



Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

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August/September 2024

28th Annual Tumbleweed Music Festival at Howard Amon Park, Labor Day Weekend

Labor Day Weekend is fast approaching, and you know what that means - time for Tumbleweed! The 28th annual Tumbleweed Music Festival will be held in Howard Amon Park in Richland, September 1-3. Tumbleweed is produced by the Three Rivers Folklife Society and is co-sponsored by the City of Richland, with added support from a variety of other sponsors. (Check out our sponsors' banners at the festival and the list of sponsors and donors in the festival program. Please consider supporting our sponsors when you can. They help to keep the festival going.)

Tumbleweed is a unique event in the Tri-Cities - a mostly free, family-oriented acoustic music festival. Over 100 local, regional, national and international acts representing a multitude of musical genres: international, traditional and contemporary folk, Celtic, nautical, old-time, bluegrass, blues, and folk-rock music will appear on four outdoor and two indoor stages plus two workshop areas. An open mic at the West stage beginning at 2:00pm both Saturday and Sunday will allow both budding and experienced performers to show their stuff. There will also be jams that anyone can join in. There are also arts and crafts booths, a labyrinth, and an assortment of festival foods. Tumbleweed offers something for everyone!

The festival starts off on Friday night with a free concert that features younger bands and talented single performers with an eclectic mix of genres. The concert will start at 6:00 pm. This is a good chance to hear some of our amazing up-and-coming songwriters and musicians. Tumbleweed's only ticketed events are the Saturday evening concert (at 7:00 pm), this year featuring Homebrew Stringband, Mike and

Carleen McCornack and Gather Round, and Sunday evening's Contra dance (at 8:00 pm). Tickets for these help to support Tumbleweed, and keep the rest of the festival free. Tickets, at \$15 for the concert and \$10 for the contra dance, can be bought at the Info Booth. (Children under 12 get in free.)

The River Stage will feature blocks of music and storytelling geared for children and families for the first several performances each day.

Each year at Tumbleweed there is the juried Jane Titland Memorial songwriting contest, with songs based on the festival theme for the year. This year's theme is "By Water, Under Trees," and we had over 40 wonderful entries. The ten finalists will perform their original songs Saturday afternoon before the judges in the Community Center stage, beginning at 4:15pm, and the winner will sing their winning song during the Saturday evening concert.

Another popular event at the festival is the Dave Oestreich Memorial Band Scramble on Sunday afternoon, in which members for ad hoc bands are drawn from a hat, have an hour to prepare two songs or tunes together, and then perform them on stage.

Sunday, on the Jim Honeyman South Stage, there will be the traditional block of nautical music. In the evening, there will be the usual Sunday evening theme concert.

The festival will conclude with the Contra Dance at 8:00pm on Sunday, featuring the Juneapple Hill Stringband with David Gloor as caller in the air-conditioned Community Center stage. Contra dancing is fun for all ages, and is related to English, New England, and Southern-style country dancing,

and American square dancing. It is easy to learn and no partner is necessary. No experience is necessary but if you want some advance instruction, David Gloor will give a "Contra 101" workshop there from 5:45pm to 6:30pm.

Throughout our 28-year history, Tumbleweed has gained a reputation as one of the Northwest's friendliest and most community-oriented acoustic music festivals, largely because of our deliberate fostering of a sense of family, and in community involvement in the interaction of performers and their audience. You too can become a member of the Tumbleweed family as you participate in this very special festival as a volunteer or just as an audience member. YOU are the folk in folk music!

Tumbleweed Is Almost Here!

by Katrina Knight

Preparations for this year's Tumbleweed Music Festival continue at an increasing pace. As I write this, the schedule for the live festival is almost complete, and we are receiving the videos for the virtual portion of the festival. We have a good selection of food and craft vendors, as well as some family activities.

This year will feature a new info booth. We hope that it will be both easier for the volunteers to set up and work in and better for the festival-goers who patronize it. We'll have a limited number of custom-designed tie-dyed t-shirts (from Dyemonster) available there. Get yours before they run out! We're also hoping to have new hats and fans to keep you cool for sale.

As we do every year, we need volunteers. If you want to have the satisfaction of helping to make the

festival and haven't signed up yet, go to www.tumbleweedfest.com/volunteers.html, download a volunteer sign up form, fill it out, and get it back to us. We have a variety of jobs to choose from, and the festival can't happen without people to do them. Please ask your friends to join in the fun as well -- The more, the merrier!

