



Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 38 Issue 2

September/October 2026

Tracy Grammer in Concert

Saturday, September 26, 7:30 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Tracy Grammer is bringing her pure, emotive vocals, her masterful violin playing, and her guitar style that moves effortlessly between percussive drive and delicate nuance to the Tri-Cities audience on Saturday, September 26. She is a gifted storyteller, bringing a rare blend of vulnerability, intimacy, and hard-won insight to the stage.

Tracy rose to acclaim as half of the "postmodern, mythic American folk" duo Dave Carter & Tracy Grammer. They released three internationally celebrated, chart-topping albums featuring Dave's mythopoetic Americana songcraft. They also toured with Joan Baez as both featured artists and members of her band. The duo was in clear ascendancy when, in July 2002, Dave suffered a fatal heart attack mid-tour.

To honor the duo's trajectory and bring Dave's (and others') songs to wider audiences, she continues touring and has released several recordings, including six solo and seven archival with Dave.

Tracy performs regularly in theaters, coffeehouses, and festivals across the United States and Canada, with additional appearances in Europe and Japan. She performs solo and in collaboration with long-time musical partner Jim Henry, also with Paul Kochanski, Lorne Entress, and David Chalfant. Since 2020, she and Jim have hosted a free monthly livestream concert series from Rubytone Studio.

To find out more, see her website. <http://www.tracygrammer.com>.

Join us as Three Rivers Folklife Society presents Tracy Grammer in concert, Saturday, September 26th, at 7:30pm, at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball, Richland. Park in the back and enter through the basement. Tickets (\$20 general, \$15 for 3RFS members) can be purchased at the door or online at <https://3rfs.org/concerts-2/>.

October Concert - Nancy K. Dillon with Porch Cat Opening

Saturday, October 17, 7:30 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church

We are thrilled to present Nancy K. Dillon for our October 17 concert. A songwriter, performer, and visual artist, Nancy comes to us from Seattle. She writes compellingly, poetically, and sometimes mysteriously, finding inspiration in dreams and traveling across the landscapes of the western U.S. Her family heritage in Ireland, Scotland, Europe, and Britain provides rich inspiration and little known facts, like her father fighting in the WW2 Battle of the Bulge, and her 7th great-grand-uncle in Scotland writing a treatise called *Lex Rex* ("the law is king") upon which the 2nd Amendment was based. Nancy grew up in central Oklahoma surrounded by music. With her father being a composer, professor, jazz saxophonist, and church choir director, and her mother a former vocal teacher, it is not surprise that her talent blossomed. She performed in roots-based bands and was a backing vocalist and session singer until she decided to focus on songwriting in the new millennium. Her songs explore her American roots as well as her ancestral Celtic roots.

A veteran Tumbleweed performer, she has three full length CDs and an EP, as well as singles, all available on Bandcamp. Her 2018 CD, *A Game of Swans*, debuted in the Top 20 of the Folk Alliance Folk Radio Chart. It was subsequently released in Europe and the UK where it received extensive air play. A fourth album *Cawker City Blues*, is scheduled for release this year.

Opening for Nancy is Porch Cat, a folk punk trio originally formed in Bellingham, WA, and currently located in Pasco. Porch Cat is: Chan Benicki, Emily Awen, and newest member Calisto Riddle. Chan's raw, honest lyrics, unique vocals, and musical saw playing define the band's sound, while Emily brings thoughtful vocal harmonies along with a driving and melodic guitar. Live, they

perform as an acoustic trio, while recordings feature a layered sound, allowing them both to explore multiple instruments across multiple genres. Porch Cat, at its core, strives to connect with and empower marginalized people through music. They hope to bring their audience an authentic performance full of love and emotion.

Nancy K. Dillon performs for 3RFS on Saturday, October 17, 7:30 pm, at All Saints Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave, in Richland. Park in the back and enter through the basement. Tickets (\$20 general, \$15 for 3RFS members) can be purchased at the door or online at <https://3rfs.org/concerts-2/>.

