



NEW LOCATION & OTHER FOLK FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

by D. Boston

Want some reasons to come out first thing Saturday morning? Here are a few:

Check out the brand new location at *Highbanks Metro Park*. The birds will be singing and the park setting will be delightful in the morning;

You can start the morning with a 1-mile hike in search of colorful spring warblers (Nature Center 8:00am);

You'll get a good festival parking place;

You'll beat the lines by registering early for the Saturday evening concert or workshops (registration opens at 10:30am):

You can attend the festival opening Sing-Along at 11 a.m., sing your heart out, boost your endorphins, and maybe even make a new friend of someone singing beside you.

Festival Opening Sing-Along

The sing-along continues

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What the Columbus Folk Music Society does when its NOT Festival Time

by Bill Cohen

The 2-day annual Central Ohio Folk Festival at Highbanks Metro Park may be our most concentrated project of the year, but we invite you to join in the

many other activities that the Columbus Folk Music Society (CFMS) conducts:

Monthly Coffeehouses



These fun events usually have 3 parts: a folk music jam, an

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to be a popular opening to the festival. If you haven't experienced it before, why not this year? Look for the Main Kirby tent on the festival grounds. The sing-along will be led by Bill Cohen and Carl Yaffey (aka *The Folk Ramblers*). They are well known around town and a favorite folk duo. Guaranteed they will get you smiling and singing along to many familiar favorites!

“When everybody sings along, there's a special feeling of community that bubbles up almost immediately. There's a feeling that 'hey, we've all got something to contribute' and it's not just a one-way thing where a performer is giving something to an audience. A sense of community is a rare thing that many people are seeking these days. Folk music in general has that sense of community, and sing-alongs in particular have an even greater sense of that. I think that's why Pete Seeger was such a big fan of sing-alongs.” - Bill Cohen

Food service on festival grounds open at 10:30a.m.

Performing Stages (11am-6pm Sat; 11-4pm Sun)

We've got four stages where you can enjoy music performances. The Kirby Main Tent, The Showcase Tent, the Children's Tent, and a special new addition, a Jam Groups Tent, featuring

local jam groups representing various genres. A few stages start at 11am, the rest at Noon. All four stages offer music running continuously throughout the day both Saturday and Sunday.



“ . . . When everybody sings along, there's a special feeling of community that bubbles up almost immediately. Folk music in general has that sense of community, and sing-alongs in particular have an even greater sense of that.” - Bill Cohen

Four Workshop Tents (Noon-6pm Sat; Noon-4pm Sun)

We've got four workshops tents that offer a multitude of music workshops (over 40) covering a multitude of genres, instruments, topics and levels of expertise. Workshops begin at Noon and run continuously throughout the day. We've even got workshops for the very beginner with some loaner instruments available – if you're curious about playing guitar, fiddle, ukulele or other instruments. A complete workshop listing is available

under Workshop Presenters at: www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/COFF/coff.html. There is a small registration fee to attend workshops: \$10 total for Saturday and \$10 total for Sunday. Registration is in Store Tent.

Dance Pavilion (Noon-6pm Sat; Noon-4pm Sun)

The Dance Tent showcases local dance groups who offer both demonstrations and instructions. Local dance groups/genres showcased include: Square Dance, Contra Dance, Scottish & English Country Dance, Indian Folk Dance & Music, Salsa Dance, Scandinavian Dance, International Folk Dance, and Hillel (Israeli) Dance.

Drum Circle (5-6pm Sat)

Led by Queen Najla, a festival favorite, the drum circle is open to everyone who can find anything to tap/beat on to help make the mesmerizing multi-level rhythmic beats fill the air.

Saturday Evening Concert (7-10pm)

The Saturday evening concert features veteran folk artist Tom Rush and young Michigan-based “Old-time Roots, New-time Sound” folk duo, Red Tail Ring. Pre-event ticket sales at: www.Eventbrite.com. Tickets on site available at registration or outside Kirby Tent at 6:30pm.

