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NOTES

Fall Concert Series | Fun Photos from Hale Farm | A Word from the Prez

Fall 2016 Programming

by Joanne Laessig

Once again Folknet is working to bring to North East Ohio folk music you wouldn't hear otherwise. The Church of the Good Shepherd in Lyndhurst is very supportive of our efforts to bring positive family entertainment to the area, and have hosted the past few years' Folknet community sings and previous three concerts. We value our partnership with this beautiful venue, noting it is handicapped accessible, child-friendly, and close to freeway access. The second Saturday of each month will be the occasion of Folknet events at this beautiful location. This fall we start with a concert of Tina Bergmann & Bryan Thomas on September 10 for a 7:30pm Evening Concert.



"The best hammered dulcimer player I've heard in my life."

Pete Seeger

Your Folknet membership
 helps fund our programs.

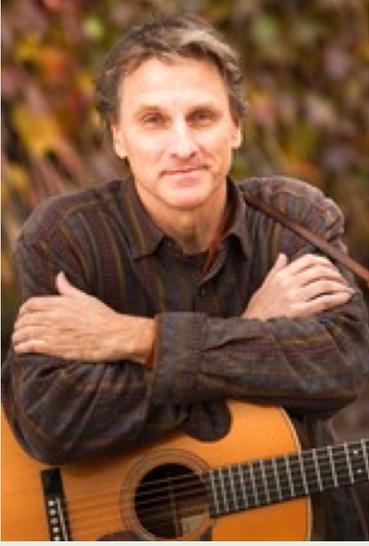
Thank You!

While Pete Seeger called her "The best hammered dulcimer player I've heard in my life," I think of her as the first hammered dulcimer I heard play live. When I was just diving into participation in folk music and dance in the early 1980s, there was a Thursday night dance in the old Richfield Town hall, with Carol Kopp calling to a band called "Strings and Things;" Mark Delozier played piano, Dave Rice was there, a very young fiddler Jason, and the Bergmann women: mom Diana on mandolin and 13 year-old Tina on a hammered dulcimer built by her father. In all the years since, Tina has been there playing for monthly dances, with Strings and Things, through marriage to Bryan, and his incorporation in the band, other changes in dance location, band personnel, to band name change to "Hu\$h Money."

In her presence as a constant in the NE Ohio folk scene, Tina has taught hammered dulcimer to a good number of local people. In the last couple decades, she's been

known to a wider audience in the classical/early music community through playing in programs in the internationally acclaimed Apollo's Fire.

Mark Dvorak



Bryan Thomas on bass is well known locally and beyond for his splendid playing and musical knowledge. This looks to be an engaging concert, where this duo can showcase the music they love. Their extensive repertoire encompasses traditional American fiddle tunes; jigs, reels, and waltzes, string band rags, and an occasional classical piece thrown in for good measure.

Tina Bergmann & Bryan Thomas will perform at Church of the Good Shepherd 23599 Cedar Road, Lyndhurst, Ohio, on September 10, at 7:30pm. ☘

Next in the Church of the Good Shepherd Fall concert series, on October 8th we are fortunate to have Chicago's Mark Dvorak return for two shows, a 3:30 pm Children & Family Concert, and a 7:30 pm Evening Concert.

Folknet brought Mark in years ago to give a house concert and "how to have a jam session" workshop. The phrase "modern day troubadour" only hints at all the aspects of this accomplished musician. Teacher, researcher, performer, writer of his own original songs, he has been called "a folk singer's folk singer" with an "encyclopedic knowledge of traditional songs."

Mark plays authentic country blues and 12 string guitar, and picks great old time banjo, in the traditions of Lead Belly & Pete Seeger.

His many years of teaching at the Old Town School of Folk Music have given Mark the ability to involve his audiences in singing, and inspire others to sing and make music. His time performing the Pete Seeger role in the Weavermania show was a perfect fit in casting. For children, Mark is a perfect introduction to traditional folk music done well. ☘

November 12, back at Good Shepherd brings Rj Cowdery for a 7:30 pm concert. The honest, deeply emotional, and well-crafted songs of Rj will thrill you, touch you, and make you wonder how she could know so much about you. Haunting melodies, and a strong, warm voice well matched by her guitar playing, showcase her award-winning songwriting. From Kerrville to Telluride, her songs have won enthusiastic praise. ☘

Community Sings, Open Sings, Song Circles

Whatever the name, they have been a part of Folknet off and on since the early days. In recent years we've annually hosted two seasonal events, a Spring Sing and a December Wassails & Whatnot. This year we are also supporting a Community Sing at the Blue Sky Folk Festival on September 17th as well. Matt Watroba, former WKSU folk DJ, has had a mission to encourage community singing throughout the country. He is a headliner and MC at the Blue Sky Festival, and will be participating in this singing session.

