



February 2009

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# 15th Annual Cowboy Campfire

## Three Tenors on Horseback

By Tony Norris

In the old days local cowboys would tie their horses out back on a Saturday night and rent a room at The Weatherford. Then they would proceed to the ball room to celebrate----with a neat shot of rye or a glass of foam by the crackling fireplace. Soon they would be singing the sad songs of lost dawgs and the brown-eyed beauties of Oldtown. A crowd would press in as one cowboy sang about his family back home. One would recite a fragment of a remembered poem while another stretched the truth 'till it snapped like a wire fence in a stampede. It was a cowboy campfire...

Join Tony Norris, Bill Vernieu and Warren Miller at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 20th as they gather for Three Tenors on Horseback: The 15th Annual Cowboy Campfire. This event for all ages has become one of the best attended and most celebrated shows of the month-long Flagstaff Winterfest.



The 15th Annual Cowboy Campfire  
 Featuring Tony Norris, Bill Vernieu and Warren Miller  
 The Zane Grey Ballroom of The Weatherford Hotel  
 Friday, February 20th 7:30-10pm

Tony Norris is a veteran of the cowboy music and poetry festivals. He has appeared on the stages of the National cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, The Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium in Ruidoso, New Mexico and The Arizona Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Prescott, Arizona. He is host of

the cable TV show Letter From Home, and his songs and stories are featured weekly on the local web/TV show Flagnews. His rich tenor voice, big Martin guitar and savvy singing of Western songs and his wry, funny stories of the Southwest will delight the whole family.

Bill Vernieu is versatile on mandolin and guitar. His encyclopedic knowledge of

cowboy songs and boyish good looks charm all comers. He'll make grandpa cry when he recites The Buckskin Mare and last year Aunt Pearl dropped her false teeth when he told about the first time he bought a bra.

*Continued next page.*

Warren Miller returns to the campfire with a great collection of new songs and poems. He was one of the fellers that started it all as a founder of the National Cowboy Gathering in Elko, Nevada 25 years ago. He was the director of the Arizona Cowboy Poetry Gathering for 20 years. He is recognized across the country as an authority on the folklore of the cowboy. An excellent musician, singer and reciter of the old poems, he'll warm your heart.

Seating at The Zane Grey Ballroom is limited so don't delay getting your tickets. Available beginning 2/1/09 at The Weatherford Hotel at 23 N. Leroux, phone: (928) 779 1919 or by calling Tony (928) 526 6684 or Bill (928) 525 3001. [www.weatherfordhotel.com](http://www.weatherfordhotel.com). Tickets: \$12 for children and FFOTM members, \$15 general admission.

## Pickin' in the Pines '09

### Tickets Now on Sale – Special Discount for FFOTM Members

*By Darcy Falk*

The Gibson Brothers, Claire Lynch Band, Steep Canyon Rangers, Crooked Still and Burnett Family Bluegrass are just some of the bands that will be featured at the Fourth Annual Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass & Acoustic Music Festival, September 18, 19 & 20, 2009.

In addition to sets by these great bands at this year's festival, you'll be able to participate in workshops with great musicians, hear up-and-coming talent as bands compete in the band contest, and dance your heart out at contra dance events. Plus there will be activities just for kids – including free admission for children 16 and under.

This is the earliest date we've ever offered Pickin' in the Pines tickets. Yes, we know it's early, but that's why we call 'em Early Bird Weekend Passes. Because FFOTM members have been such an incredible source of support for the festival, we'd like to say "thanks" by offering a \$5 discount coupon off the regular price of \$50. If you purchase your ticket before March 15, 2009, you can get your weekend pass for only \$45.

Mail your payment (\$45 for each Early Bird Weekend Pass and \$15 per person for a Weekend Camping Pass) to Pickin' in the Pines, PO Box 23701, Flagstaff, AZ 86002. Please include your name, address (so we can send your tickets), e-mail and a phone number with your order, and tell us how many Early Bird Weekend Passes and how many Weekend Camping Passes you wish to purchase. Please also include the discount code of 104FF on your order.

