



## What the Columbus Folk Music Society Does Beyond Festival Time

The annual Central Ohio Folk Festival at Highbanks Metro Park may be the Columbus Folk Music Society's most concentrated project of the year, but we invite you to join in the many other activities that we conduct!

### Monthly Americana/Folk Concert Series

These gratifying evening events usually have three parts: an open jam, an open mic, and a featured performer. The concert series take place the last Saturday of every month September through April, excluding December. They're held at the Columbus Mennonite Church at 35 Oakland Park Avenue in Clintonville, present engaging performers and draw a good-sized crowd. More info can be found [here](#) or on our website under Events.

### Helping the Community

The Columbus Folk Music Society has been involved in programming with the local Clintonville Resource Center, Run the Race (a project in Southwest Columbus that gets low-income children involved in music), providing music via on-line connections with some local nursing homes,

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## A Different Strummer Newsletter Highlights

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# Congratulations to the 2022 Bob Kirby Scholarship Winners

BY SHERRY HUBBARD

Three aspiring young musicians from central Ohio have been selected to receive awards from the 2022 Bob Kirby Scholarship fund; they are Eric Ndossi, Joel Ndossi and Piper Sigloch.

**Eric Ndossi**, now 11 years old, started playing piano at the age of three. Since then, he has played a variety of musical instruments, among them violin, recorder, viola, and guitar. He would like to try playing oboe, cello, and drums. Eric writes, "...music is fun...and I know I can use...to make people happy."



**Joel Ndossi** is ten years old and plays piano, viola and guitar. He wants to be a "talented instrument player" when he grows up and writes, "I know by practicing I will get there." Joel's teacher at school sometimes lets him play piano for friends, something he always looks forward to.

**Piper Sigloch** is ten years old and loves to play viola and sing. Her favorite times to practice are Tuesdays and Thursdays at school; second favorite times are at home playing along with YouTube. Piper writes, "Someday I would like to buy my own viola from my piggybank."



Benefits provided by the Scholarship include: being "guests" of the Central Ohio Folk Festival May 7-8, 2022, an opportunity to do a short performance at the festival (if desired), a \$500 award for instrument purchase or private lessons, and a one year CFMS membership, eligible to receive the printed edition of the CFMS monthly newsletter, "A Different Strummer".





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and participating in other events around town like the annual Columbus Marathon.

The Columbus Folk Music Society conducts a Bob Kirby Scholarship program which is an award given annually to young musician(s) to assist them towards the purchase of ongoing lessons and/or an instrument.

### **Weekly Community Jams**

... reaching out to the public. These informal jams occur on a weekly basis. We've adapted since COVID and now have opportunities for both on-line and in-person events. More info can be obtained by emailing Jane at: [vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com).

### **Special concerts**

Look for our members as they stage concerts all around Columbus and beyond. Some of these events are officially

sponsored by the Columbus Folk Music Society, but many others are sponsored by other groups and fund-raising campaigns.

We'd love for you to get involved in these and other activities of the Columbus Folk Music Society! To do so, talk with any of our members or look us up on the web here or at:

[www.ColumbusFolkMusicSociety.org](http://www.ColumbusFolkMusicSociety.org).

You can also ask to be added to our Folk-events e-list which informs you of many CFMS activities throughout the year.

E-mail:

[webmaster@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:webmaster@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

to be added to the list. We don't send out frequent e-mails, but we do notify you of upcoming events.

# Highlights of the Central Ohio Folk Festival - May 7 & 8



*Photo from 2019 Central Ohio Folk Festival*

BY D. BOSTON

**Want some REASONS to come out to the festival at Highbanks Metro Park first thing Saturday morning? Here are a few!**

The birds will be singing and the park setting will be delightful in the morning! You'll get a good festival parking place; You'll most likely beat any lines as you pass through the entrance tent(s);

**You can participate at the festival's Grand Opening Sing at 11 AM led by The Folk Ramblers (Bill Cohen and Carl Yaffey).** You can sing your heart out, boost your endorphins, and maybe even make a few new friends;

You can help us celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the festival. We'd love to share a piece of our Anniversary celebration cake with you after the Opening Sing!

**Food service, our Entrance Tents and the Festival Store Tent all open at 10:30 AM.**

## **Our New Way of Doing Things - ALL Donation Model**

That means **no ticketing fee** for the Saturday evening concert or the workshops. You will pass through tents at the entrance, where we hope you will consider a donation for whatever amount you want or feel able to give. And if you don't have the means to donate anything, you can come in anyway. Know that your generous \$\$ support makes all of this possible.

