

Yes! I want to help the 2018 Tumbleweed Music Festival

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Send to: 3RFS TMF, P.O. Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352
Enclose your check payable to *Three Rivers Folklife Society*.



2018 Member Application

Your membership gives you voting rights in folklife elections, \$2 off most concerts, and is tax deductible! You'll even get a nifty membership card to show your friends and neighbors!

Individual (\$20) or Family (\$25) Renewal? Y N

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Please send Folk Talk by (choose one) US Mail Email Both

I can help 3RFS with:

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments at concerts | <input type="checkbox"/> Setting up chairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taking admission at events | <input type="checkbox"/> Folding newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffeehouses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serve on Board of Directors | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Song circles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrating folk arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tumbleweed Music Festival | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Send check to: Three Rivers Folklife Society, P.O. Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352.

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Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 29, Issue 7

March 2018

Autoharp Treasure - Bryan Bowers

Saturday, 17 March, 7:30 PM

For over five decades, Bryan Bowers has been to the autoharp what Earl Scruggs was to the five-string banjo. He presents instrumental virtuosity combined with warmth, eloquence, expression and professionalism. Bowers' creativity and talent have won him inductions into Frets magazine's First Gallery of the Greats, as well as being the first living member inducted into the Autoharp Hall of Fame after Maybelle Carter, Kilby Snow, and Sara Carter. Master of the Autoharp, singer/songwriter, and riveting storyteller,

Along with being in the Hall of Fame, Frets magazine named him autoharp player of the year 5 times in a row, until they wouldn't let him compete anymore, and he became a member of their gallery of greats. Alongside legends, Chet Atkins, Mark O'Connor, David Grislam and others, Bowers was shocked that he had made it to such a pinnacle of great stringed artists. During conversation, Bowers stated that it was com-

edy to him, as he didn't feel justified to be in the same category. "I am a bulldog with a bone, who takes fiddle tunes and plays them until people run out of the room screaming, 'Please don't play that again.'"

A shy young man before he entered the music world, Bryan credits it with teaching him how to be sociable. When asked what drove him to play the autoharp, with blue eyes sparkling, Bowers spoke of seeing Jimi Hendrix twice within the same seven day period. But that wasn't the icing on the cake. Bowers was enjoying the best musical week of his life, as he also got to see Mississippi John Hurt three times, and that is when Bowers became obsessed with open finger picking.

He then attended a jug band party in Richmond, VA, where he saw a med student playing Shady Grove on the autoharp. That student handed the instrument over to Bryan and instructed him to place his hand on the bar, close his eyes, and strum with the other hand. The very next day, Bowers went out and purchased his

own autoharp with no idea that this would bring him out of his shell. The instrument became his compulsion, sometimes playing 20 hours a day. Bowers began to play in coffee houses, and before long he was initiating conversations, something he had never been able to do. Bryan says, "Music got me over that. I would dream music at night, literally strumming my female partner's back, during the night."

Bowers, who describes himself as a voracious reader with few math skills, picked up the "bug" at the age of 28, though he had been encouraged by his aunt Iola to play the guitar for some time. At a traditional folk festival in Chicago years ago, Mike Seeger questioned him on who had taught him to play. But Bowers was wholly self-taught, and after three major newspaper reviews, he began to feel that he was on his way, and he had "made it" in the Mid-West.

Living in Washington, Bowers might be considered to have been

Continued on Page 2, see Concert

John Dawson and Friends at Coffeehouse

Friday, 9 February, 7:30 PM

John Dawson grew up in Richland, playing guitar and writing songs starting when he was 14. He eventually moved to Seattle, where he joined the group The CombOvers. Their first CD was featured on Sirius Radio with the song "Trailer Queen" being rated Top Song in 2012.

After touring the Pacific Northwest for a number of years John returned

to the Tri-Cities and put together the band Double Tap. Later he formed the group Leaves of Grass with Karina Monce of Troupe du Soleil and Alex Koch. The group performed at the Tumbleweed Music Festival in 2013.

