



**August 2008**

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## Music at Every Turn

*By Carrie Morgan Cannella*

"This is our world, anyway," I overheard one musician comment at the Flagstaff Folk Festival held at the end of June at the Coconino Center for the Arts.

"Yeah, and it's a good one," another replied.

The best thing about the festival that represents this world is its laid-back quality, an aspect that suits Flagstaff – and folk music itself – perfectly. It is an informal weekend of comfort and music, period; a weekend for music-lovers. Anyone who has the itch gets an opportunity to strut their stuff. Those who just want to listen have a multitude of choices. There's something for everyone.

I talked to sound-board volunteer Fred Wojtkielewicz, who described the festival as "a unique opportunity for people who never get out and play...everyone has a chance to play; to express themselves."

He continued, "It's very unique that people get together to put together this event for no financial gain, just for the love of music."

Wojtkielewicz listens to all types of music and believes that all kinds enrich our lives in different ways. He enjoyed the fun and, well, bluesy, Blue Plate Special on Saturday. "They were two middle-aged women singing about common-day life stuff," he said. Sounds perfect for a folk festival. Isn't the reason we love to listen because the music is about *us*?

The best depiction of the carefree atmosphere of the festival is the way that there is music at every turn. In addition to the four stages, musicians gather below the steps leading to the center, at the picnic areas, in the woods and in the parking lot. Even better, now and again

crowds congregate around these unscheduled jams for some singing and dancing along.

Those of us at the information table on Saturday morning had our own curbside entertainment by one such jam that, as it grew in size, gradually included a couple of guitars, a banjo, a base, a mandolin, a ukulele, a fiddle, spoons, a saw and many singers from all walks of life. The unlikely group of musical characters sang some of America's ultimate traditional songs just in time for Independence Day, such as "You Are My Sunshine," "Oh Susanna," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "I'll Fly Away."

I had the opportunity to chat with jammer John McFadyen, who plays the guitar and sings with his wife Eva. "My wife and I have been playing together for 41 years. [Music has] always just been a part of our lives." The two are from Topock, Arizona and are members of the Songmakers of California.

"We came up here last year, just hanging around in the high country, and we just loved [the festival] to death. It's just a whole lot of fun making music with people who enjoy making music." He added, "Besides, you can bring your dog to these things."

The folk music revival hooked McFadyen when he was growing up. "I just love the music that tells a story; talks to me about people." One of his heroes is Stan Rogers. "Most of his stuff is about the little guy who was told he couldn't do something and went out and did it anyway."

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# Pickin' In the Pines

*By Darcy Falk*

Pickin' in the Pines is only a month and a half away! Although that might sound like a long time from where you're sitting, the Pickin' in the Pines organizers have kicked into high gear. We're pleased to report that ticket sales have been brisk, considering that the festival is still weeks away. You may have noticed our lamppost banners in downtown Flagstaff, or seen us passing out flyers at the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.

How can you get involved in this fantastic effort, you might ask?

Fred Wojtkielewicz (or just Fred) at the Wine Loft is actively seeking volunteers for the festival weekend. He has volunteer forms at the Wine Loft, or you can download the volunteer form on the Pickin' in the Pines website: [www.pickininthepines.org/volunteers.html](http://www.pickininthepines.org/volunteers.html). Fill out the form and return it to Fred to express your preferred volunteer time slots.

Just in case you've been asleep since January (though we've been adding bands all along the way!) the lineup includes The Del McCoury Band, Nashville Bluegrass Band, Valerie Smith and Liberty Pike with Becky Buller, Carolina Chocolate Drops, Steve Smith and Hard Road, Burnett Family Bluegrass, Spring Creek Bluegrass, The Billy Pilgrims, Sawmill Road, Sandia Hots, Richard Wilson, Fire Ridge, Muskellunge Bluegrass, Knockabouts, Springfed Band, Reno & Sheila McCormick, Traditional Blend, Chuck Cheesman, Laura Freeman, and Kristen Leigh Cook.

