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2021 Member Application

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

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- Refreshments at concerts Setting up chairs Fund raising
- Taking admission at events Folding newsletters Coffeehouses
- Serve on Board of Directors Publicity Song circles
- Demonstrating folk arts Membership
- Tumbleweed Music Festival Other

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



Vol. 32, Issue 2

Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

November 2020

Tumbleweed Virtual Music Festival - Success!

As with everything and everyone else in 2020, Tumbleweed was knocked for a loop by the COVID-19 pandemic. In April, we had begun discussing potential options for this year's festival; as TMF Coordinator, Dave Carson attended online meetings of the "Large Events Coalition," which included representatives from the Tri-City Water Follies, the Convention Center, the Washington Festivals and Events Association (WFEA), and more. We began to work together to build centralized guidelines for safety for events in these situations. Shortly after this, the Washington State Department of Health began releasing guidance documents for various types of activities and events. It quickly became clear that there was no way for us to safely hold a traditional, live-in-the-park festival this year.

The Planning Committee, however, voted down straight-out cancellation, and the idea of going virtual with an online form of the festival was quickly

raised and adopted. Then, all we had to do was to DO it!

Right off the bat, our major goal was to make sure that the virtual festival would have the same feeling of community, of family, that Tumbleweed has always had for both the attendees and performers. That idea gave us the structure we used: a number of "Stages," named after our traditional stages, scheduled with the same types of performances as the live stages by, the inestimable Micki Perry.

Given that structure, we quickly realized that we were going to have to go with pre-recorded performances for all stages, and for the concerts. Our truly live events would be limited to the Workshops, the Sea Shanty Sing-Along, and the Contra Dance.

After developing the technical requirements for the recorded performances, we polled as many past and present Tumbleweed performers as we could as to whether they'd be willing to participate in a virtual festi-

val. We received a LOT of very positive reactions, with very few folks backing out.

Tom Reitter, who had begun working on a festival documentary film last year, stepped in and gave us fabulous service as a video editor, making sure each recorded performance was the highest-possible quality we could manage. Tom also made the header section that appears on each performance, leaving room and time for the MC introductions. We believe that these are about the best we've ever seen, so we give continuing THANKS to Tom!

We also had other fortuitous finds, as people with exactly the right knowledge for things we didn't know we needed popped up at just the right time! Anne Schur, with years of User Experience Design, helped lay out and assure that the festival was as easily navigable as possible. Chris Glanister, who normally runs the sound on our **Continued on Page 2. See Success!**

Are We There Yet? Getting Closer!

Well we are finally out of Phase 1 of the Washington State Corona Virus Reopening Plan! We are now in Phase 2, even though technically we shouldn't be considering cases are still not down to an acceptable level, and actually cases are on the rise again. The weather is getting colder, and we are coming in to flu season on top of the current pandemic. It is still not safe to meet in large groups, even with social distancing, and folks still need to be wearing masks when out in public. This means that our concerts, coffeehouses and contra

dances are still on hold indefinitely until we can meet together safely or come up with creative alternatives. We will be doing our Sea Song Sing-alongs on Zoom (see Jim Honeyman's article about how to get a Zoom invite to these). We had one First Friday Folkie Free for All outdoors before the weather turned, but may have to meet for FFFFA on Zoom as well. Contact Micki Perry at micki.perry@aol.com or 509-947-6735 if you would be interested in a sing-along/song circle that has multi-genre focus on Zoom, especially if you

could help by hosting.

There is some good news on the horizon! We hope to try to do a virtual holiday concert on December 5! We are still trying to work out the technical details, but it will be a virtual concert on the internet with pre-recorded video on Vimeo, similar to what we were able to do for Tumbleweed Virtual Music Festival. Wishing we could be together in person, but we are thinking something is better than nothing and we want to do something! Mark your calendars for December 5th and stay tuned!



Success! Continued from Page 1

North Stage, turned out to have experience taking live events online, and he made sure that we could do all the various tricks for livestreaming that we needed. Thank you, Chris!

Wes Weddell coordinated almost all matters pertaining to the Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest, including contributing his own MC spots.

Terri Widergren stepped up to help us with our merchandise and most things related to the store – so there are quite a few happy, happy people wearing Tumbleweed merch thanks to her energetic action.

We also collected performances for our three concerts of the weekend – the Friday Night “New Horizons” concert for and by younger performers, the Saturday Night “Tumbleweed Benefit Concert” with our three headliner acts, and the Sunday Night “Theme Concert.”

Jude Noah, himself a member of at least three bands, really stepped up for us by assembling 11 groups of wonderfully diverse and skilled younger performers for the “New Horizons Concert.” He also provided MC duties for this concert, which got great reviews!

The Saturday Night Concert was, MC’ed by Dan Maher, and presented longer performances by The Go Janes, David Maloney, and Shanghaied on the Willamette. Micki Perry, MC’ed the Sunday Night “Theme” concert, featuring performances by ten of our Tumbleweed performers centered around this year’s theme, “Wind.”

As our scheduled opening date drew closer, we worked with a remote company, StartupWebTech, based in India, to build the actual festival site itself. Coordinating from halfway around the world (they were 12 hours ahead of us) was challenging, but in the end, it was almost exactly as we’d imagined, and beautiful to boot!

Getting to see what performers had sent us overnight was always a treat. Even better was that we had more than one “Wild-Caught” band! A performer from Indiana, and two bands

from Ireland, heard about our festival and got in touch to ask if they could play! We answered “yes, yes, yes!” So now, we’re literally entitled to call ourselves the Tumbleweed International Music Festival! One more joyous catch was Tom Lewis sending us a performance as well (also from Ireland.)

