



Buffalo Rose Featured at February Coffeehouse

Listening to the Pittsburgh-based band Buffalo Rose is like driving on the open road with the windows down, letting the breezes of various musical styles wash over you. The band blends electrifying mandolin riffs, cascading folk and bluegrass guitar, the ringing purity of the dobro, and the steady percussive thrum of upright bass. The result is a blanket of sound under and around which the tight harmonies rise and soar.

Bill Cohen interviewed them for this

issue. Lucy Clabby provided most of the responses for the band.

Bill: High-energy. Full sound. Complex mix of instruments and vocal harmonies. Foot-tapping and breathtaking. Those are some ways to describe your music. But those phrases don't tell people what musical genres you perform. So, for folks who've never heard you, tell us about your musical style.

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COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS:

AMERICANA / FOLK

CONCERT SERIES

Buffalo Rose in concert Saturday, Feb. 27, 7:00 pm
Virtual Event Access at:
www.facebook.com/280420671020/live/

\$10 CFMS members// \$15 non-members

Buffalo Rose at February Coffeehouse

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Lucy Clabby: We get called “folk” because we use instruments like the mandolin and dobro, but our songwriting style is more like pop music, with elements of rock, jazz, and psychedelia. We borrow instruments from the traditional folkways of the American South, then we translate other contemporary styles through those instruments. We have three lead singers; I don’t know what genre you’d call that. Harmony-core, maybe.

Bill: What other bands and musicians have inspired and contributed to the music you now play?

Lucy Clabby: We all listen to lots of very different music, so you’ll probably get a different answer from each of us at different times in our lives. For me it’s Andrew Bird, Joanna Newsom, and Fleetwood Mac. Nickel Creek and Punch Brothers come up a lot, both of which feature Chris Thile on mandolin. Shane and I were both listening to a lot of Janelle Monae when we wrote some of our songs on the last EP and the upcoming album. When we’re all just hanging out before practice we like to listen to Stevie Wonder & James Brown.

Bill: What’s the group’s musical history? Were many of you in other groups before you came together to form Buffalo Rose?

Lucy: Yes, in fact the group started as a side-project for many of us, but it quickly grew into our primary passion.

Malcolm and I were in a blues-rock band called Memphis Hill; Shane was in a funk band when we met; Bryce was in another local folk band, Ferdinand the Bull (which coincidentally I was previously a member of as well) while studying jazz guitar at Duquesne. Jason was known as one of the best bassists in town, mostly playing hip-hop and jazz. Rosanna was a musical theatre star. We came together like a puzzle.

Bill: You write many of your own songs. Tell us about the creative process in that.

Lucy: Shane and I are songwriting partners. Usually one of us will start writing a song on our own, then bring it to the other when it’s ready or when we need help. Sometimes it’s a verse or two, sometimes just an idea for a melody; we collaborate to finish them together. Our individual processes are a little different, since I’m more lyrics-based and he is more compositional, so together we balance each other’s skills nicely. Then we bring the song to the band, and each individual member creates their own part, usually in two groups at first (strings and voices). Then we bring it all together, crafting our parts around each other with some improvisation and collaboration until it takes its shape.

Bill: How has the coronavirus impacted your concert touring, and how has it impacted your song-writing and your performing?



Buffalo Rose in February

Lucy: It's been hard; we are grateful for live streaming technology, which allowed us to stay connected to our audience, who have been super supportive throughout this pandemic. We started a Patron page where we do these intimate weekly livestreams for subscribers, playing and storytelling and experimenting- it's very different from what we're used to with a live audience, but has brought up some interesting new experiences; like when we play with just two or three of us at a time, what are the different dynamics that come up? So each week is a discovery. I think we will carry that into our next songwriting cycle.

We've been finishing up recording our second full-length album, so we've been able to hole ourselves up in the studio a bit as well.

Bill: In website videos, we see how joyful and energetic you all are on stage. Tell us a little about where that positive feeling comes from.

Lucy: Performing live is this transcendent experience for all of us; it's the thing you do that makes everything else disappear for a while, and you're just in it. We also have this chemistry between all the band members that just makes playing together so much fun. We have chosen each other as family; we take care of each other on and off stage, and I think it shows. It's just love. It feels good to share.



The 2021 CFMS Folk Festival



THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS
the 24th annual

CENTRAL OHIO FOLK FESTIVAL

ROOTS, ACOUSTIC MUSIC AT ITS BEST!

