



Dedicated to the preservation of folk, traditional and acoustic music.

Quarter Notes

www.plankroad.org | Fall Issue, October 2012

Plank Road's Regular Events



Sing-Around

Two Way Street Coffee House
1st and 3rd Saturdays - 2:00 - 4:00PM

Bluegrass Jam

Two Way Street Coffee House
4th Saturday - 2:00 - 4:00PM

2nd Tuesday Song Circle – Bring Your Own Songs (BYOS)!

Two Way Street Coffee House
2nd Tuesday - 7:00 - 9:00PM
A monthly opportunity for musicians to perform tunes for each other, within a song circle.

Plank Road All Volunteer String Band practice

First Church of Lombard
630-889-9121
2nd Saturday - 2:00 - 4:00PM

Last Thursday Open Mike

Two Way Street Coffee House
7:00 - 9:30PM
Last Thursday of every month. A monthly unplugged open mike for high school and college-age students only.

Upcoming Events

The Maple Street Chapel

in Lombard at Main and Maple, 7:30 pm:
Nov 10th Pete Morton
Nov 24th Lee Murdock
Dec 1st Yuletide Sing
Jan 6th The Special Consensus
see facebook at Maple Street Chapel Folk Concerts

Old Time Barn Dance Party October 27 - 8PM

Two Way Street Coffee House,
Downers Grove, IL
See page 8

President's Message

I am writing this after the Fox Valley Folk Music and Storytelling Festival and the annual Danada Fall festival, and want to tell you all how positive I feel about these events and Plank Road's part in them.



The atmosphere at Fox Valley is a music lover's dream. Everywhere you turn, there is music being played by good musicians, on the stages or in the tents or just out in the open. You can listen or, in many cases, you can join in. Plank Road has a prominent position at the festival. We are long time exhibitors; we set up our tent and play music all day both days. This year, we were interviewed for a story about the festival by Suburban Life, who had a nice article the week before Labor Day. And, this year, we were given a time slot on a stage for a one hour performance. We played an assortment of folk, bluegrass and string band songs on Monday to a sparse, but appreciative, audience, and we really enjoyed doing it. It seems that the Fox Valley festival is becoming one of the highlights of our year.

We also have a full slate of fall activities ahead of us, so check our calendar of events on our web site or this issue of QuarterNotes. I hope to see you at our special events and regular weekly and monthly events.

—Bob O'Hanlon



Sept 22 Plank Road Log Cabin Jam



COMFORT FOOD, SUSTAINING ARTIST FEATURE

Legal Smile: The Songs of John Prine

The music duo Comfort Food (Vicki and Rich Ingle) teamed up with the George Mattson Trio (with Tommy Re and Mike Hazdra) for a series of concerts in October honoring the songs and career of Illinois singer/songwriter John Prine.

The Prine show sold out at the Two Way Street Coffee House; additional shows this year include JustGoods in Rockford on Oct. 19 and East Gate Café in Oak Park on Nov. 2. Watch for tribute concerts next October, including a show at the Maple Street Chapel on October 19, 2013! It's fun.



The George Mattson Trio at Fox Valley



Comfort Food at the Maywood Library

Rotary GroveFest Folk Music Stage Downers Grove, June 23

The folk music stage was back this year at Fishel Park's new Veterans Memorial Pavilion, behind the Two Way Street Coffee House, as part of Rotary GroveFest. The line-up was terrific and included Andrea Bustin, Patchouli and Bluegrass Escape, who managed to musically exceed itself. The



Plank Road All Volunteer String Band, under the leadership of Cathy Jones, was in fine, fine form. And the performance of David Hawkins was outstanding. When it comes right down to it, a lone man (or woman!) with a strong voice, good acoustic guitar and meaningful, interesting songs can say it all.



John Prine turned 66 on Oct. 10

Fox Valley Folk Music & Storytelling Festival, September 2 & 3

Festival organizers were sweatin' it this year, I'm sure. Would it rain on their parade? Ah, but we all lucked out with beautiful weather, egrets dancing on the river to the acoustic music on the breeze – what more could you want? Every act was great and the volunteers, tireless! There is no way to adequately thank these volunteers for the time they take from their lives to put this event on – but, we should try anyway. Among the new performers this year, check out singer-song-



Jam at the Plank Road tent

writer John Flynn, and traditional musicians Elizabeth LaPrelle & Anna Roberts-Gevalt, and their "crankies." It'll be a treat. See www.foxvalleyfolk.com for the complete lineup. Thanks from all of us, Juel.



