



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

Quarter Notes

www.plankroad.org ♪ Summer Issue, July 2010

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

Plank Road All Volunteer String Band practice

Jones Family Music School
630-916-1356
2nd Saturday - 2:00-4:00PM
No summer practice
Resumes September 11

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.

Go to www.plankroad.org and/or www.twowaystreet.org for full details!



Upcoming Events

July 18

Woodstock Folk Festival
www.woodstockfolkmusic.com

Aug. 6 - 8

PRFMS Campout & Jam Session
See article in right column

September 5 and 6

Fox Valley Folk Music & Storytelling Festival
www.foxvalleyfolk.com

September 18

End of Summer Log Cabin Jam & Party
See page 8

September 26

Lombard Prairie Days
watch our website for details
www.lombardparks.com

October 10

Danada Fall Festival
watch our website for details

October 23

Fall Old Time Barn Dance Party
watch our website for details



President's Message



Hello, everyone. Things are really jumping at Plank Road these days and we are having a lot of fun. On April 24, we had one of the most successful and exciting events ever as we celebrated our 25th anniversary with all day jams sessions and an excellent concert in the evening. We had a large and enthusiastic turnout and gained several new members that day.

Another focus was on a very worthwhile fundraising function for the benefit of *Sing Out!* magazine, to help them weather some tough financial times. It was also a big success. We are proud to be a co-sponsor of such a worthwhile cause, as *Sing Out!*'s

mission statement sounds very much like ours, essentially to preserve and promote folk music.

We had our second **Music by the Yard** event of the year on July 3, which was a good time, and of course, our Saturday sing-arounds and bluegrass jams go on all summer. Our annual campout will be in early August at a terrific location, Shabbona State Park. Don't miss the End of Summer Log Cabin Jam & Party on Sat., Sept. 18th. Then Labor Day weekend brings "Festival Season," with the Fox Valley Folk Music & Storytelling Festival in Geneva.

So, we are in high gear, providing activities and events for you, our members, to attend and enjoy. If you have suggestions for us, please contact me or any member of our board of directors. Have a great summer. I hope to see you all soon.

—Bob O'Hanlon

Annual Plank Road Campout - August 6-8th!



The Plank Road Folk Music Society will hold it's 2010 Campout at beautiful Shabbona Lake State Recreation area from Friday, August 6th to Sunday, August 8th. This is a great chance for some great camaraderie and to serenade nature and friends.

This is a nice park about 50 miles west of Downers Grove.

All campsites have electricity. The camping area has a shower building with flush toilets and the park does takereservations. Campsites are \$25/night with a \$5 reservation fee.

How do I make a reservation? The reservable sites are located in an area of the campground called Merganser Circle. There is a map at http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/LANDMGT/PARKS/R1/SHB/Images/campground_map1.jpg.

Please try to reserve a site next to or close to campsites 89 and 90. (Avoid number 73, we saw some standing water there).

After you've picked your site call the park at **815-824-2106** or **815-824-2565** to check for availability and to reserve. They do take credit cards. **Reserve ASAP.**

When does it start? People usually arrive early Friday evening. We set up our tents, make dinner if we haven't had one. We have a get acquainted campfire with a songcircle around the fire.

What is the legendary Saturday morning pancake breakfast?

We have a community breakfast combining our stoves and skills creating a wonderful variety of pancakes and breakfast foods. Bring your specialty and share with the group.

What do I do during the day Saturday? Relax, enjoy the park, hike, fish and play some tunes.

Saturday night? Dinner on your own. Big campfire, songfest, s'mores and snacks.

Sunday morning? Sleep late (if you want). Breakfast on your own. Break camp. Hit the road.

If you do make reservations please let me know at plankroad@ameritech.net.

I would like to keep in contact with those who are attending.

Please contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions.

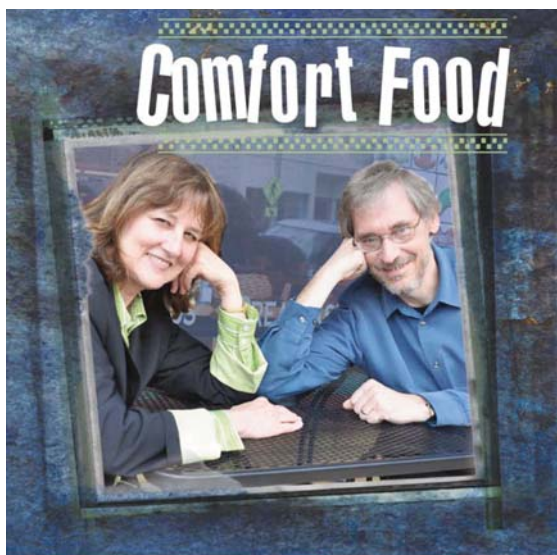
Thanks, we hope to see you there —Dave Reynolds



SUSTAINING ARTIST FEATURE

The Origins of Comfort Food

By Rich Ingle



CD Cover design and photography by Jennifer Shitt

The thing that caught my attention about Vicki when I first saw her at the Two Way Street Coffee House open mic, five years ago, was her announcement that she was going to sing a Jim Reeves tune. That struck a chord with me because I was raised on classic country. My earliest musical memories are of Johnny Cash Sun singles and Hank Williams records as I went to sleep at night. After Vicki and I met we started comparing musical notes and I discovered that her father had been a country and western singer from Texas and once hosted a radio show in Waterloo, Iowa. She also had a heart in the country.

We also discovered we had another musical interest in common: the blues. Though our tastes vary, we always find common ground and find ourselves drawing on influences as diverse as Jimi Hendrix, Tom Waits, Frank Sinatra, Bonnie Raitt, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Emmy Lou Harris, Nancy Griffith and legends such as Muddy Waters and Billie Holiday.

Three weeks after we met, we performed together for the first time in Sandwich, Illinois at the Village Square open mic and that night Comfort Food was born. We've spent the last five years practicing, writing songs and performing together.

We'd been threatening to start work on our first album for the last couple years and after I started getting the hang of playing a little lead guitar we felt we were ready. Last December, before we began recording, we got a surprise Christmas gift from Allan Shaw when he asked us if we'd be interested in having Wind River Records release our album. Of course you can guess the answer.

In February of this year we finally started recording in our home studio (using a Roland Digital Studio, VS-1824 and a Neumann mic for vocals) and in a couple months had the recording part finished. Vicki discovered a great studio just blocks from our house (Horse-Drawn Productions) where we had the CD mixed and mastered. We decided to go with five original songs each and four covers, including a Michael Peter Smith song, *Restless Love*. Including a Michael Peter Smith tune is a tradition I established with my first two CDs and one we intend to continue.

So, our first album, self-titled, will likely be released in August. We hope you enjoy it and find your way to one of our concerts sometime – we'd love to see you. See page 6 and

www.folkera.com/windriver for more info. *Bon appetite!*

Sing-arounds at the Two Way Street Coffee House Looking Back to the Beginning

One of the mainstays of the Plank Road events is the sing-around; we are a guitar-playing and singing organization. That is what we like to do best – get together and play music!

Last year, Charley Smart asked if someone could put together the history of the sing-around at the Two Way Street Coffee House (2WS). Our past is a bit sketchy, but this is what we found out.

The earliest mention that Dave Humphreys found of a sing-around was in a flyer from the Old Quarter Coffeehouse in Brookfield, dated July 1985. However, he said, this appears to have been an Old Quarter event.

The regular monthly PRFMS sing-around began at the 2WS in mid-1987 (after the Old Quarter closed), on the third Saturday afternoon of each month and has continued uninterrupted to the present! In mid-1994, a grass-roots group from the sing-around started an additional jam at 2WS on the first Monday evening of each month, which continued until 1997.

Our fearless sing-around leader, George Mattson, was also quizzed about the history of the sing-around. With Mark Dvorak's encouragement (thanks, Mark!), George started coming to the sing-around when he moved to Downers Grove in 1992. He said that Jerry Burke usually led them, but that they often had different leaders from Plank Road such as Marianne Mohrhusen, Mark Dvorak, Dave Martin and Anne and Tom Jones. Jerry recruited George to be one of the occasional hosts too. When Jerry and Jennifer moved to Sandwich, Illinois around the mid 1990s, George agreed take over from Jerry but found that it was easier to host them himself rather than to secure rotating hosts.

In early 2000, a second monthly Saturday afternoon sing-around was added at 2WS on the first Saturday, which also continues to the present. For quite a few years, Mike Lenich acted as George's backup until he moved to Michigan last year.

In 2006, Paul Vander Woude agreed to host a Bluegrass Jam at his house in LaGrange as a Plank Road event. He maintained that for 2 or 3 years until it ran out of steam.

The bluegrass jam moved to the 2WS, where it continues today, on the fourth Saturday of the month.

What all of this adds up to is three opportunities to jam at the 2WS on Saturdays! It doesn't get much better than that.

Hope to see you at the next sing-around – see the Regular Events box on the front page of the newsletter for the details.

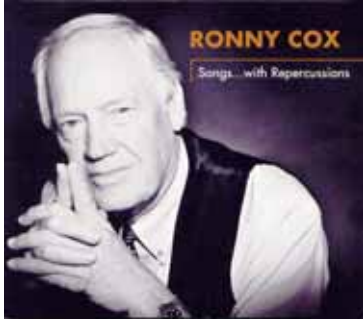


George Mattson (top left), Rich Jacob (top right)
Sing-around Saturday (bottom)

Ronny Cox

"Songs...with Repercussions"

By Vicki Ingle



Put your dancin' shoes on – the opening tune, "Can I Come Back Home," on Ronny's latest CD, "Songs...with Repercussions," had me movin' and groovin' around the kitchen. But, not to worry, after that song you can sit down and rest a spell to one of the sweetest renditions of "The Water is Wide" that I think I have ever heard, with Ronny gently delivering that beautiful melody in a strong and clear voice.

Ronny is backed on this diverse CD by veteran musicians once banded together with singer/songwriter Jack Williams. Fiddler Robert Bowlin joins in to add a magical touch to every song on which he plays, a true delight. Released on Wind River Records (www.folkera.com/windriver), Ronny dedicated this project to his late wife, Mary.

Ronny was born and raised in New Mexico, which brings an authenticity to his choice of material on this CD. Roughly half of the tunes bring you to a place you may not have ever been to before – a place where men still ride horses and go on cattle drives; as you listen to this music, you find yourself longing to be there. But that place isn't so far away - the universal themes of these well-written songs enable you to relate to every sentiment.

Not surprisingly, one of the most ear-catching tunes on the CD, "Give it to the Rich Man," was written by Jack Williams, who (lucky for us) tours through this area regularly, sometimes with Ronny. Ronny co-wrote a few selections, including "Santa Ana Winds," which is another favorite of mine. Other favorites, "Better Man" and the gorgeous song "Holy Now," make you think well of Ronny just for including them on the project.

From "Better Man," written by Eric Schwartz:

*"If you're walking on the street
And you see a soul who's in defeat
Don't you pass him by, no matter what you do
'Cause brother don't you understand
When you lend a helping hand
The person that you really help is you,
'Love your neighbor
And he will love you too
If you do the things the better man would do."*

Maybe it's my country roots that draw me to this particular CD, touches my heart. Maybe it's because this CD contains a wonderful grouping of songs that are presented just the way they should be. Enjoy. <http://www.ronnycox.com/music.html>

Any review of Ronny's work would be amiss without mentioning his role in the film "Deliverance," where he played guitar on "Dueling Banjos" with the kid on the porch. (He has a good story about that song.) That movie launched his career as an actor and over the years he appeared in many movies and countless television projects. More than once, I've jumped up from the couch while watching a movie, pointing at the screen and yelling to Rich, "Look, look, I think that's Ronny! It IS Ronny!"

If you go to Ronny's concerts you will learn a little more about his life as an actor and about his family. You will hear about his late wife, Mary, who was the love of his life, and also hear humorous stories about his grandchildren. Ronny is an ace storyteller, through music and the oral tradition. I imagine it's his training as an actor that enables him to relate to an audience in a way I've never quite seen before in the world of acoustic music.

It's too cool that you get to meet Ronny, face to face, and talk to him at his concerts. Sometimes he stands by the door of the venue like a Walmart greeter (in a good way) and says hello to people as they enter. You'll even find him walking among the guests, sitting down in an empty seat and chatting with folks. It's impressive. He is, beyond a doubt, a people-person with many loyal fans. I am happy to be included among them.



FARM www.farmfolk.org

Folk Alliance Region Midwest

October 7 - 11, 2010

Holiday Inn — Bolingbrook, Illinois

An annual gathering of folk enthusiasts that provides a networking and reunion opportunity for performers, media, presenters and service providers (including venue operators and event presenters) alike - to talk, hear and perform music and to learn together. FARM includes workshops on both the artistic and business aspects of folk music, juried showcases, exhibits, and jamming.

For more information (including registration, sponsorship, showcase applications and nomination forms), or to suggest programming topics and/or volunteer, see www.farmfolk.org. The keynote speaker will be acclaimed folk musician and radio host Matt Watroba. Showcase applications are accepted until July 15.

PRFMS 25th Anniversary Celebration



Plank Road 25th Anniversary Celebration Bluegrass Jam (left)



PRFMS 25th event - volunteer buddies, Carol Spanuello and Jim Wilson (above)



Old-time Music Jam Room (right)

Giving Voice to Your Passion

By Jamie O'Reilly



Jamie O'Reilly

I came at folksinging from the outside. I grew up in a family of singers and theater people. There were so many of us (14), we made our own choir. We sang songs like *Go Tell Aunt Rhody* and the *Fox and the Geese*, in part because it gave my mother a semblance of sanity, amid the din of too many kids in too small a space. Mine is a high art tradition, you'd say. I sang the operettas my grandmother taught my mother, and it was obvious pretty early on that I had a real lyric soprano voice. My mother gave me voice lessons by

correcting me as I sang along to records, while she peeled potatoes or chopped cabbage.

'You're singing in your throat, she'd say. Or 'I can't understand your words.'

My Dad, an actor who moonlighted as an overnight announcer for WFMT radio, grew up in the Irish tradition of the salon. His relatives sang songs of the Fenians, recited Yeats and performed Shakespeare. During his 'FMT days, my dad brought home LPs of the Weavers, Peter, Paul and Mary, and we sang along.

I studied voice at DePaul School of Music. My voice teacher said I should sing Irish art songs for my senior recital. I was smitten with the Irish material – its lovely feel, use of exotic sounding minor keys, and its storytelling. I styled my singing after my Aunt Dorothy. My trademark singing of high notes softly, and with a lilt, was like hers when she sang songs like "I Know Where I'm Going". I recorded my first album of Irish songs in 1984 in one session at WFMT. Eleven songs in one hour or so, with Peter Swenson on guitar, Anne Hills as producer and Rich Warren at the controls. Around then, I talked to Bob Gibson about booking my Irish band, Jamie O'Reilly and the Rogues. We were pretty popular for about 10 years. Then the band members expanded their interests and talents and we disbanded as a group in 1991.

I wanted to branch out from being an Irish ballad singer. I was compelled by venues like the Chicago Cultural Center, and their cultural arts programs, which took a kind of humanities approach. They gave me a theme and paid me well to create a show around it. I researched songs from various periods, and genres, and employed musicians and actors.

Becoming a writer, producer and promoter came along naturally as more and more opportunities presented themselves. I collaborated with arts groups, poets, puppeteers and dancers and, of course, musicians like Michael Peter Smith, Anne Hills, Paul Amandes, Stuart Rosenberg, Al Ehrich and Peter Swenson. I still work with these folks on a regular basis.

My latest project, SONGPAINTING, is an ongoing series I produce featuring songs inspired by paintings, artists illustrating songs, and stories illustrated by art and music. I add new songs and a local artist each showing. Our newest

Jamie O'Reilly – Vocalist

A strong force in the Chicago area arts arena for over 25 years, Jamie is a critically acclaimed vocalist, writer, cultural arts producer, and lifelong social justice activist.


She performs songs ranging from folksongs - Celtic and traditional songs - to songs of vaudeville, old-world lullabies, waltzes and fiery numbers for the cabaret. Jamie is the vocalist with Jamie O'Reilly Trio, with singer/songwriter Michael Smith (guitar) and Bob Weber (cello). She began an expansive collaboration with Michael in 1994, creating folk cabarets and many recordings.

Jamie is the owner of J. O'Reilly Productions, a cultural arts and PR agency in Chicago and is also a registered arts consultant with the IL Arts Council. She is Creative Director of the Women's Media Group Chicago and produces the radio show *The Feminist Lens*.

Hear and see more of Jamie at www.myspace.com/jamieoreillymusic

piece "Coyote" from a poem by Zoe Keithley and music by Michael Smith, is illustrated by Sons of The Never Wrong's Deborah Maris Lader. Women's Media's "The Feminist Lens", a new radio arts show I produce, will present "Songpainting Women: Music + Art" sometime this summer. We'll feature other folks in our circle, Linda M. Smith (Artemisia) and Peggy (Chalk-talk) Lipschutz.

MY AVOCATION. Over the past sixteen years I've guided musicians and other creatives to develop their 'dream project'. I call my process making a life in the arts. As I have – made a life in the arts – I see that intuition, talent, tenacity and hard work can lead to 'the dream.' It's a place we land and dig in – when we balance out the practical (the business of the business), with the desire to entertain and make music and art. There's satisfaction from singing about the love gone wrong – the latest political broohaha - the family member we lost – and seeing the faces of folks as they get into it. Songwriting, playing and singing, gives us a chance to sort things out - to get through the mundane - to create beauty, to make the world a better place, and to have joy in it. I am grateful I can help others find a way to taste some of that.

 Jamie expands upon these points in the entire interview on the "Get Inspired" project which is on **Reader's Write** on the Plank Road website, where you will also find her complete bio.



90.9 FM, WDCB, PUBLIC RADIO from College of DuPage

Online Streaming - www.WDCB.org

For a program guide, call 630-942-4200

Folk Festival with Lilli Kuzma,

Tuesdays 7 to 9 PM

Folk Festival is an eclectic mix of folk styles and artists, traditional to contemporary, that includes folk-related and folk-influenced music.

Strictly Bluegrass with Larry Robinson,

Wednesdays 7 to 9 PM

MUSIC INSTRUCTION

Don't Fear the Partial Capo

By Heather Styka



Heather Styka

They're everywhere – at concerts and open mics alike, at conference booths, in guitar cases. And for some of us, they might seem a little scary. But in reality, there's absolutely no reason to be intimidated by a partial capo. As a partial

capo convert, let me just start by pointing out the inherent value of these little doohickeys. Are you one of those guitarists who likes to get into a "comfort zone" – and who hasn't learned a new chord in ages? Or are you always trying to find new sounds and voicings? Either way, partial capos can spice up your songs or arrangements. From a sonic perspective, partial capos can add some great drone, much like working with an open tuning, and since they are only covering some of the strings, you get a variety of octaves. Songwriter and capo guru Randall Williams often describes it like painting a picture – partial capos can lay out the background, middle ground, and the images in the foreground. To put it simply, capos are a great way to get depth. There are many kinds of partial capos – the Spider and Third Hand capos are customizable if you want to really start experimenting, and drop-D capos basically simulate a drop-D tuning by raising every string except for the low E. The most common, and in my opinion, the most versatile partial capo is Kyser's Shortcut. They're pretty ubiquitous at music stores now, although there are other brands with the same shape. With the Shortcut, the low E stays open, deep and

resonant, and the high E string and B string also stay open and bright.

Now, those of you who are on the experimental side are probably running out the door to pick one up, or already have been toying around with the possibilities of your partial capo. Others might seem uncertain where to start, or feel that they don't have the theoretical knowledge of the guitar neck to pull off partial capos. But this is why capos can be so great: you don't really need any theory. Unlike open tunings, most of your good ol' chords can work in front of a partial capo, much like working with an ordinary capo.

If you've got a Shortcut, try putting it on the second fret. You'll notice that you can use just about any chord shape that you would normally use in the key of D, and it sounds good, with a few added sustained notes (for those of you who like open tunings, using the capo on the second fret mimics the sound of a DADGAD tuning). You can even lift off fingers, and a D chord still sounds like a D, or an F chord has the idea of an F. As long as you keep the bass line intact, you can really play around with your ordinary chord shapes – and you don't have to abandon them. Try putting the capo on the 4th fret, and playing in the key of C. Same concept, you can tweak your chords as you please, add melody lines, and it feels a bit like an open tuning. Or if you're feeling really adventurous (and I really enjoy writing songs with this structure, since it's so very different from ordinary guitar work) you can put your Shortcut up on the 9th fret, and play in the key of G. Here's the fun part: since the B string and low and high E are left open, you can play on them behind the capo. In my tune, "Prairie Song," I basically used a walking bass line behind the capo – and the capo did the rest of the work for me. Like any new approach, you have to be patient with the partial capo. You might, like me, have loved the idea immediately, or you might start out a bit lost. Being lost is part of the fun, too, because it can open your mind up to sounds you might not have thought of without a partial capo. But if you like theory, and you want someone to explain "what's going on" when you play, Randall Williams did put out a great instruction book (with a foreword by David Wilcox and a CD): *The Partial Capo: The Basics, Tips, Tricks, And More*. If you're planning on starting with a Shortcut, there are plenty of videos online, and resources at kysersshortcut.com.

Plank Road 25th Anniversary Celebration

On April 24, 2010, at the First Church of Lombard, the Plank Road Folk Music Society celebrated its 25th anniversary. There were three jamming rooms going from 2:00-6:00 pm; one room had string band music, another was a folk sing-around and the third was bluegrass. The jams were great, both in terms of quantity and quality...meaning we had a large turnout in all three venues and the music sounded good. Most participants were Plank Road members, but many others joined in, including a large contingent from the Old Town School of Folk Music.

The jam leaders, George Mattson, Cathy Jones, Jim Zethmayr and Charley Smart are to be thanked and congratulated.

There was food on hand for those who wanted to stay into the evening and then...the concert. PR president, Bob O'Hanlon, welcomed everyone and spoke briefly about the founding and history of the Plank Road Folk Music Society. He acknowledged many founders and early members who were in attendance, including Mark Dvorak, Marianne Mohrhussen, Dave Reynolds,



Featured performer, Mark Dvorak (Left). Bluegrass Escape (Top right), George Mattson-Sing-around leader with Denise, Carol and Cathy. Could they be singing the chorus of *Wagon Wheel?* (Bottom Right)

Continued on page 7

Thank You to our Sustaining Artists



CD Release Parties:

Sat., Sept. 4, 8PM - Grounds for Appeal, Berwyn

Fri., Sept. 10, 8:15PM

Two Way Street Coffee House, Downers Grove

For Performances See:

www.Musi-Cal.com; Search for Concerts: "performer";

Search for: "Comfort Food"

"In the grand tradition of Chicago singer/songwriters, Rich Ingle is the real deal." -Rick Kogan, Chicago Tribune, WGN Radio

Rich and Vicki Ingle

ringle001@comcast.net - (708) 795-0695

A Special Thanks to our Membership Contributors!!

Sustaining Artists (\$200 - \$399)

Benefits: Feature article and picture in one newsletter; 1/4 page reserved space in four newsletters for name(s), contact information and upcoming performances; individual membership(s) in PRFMS.

- **Bruce Holmes**
www.bruceholmes.com
- **Comfort Food - Vicki and Rich Ingle**
www.richingle.com | 708-795-0695
- **February Sky**
Phil Cooper and Susan Urban
www.februarysky.com or www.myspace.com/februaryskyfolk
- **Studio A Recording and Sound - Maurice Smeets**
studioarecording@aol.com | 630-269-9668

Supporting Artists (\$50 - \$199)

Benefits: Line listing in four issues with name of group, name(s) of member(s), contact information; individual membership(s) in PRFMS.

- **Heather Styka**
www.heatherstyka.com
- **Supporting Members (\$50 - \$199)**

John J. Allan
Mary and Dan Anderson
Romaine Burbach
Frank Clarke
Sheila and Joseph Gut
Lilli and Robert Kuzma
Gregg and Elizabeth Morton

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

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beautiful music.*
Freddy Cellis, Rootstime

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"25th Anniversary" Continued from page 5

Len Clark, Paul Klonowski, and Rich Geiger. He also acknowledged all nine Presidents of PRFMS and several of the organization's primary partners and affiliations. Then the music started. Opening acts were Plank Road's "all volunteer string band" and Bluegrass Escape, who we were very proud to be able to showcase, and then, the featured performer, Mark Dvorak. Mark was excellent, as usual, and told many stories about people and events from Plank Road's past, as he introduced his songs. The whole effect was magical.

As we said good night to people, everyone was highly complimentary of the overall event; some specifically said that the whole event had a great "Plank Road "feel to it.

So, thanks to the PR board and the committee who planned and hosted this event. Committee members were Carol Sommer, Dave Reynolds, Jen Shilt, Kristen Shilt, Bob and Mimi O'Hanlon.

Please go to www.plankroad.org and click on **Gallery** to see pictures of this event.

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 Downers Grove Heritage Festival 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.

In addition to providing sound for music events, Maurice has a 24-track recording studio located in Batavia, Illinois.