These are great opportunities for folks who would like to participate in something besides the instrumental jamming at festivals. Anyone can sing, and we'd like everyone to enjoy the chance to do it with others. ☘

Chord Progressions Demystified

☘ ***Music theory for the rest of us – FREE Workshop!***

This is a basic workshop for non-music majors. It's aimed at anyone who is interested in learning how simple music theory, in particular the way chord progressions work in popular and traditional songs, can help make learning songs easier. If you've ever felt lost at a jam session, or had trouble memorizing a song



Rj Cowdery



Kerry Kean

because the chords just didn't make sense to you, a knowledge of progressions and the logic underlying them will help; it's like trying to get somewhere by reading a map as opposed to really knowing the area. Understanding these basic components of music can also help with songwriting as well as improvising on any instrument. In this workshop, we'll learn what the major scale is, how it's used to create chords and how those chords are used to create simple progressions, the building blocks of western music harmony. We'll use this knowledge to analyze a song's harmony and discuss how that understanding can be applied to songwriting, and if time permits to instrumental improvisation as well.

Kerry Kean (www.kerrykean.com) has been a musician, songwriter and piano technician for over four decades. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Kent State University in 2000 with a business degree and also studied jazz improvisation and arranging there. He is not a credentialed music theorist; rather he comes at music theory from a working musician's viewpoint. Starting out in rock bands and as a solo guitarist, Kerry moved into the professional realm and realized that his lack of musical knowledge was holding him back. Primarily through self-study he developed a practical understanding of how harmony and melody work together in popular music; this in turn gave him an appreciation of the importance of certain basic musical concepts to the average musician, and that understanding forms the basis of this workshop.

This free workshop is presented by Folknet and by the Kent Free Library. Folknet is a not-for-profit educational organization that exists to nurture the development and expansion of a vibrant folk and traditional arts community of performers, organizations and advocates throughout Northeast Ohio. Information is available at <http://www.folknet.org/> ☼

Folknet goes to FARM

(Folk Alliance Region Midwest)

☼ **Showcase Opportunity** ☼

For the last two years, Folknet has sponsored a private showcase at [FARM](http://farmfolk.org/) <http://farmfolk.org/>. This allows us to provide a showcase opportunity to all of our members attending the conference.

This year's conference will be in Iowa City from October 26-30. **All attendees must be registered for the conference and have active memberships with Folk Alliance International** <http://farmfolk.org/>.

The conference is an annual gathering of over 200 members of the folk music community throughout the Midwest including, DJ's, venue and concert series representatives, record companies, music educators and organizations just Folknet from around the Midwest. The four-day conference is rich with showcase opportunities, workshops, and many great performances. The Folknet show case will occur from 12am – 2am Friday- Sunday (Late Thursday-Saturday night) during the designated private showcase times.

Folknet members will have the first opportunity to reserve spots in our showcase room.

Our member price is \$10 as part of a 3-person songwriter in the round showcase where you will alternate songs with two other performers. This is a great chance to



build relationships with other musicians. These showcases tend to draw very well as they allow venues the best chance to hear the more performers.

We also will offer a limited number of single 20 minute showcases where you will have the stage to yourself to better demonstrate your stage skills. The cost of these showcases are \$20. Beginning on September 12, we will offer all remaining showcases to non Folknet attendees. The price will increase after this date.

If you are interested, please visit www.folknet.org to be re-directed to our page for the conference.

See you all in Iowa City! - Charlie Mosbrook☘



FARM Showcases from 2015

Old-Time Music in Kent, Ohio

by Rick Feinberg

Kent, Ohio, along with a number of surrounding communities, has long been home to outstanding musicians. Perhaps the best-known bands with roots in the Kent area are rock legends Devo and the Numbers Band, but more traditional musical genres have also been mainstays of the region.

For decades, the Kent Folk Festival brought in top performers from around the world, a practice that has been continued by The Kent Stage. Virtuoso instrumentalists like Jon Mosey, John Reynolds, and Jack DiAlesandro live in the area, as, for many years, did the influential blues guitarist and multi-instrumentalist Andy Cohen. Kent State University offers one of the country's top ethnomusicology programs. Tina Bergmann of Brady Lake is the region's most acclaimed hammered dulcimer player, performing and recording as a soloist, with contra dance bands, and with the baroque orchestra, Apollo's Fire. She has taught her skills to hundreds of students across the United States. Her husband, Bryan Thomas, plays stand-up bass for everything from classical orchestras to jazz and salsa bands and contra dances. Other regulars on Kent's music scene have included current or former Brady Lakers Joe LaRose, Lynn Frederick, Beth Braden, and Susie and Jeff Goehring. Thanks to



*Rick Feinberg and his lovely wife
at Music in the Valley*

Susie Goehring, the Field Recorders' Collective [<http://fieldrecorder.org/>] is currently headquartered in Brady Lake, a small village between Kent and Ravenna.