John also performs solo at local open mic sessions, Emerald of Siam, and American Legion Music Showcases hosted by Pamela Thomas Martin. At John's 3FRS Coffeehouse performance he will be joined by band mate Alex

Koch and also his dad, Jack, who plays harmonica with Early Bird and the Worm.

The evening will start with an open mic. Come early to sign up as slots are limited, the Coffeehouse is held at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1312 Kimball Ave., Richland (Drive around to the lower parking lot in the back). Suggested donations are \$8 for general admission or \$6 for teens and seniors at the door.

Concert, continued from page 1 saved by his music interest. Having struggled his entire life with his purpose in the world, the first song that he played brought a reverence to his life. He even refers to music as a holy thing. "People who do music on a high level, are some of the most holy persons in the world. Music is high on the list of things that complete me." Bowers likes, folk, bluegrass, and he even says he enjoys opera. Well traveled now for 50 years, Bowers estimates that he has traveled on average 270 days a year away from home.

Born in Yorktown, Virginia, Bryan Bowers was raised in New Bohemia near Petersburg of the Civil War's Battle Of The Crater fame. As a child, Bowers would tag along with the field workers and gandy dancers and learned to sing old call-and-answer songs. In the late '60s, Bowers discovered music when he took up the guitar. "The roots of the music had gone real deep in me. Music was real fulfilling, unlike anything I had ever done before. "It wasn't long before Bowers encountered the autoharp. From his rather unglamorous beginning as a street singer, Bryan Bowers has become a major artist on the traditional music circuit. He has redefined the autoharp and is also well known as a singer/songwriter. Bryan has a dynamic outgoing personality and an uncanny ability to enchant a crowd in practically any situation. His towering six foot four inch frame can be wild and zany on stage while playing a song like 'Dixie' and five minutes later he can have the same audience singing 'Will The Circle Be Unbroken' in quiet reverence and delight.

In 2006 Bryan released the landmark recording, Bristlecone Pine. Crabby Old Man was released in 2011. Live at Winterfolk 2015 is his most recent recording. This is Bryan's first live album and features 12 selections that he loves. This CD was recorded at Portland's premier folk event and 28th annual fundraiser for Sister of the Road. These recordings give the

listener a wonderful musical experience from the man who re-defined the autoharp.

Pre-Concert Potluck

Since our Bryan Bowers concert falls on St. Patrick's Day we will have an optional St. Paddy's Potluck before the concert, beginning at 6:00 PM. Bring Irish faire or something green to share. Sorry, no green beer at the church!

The potluck and Bryan's performance will be held at the Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 2819 W. Sylvester St., in Pasco. Tickets are \$14 general admission and \$12 for seniors, students, and 3RFS members, either in advance at The Bookworm and Octopus Garden, or at the door.



Contra Dance Success!

Friday, 23 March, 7:00 PM

The return of contra dance to the Tri-Cities has been a great success with over 60 dancers at our first dance in January and about 70 in February! We've had folks visit from as far away as La Grande, OR and Yakima, WA. Special thanks go out to our sponsors the Old Time Fiddlers Association and Washington Trust Bank with donations coming from Tri City Sign and Barricade, Starbucks and Roasters

Coffee. These and future sponsorships and donations are what is making it possible to host our summer dance series.

What is our summer dance series, you muse?! I am happy to share that we have 3 outdoor dances planned for the community by donation in May, June and July! Pasco Parks and Recreation will be co-sponsoring our May and June dances through their summer recreation program providing space and electricity at Memorial Park. July's dance will be held at the HAPO stage in Richland. More info will be coming about these exciting events!

Our March dance will be held Friday, March 23, at the Shuffler's Shanty, 717 N. Irving St., in Kennewick. This dance is sponsored by Jim Ostrander of State Farm Insurance. Newcomer's lesson begins at 7:00 PM and dancing at 7:30 PM. Calling the dance will be Howard Ostby to the sound of the Wednesday Night Band from Walla Walla. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 students/seniors and free for first time dancers and kids under 12.

If you've never experienced this uplifting and smile-producing dance, we encourage you to join us!

