyone.

Editor's Note: More information can be found at: <http://columbusfolkwritersassociation.com>.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS:

Tom and Patti Liszkay



March Photo – It's Dan Clarke. He explains:

Half the fun is getting there!!! (Motorcycle). My wife and I moved to Columbus just about 5 short years

ago. I have felt so warmly welcomed by the Columbus Folk Society, the Saturday Worthington jam group and the Thursday night jam group. Always felt jealous of stories when people got together, sang, and played instruments before TV was an option. This type of music is so plentiful in Columbus so -- with Guitar on back, Clarinet and Harmonicas in saddle bags -- adding to all this is getting there on a motorcycle = fun.

Another Loss for CFMS

Rick McDonald, longtime music lover and husband of CFMS member Linda McDonald for 35 years, died recently at age 62.

Linda says music was a big part of Rick's life and was one of the things that drew him to her. "Rick took me to my first Dylan concert in Cincinnati in 1978, she recalls. "That sealed the deal because I married him the following year!"

And music continued to unite Rick and Linda, year after year. "After we married in 1979, we used our wedding money at Peaches Record Stores, like kids in a candy store," she says. "In the 1980's and 90's, Stache's was our place to go for a special evening of music. Comfest was a family event every year."

The McDonalds' house has been the setting for many CFMS functions: board meetings, money-raising yard sales, and the storage of auction items and equipment. "Rick really loved the folk events we had at our house and listening to the music at the picnics," Linda says.

She remembers how Rick studied guitar 30 years ago and picked it back up the last few years, passing on his passion to the next generation. "He shared his love of music with his granddaughter Harper. He would ask her to play him a song on the piano and she would."

On March 8, a fitting tribute to Rick was held at Byrne's Pub in Grandview. A huge crowd of family and friends gathered to sing, eat, and laugh as photos of Rick and his family flashed up on a wall. It was a great way to remember a great man.

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