



Jenner Fox Headlines CFMS' Concert Series on FRIDAY, Oct 28

INTERVIEW BY BILL COHEN

Inspired by a variety of artists including John Prine, Radiohead, Cold Play, Justin Vernon and more, **Jenner Fox** brings his unique style to Columbus for the first time. Come listen for yourself when this songwriter performs at **8pm on October 28** for the Americana/Folk Concert Series held at the Mennonite Church.

Bill Cohen: You are new to our audience here in Columbus, so please get us acquainted with you. How do you describe the music you perform?

Jenner Fox: A JF set will encourage you to sing about peanut butter, make you remember that river you once floated, probably make you tear up, definitely giggle, and most likely leave with an arm around your neighbor and a tune stuck in your head. I like the way Folk Radio DJ Jim Goodwin put it, "Jenner Fox is the rare artist who comes along and doesn't sound like anybody else."

[See Jenner Fox, pg 3](#)

It may be a big world. but folk music is a small town.

—Scott Alarik †, folk critic

A Different Strummer Newsletter Highlights

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CFMS Welcomes New Board Members



*"New to the Board",
Jan Flory. Jan, a lover of
folk music, also studies
jazz and plays piano.*

BY PETE
INSABELLA

The recent election of new officers and Board members to staff the Folk Music Society has produced four new board members: Steven Ing, Randi Cohen, Jan Flory and Marian Harris. Steven and Randi have been actively involved in CFMS activities for some time. Steven is a mainstay of the Worthington Squares, a CFMS outreach group that's provided folk music entertainment to nursing homes, churches and farmers' markets in the greater Columbus area. Steven was featured as this newsletter's Member Profile in the February 2022 issue.

Randi Cohen has for years played a major role as a behind-the-scenes organizer of the Folk Festival, the monthly Americana/Folk coffeehouse concerts, and other activities. Randi is married to Bill Cohen, another major contributor to the Columbus folk music scene. Her election to the CFMS Board makes her work on behalf of CFMS activities "official".

Jan Flory, the third new Board member, came back to Clintonville two years ago after living in New York City for a good part of her life. She knew Bill Cohen in the 1960s when they both were counsellors at the Triple S Camp in the Hocking Hills. She says of that

experience: "Folk songs and their backgrounds were sung and discussed daily. This was also my first exposure to folk music as part of the camp philosophy in highlighting social issues." She also came into contact with folk icon Pete Seeger when, during a concert, he asked for volunteers to join him in singing onstage.

Jan studies jazz and also plays piano. During her employment years, she worked with public and private social welfare and child protection agencies in Ohio, New York City, and around the country. She found during those years that using music, often with humor and rewritten lyrics, can be a unifying force for staff members during tense or difficult times.

Given that she is joining the Board of an all-volunteer organization, Jan Flory has some definite thoughts on the role of volunteers in today's societal structure, especially with the changes in workforce structures and career paths these days. She is a firm believer in the benefits of volunteer work, including the benefits for the volunteers themselves.

Jan Flory and Marian Harris, another first-time Board member, have known each other for years through mutual friends and interests. We welcome them to the CFMS Board and look forward to a rewarding collaboration with them.

**NOVEMBER'S NEWSLETTER
WILL SHARE MORE ABOUT
MARIAN HARRIS**



“...there's a new generation of wonderful musicians carrying the torch of the music of the "folks." ”

– Jenner Fox

Jenner Fox, from pg 1

Bill: What's your musical history? How did you become a musician? And how did you become a songwriter?

Jenner: My parents were river guides, and they'd invite their folk song singing river guide community over for jam nights. I wanted to take part. I learned how to play guitar and sing and did the middle and high school garage band thing. I think I started writing songs when my "girlfriend" (I think we only ever hung out in person one time) in 6th grade broke up with me. I was the kind of kid who would spend hours learning "Wonder" by Natalie Merchant, or James Taylor's "Fire and Rain." I loved the heaviest songs. They made me feel so alive. In high school, I saw John Gorka perform at the Strawberry Music Festival. He said something about needing songs because he could never quite say what he wanted to say in mere words. That hit me, because I felt that way.

