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Folk
NOTES

January - March 2023



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The Times They Are A-Changing

Since the "Great Folk Scare" of the fifties and sixties, it has always been a point of contention among us in the folk community to balance our extensive and valuable traditions with the innovations that keep us vibrant and relevant. I remember the tension between the the "purists" listening to Woody, Pete, and Leadbelly and the "slick and commercial" groups like the Kingston Trio and the Limelitters. Then, when groups like the Mamas and the Papas came along with folk-rock, things got even more interesting.

OK, that headline does trivialize Dylan's masterpiece, and our change isn't anywhere near that dramatic or revolutionary, but it does mark a break from the way we have done things since Folk Heritage began more than thirty years ago. The time has come to end our postal mailing of *Folk Notes* each quarter. Nearly everyone now has access to the internet, and we just can't justify the expense and resource use of printing and mailing 300 copies each time.

We will still produce a paper newsletter to hand out at our concerts, but this is the last issue that will be sent via the post office. The current issue of *Folk Notes* will be available via a link at the top of the home page of our web site. We hope you will continue to follow us through the web site, and we look forward to many more years of your continued support.

San Diego Folk Heritage Concerts

For more information on any concerts listed, email sdfh@san.rr.com.

ADVANCE TICKET SALES

You can now purchase tickets online for any of our concerts.

Go to:

www.ticketweb.com

and search for the name of the performer, or just click on the ticket link on our web site.

You can also reserve seats by emailing sdfh@san.rr.com.

Sunday, January 8

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
4:00 pm -- \$30 (\$25 members)

Java Joe's Reunion Show

Postponed for one year courtesy of Omicron, Joe has pulled this show together once again! If there was a San Diego Folk All Stars team, this would make a good core. Who knows if they will bring in any ringers the day

of the show? This one may sell out; we suggest buying your tickets online.

Java Joe's hasn't had a physical location for a few years, but it was always about the music and the community anyway. Running a coffee shop for decades was a labor of love, not a lucrative endeavor. This night we'll celebrate all the talent that Joe fostered over the years and try to repay some of his dedication and hard work. Folk Heritage is contributing funds as well as our efforts; all money from the evening will go to Joe and the performers.

Berkley Hart. Jeff Berkley and Calman Hart combine vocals, musicianship, and stage presence into one of the best live shows around.

Billy Galewood. The multifaceted artist formerly known as Bushwalla will MC the show and unequivocally provide plenty of entertainment value.

Tim Flannery. We've tried to get this man on our stage for a while, but he's been too busy hanging with his old baseball friends, the top names in San Diego music, and a who's-who of big name performers. Finally!

Gregory Page. Gregory's unique vision and talent entertains audiences around the world; we're lucky his home

base is in San Diego.

Lisa Sanders and Brown Sugar. Nobody puts themselves into their music like Lisa and Karen. Whether by themselves or with a band, they always make the audience connection.

Saturday, January 21

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
7:30 pm -- \$18 (\$15 members)

Kevin Roth and Edie Carey

We have had Renaissance man **Kevin Roth** and his lap dulcimers on our stage several times, where he has always been a great entertainer. His music is grounded in the American folk music revival of the 1960s, and



spans the world with contemporary and jazz influences. It is all presented in the context of his virtuoso dulcimer work and rich vocals.



Kevin’s music, art, and books have delighted audiences worldwide. His impressive career has spanned over three decades, winning over a dozen awards, including *The American Library Association Notable Recordings*. Kevin’s voice has been heard by millions singing the theme song to the hit PBS TV show, *Shining Time Station* (Thomas the Tank Engine). Throughout his career, Kevin’s concert appearances for both adult and family audiences have taken him from festivals to intimate concerts to major concert halls. Kevin has performed twice at The White House and has had made many radio and television appearances throughout the world.

