



## Perennial Rye Brings Americana/Newgrass to March 26 Concert

INTERVIEW BY BILL COHEN

With striking original material, solid traditional renditions and highly individualized interpretations of songs from a diversity of genres, **Perennial Rye** has been keeping music lovers on their toes since 2012. They will appear in person at 8pm at the *Americana/Folk Concert Series* on March 26 at the Mennonite Church. *Concert goers must provide proof of vaccination and wear masks.* Due to capacity restrictions, attendees must pre-register at:

<https://bit.ly/Perennial Rye CFMS>

**Bill:** Progressive bluegrass. 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 kind of music we'll hear from you March 26. What does it sound like? Are there other well-known performers we know of that have a similar sound?

**Zach Yocum:** We love the rich tradition of traditional instrumentals and include these tunes in every performance. We also love creativity and improvisation, which we showcase with our

original music and upbeat bluegrass interpretations of songs from many genres, covering artists like The Who, Rush, the Infamous Stringdusters, John Prine, Doc Watson, and many more. As far as artists with a similar style, we'd love to be compared to Railroad Earth, Sam Bush, Greensky Bluegrass . . . bands that keep tradition and also occasionally blend it with some jam-infused rock and roll.

**Bill:** Please tell us about you and each of your bandmates. What are your musical

## A Different Strummer Newsletter Highlights

PERENNIAL RYE  
INTERVIEW PG 1

FOLK FESTIVAL RETURNS  
IN-PERSON MAY 7 & 8 PG 2

FOLK FESTIVAL - THE  
BRAND NEW & THE  
FAMILIAR PG 4

SAVE THE DATE  
& MEMBERS PG 4

CALL FOR FOLK FESTIVAL  
VOLUNTEERS PG 6

KIRBY SCHOLARSHIP  
AWARDS PG 7



[See Perennial Rye, pg 3](#)

# Central Ohio Folk Festival Returns May 7 and 8 for In-Person Family Fun

BY BILL COHEN

The Central Ohio Folk Festival celebrates its 25th season May 7-8 with a return to in-person concerts, workshops, storytelling, and crafts the whole family and the whole community can enjoy.

Once again, the setting will be the lush green grounds and trails of Highbanks Metro Park, 9466 North High Street (U.S. Route 23).

Saturday May 7th at 7 pm, in our main tent beneath a starlit sky, our headliner act, The Way Down Wanderers, will perform a special concert with strands of bluegrass, Americana, and pop music. The 5 young musicians from Illinois mix stunning vocal harmonies, complex string-band instrumentation, and compelling lyrics to create



original songs that stir emotions and explore life's mysteries. As the band's website puts it: "They sing like angels but write songs with guts."

We'll welcome donations at staffed donation tents at the entrance to the festival grounds. There will be no specific fees for the many activities including workshops, concerts, and even the Saturday night headliner concert. Festival goers' generous \$\$ support at the entrance will make all of this possible! Festival staff are all volunteers, so 100% of the contributions will help support this festival.

## Some Festival Highlights:

- More than 30 hourly concerts on 3 different stages by soloists, duos, and groups, singing and playing guitar, mandolin, banjo, dulcimer, harp, and other instruments;
- You'll hear a wide range of folk music – bluegrass, blues, singer-songwriter, Americana, Latin fusion, Scottish traditional, Native American, and more . . . songs that often reflect the struggles of everyday people;
- A giant 1960's-style folk music community sing-along to open the festival;
- More than 30 workshops on songwriting, the role of folk music in social change, and how to play guitar, Irish fiddle, dulcimer, folk harp, ukulele, and other instruments;
- A special children's area with arts and crafts, plus an "instrument petting zoo" to let children handle folk instruments. Festival mascot Darby Duck will be on hand for the young and young-at-heart;
- 2 drum circles where everyone, young and old alike, is invited to pound on a drum or other rhythm instrument to a mesmerizing beat;
- A storytelling session, featuring local tellers plus Native American musician and storyteller Alexa Dawson;
- Informal jamming by anyone with an instrument or voice. This year's jams will be led by groups that hold regular weekly jams in Columbus.



Perennial Ry, from pg 1

backgrounds and what do they contribute to the group?

**Zach:** I've been a lifelong bluegrass fan and have been studying the mandolin for a decade, exploring a wide range of expression from Bach to Bill Monroe to David Grisman.

