



American Landscape Feb. 26 Concert To Be Rescheduled

The American Landscape is an indie-folk-rock band based out of Springfield, Ohio, featuring original songs and highlighting music that incorporates acoustic guitars and more.

Due to the continued presence of COVID throughout the U.S. and for the safety of all, the February concert with The American Landscape band has been cancelled and will be rescheduled as a live in-person event at a later time. Meanwhile, please see Bill Cohen's interview (below) with Thaddeus, the lead member of the band.

Bill: Indie-folk-rock. That's how your band describes the music it

performs. Please tell us more about this style or genre of music, so we can know what to expect from you in February. What does it sound like? Are there other well-known performers we know of that have a similar sound?

THADDEUS: We are acoustic driven with thought provoking lyrics. Imagine Dave Matthews mixed with some grit and Cat Stevens on vocals. We range from an acoustic Avett Brothers feel to the intensity of a Manchester Orchestra!

Bill: Please tell us about you and your bandmates. What are your musical backgrounds and what do they contribute to the group?

Continued on p. 2

Inside this issue

American Landscape interview.....1, 2

CFMS Events: A Good Value..... 3

R.I.P. Scott Alarik.....3

Member Profile: Steven Ing.....4

Bill Cohen Valentine Concert....5

Year End Matching Fund Challenge....5

Scott Alarik Tribute....6

Memories of Dagmar Wolcott.....7

Save the Date7

Due to COVID, The American Landscape Feb. 26 concert will be rescheduled. Stay tuned for further updates.

The American Landscape Band



The American Landscape

THADDEUS: The band comes from a diverse musical background. And it is evolving as we speak. We are all self-taught musicians. Right now the core of The American Landscape is Aaron Snow on drums, Dennis Fry on electric guitar, and myself, Thaddeus Williams, on acoustic guitar and lead vocals. With other musicians coming and going as needed.

Bill: Your band writes its own music. Where do you get inspiration for your ideas, and what's the song-writing process like?

THADDEUS: Most of the songs are written about life experience. They deal with death, loss of relationship, the fear of growing old, overcoming addiction. Writing for me is a healing process. Most of what is written is me working out these things. Our songs are pretty raw and honest. I usually write the songs and send out a phone recording to the rest of the band. Then we work it out in a couple of practices or so.

Bill: What has it been like for the band the past two years, with most in-person concerts being cancelled? Have you replaced some in-person concerts with virtual online events, and if so, how do you assess the differences between the two?

THADDEUS: The past two years have been pretty chill. We kind of needed the break, honestly. We were playing upwards of two to three shows a week before

the pandemic. But I think we have only played maybe two or three shows total in the past two years. We played a few online shows, but mostly we have just rested, we are excited to get back at it though!!

Bill: How did you come up with the name of your band, and does it point to a particular theme that you want to get across to your audiences ?

THADDEUS: We had already played a few shows with no name. When venues asked us our name, we needed something. So we got on an online band name generator and the first thing that came up was something ridiculous like "The American Landscape and the Green Martians from Space."

And we thought, "The American Landscape" that's it!



The American Landdscape in performance

Note: Due to Covid pandemic, The American Landscape Feb. 26 concert will be rescheduled. Stay tuned for updated information.

Watch The American Landscape perform "Follow You Home": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiFFaTa00Ok>

Hear The American Landscape perform "The River": <https://youtu.be/ASdwEdwDxUM>

7 Reasons Why CFMS Events Are a Good Value

by Bill Cohen

1. The performers we feature are high quality singers, instrumentalists, and songwriters who take their crafts seriously.
2. Our prices are rock-bottom low. There are few other venues in Columbus where you can experience such wonderful performances for our usual suggested donation level of \$10-\$15.
3. You park for free at CFMS events. If you go to a Crew game or a hip restaurant in the Short North or a huge concert at Nationwide Arena, be prepared to pay a lot extra just to stash your car before the “show” even begins.
4. At CFMS events, you can actually hear the words that the singers sing. Our audio engineers know how important the lyrics are when it comes to folk music, so they make sure the vocals are front and center. And our audiences help out too on that front. They quietly and intensely listen to the performers, unlike other venues where the crowd “woo-hoos” all the time or simply talks during the songs.
5. At CFMS events, everyone can see the performers while sitting in their seats. At many other venues with huge crowds, people in the front start standing up and then everyone else has to stand up and crane their necks to see the performers.
6. At many CFMS events, you can actually be part of the action. You can volunteer to help set up the chairs, staff the refreshment area (when we have one), welcome the crowd at the door, and even perform yourself (like on the open mic segment or in a jam).
7. Our events feature something intangible that many other venues and performances don’t offer: a sense of community. Huge concerts elsewhere with crowds of thousands do indeed often feature excellent musicians and famous names, but the more intimate atmosphere at most CFMS events often sparks a warm feeling that you’re among people you know, people you trust, people you care about, and people who find deep meaning in the music. That’s a benefit that is priceless.

