

QCBFolkNotes



"It's all about the music"

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End of season drawing near, but there's still some good stuff left for all to enjoy

Whoa, where did the year go? It seems like only yesterday that we started off another great season of music at the Leo—and we're nearly ready to call it a wrap for the 2011-2012 musical year.

But before we get too maudlin about it, let's remember that there's still a lot of fun left in April and May, and then there's summer, and we wanted to remind you of what lies ahead that we can look forward to.

For starters, there's a great variety of music remaining in April and May at Leo—see page 2 for the April schedule and the May preview.

Next, the Appalachian festival, one of Cincinnati's premiere musical and cultural events, returns May 11-13 after being flooded out last year. Check our website for more information about the festival and about op-

portunities for you help out as a QCB volunteer at the App Fest.

Next on our list is a not-to-be-missed event, the annual season closer pot luck supper and hootenanny on Sunday, May 27. Bring your instrument and a dish to share. The fun lasts from 5-9 pm, so don't miss this chance to reminisce about another Leo season, sample a lot of good food and do what we all love doing best—eating and making music with our fellow Balladeers.

Then last comes the crown jewel of the QCB year—the annual Edensong concert series in July at Seasongood Pavilion in Eden Park. This year marks our 49th year of presenting a great variety of roots music to the local community.

So there you have it. We hope you're now ready for some end-of-season fun.

Time's running short—only one more paper issue of this newsletter to be delivered by USPS snail mail

The May 2012 issue of QCBFolkNotes will be the last one to be printed and delivered by regular mail. After that, all future issues will be delivered by e-mail only.

The QCB board of trustees voted recently to take this action due to

environmental concerns and the annual cost of delivering a single issue, which has become greater than a member's one-year QCB dues.

To begin receiving the newsletter by email please send your address to the editor at ramblinchuck@fuse.net.

PLAYING AT LEO IN APRIL

APRIL 1

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

7:30 Ellie Fabe—a Cincy favorite—did you catch her open mic at the Bitter End in NYC? www.myspace.com/elliefabe

8:15 Ann and Phil Case—old time vintage singing and vintage instruments; <http://dryrun.wso.net>. They will also give a workshop on harmony singing at 5:30 today.

APRIL 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!

APRIL 15

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

7:30 Spiff Wiegand—debut of a

Cincy-based singer/songwriter

8:15 Garcia and Scott—a duo from Nashville playing a variety of great Americana music; www.garciaandscott.com

APRIL 22

7 Heartenstone—QCB member Cheryl McKinney, Gerry Clark and Cheryl's son Sean doing a mix of Celtic, originals and covers; www.myspace.com/heartenstone

7:30 Rebekah Jean—Ohio-bred songstress with the release of her debut album; www.rebekahjean.org

8:15 Silver Arm—Cincinnati's favorite Celtic band returns; www.silverarmmusic.com

APRIL 29

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

7:30 The Janie Rae Band—Leo debut of a singer/songwriter guitar/bass duo with a variety of 70s, 80s and 90s music and their own originals;

www.myspace.com/janieraeband

8:15 The Retread Bluegrass Band—Leo debut of a bluegrass band you've seen in lots of places, now hear them right here at the Leo; www.myspace.com/retreadbluegrass

MAY PREVIEW

6 Open mic, Liz Bowater, Rob Fetters

13 QCB Songwriters' Collaborative, Glen and Lisa Ginn, Butch Ross

20 Open mic, Magnolia Mountain, Kelly Thomas and the Fabulous Pickups

27 Pot luck and hootenanny

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

APRIL HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS AND EMCEES

HOSPITALITY

1 Elizabeth Keller and Robin Roland

8 Sarah Strouse and Angela Pancella

15 Steve Calme and Friend

22 Rebecca Pace and Joan Haller

29 Steve Calme and Friend

EMCEE

1 Papa Joe

8 Ellie Fabe

15 Chris Bieri

22 Mike Flanders

29 Jim Good

The Library Shelf by Dennis Iverson

Review: *Something to Sing About* by Milton Okun

I don't know who Barbara Wolf is, but thanks to her contribution to the QCB library, we have a copy of *Something to Sing About*.