ARLINGTON CLASSMATES SCORE KIRBY MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

by Bill Cohen

In 2009, the Columbus Folk Music Society established the Bob Kirby Scholarship Memorial Fund in memory of Bob Kirby, who was a firm supporter of continuing the folk music tradition by encouraging young musicians. The Columbus Folk Music Society presents the yearly scholarship award(s) at its annual folk festival each Spring. The awardees also get a chance to perform a piece after their award. We invite you to the Showcase Stage at 4pm on Saturday, May 5, to both see and hear our two 2018 award winners!

Two sophomores at Upper Arlington High School are this year's \$500 winners of the Bob Kirby Scholarship for Folk Music, and you can see and hear them perform at the Central Ohio Folk Festival in May.

15 year-old Lauren Slattery caught our eyes and ears at last year's festival, when she simply showed up with her ukulele, playing and singing informally for the crowds.

She says her goal is to become a "well-known music producer for pop/alternative music" but there's a link to folk music too.

"The science behind what makes a song catchy and easy to listen to are quite similar," she notes. "I would love to have more opportunities to study this correlation and how folk music uses many techniques that can be seen in multiple other types of music."

Lauren already has experience,



performing at open mics and in songwriting contests. Besides her uke, she also plays guitar, flute and piano. She hopes to use the scholarship money to learn to play drums or bass guitar.

16 year-old Calvin Kinatader, the other Kirby Scholarship honoree, has attended the Central Ohio Folk Festival for more than a decade. "My mother used to bring me there before I could play any instruments."

Now, Calvin plays drums, guitar, saxophone, dulcimer, and blues harp. "Not many opportunities exist for people my age to better themselves with others in folk music," he says, but the scholarship will let him do that, plus "purchase a new dulcimer, as the one I have right now does not play well nor sound very good."

CFMS member Jane Van Auken helped decide the scholarship winners, and she is impressed by Lauren and Calvin:

"It was so nice to meet young

musicians whose experiences weren't limited to what they got in high school but also includes some of what Columbus has to offer such as the Columbus Songwriters Association as well as COFF."

That point is echoed by Linda McDonald who was also in on the scholarship award selection. "We were very impressed by the musical involvement already in their lives," she says. "Music is ingrained in their lives."

She notes that Calvin played at the Worthington jam a few weeks ago, and Lauren was already scheduled to perform in this year's COFF singer-songwriter tent, long before she was selected for the Kirby award.

CFMS President Hugh Farthing also helped pick the award winners. He says they were simply the cream of a very good crop of young musicians who applied: "This was a great group of kids that, just speaking for myself, I thought were as good a group that I have ever interviewed. All were talented, relaxed, good musicians and nice kids. It was a hard choice to make and our scholarship winners were just a bit more qualified than our other candidates."

HIGHBANKS – NEW FOLK FESTIVAL HOME IS PERFECT FOR BLEND OF MUSIC AND NATURE

by Bill Cohen



“It’s a beautiful setting to sit and listen to beautiful music.”

That’s the way the new venue for the Central Ohio Folk Festival, Highbanks Metro Park, is described by a woman who should know. That’s Jill Snyder, Assistant Manager of Interpretation and Education for Metro Parks of Columbus and Franklin County.

The 1200 unspoiled acres are rare for mostly-flat Central Ohio, Jill notes, because the land consists of many hills and ravines, perfect for festival-goers to hike on trails when they want to take a break from the music, dancing, and story-telling.

The park got its name from the 100-foot high bluff overlooking the Olentangy State Scenic River that forms the park’s Western border, just South of Powell Road. The Big Meadows picnic area, the site of the festival, is right next to the river, and Jill suggests festival-goers take a leisurely trek along the banks, keeping an eye out for a pair of rare and magnificent bald eagles who call the area home.

Another fun activity would be a visit to the nature center, closer to the park’s Eastern border, officially Columbus Pike, better known to most of us as Route 23 or “very very North” High Street.

Among other attractions, the center has a wood replica of a mammoth Sycamore tree, with a



View of deck behind the Nature Center. Photo K. Strosnider.

trunk that’s 36 feet around. The real live version of the tree is in the Southern portion of the park, off-limits to hikers. Naturalists say that specific tree is the largest Sycamore in the whole country and is probably more than 500 years old.