“*Awakenings* is a beautiful album. The words. The music. The voice. Jaw droppingly beautiful” – Noel Paul Stookey (Peter, Paul & Mary)

Edie Carey has been singing at festivals, colleges, and listening rooms across the United States, Canada, and Europe since 1999, performing alongside Sara Bareilles, Brandi Carlile, and Shawn Colvin. She has been a featured artist on PRI’s Mountain Stage, and has appeared at the country’s most prestigious folk festivals including Telluride Bluegrass, Rocky Mountain Folks, Newport Folk, 30A Songwriters, and Cayamo. Her duo lullabies project with Sarah Sample garnered several children’s music awards, including Best Children’s Album

in the 2015 Independent Music Awards. She was a featured vocalist on Joanie Leeds’ Grammy-Winning ensemble album *All the Ladies* in 2020. Her eleventh album, *The Veil*, was released in June 2022.

“Colorado-based singer-songwriter Edie Carey is known for her unmistakable, soulful voice, her intelligent, heart-grabbing songs, but perhaps most especially for her warm, engaging presence on – and off – stage. As much a part of her show as the music itself, Carey’s wry and often self-mocking humor makes audiences feel as though they have just spent an evening with a very close friend. “Bare of self-pity and full of down-to-earth revelation... a little country, a little adult-contemporary, and a lot of fine music.” – Harp Magazine

Friday, February 3

Templars Hall in Old Poway Park
7:30 pm -- \$25 (\$20 members)

Guy Davis and Happy Traum

When **Guy Davis** got a Grammy nomination for his last album, *Sonny & Brownie’s Last Train*, an homage to blues legends Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee, he characteristically took it all in stride. “In my line of work, you don’t depend on winning anything,” he says. “I was telling my friends that if I won, I’d start being really obnoxious — so whatever’s good in me, they’d better get it before

the Grammys, just in case! But I had a ball at the ceremony. I ran into my old buddy Eric Bibb, and we had a good laugh about us being up for the same award. But



it wasn’t going to affect what I do.”

As it turned out, they both lost to an upstart combo called the Rolling Stones, and Guy went back to work. Never an artist who fit any narrow definitions of the blues, he regularly finds new outlets for his warm singing and deft acoustic playing. Both are evident on his new album, *Be Ready When I Call You*. But this time it’s his songwriting that really comes forward. For the first time in over a dozen-album career he wrote nearly everything on the disc, Howlin’ Wolf’s classic *Spoonful* being the sole exception. At the same time, he has broadened his musical reach to include everything from modern electric blues to banjo shuffles, even a touch of rap on one number.

“I call it Americana, but I slip a little world music in there too,” he says. “When you’re trying to create beautiful music, you don’t think too much about categories. You know, I came up in the Pete Seeger tradition – folk songs, topical songs, the Woody Guthrie kind of tunes. And then the delightful entertaining kind of tunes, songs like *Kisses Sweeter Than Wine*. I have all that in me and I tried to let it flow a little bit in this opus.”

His parallel careers, as an author, a teacher, and a Broadway and film and television actor, mark Guy as a Renaissance man, yet the blues remain his first and greatest love. Growing up in a family of artists (his parents were Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis), he fell under the spell of Blind Willie McTell and Fats Waller at an early age. Guy’s one-man play, *The Adventures of Fishy Waters: In Bed with the Blues*, premiered off-Broadway in the ‘90s and has since been released as a double CD. He went on to star off-Broadway as the legendary Robert Johnson in *Robert Johnson: Trick the Devil*, winning the Blues Foundation’s Keeping the Blues Alive award. More recently he joined the Broadway production of *Finian’s Rainbow*, playing the part originally done in 1947 by Sonny Terry, an experience that helped inspire the acclaimed Terry/McGhee album.

Tying all his work together is his love of a good story, and a willingness to speak out when there’s a point to be made. “That’s what I consider myself, a musical storyteller. I tend to create music but even if I didn’t, I would use somebody else’s music — and if I didn’t have that, I would speak poems or prose. I think that all these things increase me as a performer.... the songs, the plays, the descriptions, everything I do with words. They’re all part of each other.”

