



Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 38 Issue 1

August 2026

30th 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 30th annual Tumbleweed Music Festival will be held in Howard Amon Park in Richland, September 4 - September 6. 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. Please consider supporting our sponsors when you can. They help to keep the festival going. Check out their sponsors' banners at the festival and the list of sponsors and donors in the festival program.

Tumbleweed is a unique event in the Tri-Cities - a mostly free, family-oriented acoustic music festival. We have numerous local, regional, national and international acts representing a multitude of musical genres: 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, community group booths, a labyrinth, and an assortment of festival foods. Tumbleweed offers something for everyone!

The festival starts off on Friday night with the "Expanding Horizons" concert that features performers from a mixture of genres that expand on our usual types of music. The concert will start at 6:00 pm. This is a good chance to expand your musical horizons a bit. Tumbleweed's only ticketed events are the Saturday evening concert (at 7:00 pm), this year featuring Reggie Garrett & Christine Gunn, Great Aunt (all the way from Australia!) and The Whateverly Brothers, 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 Booths. (Children under 12 get in free.)

The River Stage will feature blocks of music and storytelling geared for children and families for the first few 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 "Tumbleweed - Thirty Years by the River." and we had many wonderful entries. The ten finalists will perform their original songs Saturday afternoon before the judges on the Dan Maher North Stage, beginning at 3:30 pm, 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, at 3:30 pm in the Community Center, 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 Dan Maher North Stage, there will be the traditional block of nautical music. In the evening, there will be the usual Sunday evening theme concert on the Jim Honeyman South Stage.

The festival will conclude with the Contra Dance at 8:00 pm on Sunday, in the air-conditioned Community Center stage featuring music by Def Sturgeon. 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 instruction, we will have a "Contra 101" workshop earlier in the evening, from 5:45pm to 6:30pm.

We're also trying something new this year - live-streaming from the North Stage. We are able to do this with grant money from The City of Richland and donated equipment from Mountains to Sound Greenway. It will be pretty basic, with a single fixed camera, but if it works out well we'll be looking at improving it next year. Details and a link to the stream will be on our website when the time comes.

Throughout our 30-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!

Headliners for Tumbleweed

September 5, 7:00 PM
Howard Amon Park -
Dan Maher North Stage

The Saturday Night Benefit Concert begins at 7:00 pm on Saturday, September 5th, on the Dan Maher North Stage. Tickets will be taken at the entrance.

Tickets for the Saturday Benefit Concert are \$15, and are available at the festival, at both the Info Booths, and from our roving ticket and button sellers (look for the folks in aprons carrying a sign).

2026 Headliners **Reggie Garrett and Christine Gunn** are a musical duo of

unparalleled emotion and virtuosity. Reggie's lyricism in his explorations of the variety and subtlety of human experience are supported and propelled into flight by Christine's dynamic and sensuous musicality. The songs are expansive, taking the time to set a mood and tell the stories. They reveal harsh truths with power and poetry and an undeniable empathy. Reggie has performed throughout the US and Canada for a number of years, both solo and with his band "Reggie Garrett & the Snake Oil Peddlers." Christine has performed widely as a solo artist, creating richly layered musical tapestries with her looping pedal. She is a founding member of the bands "Trillian Green" and "Gravity Quartet," and has performed as an accompanist to hundreds of bands, orchestras, musical theaters, and singer-songwriters, both live and recorded.

2026 Headliners **Great Aunt** are an award-winning Australian folk duo known for their soaring harmonies, unique instrumentation, and heartfelt live performances. Winners of the 2024 Folk Alliance Australia Duo of the Year, Megan Bird and Chelsea Allen blend folk, country, and roots music with influences from their backgrounds in punk, jazz, and rock to create a sound both familiar and new. With four U.S. tours under their belt and a debut LP,

"It's All Downhill From Here" released in early 2026, the duo will return to North America on multiple occasions this year. Great Aunt make music that is equal parts joyful and vulnerable, and deliver it with warmth, wit, and open hearts.

