

# QCBFolkNotes

Volume 49, Number 3

March 2011



*"It's all about the music"*

**Inside this issue:**

Joel Mabus concert	1
Who's playing at Leo	2
February volunteers	2
Say yes to singing	3
Leo workshops	3
Banjer ha-has	4

Chuck Black, editor,  
ramblinchuck@fuse.net

## Joel Mabus scheduled for Leo April 29 special concert

Popular singer/songwriter Joel Mabus will headline the next special concert at the Leo Coffeehouse on Friday, April 29 at 7:30 pm.

Joel has spent his long career in folk music mixing the traditional and the original. His style includes singing old ballads with a new twist or writing new songs that sound like they has been handed down from a past generation.

After starting out in local bluegrass and string bands, Joel made his first record in 1977 with mandolin legend Frank Wakefield. Three years later he signed with Flying Fish records, and in 1986 he started his own independent label before the advent of the home studio and



Joel Mabus

compact disc, which are so common today. While he is known to many as a songwriter familiar to the folk crowd (many of his songs have been covered by others and published in *Sing Out Magazine*), he is also a fix-

*Continued on last page*

## With Appalachian Festival soon to be here, here's your chance to help the Balladeers

As the annual Cincinnati Appalachian Festival at Old Coney Island approaches, the QCB is looking for volunteers to staff the CD sales table.

Shifts are currently available for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 6-8. QCB volunteers oversee the sale of CD's and other items from

bands appearing on the music stage.

Volunteers gets free parking and free admission to the festival.

Contact QCB volunteer coordinator Pete Armstrong in person at Leo or at [pmarmstrong@fuse.net](mailto:pmarmstrong@fuse.net) or call Pete at home at 513-575-1143.

And don't wait too long!

# PLAYING AT LEO IN MARCH

## MARCH 6

7 Open mic—three 10-minute slots— arrive early to sign up— first three to sign up play

7:30 Jim's Red Pants—original and traditional folk music. Join them for a workshop at 5:30; [www.jimsredpants.com](http://www.jimsredpants.com)

8:15 The Late Arrivals—Leo debut of a band playing acoustic music of all kinds. With members of the Roadhouse Ramblers, the Acousticats and the Bangers; [www.facebook.com/pages/Late-Arrivals/110872536941](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Late-Arrivals/110872536941)

## MARCH 13

7 James Buchanan—local singer/songwriter who recently released a new CD produced by Ric Hordinski; [www.jamesbuchanan.com](http://www.jamesbuchanan.com)

7:30 Ellie Fabe—local singer/songwriter and song circle favorite; [www.myspace.com/elliefabe](http://www.myspace.com/elliefabe)

8:15 Magnolia Mountain—wood and wire, heart and soul from this 2008 CEA nominee with a new lineup and a new CD; [www.myspace.com/markallenutley](http://www.myspace.com/markallenutley)

## MARCH 20

7 Open mic—three 10-minute slots— arrive early to sign up— first three to sign up play

7:30 Calamity Rain—old-time mountain music; [www.myspace.com/calamityrain](http://www.myspace.com/calamityrain)

8:15 Robin and Joani Lacy—returning to Leo with traditional zydeco, roots rock, blues, classic country covers and original songs; [www.robinlacy.com](http://www.robinlacy.com)

## MARCH 27

7 Doc Didymus—folk singer, bard and jongleur who relishes in eclectic folk music and the stories behind the songs. Musical content ranges from labor songs and instrumentals with humoresque overtones;

[www.myspace.com/docdidymus](http://www.myspace.com/docdidymus)

7:30 The Roosevelt Administration—Leo debut of a brand new old-timey group from QCB fave Ryan Adcock with upright bass, guitar and three vocals

8:15 The Bromwell-Diehl Band—Cincinnati mainstay and Leo favorite with folk/pop originals and classic covers; [www.bdonline.com](http://www.bdonline.com)

## APRIL PREVIEW

3 Open mic, Cheryl McKinney, Ann and Phil Case

10 Jonathan New, Brandt and Brenda, Chris Collier

17 Open mic, Kelly Fine, The Flock

24 Closed for Easter Sunday

*Reminder: Open mic slots are allotted to the first three persons or groups to arrive and sign up!*

## MARCH HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS AND EMCEES

### HOSPITALITY

6 Stephanie Allaire and Rebecca Pace

13 Lori Findsen and Tony Montgomery

20 Stephanie Allaire and Rebecca Pace

27 Kathy and Peter Teitelman

April 3 Julie Malkin and Jim Good

### EMCEE

6 Papa Joe

13 Prudence Hunt

20 Lenny Hall

27 TBA

April 3 Elaine Diehl

## Before you say no to singing, you should consider this

Most folks know that after setting up for the show at Leo each Sunday evening, lots of members gather in a circle by the fireplace and start strumming and singing.

The songs that QCB members sing and play in the “song circle” or “jam” form a repertoire of music that we like to call “roots music.” That can include folk, blues, country, bluegrass, old-time and others.