SAT, MAY 22

ALL DAY VIRTUAL EVENT

Tickets \$15 individual / \$25 household

Multiple daytime acts

Interactive music workshops

Interactive Children's programming/crafts

Sat Evening Headliner -

LARRY CAMPBELL & TERESA WILLIAMS

national touring duo

honest / emotive

WWW.COLUMBUSFOLKMUSICSOCIETY.ORG

Ticketing info / links



With COVID still impacting our communities, we are scheduling a virtual version of the 2021 Central Ohio Folk Festival. It will be unique, engaging, and interactive with something for everyone! And, like so many things these days, you get to enjoy it in the comfort of your own living room! So get it on your calendar now: 11am-9pm, Saturday, May 22. You'll get to see some great bands on our virtual broadcast stage! They'll represent music from a wide range of roots music genres: folk, bluegrass, old-time, Americana, jazz, French classic and some swing. The festival will be headlined Saturday evening by Larry Campbell and Teresa Williams, a dynamic and exciting Americana duo.

Member Profile: Charlie Flowers



PI: Are you a Columbus native? Where did you go to school?

Charlie: I grew up in the northeast, New England, Delaware, New York and stayed in Ohio after studying at BGSU and Toledo.

PI: How long have you been involved in making music?

Charlie: I first got a Silvertone electric guitar when I was twelve. I took ten group lessons where they stopped me from trying to play it left handed and flipped the guitar over. After that I was mostly self taught other than guitar licks and tricks from friends. I played Ventures songs with my two brothers in junior high school and played in a garage band. I did little singing then. In high school I got an acoustic guitar and started playing and singing folk songs, mostly Peter, Paul, and Mary and similar genre. In college at Bowling Green, I played solo at coffee houses and formed a group called the Stoneridge Trio. Our big gig was at the Shady Lady Saloon, part of the local Howard Johnson's motel. We got heckled there one night when we played the John Prine song, Flag Decal. Until Whinestopper, that was the last band I played with.

PI: Did you have teachers or are you largely self-taught? How about vocals...ever have any vocal training? Do vocal exercises? Your vocal delivery is smooth and polished....did it come from performing a lot ?

Charlie: Thank you. I've had no specialized training, but sang a lot and with others.

PI: How did you develop your guitar technique?

Charlie: In college, I carefully picked out a "Travis-style" finger pick that worked well with some folk songs. It involves a back-

n-forth thumb roll and picking some melody and strumming with the little fingers. When I moved to Columbus in 2003 I decided to throw away the flat pick and just concentrated on thumb picking. I got a great deal of encouragement from the Fingerstyle Guitar Club to focus on that style. I played many hours in those days.

PI: What would you like to say about the Whinestopper band?

Charlie: Pat Casey, Renilda Marshall, Teresa Schleifer and I met after playing regularly in a local jam. We've become great friends. Each of us brought songs that were fun to play and to sing along. Our different tastes instantly brought a nice variety to our setlists. We have now been together for about ten years and have played venues in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. We have most often played at a local Irish Club, Tara Hall.

PI: Are you currently employed?

Charlie: I am now retired but I spent 40 years in residential services for individuals with developmental disabilities. I was Superintendent of the Columbus Developmental Center and prior to that I directed a farm program for folks with autism near Toledo.

PI: How many guitars do you own? Do you have a favorite?

Charlie: I primarily use my Taylor for its play and consistent sound. I also have a Yamaha flamenco-style guitar, a gypsy-jazz guitar and a Gibson electric. There are some songs that might sound better on these others but I tend to fall back on the Taylor when it comes to performing.

PI: How long have you been involved with CFMS?

Charlie: I have been involved with CFMS for about 10 years including about 6 years as a board member. I got involved following some of the festivals and coffeehouse concerts. I have been treasurer for the past 4 years. My wife, Denise Bronson and I have met many friends through CFMS and have enjoyed its events. We have found it to be a great organization of some very committed people and we are proud to be among its supporters.

Valentine Concert Will Happen Feb 14



“The show must go on.” That old show-business axiom applies to the annual Valentine concert that CFMS members and other music fans have enjoyed for more than a decade.

Bill Cohen has set the program for Valentine’s Day itself, after being forced to adapt the show to safety rules and guidelines in the wake of the virus pandemic. He’ll be performing “The Many Faces of Love” concert, solo from his family living room. Instead of the usual crowded in-person audience at the Columbus Mennonite Church, the show will be live-streamed on the Facebook page called “Bill Cohen Sings.”