John Flynn at the main stage

Earl of Old Town, 80th Birthday Tribute and Reunion Concert at Fitzgerald's June 24



Photos by Jim Polaski

The Earl of Old Town at Fitzgerald's, June 24.

A book could be written, and who knows, might be, about the night in June, 2012 that the folk community came together at Fitzgerald's to honor the Earl of Old Town on his 80th birthday. We arrived early and watched the preparation for this event. It was not unlike setting up a circus. People were working everywhere you looked. A big screen was set up in the parking lot, under a huge big top, for the overflow crowd who couldn't get tickets in the main room. Just about everyone who was still alive that had played for the Earl in the 1960s and 70s, was there. The performers are too numerous to mention, but we have to say that yes, according to rumor, John Prine himself showed up and played, among other tunes, "Hello in There" at Earl's request. It was a touching moment. And, it was a night that will be forever talked about as long as the last folkie is standing.



Approaching Folk Songs

by Andrew Calhoun

"Kum Ba Yah," a sacred prayer from the Sea Islands, is now maligned as a metaphor for Pollyanna liberalism. Most people I ask don't know that "Kum Ba Yah" means "Come By Here." I suggest the song should be sung as "Come By Here" by well-intentioned people who don't speak Gullah.

It is encouraging for beginners to know that you can play thousands of songs with three chords, but you cannot play songs well unless you get involved with each as a unique expression, requiring its own approach. I have found the process of learning to sing and accompany folksongs to be an arduous one. Folk songs grow on different trees, in different soil. Playing thousands of songs with the same three chords is like serving the same wine with every meal. You have to know something about the people who sang a song, and why they sang it, before you can make a song your own.

It's hard to visualize music on the guitar, which is new to most of our folk singing traditions anyway. Guitarists are taught some chord shapes, but not how those chords are built. Picking patterns, a short-cut to sounding good, end up as a self-perpetuating crutch. Generic bass runs between chords may or may not be good harmony lines to the melody you're accompanying. Everyone's got to start somewhere. But the aim is for the accompaniment to a song to come from engagement with that song, its shape, its rhythm, its scale and skips, its message. I find it useful to understand harmony precisely because I don't have a good musical ear. I need the help of the concepts to provide my ear with the alternative ideas that provide the right framework for a song.

Learn to play the melody of a song on your instrument first. Sometimes a melody isn't exactly what you think it is. Rather than thinking of chord changes, imagine harmony lines that build chords as they move. Often these lines lead me to shapes I haven't used before. I will leave the note of the chord I'm singing out of the chord played on the instrument so there's more sense of interaction with the instrument.

The melody to "The Parting Glass" in A minor leaves out a note – the second step, the B, which would naturally appear in the E minor chord (e-g-b). If we restrict our chord choices to only those notes employed in the six notes of the melody, we can't use E minor (e-g-b) or G major (g-d-b) chords where

our ears would usually hear them, because the B note is not in the melody line, but it is in those particular chords.

A standard way to harmonize the melody with chords is:

Am G Am Em
Oh all the money that e'er I had, I spent it in good company
Here is another way to play it that feels truer to the song's world:

Am G(sans B) Am C
Oh all the money that e'er I had, I spent it in good company

The version with the Em sounds willowy and plaintive – "soft," rather than straightforward.

Music Theory, Andrew Calhoun

It's hard to teach theory, not because the theory is hard but because people panic.

Most guitar students don't know that each fret represents a half-step, so...

Chromatic scale:

C C# D D# E F F# G G# A A# B C

twelves notes, back to one, like the calendar, like the clock.

Major scale: C D E F G A B C, seven notes back to one, like the week.

A half-step is one step along the chromatic scale, and one fret on a guitar.

A whole-step is two steps.

Pentatonic scale: C D E G A C. That is whole-step, whole-step, minor third interval (3 half-steps or frets), whole-step, minor third interval.

And, you could build a pentatonic scale on any note, and keep those note-spacings of the scale, like putting on a capo does.