## **Festival Opening Sing-Along**

The Folk Ramblers are a favorite folk duo here in Central Ohio. Guaranteed they will have you smiling and singing along to many familiar favorites!

Bill Cohen explains: "When everybody sings, there's a special feeling of community that bubbles up almost immediately. A sense of community is a rare thing that many people are seeking these days. Folk music in general has that sense of community, and sing-alongs in particular have an even greater sense of that. I think that's why Pete Seeger was such a big fan of sing-alongs."

## **Daytime Performing Stages (11 AM - 6:30 PM Sat / 11 - 4 PM Sun)**

We've got three stage tents where you can enjoy music performances running continuously throughout the day BOTH days. We also have a special Jam Groups tent, featuring local jam groups showcasing a lively array of genres (open participation). The Opening Sing on the Kirby Main Stage starts everything on Saturday and a **special "Songs for the Spirit" at 11 AM on Sunday** opens Sunday's events and brings to you **award-winning harpist, Rachel Clemente, accompanied by Dan Houghton.**



**It's hard to pick which daytime performances to highlight;** we're excited to present them ALL. So, we'll pick just a few! We are tremendously honored to present members of the **Columbus International Childrens' Choir** at Noon on Saturday on the Showcase stage. These youths are so good, they perform at Carnegie Hall. We're also excited to present a set of **John Hartford Tunes** in the Showcase stage **anchored by Columbus' revered flat-picker Adam Schlenker along with mandolinist, Hayes Griffin,** accompanied by students and alumni from Denison University.

On the Kirby Main Stage on Sunday, we're super excited to welcome **The Modock Rounders**. Co-founder of the band, Kim Johnson, will be **accompanied by special guests Johnny Staats and Bobby Taylor**. If you want to be wowed by their talent, just take a moment to listen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MugtBhVKRIU> (Johnny Staats) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=BciSOLgIMhw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BciSOLgIMhw) (Bobby Taylor).

### **NEW this year - Beer Concession Tent & Beer Garden**

The Beer Concession Tent will offer craft beer from the local Homestead Beer Co. Hours of the tent run from 2 – 6:30 PM on Saturday and 1 – 3 PM on Sunday. Due to park rules, you are not permitted to consume alcohol beyond the Beer Garden area, nor are you permitted to bring your own alcohol onto the grounds. We WILL have one of our performing tents positioned so that you can enjoy the music while imbibing in the Beer Garden.



### **Over 30 music workshops (Noon – 6 PM Sat / 11 AM – 4 PM Sun)**

We've got a wonderful and hearty mix of music workshops. We have some brand-new presenters and there are workshops covering a multitude of instruments, topics and levels. We even have a couple of workshops where parents can learn to write songs with their kids (and bring their kids)! There are workshops for the very beginner with some loaner instruments available: guitar, uke, folk harp, autoharp, Native American flute, cigar box guitar, and "rhythm bones".

Again, **there is no longer a fixed fee for attending workshops. You can attend any workshop you want on the festival grounds during your stay.** Workshops run continuously throughout the day both days. For the complete workshop list/description: [www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/download/workshop-pamphlet-2022-final.pdf](http://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/download/workshop-pamphlet-2022-final.pdf)

### **Drum Circles (5 – 6 PM Sat / 4 – 5 PM Sun)**

We're excited to bring Baba Jubal Harris on board this year to conduct our drum circles. He's lively, he has a hefty Ohio-based

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# HighBanks Metro Park - a Local Treasure

Yep, "It's a beautiful setting to sit and listen to beautiful music."

That's the way the venue for the Central Ohio Folk Festival, Highbanks Metro Park, is described by a woman who should know. That's Jill Snyder, Assistant Manager of Interpretation and Education for Metro Parks of Columbus and Franklin County.

The 1,200 unspoiled acres consist of many hills and ravines, perfect for festival-goers who may like to hike on trails when they take a break from music or other events.

The park got its name from the 100-foot high bluff overlooking the Olentangy State Scenic River on the park's Western border, just south of Powell Road. The Big Meadows picnic area, the site of the festival, is right next to the river. Jill suggests festival-goers take a leisurely trek along the banks, keeping an eye out for a pair of rare and magnificent bald eagles who call the area home.

Festival-goers may also take advantage of the nature center, closer to the park's Eastern border, officially Columbus Pike, better known to most of us as Route 23 or "very very North" High Street. Among other attractions, the center has a wood replica of a mammoth Sycamore tree, with a trunk that's 36 feet around.