As is tradition, Bill will sing well-known folk, standard, and pop songs from the 1940’s, 50’s, 60’s, 70’s, and beyond, songs that reflect different stages of romantic relationships –infatuation, betrayal, break-ups, commitment, and more. Featured will be songs made famous by John Denver, the Everly Brothers, Sam Cooke, James Taylor, the Eagles, the Beatles, Nat King Cole, Johnny Mathis, Ben E. King, and others.

Also as is tradition, Bill will pose fun trivia questions about

romantic couples and love songs. Plus, we’ll hear serious and funny sayings about love from wise adults and innocent children.

As at past shows, in appreciation of the concert, donations will be welcomed for the upcoming Central Ohio Folk Festival in May.

Sadly, one tradition won’t be included this time around: the fabulous back-up musicians. They include the Harmonettes (Jackie LaMuth, Teresa Schleifer, and Renilda Marshall) with their smooth vocal harmonies; Brian Szuch with his intricate lead guitar riffs; Ann Fisher and her soothing flute accompaniments; and David Maywhoor, keeping the beat on drums.

“These musical friends have always added so much spark and spirit and emotion to our past Valentine shows,” Bill says, “but I don’t want to take the safety risk of getting us all together to rehearse and to perform while the virus keeps raging, especially since, as older folks, we’re among the most vulnerable.”

Also noticeably absent this year will be the scrumptious home-baked refreshments that have highlighted past Valentine shows. But Bill says concert-goers can still improvise a work-around: “Put the virtual show onto your biggest screen at home, turn off the lights, light some candles, snuggle up to your sweetheart or a photo of a past lover, pour some wine, put out some chocolate, and enjoy the memories and emotions these familiar songs will spark.”

Key details:

Sunday, February 14 at 7 p.m.

Go to the facebook page labeled “Bill Cohen Sings” just before concert time.

WWW.Facebook.com/BillCohenSings

Save the Date

The virtual Central Ohio Folk Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 22 2021 from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm. Larry Campbell and Theresa Williams are the featured act. Larry Campbell is perhaps most widely known as a member of *Bob Dylan’s* tour band from 1997 to 2004. Other festival events include: 7 interactive music workshops and interactive children’s programming and crafts.

Tickets are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for households via Eventbrite for the entire event, including the Saturday evening headliner concert and will become available in mid-February. Look for info on our website. If COVID permits, we also plan to hold a SMALL, pared down, in-person festival event (7 daytime performers only, with no other activities) on Saturday, May 1 at Highbanks Metro Park. All seating would be outside. However, we encourage you to buy tickets for the virtual event on May 22, in order to not miss out on the Headliner!

A Brief History of the CFMS

By Peter Insabella



The Columbus Folk Music Society was formed in 1991 and in that same year took over the booking and management of the monthly Other Side Coffeehouse at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Clintonville.

From 2006 to 2010, the Coffeehouse was held at the Areopagitica Bookstore, owned and operated by Doug and Rebecca Rutledge. In addition to the Coffeehouse, Doug and Rebecca also opened their doors to the Columbus Folk Music Society in other ways – one of which was allowing a regular weekly jam which a number of CFMS members attended and participated in. The Folkside Coffeehouse is now located at the Columbus Mennonite Church on Oakland Park Avenue in Clintonville.

The Folkside Coffeehouse boasted some wonderful talent over the years and welcomed the regular “folkies” who supported the events. It also drew in new people who were attracted to the acoustic sounds and down-to-earth music.

Fred Bailey was one of the founders of the Folk Music Society. He recalls those early days: “In July, 1991 I got married and moved to Columbus. Pretty quickly I found WCBE on the radio and heard music host Bill Munger announce an organizational meeting of a folk music club at a bar down on High Street called Staches. Somebody assured me that the dues were deductible from our taxes, and over time small jams were joined with meetings. Our organized efforts were toward bringing in touring acts (Steve Gillette, Dave Crossland, Utah Phillips) for local venues such as Del’s Tapas Bar, Staches, and the Firehouse. All too often, we lost money. A few regular open stages were emceed by our members. There was often talk about finding a venue for a regular coffeehouse, and several of us were doing guest sets at local bars and coffeehouses. Then suddenly, the UU Church dropped their monthly coffeehouse into our laps. And that was The Other Side, which really got us

off the ground. With the monthly Other Side as a catalytic base for operations, we could pull off occasional bigger concerts on the UU main stage and concurrently develop the kind of human resources and financial authority that enabled us to tackle the next windfall. The Columbus Dulcimer Club was winding down at this time and made an offer to the Stage Manager of their annual festival to combine it with CFMS. All they asked was a bookkeeper and a solemn promise that we’d continue to support dulcimer music. That became the COFF (Central Ohio Folk Festival), the jewel of the crown.”



