

QCBFolkNotes



"It's all about the music"

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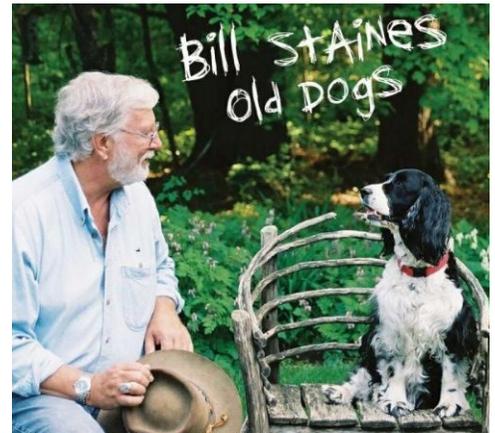
Bill Staines returns to Leo this month, so don't miss season's last special concert

Popular singer/songwriter Bill Staines returns to the Leo Coffeehouse for a special concert on Friday March 30, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

Anyone not familiar with the music of Bill Staines is in for a special treat. For forty years this long-time Balladeers favorite has traveled back and forth across North America singing his songs and delighting audiences at festivals, folk societies, colleges, concerts, clubs and coffeehouses.

Singing mostly his own songs, Bill has become one of the most popular and durable singers on the folk music scene today, performing nearly 200 concerts a year and driving over 65,000 miles annually. He weaves a blend of gentle wit and humor into his performances, and one reviewer wrote, "He has a sense of timing to match the best standup comic."

Tickets for the Bill Staines concert are \$10 members/\$12 non-members in advance and \$12/\$15 day of show and are now on sale at the Leo Coffeehouse, or go to the QCB website at queencityballadeers.org to order. If enough time remains you can also order tickets by sending a check with a SASE to QCB Concerts, P.O. Box 9122, Cincinnati, Ohio 45209. And for additional information call 513-321-8375.



Bill Staines conversing with a friend

QCBFolkNotes coming to snail mail end soon

The Queen City Balladeers Board of Trustees has voted to end the delivery of this newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service at the end of this season.

The May 2012 issue will be the final one to be mailed. Instead, all future issues will be sent via e-mail.

For members who don't want to receive the newsletter by e-mail, or who lack access to a computer, a paper copy will be posted at the Leo Coffeehouse each Sunday.

If you currently receive the newsletter by regular mail and want to get it by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to the editor at ramblinchuck@fuse.net.

PLAYING AT LEO IN MARCH

MARCH 4

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

7:30 Bob Dellaposta—Leo debut of a local solo acoustic performer with original material; www.bobdellaposta.com

8:15 The Flock—Celtic to blues to folk music and lots more; www.myspace.com/theflockcincy

MARCH 11

7 Stan Boric—singer/songwriter with covers and originals and finger style guitar

7:30 Diana Chittester—lots of emotion conveyed through lyrics and voice, a Leo debut; www.dianachittester.com

8:15 Wild Carrot and the Roots Band—local favorites return with their unique blend of roots music, stories, energy and a whole lot of fun; www.wildcarrot.net

MARCH 18

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

7:30 Sweet Betsy—Leo debut of great harmonies and a mix of bluegrass, county and the blues; www.myspace.com/sweetbetsy3

8:15 Diamond Blue—original acoustic music quartet; www.diamondblue.net

MARCH 25

7 The Wayfarers—folk/rock from Papa Joe, Margie Stoller and Cindy Thompson

7:30 Charlie Mosbrook—singer/songwriter from Phoenix AZ returns to deliver original music with a warm, powerful voice and distinctive guitar technique; www.charliemosbrook.com

8:15 Jamon Zeiler—a Leo favorite and master luthier returns with great songwriting, singing and that haunting Native American flute; www.jzeilerguitars.com/about.html

NOTE: Jamon will host a guitar maintenance and adjustment workshop upstairs at the Leo Coffeehouse beginning at 5:30. This session is open to all, free to QCB members, \$5 for non-members. No registration is necessary.

APRIL PREVIEW

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

1 Open mic, Ellie Fabe, Ann and Phil Case

8 Easter Ham Jam—after the eggs and bunnies are all present or accounted for, sir, the evening will bring our first try at a non-scheduled, all-evening jam and open mic type affair. Come and listen or participate but don't miss it!

15 Open mic, Spiff Wiegand, Garcia and Scott

22 Cheryl McKinney, Rebekah Jean, Silver Arm

29 Open mic, The Janie Rae Band, The Retread Bluegrass Band

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 get to play.

