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2021 Member Application

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I can help 3RFS with:

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

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Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 32, Issue 3

December 2020

Virtual Homebound Holiday Concert 2020

Saturday, 5 December - 6 January

We managed to pull off Tumbleweed Music Festival 2020 online, and we have all missed so much since March when the Covid 19 pandemic made in-person concerts, coffeeshouses, contra dances and song circles unsafe and impossible. Now we are going virtual again so we can have our traditional holiday concert at the beginning of December. Because of the circumstances, we are calling it Virtual Homebound Holiday Concert 2020. It will be accessible 24/7 beginning December 5 and running at least through January 6, 2021 and possibly beyond that into the New Year which is bound to be better than this crazy year 2020 has been. The link will be <https://vimeo.com/479388039>. It will also be available on Three Rivers Folklife Society and Tumbleweed Music Festival Facebook pages, but not on tumbleweedmusicfestival.org which just has Virtual Tumbleweed Music Festival 2020 material until next August. The link will also be on

our web site www.3rfs.org. We will ring in the holiday season with four wonderful acts (all couples!) lined up to kick off your homebound holiday season: Curtis and Loretta, Heidi Muller and Bob Webb, Magical Strings and Watch the Sky.

Curtis Teague and Loretta Simonet make their home in Minneapolis, Minnesota, but tour all over the United States and Canada. Over the past 25+ years they have played for our Three Rivers Folklife audience several times: at coffeeshouses, concerts, house concerts and at least twice at Tumbleweed Music Festival. They have been married since 1987 and began making music together before their marriage. Their specialty is old-time and traditional music from America and the British Isles and contemporary folk including many songs written by Loretta who is a prolific songwriter who has been a finalist in our own Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest. Loretta plays Celtic harp and guitar, and Curtis plays claw-hammer banjo,

guitar, mandolin and mandola, shakers and harmonica. For this holiday concert, Loretta will play harp and also a vintage instrument called a celeste which has a keyboard that plays tinkly bells. It has a sound that is sure to put you in a holiday mood.

They will play a lot of familiar Christmas carols along with well-known secular holiday songs that we all know and will want to sing along on. This will definitely be the sing-along part of the show that will take us back in time to the Victorian era and the eras we grew up in as well.

Heidi Muller and Bob Webb are no strangers to Three Rivers Folklife audiences. Heidi was a well-known Seattle songwriter who performed often for us during 3RFS early years. She moved back East about 20 years ago, met Bob Webb from West Virginia and lived there for many years until they both moved West settling first in Enterprise and now in Joseph, Oregon. Heidi is well known nationally as a dulcimer player and instructor as

Continued on Page 2. See Holiday.

Contra on Your Computer!

Though we can't dance in person, there are many opportunities to learn via YouTube, enjoy watching others, or find a virtual contra dance to help! I wanted to take this opportunity to share a couple of links you might enjoy!

For beginners, here is a wonderful "Beginner's Session" by Seth Tepfer at a Chattahoochee Country Dancers dance. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0jIr2UWFg4>

For those who enjoy watching folks dance and listening to some great music, here is "Contra Dancing in the Afternoon" from 2015 with the Great Bear Trio and Friends. Sure to put a smile on your face! Link here to enjoy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6t9qAaAPG4>

And if a virtual contra dance is something you'd like to try, here are two great sites we found: The CDSS website's Calendar of

Virtual Events: <https://www.cdss.org/community/events-calendar/list.events> or Lake City Virtual Contra Dance out of Seattle that happens every Thursday night. You can visit their webpage to get the Zoom invite here: <http://seattledance.org/contra.lakecity>

Until we can dance together again, we wish you good health and blessings in the coming Holiday Season.

