

QCBFolkNotes



"It's all about the music"

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Excitement builds as November 18 Tracy Grammer concert gets closer

The time is fast approaching for the appearance of Tracy Grammer, one of America's most popular singer/songwriters, in the first special concert of the season at the Leo Coffeehouse on Friday, November 18 at 7:30 pm.



Since 1998 Grammer

Tracy Grammer

has recorded eight CDs. Her solo *Flower of Avalon* was the #1 most played album on folk radio for 2005. Mary Chapin Carpenter sings harmony on three cuts on the CD, which was produced by John Jennings, pro-

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Votes are in, new slate of 2011-2012 QCB officers is now official

The balloting is complete, the votes have been counted and a new slate of Queen City Balladeers trustees will take office November 1.

The results are as follows:

- President: Eric Hansen**
- Vice President: Pete Armstrong**
- Secretary: Pam Temple**
- Treasurer: Bruce Fogwell**
- Historian: Chuck Black**

The QCB board of trustees is responsible for planning and making decisions, including financial actions, that affect the overall operation of the organization.

Currently there are a number of issues awaiting the attention of the new trustees, including the rewriting of the organization's mission statement and bylaws and decisions about planning for the Balladeers's fiftieth anniversary celebration in 2013.

Also on the agenda are planning and decisions to be made about the continued presentation of the yearly Edensong concert series in July.

All QCB members are invited to bring issues or concerns to any of the trustees. Members are also invited to attend board meetings, held approximately every other month. Watch this newsletter for dates and locations of meetings.

PLAYING AT LEO IN OCTOBER

NOVEMBER 6

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

7:30 The Red Cedars—memorable old-time roots music; www.facebook.com/pages/Red-Cedars/153718814677706.

8:15 Ben Lapps—young and energetic acoustic finger style guitarist; www.reverbnation.com/benlapps

NOVEMBER 13

7 Eric Hansen—long-time QCB member return to the Leo stage with some sing-a-long favorites.

7:30 Lisak and Rowe—Rick Lisak of the Sloes is joined by Zach Rowe.

8:15 TBA due to a cancellation.

NOVEMBER 20

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

7:30 Eric Loy—Dayton, Ohio-

based guitarist; www.ericloy.com.

8:15 Noah Wotherspoon and Jessi Bair—a remarkable blues guitar player teams up with a singer/songwriter for some great music; www.noahwotherspoon.com.

NOVEMBER 27

7 Dave Laskey—QCB member takes the stage at Leo.

7:30 John Kogge—long-time performer on the regional scene, John brings classic folk covers and more to Leo from Oxford, Ohio.

8:15 Lisa Biales with Doug Hamilton—Oxford, Ohio-based blues, jazz and folk performer returns with Doug Hamilton on fiddle; www.lisabiales.com.

DECEMBER PREVIEW

Plan now to see these performers appearing the Leo Coffeehouse in December:

4 Open mic, Lauren Houston,

Jake Speed and the Freddies

11 Greg Mahan, Kate Haralson and the Martins, John Ford

18 Open mic, Greg Jowaisas, Jim's Red Pants

25 Closed—Merry Christmas!

Reminder: Open mic slots are allotted to the first three persons or groups to arrive and sign up, so getting to Leo early is recommended. Plan on 10 minutes, usually 2-3 songs, for your set. Remember, the first ones to sign up are those who play.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Just a reminder that the Leo Coffeehouse will be closed on December 25 and January 1 for the holiday season and will re-open on Sunday, January 8.

THINKING AHEAD

The Leo will feature a first-ever all-evening open mic on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012.

NOVEMBER HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS AND EMCEES

HOSPITALITY

6 Mark Rucker

13 Lynn and Mark Horstkamp

20 Barb and Dennis Iverson

27 Lynn and Mark Horstkamp

December 4 Lori Findsen and

Tony Montgomery

EMCEE

6 Eric Hansen

13 Mike Flanders

20 Prudence Hunt

27 Papa Joe

December 4 Prudence Hunt

Want to know folk music? Start with the early stuff

Are singer/songwriters made, or are they born that way? Can they naturally pick up an instrument and start playing and composing songs? Or does it take lots of patience, study and hard work?

