



Delaware Friends of Folk

February, 2005 Newsletter

Mollie Raley to host Open-Mic Coffeehouse Feb. 19

The cold winds of February remind us that it is still winter. The comfort to be found in winter is that it's the best time of year to use the wood stove or fireplace to get the special kind of warmth that only that sort of fire can give you. The other comfort in winter comes from knowing that it will, some day, be followed by spring and the physical and mental rebirth that can come with such a change in seasons.

But winter isn't over and it's still possible that we might get one of those nor'easters and the resulting business boom for the milk, bread, and toilet paper sellers. In fact, the last big one of those we had was Presidents Day weekend, 2003. That weekend gave us the only coffee house we've canceled in nearly 10 years. But what are the chances of that happening again?

We're gonna assume that no such storm will descend upon us for this one. It's our usual February open mic hosted for the first time by singer-songwriter-guitarist-humorist Mollie Raley. Mollie has been one of our regular performers for over 10 years and it seems about time that she take charge of the stage for a planned evening of unplanned performances.

Mollie's been living in Dover for about 15 years and has been one of the major drivers of the Christ Episcopal Church's "Sunday on Thursday" contemporary-worship service since its inception about 10 months ago. Her composing efforts include both original songs and parodies of existing popular songs where her new lyrics satirize current events. Martha Stewart's troubles are but one example.

Perhaps Mollie's greatest performing asset is her singing voice, strong, full-bodied and accurately pitched, centered on the alto range but capable of hitting notes from soprano to tenor. As has been the tradition for the Friends of Folk open-mic coffee

house, Mollie will open and close the evening and we'll depend on you to fill the space in between.

Obviously wouldn't be much of an open mic night if there weren't anyone to play. So polish off three or four of your best songs and come on down. Everyone gets 15-20 minutes until the list fills up, and lately that's happened before the music starts. It's just as entertaining to watch, often finding someone on stage for the first time, or seeing new combinations of musicians. You just never know.

It all starts Saturday, February 19 at 7:30 pm in The Underground on the campus of Wesley College in Dover. Admission is \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Teens pay half price and those under 12 or with a Wesley ID get in free. We'll have plenty of hot coffee, cool drinks, and sweet treats. Bring a friend—it's the only thing like it in Dover.

—John Kidd, President of Delaware Friends of Folk

Folk Festival Committee Needs Your Help!

HELP WANTED:

The 2005 Delmarva Folk Festival committee has the following leadership positions available. Benefits include free admission to the Delmarva Folk Festival on October 1st, fellowship and fun, and abundant satisfaction. Call Kae Johnson at (302) 736-5585 or e-mail her at kaejohnson1@comcast.net to apply. All serious inquiries will be considered. You can also show up at the festival committee meeting on Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30pm at Smithers to see how you can pitch in. All are welcome!

Chair, Volunteer Coordination
Chair, Vendor Coordination
Chair, Security and Parking
Chair, Site Electricity (aka "The Electric Chair")
Chair, Backstage Food
Chair, Site-Clean-up
Chair, Charity Coordination

Cephas & Wiggins bring Piedmont Blues to the Schwartz Center Feb. 23

On February 23, 2005, Wesley College will present Piedmont blues specialists John Cephas & Phil Wiggins at the beautiful Schwartz Center for the Arts in downtown Dover. The concert starts at 7:30 and tickets are only \$5 for general admission seating. This is a presentation of the Wesley College Faculty Performing arts series and is partially supported by the Wesley College School of Arts and Science, the Delaware Division of the Arts, and the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

From their web site:
<http://www.cephasandwiggins.net/home.htm>

Cephas and Wiggins are leading exponents of the Piedmont Blues – specifically the Piedmont-style guitar, featuring alternating thumb and finger, with the thumb creating a steady, loping bass as the melody is simultaneously picked out on the treble strings. The two met in 1977 at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C., where Cephas was playing in the band of pianist Big Chief Ellis and Wiggins was accompanying gospel singer-guitarist Flora Melton. Along with pianist Wilber “Big Chief” Ellis and bassist James Bellamy, John and Phil formed the Barrelhouse Rockers. A year after Ellis’ death, the duo of Cephas & Wiggins was born.

