



F.A.M.E.

www.frederickacoustic.org

5181 Holter Road, Jefferson, MD 21755

F.A.M.E. performers dominate music program at the first annual outdoor festival May 7 & 8 in historic Catoctin Furnace. Details [page 9](#).



May 2016

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CAM concert deemed a success *by Rick Hill*

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Dan Mack & Mike Schirf prepare to take the stage at F.A.M.E.'s Celebration of Acoustic Music concert at Frederick Community College, April 16 . Story on [p. 12](#).

From the President

Singing Our Way to Peace



Photo and image below courtesy of Rick Hill

There are few things that bring me greater joy than singing and playing with other folks. I love to be able to add my voice to theirs, my instrument to their instrument. I find it exhilarating, challenging, and fulfilling. A few hours spent in a song/tune circle can calm a week of stress. But, getting all of that from a circle is more than just pulling up a chair. It requires finding a sense of peace.

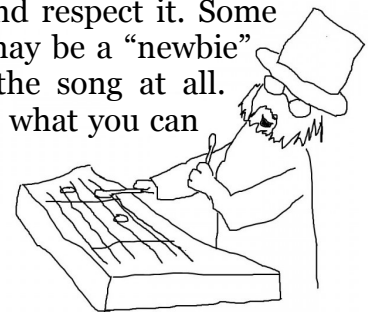
The first requirement is developing good listening skills. Listening carefully to whoever is currently leading, I need to determine the key, the chord changes, and the rhythm. Can I harmonize on a verse, or do I wait until the

chorus? Can I do a lead between verses? If I know the song, all of that is fairly easy. If I am familiar with the genre it is still fairly easy. If I am not familiar with song and/or genre, then I need to listen more closely. I want to hear what they are singing and playing, not overpower with what I already know or my own giftedness. I want to find out how I fit in to their experience of music, not force them in to mine.

The second requirement is to be attentive to all of the voices and instruments around me. What are they doing? Does someone already have the high harmony? Maybe I need to find a lower one. Is someone already playing a lead? Maybe I need to focus on rhythm. If I am playing guitar and all the guitars are playing without a capo, maybe I need to add a capo to get a little different sound. If there are 10 guitars, maybe I can play a different instrument altogether. The circle must be seen as a community – a unity of the whole with everyone adding their parts and respecting the parts of others.

The third requirement is about when I am leading. Is my voice strong and assured so that folks trust where I am going with the song? Is my instrumentation clear so that others can follow chord changes and find harmonies? This doesn't require that I be an ace singer or player, but only that I be confident at the level where I am. Is the song all about me or am I able to open it up so that others can share in the leadership – some adding to the melody, some adding to the harmony? Are there spaces where I can invite instrumentalists to fill a break? Am I aware of how well the group is following? Are people having difficulty finding that strange chord that shows up in the chorus? Do people know when to come in with the chorus? Are people enjoying the song and making progress getting the hang of it? As a temporary leader, our job is to make sure that others are welcomed into the music and supported as they play through even the difficult parts.

The fourth requirement is to know when not to play or sing. Most music circles have some form of "passing the song." I need to know what that system is and respect it. Some songs don't need 20 people singing along. It may be a delicate song, it may be a "newbie" leader who is somewhat timid in his/her approach. I may not know the song at all. Sometimes it's good to just listen and enjoy the sound. It's not only about what you can add, but sometimes it's about enjoying what others have brought.



Keep listening, keep playing, keep living!

Peace,

Rick Hill

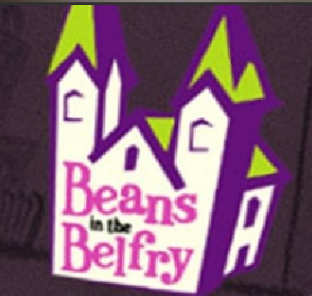
Cover photo courtesy of Todd C Walker



The Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA. Open Mic and Music Variety Showcase: Second and fourth Wednesdays at 8 pm. Ron Goad, host.



The Furnace Bar & Grill, 12841 Catoctin Furnace Rd, Thurmont, MD. Second and fourth Thursday evenings, 8 to 11:00 pm. Sam Biskin, host.



Beans in the Belfry Meeting Place & Café, 122 W. Potomac Street, Brunswick, MD. Third Thursday of each month 7-9 pm, Tomy Wright, host.



JR Sports Bar and Restaurant, 605 main Street, Woodsboro, MD 21798. First and third Thursdays, 7:30 to 10 pm. Sam Biskin, host.

😊 **NEW!** 😊



Dublin Roasters, 1780 N. Market Street, Frederick, MD. Fourth Sundays, 1-3 p.m. Sam and Katherine Ott, Dave Koronet, Max Honn, alternating hosts.



UUCF "Coffeehouse," 4880 Elmer Derr Road, Frederick, MD. Look for the next one in June.

More open mic details and photos on pages [22](#) and [23](#).

Sunday Songwriters' Songfest



Frederick Coffee Co, 100 N. East Street, Frederick, MD, 4 pm

Todd C Walker, host

Welcome to an afternoon of local, regional, and sometimes national talent. Songwriters perform 30- to 40-minute sets and are not paid.

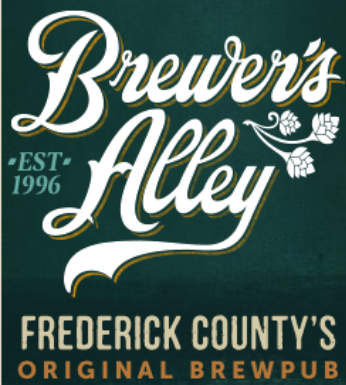
Please tip generously.