You can also order through Paypal online at [pickininthepines.org](http://pickininthepines.org). Click on the Ticket Sales link at the left to access the online ordering information. Important note: You must enter the discount code of 104FF to receive the Flagstaff Friends of Traditional Music discount.

If you're interested in working on the festival, contact Bill Vernieu (bv4 (at) mindspring.com), Michael Falk (michael.falk (at) nau.edu) or Rusty Tweed, or leave a message on the Pickin' in the Pines information line, 928-525-1695.

# A Gathering of Tunesmiths

By Avtar Khalsa

*I owe it to the steady hands that made me my guitar,  
to the spirit of the Old Growth Tree and the land that  
bares the scar.*

*I owe it to the Ones I Love - my children and my wife,  
and I believe I owe it to myself to breathe this music life.*  
-- from *Sing for Love* by Chuck Cheesman

Nobody really knows where songs come from. Some think they grow from that well of creativity deep inside each of us. Others think they flow from the creative energy in the universe if we let ourselves be receptive. And maybe those are the same things.

But however they get here, they arrive—sometimes in bits and pieces that need some musical glue to hold them together, other times as a melodic concept in search of some good words to give it meaning.

We find ourselves with these words and melodies bouncing around inside our heads and hearts, looking for a way out, a way to become whole. We have somehow been given the awesome responsibility of nurturing them into songs.

*My beast's got a motor so loud  
it'll raise the dead  
Just say the word, and we'll go riding  
on my Sears '78 pedal moped*

-- Matthew Henry Hall's take-off on Richard Thompson's '52 Vincent Black Lightning

Flagstaff is blessed with an abundance of very good songwriters. On the last Monday evening of each month, a bunch of us get together for the Flagstaff Songwriters Circle.

It's a great opportunity to try out a new song in a friendly, supportive atmosphere, usually before it gets polished into its final form. It's a place for feedback and encouragement, and to get inspiration from other songwriters. And there are often folks who just show up just to listen on the chance of hearing a great new song as it comes to life.

*So I'll hide my desire inside of this song  
I'll be singing on Saturday night  
And you know the place just in case you're in town  
Just a half a block up from the light*  
-- from *As Good as it Gets* by Avtar Khalsa

Chuck Cheesman brought the concept with him from Chicago where he'd been part of an ongoing songwriters circle. Given all the singer-songwriters performing in Flagstaff, he was surprised there wasn't one here.

He and Matt Hall talked about it one day and decided to make it happen. Not quite two years ago, Flagstaff's Songwriters Circle was born.

*I will sing down at the Crossroads  
and to the Heavens high above,  
but there's no deal going down as long as I sing.  
As long as I sing, I sing for love.*  
-- from *Sing for Love* by Chuck Cheesman

News of the Circle traveled by word of mouth. I can't remember how I first heard about it, but somebody told me to ask Tony Norris. Tony and I talked at the 2007 Pickin' in the Pines. He promised to get me on "the list."

The list is an email group maintained by Matt Hall. He sends out a reminder each month with the time and location. While the number of participants at any given Circle rarely exceeds a dozen, Matt says there are now around 40 songwriters on the list, and it seems to grow each month.

The Circle only has two rules: each month you bring a new original song (ideally, one that you've written since the previous Circle); and nobody jams on anyone else's song unless they are invited to do so.

Each month it is a true joy to hear an amazing new collection of songs from songwriters whose styles, interests, and abilities span the spectrum.

The next Songwriters Circle starts at 7:30 pm on Monday, February 23, in the Mezzanine at the Weatherford Hotel. Come on down!