Pre-advance tickets are available through August 31 at the substantially discounted price of \$60 for a weekend pass. For more information, visit our website: [www.pickininthepines.com](http://www.pickininthepines.com), where you can also purchase day passes, see the lineup and schedule, find information about camping and lodging, and get information about various other aspects of the festival.

# Young Jammers in Transition

*By Chuck Cheesman*

As most of you know, the Young Jammers Program has become something very special within FFOTM, providing opportunities for young musicians who might not otherwise have a chance to own or play an instrument. You probably saw a good many of these young musicians at our recent Folk Festival. Credit for the success of Young Jammers belongs primarily to Lloyd Holdeman and Christina Boyd, who have built the program into what it is today.

Recently Lloyd and Christina met with me to discuss the future of Young Jammers. Lloyd is taking on a new job and they need to find someone to take over the musical activities of the program. They also contacted Flagstaff fiddling favorite Kari Barton. I am honored that they chose to meet with me on this topic, as is Kari. We would like to help keep the program going.

Lloyd's are pretty big shoes to fill. Because of my own family responsibilities and work, I am afraid I cannot commit all of the time and energy that the job requires. Kari has a very active teaching and performing schedule also. Christina, Lloyd, and I discussed the possibility that we find some qualified people in FFOTM who would be willing to participate in working with the Young Jammers. We would like to maintain the same levels of instruction and enthusiasm as Lloyd has been providing, but we're going to need help.

I know the club has many qualified and talented musicians. If you have an interest in helping out and being part of the Young Jammers Program, please contact Chuck Cheesman at 928-526-2919 or Christina Boyd at 522-9269.

# FFOTM Seeks Administrative Assistant

FFOTM is looking for a knowledgeable, independent, and enthusiastic individual to fill a part time position as an Administrative Assistant. This will be a contracted position, and should average 5 - 10 hours a week, with more time needed around major events (Festivals, Campouts, Concerts, etc.) Major duties will include maintaining the FFOTM and Pickin' in the Pines web pages, the FFOTM membership, mailing, and volunteer lists, managing club correspondence, assisting with grants, newsletters, and concert promotion, and in the

production of events. The ideal candidate should have excellent computer skills, including MS Word and Excel, FrontPage, and, preferably, Quickbooks, MS Access and Macromedia Contribute. A demonstrated commitment to the FFOTM mission and dedication to non-profit work is essential. Compensation will be competitive, based qualifications and experience. Please contact Jesse Anderson if you are interested and would like more information about the position, which we hope to fill in the very near future.

## FFOTM and Diablo Trust Campout

Once again, FFOTM will be teaming-up with Diablo Trust for their Annual Campout Under The Stars, held in conjunction with Artists' Day On The Land, Saturday, August 23rd - Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

We enjoyed the spectacular scenery at the camp site last year, and the opportunity to make some new friends, so we thought it might be fun to do it a second time. There'll be some new faces around, but we'll be doing our thing just like always, making music throughout the night, having a potluck dinner Saturday night, with the main dish provided, and a pancake breakfast Sunday. Otherwise come self-contained and prepared for a weekend of dry camping. Donations to help FFOTM and Diablo Trust cover the cost of food and porta-johns will be solicited and much appreciated.

This year, the event takes place at Sawmill Springs; it is less than 40 miles from Flagstaff and takes a little under an hour to get there. Here are the directions:

1. Take Lake Mary Road from Flagstaff. Go past Lower Lake Mary, Upper Lake Mary, and Mormon Lake. After the second turn-off to

Mormon Lake southeast of the lake) go about 2 miles and you will come to a long straight-away.

2. On your left, take the turnoff for FR #124. About 100 yards in, you'll see a sign which, among other things, reads "Sawmill Springs 6"

3. Follow the main road (which has many turn-offs); after about 4 miles, you'll see the powerline. Continue along the powerline another 2 miles, you'll come to a cattleguard and see a horse-coral on the right. This will be the main staging area for dinner and music; camping opportunities abound.

If you have questions about the directions please contact Derrick Widmark at Diablo Trust: (928) 523-0588 or [info@diablotrust.org](mailto:info@diablotrust.org), <http://www.diablotrust.org>. Other questions about the campout logistics can be directed to Bill Vernieu ([bv4@mindspring.com](mailto:bv4@mindspring.com)).