Almost immediately after the two musicians joined forces, the blues community proclaimed them as the new champions of the East Coast Piedmont style of blues first popularized by artists like Blind Boy Fuller, Rev. Gary Davis, Blind Willie McTell and Blind Blake. Since teaming up, they have toured the world, including the former Soviet Union, where they were the first Americans to perform at the Russian National Folk Festival in Moscow. In 1987, they were awarded the “W.C. Handy Blues Entertainers of the Year” and “Best Traditional Album of the Year”.

After hundreds of concerts at major festivals, concert halls and colleges (not to mention the many workshops the two conduct), Cephas & Wiggins continue to bring energetic good times to each performance, winning new fans everywhere they go. They have performed in living rooms for only a handful of people and in front of thousands at blues festivals all over the world. They even entertained at President Clinton’s inaugural party in 1997.

To Cephas and Wiggins, the blues lyric is the poetry of the African-American experience. Says Cephas, “The blues is a creation of black people in communities all across this country when times were hard. It was a way of expression, an outlet, and it’s had so much impact. Blues music is truth. The lyrics are true-to-life experiences that people everywhere can relate to.”

“People automatically think of sadness and depression when they think of blues. But the blues is uplifting music, music to rejuvenate you, to nourish the spirit. When you get down, the blues will pick you up again. Blues is nourishment for the human spirit”, says Wiggins.

They choose their repertoire carefully, not only for musical impact, but also to highlight the cultural and historical content of their genre. Their concert performance evokes life in the post-Reconstruction South. Hard work, celebration, joy, and struggle are all there. A verse that may sound like a straightforward love song may also contain an allusion to African tribal culture or the indignities of racism or an optimistic assertion of a better future. Cephas and Wiggins provide their audiences with a very special treat – a powerful and intelligent performance of a wonderful, American treasure, the blues.

—John Kidd, *President of Delaware Friends of Folk*

On-line Update

If you have anything to contribute, like events for the calendar, or pictures we should post, then e-mail us at webmaster@delfolk.org with the info or to make arrangements.

--Beth Fizell, *DEFF webmistress*

Looking for Songwriters!

On June 11, our coffeehouse will be the Greg Shrader Songwriter Circle, named in memory of one of the founders of the Friends of Folk who left this earth much too soon. Deloy Moore will be hosting and coordinating the event. The current plan (which is subject to change – this is folk music, after all...) is to have Deloy start the event with a song or so of Greg’s, then let each of the songwriters do 4-5 of their own original songs with a bit of background about how that song came to be. There are still a few slots available, so if you’re interested get in touch with Deloy at rockinpet@yahoo.com.

--Beth Fizell, *DEFF Board member*

Fundraising Update

Did you ever wonder where Delaware Friends of Folk gets the money to support the great activities that we have? I did, so I spent some time, as a new member of the Board, looking into it. Let me share with you some observations.

First, this organization wouldn't exist if it weren't for the dedication and energy of a whole bunch of wonderful people, who dedicate their time, sweat, and sometimes dollars-out-of-pocket to this group.

Second, while we are a tax-exempt 501c3 not-for-profit organization (meaning donations that are given to us are tax deductible), outside of our Delaware Division of the Arts grant, and a handful of generous individuals who have made donations, the organization is primarily self-funded. Further, the budget is quite lean, meaning that many times we've had to pass up opportunities to bring some more well known talent to our events because they are too expensive.

Third, we have some very ambitious plans this year to help the Festival – specifically the need to run electricity from the Field's house back to the ticket booth, the children's area, and the main stage. This initiative will likely cost several thousand dollars, and cannot be funded from our current treasury or from the Festival proceeds.

We need to raise money this year.

So here's where you come in. We have some experience applying for grants and soliciting donations in the past (primarily our DDOA grant), but we know that there are more options available. We know they're available to "arts & culture" not-for-profits such as ourselves from various foundations and corporations. We'd like your help in finding them for us. There are a number of large companies in the area – Kraft, MBNA, DuPont, JPMorgan Chase, Wal-Mart, AstraZeneca, Comcast, etc. – most of which donate to the arts, and it would be helpful to have your help, if you're an employee, to get the inside scoop on how to apply for such aid.