# A Weekend of Dancing!

By Deb Comly

## Friday, February 20

Contra Dancing at Mountain School, 311 W Cattle Drive Road, Flagstaff

Featuring visiting caller Diane Silver (Asheville, N.C.) and Updraft (Mary Anne McLeod, Judy Francis and Mike Reddig) for these very special dances. Contact Deb Comly for more information at 774-5936.

Community Dance - Fun and easy dances for dancers of all ages and abilities

Adults: \$5 Ages 16-2: \$3 Under 2: Free Family Maximum: \$15

5:00 - 6:15 Dancing

6:15 - 6:45 Cake Walk

Contra Dance -

Adults: \$8 Students: \$6 Ages 16 and under: \$4

7:00 - 7:30 Pre-dance lesson

7:30 - 10:30 Contra Dance

## Saturday, February 21

Clogging Workshop at Mountain School, 311 W Cattle Drive Road, Flagstaff

Appalachian Clogging/Flatfooting Dance Workshop

\$10 per participant

Percussive dance style from Appalachian mountains, workshop taught by Diane Silver with live "old time" fiddle accompaniment by Lora Colten. Snacks provided.

## Saturday, February 21

Contra Dance at Cottonwood Civic Center, 805 Main Street, Old Town Cottonwood

Adults: \$8 Students: \$6 Ages 16 and under: \$4

5:30-6:30 Potluck

6:30-7:00 Pre-dance Lesson

7:00-10:00 Dance

Please see the calendar on page 7 for a February 27 - March 1 contra dance too!

# First Saturday Contra Dance News

By Kari Usher

Here is the latest info on FFOTM's First Saturday Contra Dabce.

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** - Just Desserts will play as we feature the local callers – Deb Comly, Cyndie Conn and Kari Usher

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** - Updraft will be playing to Peg Hesley's calls

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** - Just Desserts will play to the calling of Susan Petrich from California

Bring your dancing feet, bring a friend, bring your smile and we will see you on the dance floor. We dance at Ashurst Hall on the NAU campus, in the Old Main building. Lesson is at 7:30pm and we dance till 11 pm to live music and with a great variety of fellow dancers. For more information call Kris 526-3020.

# Beoga Comes to Flag...from Ireland

By Kari Barton

Living Traditions Presentations is excited to bring you Beoga, one of the hottest new bands to emerge from Ireland today! Beoga means "lively" in Irish and is a fitting description of the band. They will have you tapping your feet and dancing the whole night! The Irish Echo described Beoga as "A heady, virtually head-spinning, sonic blend stamping Beoga as perhaps the most audacious Irish band rooted in trad today."

The band was drawn together after 'jamming' in a ferocious music session at the All-Ireland Fleadh in August 2002. Their unique sound features the twin duelling accordians of Seán Óg Graham and Damian McKee, along with four times All-Ireland bodhrán champion Eamon Murray and pianist Liam Bradley. In 2005, Beoga were nominated by Irish Music Magazine for the best traditional newcomer's award. With the addition of one of Ireland's premier young singers, Niamh Dunne, Beoga are confirming their reputation as one of the most exciting acts to emerge from Ireland in recent years. Their performance in Flagstaff will be their Arizona premier!

The bedrock of Beoga's music lies firmly within the Irish tradition, but they are not afraid to incorporate other genres' nuances into their music. From bluesy riffs to Astor Piazzola-style jazz, to a raunchy New Orleans jamboree vibe, their music always returns to a wonderfully bouncy traditional sound. With a repertoire of fresh self-penned tunes

and inventive arrangements, the debut album 'a lovely madness' earned 9/10 in Ireland's Hot Press music magazine and was one of the Top Trad/Folk Albums of the year.

Over the last few years Beoga have performed at major Celtic and Folk festivals throughout Europe and the USA, including the All-Ireland music Fleadh, Dranouter, Tonder, Boston, Kansas and Milwaukee Irish Festivals, the Guinness Irish Christmas tour of Austria, the Irish Folk Festival tour of Germany along with Solas and Kevin Burke, and the Irish Unplugged Tour of Holland with the Fureys and Davey Arthur. In September 2007, Beoga performed live with the BBC Orchestra to a television audience of millions as part of the prestigious 'Last night of the Proms'. Beoga's popularity continues to flourish, as they captivate audiences on a global scale with their blend of passion, energy and vitality.