But first of all, the singers and musicians who play the songs don’t give a hoot about what people call them. Everyone in the song circle takes a turn picking a song and leading the others in singing it, and everyone has the freedom to select a song that he or she wants to share in the fellowship of the singing.

Now here’s a truth: Everybody in the room, all QCB members and all persons who have come to see the show, are welcome to sit in and take part in the song circle. “But I don’t play an instrument,” you protest,

“So how can I join the song circle?”

What, then, is the secret? The truth is that there isn’t any secret! All you need to do is come and sit down and join in! No “instrument” is needed! You already have the most important instrument that we are all blessed with—your voice, and that can be your instrument. The important thing is to get involved, to just do it!

But wait—here it comes: “I can’t sing,” you protest again, to which I respond, “Mule manure!” (Thanks, Hank!)

Yes, there’s another truth here: Everyone can sing. We’re all different, and none of us is a pro. So we all have the ability to get involved in the process—and in the fun!

If you know of a song that you want to sing, just start singing it when your turn comes. Or tell the group what it is and the people who are playing instruments will be glad

to accompany you. Then everyone will join in, and you will soon find that you have become part of the song circle and can jam right along with the rest of them. You will become a part of the fellowship, and that’s the most important thing. You will be living the part of the music and the human connection, which is why we all come to Leo in the first place.

If you don’t believe it, here’s some words of wisdom from Hank Williams, talking about country music:

*“You ask what makes our kind of music successful. I’ll tell you. It can be explained in just one word: sincerity. When a hillbilly sings a crazy song, he feels crazy. When he sings, “I laid my mother away,” he sees her a-laying right there in the coffin. To sing like a hillbilly, you have to have lived like a hillbilly. You have to have smelt a lot of mule manure.”* -Ed.

## Continuing this month, learn some new music skills with QCB 5:30 Sunday workshops presented at Leo

Do you want to get a better idea of how to play that banjo or dulcimer that’s been sitting in the closet? Or would you like to learn more about playing an instrument, singing, songwriting or musical arranging? Then we have just the thing to get your interest—and hopefully the learning process—going.

Consider attending one of the pre-show Sunday workshops at Leo. Each one is designed to grab your attention and is presented by an expert who can help you with what you want to learn.

All workshops are held upstairs at Zion UCC, begin at 5:30 pm and last about an hour. Admission is free for QCB members and \$5 for non-

members. Watch for new workshops as they are scheduled.

Think of it as an exciting beginning and the opportunity to learn something new—then the rest is up to you.

March 6—**Jim’s Red Pants:** Arranging Songs for a Duet

April 2010, exact date TBD—**Pam Temple** of Wild Carrot: Vocal Workshop

May 8—Texas-based singer/songwriter **Dylan Sneed:** Songwriting Workshop

*Other workshops will be announced as they are scheduled.*

## 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](mailto:ramblinchuck@fuse.net).

The Queen City Balladeers

Playing roots music since 1963

We're on the web:

[www.queencityballadeers.org](http://www.queencityballadeers.org)

### Out of the loop?

Have you not been receiving your copy of QCBFolkNotes either through snail mail or e-mail as you requested? Sometimes addresses change and members forget to let us know, so we get returned U.S. mail or e-mail bounce-backs. We can fix it! Tell us at [ramblinchuck@fuse.net](mailto:ramblinchuck@fuse.net) or call 321-8375.

Continued from first page

ture on the traditional scene as a guitarist, singer, fiddler and old-time banjo player.

Joel has taught at Augusta Heritage, at the Puget Sound Guitar Workshop and at countless other dance camps. His fiddle tune, "The Blue Jig," has become a modern contra dance standard. His 2005 book, *Parlor Guitar*, was published by Hal Leonard Publishing.

He was also among the first wave to join the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance (now called Folk Alliance International) in 1990. He has 20 solo albums, include the 2007 *The Banjo Monologues*, a unique blend of old-time banjo and storytelling, and *Retold* in 2008 featuring new versions of 12 of his vintage original songs. His latest CD, released in September 2009, is *No Worries Now . . .*, features all new originals.

Joel has toured widely and makes his living at music, though like many professional folk musicians in the 21st century, he flies under the radar of American pop culture. You can label him folk, or Americana, or a singer/songwriter, but whatever you call him, you would be correct.

Tickets for the Joel Mabus concert are \$10 members/\$12 non-members in advance and \$12 members/\$15 non-members at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the Leo Coffeehouse on Sunday nights; by sending a check along with a SASE to QCB Special Concerts, P.O. Box 9122, Cincinnati, Ohio 45209; or by going to the QCB website at [www.queencityballadeers.org](http://www.queencityballadeers.org) and using PayPal.

### We've got a million of 'em

Q: What's the difference between a banjo and a Harley Davidson? A: You can tune a Harley.

Q: What's the difference between a banjo and a chain saw? A: You can turn a chainsaw off.

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