Mark Gonzalez brings a graduate degree in classical guitar and years of experience on the Dobro along with lead vocals. You'll hear influences of Tommy Emmanuel, Billy Strings, Jerry Douglas and more in his powerful playing.

Bo Riley, on the upright bass, brings a diverse musical background to our group. Trained in jazz performance, Bo brings a palpable energy to the stage, whether singing or soloing over fast instrumental numbers on the upright.

John Simon joins us on acoustic guitar and vocals. A versatile career musician, John brings a bluesy groove with his original songs and guitar skills.

Together we bring these diverse musical backgrounds into a cohesive blend that is uniquely us and provides the opportunity for anyone in the audience to hear something that they really enjoy, whether they consider themselves to be bluegrass fans or not.

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

**Zach:** For me, tapping into the creative flow of writing is something that happens when it is meant to happen. There's little or no control over when the inspiration strikes and the conduit is

opened. It's not something that can be forced. Stylistic preference and mood can influence the direction of a piece, of course, but ultimately the magic happens when I can tune in to something bigger and simply be a conduit.

**Bill:** What has it been like for the band the past 2 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?

**Zach:** After 2020, we have cautiously proceeded with live performances, which we missed very much. In the interim, we've taken time to focus on our craft, workshopping and studying and creating new material. We've shared some of our performances as livestreams even before the pandemic, and enjoy the ability to share our music with people who can't come to a live performance.

That being said, there's a certain connection that happens between the band and the audience in live settings that really can't be duplicated.

**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?

**Zach:** Our name comes as a bit of a botanical pun. Kentucky bluegrass is not only a genre of traditional music, but also a type of ornamental turfgrass. And we see parallels between the two. A lawn seeded with Kentucky bluegrass is beautiful and uniform. It also requires lots of fertilizer, pesticide, and water and it doesn't like to blend with other types of grasses. Perennial rye is a type of lawn grass that doesn't need coddling and, from a distance, might look very similar to bluegrass. When you zoom in, however, there's more wildness and room for expression and individuality with perennial rye. It blends well. With respect for tradition, we also like to forge our own path and have room for our own creativity and to blend genres, hence the name Perennial Rye.





## Welcome to our NEW and RETURNING members

Frank White	Julie Hall
Melanie Shapiro	William Page
Steve Rodriguez	Cynthia Deering
Larry Staats	Roger Koch



## Save the Date!

### Concert Series

#### Perennial Rye

**Saturday, March 26 at 8pm**

#### Open Mic: 7pm

Venue: Columbus Mennonite Church,  
35 Oakland Park Ave, Cols, OH

At door asking donation: \$15 / \$10  
for CFMS members. *You must show  
proof of vaccination and wear a mask.  
Capacity limit; pre-register at link below.*

### Zoom Jam Sessions

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday:  
10am-Noon; Wednesday, Friday,  
Sunday; 2-4pm. To get the current link  
to these sessions, contact Jane  
VanAuken at: [vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com)

### In-Person Jams

Saturday mornings from 9:30-  
11:30am at All Saints Lutheran  
Church, 6770 N. High St.,  
Worthington, OH

## The Central Ohio Folk Festival – the Brand New and the Familiar!

BY D. BOSTON

After a two year hiatus due to that pesky COVID, we are genuinely excited to be back to a live in-person festival in 2022. **Save the date for May 7 & 8!**

Our Saturday night Headliner is a 5 piece group out of Peoria, IL, **The Way Down Wanderers**. One of the band members says: "There's really nothing more humbling than discovering that one of our songs meant something in somebody's life — that it helped them through a tough time, or inspired them to do something meaningful . . ." and they just want to change your world, or at least provide optimism.

*Jammin Java* says: "with youthful exuberance and a lively stage show, 'as reliable as it is infectious,' you can expect high energy, mandolin, guitar, bass, banjo and fiddle woven seamlessly together to create an experience for fans that has sold out shows across the UK and the United States." Hear some tune samples at: <https://thewaydownwanderers.com/listen>.

## What is our 'new way' this year?

There will no longer be a separate ticketed fee for the Saturday night Headliner concert nor the 30+ music workshops.

[See Folk Festival\\_pg.5](#)

**Perennial Rye in Concert:  
Saturday, March 26, 8pm.  
Pre-register at:**

**[https://bit.ly/Perennial\\_Rye\\_CFMS](https://bit.ly/Perennial_Rye_CFMS)**

Folk Festival, from pg 4

**This year's festival will be by donation as people enter the festival grounds.** This will include all activities, including the evening headliner concert and all workshops. Festival goers' generous \$\$ support will help make all of this possible and 100% of donations go towards helping create this festival (no paid staff)!