MARCH HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS AND EMCEES

HOSPITALITY

4 Linda and Lenny Hall

11 Sarah Strouse and Angela Pancella

18 Elizabeth Keller

25 Susan Latham and Roy Tate

EMCEE

4 Pam Temple

11 Prudence Hunt

18 Chris Bieri

25 Eric Hansen

The Library Shelf by Dennis Iverson

The People's Instrument?

They call it folk music because it is the people's music. So wouldn't it seem that the most appropriate instrument for the people's music would be called the people's instrument? But what instrument would that be?

If you Google "people's instrument," you get the following results: accordion, harmonica, guitar—and ukulele.

Ukulele? Yes, ukulele. But isn't that just a toy or a novelty?

To find out, check out the DVD documentary called *Mighty Uke*. It claims that the ukulele is indeed the people's instrument.

While guitars are far more common and iconic in folk music, the uke probably results in more

smiles from young and old alike.

There are also many "folkloric" uke stories, like this one: When George Harrison had dinner guests at his house, after dinner he handed out ukuleles to everyone and played until the wee hours. Could you call that a ukulele ceilidh?

For more amazing uke stories and history, check out the *Mighty Uke* DVD from the QCB library and find out more about this presumptuous little instrument. In it, you'll find out answers to the following questions:

- Where did the uke come from, and was it really born in Hawaii?
- How did the uke come to the U.S. and become a standard instrument for jazz and popu-

lar music during the early 1900s?

- How did the ukulele save the Martin guitar company?
- Why did the uke disappear from the popular music scene and how did it re-emerge in recent years?
- Who are the crazy people who are bringing the uke back from obscurity?
- Why would the uke be of interest to folk singers?
- Why are there more accordion and banjo jokes than ukulele jokes?
- How is the uke used to promote world peace, community enrichment and music education programs?
- And is the ukulele really the people's instrument?

Editorial

QCB and WNKU—good friends sticking together

If you're a folk and roots music lover, chances are that you're aware of the Queen City Balladeers's origin nearly 50 years ago.

Along the road since then, the QCB formed an important and lasting connection with a local radio station—89.7/104.1/105.9 WNKU-FM. For many years now, the two organizations have been inseparable friends in bringing folk and roots music to people throughout this area.

Back in its early days, WNKU was lovingly known as Kentucky Folk Radio. Some well-known

WNKU broadcast personalities have come and gone, but some remain and continue to bring us the kind of music that can soothe a Balladeer's soul: Celtic music with Kathy Costello, bluegrass with Katie Laur and a variety of folk and roots music with our own Pam Temple as the host of the *Front Porch* program.

Many Balladeers know Pam as a long-time QCB member who holds the position of secretary on our board of trustees. As far as other jobs and behind-the-scenes work Pam has done on behalf of the Balladeers, well, we're sorry

that we don't have enough room here to go into it all.

But in large part through Pam's efforts, WNKU is today a true friend to the QCB. WNKU is a steady supporter of our Leo Coffeehouse and a sponsor of our annual Edensong concert series. Pam also promotes QCB events and special concerts with music and interviews on her Sunday morning *Front Porch* program.

But times and musical tastes change, and financial pressures mount, and there isn't nearly as

Continued on last page

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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.

Leo workshops—come join in and have fun while learning

Attendance at the Leo Sunday workshops continues to be excellent as QCB members continue to learn new things.

The schedule continues monthly and includes the following upcoming workshops:

March 25—Guitar Setup and Maintenance with Jamon Zeiler

April 1—Harmony Singing, Ann and Phil Case

May 13 —Dulcimer Workshop with Butch Ross

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

Reservations are not needed. All 5:30 workshops are free for QCB members and \$5 for non-members.

QCB and WNKU—continued from page 3

much folk music being played on local radio as there was in the past. So we think it's time for QCB members to return the favor to WNKU by supporting the station during its spring fund drive. By doing so, we can help keep Celtic and bluegrass and Pam's *Front Porch* program on the air. When it comes to folk and roots music, well, isn't that what we're all about?

So here's what we suggest—you can help WNKU keep our favorite kind of music on the air by calling the pledge line at 855-897-1059 toll free during *The Front Porch* program on Sunday, March 18, 2012 from 10 am to 1 pm and showing your support. Or you can go online to wnku.org and make a pledge. You can also make a pledge anytime during WNKU's spring fund drive March 16-23—and be sure to mention *The Front Porch*.

That way we can help a friend who helps us. And after all, isn't that what friends are for? -Ed.

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

