



# MONADNOCK FOLKLORE SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER

Volume II

Number 2

February 1982

MFS Presents

### RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE MUSIC IN PETERBOROUGH

The Early Music Ensemble will be performing a concert of Renaissance and Baroque music on Sunday, February 21, at 7:30 P.M.

Representing the Renaissance period will be works of Dufay, Josquin, Lupo, Bevin, Michael East and Orlando Gibbons. Baroque works include an E minor trio sonata by Telemann and a C minor sonata by Paisible.

Members of the Early Music Ensemble are Raymond Rosenstock, John Hodgkins, Karen Young and Martin Hanft. A reception will follow the concert.

Tickets are available at the Toadstool in Peterborough, Yankee Lady Records in Keene, and Maple Leaf Music in Brattleboro. For further information call (603) 827 - 3423.



### COFFEEHOUSE at the GAP MOUNTAIN BAKERY

The Gap Mountain Bakery has got to be the warmest, coziest bakery in New Hampshire. Golden loaves give off irresistible aromas, as do the variety of pastry, bagels, etc. With a good pot of coffee brewing, tea water handy - what more could you ask for?

How about a few tables, chairs, and musicians for an evening of gathering with friends, quiet socializing, and good tunes. As sponsors of a big concert every month, we look forward to an alternative without the high pressure and fancy arrangements. When the bakers at Gap Mountain expressed an interest in a musical gathering, it seemed like a great opportunity for us to serve as coordinators for what will surely become a favorite monthly event.

Mary DesRosiers and Kirk Webster will start us off on Sunday, February 14, giving us an evening of songs on dulcimer, harp and guitar, with some fine vocal work.

Come as you are. Admission is a donation for the musicians ( suggested \$1 ). The Gap Mountain Bakery is on the Common in Troy, New Hampshire.

Music begins at 7:30.

Our February concert of Renaissance and Baroque Music is an exciting exploration outside of what is normally considered folk music. Of course, the musicians and composers of those times did not categorize themselves as rigidly as we do now; we seem to be subjecting musical styles to more and more detailed definitions. The half dozen or so names for what was once just good old rock and roll illustrates this.

It is an interesting paradox that while on one hand we make such distinctions between so many types of music, there is also an unprecedented intermingling of all the music of the world, brought about by the global consciousness of recent years.

We are privileged to have right here in the Monadnock area the nationally-acclaimed group, Do'a. Indeed there is no finer example of multi-cultural influence on musical style. Ken LaRoche and Randy Armstrong combine artistic discipline with a very positive energy, creating a truly unique and exhilarating performance. We are pleased to have them for our concert in March.

The music of the British Isles enjoys great popularity in this area, and even the most casual of listeners can notice some modern influences on the tunes. Well done, these influences can certainly enhance the performance. For those of you who have heard the Battlefield Band, we needn't say more. If you haven't heard them, all the more reason to look forward to their April concert with us.

Ola Belle Reed learned banjo as a child from her uncle in the mountains of Ashe County, N.C. She remains a powerful performer of traditional mountain music, though her interests have grown over the years to embrace many forms of country music. What a treat to have her making a rare New England appearance for our May concert, along with the Pioneer Valley bluegrass duo, The Valley Partners.

So even over a few months, the variety of music coming our way can encourage us to appreciate the richness of our planets' cultural developments. In experiencing the diversity of the worlds' music we have the opportunity to nourish the hope for the worlds' peace.

Gordon Peery

## NELSON CONTRAS

Nelson, New Hampshire is considered by many to be the place where contra dancing was kept alive in the Monadnock area during times when it had been forgotten in other towns. Recent memories go back to Ralph Page's dances there, and you can still hear stories about the wood stove down at the end of the hall getting knocked over by enthusiastic, if not "enlightened" dancers. But no doubt there are stories long since forgotten about dances many generations ago. We do know that in that very hall, people danced to many of the same tunes and dances as we do now. That gives us both a sense of history, and a sense for the importance of continuing the tradition.

Many individuals and organizations have kept the Nelson dance going over the years. Last January (after a year of dormancy) the individuals who later became the Monadnock Folklore Society started up the dances again. The dances are now officially sponsored by MFS.

The Nelson Contra dance is on the third Saturday of every month. Mary DesRosiers is the usual caller; occasionally there are guest callers. Musicians vary every month from the excellent choices available.

There's something about the way the tunes come out in that old town hall under the quiet Nelson sky, that makes people really want to dance. Or maybe it's the way that people dance that makes the music have a little extra magic. Maybe it's that the spirit of dancing has been kept alive there for so long.

Whatever the reason, Nelson is a great place to find yourself, and many others, dancing. See you there!



## Membership in Monadnock Folklore Society

Fees for membership are \$10, \$8 student (full time please) or senior citizen, \$14 per couple, and \$2 for each dependent child.

Children under six are freely admitted to all MFS functions, and special prices for children under 12 will be available for appropriate events.