2026 Headliners **The Whateverly Brothers** grew out of two friends enjoying playing music together. Starting as a maritime music group, they soon followed their wide interests and backgrounds into many styles and genres including full Celtic and Yule sets. Dan Roberts and Chris Glanister, both seasoned folk music collectors, performers, and multi-instrumentalists, have delighted audiences with their varying repertoire, shimmering harmonies, striking arrangements, and offbeat humor. This year, they are joined by long-time Folk artist Bill Murlin. A power group, tight and expressive.

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 "Tumbleweed – Thirty Years by the River"

This year's finalists were chosen from this year's applicants by a committee of pre-judges. The ten finalists will perform their songs before a panel of three judges and an audience of fans on Saturday afternoon at 3:30 pm on the Dan Maher North Stage. There are monetary prizes for the top three place winners as well as a "People's Choice Award," voted on by the attendees of the finalists' performances. The winner receives the hand-made Tumbleweed trophy (and check!) and performs their winning song between the first and second acts at the Saturday evening concert.

This year's finalists and their songs are:

David Pablo Cohn – *The River Again*

Dharmika Henshel – *Let the River Soothe Your Soul*

JW McClure and Thaddeus Spae – *Thirty Years by the River*

Kay Miracle – *Tumbleweed Troubadors*

Marilyn Rucker – *Keep on Tumblin'*

Michael "Hawkeye" Herman – *Roll On, Tumbleweed, Roll On*

Mike Votava – *Labor Day Weekend*

Rachel Jumago – *Tumbleweed*

Rob Pratt – *30 Years*

Teale Love – *Green Bull Frogs*

Tumbleweed Will Be Here Soon!

by Katrina Knight

Preparations for this year's Tumbleweed Music Festival continue to rush onward. As I write this, the schedule for the festival is almost complete, although there will be some additions and revisions as things change. We are receiving the videos for the virtual portion of the festival and making plans to live-stream some of this year's festival as well. We have a good selection of food and craft vendors, some community groups, and, a labyrinth on Sunday.

Our Info Booth will have new t-shirts in two colors plus fans, festival buttons, guitar picks, and guitar pick earrings. And of course, there will be plenty of performer merchandise. Please support both the festival and the performers by buying merchandise. We're working on a sequel to our Front Row Seat album, featuring recordings from Tumbleweed and 3RFS concerts. As of the time I write this, I do not know whether it will be done in time to sell at Tumbleweed or not.

As always, we still need more volunteers. If you want to have the satisfaction of helping to make the festival happen and haven't signed up yet, go to <https://tumbleweedfest.com/support-tmf/volunteer/>. You can either fill out the online form there or download the pdf version and mail or e-mail 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. Our long-time volunteers are aging and we need some new blood if the festival is going to continue.

We'll be having a volunteer orientation meeting at 2 pm on Sunday, August 30th on the patio behind the Richland Community Center. You'll have a chance to meet some of the planning committee and other volunteers along with learning more about what you'll be doing. Depending on the job you're doing, there may also be a job-specific training session before the festival.

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

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Send items of interest to:
newsletter@3rfs.net

Send memberships to:

3RFS Membership
P.O. Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352

3RFS 2026-2027 Board of Directors

Frank Cuta, President	509-967-2658
Scott Woodside, Vice Pres.	509 205-1125
Gene Carbaugh, Secretary	509-946-0504
Steve Ghan, Treasurer	509-308-9023

Tumbleweed Coordinator Katrina Knight	509-587-3060
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Katrina Knight	509-587-3060
Bob Lewis	509-374-7520
Alan Page	509-308-3574
Tricia Daly	509 943-9284

3RFS Info: www.3rfs.org	509-946-0504 (Gene Carbaugh)
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(We'd prefer to get a volunteer form from you sooner rather than later, but feel free to show up even if you haven't turned in a form. We'll have a stack of them there.)