Beoga will perform Friday, February 27, 2009 at 8:00pm at The Orpheum Theater in downtown Flagstaff. The doors will open at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$20 general admission. A \$2 discount is available to members of NACHS and FFOTM only at Cedar

Music in advance. Student and child tickets are only \$12! Tickets are available at Animas Trading and Rainbow's End in downtown Flagstaff, Cedar Music, and online at [www.orpheumpresents.com](http://www.orpheumpresents.com). For more information, visit [www.livingtraditionspresentations.com](http://www.livingtraditionspresentations.com) or call 928-600-1365.

# Membership Update

*By Jude McKenzie*

We had 19 renewing memberships and 1 new in the last month, bringing our total membership to 267. 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 928-556-3161 or e-mail to mckenzie (at) npgcable.com

## New and Renewing Members

William Austin  
Cathi Borthwick & Ken Walters  
Jane Broughton  
Morgan Conklin & Alyssa  
Harmon  
Margie Erhart  
Stan Farb  
James & Charlene Gibson

Steve Gustafson & Mary  
Hazlehurst  
Judy Henzler  
Jeannette Honanie  
Daniel Jordan & Kathleen  
Clement  
Tobias Kreidl & Jessica Lorey  
Deborah Lindquist

Barry Malpas  
Nolan McKelvey  
Wilbert & Carrie Odem  
Julie & Roger Brace  
Colleen Tucker  
Kelly Poe Wilson  
Joan Wyatt

## Miscellaneous

### **Fred Eaglesmith Concert – February 5<sup>th</sup>**

This is a reminder about the Fred Eaglesmith Band with Muskellunge Bluegrass show at the Green Room on February 5th 9pm-12am there will be an \$8 cover. Eaglesmith is an Americana legend and this is his first gig in Flagstaff. For more information please visit [www.fredeaglesmith.com](http://www.fredeaglesmith.com) or [www.nolanmckelvey.com](http://www.nolanmckelvey.com)  
See you there...hopefully we'll have a great FFOTM turnout!

### **Announcement - KVNA:**

KVNA 600 am is now heard at 104.7 fm. This includes Saturday folk radio, Saturday mornings from 6-10. Check it out, it's loud and clear!

### **Coming July 2009, Celtic Arts Camp!**

Living Traditions Presentations has teamed up with Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society, the U.S. School of Piping and Northern Arizona University School of Music to create a Celtic Arts Camp: Grand Canyon Celtic Arts Academy. This year, workshops will be given for two to three days during the week of July 13, 2009 in Irish fiddle, whistle, flute, bodhran, tenor banjo, and DADGAD guitar. For more information, please email Kari (at) LivingTraditionsPresentations.com or call 928-600-1365

# Upcoming Events Calendar

February 2 - Monday - FFOTM Board Meeting  
7:00 at the Coconino Center for the Arts. Contact Jesse Anderson: [jesse.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:jesse.anderson@gmail.com) or 607-3698.

February 5 – Fred Eaglesmith with Muskellunge Bluegrass  
The Green Room, Flagstaff. See page 6.

