



Spokane Folklore Society

Footnotes

Serving folk arts in the Inland Northwest since 1977

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SPOKANE FOLKLORE SOCIETY PRESENTS

43RD ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS DANCE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2023,
7-10 PM

Caller: Penn Fix Band: Reel Friends
Ornament Exchange All Ages Welcome



Festive Attire Encouraged

Newcomers Welcome All Dances Are Taught

\$10 for nonmembers \$7 for SFS members

East Spokane Grange, 1621 N. Park RD

Please bring snacks and dessert to share during the break



For More Info: www.spokanefolklore.org



MEMBERSHIP
FORM

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SFS Mission

The purpose of the Spokane Folklore Society shall be to promote a broader community awareness and involvement in cultural folk traditions, such as music, dance, and other folk arts through such social and educational events as concerts, dances, festivals, workshops, lectures, demonstrations, and newsletters.
www.spokanefolklore.org

About Footnotes

Footnotes is published monthly except July. SFS dues include an e-subscription. Paper copies add a fee.

Editor: Brent Smith

E-mail newsletter items to:
myspokanefolklore@gmail.com

Or mail to

Footnotes c/o SFS
PO Box 141
Spokane, WA 99210

Copy deadline is the 15th of the month. Articles from the membership are welcome and appreciated! Copy may be edited for space or clarity.

SFS BOARD MEMBERS

President: Brendan Biele

Vice-President: Cathy Dark

Treasurer: Judy Lungren

Secretary: Penn Fix

Members at Large: Ken Raymond,
Dana Smith

www.spokanefolklore.org

myspokanefolklore@gmail.com

Calendar of SFS Sponsored Contra Dances

DATE	BAND	CALLER	LOCATION
December 6th	Banna Damhsa	Nancy Staub	Woman's Club Hall
December 20th	Prestwold Players	Susan Dankovich	Woman's Club Hall
January 3rd	Reel Friends	Nora Scott	Woman's Club Hall
January 17th	Jam Band	Karen Wilson Bell	Woman's Club Hall

Proof of Covid vaccinations will not be required in order to participate at any SFS sponsored event until further notice. Good health is required. And masking is respected.

Contra Dancing in December

In December, the SFS will host three contra dances including the opening dance of our Second Saturday dance series. On December 9, the 43rd annual Christmas dance will feature caller Penn Fix and band Reel Friends. This holiday favorite welcomes dancers of all ages with an opening grand march that includes trimming a tree followed by a variety of easy to learn contras and more. Besides their rousing Irish and New England tunes, Reel Friends will share some holiday tunes that everyone is encouraged to sing along. A highlight of the evening is an amazing potluck dessert. The dance begins at 7PM and ends at 10PM. It is held at the East Spokane Grange hall, 1621 N. Park Rd in the Spokane Valley.

Wednesday dances continue at the Woman's Club Hall. On December 6th, Nancy Staub will call and Banna Damhsa will play Irish jigs and reels. On December 20, Susan Dankovich will call with the Prestwold Players. New-comer sessions begin at 7:15 PM followed by a two hour contra dancing starting at 7:30PM.

Second Saturday Dance Schedule

All dances at: East Spokane Grange hall, 1621 N. Park Rd in the Spokane Valley

December 9	Christmas Contra with Penn Fix and Reel Friends
January 13	Couple Dancing with Cathy Dark and Crooked Kilt
February 10	Valentine Contra with Nancy Staub and River City Ramblers
March 9	Square & Contra Dance with Greg & Jere Canote, Larry and Penn Fix
April 13	Irish Ceili and Contras with Caitlin and Banna Damhsa
May 11	World Dances with Cathy Dark
June 8	Swing Dance with Zonky Five and Cathy Dark

Contra Dancing Beyond Spokane

Besides dances in Spokane, there are opportunities to dance in Sandpoint, Moscow, Coeur d'Alene, and Walla Walla.

The Sandpoint (ID) community is hosting their second Friday dance December 8 with Joseph Erhard-Hudson calling and Accidental Harmonies playing great tunes. The dance begins at 7PM and ends at 10PM. At the Sandpoint Community Hall. Bring clean shoes and water bottle. \$5 for individuals \$ 20 for families. For more information, sandpointcontras@gmail.com

The Palouse Folklore Society hosts a monthly dance on Saturday December 16 in Moscow (ID) with Joseph Erhard-Hudson calling and Loose Palouse playing. The dance begins at 8PM with a newcomer session at 7:30PM. At the 1912 Center, 412 East 3rd St. \$8 general admission.