President's Pen by Frank Cuta

I am thrilled to start off our 2026-2027 concert season with Tracy Grammer. This fall she joins the many touring musicians like Kerry Grombacher, James Keelaghan, Ariel Silver, and Sofia Talvik who return periodically to perform for us because they realize that acoustic music is still appreciated here in the Tri-Cities.

After producing concerts for 40 years and producing the best live outdoor festival in Eastern Washington for 30 years we are still going strong. In addition to our concerts, coffeehouses, festival, and sing-alongs we often extend our resources to support many external programs such as Riverfest, Earth Day, Art In the Park, and the Washington Humanities presentations held at the Richland Library. We enjoy a strong foundation consisting of well-produced programs, a hard-working board, extremely successful fund raising and lots of dedicated volunteer elbow grease. Remarkably after all these years nearly all of our programming is still produced and staffed by our volunteers -- people like you who step forward to sell buttons, bring cookies, set up sound equipment, take tickets, contribute to planning committees, host house concerts, put up guest performers for a night, contribute to the writing of this newsletter, and actually produce concerts.

October Coffeehouse to feature Brittany Joy and The Hopeful

Friday, October 9, 7:00 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Brittany Joy and The Hopeful are a recently formed duo consisting of Brittany Joy Hilker on vocals and guitar and Alan Page on bass, guitar, and percussion. The duo played their first gig shortly after working on a recording session together and have quickly built a solid following and are continuing to play out.

They showcase the personal and intimate original music and lyrics of Brittany, which chronicle her life experiences, including time spent in Haiti.

With musical influences ranging from Dolly Parton, Billy Harvey Mon Rovia, Joy Oladokun, Brittany Joy and The Hopeful offer a welcoming and engaging sound and are looking forward to playing the Coffeehouse.

Coffeehouse admission is \$8 for 3RFS members/\$10 for non-members. Open Mic starts at 7pm and Brittany Joy and The Hopeful will start at 7:30pm. 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.

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 2026-2027 Board of Directors

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Scott Woodside, Vice Pres.	509 205-1125
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Tumbleweed Coordinator Katrina Knight	509-587-3060
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Alan Page	509-308-3574
Tricia Daly	509 943-9284

3RFS Info: www.3rfs.org	509-946-0504 (Gene Carbaugh)
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Thirtieth Annual Tumbleweed Shines by David Carson

The thirtieth annual [Tumbleweed Music Festival](#) has come and gone, and wasn't that a time? With perfect, moderate weather, a repositioned Dan Maher North Stage to give more shade to the audience, and all the usual events, the [2026 festival](#) will be remembered as a good time had by all.

Let's start with the repositioning of the Dan Maher North stage. For years, the audience gathered in widely-separated clumps, desperately crowding into the relatively few, small shade spots available. At the request of Coordinator Katrina Knight, Chris Glanister, our main sound operator, chose a spot that took advantage of the far more comprehensive shade a bit to the west. The tree coverage proved to be far more continuous, allowing the audience to sit more together (and look more like an audience rather than floating islands). Thanks for the keen eye (and ears), Chris!

And speaking of Chris Glanister, he's responsible for our first-ever livestreams of the Dan Maher North Stage. Chris has worked many years doing events for the "Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust" (<https://mtsgreenway.org/>) an organization who have created and maintain The Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area, which is a unique geographic corridor made up of connected ecosystems and communities spanning 1.5 million acres from Seattle to Ellensburg along I-90 in Washington. The Trust donated a complete Starlink setup to 3RFS, and Chris's knowledge and skills allowed us to livestream to the 3RFS YouTube channel. The Friday Night Concert, and the Saturday and Sunday Day streams are still at <https://tumbleweedfest.com/TMF2026>, or go to YouTube and search "3RFS," then look for the "TMF2026 Livestreams" playlist.

How about that weather? As opposed to the last few years, when the intense heat caused problems (especially on the Jim Honeyman South stage), this year brought us highs in the 70s, and a refreshing breeze now and again. Well, OK, it did get downright chilly for the evening concerts – who'd have ever imagined wearing an actual coat at Tumbleweed?

Friday night's "Expanding Horizons" concert started off the festival with a roaring good time. All five of the acts that evening delivered knockout performances, and were heartily cheered by the crowd.