That's the name of a pretty neat acquisition to our library, one that profiles some of the songs and artists from the "folk scare" of the 1960s all the way back to the Great Depression. It was compiled and arranged by Milton Okun, who wrote the introduction and probably the bios of the artists. The book was published in 1968, so there isn't anything new (nothing about Springsteen.)

However, the book offers a nice look back at that time for those of us who may not remember everything because we were either too

young, not paying attention or—supply your own reason.

The book profiles some popular and some obscure people who were a part of the scene—about 60 in all. It also includes words and music chosen and contributed by the featured individuals

The list starts with Woody Guthrie and ends with Arlo Guthrie—intentional symmetry? Included are the popular groups, controversial individual artists, blues and gospel singers, bluegrass and country musicians, theatrical artists and composers, at least one calypso artist and even a comedic duo.

In the introduction, Okun discusses the authenticity of folk

singers and folk songs. His philosophy about that could lead the reader to dispute his inclusion of certain artists and their chosen songs, but this is part of the folk process and part of what makes the book even more interesting.

By the way, the term "folk scare" refers to the period of time from the late 1950s through the early 1960s. Folkniks, as they were often called back then, armed with only their voices and their guitars, inspired the nation and the world with their crusade against racial segregation, the draft, McCarthyism, censorship and the cold war. As one writer put it, "They believed if they sang loud and long enough, they could change the world."

You can read all about it in *Something to Sing About*.

Editorial

On the way to Merlefest and the luck of the draw

After years of dreaming and talking about it, we're finally going to Merlefest in April.

Why this year? For one thing, Doc Watson just turned 89. But even if it weren't for that, it would be worth making the trip anytime to see Doc Watson. Hey, Earl Scruggs left us at age 88 on March 28, but happily Doc just keeps on chugging along and will do so for a long time to come, we hope.

But then there's also the lineup of musicians who are scheduled to appear at Merlefest in addition to Doc: Sam Bush, Bela Fleck, Vince

Gill, Steve Martin. Roy Book Binder, David Holt, Jim Lauderdale, Dougie MacLean, Tony Rice, Peter Rowan, Marty Stuart, Happy Traum, the Waybacks—and other acts so numerous that it would be impossible to name them all here.

Another reason that we won't have time to see everyone at Merlefest is that we have been accepted as Merlefest volunteers. For working at various jobs a few hours a day, you get free admission to the entire four-day event. That's not a bad deal, considering gas prices and the fact

that we're looking at a drive of about 275 miles to Wilkesboro NC.

I was lucky enough to get the volunteer assignment I asked for and dreamed of—working on the stage crew—and just by chance I got assigned for an evening to the Watson Stage. That's the biggest of 11 Merlefest stages, the one where Doc Watson himself appears. From what I can determine, I'll get to be right there when Doc himself sits down to play with his grandson Richard and the other

Continued on last page

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?

Remember, delivery changes to e-mail only after the May 2012 issue. So send your e-mail address to ramblinchuck@fuse.net.

Almost done—but still time for Leo Sunday evening workshops

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

Two workshops remain this season::

April 1—Harmony Singing with 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.

The Leo workshops will resume when the coffeehouse reopens for a new season in September 2012.

Merlefest—continued from page 3

members of his band. I'll be there with rhythm, music and my gal, so could ask for anything more? (Sorry about that.) Seeing and hearing Doc Watson up close and personal would have to be it.

By the way, while we're in the area, we hope to see some of the places that figure into the richest history of bluegrass, old-time and country music in the United States, all within about a 50-mile radius: the Crooked Trail, Virginia's heritage music area; Maces Springs VA, home of the original Carter family and today home to live music at the Carter Family Fold; Floyd VA, home of the Floyd Country Store; Bristol TN, where the Carter family and Jimmie Rodgers were discovered in 1927; and Clinch Mountain—ever heard of Ralph and Carter Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys?

We'll let you know about the sights we see. And who knows—maybe next year you'll want to see for yourself.

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

