



## The Trio Fialla Brings Out the Voices of Celtic Tradition at Nov 18 Concert

INTERVIEW BY BILL COHEN

Fialla plays traditional Irish music that will lead you on a storytelling journey "as far as the sea and as near as your own heart." The Trio will appear at **8pm on November 18** for the Americana/Folk Concert Series held at the Mennonite Church.

**Bill Cohen:** Your specialty is what you call "Trad Irish music." Tell us what that is (especially the "trad" part) and why all three of you love it so much.

**Jake Hoffer:** Irish trad music is of course short for Irish traditional music - the melodies and lyrics created in Ireland and handed down through oral tradition over nearly two thousand years. Musically, it is one of the last really healthy remnants of the lost world of "folk" music that belonged to those who stewarded the earth before us, and before the baroque era redefined musicianship as composition rather than storytelling. Both familiar and appealing, its melodic

[See Fialla, pg 3.](#)

*"When people play music, they offer people flowers." -Martin Doyle (Irish flute maker)*

## A Different Strummer Newsletter Highlights

TRIO FIALLA  
INTERVIEW PG 1

2023 YEAR END MATCH  
CHALLENGE PG 2

BILL COHEN'S SONGS OF  
GRATITUDE CONCERT  
PG 2

CFMS INTRODUCES FOLK  
ART OF QUILTING PG 4

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS  
& SAVE THE DATE PG 7

WORTHINGTON  
SQUARES PG 7



## 2023 Year End Match Challenge: Your Donation Doubled!

For the past seven years, we've had an anonymous donor come forward towards the end of the year with an offer to match all donations to our organization beyond those of regular membership dues, received before December 31, up to a total of \$1,000. That means if we are able to raise \$1,000, it will be matched by our generous donor to a grand total of \$2,000!

If you have had a chance to attend any of our monthly concerts or if you have been one of the thousands that has attended our May festival, you might be interested in this opportunity to show your thanks to the Columbus Folk Music Society. A donation yet this year may be doubled!

Donations may be made by credit card via our website (you need not have a PayPal account to donate):

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

via the Columbus Foundation's Giving Store (search Columbus Folk Music Society):

<https://columbusfoundation.org/the-giving-store/nonprofit-directory-listing/ColumbusFolkMusicSocietyInc/6505>

or by check made payable to Columbus Folk Music Society and mailed to: CFMS, PO Box 20735, Columbus, OH 43220.

**Please write "matching challenge" on your check or online donation note.**

We thank you in advance!



## Bill Cohen's Annual "Songs of Gratitude" Concert

Friends. Freedom. Family. Music. Nature. Emotions. We have so much to be thankful for.

So join Bill and his musical friends as they perform a unique concert of songs that express gratitude for all that we have. Tunes linked to a wide variety of folks --- John Denver, Phil Ochs, Louis Armstrong, Bing Crosby, Don McLean, Johnny Appleseed, and Jiminy Cricket. Plus, some thoughtful quotes, reminding us of our many blessings.

Admission is free but Bill will welcome donations for a special charity his wife Randi volunteers for.

**WHERE: Maple Grove Methodist Church  
7 W. Henderson, Columbus, Ohio 43214**

**WHEN: Friday, Nov. 24 7 pm**



*Fialla, Natalie's Pizza, Worthington, 2008*

Fialla, from pg 1

structures are the bedrock of nearly all musical traditions since, be it Bach or Beyoncé. Countless generations of musicians and storytellers have canonized their own experiences in the Irish trad repertoire, so that someone listening today has the chance to reach back through time to find a companion whose joys or griefs echo their own across the ages. As musicians, it is a privilege to help carry this torch for a while until we in turn pass it on to those who will come after us.

**Bill:** Your website says that your “history goes back to diapers, and this musical adventure is the celebration of all the years of love and friendship since.” Not many musical bands can make that “diapers” claim, so please explain.

**Jake:** Katie and I were friends as kids. Our families were close friends through our church, and we spent a good deal of time playing together as we were growing up. At one point her family moved away, but we continued to see each other when they visited – often around the holidays. Katie taught herself to sing, dance, and play several instruments, so that when we found ourselves back in the same place

20-something years later, we were able to rekindle our friendship over our mutual found love for traditional Irish music.

Meanwhile, around the young age of 5, I fell in love with a girl named Renee and asked her parents for her hand in marriage. Of course, they told me we would need to revisit the conversation once I was an adult, which is exactly what we did; that beautiful girl is now my beautiful wife! And as if she weren't lovely enough on her own, I've also had the privilege of joining her virtuosic brother Stephen as a member of Fialla, and her father Rick as the bassist on many of our recordings.

**Bill:** Are there some well-known (or lesser known) musicians who have inspired you to make music? What is it about them that had such a big impact on you all?

**Jake:** One group we particularly love is Dervish. More than almost anyone, Dervish has brought Irish traditional music to the ears of the world in its purest form – all of the honesty and musical excellence without the engineered showmanship so common in modern music. All three of us were raised on Dervish, so it's no surprise that a good deal of Dervish comes out in Fialla as well. As an aside, we have also had the chance to spend some time with them, and they are equally lovely off the stage.