May 1 ★ Andrew Grimm
★ Teporah

May 15 ★ J Kolb
★ Brian Derek

NOTE: The May 15 Songfest is the last one until Sept 18.

Monday Songwriters' Showcase



Brewer's Alley, 2nd Floor, 124 N. Market Street, Frederick, MD

Show begins at 7:15 pm

If you would like a calendar for 2016, please e-mail Rod (rodde@xecu.net). For information about playing a three-song spot, contact (1) Ron Goad: MisterGoad@aol.com, (2) Rod Deacey: rodde@xecu.net or (3) Todd C. Walker: todd@toddcwalker.com. For info on featuring (the 45-minute money spot), contact Rod Deacey: rodde@xecu.net.

May 9 The **Harried Americans** Show

"It's a 90 minute, Early Bird, Gen X, Baby Boomer, Smarty-Pants, Loosey-Goosey, Americana Variety Show"

Piano prelude
Host
Percussionist
Comedian
Bass
Poetry

Mark Johnson
Chris Anderson
Ron Goad
Wes Martens
Graham Drew
Rod Deacey

Honorary Harried Americans for this show are:
Todd C Walker, Tomy Wright, John Holly

Traditional Folk Song Circle

by Tomy Wright

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Dublin Roasters, 1780 N. Market Street, Frederick
Second Saturday of each month, 1-3 p.m.



Twenty-seven folks attended the April 9th song circle held at Dublin Roasters, of which, at least seven were new*. We sang thirty songs covering seventeen of the thirty-five categories in the *Rise Up Singing (RUS)* songbook. We also sang seven previously unsung songs by the group. We're at **520** songs putting us at 43 percent of the songs from the *RUS* songbook!

In attendance: **Dori Bailin** (Recorder), **Laurel Carey**, **John Cooper**, **Jim Corley**, **Mary Ann Gearinger**, **Brianna Geeslin***, **Caitlin Geeslin***, **Mary-Lou Davis**, **Mary Ann Gearinger**, **Ann Geyer***, **Jessica Geyer***, **Nancy Geyer***, **Natalie Geyer***, **Phil Geyer***, **Peter Glick**, **Ernie Heller**, **Theresa Heller**, **Rick Hill** (President), **Guy Hofer**, **David Koronet** (alternate host and F.A.M.E. Facebook manager), **Gloria McCracken**, **Dorothea Mordan**, **Ed Mordan**, **Jay Odom**, **Mike Sodos**, **Caryl Velisek** (Song researcher), and **Tomy Wright** (host).



Special thanks again to Dori for accounting for the attendees and songs sung; and to Dublin Roasters for the space, tasty and refreshing products, and the communal vibe! Great to have **Dorothea and Ed** back. Well wishes to **George Waxter's** surgery recovery. All in all, a grand time was had by all and we look forward to our next gathering. Bring a friend or two. We're ordering more *RUS* songbooks! 🎸

Comfortable Concerts

May 13 Anthony Snape www.anthonysnape.com

An Aussie Invasion at Comfortable Concerts!



On Friday, May 13, Australian singer/songwriter **Anthony Snape** will amaze us with his emotional upbeat songs of life.

Anthony has been astounding audiences worldwide with his well-versed pop melodies and lyrics. He is often compared to **Jason Mraz**, **One Republic**, and **Crowded Houses**. Anthony's fine-tuned lyrics culminate into wonderful stories that are said to be comparable to the likes of **Paul Simon**, **Eric Clapton**, and the **Eagles**.

His latest CD, **Resonate**, was produced by Grammy winner **Andy Hunt** (Good Charlotte, Smash Mouth, Jars of Clay, and Olivia Newton-John).

Anthony tours across the **US**, **UK**, **Australia**, and **Europe**. Several of his songs have been heard in independent films and on **NBC**, **ABC**, and **PBS TV**.

Join us for an intimate and entertaining evening with Anthony Snape

Date: May 13 **Doors open:** 7:30pm
Location: Damascus/Gaithersburg area (address given upon RSVP)
RSVP: by 5/11; (Robin) kmarkle6@hotmail.com
 (refer to FAME newsletter)

Variety of food/beverages
Suggested Donation: \$15-\$20/person

Comfortable Concerts Coming Up

June 3	Christopher Mark Jones	www.christophermarkjones.com
Jun 24	Natasha Borzilova	www.natashaborzilova.com
July 15	Nikki Talley	www.nikkitalley.com
August 5	Avi Wisnia	www.aviwisnia.com



Doors open 7 pm

Shows run from 7:30 to 9:30 pm

For more information, please call

the Hill Chapel at 301-882-7172

Concerts are held at [Hill Chapel Concert Hall](#)
6 East Main Street, New Market, MD



May 5 — [Ronn McFarlane](#) We are very excited to welcome Ronn McFarlane back to The Hill Chapel Concert Series! The music he makes sounds beautiful in the chapel! Ronn McFarlane strives to bring the lute into the musical mainstream and make it accessible to a wider audience. Recently, Ronn has been composing new music for the lute, building on the tradition of the lutenist/composers of past centuries. His original compositions are the focus of his solo CD, *Indigo Road*, which received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Classical Crossover Album in 2009. His newest CD release, *One Morning*, features Ayreheart, a new ensemble brought together to perform Ronn's new music.