Happy Traum was smitten by American folk music and began playing guitar and 5-string banjo as a teenager. He was an active participant of the legendary Washington Square/Greenwich Village folk scene of the 1950s and ‘60s, and studied guitar with the famed blues master, Brownie McGhee.

A first-rate fingerstyle guitarist and singer, he has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and Japan, both as a soloist and as a member of various groups. His avid interest in traditional and contemporary folk music has brought him recognition as a performer, writer, editor, session musician, teacher, and recording artist.

Happy’s first appearance in a recording studio was at a historic session in 1963 when a group of young folk musicians, including Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs, Pete Seeger, Peter LaFarge, and The

Freedom Singers gathered in Folkways Records’ studio for an album called *Broadsides*. Happy with his group, the New World Singers, cut the first recorded version of *Blowin’ In The Wind*, and Happy sang a duet with Dylan on his anti-war song *Let Me Die in My Footsteps*.

After years of teaming with his brother Artie, Happy recorded his first solo album, *Relax Your Mind*, in 1975 and embarked on the first of many European tours, bringing him to England, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Scandinavia, among other countries. He toured in Japan in 2001 and in 2016 as a soloist, and in 2006 with Artie Traum.

American Stranger was released in 1977 (“An absolute gem...one of the best folk music albums released this year.” – Folk Scene). *Bright Morning Stars* was released in 1980, and *Friends And Neighbors*, recorded “live” in a Woodstock concert, was released in 1983. Shanachie Records released a compilation album, *Buckets Of Songs*, in 1988.

I Walk the Road Again, in 2005, was co-produced by Artie Traum. Among many great reviews, one said: “*I Walk the Road Again* is a breathtaking collection of bittersweet country-folk and blues tunes.... A low-key masterpiece, this album demonstrates that it’s not the pace that matters so much as the road itself. It’s a road we’re glad to see Happy Traum walking so

well again.” – Peter Aaron, *Kingston Daily Freeman*

Happy’s 2015 CD release, *Just for the Love of It*, also received rave reviews, including four stars in *Rolling Stone*! It was in the top five in folk radio play for several months, and was on many “Top Ten of 2015” reviewers’ lists.

Happy continues a busy and productive life as a solo artist in clubs, concerts, and festivals around the United States, and collaborates with many musical colleagues: Jim Kweskin, Geoff Muldaur, John Sebastian, Larry Campbell, Cindy Cashdollar, Jay Ungar, Molly Mason, and many others, including his son, Adam Traum, a fine singer/songwriter/guitarist in his own right.

In July, 2022, Happy released *There’s a Bright Side Somewhere*, a collection of songs and instrumentals backed by nearly twenty of his very talented musical comrades from the Woodstock area and beyond.

“As he shows yet again on a new album titled *There’s a Bright Side Somewhere*, his exceptional fingerpicking guitar is unrivaled, and he brings dazzling life to traditional and contemporary folk songs.” – Henry Carrigan, *Folk Alley*

Now in his 84th year, Happy continues to perform, record, conduct guitar workshops and classes, and produce new lessons for Homespun Tapes.

One of Woodstock’s most revered local musicians, he can often be heard playing for large fundraisers or other community causes, trying to pay back the half-century of friendships and good will that came to him and his family in that creative, progressive community.

Friday, February 10

Templars Hall in Old Poway Park
7:30 pm -- \$18 (\$15 members)

Enter the Blue Sky

Lindsay White opens

A multi-year San Diego Music Award nominee, ***Enter the Blue Sky*** is a collection of dedicated instrumentalists in support of passionate storytelling at its best. Playful and lighthearted at times, their sound is a blend of poetry, and original and unique melodies that make room for reminiscing and musing, and encourage the listener to journey with them. Supported by warm inflections and textures, the sincerity of the lyrics and the band’s delivery is nuanced and powerful at the same time.