A9: remove C# from A chord and replace it with a B (leave second string open, on the guitar)

D9: leave F# out of chord and replace it with an E (leave first string open). A jazz D9 includes all the root notes plus the 7 plus 9, but I am going for a simpler sound. So in a ninth chord I am lowering the third note of a scale to the second.

Suspended chord: raises the third step of the scale to its fourth - make a D chord and fret the third string, first fret, and you have D-G-A as the notes of your chord rather than D-F#-A.

Augmented chord: raises the fifth step of the scale a half-step, so we have D-F#-A#. If you make a G chord and then fret the 4th string first fret, it raises the D to D#, and you have a G + chord, which goes nicely to Am or Em or C.

Diminished triad: three minor third intervals appear in folk/country music in the V7 chord, with a major third interval added in beneath them. G B D F is a G7, but B D F is a naturally occurring triad built on the seventh step of the C scale. If you look at a piano, there is only one black key that will fall between each of your fingers.

With "Noah's Dove," which has a pentatonic scale (I II III V VI - G A B D E), I harmonized the melody using just those 5 notes. I-IV-V is out the window. The IV chord has the C, the V chord includes the F#, and if we're being strictly pentatonic, we can't use those notes. This limits me to variations of chords in the pentatonic scale without the notes C or F#; this would include the chords: G, Em, D suspended, D9, A9 and A suspended. A pared down, trancy accompaniment serves this particular song well:

(G)If I had wings, like Noah's Dove,
I'd (Em)fly up the (G)river,
to the one I (Em)love Fare thee
(G)well, oh (Em)honey, (Asus)fare
thee (G)well

The lesson for me as a songwriter/composer, is to think of a suspended chord for the first time as a stand-alone triad rather than a bit of sweetener added to a major. This harmonic idea is an option for pentatonic songs. Others welcome lots of chromatic harmony. Each song has its own inclinations, and you have to spend time in the wilderness with a song to find out what they are.

An elemental triad, as basic as major and minor in structure, is the augmented (+) chord: This chord is built from the notes of a major scale that are at third intervals from each other. If you played these notes on the guitar, they would be four frets or half-steps apart; i.e. a C augmented chord would be C-E-G#-C (E is the major third interval from C etc.).

Continued on page 7

QuarterNotes

Vicki Ingle | Editor | Writer
Jennifer Shielt | Graphic Design

We welcome ideas for articles or photos you'd like to share, please send them to vingle@comcast.net

Wicked Good Café Live Music Fridays!

790 Royal St. George, Suite 140, Naperville
Next to Binny's and Office Max • (331) 457-5566
www.wickedgoodcafe.com and Facebook



Delicious wraps and the tastiest smoothies are a highlight on the menu and are served seven days a week at the new Wicked Good Café in Naperville. And on Fridays, from 7 pm to 9 pm, you can enjoy live acoustic music while you eat your dinner and support local musicians by contributing to the tip jar. You'll find the entire experience to be wicked good, as they say in New England; café

owners, husband and wife, Rick and Debi, have family roots in that part of the country.

The owners' dream to open a café began taking shape a few years ago. Debi knew that music had to be part of it. It had to be "a warm and friendly kind of place...we have every kind of person here...every age group and ability. I think that is what folk music is about – it speaks to everyone," she said.

Debi was first truly touched by a song when she was in college and heard Don McLean sing "American Pie." Later, she became enamored with Paul Simon, "...his music and his harmonizing...I've also come to understand that it is storytelling, it is folk music, and he has something to say. That's how I got into the whole folk music thing." Debi's musical tastes have been broadened lately, thanks to local folk musicians who have been playing regularly at Wicked Good Café!

The café and its' music scene is growing day by day. Debi said,

"I see this developing into something that has always been part of my dream. It's not just folk music, it's kids too. I'm a teacher and I wanted to partner right away with Naperville North, have high school kids in sometimes."

"Going out doesn't have to involve sitting at a bar, it doesn't have to involve paying \$40 to \$50 a ticket... I can't imagine a better venue...people willing to get up and sing for you all night? Are you kidding? That's how I see it. I see it as value added to this community."

"A whole family can come in here, eat reasonably and be entertained on Friday nights. My family is here now. My parents are here tonight...our children help. My little one is going around, getting everyone's email address for a mailing list! We're here and we get it. We get what works... We have kid menus – it's healthy, it's made in front of you. Again, we're all about family and community."