# Living Traditions Presentations

By Kari Barton

Living Traditions Presentations has a great line-up of music coming to Flagstaff for the fall of 2008. There will be four great concerts of Irish and Scottish music for you to enjoy!

Starting off the season is a long-time Flagstaff favorite: the Old Blind Dogs. The Dogs are returning once again to delight us with their musical talents, funny stories, and amazing blend of traditional Scottish music with the influences of jazz, African drumming, and other styles of music. This will be the second performance of the Old Blind Dogs since they once again became a quartet. They have always been "one of the original cutting edge outfits in Scotland continuing new roots revival!" Don't miss the Old Blind Dogs Sunday, September 7, 2008 at 8:00pm at The Orpheum (tbc) in downtown Flagstaff!

The second concert this fall is the amazing fiddle/guitar duo Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill. Both of these players are amazing musicians in their own right, but put them together and you get a dynamite concert; filled with lyrical tunes, explosive energy, and uncomparable musicality. Hayes and Cahill work off each other like two jazz masters, exploring the tunes, spinning medleys that expand and contract with intensity. "Our allegiance is to the spirit of the moment," says Hayes, "Our primary wish is that the musical experience be one that lifts our spirits and those of the audience." This will be the third concert Hayes and Cahill have played in Flagstaff and I am very excited to welcome them back! Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill will perform Friday, September 26, 2008 at 8:00pm at the Cline Library Auditorium on the NAU Campus.

On Sunday, October 12, 2008, Flagstaff will have it's own premier of the world-famous Paddy Keenan. Though Paddy Keenan has played for years, being a founding member of the Bothy Band, and

starting the Uilleann Pipes at age 10, following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps. Generally acknowledged as the most accomplished uilleann piper performing today, Paddy is certainly one of the most brilliant musicians of his generation. "In Irish music there are legends and legends and then there's Paddy Keenan." Playing with Paddy, will be John Walsh on guitar, originally from Kilkenny, Ireland, now residing in New York. This is going to be a concert you don't want to miss! The concert venue is still being determined at this point, but keep your eyes out for updates!

The final concert in the fall will be another Flagstaff favorite, former Old Blind Dogs lead singer, Jim Malcolm. Jim left the Old Blind Dogs in 2007 to concentrate on his solo career and spend more time with his family. Jim has performed solo twice before in Flagstaff and each time was met with enthusiastic applause. He has been called "The new male voice of Scotland" by *Radio Scotland* and "One of the most outstanding talents to have emerged through the Scottish folk scene in years" by *The Independent*. He was named the Scottish Songwriter of the Year in 2004. Not only will you be impressed by his smooth voice, original songs, and interpretations of traditional songs; but his harmonica playing is rarely matched...even by players who play only harmonica. Jim Malcolm will be performing Thursday, October 30, 2008. The venue is still being determined, as last year's show was nearly sold out.

Keep your eyes out for updates on all the shows and exciting concerts for the spring as well including new Irish band, Beoga. For more information on any concerts, please call 928-600-1365.

# Campout Review; DVD Available

By Joanna Joseph

I made twelve DVDs and sold them all at the Flagstaff Folk Festival—thank you! For those who still want a copy of the "FFOTM Campouts" DVD, here's how to get one (Be sure to include your mailing address):

Send \$20 + \$5 postage & handling to:

Joanna Joseph

NOW or NEVER PRODUCTIONS

PO Box 410035

Big Water, UT 84741-2035

Now that business is out of the way, I can give a little backstory. I bought my first camcorder in April 1996, shortly after my husband's diagnosis of terminal cancer - nothing like that to remind you that life is short and precious, and to see it all with newly appreciative eyes. "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone..."