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Holiday, continued from Page 1

well as a songwriter. She also plays guitar and ukelele. Her song "Good Road" was the theme song of Dan Maher's Inland Folk for over 25 years. Bob played in the band of the radio show "Mountain Stage." He plays cello, guitar and violin, and loves backing up Heidi and occasionally singing along and doing musical duets together. He and Heidi are both busy these days teaching music classes online and doing occasional recording sessions for other folks in their home studio, and doing occasional virtual performances and concerts online. They have done holiday concerts for us in the past and have a lot of traditional and contemporary holiday and winter songs in their repertoire, so we are in for a comfortable time of sharing songs of the season with these two old friends.

Philip and Pam Boulding as Magical Strings, from Olalla, WA, have also played several times for Three Rivers Folklife Society audiences, usually around Saint Patrick's Day. Over the years they have drawn a worldwide following for their captivating energetic arrangements of Celtic and world music on hand-made hammered dulcimers and Celtic harps, pennywhistles, concertina, and other unusual instruments from around the world. They have toured the US, Canada, Ireland and Japan. They have produced 9 albums of mostly original music, and run the School of Magical Strings and Magic Hill Summer Harp Camp. Philip can be found at various festivals, such as our own Ye Merrie Greenwood Faire, selling his hand-crafted Celtic harps and other wares. Philip and Pam are progenitors of a large musical family who usually perform with them at their annual Yuletide concerts, which last year celebrated their 38th year. Due to Covid restrictions, they will not be doing their Yuletide concerts this year, but they are excited to be a part of our Virtual Homebound Holiday Concert. They will be sharing both traditional and original

tunes with a holiday flavor that may take us on a virtual world tour.

Last but not least, we will conclude our virtual concert with Watch the Sky, which used to be a trio with the addition of Joe Wagner, but is now the husband and wife duo Chris Glanister and Jan Elliot-Glanister. They have played for many years at Tumbleweed and throughout the Northwest music scene. You might also recognize Chris as one of the Whateverly Brothers, and Jan is a member of the band Silver Lining. Chris runs a sound and computer support company, Pilgrim Media Services. He is an important member of our Tumbleweed Steering Committee and also does the sound on the North and Community Center Stages at Tumbleweed. As a musical duo, Watch the Sky brings Celtic verve to traditional, contemporary and original ballads, pub songs, maritime music, and holiday standards, mostly from America and the British Isles. They have been stalwart performers and producers of the Maritime Net Yule Concerts in Seattle and other maritime and folk music events in the Puget Sound area. They have an album of Christmas music and will delight us with their warmth and sense of humor, and their profusion of traditional instruments which includes bodhran, dumbeck, guitar, whistles, citern and mandolin. Their repertoire, from the familiar to the unknown, is sure to enchant you.

Since we have no real expenses, we will not be charging for this concert, but we hope you will generously support our four musician couples by donating to their virtual tip jars on PayPal, Venmo, etc. You know they have had most of their gigs canceled and are struggling to keep their heads above water, and they miss playing for audiences of any kind.

We all miss live music and the magic it brings into our lives. Virtual concerts are the next best thing, and we hope to be able to put on more until we can meet again safely. Until then, stay well! Stay safe! Stay sane! Stay home! Have a happy homebound holiday!

Tumbleweed 2021 Update

Our Virtual Tumbleweed Music Festival for 2020 is still up and available, and still generating views! It will remain up until next August at our festival website tumbleweedmusicfestival.org.

And that's a good thing! As Coordinator of Tumbleweed, I recently attended the week-long (virtual) annual conference of the Washington Festival and Events Association (WFEA), and did get some good examples of ways we can optimize our virtual experience to maintain the community feeling that's so important to our festival. One of the primary advantages of taking your event virtual in these times, rather than simply cancelling it, is that it makes sure to keep your name in front of the public, rather than fading from memory as "out of sight, out of mind." So, that's why having our festival available to everyone for most of a year, rather than just a weekend, is so special and good!

Having a virtual festival is also a good thing in that we've made the decision already that we're going to

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be virtual for our 25th anniversary Tumbleweed next year. We've even chosen the theme for the festival – "Silver Linings." This will be the inspiration point for entries in the Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest, and will provide the unifying thread for the Sunday "Theme" Concert.