You'll enjoy these people as well as the setting, the delightful, eclectic décor. And, it's quite comfortable as well - a lovely new venue.

Live Music Fridays!

November 2: Bruce Foster, The Lonesome Rambler

November 9: Dean Milano

November 16: Amy Dixon-Kolar

November 23: Lisa Baker

November 30: Comfort Food

Come join in the fun! Hope to see you at Wicked Good Café!



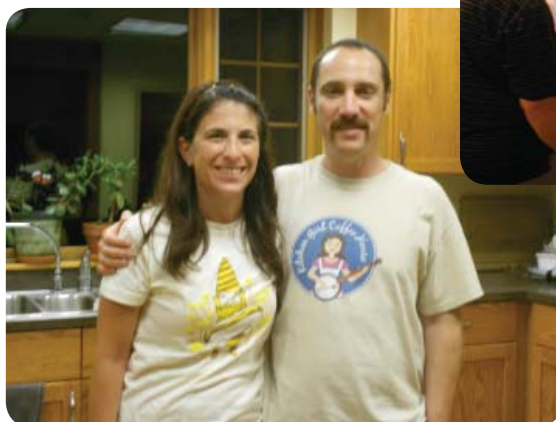
Kitchen Girl Coffee House

Oak Park
www.kitchengirloakpark.com

Concerts every third Saturday (unless otherwise noted) at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church; suggested \$10 donation, complimentary refreshments.

December 15, 7:30 pm:
Greg Cahill and Josh Williams, \$15 this show only

The mission of this not-for-profit concert series is to support and preserve old-time music making, giving performers a friendly venue, and to provide a relaxing and entertaining community gathering place.



Coffee House founders and coordinators, Abby and Greg Reish.



Fiddlers, Rachel Baiman and Christian Sedelmyer visited with Plank Road's Cathy and Tom Jones.



Catfish Keith performed traditional blues music this summer as part of the concert series.

Tobias Music Store: More is Better

5013 Fairview Ave., Downers Grove
(630) 960-2455

It's hard to get used to, even though it's been six months. For 33 years, you opened the outside glass door, made a quick left and there you were, right at the counter of Tobias Music Store. Try that now and you'll smash your nose. So, continue straight down the new hallway before making any turns. If you haven't been into the store for awhile, you are in for a big and pleasant surprise.

Yes, things have changed at Tobias. With the help of musician and woodworker, Lee Murdock, the store expanded nearly 3 times in square footage. The space, up until recently, was occupied by their landlord, Trillium's hammered dulcimer player, Mim Eichmann. (See www.trilliumtheband.com). Mim and Midwest Ballet Academy have occupied the space for over 25 years. (Midwest Ballet is still open, though now running more efficiently in half the space, until Mim is ready to retire from that part of her life – but, more on that later.) There is comfortable seating all around, for as many as fifteen people – an invitation in itself to take out your instrument and “sit a spell.” Some folks are responding to that invitation by stopping by the music store after the Two Way Street Coffee House jam sessions to get in their remaining guitar licks before going home for the afternoon.

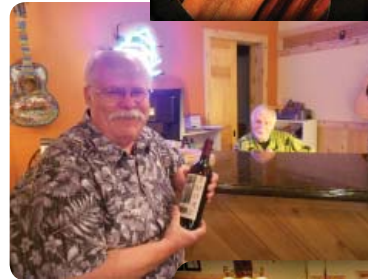
Guitars are everywhere in the new space. Instrument inventory has increased a bit and are much more accessible. There is a separate, designated counter where store founder Ken Tobias does his magic, making small instrument repairs on the spot and changing countless numbers of strings for grateful customers. Stools were placed front of the counter so people can watch Ken work and chit chat with him. Almost has the cozy bar feel. Counter space increased exponentially, making room for more and different kinds of accessories including slides, polish and good pics. And, there is more floor space and wall space for even more strings and music books etc., an expansion of their original impressive offering of merchandise. And while there are plenty of new faces shopping at the store, Ken is fond of saying the “we don't deal with customers, we deal with friends in here.” And there seems to be a lot of truth to that

statement.

