



Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

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March 2023

Harmony Ridge: A New Generation of Folk Musicians

Saturday, March 18, 7:30 pm
All Saints' Episcopal Church, Richland

A day after Saint Patrick's Day we'll have a special evening of Irish and other folk music with **Harmony Ridge**, a young folk trio from the Chehalis Valley in Southwestern Washington. The concert begins at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary of All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Avenue in Richland. Park in the back parking lot and enter through the basement. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$15 for members of 3RFS and can be purchased at the door or in advance at <http://www.3rfs.org>.

Harmony Ridge includes Elliot Townsend on guitar and sisters Maggie MacInnis on Irish Drum (bodhran), and Jessie Erickson. The trio have been singing together since 2012, and officially formed a band in 2016. They have performed at Ocean Shores ABC3 Festival at the Galway Bay Irish Pub, and the Methow Valley Cider House in Winthrop, Washington, with Hank Cramer, as well as local gigs in Centralia and the Chehalis Valley. They have also performed at Tumbleweed Music Festival in the past and Virtual Tumbleweed in 2020, and were part of the virtual 3RFS Cloistered Celtic Concert in spring 2021. They are known for their timeless harmonies and their eclectic range of genres which includes traditional, historical, and modern folk, Celtic and cowboy ballads, World War II standards, a touch of gospel and a few original songs. They are always looking for and collecting songs that people have loved or will love. They are a new generation bringing old songs to life, and they strive

to present beloved favorites with excellence and charm. You can find them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/harmonyridgemusic> and on Youtube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCITg7HMbYdg9_oKfQArvEcw.

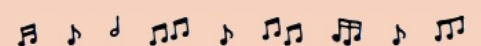
President's Pen - by Gene Carbaugh

I was saddened to read in January that the Vancouver (BC) Folk Music Festival Society had voted to dissolve due to rising costs of the festival. Last year their festival included 60 acts on three stages over three days, attracted 40,000 people and required 900 volunteers and two full-time employees to make it happen. To put on a similar festival this year was projected to cost an additional \$500,000 over previous years' expenses. The good news is that in early February they rescinded the motion after an outpouring of support from fans and are now undertaking major fund-raising efforts.

Comparisons with our Tumbleweed Music Festival are intriguing. For a similar three-day event, Tumbleweed has six performing stages, two workshop rooms, and over 100 acts. We estimate our attendance in the 3,000-4,000 range (a tenth of Vancouver's Festival), a total cost below \$40,000, a need of 100+ volunteers, and no paid staff. We certainly don't have the benefit of a large metropolitan area nearby and we offer our performers only a relatively small travel stipend as reimbursement. And a big difference: Vancouver is a paid admission event whereas Tumbleweed only charges for the Saturday night concert and Sunday night dance – all the daytime events are totally free.

As I look at the comparison, I can't help but ask, "Could it happen to us?" Whereas the existence of Vancouver's festival was threatened by high expenses and rising costs, 3RFS has been blessed with a handful of grants and generous patrons and sponsors. Financial realities do not seem likely to limit near future Tumbleweeds. However, the issue of people to perform the multitude of tasks could imperil festivals. Two especially important areas where help is needed NOW are in the areas of volunteer recruitment and coordination and publicity. The former involves contacting groups and individuals to find people to work at the festival itself. The latter involves possibly multiple people to post to social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc), print and broadcast media, and personal outreach at community events. These roles are essential for the continuation of Tumbleweed. If you (or someone you know) would like more info on these roles, please contact this year's festival coordinator Katrina Knight or myself.

I'm proud of the MAJOR effort that community volunteers undertake to bring Tumbleweed to our community, now for 27 years. As a past coordinator of festivals I know the massive effort that goes into planning the event, and stand in awe of Dave Carson, Micki Perry, and Katrina Knight for their efforts in heading up the last several festivals and the coming one. Won't you please consider how you can help with this year's festival and contact us at tumbleweedmusicfestival@3rfs.net or by calling festival coordinator Katrina Knight at 509-587-3060.



2023 Tumbleweed Logo Chosen



This year's logo design contest was a great success. We received 12 entries from near and far before the deadline (plus a late arrival all the way from Zimbabwe!) The winning logo was submitted by local marketing, branding, and design consultant Irish Kreis. Congratulations to Irish and a big thank you to all the entrants who gave us such a good selection of logos to choose from.

In other Tumbleweed news we've now received 29 performer applications, 6 song-writing contest entries, and a few food and craft vendor applications. Things are coming along nicely!

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

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 2021-2022 Board of Directors
Gene Carbaugh, President 509-946-0504
Micki Perry, Vice President 509-947-6735
Frank Cuta, Secretary 509-967-2658
Steve Ghan, Treasurer 509-308-9023

Tumbleweed Coordinator - Katrina Knight

Members at Large:
Jim Honeyman 509-438-1856
Bob Lewis 509-374-7520
David Carson 509-539-8090
Katrina Knight 509-587-3060

3RFS Info: www.3rfs.org 509-947-6735 (Micki Perry)

Tumbleweed's Future

- by Katrina Knight

This year will be the 27th Tumbleweed Music Festival. That's longer than a lot of arts events last, particularly with the troubles that the pandemic brought, so we can give ourselves a pat on the back for that. We can't be complacent about it, though. Staying relevant to today's audiences and performers is vital to continuing to have a vibrant and successful festival. Last month, David Carson wrote about the problems other festivals are having. We don't want to join the ranks of festivals that are taking time off to reconsider what they're doing, or just plain calling it quits. To avoid that fate, we need to: keep our eye on our purpose; adjust to the current needs of both viewers and performers; and maintain the things that make our festival what it is.