Those are difficult questions to answer. Maybe the truth is a little of both approaches. But Dylan is probably right, that it is best to listen and study and then do some work that will result in the ability to play music and create songs that people will want to hear.

So who are some of the folks who created the “stuff that has been around for 100 years” that Dylan refers to? Their numbers would be legion, and because of limited space here, we’re going to mention only a few of the earliest singer/songwriters that surely have something to teach us.

“ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BE A SONGWRITER SHOULD LISTEN TO AS MUCH FOLK MUSIC AS THEY CAN. STUDY THE FORM AND STRUCTURE OF THE STUFF THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR 100 YEARS.”

—Bob Dylan

Stephen Foster (1826-1864) Despite Foster’s tragically short life, he gave us some of America’s most beautiful and enduring folk music. You could not go wrong visiting Bardstown, Kentucky in the summer to see a performance of the live outdoor pageant *The Stephen Foster Story*.

Charlie Poole (1892-1931) and *the North Carolina Ramblers*.

Poole wrote and played some of the most popular music of his time. Although his life was cut short by alcohol and hard living, he left us a legacy of some of the best banjo playing and songwriting around.

The Carter Family (A.P. Carter d. 1960, Mother Maybelle Carter d. 1978, Sara Carter d. 1979). You can’t say enough about the importance of the Carters and their music since their discovery at the famous Bristol Sessions in Tennessee in 1927. Without their legacy, folk music as we know it today would not be the same.

Jimmie Rodgers (died of tuberculosis in 1933 at age 36). Though Rodgers’s career was short lived, basically from 1927 to 1933, he left us a giant legacy as The Father of Country Music.

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Balladeers gain new knowledge each month through Leo Sunday workshops

Attendance at the Leo Sunday workshops has been excellent as QCB members continue to learn new things about instruments, singing and other topics relating to their love of roots music.

Each workshop is held on a Sunday at 5:30 pm prior to the start of the concert for that day.

All workshop presenters are individuals who are experienced in various subjects relating to singing, songwriting and instrument playing and are ready to pass along some of their knowledge and to answer questions to help attendees become more familiar with the topic at hand.

The schedule continues monthly and includes the

following upcoming workshops:

November 13—Songwriters’ Collaborative

December 18—Banjo, Greg Jowaisas

January 15—Slide Guitar, Greg Schaber

February—to be announced

March—to be announced

April 1—Harmony Singing, Ann and Phil Case

May—to be announced

Ongoing—The QCB Songwriters’ Collaborative, second Sunday of each month

Reservations are not needed. All workshops are free for QCB members and \$5 for non-members, so why not purchase a yearly QCB membership and attend all workshops for free all season long?

QUEEN CITY BALLADEERS

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The Queen City Balladeers

Playing roots music since 1963

We're on the web:

<http://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 or call 321-8375.

Tracy Grammer continued from first page

ducer for Carpenter and Indigo Girls.

Grammer has also gotten some nice appraisals of her work from others in the music world. Here's one example: "Tracy Grammer is a brilliant artist and unique individual. Her voice is distinctive, as is her mastery over the instruments she plays." Those words would be nice enough coming from just about anyone, but in this case the quotation is from Joan Baez.

Tickets for the Tracy Grammer concert are \$10 members and \$12 non-members in advance and \$12/15 day-of show. See Bruce Fogwell at the Leo Coffeehouse, call 513-321-8375, send a check to QCB Concert, P.O. Box 9122, Cincinnati, Ohio 45209 or go to queencityballadeers.org to use the PayPal option.

For more information about Tracy Grammer visit www.tracygrammer.com or the QCB website at queencityballadeers.org.

Early folk music continued from page 3

I'm sorry that we're out of space, but we're not out of names. You might also want to listen to Gid Tanner and the Skillet Lickers, Uncle Dave Macon, Bradley Kincaid, Riley Puckett, Fiddlin' John Carson, Vernon Dalhart and Gene Autry among many more.

Watch future issues of QCBFolkNotes for more. —Ed.

First alert: poster ideas, anyone?

Do you have an idea we can use for the official poster for next summer's Edensong concert series? If you're feeling creative, then we want to talk to you!

The QCB always creates a new poster for each year's Edensong, and this year we thought we'd start early and solicit ideas from members. Let any board member know if you have a suggestion or if you'd like additional info.

All ideas will be considered, so start creating today!

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