The real live version of the tree is in the Southern portion of the park, off-limits to hikers. Naturalists say that specific tree is the largest Sycamore in the whole country and is probably more than 500 years old.

Right next to the Nature Center is the "listening chair"; an artistic creation by Christina Grote completed in 2012. A nearby plaque displays these words: "How can you help take care of the earth and make the world a better place for everyone? . . . Sit for a moment and think about the earth as your mother and the trees and animals as your relatives. You are part of nature like the wind and the stars. As the Native Americans say, everything is connected." The vibrant, artistically painted chair seems an appropriate enough piece at Highbanks due to the park's ties to the Adena Indians who once inhabited the land.

May 7 and 8, Highbanks Metro Park will be greening up. Bushes will be budding. Wildflowers will be blooming. Birds will be chirping. Ducks will be quacking. Squirrels will be scampering.

Add dozens of guitars, banjos, mandolins, harps, ukuleles, and drums – plus the sweet strains of human voices raised in song — and yes, the 2022 Central Ohio Folk Festival promises to be the perfect mix of music and nature.



**Highbanks is home to two subconical mounds believed to have been built by the Adena culture and Highbank Park Works, a set of complex earthworks built by people of the Cole culture. The works are an archaeological site and have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.**





Welcome NEW and  
RETURNING Members

Kathy Sellers  
Paul Race  
Barbara Gregory  
Josh Burton  
Judith Allee



Save the Date!

## Concert Series

**RJ Cowdery**

**Saturday, April 30 at 8pm**

**Open Mic: 7pm**

**Open Jam: 6pm**

Venue: Columbus Mennonite Church  
35 Oakland Park Ave, Colts, OH  
Donation at door: \$15 / \$10 for  
CFMS members. *No need to pre-  
register, no caps on number of  
attendees. Masks will be encouraged  
but optional. There will be no checking  
of vaccination cards.*

## Zoom Jam Sessions

Mon, Tues, Sat: 10am-Noon;

Fri, Sun: 2-4pm.

Thurs: 10am-Noon (virtual jam for  
nursing home residents)

To get the current link to sessions,  
contact Jane at: [vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com)

## In-Person Jams

Sat, May 7 – 11:30-12:50 / Jam Tent /  
Central Ohio Folk Festival

Sat, May 14 & 21 – 10:30am-Noon /  
Worthington Farmer's Market @  
Worthington Square.

Every Sat (beginning May 14) : 9:30-  
11:30am – Whetstone Park of Roses.

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following for his “Heart Beat Drum Circles,” and  
he’s great with kids! The drum circles are open  
to everyone: drummers, and adults and kids  
alike, who can find anything to tap/beat on to  
help make the mesmerizing multi-level  
rhythmic beats fill the air.

### Saturday Evening Concert (7 – 9:30 PM):

The Saturday evening concert features **The  
Way Down Wanderers, a young alt-  
folk/Americana band from Peoria, IL.**

You can get a sample of their music here:

[thewaydownwanderers.com/listen](http://thewaydownwanderers.com/listen).



Our inside tent seating capacity is 200. If you  
haven't already pre-registered for individual  
seats, and there are remaining seats available,  
you can search Eventbrite for  
TheWayDownWanderers\_Central Ohio Folk  
Festival.

Lawn seating is also available in the case of  
overflow (**no need to reserve for lawn  
seating**).

### Did we mention?

Our new motto: **“come as folks and leave as  
friends”!**

More information at:

[www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/festival](http://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/festival)



## The Columbus Folk Music Society

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# CAMPUS PRINTING

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### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renew Preferred Newsletter Format: ☐ Digital ☐ Hard Copy

Name(s)/ Band Name (if applic): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_ If Band, website: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address(es) (if a household / band membership): \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership renewals are due annually on September 30th.** Check one of the membership levels listed below.

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Band Membership \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver \$250      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$25  | <input type="checkbox"/> Good Friend \$50     | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$200  | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$500 |

For credit card transactions, visit CFMS website at: <https://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/member-application.html>

Membership amounts may be tax-deductible. My place of work matches donations: ☐

**Like to volunteer? Please click all that apply. We are an all-volunteer driven organization!**

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> May festival | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership            | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking / Baking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CFMS events  | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal        | <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Publishing    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising  | <input type="checkbox"/> Database              |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Tasks  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musician     | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Instruction     |   |

*Please send completed membership form  
with payment to: Columbus Folk Music  
Society, P.O. Box 20735, Columbus,  
OH 43220*