February 7th - "1st Saturday" Monthly Contra Dance  
From 7:30 - 11:00 pm. Ashurst/Old Main Hall on the NAU campus. Just Desserts will play as we feature our local callers Deb Comly, Cyndie Conn and Kari Usher

February 7th - Larry Peterson  
7-9 pm, Bookman's, 1520 S. Riordan Ranch Rd.  
Flagstaff, AZ. Tel: (928) 774-0005

February 13 - 15 ~ Colorado River Bluegrass Festival  
Bullhead City, at the Bullhead Chamber of Commerce & City Park, 1251 Highway 95. Appearing will be Lost and Found, Bluegrass Patriots, James King, Third Generation, The Rarely Heard.: (928) 768-5819 OR (928) 201-5819  
[Banjo@Citilink.net](mailto:Banjo@Citilink.net), <http://coloradoriverbluegrass.com/>

February 13 - Richie Havens  
Coconino Center for the Arts, Doors 7/Show 8, \$40 Gold Seating, \$30 Premium Seating. For more information: <http://www.richiehavens.com>. Tickets on-sale now at Coconino Center for the Arts, Rainbow's End, by calling 779-2300 and online at [www.greenhouseproductions.net](http://www.greenhouseproductions.net)

February 20th - The 15th Annual Cowboy Campfire  
Featuring Tony Norris, Bill Vernieu and Warren Miller at The Zane Grey Ballroom. See cover story for details.

February 20th - Flagstaff Folk Project Coffee House  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 510 N. Leroux Street  
7:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Open Mic  
8:30 – 8:45 p.m. – Refreshment Break  
8:45 – 9:45 p.m. – Featured Performer (Rusty Tweed)  
There is a cover charge of \$5.00.

February 21st - Larry Peterson  
7-9 pm, Campus Coffee Bean, 1800 S Milton Rd # 24,  
Flagstaff, AZ. (928) 556-0660.

February 20-22 ~ Lakeshore Bluegrass Festival  
Havasulanding.com  
Havasulanding Resort and Casino, CA  
IIIrd Generation, The Dillards, Flint Hill Special, The Shulers, Trusting Heart, Lost Highway. (800)307-3610 ext 2 or [www.havasulanding.com](http://www.havasulanding.com).

February 27 - March 1 FIDDLING FROG Contra Dance  
Festival Pasadena CA. Contrazz, The Lissa Schneckenburger Band and calls by Kathy Anderson, Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Contact [fiddlingfrog@verizon.net](mailto:fiddlingfrog@verizon.net) or visit <http://www.caldancecoop.org/cgi/coopdriver.cgi>

# Ongoing Events Calendar

First Tuesday from 8-11: Nolan McKelvey at The Wine Loft, upstairs at 17 N. San Francisco St. in downtown Flagstaff, 928-773-9463.

Second and fourth Tuesdays from 8-11: Voluntary String Band at The Wine Loft (see contact info above.)

Third Tuesday from 8-11: Major Swing at The Wine Loft (see contact info above.)

First Wednesday from 8-11: Wednesday Night Vintage Series with Tony Norris, at The Wine Loft (see contact info above.)

Second and Fourth Wednesdays from 8-11: The Mars Hillbillies at The Wine Loft (see contact info above.)

Third Wednesday from 8-11: Hootenanny, hosted by Jesse Anderson at the Wine Loft (see contact info above.)

Every Wednesday - 12:00 pm: jam open to anyone at the Old Town Shops, on the corner of Leroux and Birch. Contact Christina Vojta for more information 814-6132.

Every Thursday – 7:00 pm: FFOTM Just Desserts contra dance band rehearsal. Open to anyone who wants to play or listen to contra dance music. Starts at 7:00pm at the home of Deb Comly and Mike Reddig, 1457 W. Meade. For more information call 774-5936.

Every first Saturday 7:30 pm FFOTM Contra Dance at Ashurst Hall on the NAU campus. Come on out for the 7:30 pre-dance lesson. Call Kris for more information 526-3020 or Judy at 214-7017.

Every Sunday 7:00 - 9:00 pm: Irish Session at Charlie's Pub and Grill, 23 N Leroux. Open to anyone who wants to play or listen to Irish traditional music. For more information contact Kari Barton at 600-1365 or Jay Ham at 699-8463.



## 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

Make checks payable to FFOTM  
and mail to:

FFOTM  
P.O. Box 23366  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002  
FFOTM Membership Form

www.ffotm.net