Ken's son, Paul Tobias, spent some time with me and George Mattson, who happened to be in the store, to talk about his vision for Tobias Music. “It's beginning to have ‘the living room feel,’ as we'd hoped. Our focus coming back here was to have a cozy, warm, inviting vibe. We wanted a living room more than a guitar store. So, yeah, people are coming in, hanging out a little longer, playing guitars. We've had Grammy award-winner Wayne Johnson in a couple times just to hang out and play guitar with our customers. Muriel Anderson spent a day with us, of course. With this space, it gives us this option to do some fun stuff like that.”

After Mim retires, the plan is to expand into the second half of what is now the ballet studio. Paul said it will be, “...more of a community thing. Bring people in to hang out and play guitars. The guitar players are running out of places (in their communities) to sit there and jam. Getting a taste of it here in the smaller space will only help when we get our bigger space...”

Paul continued to say they hope to set up a stage in the second half of the ballet studio, when it becomes available to them. With another small venue in Downers Grove, with monthly concerts on a Saturday or Sunday being one of the considerations, they hope to be a part of efforts to revive folk music in the local area and to take it a step further. At the same time, Paul is quick to point out that anything they do will not compete with the established, renowned Downers Grove music venue, Two Way Street Coffee House. George chimed in, to nods from both Ken and Paul, to say that “Dave (Humphreys,



George holding a bottle of wine from Amore Vineyards in Nazareth, PA. Tobias offered Amore wine during their Martin Guitar Event at their new store. Martin Guitars are also located in Nazareth, PA.



Two Way Street) is real good about working with other groups – he's into promoting folk (music) all over. He's been a big part of Folk Alliance.”

You can't get more 'Downers Grove' than Tobias Music Store. Ken and his wife Margaret Tobias still live in the home where they raised their six children, which is within walking distance of the music store. The kids spent a great deal of their childhood playing baseball down the street at Hummer Park. Paul, the fourth child, graduated from mom's bowl haircuts to a professional haircut (in honor of his first communion) at the barber shop occupying the store front that eventually became Tobias Music Store – I'm not kidding. When they took the carpet up during remodeling, Paul took pictures of the rings made by the barber chairs, still visible on the floor. “It's weird,” said Paul, “now we're spending so much time at this same location.”

There is always something in the works at the music store! If you are in the market for an instrument or just need new strings, etc., or if you just want to hang out, stop in and visit their new space. You will always get a warm welcome and top notch service at Tobias Music Store.

Thank You to our Sustaining Artists

February Sky

PHIL COOPER & SUSAN URBAN
Traditional, Modern and Original Folk & Celtic Music with
Guitar, Cittern, Mountain Dulcimer, Banjo & Percussion



For details and touring schedule, see www.februarysky.com
or www.myspace.com/februaryskyfolk

Studio A Recording and Sound

Performers and audiences in northeast Illinois have benefited from Maurice Smeets' skill and talent as a sound engineer from many venues and events. He is the house sound engineer for Acoustic Renaissance Concerts, and for many years also held that position with the Maple Street Chapel



Concert Series. He also provides sound for other special events like those at the Two Way Street Coffee House, the Rotary GroveFest, Folk Stage, and the annual Gebhard Woods Dulcimer Festival.

Maurice Smeets has been the Main Stage sound engineer for the Woodstock Folk Festival for many years, and for good reason. The Festival is all about coming to hear the musicians and storytellers being featured, and Maurice excels at making sure they all sound their best.

Offering you affordable recording
at your location.

Call for more information
630-879-9976

mark dvorak

TIME AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' ON ME

NOW AVAILABLE

12 NEW SONGS

AN ALL-STAR CAST

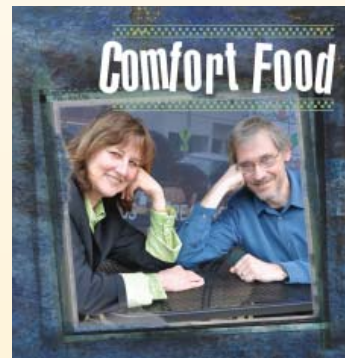
PRODUCED BY JOHN ABBEY

GET THE NEWS

GET ON THE LIST

GET THE CD

www.markdvorak.com



WIND
RIVER
FROM FOLK FRA

Legal Smile: the Songs of John Prine

Comfort Food, teams up with the George Mattson Trio for this special show!