We also know that many large companies (like the ones listed above) give different types of grants, including "volunteer grants" – a donation made to an organization for which their employees volunteer time. Please check with your employer to see if they have one, and if we (and you) qualify. If you have any other ideas for us, please pass them along to me

(beth@cooldog.com), or to John Kidd (john.kidd@dol.net).

While we certainly don't want to take money away from other deserving organizations, I think we all agree that bringing music to our area is critical to increase appreciation for culture and the arts, as well as educating our children about different types of music. We've seen it time and time again – it's extremely difficult for venues in the area to consistently present live music on a for-profit basis, so organizations like Delaware Friends of Folk are so important for bringing a wide variety of music to our area residents.

We have a few fundraising events planned for the spring, so mark these on your calendar. If you'd like to help out with either of these events, let us know:

- **Friday, May 6** – Fundraising performance at the Smyrna Opera House
- **Sunday, May 29** – Fundraiser hosted by Cooldog Concert Series, featuring Full Frontal Folk and more!

We appreciate your support and with your help we look forward to fun, painless, fundraising success.

-- Beth Fizell, DEFF Board member

Newsletter Update

Welcome to the February, 2005 Delaware Friends of Folk Newsletter. It looks like I've inherited the role of Newsletter editor from Mike Neilsen who ably held the post for quite a long time. If you have any submissions, feel free to email them to me at beth@cooldog.com.

--Beth Fizell, DEFF Newsletter Editor

Story Tsunami: Local Storytellers to participate in worldwide fundraising effort

In an outpouring of sympathy, storytellers across the world are working together to raise funds to aid the victims of the December 26, 2004 earthquake and tsunami. Story Tsunami will be a series of benefit storytelling concerts with a goal of raising \$50,000 in as many as fifty communities worldwide.

In Delaware the event is planned for February 20, 2005, 1-3 pm at Wilmington Friends School, 101 School Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803. Local storytellers will gather to be part of the Story Tsunami event.

The concert features stories from many parts of the world told by Tara Defonseka, Michael Forestieri, Kim Graham, Annie Hart, Lilly Marge Hill, Bob Jones, Momma Sandi, Daphne Santosa, TAHIRA and Bharata natyam dancer Geeta Mishra.

Stories will include: The Mustard Seed, a story from the life of Buddha; Kekeko, an Indonesian folk tale; The Three Kingdoms, which is a story about power of storytelling; Aham Brahmasmi, a mixture of traditional Indian folk and classical Bharata Natyam dance, translated as God is in Me, it is a story concerning Lord Krishna and Radha; Aqua Vitae (Water of Life); Safe Space; The Firekeeper's Son, and work of the poet Paul Laurence Dunbar.

The funds raised at this event will be sent to Oxfam, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, and the American Red Cross. These organizations were selected for their accomplishments as cost-effective relief agencies with a long-term commitment to recovery.

Story Tsunami is being coordinated across the US and in Canada, Japan Singapore. For more information about Story Tsunami's many sites see www.StoryTsunami.org.

Locally, the Story Tsunami event will be co-produced by the Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education (DIAE) and hosted by Wilmington Friends School, with help from many volunteers. For more information, call Anne Oldach at the DIAE, 302 425-4595 ext 12, or e-mail aoldach@udel.edu. A suggested donation of \$10 per person will be collected at the door.

Local Celtic Musicians perform at Benefit for Tsunami Victims

What could be more fun? Wilmington-area Celtic musicians performing music from Scotland and Ireland, to benefit the recent tsunami victims. Harps, Irish flutes, tin whistles, mandolins, hammered dulcimer, fiddles, concertina, guitars, voices, and maybe even an uilleann pipe. Food and beer available - just a really good time.

Donation \$10 or more, kids free. All money donated to the International Red Cross and dedicated to tsunami relief. Accounting provided by the Wave of Relief concerts, sponsored by Aztec Printing.

