



Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 37 Issue 9

May 2026

Special Concert with Sofia Talvik

Saturday, May 2, 7:30 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church

This May will see a nice bonus for 3RFS: not just one, but TWO concerts, and one of them is free! (If you're a 3RFS member).

First up, on Saturday, May 2nd is [Sofia Talvik](#). Sofia comes originally from Sweden, lives now in Germany, and is currently on a long tour of North America. Sofia was one of our Tumbleweed Saturday Night Concert headliners in 2023.

The second concert in May will be Tracy Spring, on Saturday, May 16th, following the 3RFS Annual meeting. This concert will be free for 3RFS members, otherwise \$20 at the door.

From the quiet forests of Sweden to the bustling streets and small-town venues across the United States, Sofia Talvik has shared her songs in 49 of the 50 U.S. states - as well as on numerous tours in Europe. But it's not the numbers that define her; it's the heart she pours into every note, the stories she carries, and the connections she forges with real people wherever she goes.

Unmistakably Nordic in flavor, Sofia Talvik somehow still conforms to American interpretations of her own original music, a North Sea siren blending sparkle and melancholy, creating a special niche of folk music that has been described as neo-folk. Her music is deeply personal yet universal, touching on themes of immigration, displacement, war, and hope. Each song is a bridge, an invitation to step into someone else's world and feel their joys, struggles, and dreams. Sofia doesn't just perform-she listens, reflects, and invites her audience to join her in the conversation, making every show feel intimate and alive.

Her Nordic folk and Americana sound is delicate yet powerful, carrying warmth

and emotion across every stage. From handmade deluxe albums to intimate winter concerts, Sofia's approach is rooted in authenticity and a genuine desire to connect. She embodies the belief that music can connect hearts across the world, turning strangers into friends and fleeting moments into memories.

For those who follow her journey, it's clear: Sofia Talvik isn't just an artist. She's a storyteller, a traveler, and a connector of souls. And with every song, she proves that dedication, heart, and authenticity can create magic that lingers long after the music stops.

Primarily a live artist, Talvik has taken her music across Europe and the U.S., riding in her 1989 Winnebago Warrior "Little Chief" with her husband at the wheel, digging deep into the American sound and channeling it through her Nordic roots to create a singular brand of Americana. Talvik releases all of her music on Makaki Music, a record label she started early in her career to maintain full control over her own recordings. While her Swedish roots serve as the basis for her songwriting, she often calls upon her many journeys and experiences for inspiration, especially the uniquely American archetype of roaming the endless highway.

Talvik has released 10 full length albums and countless singles and eps. She has performed at festivals ranging from Lollapalooza to SXSW. She has opened for Maria McKee and David Duchovny, and has collaborated with former Suede guitarist Bernard Butler, as well as Tobias Fröberg (Peter Bjorn and John), who produced her 2008 LP *Jonestown*. She has also released three albums in Swedish as part of the New Acoustic duo Hansan with German cellist David Floer.

Join us as Three Rivers Folklife Society presents Sofia Talvik in concert, Saturday, May 2nd, at 7:30 PM, at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball, Richland. Tickets are \$20 / \$15 for 3RFS members, at the door or by using the ticket link on our Concerts page at <https://3rfs.org/concerts-2>.

Tracy Spring in Concert

Saturday, May 16, 7:30 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church

We are thrilled to bring [Tracy Spring](#) back to the 3RFS concert stage on Saturday, May 16, at 7:30 PM, at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball in Richland. Tracy's 3RFS concert will be held in the church basement following the 7:00 PM Annual Business Meeting.

Tracy is known for rich, compelling vocals and versatile guitar playing. A Northwest singer-songwriter, her musical range has been compared to Sarah McLachlan, Tracy Chapman, kd lang, and YoYo Ma's cello. Her writing includes full-spectrum 4-minute novels, poetry, and music, all rolled into one. A seasoned performer, Tracy has played in folk venues and festivals throughout North America and Australia, often combining her musical life with social justice work. Her style reflects a unique combination of folk, blues, swing, old rhythm and blues, and jazz. Tracy has won multiple regional awards for her singing and songwriting.

Tracy is a fourth-generation Washingtonian, living in Bellingham. Tracy's songs "Sometimes Angels," "Somebody's Child" (co-written with Becca Christel Palm), "In Our Hands," and "What Would You Give To Change the World" have been used for soundtracks promoting philanthropy, raising funds for thousands of charitable organizations. In addition to these humanitarian anthems, she co-wrote (with Janis Carper and Becca Christel Palm) "Of This World," recorded by Peter, Paul & Mary on their 2004 studio album, *In These Times*. A major project Tracy is currently working on is Volume 1 of the [Songs of Hope and Humanity Project](#). These are songs written by Tracy or her late partner, TR Ritchie, and are being arranged for performances by philanthropic organizations, community choirs and progressive church services.