Nov 2: East Gate Café, Oak Park, 7 pm

Sundays: Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2 – Great American Bagel Westmont at 10 AM; Western Springs at 11:30 AM

Nov 30: Wicked Good Café, Naperville, 7 pm



Rich and Vicki Ingle
(708) 795-0695
Rich@comfortfoodmusic.com
www.comfortfoodmusic.com

Approaching Folk Songs - Continued from page 3

It sounds like a suspended chord, but it has a darker, graver aspect that goes to the gut. Learn to use it. If you're a guitar player, you can make a D augmented chord by making a D chord with that 2nd fret 3rd string raised to the 3rd fret, 3rd string. Try going from D major to D augmented (d-f#-a#) to G:

"I Shall Not be Moved"
 D D+ G D
 Just like a tree, planted by the water
 D A D
 I shall not be moved

Pay attention to a song's dull spot. When one of the three of the six basic major and minor chords that can harmonize a particular note all sound boring. This is where the tune needs space. I've found that when I'm singing the root note of a chord, I can sometimes major or minor that chord outside of the scale I'm in with a satisfying result. The most jarring chord is never more than a half-step away from a beautiful resolution. In "Mary Wore Three Links of Chain," I'm using this idea in the second line: singing an E in the key of D would usually indicate an A chord, but I like the E major chord here (from Carl Sandburg's *American Songbag*, I sing it on YouTube):

D A D
 Mary wore three links of chain
 /D# E E7 A Bbb5 D D7
 Mary wore three links of chain
 G
 Mary wore three links of chain
 D /Bb Bm
 Every link bearing Jesus' name
 G D/F# D+ Em A7 D
 All of my sins been taken away, Taken away.

As for that Bbb5, I wanted a metallic sounding effect and found this by trial and error; it's 5th string 1st fret, 4th string 2nd fret, 3rd string 3rd fret, 2nd string 3rd fret, 1st string open.

I began translating ballads from Scots a few years ago. Up until that time, I had learned versions of ballads from other singers as if their versions were "the song." As if they were definitive.

But songs in tradition can change with every telling, as well-told jokes do. I couldn't find my own voice by listening solely to revival (professional) singers. It's critical to listen to source singers, those who simply sang as part of their community's life. Study history. Get your hands on old songbooks. I was never going to become good at what I do by learning another folk-singer's version of a ballad, any more than wearing a Konerko jersey will make me a slugging first baseman.

With "The Two Sisters," for example, for the first time I went to the source book of the *Child* Ballads and made my own sense of the song by collating various texts. There are many versions in *Child*, and the lines, "she swam up and she swam down, until she came to her sister again," which I had never heard sung, became a richly revealing moment; the younger sister is calculating, seeing if there is another way out, preparing to negotiate. Making lyric decisions between versions brought me closer to understanding the characters' motivations. There are five or six very simple rhymes in the oral tradition ballads; they never rhyme in the middle of a thought or an action, as versifiers do now. I had to translate within that form. Folk balladry offers drama without dramatizing. Good and evil, love and murder - all events in a larger flow. The people they came from lived close to the earth and to tragic events and were matter-of-fact about them. It's a good way to be.

We have largely lost the oral tradition of folk song and balladry, but we have gained enormous access to source materials through the internet. The old songs will continue to nourish us if we put the work in to reclaim and renew them. If we don't put in the work, the songs, like "Kum Ba Yah," get lost in non-translation.

"Someone's singin', Lord, come by here."

Recommended: Francis J Child *Collection of English and Scottish Popular Ballads* is on the web; Bronson's *Singing Tradition of the Child Ballads* has tunes to many of them. *Slave Songs of the United States* (1867), Dover Books. The Lomax recordings are on the web; a CD, *Southern Journey Volume 12, Biblical Songs and Spirituals* with Bessie Jones and the Georgia Sea Islands Singers.



Hey I'm being honored at Folk Alliance Regional Midwest in St. Louis in October with their "Lantern Bearer" award for 25 years of service to the arts around here.

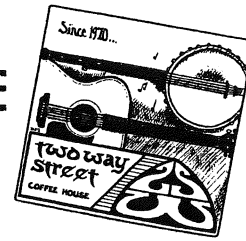
***Trilogy Trilogy*, humorous book, is in last stage of design; should finish tracking on new CD of Andrew songs in early October. Music continues to amaze.**

Two wonderful new cds (and new Tee Shirts!) up at www.waterbug.com, one from Sons of the Never Wrong (*King Fisher King*) and *What We Lost* from the young master singer-songwriter from Springfield, Ben Bedford. Who else would write a song about Vachel Lindsay?