The Saturday Night Tumbleweed Benefit

concert suffered slightly from the chill breeze (and some loud, LOUD music washing in from John Dam Plaza – a problem that's already been addressed for next year), but the performances were engrossing. [Reggie Garrett and Christine Gunn](#) gave us a set of deep, highly-considered lyrics and incredible musicianship. [Great Aunt](#) brought their driving sensibilities to their fun, fun lyrics. And [The Whatevery Brothers](#) did what they always do so well: kept us entertained!

The winner of the Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest was announced, as always, between the first and second performances of the Saturday Night concert. This year [Arbielle](#) was awarded both 1st prize AND People's Choice Awards, for her song *Tumbleweed*. [Rob Pratt](#) was awarded 2nd prize for his song *30 Years*, and [David Pablo Cohn](#) was awarded 3rd prize for his song *The River Again*. Great thanks to our Finals Judges Peter Rothbart, Ken Gaines, and Chan Benicki.

Daytime performances on Saturday and Sunday went well, with no major problems, despite the schedule still changing up until 7am on Friday!

The Sunday evening concert comprised a number of past Tumbleweed Headliners, and the drawing of the winners of the guitar and quilt raffles. The guitar was won by Chris Pinney, of Walla Walla. The quilt (a gorgeous, huge quilt [9 feet tall!]) made by Micki Perry incorporating all 30 Tumbleweed logo T-Shirts, was won by Kip McGilliard, of Richland.

The festival closed traditionally with the Contra Dance, with the band **Def Sturgeon** and caller **Gordy Euler**. The dance was attended by about 40 people, and a good time was had by all!

We had a very full group of Craft Vendors, and the walkway along them was always busy and crowded. Great thanks to Heather Wagner and Sherri Schatz, our Craft Vendor Coordinators, for another great job this year!

We had a good group of Food Vendors, although fewer than in previous years. The great big trailer at the river end of Lee was not able to open due to a family emergency, but the other vendors stayed busy well into the evenings.

Speaking of food, tremendous thanks must go to Ammishaddai Sandoval, who stepped up at the last minute to act as our Kitchen Manager. Ammishaddai, who's also a part of the RadCon Science Fiction Convention ConCom, wrangled all the kitchen and Chris Mesford Hospitality Room volunteers into making sure that we again were able to offer real food to our

Performers and Volunteers. Big thanks, Ammishaddai!

My great thanks to Katrina Knight, who managed to wrangle everything into shape throughout the year, and to all the rest of the Planning Committee, who stepped up to help us all out. Great thanks as well in general to the Volunteers who came out and really make the festival possible!

First Friday Folkie Free For All

Friday October 2, 7:00 PM
Bill Darke's home

Friday, November 6, 7:00 PM
Gene Carbaugh's home

With Tumbleweed #30 now past, the First Friday Folkie Free For All singalong returns to the first Friday of the month. Join us on October 2 at Bill Darke's home, 210 Somerset Sr, Richland, beginning at 7 PM. The format is wide open to give everyone the opportunity to pick a song for the group, do a solo, or request someone to sing something. We'll go around the group at least twice but more likely three 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! And mark your calendar for the November 6 FFFFA at Gene Carbaugh's, 803 Birch, Richland.

Second Saturday Singalong

Saturday, October 10, 6 PM
Round Table Pizza, Richland

Ship aboard for the Second Saturday Sea Song Singalong (SSSSS) on Saturday, October 10 at the Round Table Pizza on George Washington Way in Richland. Boarding time is 6:00 PM to order your grub and we'll start the musical fare somewhere around 6:45. The schedule is loose, but the songs are great and chosen by those present and don't have to be limited to nautical music. Voices and instruments are all we need. Fall winds likely to blow fair for at least a couple of hours! See you on board.