All carry a positive message about the power of human beings working together to create harmony.

Park in the back of the church and use the basement entrance. This concert is a special treat for 3RFS members who have free admission. The admission charge for non-members is \$20 at the door.

President's Pen by Gene Carbaugh

This is my last formal writeup for Folk Talk as your 3RFS President. I don't plan on getting nostalgic about too many terms as president, but I do want to say I have enjoyed serving 3RFS as president, and I'm excited to continue hanging around on the board. I'm also truly impressed by the commitment that the other officers and members-at-large have shown to the organization.

Two big issues face 3RFS for long-term survival: First, we need to develop and encourage active participation by younger musicians and fans. Without new people joining, our beloved 3RFS will simply die. So it's essential that we older types (dare I say "elderly") make sure that our programs, musicians, formats, and activities will attract our successors. Secondly, we need to have new faces taking on leadership roles. It's

great having new faces on the Tumbleweed Planning Committee and a new (and young!) face joining the Board. We also have a new person assisting with sound, and a functioning Concert Planning Committee including a relatively new face. While I'd like to list the names of all of the new participants, I'm foregoing that option in the interest of getting this out quickly. As I reflect on the future of 3RFS, I remain optimistic that we have the resources needed to continue for many more years but am challenged by the need for younger involvement. Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard for so long to bring strong folk life activities to the Mid-Columbia region. And thanks especially to those who have recently stepped up to take on leadership roles. Good roads to you all.

Annual Meeting Notice

**Saturday, May 16, 7:00 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church**

The annual business meeting of 3RFS will be held on Saturday, May 16, beginning at 7:00 PM in the basement of All Saints Episcopal Church. The meeting will include brief summaries of the past year, a financial status report, Tumbleweed Music Festival plans, and the election of officers and board members (technically, it's four officers and four "members at large") for the coming year. The business meeting will be followed by a short break and then our monthly concert featuring Tracy Spring. The concert is free to all members but has a \$20 general admission for non-members.

The candidates are shown below.

- President: Frank Cuta
- Vice President: Scott Woodside
- Treasurer: Steve Ghan
- Secretary: Gene Carbaugh
- Member-at-Large: Tricia Daly
- Member-at-Large: Katrina Knight
- Member-at-Large: Bob Lewis
- Member-at-Large: Alan Page

Ongoing Tumbleweed Preparations by Katrina Knight

Tumbleweed is fast approaching. As I write this, we are a bit over four months out from the festival. That time is going to fly by as we try to get done everything that needs to be done. If you love attending Tumbleweed, please ask

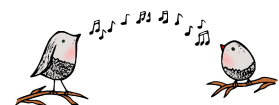
yourself how you can contribute to making it happen.

We have some new people on the planning committee but we still have important positions to be filled. We need people to help set up before the festival starts and to tear it all down again when it is over. Someone to take charge of making those things happen would be great! Someone to take charge of handling the volunteers has been a long-standing need. Every year we manage, but it would be easier and better if someone specifically took that job in hand. We need button-sellers, info booth workers, emcees, people to man the entrance barrier on Lee Blvd, kitchen and hospitality workers, and many more. Whatever your talents and skills are, and whenever you have time, we can almost certainly find something helpful for you to do.

We also need donors and sponsors. Putting on a mostly free festival is a costly endeavor for 3RFS. Our individual donors and business sponsors are important to making it happen. Do you have a small business that might be interested in being one of the North Stage sponsors? Do you work for a company that might be interested in sponsoring a stage? If so let us know and we can discuss the options and work out a good sponsorship plan.

And we need a guitar (or maybe some other popular instrument) for the raffle. If you have a good quality instrument that you'd be willing to donate to the cause or sell to us at a reasonable cost, please contact me.

Applications for performers and for the songwriting contest closed on April 20. As of the time I'm writing this, the deluge of last minute applications are not all processed yet, but we have at least 99 performer applications and 29 song contest entries. The listening committee has started listening to the samples we received from all the applicants, working to decide which entries to accept this year and the song contest pre-judges will soon be at work picking the contest finalists as well. They all deserve a big thank-you for their hard work behind the scenes! David Carson also deserves a big thank you for processing all the incoming applications and doing what often feels like trying to herd cats.