We'll be having a volunteer orientation meeting at 2 PM on Sunday, August 25 on the patio behind the Richland Community Center. Depending on the job you're doing, there may also be a job-specific training session before the festival. After the festival there will be a volunteer appreciation picnic on September 22.

We could also use a few more hosts for performers looking for homestays. The form for hosts can also be found on our website under "volunteers".

**Headliners for Tumbleweed
Blend Old and New in the
Tumbleweed Family**

**August 31, 7:00 PM
Howard Amon Park North Stage**

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Editing and Production: Katrina Knight
Original Design: Theresa Grate
Send items of interest to:
newsletter@3rfs.net

Send memberships to:
3RFS Membership
P.O. Box1098, Richland, WA 99352

3RFS 2022-2023 Board of Directors
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3RFS Info: www.3rfs.org 509-947-6735
(Micki Perry)

The headline performers for the traditional Tumbleweed benefit concert on Saturday evening at this year's Tumbleweed festival bring old favorites and new creations into the Tumbleweed family.

Our opening act is Homebrew Stringband, a relatively new grouping of long-time musicians, based in Spokane. Gary and Alyse Read (who have performed at Tumbleweed before, as part of "Foggy Noggin Band," in 2018) moved from Seattle to Spokane something over a year ago, where they met Brad Keeler and quickly began making music together. They all play multiple instruments and will often switch off throughout their shows. They've played in different bands over the years and bring a wide variety of musical experiences to their performances.

Our second act is Mike and Carleen McCornack, who have been delighting audiences for over fifty years with an engaging musical style that blends clear, expressive, harmonious vocals with sparkling acoustic instrumental accompaniments. Their wide-ranging repertoire includes many critically-acclaimed original compositions. Themes of love, humor, respect for living things and natural beauty fill their performances, and Mike and Carleen have proven equally at home performing for families who know them from their award-winning children's recordings (Parent's Choice Gold Award winners and Parent's Guide Honors!) and for adults who appreciate their musical depth and off-center humor. They have released ten albums throughout their career. This is their first time performing at Tumbleweed!

We're heartbroken that a personal matter has caused long-time Tumbleweed family members and favorites William Pint and Felicia Dale, to have to bow out of being our final headliner this year. They have our thought and hopes with them. Replacing them are Tumbleweed newcomers Gather Round. A new fixture in Seattle's blooming a cappella scene, Gather Round pairs deeply-rooted folk sensibilities with mouth-watering vocal talent. Performing a rich blend of originals and covers, this eight-part choral ensemble

has harmonies in all the right places. Attendance is advised and participation is encouraged!

President's Pen - by Gene Carbaugh

As I write this in mid-July, the 28th Tumbleweed Music Festival is rapidly approaching, and I am in awe of the changes in the festival over the last five years. To the typical festival goer, they may seem transparent but to the performers and organizers they are significant. In pre-Covid years we relied on hard-copy application submittals with audition music submitted on CDs through the US Postal Service. Over the last five years we have transitioned to online applications and music submittals, simplifying the process of screening performers and organizing the program. The two years of Covid introduced us to the virtual festival concept with all its high-tech challenges but resulted in high quality online events that allowed viewers to attend the festival from anywhere in the world at their own convenient time and circumstances. Now we are thrilled to offer a full length in-person festival at Howard Amon Park in Richland on the banks of the beautiful Columbia River, and still promote our region and musicians through pre-recorded online festival presentations. Major upgrades to our www.tumbleweedfest.com website have been underway for the past year and are anticipated to be complete by this year's festival, giving improved access to and navigation of the website by users.

Accolades to the planning team who have worked so hard to bring this year's festival to you. A few special recognitions to the core leadership team of the festival: Katrina Knight for overall coordination (chief herder of cats), Dave Carson for spearheading the website and online processes, and Micki Perry for the loving musical emphasis she has demonstrated in all 28 years of performer scheduling. The full listing of the festival planning team will be found in the festival program. Be sure to thank them for their efforts! And maybe consider joining the planning team for next year's festival.

With the completion of the Tumbleweed Music Festival, we begin our 2024-2025

season of monthly concerts and coffee houses. Watch our calendar and website for upcoming events. We have some really great performers scheduled for the coming season, starting with a JW Sparrow concert on September 21 at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Richland.