Scott Alarik, R.I.P.

By Don White

The place Scott Alarik holds in my life is his alone. No one else is qualified to occupy that space.

We became friends in 1991 at Catch a Rising Star—a comedy club in Harvard Square that was in the same space that was previously home to a music venue called Jonathan Swifts. We were folk singers mingling with and learning from comedians.

He was so intelligent and so funny. One time we did a show together in Salem. Nobody came. Just before the show Scott glanced at the almost completely empty room, turned to me, and said, “Don’t do anything tonight that you’ll need an alibi for.” – He had another great line which he would do on stage that he attributed to another artist whose name escapes me. “It pains me to know that a redwood tree with my circumference would be two hundred and fifty feet high.”

One time I orchestrated a lunch meeting with him and Matt Watroba. Matt had been hosting Detroit’s folk radio show called *Folks Like Us* for twenty years. Between them they had interviewed just about every folk singer who ever lived. I sat silently at a table with them at Borders Café across the alley from Club Passim and experienced the folkier hour and a half of my life. First-hand stories about Pete Seeger, Townes Van Zant and just about anyone of note who ever strummed a guitar were bouncing back and forth across the table—each one told through the love of this community that both of these men had dedicated their lives to.

The last time I spoke to him I was doing some shows in Minnesota and came upon two of his vinyl albums in a record store in St Paul. I called him from the store to let him know that they hadn’t forgotten him in his home state. I don’t know what else to say. This one hurts.

Member Profile: Steven Ing

By Peter Insabella



Steven Ing demonstrates the form that enabled him to win the Worst Song Contest at the 2019 Folk Festival.

Steven Ing has been one of the most versatile members of a CFMS splinter group known as the Worthington Squares. He is an accomplished guitar, violin, piano and recorder instrumentalist and his vocal renderings of songs from the 1950s to the present have enlivened many a jam session. In his day job, Steve is an Endocrinologist at the OSU Medical Center. I was able to interview him recently, and we talked about his varied background.

Q: Where did you grow up?

Steve: My family hails from the Toishan District in Canton Province, China . Many of the Chinese arriving in America in the 1800s, who worked in agriculture and built the western half of the Transcontinental Railroad, also came from there. My Mom and Dad were college instructors who escaped the Cultural Revolution by stowing away on a ship to Hong Kong. Then they flew to Toronto, Canada, where I was born. We lived in a tiny row-house where Toronto's Chinatown merges into Little Portugal. We moved to New York City when I was four, settling in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. This was long before Brooklyn became a gentrified hipster haven. The neighborhood and elementary school was predominantly African American and Puerto Rican, with as many whites (mainly Jewish) as there were Asians (just one or two, actually).

Q: Where did you go to school?

Steve: My elementary school was P.S. 250 and later I rode the subway to Stuyvesant H.S. in Brooklyn. It was somewhat confusing to speak Chinglish (Chinese/ American English) at home and then adapt to Blackish and Spanglish speech at school. My undergraduate college experience was at New Haven and I went to medical school in New York City, followed by a residency in Baltimore and a fellowship in Philadelphia, where my wife Doris and I tied the knot. We finally landed in Columbus, OH in 2005, and after all these relocations, we hope to stay put (Lord willing). The kids – Samuel and Phoebe – have only known Cbus and stand out with their mid-Ohio accents when we visit in-laws in Staten Island, NY.

Q: When did you start playing music?

Steve: In order to keep my sister and me off the streets of New York, my Mom came up with a plan involving music. Upstairs neighbors introduced us to a piano music teacher who would commute to students' homes to give lessons. At the Third Street Music Settlement I studied classical violin and piano. The highlight of my classical music days was playing in the All-City High School Orchestra alongside the NY Philharmonic Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center (even got to fiddle around on a Stradivarius for all of 10 seconds).

Q: How did you get involved with the Columbus Folk Music Society and the Worthington Square players?