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. Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352

3RFS 2025-2026 Board of Directors
 Gene Carbaugh, President 509-946-0504
 Jim Kelly, Vice President 509 521-8368
 Frank Cuta, Secretary 509-967-2658
 Steve Ghan, Treasurer 509-308-9023

Tumbleweed Coordinator
 Katrina Knight 509-587-3060

Members at Large:
 Katrina Knight 509-587-3060
 Bob Lewis 509-374-7520
 Alan Page 509-308-3574
 Scott Woodside 509-205-1125

3RFS Info: www.3rfs.org 509-946-0504
 (Gene Carbaugh)

Hosts Needed!

Tumbleweed is happy to help people who want to come to the festival, but who would prefer not to stay in a hotel. We do our best to arrange Homestays for both performers and attendees.

We can only offer Homestays to the extent that kind-hearted, generous people offer up space for people to stay in, whether a guest room, living-room-floor crash space, or a driveway or other area to pitch a tent or park an RV for the weekend. If you'd like a chance to get to know an out-of-town performer or fellow festival attendee, [here's your chance](#)

Wanted: Silent Auction Items

The Tumbleweed Music Festival Silent Auction is a wonderful way to recycle your surplus musical instruments, performer aids, sound equipment, unusual folk craft, and folklore items. Gene Carbaugh is collecting items for this year's auction. Contact Gene (509-946-0504 or president@3rfs.net) if you have any such item. The auction is held during the Festival and all proceeds go to support the event.

First Friday Folkie Free For All

Friday May 1, 7:00 PM

Lona Hammer's home

Friday, June 5, 7:00 PM

Gene Carbaugh's home

The May 1 First Friday Folkie Free For All singalong will be held at Lona Hammer's home, 2200 W. 8th Place, Kennewick, beginning at 7 PM. The "free-for-all" format allows everyone to pick a song for the group, or do a solo, or request someone to sing something. We'll go around the group about 3 times before the evening is over with a snack break in the middle. Bring your favorite songs, your instrument(s), food, or whatever and join in the fun. It's entirely free to attend! The FFFFA on June 5 will be at Gene Carbaugh's home in Richland.

Second Saturday Singalong

Saturday, May 9, 6 PM

Round Table Pizza, Richland

On Saturday, May 9, join us at 6:00 PM at the Round Table Pizza on George

Folk Events

May

1	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Lona Hammer's, Kennewick
2	Sofia Talvik Concert	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland
9	Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
11	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
16	3RFS Annual Business Meeting & Concert with Tracy Spring	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland
18	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	6:30 pm Mon	Zoom
22-25	Northwest Folklife Festival	Fri - Mon	Seattle Center, Seattle

June

5	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
8	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
11-14	Sacajawea Bluegrass Festival	Thur-Sun	Sacajawea State Park, Pasco
13	2nd Saturday Sea Song Sing-along	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
15	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Zoom

July

TBA	First(?) Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm	TBA
11	2nd Saturday Sea Song Sing-along	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
13	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
20	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Zoom
24-25	Art in The Park	Fri - Sat	Howard Amon Park, Richland

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

Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch Ave., Richland

Lona Hammer's = 2200 W. 8th Place, Kennewick

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

Washington Way in Richland for our Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong. Order your pizza (or salad, or sandwich) at 6 and we'll start the music somewhere around 6:45. The program is wide open, totally unscheduled, with songs chosen by those present. Instruments welcome but voices (those are instruments too) are essential. They haven't kicked us out timewise yet, but we're all pretty well winded after two hours! Join us for the fun.

Summer Activities – A Quiet Time? NOT!

With the last coffee house of the season held in April and our concert season wrapping up with the Annual Meeting and Free-to-Members Concert in May, we

give our newsletter editor a break in June and July. In the meantime, keep tuned to your email and check those websites for any special events that may occur between now and the next Folk Talk newsletter which will come out in August. Lots happens in June and July but most of it is behind the scenes as selection and scheduling of performers for the Tumbleweed Music Festival and arrangements for the 2026-2027 concert and coffee house seasons occur. Meanwhile, recruiting of the 100+ volunteers needed for the festival continues, including the need for key people in the hospitality/food service areas. Our monthly First Friday and Second Saturday sing-alongs will continue throughout the summer, so there's no excuse for letting your voices get rusty.

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 _____



Membership Application

Your membership gives you voting rights in Folklife elections, discounts on 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
- Setting up chairs
- Folding newsletters
- Publicity
- Membership
- Fund raising

Events To Travel To

.The **Northwest Folklife Festival** takes place May 22-25 at Seattle Center in Seattle. It features four days of free music of a variety of genres. Like Tumbleweed, they need many volunteers. To find out more, go to <https://nwfolklife.org/festival/> .

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

Three Rivers Folklife Society
PO Box 1098
Richland, WA 99352
Return Service Requested