May 14 — [Ian Foster](#) Newfoundland native Ian Foster comes from a place of stories, and he knows how to tell them. He's a road-worn troubadour who has been described as having a keen poetic sense and a searcher's infinite wisdom in his writing, and yet can make you laugh between songs. He writes in a modern folk style and exudes a love of storytelling. CBC's Bob Mersereau described him as being "a fine example of what a 21st century folk performer should be doing." Ian's music has been described as thoughtful, introspective, cinematic, hopeful, atmospheric, and cathartic by critics and fans alike. He has numerous awards, nominations and co-writes to his credit, including Lyric finalist for the International Songwriting Competition (Nashville, TN), and a co-write with Canadian songwriting legend Ron Hynes.



May 19 — [Marian McLaughlin](#) Marian McLaughlin is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist pushing the boundaries of folk music. Weaving together imaginative lyrics, intricate classical guitar work, and rhapsodic delivery, she creates songs of exquisite detail. McLaughlin familiarized herself with guitar after enrolling in a guitar class at her high school. Her instructor as well as fellow students provided a warm, welcoming environment that encouraged musical exploration and experimentation. While studying art and music at George Mason University, McLaughlin attended guitar master classes led by Larry Snitzler. Here, she picked up more technique while developing her own approach to the guitar. Since then, McLaughlin has played live all around the DC area in prominent venues as well as intimate house shows.

“The Windtalker Experience” Spring Concert [Frederick Coffee Co](#), 100 N. East Street, Frederick, MD

Friday, May 20, 2016, 8:00 to 10:00 pm

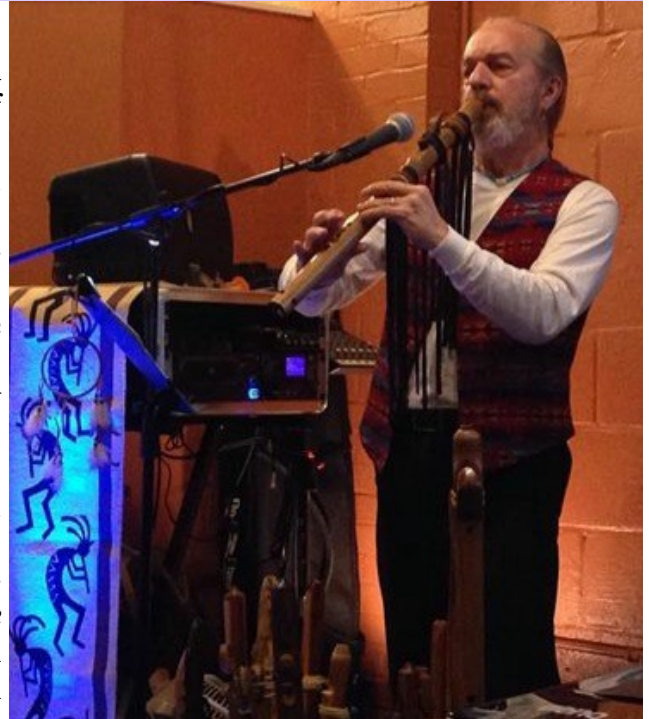
Come experience an awe-inspiring, multimedia show set to the breathtaking and haunting sounds of Native American flute. Randy “Windtalker” Motz’s distinctive style of contemporary flute is blended with lush orchestration and Native percussion.

Windtalker’s beautiful and creative compositions serve as a captivating soundtrack for a backdrop of dramatic and awe-inspiring photos taken by his wife Georgia Harris. The audience will be taken on a soothing, sometimes playful, and always entertaining journey to the splendor of the Rockies, Cascades, Grand Tetons, and along the West Highland Way, in Scotland. Windtalker intersperses stories, legends, and historical and cultural facts about Native Americans.

In addition to performing traditional Native American flute compositions from his popular CDs, *Native SoundScapes* and *Canyon Whispers*, Windtalker will also be performing jazz and blues, as well as classic rock songs that are sure to get your feet tapping. Enjoy creative interpretations of songs from Eric Clapton, Bob Seger, Santana, Van Morrison, The Moody Blues, Prince, and Kansas. Windtalker will also be debuting three songs from his upcoming CD, *Ho’zho’ – Walking in Beauty*, to be released later this spring.

As an advocate for Native Americans, Windtalker will donate a portion of the proceeds from this performance and merchandise sales to the [Association on American Indian Affairs](#) (AAIA), the oldest Indian advocacy organization in the United States. audiences will be helping the Association on American Indian Affairs in their mission to promote the well-being of American Indian and Alaska Natives by:

1. Promoting the health, education and welfare of children and youth;
2. Sustaining and perpetuating tribal languages and cultures;
3. Protecting tribal sovereignty, religions and natural resources;
4. Advocating for tribal constitutional, legal and human rights.



100TH ANNIVERSARY

HARMONY CORNET BAND

MYERSVILLE, MD.
 ORGANIZED 1916

September 10th, 2016 at 7:30 in the evening.



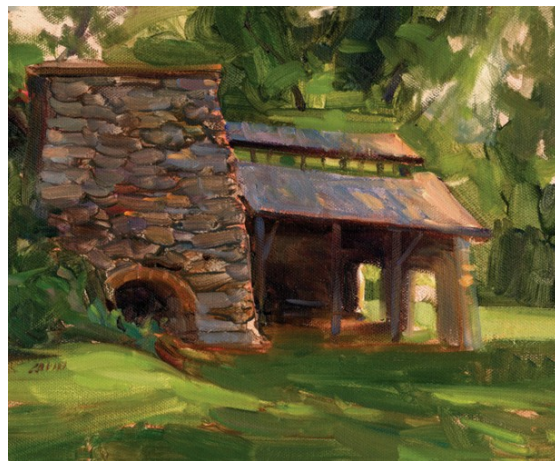
Catoctin Furnace Spring Festivals

Saturday, May 7, 10 am to 5 pm & Sunday, May 8, Noon to 5 pm

Join us for the first annual outdoor art festival in historic village of Catoctin Furnace.