With a donation of \$20 or more, you will get a fun, flexible flyer – basically a soft frisbee that can double as a fan – and some other fun stuff. You can donate either on the grounds or pre-donate at: [festival2022donate.eventbrite.com](https://festival2022donate.eventbrite.com).

**The advantage of pre-donating is that we'll have your name to contact in April when we open up INSIDE TENT seat reservations for the Saturday night Headliner concert,** otherwise your Saturday night concert seating may be on the lawn. If you have a specific question about this new way, just email us at [infofestival@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](mailto:infofestival@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org).

## Our brand new offerings?

An **Instrument Making Tent** where they'll be Frame Drum making for young adults and up. In addition, this year we'll be bringing back Cigar Box Guitar making in that same Instrument Making Tent.

Not only will young adults and up be able to make their own Frame Drum, but they'll be able to use it in the **Heart Beat Drum Circle** conducted by Baba Jubal Harris at the close of the day on both Saturday and Sunday.

Harris is recognized throughout Ohio as the founder and facilitator of his inspirational *Heart Beat Drum Circle* events, some of Ohio's largest public drumming events held in Cincinnati and Cleveland. Baba Jubal is also known for his work inspiring and educating children.

A **Beer Garden Area** and **Concessions Tent** will be another new offering. Our official festival craft beer is made by the local Homestead Beer Company. The garden is located in the North picnic pavilion with additional space cordoned off next to the picnic pavilion. *If you plan on partaking, be prepared to be carded and given a wristband at the festival entrance.* You may want to bring your own lawn chairs to sit in the additional Garden Area space should the picnic tables fill up.

We will have the **Bailey Acoustic Tent** positioned and amplified so that you will be able to hear music in the Garden Area. *Due to park stipulations, you won't be able to leave the Garden Area to carry alcohol elsewhere onto the grounds. Also, you are NOT permitted to bring your own alcohol onto Metro Parks grounds.*

## Other familiar offerings?

**Over 30 concerts** featuring acts you know and love: the Opening Sing (with Bill Cohen & Carl Yaffey); Butch Ross (Mountain Dulcimer maestro); the Storytellers of Central Ohio; the Most Outrageous Song in the World Contest.

11am on Sun. morning will feature two options: the Main Stage **"Songs for the Spirit"** with harpist Rachel Clemente, accompanied by Dan Houghton, and, in another tent, the **"Hymn/Gospel/Spiritual Sing"** led by Bill Schilling.

[See Folk Festival, pg 6](#)

**Additional festival details:**  
[columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](https://columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

**You can pre-donate at:**  
[festival2022donate.eventbrite.com](https://festival2022donate.eventbrite.com)

We recommend pre-donating if you want to be on our list to notify when INSIDE TENT seat reservations for Sat. night Headliner concert begins in April. More details at the donate link.

Folk Festival, from pg 5

**Our 30+ concerts artists** come from all over: Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Tennessee as well as more locally from Newark, Dublin, Granville and our beloved Columbus, OH. **For a complete listing of all our performers, visit our festival page at: <https://columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/festival.html>** and click on Performers.

**The 30+ workshops** will now be open to all attendees on the festival grounds. Some workshops will be for the very beginner with some loaners available (guitar, uke, folk harp, Native American flute and "rhythm bones").

Others will be on songwriting and arranging, including a couple of song workshops where families are encouraged to bring their kids. Still other workshops will be for Intermediate and Advanced levels. Some of our workshop presenters are also festival performers: Adam Schlenker, Hayes Griffin, Shane McLaughlin & Lucy Clabby (from the band Buffalo Rose), and Butch Ross amongst others!

Our **Jam Groups Tent** (always a favorite) will be anchored down by the following jam groups: Worthington Squares, Whetstone Jammers, Guzheng Ensemble and there will be an Irish "Comhaltas," Old-time, and Bluegrass jams as well.

We'll have **food trucks** and there will be lots of room to spread a blanket on the ground or set up lawn chairs. You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

**The children's area** features the Instrument Petting Zoo, a craft tent where young ones can make head garlands and canister drums, a Nature tent, and some other fun kids' activities provided by Friends of the Metro Parks.

Special note: **due to COVID precautions, there will not be a Dance Tent or the Friday Meet 'N Greet potluck/jam** (in 2022 only).