Why have we made the decision to go virtual so early? Given the difficulties of arranging a virtual festival by itself, we felt that splitting our attention to try and maintain planning for a live event as well was just not a feasible course of action.

Which difficulties? One that's faced the Tumbleweed Planning Committee constantly is finding people who will step up and volunteer to take on one of the areas where we can really use help. We have opportunities to help out in the areas of PR (both conventional media and social media), Volunteer acquisition and coordination, website design and maintenance, and just general helping out. If you're interested, or know of someone who might be interested, PLEASE drop a line to tumbleweed-chair@gmail.com to let us know, and we'll put you to work!

President's Note: Why Be a Member?

The 3RFS membership year is the calendar year, so now is the time for us to remind you to renew (or join) for 2021. Why in this time of social isolation and pandemic restrictions, should I bother being a 3RFS member? A fair question, given that we haven't had any in-person coffeehouses, concerts or dances in nine months and still counting. Here's why I am a member: Music in general, and folk music in particular, has been an important and influential part of my whole life. I want to support keeping the genre alive, active and available to those who listen, create and perform it, especially at the local level. One way of doing so is by participating with others who

share the same love and desire.

Throughout its existence, 3RFS has been bringing those people together for concerts, coffeehouses, singalongs and dances. It pains me deeply that because of the pandemic we are prevented from doing these things now, but I am confident that we will return to live events in time and I want 3RFS to be able to resume these activities when it is safe to do so. My continued membership during this time of isolation is an expression of faith that we will do so and helps maintain the resources needed. Yours and my membership dues are needed to pay for our newsletter, online events and maintaining our website. Less appreciated but very real expenses include music licenses for concerts or online events like Tumbleweed 2020, and liability insurance for live events.

One thing membership does not cover is the continuing need for key people needed to make things happen. We continue to have a very real need for a newsletter editor to compile material for this newsletter. No, you do not have to write everything for the newsletter or do the technical formatting. Yes, you would need to do some writing and occasionally remind others to submit material for production of timely newsletters. Our newsletter is our key tool for communicating with our members and friends in this time of isolation.

Please consider taking on this role and contact Gene Carbaugh, if you are interested, at 946-0504.

Join me in sending in your membership dues for 2021 - still only \$20 for individuals and \$25 for families.

FFFFFA on Zoom in the Interim

First Friday Folkie Free-For-All will take place on Zoom this Winter. November's FFFFFA was held in a living room with 5 people and 6-foot spacing, but that is not exactly Kosher and not really safe with the surge of

Covid and new restrictions. If you would like to get an invitation to our multi-genre song circle on Zoom in December, Contact Micki at mickilperry@aol.com and she will let you know the entry code, though she still hopes not to have to be the doorkeeper who lets you into the meeting. It won't be the same as being together in-person, but better than not singing at all. The next First Friday is December 4th and we will meet on Zoom at 7:00 PM.

Support Tumbleweed for the Holidays!

Everyone knows that the 2020 Tumbleweed Music Festival is up and running at the festival site: tumbleweedmusicfestival.org But did you know that the festival site ALSO has a Shop where you can find all of your Tumbleweed and 3RFS merchandise for sale? We are proud to use our shop to participate in this year's "Giving Tuesday." On Tuesday, December 1st, 100% of the sales from the Tumbleweed Music Festival Shop will be donated to the Whitman County Fire Community Relief Fund of the United Way.

This fund is helping the people affected by the Labor Day firestorms in Whitman County recover their lives and start again, particularly those in the town of Malden, which was essentially burned to nothing. Our dear Tumbleweed Family Member, Hank Cramer III, is working there, helping out. So please - on Giving Tuesday, come and shop for holiday presents for everyone you know, at our Tumbleweed Music Festival Shop, featuring products from your favorite festival, and multiply the good you can do!

For more information go to: tumbleweedmusicfestival.org/store/ or donorbox.org/whitman-county-fire-relief-fund