



# Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

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November 2021

## Tumbleweed in Peril?

It's said that the Chinese character for the word "crisis" is a combination of images interpreted as "danger" and "opportunity or change point". The Tumbleweed Music Festival is at such a point now. For 25 years, Three Rivers Folklife has staged incredibly successful and increasingly sophisticated festivals. Over that time, we evolved from the initial event with four scheduled stages, and the workshops and contra dance held in the old Community House, to the 2019 festival, which featured six scheduled stages (two indoors), an open mic stage, and two concurrent venues for workshops. Then in early 2020, we hit Covid restrictions, which presented a real crisis for the 2020 festival.

Rather than abandon the festival, a vision quickly emerged for a virtual festival, involving pre-recorded performances in an online format holding to the same spirit and concept as the live festival, with the addition of having it available for almost a year following. This was put together in under six months. Our 2021 festival, now available at [tumbleweedmusicfestival.org](http://tumbleweedmusicfestival.org), is the loving culmination of musical excellence, skilled technology, visionary leadership, and key volunteers.

As we look to the 2022 festival, we see this as a time meeting the Chinese character description, both as a time of challenge and a time for change and rebuilding. We are envisioning (that's hoping and praying for!!!) a live festival in Howard Amon Park, with a virtual component (substantially smaller than the past two festivals) focusing on distant (e.g., international) performers. After all, we want to encourage everyone to be present at a live event!

But, not having put on a live festival for almost three years, we are

concerned about the number of volunteers we will need for a live event. Whereas we can rent sound or lighting equipment, there is no way we can replace our volunteers with contract personnel. So if we don't have enough sound operators, stage emcees, kitchen and hospitality help, and information booth staff, we will have to reduce the scope of our live festival meaning fewer stages and opportunities for performers.

A very critical need is a festival coordinator or perhaps co-coordinators, one coordinating the live festival and another coordinating the virtual portion. Without such a coordinator, we would not be capable of having a festival. Hats off to our coordinator of the last three festivals, Dave Carson, who did yeoman's work pulling together the skills, people and resources needed to make both live and virtual festivals happen. Dave has said he will help, but cannot again take on being the sole coordinator. Likewise, Gene Carbaugh, the coordinator for the six festivals preceding Dave, has also promised to help but also will not be a sole coordinator. So, 3RFS is in serious straits for a Tumbleweed Coordinator. If we don't have such a person designated by January, there may not be a 2022 festival – that's the danger associated with the Chinese character for "crisis." So now that we have your attention, it's time to email [President@3rfs.net](mailto:President@3rfs.net) or call Gene at 946-0504 to suggest or discuss possibilities. The future of Tumbleweed depends on our volunteers!

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## Uncle Bonsai's 40th Anniversary Celebration comes to Richland

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Saturday, November 20, 7:30 pm

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Seattle's legendary folk/pop trio  
Uncle Bonsai will return to Richland

on Saturday, November 20, at 7:30 pm, for a 40th Anniversary Celebration Concert, featuring a retrospective of their unique, original music from the past forty years as a group.

Uncle Bonsai (the band), The Electric Bonsai Band (not electric, not a band, just Andrew Ratshin solo), and The Go Janes (which includes Uncle Bonsai band members Arni Adler and Patrice O'Neill) have all been headliners at Tumbleweed in the past, but it has been more than ten years since we had Uncle Bonsai in concert. We are glad to be a featured stop on their 40th Anniversary Celebration Tour.

In August 1981, three Seattle newcomers, who ironically had all attended the same small college in Vermont but didn't know each other there, came together to learn a few songs in order to busk at the gates of Bumbershoot. They made enough to get in the gates of the festival that year, but by the next year Uncle Bonsai did three shows at Bumbershoot, and were soon making national tours, playing folk venues, festivals, and college concerts. 40 years later they are still going strong and celebrating their long life and history together with a special 40th Anniversary Celebration Tour.

After hundreds of songs, ten album releases, one book, multiple North American tours, an eighteen-month hiatus, and a few wardrobe and personnel changes, Uncle Bonsai's 40th Anniversary Show will feature old and new songs representing 40 years of the best of Uncle Bonsai, including "songs they swore they'd never sing again." You will hear your favorites, their favorites, lots of songs about a guy named Doug, and even some new and fresh material. Most of their songs are written by Andrew Ratshin, but now Arni Adler and Patrice O'Neill have also shared their songwriting talents. Uncle Bonsai's edgy, densely-packed lyrics take a skewed stance on topics such as first world problems, the creation of the universe, the afterlife,

holidays with the family, the passing of time, the passing of genes, and the passing of pets. In sum, they deal with "the truth of everything seemingly buried somewhere under the family tree". As the Seattle Times said: "These are nicely edgy, sweet/sour songs, written for grownups." Check out their web site at [www.unclebonsai.com](http://www.unclebonsai.com).