JW Sparrow Kicks off Concert Series

**Saturday, September 21, 7:30 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church**

Singer/songwriter JW Sparrow from Eatonville, WA, will kick off our Three Rivers Concert Series on Saturday, September 21st, 7:30 pm at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Avenue in Richland. The concert will be held upstairs in the sanctuary. Park in the back parking lot and enter through the basement door. Tickets are available at the door or can be purchased in advance online at <http://www.3rfs.org/concert.htm>.

John (JW) Sparrow is a well known and well respected Pacific Northwest songwriter who has been writing original songs since he was about 8 years old. His father was a preacher in rural Oklahoma so he was exposed to a lot of hymns and gospel music at an early age, but his mother listened to Elvis and Tony Bennet and Louis Armstrong so he had broad musical taste. He got a guitar at a young age, but traded it for a BB gun when he was 10. He wasn't that much in to rock and roll when he was a teenager and preferred Hank Williams and non-commercial country music, and found 60s folk music sort of boring with just 3 chords. He re-started writing his own songs in his 20s. He traveled around the country playing for any folks who wanted to listen, and eventually end up in the Pacific Northwest where he found a home in Ashford and then Eatonville, both at the foot of Mount Rainier.

JW had a home studio where he recorded most of his five cassettes and six CDs. His first CD *Dances with Words* was produced and distributed by Dane Brooks on the Squire's Own Music label. His song "Haul on the Anchor Chain" is a great tribute to the Victory Sings at Sea musicians and is on the Victory Sings at Sea album and was also recorded by Kat

Eggleston and Hank Cramer. His train song "Phoebe Snow" is a Northwest classic.

JW has been a popular performer at Tumbleweed Music Festival. Sometimes he applies and sometimes he just shows up. He has been a finalist in the Jane Titland Memorial Song Contest several times, including this year, and he appreciates the challenge of writing to a theme and coming up with a new song each time. He will be doing a workshop at Tumbleweed on "Writing about Others", which is appropriate as many of his songs are objective songs about real people, real characters. "Write what you see, not what you feel" is his advice to songwriters. In the past few years JW has begun painting, mostly acrylics in a primitive style. reminiscent of Grandma Moses. There is nothing abstract about them, but the feeling is subliminal and subject to individual perception, just like JW's original songs.

Upcoming 2024 Concerts

October 19- Keeler, Webb & Morse
Songwriters in the Round

Friday November 22 - James Keelaghan

December 7 - Seastar

Songwriting Contest Finalists

The Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest, a juried, themed songwriting competition, takes place each year at Tumbleweed. This year's theme is "By Water, Under Trees."

Ten finalists were chosen from this year's 40+ applicants by a committee of pre-judges. The finalists will perform their songs before a panel of three judges and an audience of fans on Saturday afternoon at 4:15pm in the Community Center stage. There are monetary prizes for the top three place winners, and also a "People's Choice Award," voted on by the attendees of the finalist's performances. The winner receives the hand-made Tumbleweed trophy (and check!) and performs their winning song between the first and second act at the Saturday evening concert.

This year's ten finalists and their songs

are:

Alan Ehrlich	<i>Dark Muddy Water</i>
Jane Fallon	<i>Where the River Meets the Trees</i>
Mark Gostnell	<i>By the River</i>
Mary Hartman	<i>Goose Poop</i>
Daniel James	<i>Slow Grow</i>
Rachel Jumago	<i>(Arbielle)</i>
	<i>By the River, Under the Trees</i>
Kathy Kostelec	<i>Rolling River</i>
Carleen McCornack	<i>Metolius Spring</i>
John Sparrow	<i>Under the Hill</i>
Amelia White	<i>Travel By Water</i>

2024 Tumbleweed Guitar Raffle!

A Tumbleweed tradition for many years is our annual Guitar Raffle.

This year is no exception, and this year we have a very special guitar to be raffled off.

The raffle guitar this year is quite a special one: it has been owned since 1993 by our long-time Tumbleweed family member Dan Maher (host of "Dan Maher's Good Road," Saturdays at 7:00pm Pacific time on folkmusicnotebook.com)! Dan carried this guitar all over the US, and on several trips abroad during the time that he's owned it, and we're so, so grateful that he's decided to let us raffle it at this year's festival!

This guitar is a Taylor 710 LTD Acoustic-Electric guitar, with Cedar top, and Rosewood back and sides. It has a Mahogany neck, with an Ebony wood fingerboard and bridge.