Award-winning vocalist and songwriter **Sandé Lollis** writes all songs for the band. Her performance is raw and emotional, and wholly uplifting. Sandé’s lyrics are thoughtful and speak to all generations. Her melodies are hard to forget, moving and soulful. As rhythm guitarist and lead singer for *Enter the Blue Sky*, Sandé is an

indomitable spark of energy and melodic bliss.

Not a back burner type, **Karen Childress-Evans**, on viola, jumps in with both feet and keeps smiling. A refreshing and innovative team player, she



brings achingly beautiful tones and a classic sensibility to the project.

Backing vocalist **Tina Dee** adds an enthusiastic undercurrent of harmonies suited perfectly to Sandé’s leads, and to three-part with Karen making for transcendent moments of joy. Her voice is smooth and buttery, and puts a delicate finish on each song.

Each member of Enter the Blue Sky is committed to creating a welcoming and rich soundscape, fitting together like pieces of a musical puzzle. The talent and experience of the band is showcased collectively, as well as with lush and stirring solos.

Lindsay White can make you laugh, or cry, or call your therapist. With influences ranging from Bob Dylan to Ani DiFranco, Lindsay's songwriting has earned recognition from the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, Kerrville Folk Festival, and *American Songwriter Magazine*. Her latest LP, *Lights Out*, debuted #2 on the iTunes Singer-Songwriter charts, was named #1 Album of the Year by *Global Texan Chronicles*, and earned her an SDMA for Best Singer-Songwriter. Subsequent singles have charted on iTunes and earned additional San Diego Music Award nominations, including a 2022 win for Best Folk/Acoustic Song. Lindsay was named one of "15 Lesbian/Bi/Queer Musical Artists You Need to Know" by AfterEllen.com. She has opened for notable acts such as The Lone Bellow, David Crosby, Steve Poltz, Susanna Hoffs (The Bangles), Raining Jane featuring Jason Mraz, and others.

Friday, February 24

Templars Hall in Old Poway Park
7:30 pm -- \$18 (\$15 members)

Ordinary Elephant

For their first time performing for SDFH, **Ordinary Elephant** brings their guitar, banjo, harmonies, and a bunch of great songs to Templars Hall.

International Folk Music Awards 2017 Artist of the Year Ordinary Elephant captivates audiences with their emotionally powerful and vulnerable songs, letting the listener know that they are not alone in this world. The collaboration of husband-and-wife **Pete** and **Crystal Damore**,



their connection, and their influences (such as Gillian Welch, Guy Clark, Anais Mitchell) all meet on stage. "Two become one, in song...hand-in-glove harmonies surprise the listener with focused intensity and musical mastery," says Mary Gauthier. The Associated Press is calling their latest album, *Honest*, "one of the best Americana albums of the year."

Saturday, March 11

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
7:30 pm -- \$18 (\$15 members)

Cindy Lee Berryhill

Cindy Lee Berryhill is a California singer, songwriter, and co-founder of the New York Antifolk movement. She has released seven albums since her debut on Rhino Records in 1987.



Her most recent, *The Adventurist*, was released on Omnivore in 2017. Van Dyke Parks says "Cindy Lee's capacity as a lyricist is unique, her insights and raw ability to articulate the human dilemma, is peerless. She deserves a berth in any Hall of Fame, for the humanities she brings to the usual vanities of songwriting."

Pilgrim Church in Carlsbad is an open and affirming community within the United

Folk NOTES

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Folk Notes is published four times yearly by San Diego Folk Heritage, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the folk arts in Southern California.

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Church of Christ with a progressive theology, a commitment to spiritual growth, and a passion for social justice. They have been our partner in hosting Folk Heritage concerts in their beautiful sanctuary since 2016. All ticket sales for this event will go toward supporting their mission.