This concert will be held in the sanctuary of All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Avenue in Richland. Park in back and enter through the basement door. Tickets are \$14 general admission, and \$12 for members. Plan to show proof of vaccination at the door, and to wear a mask during the performance, so we can all stay safe and healthy.

## Winter's Return Returns Again

Saturday, December 4, 7:30 pm

Every other year or so for the past ten years, we have celebrated winter's return in December with a Winter's Return holiday concert by our favorite quartet of double duo friends, Tania Opland and Mike Freeman, and William Pint and Felicia Dale.

Winter's Return concerts bring music from across the ages and from around the world, played on a vast array of exotic instruments. Hurdy gurdies and harps rub shoulders with

ˆcitterns and bouzoukis, recorders, flutes, and whistles, hammered dulcimer and fiddles, and drums, mandolin and mandola and even the odd guitar or two. You will hear a stunning, eclectic collection of songs and instrumental music that makes a diverse and delightful celebration of the season. The performers are four touring musicians who join force in a detour from their usual fare to form a powerful acoustic quartet presenting a variety of seasonal and themed shows.

Tania Opland and Mike Freeman divide their time between North America and Europe with a multi-cultural repertoire. Mike's irreverent sense of humor and Tania's stunning vocals provide a springboard for a roller-coaster ride across several continents and back again. William Pint and Felicia Dale are best known for music of and from the sea; music that reflects its many moods and the vitality of those who live and work on it. Their repertoire includes traditional and non-traditional maritime material and wild instrumental European roots music. Their high-energy style and eclectic repertoire have earned them high praise for their concert and festival appearances in the US, Canada, Britain, Holland. and even Estonia.

This year, their performance will have to be virtual as Tania and Mike are still in Alaska, and William and Felicia are still in Tulalip, hunkering down because of Covid. Both couples have been doing occasional live concerts online, and even some live online joint concerts. Since the band members will be in two studios 1,500 miles apart, our 3RFS audience will be treated this year to an exclusive celebration of all things seasonal in a special real-time show, with duets from the two halves of the band alongside "virtual" performances by the full quartet. As Tania says, "This fun-packed show promises to enthrall and entertain you, all with the added spice of a potential technological disaster as we navigate the wonders of online broadcasting together. Quite literally, anything can happen and probably will. Don't miss it!" It is hoped that there will be an online chat component to the concert, as there often are concluding the duos' livestreamed concerts.

This year's Winter's Return Concert is tailored exclusively for our Three Rivers audience. The technical details are still being worked out, but information about how to access the

concert feed will be forthcoming on our website, [www.3rfs.org](http://www.3rfs.org), and will also be sent out in email communications. Instead of relying on voluntary donations to the performers, we will be asking for a donation to 3RFS of \$15 to access this "live" show; donations will be split between the performers. Information about how to do this will also be on the website and emails. Access the link, grab your favorite beverages and holiday treats, and get into the holiday spirit on December 4th, and let's celebrate Winter's Return together. Masks and vaccines not necessary for this one. Happy Holidays! Happy New Year! Hope to see you then!

Winter's Return's website is [www.wintersreturn.com](http://www.wintersreturn.com). You can also check out their Winter Solstice Concert at 2:30 pm on December 21, which will be similar to but different from ours, which is exclusive to 3RFS.

## November and December Coffeehouses

Friday, November 12, 7:00 pm  
Friday, December 10, 7:00 pm

In November we'll have Richland singer-songwriter Talena Bricker.

Talena's music balances poetic abstraction with visceral emotionality. She says "When I write, I'm grappling with complicated feelings and narratives. I ask questions in music and leave things open-ended and unresolved. That's life, and that's what feels human to me. It brings me a beautiful catharsis, and it helps me to connect with others as they can use these songs to make sense of their own lives."

They say that music is the language of the soul, and nothing could be truer for the songwriting and singing of Kay Miracle, who will perform at our December coffeehouse. Inspired by her musical roots with the Ghost Town Ramblers, channeling her Outlaw Country Blues Heroes, and mixing in the influential folk rock songs by the pioneers of the folk rock movement, Kay has her own Americana sound. From live performances to studio sessions and supporting various causes, Kay continues to touch fans around the world with her distinct brand of songwriting backed by performances that embrace her passion for creating original music.