All proceeds from this event will be utilized for the restoration and maintenance of the historic structures including the furnace stack, casting shed, retaining wall and Ironmaster's Mansion. Spend Mother's Day weekend in the historic village of Catoctin Furnace for crafts, flowers, heirloom plants, herbs, children's activities, traditional music & foods accompanying this art event.



**Spring in the Village
Art at the Furnace**

For More Information: 301-271-7574 or 410 243-6767

Day/Time	Performers	Genre/Style
May 7, Saturday 10 am	Safe Harbor (Katherine & Sam Ott)	Blues, Country, Classic Rock
11 am	Dave Mott	Originals, Country, Southern Rock
12 noon	B&O Railroad	Originals, Bluegrass, Traditional
1 pm	Cumberland Valley Acoustic Duo	Acoustic 60s Rock
2 pm	Catoctin Mountain Highway	Bluegrass, Country, Rock
3 pm	Scott Barrett	Blues, Bluegrass, Folk, Rock, Swing
May 8, Sunday 1 pm	Ony Maybe	Country Blues
2 pm	Fran Tucker	Folk
3pm	Caryl Velisek & Roy Greene	Originals, Country, Folk



For the premiere of our **F.A.M.E. Song Circle** at the Francis Scott Key (FSK) Mall April 2nd, we had a great group of singers and musicians! Leading us, with guitar in-hand, was **Dave Koronet**. We also had other instrumentalists and a very enthusiastic group of singers, including some passersby who joined in and sang with us. Many thanks to **Eric Schmidt from Duet Music** for all his support, to the FSK Mall staff who helped to make this possible and, of course, to all of you who joined us in our first sing-along there.

“You Are My Sunshine,” was the song that kicked it off. After that, we sang “City of New Orleans,” written by Steve Goodman, but often thought of as Arlo Guthrie’s, since he made it so popular. According to Goodman, he wrote the lyrics on a sketch pad after his wife fell asleep on the Illinois Central train when they were going to visit his wife’s grandmother. He said he wrote about what he saw on the train and out the window – everything in the song actually happened on the ride, including playing cards in the club car. I have written something about each of the songs that we sang at FSK Mall in past newsletters, so I won’t repeat those stories here.

We sang folk songs like “500 Miles,” “Black is the Color of My True Love’s Hair,” and “Shenandoah,” **country songs** like Hank Williams’ “I’m So Lonesome I Could Cry,” **old standbys** like “Midnight Special,” “This Land Is Your Land,” “Dock of the Bay,” **cowboy songs** like “Red River Valley” and “Streets of Laredo,” **spirituals** like “Amazing Grace,” “What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” and “Lean on Me,” and **contemporary songs** like “Early Morning Rain,” “Rocky Mountain High,” “Teach Your Children” and “Moon River.” We sang “Ripple,” Cat Stevens’ “Morning Has Broken” and many more – 32 in all – and we finished up with our traditional closing song, “Goodnight Irene.” and we had a lot of fun, too!

We hope this will be the first of many “Music at the Mall” song circles to come and that we

will see you there. It's a great opportunity to meet your "neighbors" from the area.

Our regular Song Circle is at **Dublin Roasters** in Frederick, where we sing and play (and sample their goodies) from 1 to 3 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month. All are welcome to sing – and play an instrument, too, if you like. We have a great time and everyone gets at least one chance (often two chances) to pick the next song. The song book we sing from, *Rise Up Singing (RUS)*, is available to borrow during the Song Circle or they can be purchased for \$25. *RUS* includes the words and chords to 1,200 songs, many of which are well-known. It's also a great time to learn new songs. Participants can also bring songs they love that are not in *RUS*, by providing enough copies (about 20) for the rest to share.

Come join us and help us *Rise Up Singing!* 🎸

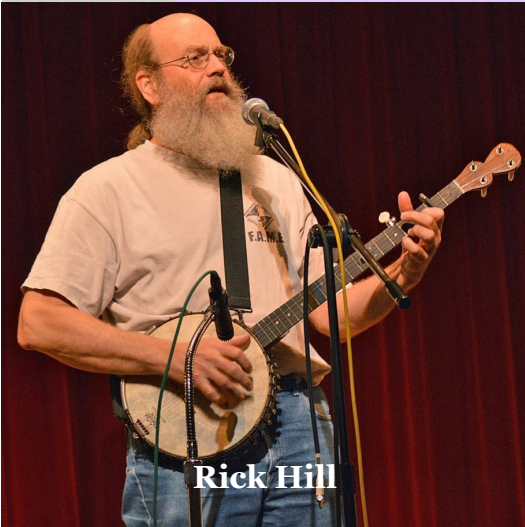


Scholarships

F.A.M.E., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is offering \$250 scholarships to a limited number of students. Students awarded a scholarship will be asked to perform at the FAME annual meeting. Applications are available under the "Scholarships" option on our website: www.frederickacoustic.org

No age limit.