Other times, inspiration comes from the most unlikely of places. My 4-year-old has spent his short life listening to Fialla and hearing us talk about Irish music and tradition. He was with me in the studio

# Columbus Folk Music Society Introduces the Folk Art of Quilting

BY D. BOSTON

A brand new kids' activity at the 2023 Central Ohio Folk Festival introduced "art" as well as the concept of quilting. In the Kids' Craft Tent, participating children created art on a small fabric square. And post-festival, the fabric squares were pieced, then sewn together into quilt tops. The next and final step will be knotting them into finished full-size quilts.



At the festival, youngsters had the option of taking their fabric square home, having it incorporated into a banner decorating next year's craft tent, or donating it to be made into a quilt for people in need. Festival Craft Tent volunteer, Anne Lamoureux, said that both children and parents seemed to appreciate making a

“Quilts are a functional and decorative art - a reminder of the human impulse to endow even the most utilitarian objects with beauty and creativity.”

quilt as an overseas mission contribution and that between 60-70% of the children chose to donate it for a quilt for those in need in other parts of the world. Kids' Craft Tent coordinator, Linda McDonald, commented: "The quilt art was a huge hit; the kids loved it!"

After the May festival, the art fabric squares were gathered up and in mid-August, five CFMS volunteer "stitchers" and "ironers" came together at The Sewing Hive in Clintonville. There, an event entitled



"Quilting Bee for Refugees," was organized by Sewing Hive manager, Jamie Hevener, in order to stitch and press two complete quilt tops (and a smaller tent banner) and to ready them for the third and final step.

The last step in the process involves a partnership with the Piecemakers group from the Columbus Mennonite Church located on Oakland Park Ave. The group routinely gathers twice monthly to cut, sew and knot quilts and they also willingly work with other groups, like the Columbus Folk Music Society, for special projects. The Piecemakers make dozens & dozens of quilts (comforters) every year and the finished quilts are distributed through the international arm of the Mennonite Church to places around the world where



*Kids' art incorporated into the one of the sewn quilt tops – ready for the final stage of making into a quilt.*

they are most needed. These days, those are refugee camps, according to Piecemaker, Marlene Suter.

**On Friday, Nov. 17, beginning at 9am and continuing until early-mid afternoon interested CFMS volunteers (no experience necessary!) will be invited for the final phase of knotting the quilts into finished pieces. Look for an email from us to sign up for that event!**

## Quilting – a Long Tradition of American Culture

Quilting is a long tradition of American culture, spanning from the first settlers creating quilts for purely functional reasons, to present day ever more complex, varied and extremely creative art forms. Quilting is also one of the first examples of upcycling, as quilters have

historically made extensive use of remnants and offcuts (portions of material left over from other projects) for the creation of new products. To better understand the rich history of quilting in America, visit:

**These Quilts Weave Together American's Rich, Complicated History** (PBS - 6 min):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOOhli0dP\\_Q0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOOhli0dP_Q0)

**Smithsonian National Quilt Collection: An Overview (Nat'l Museum of American History** (11 min):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JvsKwCWfk&t=75s>

Link to complete **“The Social History of of Quilt Making in America”**:

<https://www.lynchburg.edu/wp-content/uploads/special-programs-and-events/digital-lecture-the-social-history-of-quilt-making-in-america.pdf>

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*Quilt quotes credit: Digital Lecture The Social History of Quilting Making in America / Univ. Of Lynchburg*

“ Quilts are considered one of America's great indigenous art forms.

“ Numerous quilts contained visible or veiled references to political and social events . . . Almost every significant event of the day showed up in quilts – wars, elections, temperance, suffrage, emancipation, centennial, civil rights, and so on. ”

Fialla, from pg 3

one day as I was working on some things for our upcoming CD, and he sidled up to a mic with his little ukulele-sized guitar as if he were on stage at a performance. To an imaginary audience he announced, "This next one is about a woman who ran off and died". Then he proceeded to strum his guitar and deliver an improvisational rendition of a poignant Irish ballad about a woman who "went off and died at a soldier", with a chorus of, "And she never came back, no she never came back, the woman!". If you know anything about Irish music, you may feel as I do that he's captured the genre very aptly in the hilariously genuine way only a child can. I was so tickled by his composition that I am hoping at some point to condense his ideas into a fully realized song for him to perform with us!

**Bill:** How did the band deal with the 2-year interruption and chaos that the COVID virus brought us? Were you able to "work around" it to continue making music?

**Jake:** Ha! Fialla formed in December of 2019 and had our first performance just before Christmas. We had a whole series of shows lined up for the 2020 St. Patrick's Day season, but we all know how that turned out! Since there were no audiences to play for, we decided to put a CD

together so that we'd have something to share with people in the meantime. Because all three of us have family members that might be at a high risk for COVID complications, we had to do the whole thing without ever meeting in person! We set up a recording studio in my home (I went to school for digital media technology, so I had a bit of training to help me out) and took turns going down there to track the parts one at a time, to a metronome. Katie actually sang quite a bit of it a cappella, which I find extremely impressive. We really didn't know how it would sound until it was all together, but we ended up being pretty pleased with the results! We named it "Ashore" because it was really our first venture together as a band, and also because it turned out to have a good number of tracks related to being on the sea.