**The festival close** will feature our own favorite **John Prine Tribute Band** with boat loads of Prine songs on the Main Stage. Following that will be the **Closing Song Circle** coordinated by Charlie Flowers. All are welcome to participate whether with an instrument or voice (or both)!

We cannot fail to mention this festival will be our **25th**. Of course, we are going to celebrate! Cathy & Steve Sheets are donating a 25th anniversary cake, which we'll have outside the Main Stage Tent right after the Opening Sing Along. So come on out and celebrate with us (yep, we'll probably even sing Happy Anniversary to ourselves!)

**Here's to a successful 2022 festival; we hope to see you there!!**

## Did We Mention? Enjoy the Folk Festival Even More by Volunteering !

BY RANDI COHEN



If you're coming to this year's folk festival May 7-8, please consider volunteering for a few hours to help the festival run smoothly. **It's fun, it's energizing and it'll make you feel great!**

This year is going to be different from previous years because we are going to need a TON of people to help in the new areas this year. Well, maybe not a TON, but oodles and oodles!

We'll have a beer garden (limited hours) that will need volunteers to help monitor.

In addition, we need people posted at each of the music tents, arts and crafts, instrument petting, etc. If you have volunteered with us

before, you know it can be really fun to be a part of this. If you have not volunteered with us before, well, it's about time to try. **And you'll be joining a vibrant community of our volunteers. We even host a post-event volunteer party!**

**If you are interested in volunteering for the Festival this May 7th & 8th at Highbanks Metro Park, please email Randi at: [randi@randicohen.com](mailto:randi@randicohen.com).**

None of the work is strenuous except helping to set up and tear down. Mostly we need people willing to help others feel at home, do arts and crafts with kids, drive golf carts, guard instruments, and help people find seats in the music tents, etc.

You will get more info as we get closer to May. We have lots of things this year like an all-acoustic tent for local musicians for both days, and more bands than you can shake a stick at.

Excepting our stage performers and our workshops leaders, we're hoping that all, including our full time staff and our volunteers will be open to donating to help us make this 'new way' possible. Remember: there is no longer a fee for workshops or the Sat. evening headliner concert so we are counting on donations!

So, if you want to help and you will show up, email Randi. And if you have a friend who wants to volunteer, have them email her as well! **You do not need to be a member of CFMS to volunteer.** (You just need to be reliable!)

If you don't want to volunteer, come to the festival and just have fun!

## The 2022 Annual Bob Kirby Scholarship

Folk music represents a significant part of the American heritage. It is our goal to perpetuate interest in this music. The recipient of this award will have an opportunity to learn about the folk music tradition and make music of his or her own.

**HISTORY:** Bob Kirby was a member and firm friend of The Columbus Folk Music Society, the Shamrock Club, and The Dublin Irish Festival. Bob supported folk music in Central Ohio and believed in the importance of honoring and preserving musical traditions. In harmony with our mission, The Columbus Folk Music Society has established The Bob Kirby Scholarship for Folk Music in his memory.

**PURPOSE:** To assist young musicians from the Central Ohio area by offering opportunities they may otherwise not experience; to enhance musical skills; to pursue a greater knowledge of, and appreciation for, folk music; and to offer performance opportunities.

### APPLICATION PROCESS:

- Open to Students in grades 3-12
- Submit a letter, along with the application form, explaining your interest in music, your musical goals, what musical instrument you are interested in playing (or play) and if you sing.
- An interview will be held with the top 5 applicants.
- Download the Application Form at: [www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/kirby.html](http://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/kirby.html)

### BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP:

- Family household admission (no donation) to The Central Ohio Folk Festival in 2022 held May 7-8 at Highbanks Metro Park; \$40 for meals at the festival
- An opportunity to perform at the Central Ohio Folk Festival 2022 (not required)
- \$500.00 award to be used toward the purchase of an instrument or private lessons with a teacher of your choice
- The CFMS monthly newsletter "A Different Strummer" sent monthly for one year to the winner

Disclaimer: This award and the criteria are subject to change at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

**For additional information, please contact:**

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





## The Columbus Folk Music Society

P.O. Box 20735

Columbus, OH 43220

VMB: 614-470-3963

# CAMPUS PRINTING

2415 N. HIGH STREET  
COLUMBUS, OH 43202

[www.campusprinting.net](http://www.campusprinting.net)

[info@campusprinting.net](mailto:info@campusprinting.net)

### 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*