LIVE MUSIC Every Friday Since 1970!

TWO WAY STREET COFFEE HOUSE

1047 Curtiss Street • Downers Grove, Illinois 60515 (across from the Public Library)
www.twowaystreet.org • 630-969-9720



ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

- Friday September 28 8:15pm \$7 **FOUR SHILLINGS SHORT** — California duo blends Celtic & American folk music with Indian raga, blues & jazz to create an exciting sound! Vocals, hammered dulcimer, tinwhistle, mandolin, sitar, doumbek and more!
- Friday October 5 8:15pm \$7 **JOHN PRINE BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE** — Two popular acts, **Comfort Food** & the **George Mattson Trio** team up to honor one of the most gifted songwriters of our time in his 66th year. Sing along on favorite songs & hear new ones!
- Friday October 12 8:15pm \$7 **CORREO AEREO** — Award-winning duo presents music of Venezuela, Argentina & Mexico, combining a stunning array of string & percussive instruments with silken vocal harmonies described as “locked in embrace.” (*Austin Chronicle*)
- Friday October 19 8:15pm \$7 **GREG KLYMA** — The Rust Belt Vagabond — a prolific singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist & storyteller. Touches of Mark Twain, Woody Guthrie and David Sedaris. He assumes that audiences are smart and able to laugh!
- Friday October 26 8:15pm \$7 **RED TAIL RING** with special guest author **SCOTT ALARIK** — Americana roots duo Michael Beauchamp & Laurel Premo from Michigan. Traditionals and originals: vocal and instrumental artistry on fiddle, guitar, mandolin, banjo, jawharp and plain-old foot stomping! Boston journalist and music critic Scott Alarik introduces his acclaimed new folk music novel: *Revival*.
- Friday November 2 8:15pm \$7 **RUTH & MAX BLOOMQUIST** — Winner of MerleFest's prestigious songwriting contest (and many others!), this Michigan duo brings fine songs & easy stage banter. Folk-bluegrass style with guitar, bass. 4th CD: *Turn Back a Page*.
- Friday November 9 8:15pm \$7 **DENNIS WARNER** — Engaging Minnesota singer-songwriter-guitarist & author (plus a Kerrville finalist & Kennedy Center performer!) brings his entertaining mix of folk, country & humor to 100 cities each year. Latest CD (his 9th): *Seeds*.
- Friday November 16 8:15pm \$7 **CHRIS WALZ** — Virtuoso guitarist, singer, pianist, teacher & actor! He's toured with *Woody Guthrie's American Song* (as Woody), *Weavermania* (as Fred), and *Special Consensus* (as himself). Country blues, bluegrass, and much more!
- Friday November 23 8:15pm \$7 **SCOTT COOK** — Edmonton AB Canada prairie balladeer/traveling songwriter. Folk, roots, blues, soul & reggae with guitar, banjo, ukulele, & foot percussion. “...a sharp eye for imagery...and that unforgettable voice! (*David Francey*)”
- Friday November 30 8:15pm \$7 **NORTHERN SKYLINE BLUEGRASS** — Traditional & progressive bluegrass plus swing tunes! Chicago acoustic scene veterans Jim & Mary Grosso (guitar, bass), Charlie Brown (mandolin), Joe Wadz (fiddle), Bob Perlstien (banjo).
- Friday December 7 8:15pm \$7 **BITTERSWEET CHRISTMAS BAND** — Traditionalists Cooper, Nelson and Early join songwriter Susan Urban to present holiday perspectives from reverent to ridiculous! Great 2-4 part harmonies, guitars, dulcimer, more.
- Friday December 14 8:00pm \$7 **OPEN MIKE** — All welcome! Great variety of acoustic artists! So popular we must limit number of acts. **1-2 songs, 10 minutes max.** Open 7:30 for signups - first come, first served. **Show starts 8:00.** Info: 630-968-5526.
- Friday December 21 8:15pm \$7 **TWO WAY STREET CHRISTMAS SHOW** — Enrich your Christmas season with traditional & contemporary holiday music featuring Chris McIntosh, Alvin McGovern, Cathy Jones and their guests. You'll want to sing along!
- Friday December 28 8:15pm \$7 **PETE NORMAN'S Post-Christmas Blues Fest!** — 28th annual show (!) sure to banish your post-Christmas blues! Great songwriter Pete and his guests present folk, blues, ragtime & fun songs. Guitar, Dobro, fiddle, banjo, more!