Folk Talk is published monthly August through May by the Three Rivers Folklife Society.

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 dlherting@gmail.com
 Send memberships to:
 Gene Carbaugh
 P.O. Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352

3RFS 2017-18 Board of Directors

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3RFS Info: www.3rfs.org 509 528-2215

Deadline for the April newsletter is March 15th.

We Have A Logo!

Tuesday, 15 May, 7:00 PM

We are excited to announce we have a logo for the 2018 Tumbleweed Music Festival. The bold logo can be seen in this newsletter and on our website, and will be featured in our advertising, posters, t-shirts, and buttons. The logo was created by Mary Beil, of Preston, Idaho, who described her process, "I thought of playing off the Roots theme, I would use the tumbleweed and mirror it to make the roots. And use a background color for sky that reminds me of a nice sunset."

Mary is a freelance graphic designer who once wrote a children's book about a tumbleweed for her Mom! She's a creative artist, loves doing wildlife and landscape photography, paints, and has published a children's book called "Pinky's Wish." Go to her website www.medesigns4u.weebly.com to view her other work, (including Baby Diaper Cakes!) Mary will receive the \$150 award for her winning logo design.

Congratulations, Mary! We look forward to seeing your work featured in our publicity. The logo was chosen by our Tumbleweed Planning committee from some really excellent submittals to our logo contest. If you would like to be a part of the planning for the 2018 festival, join us at our next meeting at Gene Carbaugh's home Tuesday, May 15, in Richland.



Local Folk Events

March

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 | First Friday Folkie Free-For All | 7:30 PM Fri | Micki Perry's Kennewick |
| 9 | John Dawson Coffeehouse | 7:30 PM Fri | All Saints', Richland |
| 10 | 2nd Saturday Sea Song Singalong | 7:00 PM Sat | Round Table Pizza Richland |
| 12 | 3RFS Board Meeting | 7:00 PM Mon | Micki Perry's Kennewick |
| 17 | Bryan Bowers Concert
Saint Patrick's Day Potluck | 7:30 PM Sat
6:30 PM | CUUC, Pasco |
| 23 | Contra Dance!
Wednesday Night Band - Howard Ostby | 7:00 PM Fri | Shufflers' Shanty Kennewick |

April

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 9 | 3RFS Board Meeting | 7:00 PM Mon | Gene Carbaugh's Richland |
| 13 | Steve & Kristi Nebel Coffeehouse | 7:30 PM Fri | All Saints', Richland |
| 14 | 2nd Saturday Sea Song Singalong | 7:00 PM Sat | Round Table Pizza Richland |
| 19 | Hank Cramer Presentation
First In: Green Berets in Vietnam 1957 | 7:00 PM Thurs | Richland Library Richland |
| 21 | Hank Cramer & Dan Maher Concert
Tumbleweed Benefit | 7:30 PM Sat | CUUC Pasco |
| 27 | Contra Dance!
Ranger Reade and Friends | 7:00 PM Fri | Shufflers' Shanty Kennewick |

All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland
 CUUC = Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 2819 W. Sylvester St., Pasco
 Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch St., Richland
 Micki Perry's = 1011 S. Dawes St., Kennewick
 Richland Library = Richland Public Library, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland
 Round Table Pizza = Corner of George Washington Way and Torbett St., Richland
 Shufflers' Shanty = 717 N. Irving St., Kennewick

For information, call 509 528-2215

A Friend In Need

Hello, Stanislove, President of Victory Music here. If you would be so kind to share your trusted carpenter, pet-sitter, electrician, house cleaner, plumber, etc. contacts with my betrothed, Lola Franklin in Kennewick, She and I both would really appreciate it.

Lola has a challenging job and several special-needs pets, and needs help with referrals for RELIABLE and HONEST tradespeople in the Tri-Cities. Her limited contacts in those fields

have cost her; in the short time she has owned her home, she's been victimized several times by over-priced and shoddy work. She's not expecting a "bargain," just workmanlike attention to a job. Please email lfranklin@aol.com or text 509 572-5378.