Steve: I went with my family to the Worthington Farmers' Market one Saturday and came upon Charlie Hummel playing the washtub bass along with Tom Nagel on banjo and the rest of the group, and I was hooked. The Saturday morning jam sessions have become my favorite time of the week. The music, fun, and camaraderie are food for the soul. You play along with whoever is leading, but there is a connection through the music to each person in the group - it's instant community! Even if I'm doing a piece in Spanish or Chinese, everyone's into it. It's like a Vulcan mind-meld..... instant community!

Bill Cohen's Feb. 4 Valentine's Day Concert: Some Changes

"The show must go on." Yes, despite the fact that Covid-19 is forcing us to abandon the idea of a live, in-person audience, the annual Valentine-themed show by Bill Cohen and friends will still happen, thanks to our ability to broadcast the show to you over the Internet. Details on how to link to the show come later in this article. So please keep reading.

But first, a reminder of why you should tune in. With guitar and piano, Bill will sing favorites from the 1940s through the 1980s, made famous by John Denver, the Everly Brothers, Sam Cooke, Bette Midler, James Taylor, Bing Crosby, the Shirelles, the Eagles, the Beatles, Nat King Cole, Johnny Mathis, and others.

Ann Fisher will be on hand to add some romantic flute accompaniment on several songs. David Maywhoor will keep the beat on percussion, and Brian Szuch will add extra sparkle on lead guitar.

While the songs will reflect the ecstasy, warmth, heartache, and pain that love can bring, there will be a lighter side too, as Bill poses trivia questions about famous and infamous couples and love songs throughout the decades.

WHEN: 7:30 pm on Friday February 4

WHERE: To watch the Valentine concert, just before showtime, go to this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/billcohensings/live>

***IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A FACEBOOK ACCOUNT, YOU CAN STILL WATCH** using that link, but you MAY need to do 1 more thing! Once you click on that link, you may be asked to either log in or join. **IGNORE THAT REQUEST!** Instead, click anything else, like Home, Events, Videos in the left hand column and the notice to login or join will go away! Then, you can watch us live AT THE TIME OF THE CONCERT!

The online concert is FREE, but if you appreciate the music, memories, and fun, we'll welcome donations to help produce the upcoming Central Ohio Folk Festival in May.

For more information, call Bill at 614-263-3851 or billcohen@columbus.rr.com.



2021 Year-End Donation Challenge

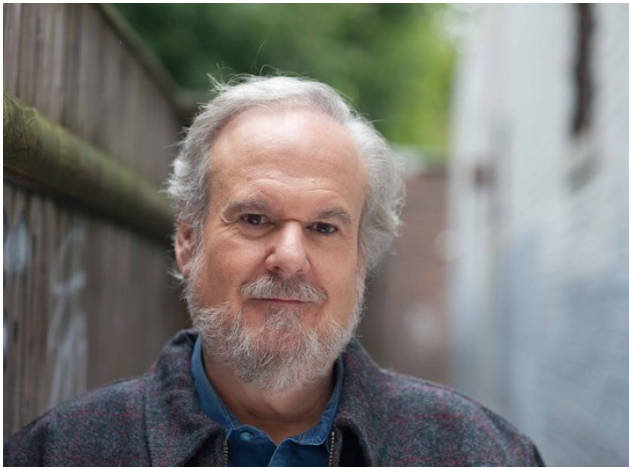
A big thanks goes out to the members and friends of the Columbus Folk Music Society who participated in the year-end matching challenge. Twenty-five + donors contributed over \$1,700 so that we would be eligible to receive an additional \$1,000 from an anonymous donor. Your support and generosity help us to continue to provide opportunities for you to enjoy folk music through

our programs. Thanks so much for this outstanding response!

Charlie Flowers, President, CFMS.

<https://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/contact-donate.html>

Scott Alarik, Chronicler of the Folk Music Scene, Has Died



By Cathy Sheets

Scott Alarik died suddenly from a heart attack at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on December 1, 2021 at the age of 70. The most consolidated bio I've found anywhere is from scottalarik.com: <https://scottalarik.com> and that's a good jumping off place for the facts like dates and such.

"Born January 5, 1951 in Hennepin, Minnesota to parents Carolyn Thacker Alarik and George Hilding Alarik. He became a folksinger after he graduated high school in 1969. He actively opposed the Vietnam War, joining the Resistance Movement while still in high school by publicly refusing to register for the draft. He was convicted of resisting the draft and served 19 months in federal prison. His commitment to thoughtful, mutually-respectful dialogue around national partisan politics continued his entire life...