Coffeehouses are held September

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**Editing and Production:** Katrina Knight

**Original Design:** Theresa Grate

**Send items of interest to:**

[newsletter@3rfs.net](mailto:newsletter@3rfs.net)

**Send memberships to:**

3RFS Membership

P.O. Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352

### 3RFS 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Gene Carbaugh, President	946-0504
Micki Perry, Vice President	783-9937
Frank Cuta, Secretary	967-2658
Steve Ghan, Treasurer	308-9023

Tumbleweed Chair - new one needed

Members at Large:

Jim Honeyman	438-1856
Bob Lewis	374-7520
David Carson	539-8090
Terri Widergren	308-7420
3RFS Info: <a href="http://www.3rfs.org">www.3rfs.org</a>	947-6735

(Mic ki Perry)

through April on the second Friday of the month at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Richland. Open mic starts at 7 pm, and the main act takes the stage at approximately 7:30 pm. Masks and social distancing will continue to be required. If you are interested in performing at a future coffeehouse, please contact Alan Page at (509) 308-3574.

## And the Tumbleweed 2022 theme is ....

"DEAR FRIENDS!"

Although, as pointed out elsewhere in this issue, it won't be an easy road to next year's festival, planning has begun. And, as always, our first way point is the selection of the theme for the next festival.

Planning committee discussions around the theme all focused on the joy we're going to have by being able to convene the Tumbleweed family live in Howard Amon park again. Our chosen theme of "Dear Friends" was considered by one and all to perfectly encapsulate this joy, and we give our great thanks to Anne Schur for suggesting it!

Now that the theme is chosen, our next adventure will be the Logo contest! Watch our Facebook page, Instagram, and Twitter for that announcement, or check out the information sheet at <http://www.tumbleweedfest.com/logo-contest.html>.

## First Friday Folkie Free-for-All Is Back On Fridays

Friday, November 5, 7:00 pm  
Friday, December 3, 7:00 pm

The First Friday Folkie Free-for-All rarely met on Fridays during the summer, but we will be back to meeting again on Friday nights, mostly indoors and as socially distanced as possible. The start time has been changed to 7:00 pm. Bring songs to sing, snack items to share, your instrument if you play one, and look forward to an evening of taking turns choosing songs the group can sing. Call Micki Perry at 783-9937 or 947-6735 for directions, or if you have questions.

## Local Folk Events

### November

<b>5</b>	FFFFFA	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's Kennewick
<b>6</b>	Long term Planning Workshop	9:00 am Sat	Westside Church Richland
<b>8</b>	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's Richland
<b>12</b>	3RFS Coffeehouse with Talena Bricker	7:00 pm Fri	All Saints' Richland
<b>13</b>	SSSSS	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
<b>20</b>	Uncle Bonsai Concert	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints' Richland

### December

<b>3</b>	FFFFFA	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's Kennewick
<b>4</b>	Winter's Return Concert	7:30 PM Sat	online
<b>10</b>	3RFS Coffeehouse with Kay Miracle	7:30 pm Fri	All Saints' Richland
<b>11</b>	SSSSS	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
<b>13</b>	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's Richland

All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland

Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch St., Richland

Micki Perry's = 1011 S. Dawes St., Kennewick

Round Table Pizza = Corner of George Washington Way and Torbett St., Richland

## SSSSS Sailing Still!

Saturday, November 13, 6:00 pm  
Saturday, December 11, 6:00 pm

The landlocked Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong sets sail again on November 13 at Round Table Pizza on George Washington Way in Richland. Order your pizza at 6 pm, and we'll start singing as soon as the food is reasonably consumed (say 6:30 or 6:45). The music stops when we get tired or when they close, whichever comes first - but we're usually good for a couple of hours of ad hoc music. So bring your voices, instruments, and spirit and join in the fun.

## Contra Dance Corner...

By Terri Widergren

We are happy to say we received responses from a couple of folks willing to partake in the discussion for restarting our contra dance program in the new year.

We will have our first brainstorming meeting on Tuesday evening, November 16, time and location to be determined by those interested. We are considering both in-person and Zoom options. If you would be interested in being part of this discussion or future discussions and/or planning, please contact one of the co-coordinators - Terri Widergren at [twidgal@gmail.com](mailto:twidgal@gmail.com) or Gretchen Hormel at [ghormel@outlook.com](mailto:ghormel@outlook.com). Be watching this space for more information in the new year!

# 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



## 2021 Membership 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

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

## Postcards from the Park

Thursday, December 16, 7:00 pm

Three Rivers Folklife Society's own history buff Terri Andre will be doing a special presentation for the Tri-Cities Community Lecture Series at 7:00 pm

on Thursday, December 16, at the East Benton County Historical Museum in Keewaydin Park in Kennewick (205 Keewaydin Dr., Kennewick, 99336). The presentation is called "Postcards from the Park". Discover the stories that emerge from the images,

postmarks, and narratives on vintage postcards sent during the 1900s and beyond. This has nothing to do with folk music, but is a great time to see an experienced historian in her element, and experience her unique style of performance art. Yay Terri!

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