May 5 and 6, Highbanks Metro Park will be greening up. The



bushes will be budding. The wild flowers will be blooming. The birds will be chirping. The ducks will be quacking. The squirrels will be scampering.

Add dozens of guitars, banjos, dulcimers, mandolins, harps,

ukuleles, and drums – plus the sweet strains of human voices raised in song – and yes, the 2018 Central Ohio Folk Festival promises to be the perfect mix of music and nature.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Highbanks is also home to two subconical mounds believed to have been built by the Adena culture and Highbank Park Works, a set of complex earthworks built by people of the Cole culture.

The works are an archaeological site and have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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open mic, and a featured performer or group. The coffeehouses take place the last Saturday of every month except June, July, August, and December. They're held at the Columbus Mennonite Church at 35 Oakland Park Avenue in Clintonville.

Weekly Jams

. . . reaching out to the public. These informal jams feature CFMS musicians improvising as they play classic popular folk tunes. In the Winter, these take place inside of the Worthington Mall. In other seasons, they take place outside on the S.E. corner of the Worthington Commons at the corner of North High Street and Dublin-Granville Rd.

Helping the Community

The Columbus Folk Music Society has provided singers, performers and other activities for Run the Race, a project in Southwest Columbus that gets low-income children involved in education, music, and the arts and conducts bi-monthly performances at the Laurels of Worthington skilled nursing facility and the Special Care Unit at Wesley Glen. Residents are encouraged to participate with rhythm instruments and even to sing along. In addition, the Society provides performers for a yearly Thanksgiving dinner served to those in need on the West side of Columbus as well as at other events around town.

The Columbus Folk Music



Jams at Worthington Square (top) and Columbus Commons (bottom)



Nationally touring artist Heather Pierson at a CFMS concert event.



CFMS musicians performing for Columbus Marathon runners

Society conducts a Bob Kirby Scholarship program which is an award given annually to a young musician or musicians to assist them towards the purchase of ongoing lessons and/or an instrument.

Bringing Outside Talent to Columbus

CFMS partners with venues in town a number of times a year to bring talented musicians from far away to the capital city for concerts that are part of an "Americana/Folk Series." This series is spearheaded by the Columbus Folk Music Society.

Special concerts

Look for our members as they stage concerts all around Columbus and beyond. Some of these events are officially sponsored by the Columbus Folk Music Society, but many others are sponsored by other groups and fund-raising campaigns.

We'd love for you to get involved in these and other activities of the Columbus Folk Music Society. To do so, talk with any of our members or look us up on the web at: ColumbusFolkMusicSociety.org.

You can also ask to be added to our Folk-events e-mail list which will inform you of many CFMS activities throughout the year. E-mail us at: webmaster@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org to be included on the list. We don't send out frequent e-mails, but we do notify you of upcoming events.

CIGAR BOX GUITAR MAKING AT 2018 CENTRAL OHIO FOLK FESTIVAL

by D. Boston

There is a brand new activity at this year's folk festival!

CFMS members, Hugh Farthing and Dan Clarke, are sharing their passion for music by constructing and packaging together various components to make over 70 Cigar Box Guitar kits.

The kits will be made available for ages 12 and up at a special activity tent in the Children's Area during the festival weekend. For a \$15 donation, willing participants will receive the kit as well as be instructed and assisted in putting the components together.

At the completion of the one-hour class, the goal is to walk away with a Cigar Box Guitar, tuned, complete with an input jack and some instructions, and a simple song sheet to get started.

Hugh, a retired school teacher, explains, "When you are playing



Kit construction in process; components being fitted into place before being disassembled and packaged.

a musical instrument, not only do you work your brain, you're working your hands, your arms, and you're thinking ahead to a strategy -- so that things sound good. If you were to look at a brain scan when somebody is doing music, EVERY part of the brain is just going off like crazy. This is great stuff for your brain. We are really happy to bring this to the folk festival and hopefully show kids how much fun music

really is."

Hugh and Dan have been working overtime to get all of these kits together for young folks at the festival (and maybe some not so young). If you get a chance, or are just curious, check out the tent at the festival. Cigar Box Guitar assembly times are: 1-2pm and 3-4pm on both Saturday and Sunday of the festival.