For more information, radavich@moscow.com

***Not So But Far Otherwise* - Countercurrent**

A Band and Album Review by Penn Fix

With the holidays in mind, Countercurrent's newest album *Not So But Far Otherwise* provides happy and genuinely played tunes and songs by one of the Northwest's best contra dance bands. Brian Lindsay and Alex Sturbaum have been playing together since their Oberlin College days.



Their newest effort reflects how strongly they connect with one another both in tunes and songs. For those seeking dance tunes, this album features several sets that Countercurrent play regularly for dances. Master Crowley's and Asturian Way showcase the breadth of the band; they honor traditional tunes like Master Crowley's; and they match it with a contemporary one like Asturian Way; then they add their own mastery of fiddle and guitar to create a driving dance set. Cats in the Henhouse (by Alex Sturbaum), Free Little Bird and A Fair Wind set Countercurrent apart from most contradance bands: they sing as dancers dance. As Alex noted, "we love the optimistic and carefree feeling the set evokes when we sing it for contra dances."

Besides dance sets, *Not So But Far Otherwise* highlights the distinct and lovely voices of Brian and Alex

through several diverse songs drawn from the contemporary landscape, though entrenched in tradition. The two waltzes demonstrate their spirit of sharing and respecting one another. Alex chose Augusta Waltz (Bob McQuillen) played at their wedding; and Brian, Two Rivers (Larry Unger) is his "favorite waltz of all time."

Not So But Far Otherwise reflects a two year effort by two amazing musicians partnered in the joy of engaging with themselves and their community. The album is \$20 and available at www.countercurrentmusic.bandcamp.com/album/not-so-but-far-otherwise

Testimonials from Fall Folk Festival 2023

It was pure to joy to share so many new songs this weekend with such an appreciative listening audience.

- Cheryl Branz

Wonderful job everyone! Another FFF for the books---what would we do without you?

- Crooked Kilt and Muckle Roe

Our duo, Two Grey Cats, are very impressed with how things went this year. From all the advance planning on your end, to the volunteers at sign-in, our stage manager, and the sound & lights guy, it was really well done.

- Two Grey Cats

Thank you so much for having us. Everything was easy from our perspective. We play over 125 shows a year and this couldn't have been better. Thank you for having us!

- Joey and Stevie Anderson (Jovie & The HoneyChuckle)

I was so glad to see so many people at this event this year! I perform with String Cosmology full time and we were all impressed with the quality of sound. I also did a solo show in the Bistro which I really enjoyed due to the room and the sound person that took really good care of the sound and making it an easy transition from group to group.

See your next year!!

- Jeff Parker

Thanks again for all your work and the work of volunteers to make this happen! It's such a huge commitment and truly appreciated. It was great to see such a huge turnout, and to see some new performers on the calendar. Well done!!!

Blue Ribbon Tea Company

Wow!! Thanks to our friends/fans who came to hear us at Fall Folk Festival. What a joy to sing and play for you! Also a big thank you to the hard-working and friendly staff for taking such good care of us and supporting live music.

- Trillium 239

From the Audience Surveys – What did you most like about the Festival?

Best multi-cultural music event in Spokane

Music all around the festival, jamming all day – The Nicest Festival Volunteers

The diversity and community – welcoming atmosphere

Being able to learn and participate in so many parts of folk culture is amazing

Music, art, Vendors and cultural booths – well done

Music bringing people together

It's Free

The frog on the poster should be named Banjo.

Opportunity to buy cultural crafts/jewelry

The variety of performances, contra dancing and jam sessions

It's Time to Renew Your SFS Membership

August is the best month, but any month is a good time to renew your SFS membership. Simply go to this link: <http://www.spokanefolklore.org/membership.html> for a full year membership, download the membership form, fill it out, and send it along with a check to our mailing address:

P.O. Box 141, Spokane WA 99210-0141.

Not only do you receive a substantial discount to SFS dance events but you also help to support our organization. We can't do it without your memberships and your additional donations. We are committed to making your dancing experience fun by increasing the guarantees to bands and callers, improving our sound system, and soon updating our website. We are confident that with your support we will not only sustain but also grow our community. Thanks for your help!

Support SFS Business Members

Business memberships not only provide valuable support to SFS, but the businesses receive extra benefits. Business members are listed monthly in the newsletter and have links on our website: www.spokanefolklore.org. For more information on becoming a Business Member, contact the Spokane Folklore Society at:

[**mypokanefolklore@gmail.com**](mailto:mypokanefolklore@gmail.com)