The estimated value is \$2,500.

Raffle tickets for this guitar are \$5.00 each, and will be sold at this year's Tumbleweed festival, at both our Info Booths and from our roving ticket sellers.

The drawing will be held at the closing Sunday concert at the Jim Honeyman South stage. You do not need to be present to win.

Chances of winning are 1 in 1,000.

Buy a ticket (or many), win the guitar, and you'll be sharing in Dan Maher's folk history!

Wanted: Silent Auction Items

Over the years, a favorite part of the Tumbleweed Music Festival has become the Silent Auction, where a variety of used musical instruments and related folklife items are available for bidding during the festival. Proceeds support the continuing effort to keep the festival free to all. We still have need for items to offer. So contact President (and auction coordinator) Gene Carbaugh (509-946-0504) if you have instruments, performing equipment, folk items, etc., that you would like to donate to the auction.

Riverfest 2024

**Saturday, October 5, 10:00 AM
Columbia Park, Kennewick**

Businesses, community organizations and people of all walks of life throughout the region have joined together for RiverFest 2024. RiverFest is a FREE, fun, and educational family event, featuring exhibitors, vendors, and entertainment to showcase all the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System and highlight the four lower Snake River dams including navigation, irrigation, recreation and power. People of all ages will find something fun to do and learn about at RiverFest!

Matt and Lona Hammer, Hank Cramer and Michelle Cameron, and the Colville Indians will be providing entertainment.

You can find out more at <https://www.riverfestwa.com>.

**September Coffeehouse -
Maddysen Hope**

**Friday, September 13, 7:00 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church**

This year's coffeehouse season will start off on September 8 with **Maddysen Hope**.

Maddysen is a 16-year-old singer-songwriter from Benton City. She writes and performs indie/pop music. She's been playing guitar and writing songs

Local Folk Events

August

3	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's, Kennewick
5	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
7	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
9	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
10	2 nd Saturday Sea Song Sing-along	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
14	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
21	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
25	Tumbleweed Volunteer Orientation	2:00 pm Sun	Patio of Richland Community Center
28	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
30	Tumbleweed New Horizons Concert	6:00 pm Fri	Howard Amon Park, Richland
31	Tumbleweed Music Festival	11 am - 10 pm Sat	Howard Amon Park, Richland

September

1	Tumbleweed Music Festival	11 am -10:00 pm Sun	Howard Amon Park, Richland
6	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's, Kennewick
13	Coffeehouse with Maddysen Hope	7:30 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
14	2 nd Saturday Sea Song Sing-along	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
21	JW Sparrow Concert	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland
22	Volunteers' Appreciation Picnic	3:00 pm Sat	Katrina Knight's, Kennewick

October

1	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
4	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's, Kennewick
5	Riverfest	10:00 am Sat	Columbia Park, Kennewick
11	3RFS Coffeehouse	7:30 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
12	2 nd Saturday Sea Song Sing-along	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
19	Concert - Keeler, Webb & Morse Songwriters in the Round	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland

All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland
 Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch Ave., Richland
 Katrina Knight's = 3606 S Sharron St, Kennewick
 Micki Perry's = 1011 S. Dawes St., Kennewick
 Round Table Pizza = Corner of George Washington Way and Torbett St., Richland

since age 12 and has released three songs so far. You can hear them on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@maddysenhope>.

She's recently started performing, including at the Pasco and Richland Farmers Markets. She dreams of sharing her music as much as possible with the world, having a positive impact.

Come out and help welcome a local

young person to our stage!

Coffeehouse admission is \$8 for 3RFS members/\$10 for non-members and the show starts at 7 PM with an open mic. Come early if you would like to sign up for a performance slot. The coffeehouse is hosted at the All Saints' Episcopal Church at 1322 Kimball Avenue in Richland.

Yes!

I want to help 3RFS and the Tumbleweed Music Festival Roll on!

I would like to contribute at this level:

- _____ \$1000.00
- _____ \$250.00
- _____ \$100.00
- _____ \$50.00
- \$_____ Other

Please keep my gift anonymous (Donor names will be listed in next year's program unless you indicate you wish to remain anonymous.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Send to: 3RFS TMF, PO Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352



Membership Application

Your membership gives you voting rights in Folklife elections, discounted tickets for most events, and is tax deductible!

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

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

I can help 3RFS with:

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

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