The project is also made possible by the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education.



TANNAHILL WEAVERS APPEAR IN CONCERT AT GRACE UMC IN WAVERLY, OH MAY 29

The Tannahill Weavers, currently on a 50th Anniversary tour, have carved out their name as one of Scotland's premier traditional bands. Their diverse repertoire spans the centuries with fire-driven instrumentals, topical songs, and original ballads and lullabies. These versatile musicians have received worldwide accolades for their exuberant and humorous

performances and outstanding recording efforts. In 2011, they were inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame. You can purchase tickets (\$20) from Gary Sager, **whose music shop will be offering music instruments at significant discounts in the Festival Store Tent on May 5 & 6.** More info about the Tannahill Weavers



concert & tickets are also available at: www.prussiallvalley.com.

SAVE THE DATE . . .

The Saturday Music Jam at Worthington Farmer's Market

9:30-11:30am – The month of May finds the jam back outside on the S.E. quad of Worthington Square. All are welcome to play. Please bring a chair.

1st & 3rd Thursdays, May 3 & 17, 1:30-2:30pm: Jam at Wesley Glen (Special Care Unit)

– 5155 N High St, Columbus. Contact Mike Zajano at: mikezajano@aol.com for more info or to be put on the e-mail list.

Friday, May 4: Central Ohio Folk Festival Meet 'n Greet – Jam and Potluck 6-9pm.

All CFMS members and volunteers welcome. Northern Shelter at Highbanks Metro Park, 9466 Columbus Pike (Rt 23 N), Lewis Center, OH. Follow the signs once you enter the park. Bring a dish to share, your voice or

instrument and a chair if you prefer. Picnic tables are available in shelter. Electric & running water, but no stove. There is a fireplace & potbellied stove we'll have fired up! Worst Song in the World Contest at approximately 8pm. See Tom Nagel to sign up.

Sat/Sun, May 5 & 6: Central Ohio Folk Festival, held at Highbanks Metro Park, Big Meadows area. 10:30am-10pm Sat and 10:30am - 5:30pm Sun.

Follow the signs. Tickets for Sat evening concert with Tom Rush & Red Tail Ring available on Eventbrite.com. Visit www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org for more festival details.

2nd & 4th Wednesdays, May 9 & 23, 2-3pm: Jam at Laurels of Worthington (Memory Care Unit)

– 1030 N. High St., Worthington. Contact Mike at: mikezajano@aol.com.

com for more info or to be put on the e-mail list.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY AND ITS EVENTS?

Visit: 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 on page 8.

FOLLOWING OUR OWN

Saturday, May 12: 10am – Grassahol. At Clintonville Farmer's Market (High St & Oakland Park Avenue).

Saturday, May 12: 12:30pm – Joanie Calem. Memorial Day Program at Hebron Library, Hebron, OH

Friday, May 18: 7pm – Bill Cohen Concert: "The Joys and Oys of Growing Older" Held at: Martin Janis Senior Center, 600 E. 11th Avenue. Free, but donations welcomed for Alzheimers Association.

Friday, May 25: 6-9pm – Grassahol. At Westerville 4th Friday Celebration, North stage in historic Uptown Westerville. Free.

Saturday, June 2: 7pm – Sing-Along with the Folk Ramblers (Carl Yaffey & Bill Cohen). They will lead us in singing classic folksongs of the 1950's and 60's. Held at: North Church UCC, 2040 W. Henderson. Free, but donations welcomed for a mission project in Nicaragua.

LISTINGS:

PLANT SALE



Saturday, May 12, 2018

9 am - 1 pm

Variety of sun and shade perennials

**Columbus Mennonite Church
35 Oakland Park Avenue**

All sale proceeds to benefit CMC Piecemakers (comforters for refugees) and Sowing Circle (maintenance of church gardens)

The Columbus Folk Music Society

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Next Issue in JUNE

We're on the web!

www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.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 on 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

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold (Life Member) \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities within the organization. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Friend \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver \$250 | |

For credit card transactions: contact treasurer@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org. 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.
1 I prefer a hard copy via regular U.S. mail

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