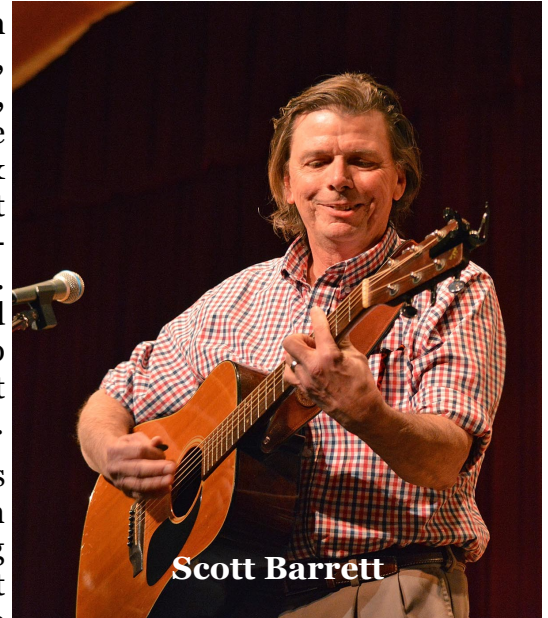


Rick Hill

We had a wonderful turnout for the first of F.A.M.E.'s Celebration of Acoustic Music (CAM) concerts. On Saturday, April 16th, about sixty folks came to Frederick Community College's Jack B. Kussmaul Theater to experience six very different performers. Rick Hill opened the show with a couple of sing-alongs: "There's a Meetin' Here Tonight" and "Let Us Sing Together." That set the tone for an evening of energetic, audience-interactive music.

Scott Barrett, Brian Derek, Pete Looney, the Moon Music trio, John Durant, and the duo of Mike Schirf & Dan Mack all brought their own individual perspectives on folk music. Originals and much-loved covers were blended to present an evening that held the audience captive.

Scott Barrett gave us a performance filled with laughter, foot stomping music, and smiles. Scott was first out of the gate and set the bar high for the rest of the evening. Never a dull moment with Scott. Don't blink your eyes or you may miss his high stepping country dance moves.



Scott Barrett



Brian Derek

Brian Derek laid his cover music aside and impressed the crowd with all originals. As talented as Brian is with other peoples' hits, he brought real depth to the stage as a songwriter. Notably, this was Brian's first performance — ever — of all original music.

Pete Looney impressed the crowd with his set of original songs; they were well-received from all in attendance. His well-thought-out lyrics gave the patrons something to think about.

The guitar raffle drawing took place immediately before intermission. The youngest member in the audience, Cara, pulled out the winning ticket. The guitar was an Ibanez loaded with extras, including preamp, tuner, gig bag, strap, extra strings, stand,



Pete Looney



Cara drawing the winning ticket

and customized professional set-up. The lucky winner was Bill Snyder.



Moon Music



Bill Snyder

Moon Music - The first act after the break gave us the only trio of the evening. With tight harmony and style it was obvious that we were listening to the fruits of many of hours of practice. It was nice to hear the only female voices of the evening blend so well together.

John DuRant took a different approach from the standard up-on-the-stage performance by strolling and singing amidst the aisles. Audience members were thrilled to be chosen to receive a few lines from a song directed at them. John was also decked out in his finest pair of tights and full period gear and performed as he would have 200 years ago, which added to the effect. His unamplified lute was a reminder to us all what acoustic music would have been like.

Mike Schirf and Dan Mack. Last but not least Mike and Dan seemed like they have been playing together for 50 years. **Dan Mack brought out his electric guitar** (should I run on stage with an axe and cut the cable?) which added just enough spice at the end of the show to draw the audience back in. Dan backed up Mike on some great covers. Mike held one note for what seemed like ten minutes; it's a wonder he didn't start turning blue!



John DuRant

Performers were chosen not only because of their mastery of the music, but also because of their ability to engage with the audience. Each did well telling background stories and a few jokes to keep things interesting and light.

The audience seemed very appreciative of the shorter 20-minute sets, the fast pace of the show (only a few minutes between acts), and the diverse styles of the performers. Each of the players drew from a variety of genres creating an always-interesting texture.

For the finale, all the performers came out on stage to join Rick Hill in a rousing, goose-bump producing rendition of "This



Dan Mack & Mike Schirf



Sam Ott and Tom Kohlhepp

Land is Your Land,” which turned into one big sing-along with the performers and the audience members.

This concert is the first step towards what we hope will become a place for upper-level performers in and around Frederick County where the audience can come and listen to the music. There are many very good musicians in the area, but it is hard to find a place where they can perform for 100-200 folks. So, F.A.M.E. is exploring some possibilities this year. We want to get to the point where performers can get paid decently for the gig, audience members can experience top quality local performers in a quiet setting, and local talent can be showcased.

Thank you to all the F.A.M.E. Board of Directors who worked so hard to bring this all together. Thanks, also, to Todd C Walker for running sound. Finally, many thanks to all the performers who gave of their time and talents. 🎸



Photos for this article courtesy of Todd C Walker



Again, we had a pretty good crowd, 27 in all, who attended our monthly Song Circle at Dublin Roasters on April 9, 2016. We sang 30 songs, from 17 of the categories in our *Rise Up Singing* song book. We started off with our usual “You Are My Sunshine” and then sang Graham Nash’s “Teach Your Children,” which we have done a couple of times before.

Next we did John Denver’s “Take Me Home Country Roads,” which is another old favorite judging by the number of times we’ve sung it. It is said to be one of Denver’s most popular and beloved songs and is also considered his “signature song.” In March, 2014, it became the official state anthem of West Virginia.