Performers will include:

- Jack Bartley (formerly of So's Your Mom) - Folk Music From Ireland & Elsewhere
- John and June Gallagher - local favorites, American and Irish folk
- Christina Harrison - well-known Scottish Singer
- Hearthside - Bill Russell and Eric Bostic on Harp, Flute, Mandolin & Guitar
- John Lionarons - Hammered Dulcimer
- Bil McKenty (Irish flute) and Marti Farra (fiddle)
- Mary Kay Mann - Flutes, Whistles, Celtic Harp, and Song
- OLIVER CREAK - Traditional & Original Music X 4
 - Claire Farra - fiddle/whistle
 - Louise DeNight - concertina/whistle
 - Paul Wentworth - mandolin/guitar
 - Gary Gustin - guitar/mandolin
- Bob Pegritz - Irish Whistles
- Janet Witman - U.S. National Scottish Harp Champion

Delmarva Folk Calendar

When	What	Where	More What
Feb 19, 7:30	Friends of Folk Coffeehouse	The Underground , Wesley College	Open Mic Night - Mollie Raley is host
Feb 20, 2pm	Trout Fishing in America	The Grand Opera House , Wilmington	Family concert - \$19-\$23. (800) 37-GRAND
Feb 23, 7:30pm	Cephas & Wiggins	The Schwartz Center , Dover, DE	Amazing Piedmont Blues!!
Feb 25, 8pm	Kingston Trio	The Grand Opera House , Wilmington	Family concert - \$19-\$23. (800) 37-GRAND
Feb 26, 1pm	Friends of Folk Pick-In	W.T. Smithers , State St. Dover	All are welcome - bring an instrument or just your ears. Call (302) 465-0805 for more info
Feb 26 8pm	Holmes Brothers	Arden Guild Hall , Arden	
Feb 27, 2-5pm	Celtic Benefit for Tsunami victims	4W5 Cafe, 4 W. 5th St, Wilmington	\$10 donation, kids free. Call (302) 661-0100 for details. Performers include Jack Bartley (formerly of So's Your Mom), John and June Gallagher, Christina Harrison, and lots more. Food and beer available - just a really good time.
Mar 2, 6:30pm	Friends of Folk Festival Committee Meeting	W.T. Smithers , State St. Dover	All are welcome - volunteers always needed to help make a successful festival. Email the committee for more info.
Mar 2, 7:30pm	Friends of Folk Board Meeting	W.T. Smithers , State St. Dover	All are welcome to observe.
Mar 5, 8pm	Richard Julian	Arden Guild Hall , Arden	CD Release Party
Mar 6, 3pm	Leah Morgan Band	Cooldog Concert Series , Kenton, DE	D.C. area folk-pop multi-instrumentalist, with her full band including cello. John Faye (of IKE and The John Faye Power Trip) will be opening. RSVP houseconcerts@cooldog.com
Mar 7, 8pm	The McDades	Green Willow Folk Club , 4W5 Cafe, Wilmington	Celtic band from Alberta Canada
Mar 12	Celtic Harvest	W.T. Smithers , State St. Dover	Note - no Celtic Session this day due to St. Patrick's Day events. Come by and hear Celtic Harvest do your favorite irish tunes in celebration!
Mar 12, 7pm	HeartSounds	Dover Public Library	voice, flute, whistles and Celtic harp -- presented by "In Harmony ..." Free
Mar 13, 1-5pm	Bob Paisley & The Southern Grass	Marydel Fire Hall, Marydel DE	Presented by Eastern Shore Bluegrass Assoc. \$5 member, \$7 nonmember. call 674-3149 or 492-1048 for info
Mar 19, 7:30	Friends of Folk Coffeehouse	The Underground , Wesley College	Richard Browne, singer/songwriter from Co. Kerry, Ireland. \$5 members, \$7 non-members, free for Wesley Students. with Leilani Wall opening

Full Calendar available at <http://www.delfolk.org/calendar.html>

Friends of Folk Membership

Delaware Friends of Folk is supported by you, the members and made possible, in part, by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency committed to promoting and supporting the arts in Delaware. If you haven't already, join up! Memberships and gift certificates for memberships are also available. (For those friends of yours that just can't make a commitment.) Don't miss out on the fun and excitement of a great organization. Show your support and keep good music and entertainment happening.

First Name _____ Last name _____

Street Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Membership category: Family (\$15) ___ Individual (\$10) ___

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