Membership benefits include subscription to the newsletter, a fifty cent discount on our monthly concerts, and admission to a special spring dance held especially for members.

Additional donations are welcome; our tax deductible status is pending.

## UPCOMING MFS EVENTS

The Early Music Ensemble - February 21  
Do'a - March 13 - Dublin Community Church  
The Battlefield Band - KSC Recital Hall - Keene  
April 22 Keene  
Olla Belle Reed/ The Valley Partners (TBA)  
May 9



Orpheus charming the animals

Florence (1455)

## CONCERTS AT PAINE HALL, HARVARD UNIV.

( 8:00 P.M. )

March 5- Johnny Cunningham (ex Silly Wizard fiddler)  
and Alistair Anderson (Northumbrian pipes  
and concertina)

March 19- Battlefield Band

April 2/3 - Boys of the Lough

Info (617) 646-3513

### MFS Classifieds

Appropriate classified ads may be submitted by the 12th of the previous month. Rates are \$2.50 for 25 words, .15 for each additional word. Send legible ad and check or money order to MFS Newsletter, P.O. Box 43 Peterborough, New Hampshire, 03458

## HEALTHY SICKNESS

During the last couple of years I lived on different farms in Northern Germany where I did my apprenticeship in agriculture and for a few times at special festivities I was pushed and pulled through a country dance. It was fun, but I wasn't too excited about the music that went with it. My musical interests lie in Irish, British and American folk music (and good German folk music, which is available, but not popular, so you have to search for it).

Some weeks after my arrival in the USA I wound up in the Monadnock Region. A great deal of luck was involved to meet up with those wonderful people, through whose extended hospitality and kindness I am able to call this area home temporarily. And it feels like it too. The first invitation from my friends to a contra dance sounded exciting, but I didn't expect that first one to start a desire for dancing that can hardly be satisfied. The feeling that great musicians put in the melodies and rhythm just keep your feet moving, and the callers coordinate those movements and tell you whom to balance and swing till the pattern of the dance is within you.

After the second dance I was infected by the CD (Contra Dance) Virus and I have my serious doubts whether I'll ever get rid of it again. During my summer travels through other parts of the U.S., it was sleeping, just to flair up after my return to Dublin last fall. This area is really blessed with quite a few different dances happening on a regular basis, changing "sit in" musicians, a few new faces and the other infected persons make each dance special.

It's hard for me to visualize how my "sickness" will develop after leaving this country but I'm sure that if I'll find a couple of nice people and have some music around, I will feel my feet moving again - I just hope it won't take too long for that to happen. Thanks a lot to my friends without whom these wonderful experiences would have passed me by, to the dancers who helped me to learn, and to the callers and musicians for their continuous efforts to let a crowd of people have a good time with them. Keep it up!

Guntram Gudowius  
Hannover, F.R. Germany

*Editors Note: The cheerful presence of the author at nearly every contra dance has been very much appreciated and will be sorely missed.*

## PERFORMER LISTING

### FEBRUARY

- 31 (Jan) Shamus Pender Deacon Brodies Tavern  
5 Spider John Koerner Folkway  
6 Chris and Dennis Pearne Folkway  
7 Sara Grey and Ellie Ellis Deacons  
12 Bob Holmes and Bob Halperin Folkway  
13 The Morgans Folkway  
14 Margaret MacArthur Deacons  
14 Mary DesRosiers and Kirk Webster Gap Mt.  
19,20 Guy van Duser and Billy Novick Folkway  
21 Tony and Andy Barrand Deacons  
21 Early Music Ensemble Peterborough  
Unitarian Church  
26,27 Lui Collins Folkway  
28 Smith, Struthers and Terriberly Deacons

*The Performer Listing is a regular feature of the MFS Newsletter. It is open to all New Hampshire Performances and exceptional out of state performances. Information must be received by the 12th of the previous month.*

### CHANGES at the FOLKWAY

*The Folkway Coffehouse in Peterborough will begin its performances at 9:30, an hour later than it has been. The standard admission price will be \$4.50, and it will now be possible to make reservations for just the show.*

## DANCE, Dance, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE

### Weekly Dances

- Monday -- Harrisville -- Clark Hall  
Monday -- Amherst, Mass. -- Unitarian Church  
Thursday -- Northampton, Mass - Peoples Institute  
Sunday -- Brattleboro -- Green St. School

### Monthly Dances

- 5,19 - Northfield, Mass. - Town Hall  
6 - Peterborough - Elementary School  
12 - Henniker - Congrega ibnal Church Hall  
13 - E. Alstead  
13 - Brattleboro  
13 - Fracestown - Town Hall  
14 - Dawn Dance - Brattleboro - Shriners Hall  
20 - Nelson - Town Hall  
27 - Acworth

*The Monadnock Folklore Society Newsletter is published monthly. We welcome submissions of articles or information pertinent to our cause. We reserve the right to determine the appropriateness of the material.*

*Subscription to the newsletter is included as part of membership, or may be obtained separately for \$5.00 annually.*

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