Then we sang “I Love The Flowers” which I am unfamiliar with and couldn’t find much about.

We then sang the John Lennon/Paul McCartney song, “In My Life,” which we have sung before. Although I’ve long been a Beatles fan, of sorts, I had not heard this one before. Lennon said the song’s origins can be traced to when the English journalist, Kenneth Allsop, remarked that Lennon should write songs about his childhood, so Lennon wrote the song in the form of a poem reminiscing about his childhood years.

We followed that with another familiar one which we hadn’t done before, “This Train,” which is a traditional American gospel song first recorded in 1922, and also known as “This Train Is Bound For Glory.” The song provided the inspiration for the title of Woody Guthrie’s autobiographical novel, “Bound For Glory,” which was subsequently used as the basis for a film about Guthrie’s life. The flick is reviewed in Frederick Folklorist’s article, “Folk Music Movies” on [page 18](#) of this newsletter and a link, on [page 19](#), to the trailer about the show. The song has been covered by artists of numerous genres including blues, folk, gospel, bluegrass, rock, jazz, and others.

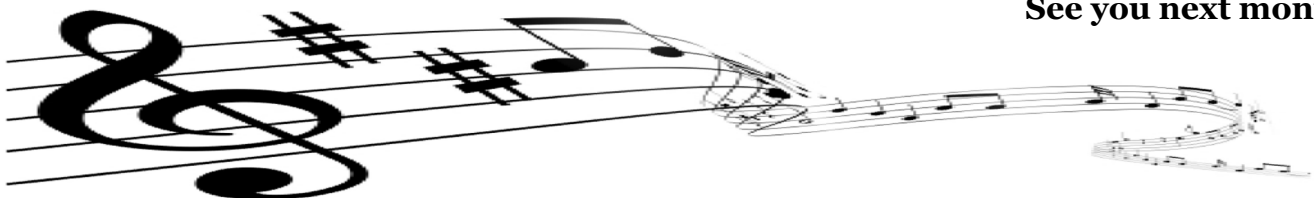
James Taylor’s “Fire And Rain” was familiar enough, as was “If I Had A Hammer,” “Kisses Sweeter Than Wine,” “Tom Dooley,” “Yellow Submarine,” “Blowin’ In The Wind,” “A Place In The Choir,” “Those Were The Days,” “Angel From Montgomery,” “With God On Our Side,” and “Someday Soon.”

We tried singing several others that we’ll definitely have to work more on, including “Free To Be You and Me,” “Wasn’t That A Time?,” “You Can’t Hurry Love,” “Lovely Agnes,” “I’m Gonna Be An Engineer,” “Java Jive,” and “In A Little Spanish Town.”



The theme song for the state of West Virginia, “Country Roads,” has been performed at every [West Virginia University](#) home football pre-game show since 1972. The song is also played after every home victory and fans are encouraged to stay in the stands and sing along with the team.

See you next month. 🎸



When Martin Guitars introduced their Junior Dreadnought last year I was intrigued. Would it play as well as the GS-Mini? Would it sound as good as the GS-Mini? Would it have the low end thump & warmth of the typical Martin full-sized dreadnought?

If you'll remember, I reviewed the Martin LXM (Martin's smallest guitar) early last year and I liked it, so I was anxious to try the Junior. Unfortunately Make 'N' Music (local Martin dealer) didn't have any Junior's in stock until fairly recently. Evidently the Junior was selling so quickly that Martin was having difficulty filling orders.



But they have one in stock now – I tried it, and I like it!

The Martin Junior and the Taylor GS-Mini are the same price (\$599.00). Both come with gig bags, although the Taylor gig bag is nicer than the Martin gig bag. Both guitars are classified as travel-sized guitars. Both are great guitars for young folks and folks with smaller hands. And both sound really good. But there are differences and those differences have me liking the Martin Junior over the Taylor GS-Mini. Here are some specs:

Martin Junior Scale Length: 24”

Taylor GS-Mini Scale Length: 23”

Martin Junior Nut Width: 1 3/4”

Taylor GS-Mini Nut Width: 1 11/16”

Martin Junior Top Wood: Solid Sitka Spruce

Taylor GS-Mini Top Wood: Solid Sitka Spruce

Martin Back/Side Wood: Solid Sapele

Taylor GS-Mini Back/Side Wood: Laminated Sapele

Martin Junior w/Fishman Sonotone Pickup: Included in \$599.00 price

Taylor GS-Mini w/ES-T Pickup: Included in \$599.00 price

Martin Junior Sound: True Martin Dreadnought warm sound with plenty of low end

Taylor GS-Mini Sound: Typical Taylor bright & balanced with tight low end

So far you'll notice that the only real differences are the scale length, the nut width and the back/side wood. And the sound difference. That being said, if you like the Martin sound, which I do, and you like a slightly wider nut width, which I do, then the Martin Junior wins. That's not to say that the Taylor GS-Mini isn't a good guitar – it is; it's a great guitar. They both are. But for my playing style, the Martin is a hands down winner. I will admit though that I like the GS-Mini body shape better – it looks sexier. But for me, the Martin Junior Dreadnought wins. So much so that I'll be selling my Taylor Big Baby.