**Bill:** When people attend your November 18 concert, what they can expect to hear, see, and feel?

**Jake:** Have you ever had the privilege of listening to a traditional storyteller? We have. It's like feeling a new world materialize around you – a simpler but wilder world, home to the mundane and outlandish alike – and all the while never leaving the warmth of the fireside. We would like to invite you on a similar journey, to places as far as the sea and as near as your own heart. We'll share big, ripping moments and small, intimate ones. There will be times to sing along, and times to close your eyes and let the music wash over you. We'll do our best to share honestly with you what has been passed down to us: echoes of mankind as told through the voices of Celtic tradition.

“ Countless generations of musicians and storytellers have canonized their own experiences in the Irish trad repertoire . . . . As musicians, it is a privilege to help carry this torch. ”



## Welcome NEW Members

James Huber  
Home Room Barbershop Quartet

and **Welcome Back** returning members!



## Save the Date!

### Americana / Folk Concert Series

#### Fialla

**Saturday, November 18 at 8pm**  
**Open Mic: 7pm**

Venue: Columbus Mennonite Church  
35 Oakland Park Ave, Cols  
Donation: \$15/\$10 CFMS members.

### Other CFMS Events

#### Quilt Project

**Friday, Nov 17, 9am-3pm**

Columbus Mennonite Church, Social Hall area, 35 Oakland Park Ave., Cols

### Zoom Jam Sessions

**Mondays & Thursdays 10 am-Noon;**

**Saturdays 9:30-11:30 am.** Contact

Jane at: [vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com)

### In-Person Jams

**Saturdays, 9:30-11:30 am** at All Saints Lutheran Church, 6770 N. High St., Worthington

**Saturdays, 9:30-11:30 am** at Whetstone Community Center, 3923 N. High St., Cols. No jam Nov. 25.

**Mondays, 6-8 pm** at 4th Avenue Christian Church, 296 W 4th Ave. No jam Nov. 27.

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

**Editor (interim):** Diane Boston

**Regular Writers:** Pete Insabella, Michelle Hughes

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**Distribution:** Pete Insabella

**CFMS Event Photos:** Linda McDonald

## CFMS Annual Membership dues are now due by Dec 31! Why Not Consider Joining?

It's simple, inexpensive, and you're supporting the CFMS! You can fill out the form on the back of this newsletter OR join/renew online at: <https://www.columbusfolkmusicociety.org/member-application.html>. Please note you do not need a PayPal account to join/renew online. NEW PRACTICE: If you choose to receive a monthly hard copy of the newsletter (as opposed to the digital version), we request an additional \$15 contribution over & above dues to cover postage & handling.

## Looking for opportunities to play (music) nicely with others? Join the Worthington Squares!

The Worthington Squares meet several times a week, in person and via Zoom, to jam together. These informal jam sessions are a great opportunity to practice your instrument while getting to know some fellow folk music lovers. We also sometimes play at farm markets, metro parks, nursing homes, children's events, etc. All folk instrument players are welcome, regardless of skill or experience!

For questions or to be added to the jam list, contact Jane VanAuken at: [vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com)

And see the current jam calendar here: <https://www.columbusfolkmusicociety.org/jam-sessions.html>



## The Columbus Folk Music Society

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VMB: 614-470-3963



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

Date \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renew Preferred Newsletter Format:  Digital  Hard Copy **[NOTE: if you choose hard copy, we request an additional \$15 contribution over & above dues to cover postage & handling]**

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

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

General Age Range – Born:  1930s-40s  1950s-60s  1970s-80s  1990s-2010s

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

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Additional e-mail (if a household or band) \_\_\_\_\_

**We are also a growing, vibrant community of volunteers; the awesome force behind our work! Please  at least 1 box.**

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> May folk festival   | <input type="checkbox"/> General Help      | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Skills   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CFMS concert events | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design    | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Musician   | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Design           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking / Baking    | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Instructor | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing / Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Management     | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal             | Instruments: _____                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising         | <input type="checkbox"/> Musician          | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity               | <input type="checkbox"/> None                 |

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE ANNUALLY ON DECEMBER 31.  one of the membership levels listed below.**

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Band \$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 |

I have included an additional \$15 (postage & handling) to have a printed version of newsletter mailed to me.

**To join/renew by credit card**, visit CFMS' website: [columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](http://columbusfolkmusicsociety.org) (About Us/Join)

OR click here: <https://tinyurl.com/CFMS-Join>

**To join/renew by cash or check**, please mail completed membership form with payment to: *Columbus Folk Music Society, PO Box 20735, Columbus, OH 43220.* Membership amounts may be tax-deductible.

My place of work matches donations:

