

QCBFolkNotes

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2010



Inside this issue:

What we can offer	1
Special concert	1
At Leo in November	2
Our volunteers	2
What is music?	2
Classics Corner	3
The local scene	4

Chuck Black, Editor

ramblinchuck@fuse.net

Steve Adkisson, contributor

Julie Hotchkiss, contributor

Here's the scoop on votes, voluntarism and value—and QCB has 'em all

Hmmm, let's see—which should we mention first? Okay how about votes?

If you recall, the Queen City Balladeers held its board of directors election during October, and the votes are in. There weren't many ballots received, but those who voted indicated their preference to keep the current slate of QCB board members for another year.

That means that Al Peck, Chuck Black, Pam Temple, Bruce Fogwell and Duane Allen will continue to serve as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and historian respectively.

Next, all about voluntarism. As you probably know, the QCB is an all-volunteer organization, and we have identified a new position: a club librarian to help organize and manage a proposed new collection of books, magazines, music and other materials that will be available for all QCB members to check out. No, you don't have to be Marian the Librarian to fill the job, but talk with volunteer coordinator Pete Armstrong if you're interested. This is an entirely new undertaking that we hope will educate members and increase interest in roots music through the use of materials that can

be shared through borrowing instead of having to purchase them.

And last, the value. Since the gift giving season is fast approaching, how about giving friends and family something that they will enjoy and will also benefit the Queen City Balladeers? QCB memberships are reasonably priced at \$15 single, \$20 which includes immediate family or a guest, and only \$10 for a person who lives more than 50 miles away from Leo. You can also get official QCB T-shirts and coffee mugs for \$10.

Wintertime special concert coming in February

Watch for the first QCB special concert of 2011 as Mustard's Retreat comes to Leo on February 11.

David Tamulevich and Michael Hough are in their 35th year as Mustard's Retreat, playing gentle love songs and ballads along with tall tales and treasures from America's traditional song bag.

Tickets for Mustard's Retreat will be available starting December 1 at \$10 members/\$12 non-members in advance, \$12 members/\$15 non-members at the door and \$10 online through PayPal.

PLAYING AT LEO IN NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 7

7 Open mic—three 10-minute slots—arrive at 630 to sign up

7:30 Raison D’Etre—singing lovely harmonies is this trio’s “reason for being;” www.raison3.com

8:15 The Cincinnati Dancing Pigs—Cincinnati’s premier jug band, these swine will set your hooves to hoppin’ and your toes to tappin’; www.cincinnati-dancing-pigs.com

NOVEMBER 14

7 Woodnote—Americana covers and originals; www.myspace.com/woodnotecincy

7:30 Shiny Old Soul—a guitar, bass and drums trio composed of former members of the Gregory Morris Group, part folk, part jazz, part funk, but it’s really about the songs; <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Shiny-Old-Soul/332501653255>

8:15 Neil Jacobs—Twelve string guitarist from Columbus playing diverse stylings including world, gypsy, folk, jazz,

classical and modern; www.neiljacobs.com

NOVEMBER 21

7 Open mic—three 10-minute slots—arrive at 6:30 to sign up

7:30 The Rabbit Hash string Band—old-time music from this Cincy favorite; <http://home.fuse.net/russchilders/rhsb.html>

8:15 The Tillers—progressive traditional music, one of the hottest bands on the Cincinnati scene; www.myspace.com/the-tillers-three

NOVEMBER 28

7 Prudence Hunt—covers and originals with heartfelt delivery; www.myspace.com/prudencehunt

7:30 Eric Bates—this Cincinnati trio makes its Leo debut featuring original songwriting, violin and bass

8:15 Greg Schaber—Cincy favorite award-winning blues singer/songwriter and guitarist; www.gregschaber.com

DECEMBER 5

7 Open mic

7:30 Charlie Mosbrook

8:15 Ricky Nye

What is music?

By Steve Adkisson

So I’m driving down the highway with my radio off as part of my regularly scheduled media fast, and as often happens when we let our minds follow their own course for awhile, a question popped into my head. What, exactly is music? As a music lover, I have often wondered just what it is about the aural stimulus presented to us that causes the pleasurable effects we perceive as music.

I think the grade school answers to the question are pretty much understood: rhythm, tone, melody—the basic building blocks. And of course you can take it as far as you might want as there are plenty of PhD dissertations written on this very question. Things like “Biology of Music” which basically

Continued on last page

NOVEMBER HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS AND EMCEES

HOSPITALITY

7 Kathy and Peter Teitelman

14 Chris Hill and Brad Monti

21 Linda Callan

28 Linda Callan

Dec 5 Debbie and Dave Sumbrock

EMCEE

7 Mike Flanders

14 Pam or Spencer

21 Ellie Fabe

28 Mike Flanders

Dec 5 Chris Bieri

Classics Corner: The E-ri-e Canal

By Julie Hotchkiss

A QCB member recently recalled that in years past, QCB Folknotes would include the lyrics and chords of a traditional song in each issue. We thought we'd attempt to revive the practice, and the first song we've chosen is The E-ri-e Canal. This is distinguished from the song sometimes called Fifteen Miles on the Eric Canal, which begins: "I've got a mule and her name is Sal." That song was written in 1905 by Thomas Allen, so it is not exactly a folk song.

The E-ri-e Canal was first sung sometime during the 1880s and tells the tale of a trouble filled trip from Albany to Buffalo on the canal. The song talks about a storm and depleted supplies of gin.

Like most folk songs, this song has a few variants. Roger McGuinn's version differs from this one and includes even more troubles, but this is the well-known version from the Burl Ives album *Burl Ives Sings For Fun*.

There are at least another half-dozen verses that detail more calamities and provide wonderfully insulting descriptions of the crew; look for them online to create your own version of this classic. And please let us know if there is a folk song you'd particularly like for us to include in the Classics Corner in future issues of QCB FolkNotes.

The E-ri-e Canal*

G C D G
We were forty miles from Albany, forget I never shall.

C D G C G D
What a terrible storm we had one night on the E-ri-e Canal.
(G)

(chorus)
G C D G
O the E-ri-e was a-rising, and the gin was a-getting low.
C D G C G

And I scarcely think we'll get a drink till we get to
D G D G
Buf-fa-lo-o-o, till we get to Buffalo.

Verses:

We were loaded down with barley, we were chock full up on rye. The captain he looked down at me with his gol-darned wicked eye.

(chorus)

Well, the captain he came up on deck with a spyglass in his hand. And the fog it was so tarnal thick, that he could not spy the land.

(chorus)

Our cook she was a grand old gal, she had a ragged dress. We hoisted her upon a pole as a signal of distress.

(chorus)

The captain, he got married, and the cook, she went to jail. And I'm the only son-of-a-gun that's left to tell the tale.

(chorus)

**Editor's note: pronounced "ear-eye-ee;" check out "Burl Ives E-ri-e Canal" on YouTube for the tune to this song.*

QUEEN CITY BALLADEERS

P.O. Box 9122

Cincinnati, Ohio 45209

513-321-8375

QCBFolkNotes is the official newsletter of the Queen City Balladeers and is published every month except July. Subscriptions are included with QCB membership either by US mail or e-mail. Comments, articles or ideas for articles can be submitted to the editor at ramblinchuck@fuse.net.

The Queen City Balladeers

Playing roots music since 1963

We're on the web:

www.qcballadeers.org

Continued from page 2

incorporates Darwin's theory of evolution into how our brains interpret sound, and how our neocortex (the big ol' giant part of the brain) is stimulated by sounds. Or we could explore other more scientific theories such as "The Super Stimulus Theory," but I have a hard time using the term *neuron* in a discussion of something as fun as music.

So, for whatever it's worth, here is my definition of music: It's simple form of communication in which the participant expresses emotion through the sounds he is able to emit from voice or instrument. The range of emotions capable of expression range from rapture to anguish and everything in between, but seem to hover closer to the joy range. However, it can go all the way down to anger, futility and chaos.

If it makes you tap your foot, it's music. If it makes you question your next move, it's music. If it makes you remember something you thought you'd forgotten, it's music. It works best if the source (picker or singer) is in the same room with you, but a recorded version is a passable substitute..

Why don't you share your definition of music with you fellow Queen City Balladeers?

Steve Adkisson is a QCB member and an accomplished clawhammer banjo player who plays old-time music..

The local scene—and beyond

NOVEMBER

6 Wild Carrot at the Dilly Café

6 Cincinnati Dancing Pigs at Arnold's

6 Blues & Boogie Piano Summit at Southgate House

11 Ricky Nye at Arnold's

12 Ryan Adcock at College Hill Coffee Co

17 John Redell at Arnold's

20 Jake Speed and the Freddies at Arnold's

DECEMBER

3 John Prine at Aronoff Center

4 Delbert McClinton at Madison Theater

A special thanks to our major sponsors who so generously support the Queen City Balladeers and the Leo Coffeehouse!