We could also use a few more hosts for performers looking for homestays. The form for hosts can also be found on our website at <https://tumbleweedfest.com/support-tmf/homestay-hosting/>

President's Pen - by Frank Cuta

Our 3RFS concert planning committee has been working hard to put together a complete line-up of exciting performances for the 2026-2027 season. We hope that you will open your calendar as you go through this report and put little red circles around most of these dates. We understand that some of you have other commitments on the third Saturday of every month and this schedule features three concerts that are on alternative Saturdays.

One of the biggest shows is on September 26 as we open the season with **Tracy Grammar**.

Many of us remember her great solo *Gypsy Rose* which is a kind of tribute to David Carter but ironically was penned by him. Her concerts continue the "post modern mythic American folk flavor that they shared and feature both the old and some new songs. **Nancy K Dillon** will be performing for us on October 17. She is a Tumbleweed festival favorite and a song contest winner. Her songs blend folk, country and roots influences. Her voice is warm and expressive.

On November 21 we have in concert for the **Cecilia Eng**. This is her first concert with us but of course not her first performance since she was a Tumbleweed headliner in 2021 and is a favorite at the festival each year. Her original songs and parodies often draw from science fiction and fantasy stories but not always.

For our holiday concert we generally move the show to the first Saturday of the month and this year we are welcoming back on December 5 **Tania Opland and Mike Freeman**. Their music is a vibrant blend of world folk influences from central Asia to Alaska and from Ireland to Africa.

Last year many of us fell in love with

The Radio Helpers, Ivy and Neilia Eyer, who've been performing at Tumbleweed with the Eyer Family Band since they were young children. This year on January 16 they will be back for a full concert.

We will not have a concert in February because we are going to squeeze two special performances into March. On March 13 we will again have **James Keelaghan** in concert. James specifically asked if he could come back and I'm sure that the impressive number of his followers that showed up the last time he was here probably has something to do with it. He is known for his historical ballads and moving stories about real life people like *Cold Missouri Waters*. Then on March 20 we have a real treat. **Kat Eggleston** is returning to our concert stage after an absence of way too many years. Her music blends heart felt story telling with the rich folk tradition of the Northwest.

Many of us are looking forward to the **Wes Weddell** concert on April 17. He is a vital contributor to our Tumbleweed festival and an audience favorite. His style leans toward traditional acoustic folk with story telling and literary influences.

We always end the concert season with a short business meeting and free concert for our members. This year our performer guests on May 16 are Shanghaied on the Willamette. Jonathan Lay and Gordy Euler perform "songs and tunes plundered from land and sea." This is great traditional Celtic, English and old time American music with a strong emphasis on maritime and sea songs. And an appropriate way to end another Three Rivers Folklife concert season.

Two Raffles at Tumbleweed

Here's your chance to win big at Tumbleweed. We are offering two raffles to help support the festival. Raffle #1 is for a Cort Grand Regal acoustic-electric dreadnought cutaway guitar. It features a solid Sitka spruce top, myrtlewood back and sides, mahogany neck, internal pickup with electronics, and a Stag zipper soft case. Total estimated value is \$800. Tickets are \$5 each with chance of winning 1 in 500. Raffle #2 is for a festival themed quilt, handmade by our own Micki Perry. Tickets are also \$5 with a 1 in 250 chance of winning. Tickets will be on sale at the Tumbleweed Festival. You need not be present to win.

Silent Auction at Tumbleweed

The Silent Auction of numerous musical and folk related items will be part of the Tumbleweed Music Festival. Held in the main lobby of the Richland Community Center, the auction opens Saturday morning and continues until 3 pm on Sunday. Place your bid on the auction form for the appropriate item(s) and the winner is determined at the close on Sunday. Items must be picked up, hopefully by 5 pm on Sunday. Payment can be cash, check, or credit card. Items are donated by friends of Tumbleweed and all proceeds of the sale go to the festival.