You can reach Maurice Smeets at:
studioarecording@aol.com
or by calling 630-269-9668.

Fundraising Concert for Sing Out! Magazine

Anne Hills at the fundraiser for Sing Out! magazine held on June 6 at the First Congregational Church, home of the Two Way Street Coffee House. (Photos by Jim Polaski)



The fundraiser was an "exhilarating concert," in the words of Dave Humphreys, wildly successful with a capacity crowd; the event raised over \$3,700 for Sing Out! Special thanks to all of the performers who made this event possible: Anne Hills, Sons of the Never Wrong, Eric Noden and Joe Filisko, and Ella Gill. Key to the concert's success were the sponsors (Two Way Street Coffee House, Fox Valley Folklore Society, Studio A Recording and Sound, 98.7 WFMT, 90.9FM WDCB Public Radio, 89.3FM WNUR Folk Show, and of course, Plank Road!), and the many volunteers (see the web site for a listing of names). Special thanks to Sue Gill who handled the publicity and ticket sales. The benefit was inspired by 14 year old, Ella Gill who initially asked Plank Road for help in responding to an email request from Pete Seeger for contributions to *Sing Out!* magazine, which needs financial assistance.

Please go to www.plankroad.org and click on **Gallery** to see pictures of this event.



"These talking machines (televisions!) are going to ruin the artistic development of music in this country. When I was a boy...in front of every house in the summer evenings, you would find young people together singing the songs of the day or old songs. Today you hear these infernal machines going night and day. We will not have a vocal cord left. The vocal cord will be eliminated by a process of evolution, as was the tail of man when he came from the ape." — John Phillip Sousa, 1906

Quarter Notes

Vicki Ingle | Editor
Jennifer Shilt | Graphic Design

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

 Watch for more from the Bryan Bowers interview in the next issue of *QuarterNotes!*



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

End of Summer Log Cabin Jam & Party

*Saturday, September 18,
from 4:30-10PM DROP IN ANYTIME*

Spend the last weekend of Summer singing, playing, jamming and eating.

Just like a **Music by the Yard** party, bring your family and friends, instrument(s), beverages (non-alcoholic - Lombard Park District facility rules), a dish, dessert or snack to share, folding chairs, bug spray and a flashlight. Plank Road will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments and s'mores.

Jamming will be held inside and outside of the cabin.
We'll build a campfire in the evening.

Lombard Park District's Log Cabin is located in Four Seasons Park on Main St. and 16th St. in Lombard - between Roosevelt Road and 22nd street.

Please RSVP so we know how many burgers and dogs to grill.
j.shilt@comcast.net or 630-620-0688

Please google: usda, potluck safety. Read the brochure if you plan on bringing a dish to the potluck!
Help keep us all safe and healthy.



**Folk Resources
Next Door**

See www.plankroad.org
Click on Favorites



2010 PRFMS Officers

Bob O'Hanlon - President
mimioh@hotmail.com
(630) 325-7764

Charley Smart - Vice President
plankroad@comcast.net

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

Cheryl Joyal - Secretary
clmjoyal@aol.com

2010 Board Members
Dave Humphreys,
Jennifer Shilt, Kristen Shilt,
Carol Spanuello

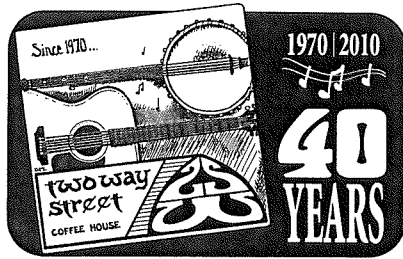
PRFMS Membership INFORMATION

You can get an individual (\$10 year) or family (\$20 year) membership by sending a check to:
PRFMS
P.O. Box 176
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
Thank you!
Membership info is available online at
www.plankroad.org



PRFMS Contact:
Bob O' Hanlon
Email: mimioh@hotmail.com

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



TWO WAY STREET COFFEE HOUSE

1047 Curtiss Street • Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

www.twowaystreet.org • 630-969-9720

(Across from the Public Library)

Folk Music Every Week since 1970!