After his release from prison in 1972, he became a fixture on the national folk music circuit, performing regularly on *A Prairie Home Companion*, releasing three vinyl albums, and appearing at such legendary venues and coffeehouses across the nation as Old Town of Folk Music in Chicago, Caffé Lena in Saratoga Springs, NY and Passim in Cambridge...

Scott Alarik's love for music and the folk community extended from singing to writing and back again throughout his life. He was *The Boston Globe's* principal folk music writer for 25 years (from 1984 to 2009), and contributed regularly to public radio, in-

cluding seven years as correspondent for the national news show *Here and Now*, and most recently *Folk Tales* on WUMB. He wrote for many national magazines, including *Sing Out*, *Billboard*, and *Performing Songwriter*. From 1991-97, he was editor and principal writer for the New England Folk Almanac."

Scott was the author of two books: *Deep Community: Adventures in the Modern Folk Underground*, published in 2003, and *Revival*, a novel published in 2011. Songwriters, music critics and other writers held him in high regard.

"One of the best writers in America" --Pete Seeger

"One of America's most astute music critics and chroniclers." *Wall Street Journal* critic Earle Hitchner

"Deep Community is an essential primer to the continuing folk revival" --**Library Journal**

"This is the best reflection I've ever seen of the world I travel, by the person best suited to document it." --Ellis Paul

"The finest folk writer in the country." --Dar Williams

I met the man just once -- at the 2013 Central Ohio Folk Festival. He was alone at a table, ready to sign books and talk to people. For my part, I intended a plain and straightforward "please sign my copy of *Revival*", potentially augmented by some small exchange about the book. He, though, had other ideas, asking not only what I thought of the book, but wanting to hear about MY history and lived experiences with folk music. It was a joy to discuss music and folk life with such a knowledgeable man. We had a great chat and hugged as we parted. Speaking with him that morning reminded me there are NOT "6 degrees of separation" between folkies. In quite a few cases, there is no separation at all. I'm grateful to have spent a tiny bit of time with him.

"I have rarely seen an audience in such a good mood as when he's just been there." *Garrison Keillor*

In Memoriam: Dagmar Wolcott

Dagmar Wolcott passed away in December after several weeks in the hospital. She was a long-time member and will be missed. Some CFMS members shared reminiscences.

Bill & Randi Cohen: Dagmar was a smiling face in the audience at many music events. We met her many, many years ago at a gathering at Tom Nagel's home. She was chatty and told us she was a teacher from the Bellefontaine, OH area. We saw her often at the Park of Roses duck pond. She ALWAYS had a smile on her face and was as friendly as can be. We will remember her when we walk by the ducks and look for her spirit feeding them!

Jane VanAuken: Dagmar was born in Munchen, Germany. I remember one yard sale - maybe 2018 or 2019 - Dag had brought some wooden shoes to donate to the yard sale and I was intrigued by the shoes. She told me how they were always a part of her family holiday celebrations. I remember telling her later how I had filled the shoes with pine cones and would set them on my fireplace hearth.



Save the Date

Concerts

Friday, Feb. 4, 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Bill Cohen's Valentine Concert live via Facebook. Bill will sing favorites from the 1950s through the 1970s.

<https://www.facebook.com/billcohensings/live>

Save the Date for Saturday, May 7! Start composing your song to enter into the Most Outrageous Song in the World Contest at the Central Ohio Folk Festival. The contest is open to all (lyrics must be family-friendly). This contest has become a real audience pleaser. Pre-sign up highly recommended. Contact Jane VanAuken at: vanaukj@gmail.com to register or for further information.

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 email request to Jane VanAuken vanaukj@gmail.com

In-Person Jam Sessions

Saturday morning jam sessions from 9:30 to 11:30 at All Saints Lutheran Church, 6770 North High Street, Worthington.

New and Returning Members

Christiane Buuck
David Johnston
Jan Flory
Marian Harris
Maxine Gilgoff
Karen Cogley
Don Cogley
Don Caudy
Phil Hart

Heidi Sherer
Jonathan Levy
Steve Rodriguez
Frank White
Melanie Shapiro
Jef Gamblee

The Columbus Folk Music SocietyP.O. Box 20735
Columbus, OH 43220**We're on the web!**

www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org

Next issue:
March 2022

CAMPUS PRINTING2415 N. HIGH STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43202www.campusprinting.netinfo@campusprinting.net

(614) 261-7991

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETYDate: _____ ☐ 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 | <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>Please send completed membership form with payment to: Columbus Folk Music Society, P.O. Box 20735, Columbus, OH 43220</i></p> </div> |
| <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 | |

YOUR LOGO HERE