3RFS Supports Emerald of Siam

At the July board meeting, the Board approved a motion to provide Emerald of Siam a donation of \$2,000.00 plus a complimentary North Stage sponsorship for the 2026 Tumbleweed Festival. The Emerald has a long history of supporting Tumbleweed and the local musical scene. The 3RFS donation was in recognition of our strong desire to see the Emerald continue to support local music and musicians as they undergo required major upgrades to remain in business. Emerald's owner, Dara Quinn, responded to 3RFS with "Thank you to the Board for the recognition. It means so much to us."

Monthly Singalongs

First Friday Folkie Free for All

The First Friday Folkie Free For All singalong is normally held on the first Friday of the month (duh!) However, the first Friday in September is the opening night of the Tumbleweed Music Festival, so the normal FFFFA will not be held in September. Instead, join us at the opening concert for Tumbleweed at Howard Amon Park. The next FFFFA will be held on October 2 at Bill Darke's home, 210 Somerset Sr, Richland, 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!

Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong

Join us at 6:00 PM at the Round Table Pizza on George 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.

Upcoming 2024 Concerts

September 26 - Tracy Grammar

October 17 - Nancy K Dillon

November 21 - Cecilia Eng

December 5 - Tania Opland & Mike Freeman

January 16 - The Radio Helpers

March 13 - James Keelaghan

March 20 - Kat Eggleston

April 17 - Wes Weddell

May 16 - Shanghaied on the Willamette (annual meeting, free for members)

September Coffeehouse - Open Mic Night

Friday, September 11, 7:00 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church

The coffee house traditionally begins each evening with an open mic session inviting community members to share their musical gifts.

For September only, the coffee house format will change and be solely in Open Mic evening.

We invite all budding musicians, poets, and storytellers to step into the spotlight. Participants are encouraged to arrive early to secure performance slot. This Open Mic embodies the spirit of folk music - community driven, heartfelt, and deeply personal. Whether

Local Folk Events

August

3	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Zoom
7	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	
8	2 nd Saturday Sea Song Sing-along	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
10	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Bob Lewis's, West Richland
17	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Zoom
24	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Zoom
30	Tumbleweed Volunteer Orientation	2:00 pm Sun	Patio of Richland Community Center, Howard Amon Park
31	Tumbleweed Planning Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Zoom

September

4	Tumbleweed New Horizons Concert	6:00 pm Fri	Howard Amon Park, Richland
5	Tumbleweed Music Festival	11 am-10 pm Sat	Howard Amon Park, Richland
6	Tumbleweed Music Festival	11 am-10 pm Sun	Howard Amon Park, Richland
11	Coffeehouse - Open Mic Night	7:30 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
12	2 nd Saturday Sea Song Sing-along	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
14	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Bob Lewis's, West Richland
26	Tracy Grammar Concert	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland

All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland
Bob Lewis's = 2954 Crosswater Loop, West Richland
Round Table Pizza = Corner of George Washington Way and Torbett St., Richland

it's a first time performer or a seasoned artist trying out new material the open mic foster's a sense of camaraderie and mutual support among participants and audience members.

The Three Rivers Folklife society's coffeehouse is more than just a concert series; it is a celebration of community and culture. By providing a space for artistic expression and connection, the Coffeehouse strengthens the bonds between performers and listeners.

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.

Tumbleweed History Wanted! by David Carson

I'm working on getting as much information as possible about our previous Tumbleweed festivals up on the website as I can. I'm currently working on the TMF2024 page, which you can see at <https://tumbleweedfest.com/tmf-2024/>. The later years can be found in the main menu under "Past Tumbleweed Festivals."

Right now, I have Programs and Schedules back to 2013, but nothing from earlier than that.

If you happen to have either of these from festivals prior to 2013, I'd surely appreciate it if you could either lend them to me, or scan them and email them to me at davidmcarson14@gmail.com.

Thanks in advance!

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 _____

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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 _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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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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