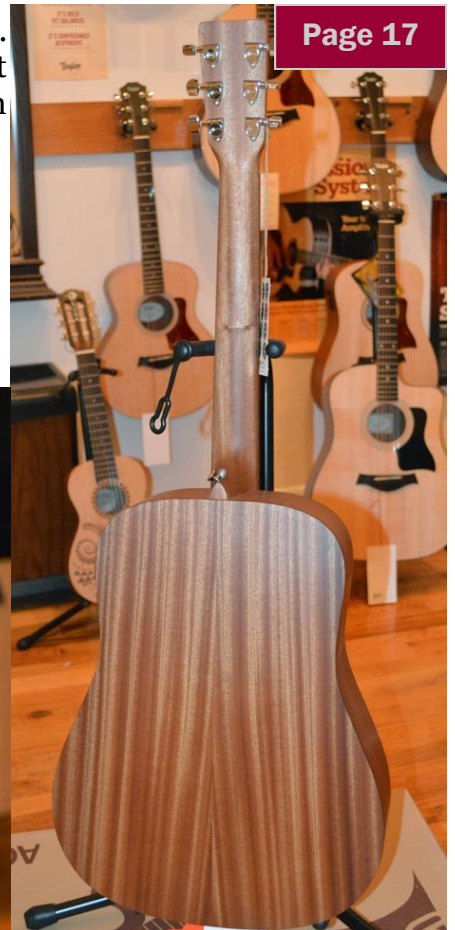


Graphic images for this article courtesy of Todd C Walker

In regards to the two pick-up systems, I don't like either one. The Taylor ES-T sounds better than the Fishman Sonotone, but neither sounds natural to me, so I'd replace the standard issue with my favorite K&K Pure Western Mini pick-up. That's it.

Now go make some music. 🎸

Todd



Pull up a Chair...

Folk Music Movies

by Frederick Folklorist



Photo by Todd C Walker

Last year as I watched the movie *Inside Llewyn Davis*, I was thinking, what a shame. It was a real shame that the setting and background for the movie was so richly steeped in folk music history, but the story line was so much doom and gloom that the only people who are going to sit here and watch this are the hard core folkies like myself. If this was how we were going to draw more people into becoming interested in folk music, then I hope somebody has a plan B.

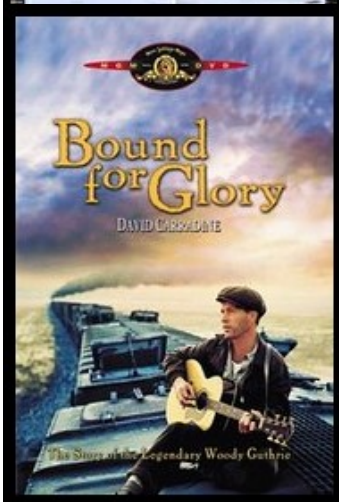
That got me thinking about the past attempts of movies about folk music and the people who sang the songs that helped shape America. So what I've come up with is a small list of movies that you might want to check out if you want to "get your folk on."

The first one would be *A Mighty Wind* (2003). It's what's called a *mockumentary*, meaning that it's supposed to look like a documentary, but it's actually a spoof of one. If you know anything about the movie, *This is Spinal Tap*, it's from the same group of people, so...you get the idea. The premise for the movie is that a folk music reunion concert is held in which three folk groups unite for the first time in decades on the same stage for a TV performance. To give you an idea of what to expect, one of the groups has a lead singer who, for his entire career, has held a guitar while he sings. The problem is, he doesn't know how to play a guitar. He holds it out of habit to block a stain he got on his shirt just before he stepped on stage for their first gig. Not only is the movie very clever, it's also full of really good folk music. In fact one of the original songs from the movie won an Academy Award.

Next would be *Leadbelly* (1976). This would naturally be the story of the great black folk singer, Huddie Ledbetter – otherwise known as Leadbelly. I wrote about him in one of my first articles in December, 2012, (Lord, has it been that long?). Leadbelly wrote such classics as "Midnight Special," "Pick a Bale of Cotton," "Rock Island Line," and of course, "Goodnight Irene." The movie does a really good job of telling the story of Leadbelly and the cast of characters that he ran around with. Not to mention you get the chance to hear all of his best songs. I can't say it's a great movie, but it's one of the few that deals with a black folk singer. And, Huddie was a giant in folk music in his day. Strangely enough, probably the best movie to deal with folk music and the people that sing it came out the same year, so *Leadbelly* was kind of over looked.

Bound for Glory (1976). Woody Guthrie, the times, the man, and the songs. This may be the best movie dealing with folk music songs and the men who sang them. Although it plays fast and loose with some of the facts and dates at times, it's a great telling of the early life of Woody. It was nominated for four Academy Awards including best picture and it won two including best music. I can't say I'm a huge fan of David Carradine, but he really nailed the slow speech pattern and folksy wit of Woody Guthrie. He also did all his own singing, which was passable. It drove home the idea that Woody would take the music to the people and the causes they were fighting for. He would go out into the fields and the factories singing his union songs

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This image is from the YouTube video posted by Danios12345

and songs of hope. That made me think, when was the last time we heard singing on the picket line meant to unite people. Songs like “We Shall Overcome” and “This Land Was Made for You and Me” have been replaced with bull horns shouting division and separation. “US” and “WE” have become much smaller circles than they used to be.

Folk music through the years has always been the music of activism. It's been the path of least resistance to unite the people to move in a certain direction. Words of change and inspiration put to music using tunes people already knew made it easy for the masses to sing their way to change and hope. Whether it was a cotton field in Mississippi or the nation's capital in the District of Columbia, voices raised in songs of protest and hope have changed more minds than I can count. I may be getting off topic here, but I wonder what Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, who stood for unity and inclusion would think about people like Al Sharpton and Donald Trump, who seem to stand for division and exclusion. [Listen to this trailer](#) that came out in 1976, for *Bound for Glory*. If movie moguls are thinking about *Inside Llewyn Davis – The Sequel*, they'd be better off with plan B, *Bound For Glory – The Last Chance*.