I've been reading commentary about some of the festivals that are having problems. I repeatedly see complaints about the bigger folk festivals having high ticket prices to cover booking big acts, which the commenters don't think are folk music. My take-away from the commentary is that the festivals in question have lost track of their reason for being - to support and promote the music - and have fallen into the trap of being more concerned with having more ticket-buyers and more revenue, booking bigger and bigger acts to attract more people, resulting in higher ticket prices, which decreases the number of people who can afford to attend. That's a nasty trap to fall into. Being a mostly free festival where most performers get paid a little transportation money, we don't have to worry about that - but that doesn't mean we can take our eyes off the end goal of bringing together (mostly) acoustic musicians and audience members.

To that end, we need to keep attracting new people, both performers and listeners. We need to keep what we do fresh and attractive to people of all ages, not just the rapidly graying group who started it all. We often refer to "the Tumbleweed Family," but families need children and grandchildren if they're

going to survive. They need people to marry into the family and bring fresh blood. That's what we need too.

My long-term vision includes trying to expand our musical offerings to include a greater range of genres. Acoustic music includes much more than what we typically present. While folk music is what I enjoy, we have plenty of that and that's not going to change. I'm sure at least some of you have noticed that much of our audience is older white people. I'd like to change that. Including more performers from musical genres that appeal to younger people and people of color will help expand our audience, as well as expanding our audience's musical experiences.

Other goals include presenting more activities for children and families and expanding our cooperative efforts with other arts organizations. When we come together to promote our events and provide good music at them, it benefits the whole arts community.

If you have ideas for accomplishing these goals, please contact me at (509) 587-3060 or tumbleweedchair@gmail.com. You can also find me at most 3RFS events.

Hank Cramer with Michelle Cameron and Jim Honeyman at the March Coffeehouse

Friday, March 10, 7:30 pm
All Saints' Episcopal Church, Richland

March's Coffeehouse performers are well-known favorites of 3RFS audiences. Hank Cramer is a full-time touring folk singer who has played all over the world. He is widely known for his booming bass voice, smooth picking on a vintage flat-top guitar, and his wry sense of humor. He has a repertoire of over a thousand modern and traditional songs, spanning the genres of Celtic, Appalachian, maritime, cowboy, and plain old folk music. He is more than simply a performer, however. He is a historian and educator who weaves music and history into presentations which bring to life the rich story of America's westward

movement, and give his audiences insight into the "folk process" by which traditional songs evolve and change to describe new events.

Michelle Cameron is a gifted cellist who performs a wide range of genres, ranging from classical to folk to maritime music. She is the principal cellist with the Mid-Columbia Symphony and also performs, tours, and records with several Northwest folk groups including Trillium-239.

Jim Honeyman plays mandolin, mandola, octave mandolin, acoustic guitar, and bass (among others). He is well-known for his high tenor voice and the wide variety of folk genres that he adapts songs from, and presents them in his own style. He also performs with the Badger Mountain Dry Band.

Our coffeehouses take place at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Avenue, Richland. Admission is \$10 or \$8 for 3RFS members. The show starts at 7 pm with an open mic - come early if you would like to sign up for a performance slot.

Online Folk Event Calendar



March offers a great opportunity to listen to some Irish music for St Patrick's Day. You can use our calendar of

Folkish Events in the Northwest to find out about St Patrick's Day events going on across the region at the 3RFS website <https://www.3rfs.org/info-nw.htm>. You can view it there or [download the PDF file](#). An even bigger (and possibly more up-to-date) list of events through the rest of 2023 can be [downloaded in spreadsheet form](#). If you know of events that should be added, let me know at newsletter@3rfs.net.

Local Folk Events

March

1	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
3	FFFFFA	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's, Kennewick
10	3RFS Coffeehouse w/ Hank Cramer & Michelle Cameron	7:30 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
11	SSSSS	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
13	3RFS Board meeting	7:00 pm Mon	David Carson's, Richland
22	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
18	Concert - Harmony Ridge	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland

April

5	Tumbleweed Planning Committee	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
7	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's, Kennewick
8	SSSSS	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
10	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's
14	3RFS Coffeehouse w/ Jim Coleman	7:30 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
15	Concert - Dan Maher and Badger Mtn Dry Band	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland
19	Tumbleweed Planning Committee	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
20	" How Audio Tech Changed the World" by Russ Reynolds	7:00 pm Thur	Richland Library

All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland
 David Carson's = 1618 Alamosa Ave, Richland
 Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch Ave., Richland
 Micki Perry's = 1011 S. Dawes St., Kennewick
 Richland Library = 955 Northgate Dr, Richland
 Round Table Pizza = Corner of George Washington Way and Torbett St., Richland

For more calendar info from across the Northwest go to <https://www.3rfs.org/info-nw.htm>. Information for the current month is available in a pdf file, or information extending

Sea Song Singalong

Saturday, March 11, 6:00 pm
Round Table Pizza, Richland

The Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong (a.k.a. SSSSS) continues to meet at Round Table Pizza in Richland. We meet to eat and greet at 6 pm and start singing when most have eaten. As always, there will be sea songs but in honor of St Patrick's Day there are sure to be Irish songs as well. Come join us for a fun time singing together.

Singtime Frolics

Portland FolkMusic Society's annual Singtime Frolics retreat will take place March 24-26. Join them in person for a spring weekend of singing, jamming, learning and sharing. Kenny Feinstein is this year's guest artist, offering a short concert and a couple of workshops. See <https://www.portlandfolkmusic.org/singtime> for more information and to register .



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, discounts on events, and is tax deductible! Plus it gives you the satisfaction of supporting 3RFS activities.

____ 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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