Of particular interest to Folknet members may be Kent's many old-time string band jams and performances. David Badagnani organizes a monthly old-time jam, known as the Kent Shindig. It meets on the first Sunday of every month from 5 to 8 PM at Euro-Gyro, a bar and pizza shop near the corner of Main and Depeyster Streets. Badagnani says, "What I like about the jams is that they are a place where people can come and learn how to play—that is how I learned starting around 1998...." The jam was started in 1997 by clogger and fiddler Laura Lewis, who intended it as a place where folks who had moved from Appalachia to Northeast Ohio could practice their music and dance. Kent's reputation as a hub for traditional music, due largely to the Folk Festival, made the city an attractive venue. The jam was initially held Brady's Cafe, bordering the Kent State campus; it was forced to move after Brady's was taken over by a national coffee house chain. In addition to the Brady's jam, Lewis started Facebook's Northeast Ohio Old-Time Music Group.

A second old-time jam, put together by Jim Francis, takes place every Friday from 6 to 9pm at Scribbles Coffee and Tea on North Water Street. From time to time, Badagnani recruits musicians from the two jams for paying gigs under the name, the Kent Shindig All-Stars. Over the past year, the Shindig All-Stars have performed along with flat-foot dancers Dennis Copley of Brimfield and Lori Jo Folger of Hiram at venues ranging from the Kent Free Library to Brimfield's Ohio Chautauqua Festival, to the Kent Heritage Festival and the recently-completed Standing Rock Ice Cream Social.

Other old-time events in Kent and environs include a monthly contra dance at Trinity Lutheran Church, with music provided by Band Behind the Curtain and with Carol Kopp as caller. For more information, see the dance's website: <http://www.neohiocontradance.org/monthly.html>

Another contra dance, featuring musicians Bryan Thomas, Tina Bergmann, and Dave Rice has recently moved to the Quirk Cultural Center in Cuyahoga Falls. And the "Black Squirrel Dulcimer Club" that meets twice a month in nearby Stow. A list of CDs and cassettes recorded by Northeast Ohio old-time artists may be accessed at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/12e_XALg6PJ6H6E2gOZ1oBr1ZWC5HAm8WIyVB12yVI/edit

Rick Feinberg plays guitar and banjo. He appears with the Kent Shindig All-Stars and the Crooked River String Band. He is indebted to David Badagnani and Tina Bergmann for many of the details cited in this article. Rick may be reached at [rfeinber@kent.edu]. ☘



Mike Comely

Mike Comely, One of the Winners

Who says you just can't win anything good anymore? In our recent membership drive, Mike Comely's name was pulled to win a mandolin. Here he is, pictured on a gorgeous day at Music in the Valley.

Congratulations, Mike!

☘



Hale Farm and Village

Music in the Valley

by Mike Harris

The 42nd annual Music in the Valley took place July 9th and 10th at Hale Farm and Village. There were 258 musicians who entertained the approximately 2,000 visitors over the two-day festival. The visitor total was up 43% from last year, and I'm told merchandise sales were up even more. Folknet gained three new members and sold some Folknet merchandise, as well.

For those unfamiliar with Music in the Valley, it is a long standing partnership between Hale Farm and Folknet. It is held the first weekend after July Fourth, and musicians with an instrument get in free. We have old timers from out of state and local that have been coming since the beginning. Many have staked out their own trees to gather under, and their roots seem to go as deep as the trees that shade them. Newcomers are either free to join in or find their own tree and start a new tradition.

Music in the Valley exemplifies the mission of Folknet. We have given thousands of visitors to Hale Farm an example of some of the best of old time music, while attracting many young musicians to play for the crowds. If you haven't yet participated in the festivities, I urge you to check it out. It's been a great weekend for me for many years. ☿

From the President

Early in Folknet's history, we published a newsletter called *Continuum*. The newsletter contained our monthly calendar and additional content that allowed us to communicate regularly with our membership. As postage became more cost prohibitive we migrated to a web based presence. With this new paradigm, *Continuum* soon faded.

Today, as our active members become more involved we have become dedicated to bringing back a regular newsletter with features, reviews, upcoming Folknet events, and more. We hope to provide the newsletter regularly.

The calendar will continue to be published monthly with the newsletter attached periodically. We welcome submissions from all members, and hope you enjoy this new benefit.

Charlie Mosbrook, Folknet President

*Folknet is here to serve the
music and dance community of
Northeast Ohio.*

*Thank You
for being a Member!*

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