Fred and Nancy Bailey, CFMS founders

An important part of the development of the Folk Music Society was the gaining of its non-profit status. Local music historian and CFMS member, Marji Hazen suggested that Columbus Recreation and Parks look at funding a more musically inclusive organization than a dulcimer group would be and was told by them that the Columbus Folk Music Society would need to become a 501(c)(3) in order to receive funding, a suggestion that prompted the society to apply for a 501(c)(3) not for profit status, which was granted to them in 1995.

The Central Ohio Folk Festival, conducted annually every spring, has occurred at several different locations within the Columbus area. The first year was a one day event and was held on May 31, 1997 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Clintonville. From 1998 - 2002, the festival was held at the 1st Unitarian Universalist Church in Clintonville and it continued as a one-day event, although Friday night jamming grew to become part and parcel of the overall festivities as well as a few other Friday night offerings. In 2003, the festival was moved to the grounds of the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus and was given the distinction of an Ohio Bicentennial Event.

CFMS Brief History

In 2003, Jan Staats, a CFMS member and long time volunteer at the Metro Parks, approached Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park and asked about the possibility of utilizing an outdoor space at the park, located on the southwestern outskirts of Columbus. It was in 2004 that the Central Ohio Folk Festival began to be held in the beautiful, green outdoor space at the Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park, a location it has enjoyed ever since.

Over the years, CFMS has weathered some storms. At one point there was talk of disbanding the organization. But there have always been those who have stepped up to the plate when needed and invested much time and talent to keep things moving. In other words, there have been a lot of heroes in the history of the CFMS who have loved the organization and seen its value in our modern world.

When the global pandemic and the nationwide shutdown that accompanied it struck with full force last year, CFMS responded. The Dan Weber coffeehouse concert, originally scheduled for March 28, 2020 was re-scheduled to March 27, 2021. And The Buffalo Rose concert, originally scheduled for April 25, 2020 was re-scheduled to February 27 of this year. Both concerts will be virtual, and available via the Internet.

The 2020 Folk Festival was cancelled, as was just about every other in-person event in the country, as the Coronavirus continued to impact every corner of the world. But resourceful CFMS members, who normally would get together several times a week to jam, continued to meet and jam through their computers and the Zoom virtual meeting software. The coffeehouse concerts became virtual concerts in September 2020, as Heather Pierson performed from her home and CFMS members dialed in to the concert via the Internet.

This year's Folk Festival will have a pared down, in-person festival event (7 daytime performers only, with no other activities) on Saturday, May 1 at Highbanks Metro Park. All seating will be outside. As people become inoculated against the COVID virus and things begin to return to normal, the Folk Music Society will once again ramp up its activities and resume in-person events like the monthly coffeehouse concerts.

As folk journalist Scott Alarik says, in the "smaller, surer back roads. . . this real-life, human-sized music has always thrived, where it continues to plant the deep roots of community—and to sing the songs of that community."



Our Members

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Stephen Bittner | Roger Koch |
| Beth Scherer | Shelbiana Rhein |
| Alan & Denise Newman | Keith Chapman |
| Ron & Earlene Rhodes | Steven Smith |
| Cynthia Deering | Julie Hall |
| John & Barb Hogan | Katy Oberle |
| Alvin & Marilyn Mars | Joanie Calem |
| Joan & Ronald Patterson | Sue Foley |
| Pam Temple | Robby Holmes |
| Michele Murphy | Heidi Sherer |
| Mary Finney | Katy Oberle |
| Donald McTigue | Stephen Ing |

Save the Date

Daily Zoom Jam Sessions

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 10:00 am to noon; Wednesday, Friday, Sunday: 2:00 to 4:00 pm. To see the current link to these sessions, send an e-mail request to Jane VanAuken vanaukj@gmail.com

Concerts: Saturday, Feb. 27 at 7:00 pm Buffalo Rose Virtual Concert Event:

www.facebook.com/280420671020/live/ \$10 members/\$15 non-members

The Columbus Folk Music Society

P.O. Box 20735
Columbus, OH 43220



We're on the web!

www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org

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March 2021**



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

- Individual \$20 Band Membership \$25 Sponsor \$100 Silver \$250
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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!

- May festival
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