Next Month: Henry John Deutschendorf, Jr. 🎸


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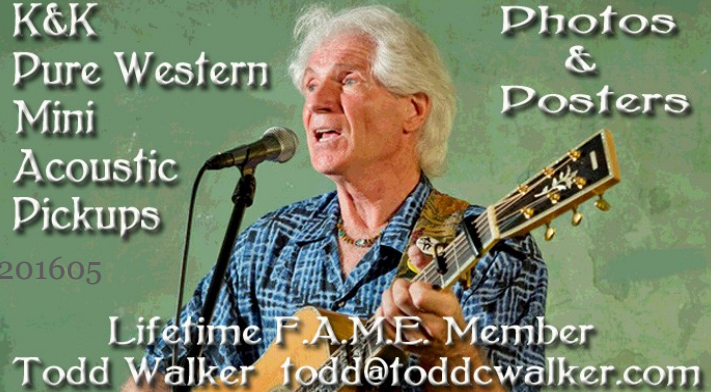


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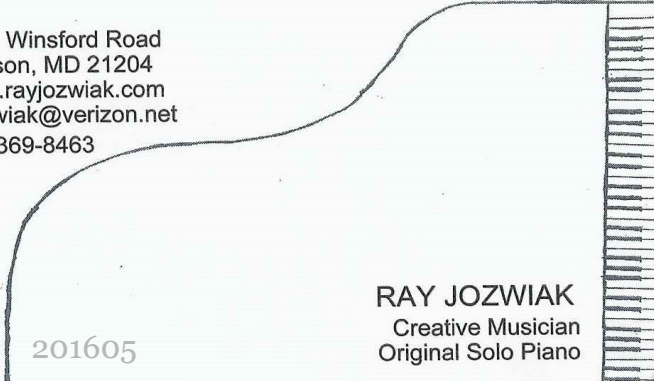
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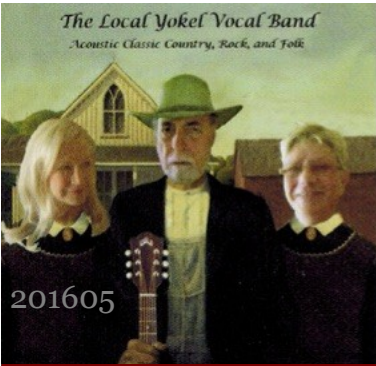
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Open Mic Photos



Epicure open mic photos courtesy of Ron Goad

[The Epicure Café](#), 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA. Music Variety Showcase: Second and fourth Wednesdays at 8 pm, hosted by Ron Goad. Open Mic: Show up, sign up, perform one to three songs. Epicure is an independently-owned and family-run café with tasty food, including appetizers, Greek specialties, salads, sandwiches, subs, pasta, desserts, coffee drinks, wine and beer. Epicure features various creative events that fill every night of the week, including



[The Furnace Bar & Grill](#), 12841 Catoctin Furnace Rd, Thurmont, MD. Every other Thursday night 8 to 11:00 pm; hosted by Sam Biskin. We are excited to introduce you to THE FURNACE BAR AND GRILL! Casually warm and comfortable inside, you'll be welcomed to our neighborly pub each time you enter. Enjoy the beautifully designed new granite bar and a menu of classic American pub food freshly prepared by our cooks. Try a craft beer with your tasty chicken alfredo flatbread. We welcome all to stop by for a beverage, a bite to eat, great music, and a good time!

[Beans in the Belfry Meeting Place & Café](#), 122 W. Potomac Street, Brunswick, MD. Third Thursday of each month 7-9 p.m., Tomy “One M” Wright hosts this cozy venue with great acoustics, as it is an old church reclaimed as a coffeehouse with a friendly, relaxing atmosphere. This is a SAW- and FAME-endorsed open mic which draws performers from both groups, as well as the local area. Format is a first-come, first-served sign-up list with usually two or three songs each. Percussion available upon request.

Beans in the Belfry Open Mic photo by Tomy Wright.



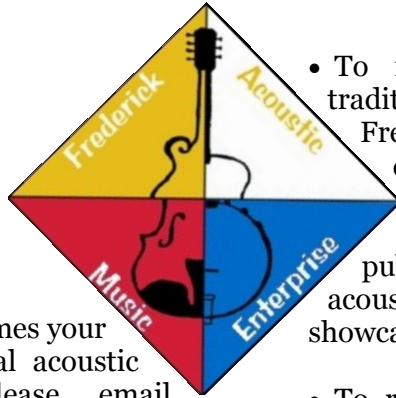
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The F.A.M.E. newsletter welcomes your photos and stories about local acoustic music and musicians. Please email submissions to the editor at roy.greene@yahoo.com by the 15th preceding the month of publication. Submissions subject to editing.

F.A.M.E. Goals:

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- To nurture, promote, and preserve original and traditional acoustic music of all genres in Frederick and Frederick County through live music, education, and community outreach.
- To educate aspiring musicians and the general public about all aspects of original and traditional acoustic music of all genres via workshops, open mics, showcases, and concerts.
- To reach out to the community via workshops and concerts, especially through schools and youth organizations and the setting up of mentoring opportunities for young and aspiring acoustic musicians.



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