One of the things I've filmed over the years are FFOTM campouts. I want the kids in my life to be able to look back on these wonderful weekends of tent camping amidst live music made by real people on a variety of instruments. I want our parched little desert rats to be able to call up the memory of a cool breeze whispering through aspen and pine trees. I want them to remember the laid-back, friendly atmosphere, the relaxation of parental constraint, the freedom to get filthy in the ashes and wet in the ponds, to stay up late hearing music notes like campfire sparks rise to the starry heaven, to laugh in the rain. The kids have outgrown the campouts for now, but joyfully watch the old footage and admit they are marked. I, of course, continue to come on my own. At this last campout the spring light was so beautiful through the oak trees—a sight which you Flagstaffers probably take for granted but which is like a tall drink of water to this Southern Utah desert girl—I couldn't stop shooting. The only way to stop shooting was to start editing. I realized it was finally time to put it all together.

So I did, starting with still photos—most of them given to me by others--soon thereafter the footage from my first analog camcorder, later the crisp digital images of my good little Canon camcorder.

The years covered are 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2004, 2005, and 2008. Carving away all but the best, the total run time of the DVD is 96 minutes. I've broken that into five mini-movies ranging from 3 to 30 minutes each, and have tracked out each one even further, and

put a Table of Contents on the cover. I think you'll like its organization.

The video work is no more perfect than campout music--it's all homemade in a spirit of fun. In the video there are only two bits of commercial music, used over still-photo slideshows from the early years; the rest is made by our own FFOTM musicians. There are some great tunes here. It's the soundtrack of our lives.

One thing that especially tickles me is hearing that the video triggers memories of things not shown. It's happened for everybody who's seen it so far. I hope it happens for you.

If anybody objects to being in this video, let me know and I'll take you out—no explanation necessary. If you're glad my camera found and immortalized us at our campground best, I'd love to hear that feedback as well. Contact me at [joanna@thebigpond.com](mailto:joanna@thebigpond.com).

As it turns out, there's a good bit of instructional video for anyone keen to notice things. First, an amazing variety of instruments--guitar, mandolin, fiddle, bass, banjo, dulcimer, autoharp, concertina, "stick," ukelele...with visual evidence of how to pick, strum, fret, or bow those instruments. There are clues on how to collaborate and harmonize, and how fake-playing has its place in any musician's evolution. Also included are really important life-skills like how to knock the bottom out of a beer bottle, how to make a grease bomb, how to use a hula hoop and how to work together to meet the basic needs of a big group of people for food, shelter, toilet, and trash management. How music can move us gracefully on through our days and nights, and how, yes, we are all getting older.

What I see from where I sit is that Flagstaff is a beautiful place, FFOTM is a great organization of unique and precious people, and our lives are enriched by these campout memories. My heart sings at the sight of a FFOTM paper plate sign. I'm glad I was led to you all, and I'm glad I made some record of our good times. If it's of interest and value to you as well, I'm glad.

If you want an idea of what's in the video, check out this sampler on YouTube: FFOTM Campouts Trailer <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lq51Olli0wM> Or you can e-mail me for a copy of the Table of Contents: [joanna@thebigpond.com](mailto:joanna@thebigpond.com).

Otherwise, just order the DVD from the instructions at the top of this article. I've got some ready for you.

# Come Hear Songs From the Forest

Contact: Karen Malis-Clark, 928-527-3492

This summer marks the Centennial anniversary of both the Coconino and Kaibab National Forests in northern Arizona, as well as the Fort Valley Experimental Forest, the first forest research station established in the country. A special musical celebration is planned for those who care about your national forests and other public lands and enjoy clapping your hands, stomping your feet, and maybe even singing along to lively old-time string band music. You won't want to miss a performance by the Fiddlin' Foresters at downtown Flagstaff's Heritage Square on Saturday, August 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

The Fiddlin' Foresters put on an enlightening and entertaining interpretive program about the importance of healthy public lands and natural resources in the United States. They mix spoken messages with songs and tunes that carry the message right to your heart. Come ready to keep the beat, hum or sing along, laugh a lot, and maybe shed a few tears.

The band has been performing around the country since 1994. The rich and lively music comes from fiddle, banjo, guitar, and harmonica. The Fiddlin' Foresters have performed for national and international events, state fairs, teacher workshops,

schools, open houses, and Forest Service meetings. Among their most rewarding experiences were performing at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Utah and the 2005 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, DC.