So now, the Tumbleweed Virtual International Music Festival 2020 remains live for all to see until next August at <http://tumbleweedmusicfestival.org>. We also have our Shop, where you can pick up your Tumbleweed merchandise

A great, inclusive “Thank You All!” to everyone on the planning committee, and those who popped in to help during the long, hard days of July and August, you are certainly valued and not forgotten!

“Thank YOU!!!” to our Sponsors and Co-sponsors this year: Sponsored by Three Rivers Folklife Society and City of Richland; co-sponsored by Northwest Public Broadcasting, KBOO-FM, Print Plus, OneWorld Telecommunications, and Southam Creative.

Covid Can’t Stop SSSSS!

Three Rivers Folklife Society is continuing the long standing Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong (SSSSS) tradition during the pandemic by going virtual on Zoom. We take turns leading sea songs, folk songs, and fun songs. Members often use the Rise Up Singing books as a resource for finding and learning songs to share. Over the last several sessions we’ve had folks from all over join in (Seattle, Portland, Vancouver BC, Alaska, etc.) so we’ve had a great variety of singers and songs we’ve never heard before.

If you want to join in on the fun, let Jim Honeyman know at jhoneymen2b@charter.net, and he’ll add you to the mailing list for the Zoom invitations. Hopefully we’ll soon be back at Roundtable Pizza in Richland, for a live in-person singalong, but for now we’re doing the next best thing. Join

in and sing along on Zoom, or if you are shy you can also watch the session livestreamed via the Tumbleweed Music Festival Facebook Page. We start singing at 7:00pm and wrap up around 9:00pm. The next session is Saturday, November 14th (the second Saturday, of course)!

2020 Annual Election Results

The annual election of officers was held by mail-in ballot for the first time, due to the Covid-19 restrictions on public meetings. In contrast to what some national level political figures have been claiming, there was no evidence of voter fraud, interference, or other issues. In fact, the ballot response was unusually high compared to past elections at in-person annual meetings. Congratulations to the new officers, President Gene Carbaugh, Vice President Nancy Ostergaard, Secretary Frank Cuta, Treasurer Steve Ghan, and Members-at-Large Jim Honeyman, Bob Lewis, Micki Perry, and Terri Widergren. Special thanks to retiring President Jim Kelly for an excellent term of service. The new officers’ terms commenced July 1.

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3RFS 2019-20 Board of Directors

Gene Carbaugh, President	946-0504
Nancy Ostergaard, Vice President	783-1743
Frank Cuta, Secretary	967-2658
Steve Ghan, Treasurer	
Dave Carson, Tumbleweed Chair	539-8090
Members at Large:	
Jim Honeyman	438-1856
Bob Lewis	374-7520
Micki Perry	783-9937
Terri Widergren	308-7420
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Tumbleweed 2021 (25th Annual!)

And the Theme for Tumbleweed 2021 is...?

Believe it or not, we’ve already started planning for next year’s Tumbleweed Music Festival. Just about the first thing we decide on each year is what the theme of the next festival will be. This theme serves as the central idea for the Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest and the Sunday Evening Theme Concert. It is usually reflected in the logo chosen to represent the festival in our advertising, on T-Shirts, Buttons and so on.

This year, we’d like to ask for theme suggestions from you, our 3RFS and Tumbleweed family. What do you think would be an appropriate theme for our 25th Annual Tumbleweed Music Festival?

The planning Committee has had some discussions already, with a few ideas already in the running, including: “Silver Linings” “Memories” and “25 Years Gone, 25 years Further On.”

We try to pick a theme that is somewhat open-ended to interpretation to create better songwriting opportunities and variations. We would like to have it refer to the festival’s Silver anniversary, but that’s not a hard and fast decision yet. So put on your thinking caps and let us know about your great ideas!

Please send those ideas in an email to tumbleweedsubmissions@gmail.com with the word “Theme” in the subject line.

Opportunities Never End!

Hear ye, hear ye. 3RFS is an all-volunteer organization, and to sustain its life, new volunteers are needed! We are in particular need of a NEWSLETTER EDITOR who can cajole others to write and then compile or pull together articles on our concerts, coffee-houses, dances, and calendars.



This is what our 25th anniversary logo looks like so far - pretty awesome!

We know that right now public restrictions are limiting our ability to produce these events. So here’s a chance for your creativity to come through with folksy items of interest. Some basic experience with word processing is needed, but you don’t need to be a professional and you don’t have to do it all. We send out about 10 newsletters a year, with most of the effort required in the first half of the month. If you are interested email Gene at ecarbaugh2B@Charter.net

As we start planning the resumption of concerts, we are seeking PRODUCERS for individual concert. Each concert requires tickets, performer hospitality, sound and venue coordination, refreshments, ticket-taker, and merchandise seller. We have a cadre of people who are willing to do these things, but we need a Producer for each concert to make sure it all comes together. Contact Micki Perry at 509

947-6735 if you are interested.

Following an absolutely above-and-beyond-the-call effort to bring about this year’s Virtual Tumbleweed Music Festival, we need volunteers for some key roles for next year’s 25th Annual Tumbleweed Music Festival. Key positions needing to be filled include festival co-coordinator, fund raisers, publicity coordinators, volunteer coordinator, and performer registration coordinator.

Planning meetings for next year’s festival have begun. It’s your chance to influence the decisions on what our 25th festival will be: In-the-Park? Virtual? A combination of both? One thing is for sure, without volunteers for key positions, it might not happen. The next virtual TMF planning meeting is Tuesday, November 3, at 6:15pm. For information, contact Dave at davidmcarson14@gmail.com