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Friday	July	2	SAMMY from MIAMI & FRIENDS – Country, blues, & general craziness from this talented, energetic songwriter-performer. Heard on Folk Festival & Mountain Stage (WDCB) & Midnight Special (WFMT). With special guests!
Friday	July	9	BLUEGRASS ESCAPE – Escaping the bounds of traditional bluegrass by adding progressive tunes, gospel, country, swing, rags and more, but still with a bluegrass bent! With guitar, banjo, mandolin, Dobro & bass.
Friday	July	16	ERIC & BETH CARLSON – They return with their rich blend of vocal harmonies and a dash of bluegrass, including songs from their excellent CD, <i>Fine Spun Threads!</i> With 6- and 12-string guitar, banjo and bodhran.
Friday	July	23	ANNA STANGE – Sing-along, lilting ballads and songs to tickle your funny bone, with lots of audience participation. Songs from Leadenly and Pete Seeger to blues and bluegrass songs, with guitar and banjo. Fun!
Friday	July	30	CLAUDIA RUSSELL & the Folk Unlimited Orchestra – Award-winning California singer-songwriter. Eclectic folk with traces of all her musical loves: blues, western swing, rock & country. Kerrville finalist! Guitar, mandolin, bass.
Friday	August	6	MICHAEL KENT SMITH – A guitar and dulcimer CD release show for this superb musician! He performs a delightful and exciting blend of Latin, Spanish, folk, blues and classical on modern, traditional and folk instruments.
Friday	August	13	MIKE O'CONNELL & his Grasslands Pals – Mike and his band return with gypsy swing a la Django Reinhardt, plus bluegrass, western swing, standards & more. Virtuoso mandolin, guitar, fiddle, Dobro & more!
Friday	August	20	HANS YORK – German-born, nationally-touring, award-winning singer-songwriter. He's a consummate musician with infectious joy and a playful voice (a 3-octave range!), blending folk, jazz and pop, with guitar and piano.
Friday	August	27	OPEN MIKE – Anyone is welcome to perform, and we always have a great variety of acoustic performers! So popular we must limit the number of acts. 1-2 songs, 10 minutes max. Doors open at 7:30 for signups – first come, first served. Show starts 8:00. For more information, phone 630-968-5526.
Friday	September	3	JENI & BILLY – Acclaimed “new old music” drawn from country, Appalachian, bluegrass, country blues & folk. Stirring harmonies, absorbing original lyrics and a sparse, engaging sound. Guitar, banjo, harmonica, autoharp.
Friday	September	10	COMFORT FOOD – A release show for their new self-titled Wind River CD! Singer-songwriters Rich & Vicki Ingle present entertaining original songs plus country, blues and bluegrass covers; some serious, some comic!
Friday	September	17	JOHN FLYNN – Delaware songwriter counts Kris Kristofferson and Arlo Guthrie as fans! Songs of humanity, justice and hope with disarming honesty and humor. Eight CDs! “Brilliant performer-songwriter” – <i>Rich Warren, WFMT</i>
Friday	September	24	*MY SWEET PATOOTIE – With humor-driven lyrics, guitar & fiddle virtuosity and hot vocals, this Canadian duo is “more fun than drinking martinis at a tractor pull!” Former members of award-winning roots group “Tanglefoot.”

** Will be featured the next night on WFMT 98.7 “Folkstage” with Rich Warren.*

Labor Day Weekend Sunday & Monday Sept 5 & 6	Fox Valley Folk Festival – More than 40 great folk musicians and storytellers perform on six stages on beautiful Island Park in Geneva, Illinois. Stop by the Two Way Street Stage for some of your coffee house favorites! More information: phone 630-897-3655. www.foxvalleyfolk.com
SAVE THE DATE! Saturday November 6	40th Anniversary Celebration! – An afternoon & evening celebration for all our musical community! Jam sessions, old-time barn dance, open mike, sing-around, and a concert featuring Mark Dvorak, Small Potatoes, Kat Eggleston & Kate MacLeod, and Patchouli!
Saturdays Jul 3 & 17 Aug 7 & 21, Sep 4 & 18	Sing-Arounds – Our popular song circles 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 Jul 24, Aug 28, Sep 25	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 Jul 29, Aug 26, Sep 30 7:00-9:30 pm Free!	LAST THURSDAY! – Monthly unplugged open mike for high school & college age students. Last Thursday 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 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, and Folk Alliance International. Please call us at 630-969-9720 for current entertainment listings and updates, or visit us on the web at www.twowaystreet.org	