The group consists of four Forest Service employees and volunteers from the Rocky Mountain Region, headquartered in Golden, Colorado. They have a passion to share the spirit, values, and traditions of the Forest Service. They honor our conservation leaders of the past and look to the future of our public lands and natural resources.

This performance is free, sponsored by the Kaibab and Coconino National Forests, Rocky Mountain Research Station – Flagstaff Lab, Arizona Natural History Association and Northern Arizona University School of Forestry. In case of inclement weather, an alternate performance venue will be available. The Fiddlin' Foresters look forward to their first visit to Flagstaff and an audience full of fans of public lands and traditional music. For more information, visit <http://www.fiddlinforesters.gov/>, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coconino> or call 928-527-3492.

## Upcoming Contra Dances

By Kari Usher

Mark your calendars for the following dances.

Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> Cindy Conn will call to the Just Desserts

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> Peg Hesley will call to ClusterFolk (all from Phoenix)

\*Oct 11<sup>th</sup> (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday) Just Desserts will be the band, caller TBA

\*The October dance gets moved to the second Saturday because of the Prescott Folk Festival that weekend and dance.

# Membership Update

By Judy Henzler

What wonderful monsoons we have experienced in July! We had 23 renewing memberships and 2 new last month, bringing our total membership to 256. Please take the time to check your mailing label to see if you need to renew your membership; you can use the form below or look for the letter inside. Thanks to those supporting Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music by keeping their membership up to date. If you want more information about Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music, you can always contact me at 928-607-6067 or e-mail to [jhenzler08@gmail.com](mailto:jhenzler08@gmail.com).

## New and Renewing Members

Ron/Glo Auler

Ralph/Jean Baierlein

Mary Bianco

Bill Bowker

Mike/Dianne Chadburn

William/Carol Doane

Marybeth Foushee

Joanna Joseph

Birgit Lowenstein

Reno/Sheila McCormick

Diane McQueen

David Minor

Paul/Virginia Moller

Erika Hess/Bob Neustadt

Jeanne Neff

Bruce/Nancy Palmer

Nancy Pobertson

Michael/Kris Satterwhite

Janie Schindler

Mary Lynne Shroyer

James Sobek

Kathleen/John Stigmon

Peggy Taylor

Bill/Virginia Williams

Steve/Rachael Wilson

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## Music at Every Turn *(continued from page 1)*

I wandered around on Saturday, not wanting to miss anything. Songwriters took turns playing originals and loaning out guitars in the Songwriter's Circle. The music was soft with a focus on the lyrics. As one person sang, the rest of the group listened intently with complete acceptance. Under the Pioneer Tent, Pure Dead Brilliant's Celtic sound and silly songs brought laughter to the audience. In the Gallery, Flagstaff's Raul O'Donnal's quiet, soft style had the audience dreaming of first loves and heartbreaks. The Main Stage audience gave a standing ovation for the young and talented Hotwires while Nolan McKelvey melted hearts on the Art Barn Porch.

Because it is impossible to see everything, I substituted wandering for relaxing on Sunday. I happily listened to Flagstaff favorites Mars Hillbillies and the Joan Wyatt Band as well as the

ukulele-powered Scottsdale Strummers. Finally I checked out the McFadyens, who played both original songs, like the one about the drug-addicted rabbit, and classic songs to pay homage to singers who have passed on, like Tommy Makem, Stan Rogers and Kate Wolf.

My main exercise for the weekend was foot-tapping and head-nodding.

"I think roots music is an important part of musical history," Wojtkielewicz said. "Music plays such a huge part in our lives, whether we realize it or not." I think all of us at the festival appreciate this fact. One can clearly feel the sense of community that the music creates. Folk music has always been about everyday people and ordinary life. The Flagstaff Folk Festival honors this by making music accessible to everyone.



## FFOTM MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ new \_\_\_\_\_ renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone - Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership - \$12.00 per year

Family Membership - \$15.00 per year

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership \$12

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Membership \$15

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