Friday, March 17

Templars Hall in Old Poway Park
7:30 pm -- \$18 (\$15 members)

MandoBasso

MandoBasso is a duo featuring **Gunnar Biggs** on bass and **Bill Bradbury** on mandolin. Their original music is influenced by traditional American and Celtic music, classical music, and jazz. For this evening's concert they will "lean into" the Celtic origins of their own music as well as share some traditional Irish and Scottish music played in a new light. Gunnar and Bill came together as colleagues working on projects at Palomar College and Cal State San Marcos. Gunnar comes from a strong background in jazz and classical performance, Bill from a composition and computer music background. Their mutual love of Irish and traditional American music brought them together in this unusual pairing of mandolin and bass. MandoBasso



performances include mainly new compositions, along with arrangements of traditional music, classical music, jazz, and ragtime.

Gunnar Biggs is a southern California bassist and music educator. He is active in many genres of musical performance including jazz, Latin, classical, world, and experimental. Recently retired from San Diego State University after twenty-five years as Instructor of Double Bass and as Director of Jazz Ensembles at Palomar Community College, Gunnar continues to maintain a thriving private teaching practice.

"Double bassist Gunnar Biggs has been a touchstone in the San Diego jazz scene for over thirty years. His tone is big and solid and his time-keeping is exceptional. On top of all that, Biggs is a superb soloist: each time he gets in the spotlight – his message is riveting" – All About Jazz

Bill Bradbury is Emeritus Professor of Music and Music Technology in the Music Department at California State University, San Marcos. His creative activities include compositions for orchestra, chamber ensembles, soloists, and electronic media as well as computer-based multimedia collaborations with other artists. Bradbury has also written musical scores for a number of theater productions and several films including *Anza Borrego: Seasons in the Desert*, for which he received an Emmy Award for composing and arranging.

Where we Play:

Templars Hall in Old Poway Park

14134 Midland Road, Poway 92064

Pilgrim United Church of Christ

2020 Chestnut Avenue, Carlsbad 92024

Where we Dance:

Dorothea Laub Dance Place in Liberty Station

2650 Truxtun Road, San Diego 92106

From the Chairfolk

In our last issue, we announced our mask requirement policy for our concerts. Our board has continued to monitor and discuss the issue, and we have decided to modify the policy. We continue to encourage and support those who wish to wear masks at our concerts, but we no longer require them.

On another topic, those who attended our concerts before the pandemic probably remember that we sold refreshments before the shows and during intermission. The responsibility to insure that everything got to and from each concert and to keep the supplies replenished fell to one of our long-time volunteers, Don Anderson. Don is no longer in a position to continue in that role, and we haven't been able to find anyone willing to take over, so we will no longer be providing snacks and drinks at our concerts.

On a personal note, I'm not sure exactly how long I have enjoyed being the Chairfolk and lead sound tech, but if it's not thirty years, it's darn close. It's a lot of work, but the benefits of working with all the dedicated volunteers, meeting so many incredible musicians, and hearing so much great music far outweigh the cost. I look forward to continuing in this role, and plan to be around as long as I can be useful. Thanks to everyone associated with Folk Heritage for a great thirty years!

Dick Jay

San Diego Contra Dance

Contra dancing is a form of North American folk dance. Dancers start in sets of two parallel lines that run the length of the hall and do a sequence of moves with couples progressing up or down the set. Many of the basic figures are similar to figures in square dancing.

Contra dancing is easy for beginners to learn, and the half-hour beginners' session before our dances will teach you most of what you need to dance the entire evening.

We dance to live music and recommend comfortable clothing and soft-soled shoes. As a modern dance form, there are no limits on who can dance as partners. You need not bring a partner with you.

Our current schedule, pandemics willing, is to dance on the first Saturday of each month from 7:30 to 10pm with a beginners' session at 7. Our dances are at the Dorothea Laub Dance Place in Liberty Station at 2650 Truxtun Road in a second floor studio. We ask that you pay whatever feels like the right amount from \$10 to \$25.

Visit our website sandiegocontra.org to see our schedule, COVID protocols, and shoe guidelines.