30 years of Tumbleweed and 3RFS's 40th Year by Micki Perry

We celebrated the 30th Tumbleweed Music Festival and the festival's history this year. It was a wonderful festival thanks to the efforts of all the folks who volunteered and did the hard work of making it happen and the performers who shared their talents and provided great

Local Folk Events

September

26 Tracy Grammer Concert 7:30 pm Sat All Saints', Richland

October

2 First Friday Folkie Free For All 7:00 pm Fri Bill Darke's, West Richland
3 RiverFest 10 - 3 Sat Columbia Park, Kennewick
9 Coffeehouse - Brittany Joy & The Hopeful 7:30 pm Fri All Saints', Richland
10 2nd Saturday Sea Song Sing-along 6:00 pm Sat Round Table Pizza, Richland
12 3RFS Board Meeting 7:00 pm Mon Scott Woodside's, Kennewick
17 Nancy K. Dillon Concert 7:30 pm Sat All Saints', Richland

November

6 First Friday Folkie Free For All 7:00 pm Fri Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
9 3RFS Board Meeting 7:00 pm Mon location TBA
13 Coffeehouse 7:30 pm Fri All Saints', Richland
14 2nd Saturday Sea Song Sing-along 6:00 pm Sat Round Table Pizza, Richland
21 Cecilia Eng Concert 7:30 pm Sat All Saints', Richland

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

Bill Darke's = 210 Somerset St., Richland

Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch Ave., Richland

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

Scott Woodside's = 6602 W Arrowhead Ave, Kennewick

entertainment and old and new connections with our community. 30 years is a milestone and something to celebrate, and we hope to keep on for many more decades! Roll on Tumbleweed!

That's not the only milestone for us to celebrate though. Three Rivers Folklife Society had its origin in the summer of 1987, so this is the start of our 40th year. My husband John and I are often assumed to be the founders of 3RFS and later the festival, but there were so many other folks involved and so many other "founding folk" that made 3RFS and Tumbleweed slowly but surely possible, and both evolved due to a group effort and many folks putting their skills, talents, and experiences toward having more concerts, contra dances, jams and song circles, and acoustic music festivals.

A lot of the credit for bringing the folks who loved folk music, dance and arts out of the woodwork and together as a community should go to Dan Maher who hosted the "Inland Folk" radio show on Northwest Public Radio. Fans of Dan attended a concert on August 7, 1987 at the Unitarian Church in downtown Kennewick. John and I got to open the show, and we hosted a bunch in our backyard the next day with about 15 people getting together to talk about starting a folklife society or at least a concert series. Our first concert was in 1988 with Utah Phillips and later Linda Allen. John Gorka, Bryan Bowers and

other Northwest artists also did concerts in the "early days." Our concert series was popular, and Bret and Cheryl Cannon organized the contra dances. We had a song circle and occasional jams and even a newsletter, Folk Talk. We were getting organized! Mark Horn helped us get non-profit status at the state and federal level, and we started our monthly coffeehouse in 1991. Graphic artist Teresa Grate did formats and graphic art for our newsletter and posters.

3RFS continued to grow and prosper in the '90s and often had two concerts a month in addition to our coffeehouse and dances. We were a popular venue in the Northwest and I sometimes think we peaked in the '90s. One of the main reasons we finally felt the need to do a festival in 1997 was because so many performers wanted to play at our venues and already had a fan base. For many years SunFest had sponsored a summer festival series in Richland, but they went bankrupt due to overextending guarantees to national acts, so there was a vacuum and need for a summer acoustic festival. And we finally had enough dedicated volunteers to organize and run a festival!

The Tumbleweed Music Festival began in 1997 and the Three Rivers Folklife Society had begun 10 years earlier in 1987. Both are still going strong and will continue as long as there are folks to nurture and support them. Remember "You are the folk in folk music!"

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 _____

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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

RiverFest 2026 - Saturday, October 3, 10 AM - 3 PM, Columbia Park, Kennewick

Businesses, community organizations and people from all walks of life throughout the region join together each year to host [RiverFest](#). RiverFest is a FREE, fun, and educational family event, featuring exhibitors, vendors, and entertainment to showcase all the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System and highlight the four lower Snake River dams including navigation, irrigation, recreation and power. People of all ages will find something fun to do and learn about at RiverFest!

Schedule: 10:00 - **Adelaide Gervais**, Miss Tri-Cities 2027, will sing the National Anthem, 10:20 - **Jacob Corsiga**, 12:40 - **Brittany Joy and the Hopeful**, 1:25 - **Talena Bricker**

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