¹Featured on WFMT 98.7 “Folkstage” with Rich Warren. ²Featured on WDCB 90.9 “Folk Festival” with Lilli Kuzma.

Saturday October 27 8:00pm \$5	Old Time Barn Dance Party — Reels, squares, line dancing, waltzes and more, plus music of our great live band. Fun for the whole family! All dances taught and called by our expert leaders. No experience, costume or partner needed. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor.
Sunday November 25 2:00-4:00pm \$25 (\$22 advance)	Muriel Anderson Guitar Workshop — Informal, small group, interactive, workshop with this world famous artist. Composition, techniques, tricks, arrangements, accompaniments, performance, material from Muriel's 1-2-3 Fingerstyle Course, plus giveaways from GHS Signature strings. murielanderson.com . Information & phone reservations 630-541-8529.
2 nd Tues, 7-9pm Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11	2nd Tuesday Song Circle — BYOS! (<i>Bring Your Own Songs!</i>) A monthly opportunity to informally & acoustically perform your songs for the circle! Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor.
Saturdays, 2-4pm Oct 6 & 20 Nov 3 & 17, Dec 1 & 15	Sing-Around — Our popular song fests where beginners and experienced musicians can learn and/or share songs. Listeners and singers welcome too! Songbooks provided. Plank Road Folk Music Society co-sponsors. First and third Saturday afternoons of every month at 2:00 pm.
Saturdays, 2-4pm Oct 27, Nov 24, Dec 22	Bluegrass Jam — Musicians of all experience levels gather to improve skills, learn/share tunes, & have fun! 4th Saturdays, 2:00-4:00pm. Plank Road Folk Music Society is co-sponsor.
Thursdays Sep 27 Oct 25, Nov 29, Dec 27 7:00-9:30pm <i>Free!</i>	LAST THURSDAY! — Monthly open mike for high school & college age students. Last Thurs of every month. Music, poetry, any performance art - 10 min. max. Signups begin 7pm - first come, first served. Info at twowaystreet.org , on Facebook, or call 630-968-5526.

Live entertainment is featured every Friday night beginning at 8:15. Doors open by 7:30. \$7.00 donation requested. Beverages and snacks available. The **Two Way Street Coffee House** is a not-for-profit community project of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Downers Grove. Member: Plank Road Folk Music Society, Fox Valley Folklore Society, Old Town School of Folk Music, Aural Tradition, Folk Alliance International. For current entertainment listings and updates, booking and other information, visit us on the web at www.twowaystreet.org and on Facebook.



BARNDANCE!!!

Saturday, October 27, at 8:00 PM

Doors open at 7:30 PM • Musicians arrive at 7:00PM to warm-up

Two Way Street Coffee House

1047 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, IL (Across from the Public Library)

Enjoy a fun-filled evening of music and dancing for the entire family.

Dance the night away and/or play with the Plank Road All-Volunteer String Band.

Our caller will walk and talk you through all the dances at our 'No Experience Necessary' dance.

Refreshments available.
\$5.00 admission for everyone 5 years of age and older



Dances are informal, with no costumes needed. In fact, you don't even need to bring a partner!

Folk Resources Next Door

See www.plankroad.org
Click on Favorites



2012 PRFMS Officers

Bob O'Hanlon - President
reohanlon@gmail.com
(630) 325-7764

Charley Smart - Vice President
plankroad@comcast.net

Cathy Jones - Treasurer
cathy@jonesfamilymusic.com
(630) 889-9121

Carol Spanuello - Secretary
carolspan1@hotmail.com

2012 Board Members
Bill Boylan, Dave Humphreys
Jennifer Shilt, Kristen Shilt

online at www.plankroad.org

Membership form and info is available

Thank you!

Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

P.O. Box 176

PRFMS

You can get an individual (\$10 year) or family (\$20 year) membership by sending a check to:



INFORMATION

PRFMS Membership

P.O. Box 176, Downers Grove, IL 60515

PRFMS Contact:
Bob O'Hanlon
Email: reohanlon@gmail.com