Bill: Tell us about your songwriting. How do you get inspiration for your creations? And can you explain the process you use to write your songs?

Jenner: These days I'm lucky to do a lot of teaching and workshops around songwriting. Inevitably I overthink the topic. But in a nutshell, my philosophy is that being *interested* is far more important than being *interesting*. I write songs about people and things I overhear and silly stuff and really anything that has "that feeling". What's "that feeling?" Well, it's hard to describe, and it's different for everyone, but I can't get enough of looking for it.

Process? I try to get out of my own way. I usually mess around on an instrument for a while, pour through old notebooks, mumble some stuff into my phone, try to stay in the seat until the "thing" begins to happen, which certainly isn't every time.

Bill: Who are your musical heroes who've inspired you over the years?

Jenner: Back before streaming, I had lots of Beatles CDs, and wore them out. I got into Josh Ritter and Joe Pug and Gillian Welch thanks to Pandora and the digital age. I had formative Flight of the Conchords and Michael Franti phases. John Prine is big for me, and especially discovering that my mom and her friends didn't write his songs. Additionally, Jason Isbell, and Greg Brown, can't get enough of their writing. Radiohead is near and dear. So is Coldplay. And anything Phil Cook is a part of. But if I had to choose

See Jenner Fox, pg 6

The Face Behind the Face of the Central Ohio Folk Festival – Margie VanAuken

INTERVIEW BY BILL COHEN



The sun logo created by Margie VanAuken ((pictured opposite) is used to promote the Folk Music Society's annual Central Ohio Folk Festival.

Bill Cohen: Several years ago, you created that beautiful sun logo, which we use to promote the annual Central Ohio Folk Festival. Walk us through how you got the idea for that and the steps you went through to create it.

Margie VanAuken: One day in 2012, I was looking at a round, blank piece of wood and I 'saw' a sun face. Using acrylics, I painted a sun with sleepy eyes. Although I did no measuring, the sun's rays fit naturally and perfectly around the face. Imagine my surprise! The original hangs in our sunroom and the background color is actually painted dark brown. By copying the round wood piece onto cardstock, with the use of a laser printer, I was then able to cut the sun out and place it on blue paper for making cards. This is the image chosen for the Central Ohio Folk Festival.

Bill: Please tell us about other art that you create.

Margie: I enjoy making black and white ink drawings, which are generously peppered among my colored works. Each year I design our winter holiday greeting card using pen and ink. These pictures cover many themes and subjects - snowy scenes, all manner of creatures, cozy windows, jolly characters - to name a few. Many of my color paintings and drawings are created on cloth and wood as well as paper, using acrylics, watercolors, oils and colored pencils often in combination. Almost all of my art, including logos, CD covers, T shirt designs, and illustrations are made into note cards, which are printed, and hand cut by me.





Each batch of these cards is a mixture of works done throughout my life, thus presenting a retrospective of my art. There is a kind of magic thread connecting these pieces - animals, trees, houses, birds, country places, flowers, and humans alike. I find wonder in surprising myself with what I can do!

Bill: How do you get the inspiration for your works of art?

Margie: Most of the pieces I create are drawn from my vivid imagination. Music, live music in particular, is a big inspiration for me. Many times, I have listened to live music with my tablets and colored pencils at hand, seeing what transpires. The great outdoors gets me going too. Sometimes this involves actual 'plein air' drawing and painting, and sometimes it's merely the experiences I take home with me after a long walk. It is hard to pinpoint where exactly the feelings come from - a hint of remembered light or a bright red roof with blue sky shining behind it, or maybe

two lovely birds flying together... Part of the big draw of what I do is, indeed, the mystery of it all.

Bill: How did you become an artist?

Margie: Ever since I could hold a crayon I was driven to draw and create art. I have always known I wanted to be an active artist. My parents and teachers offered much encouragement when I was young, and for that I am most thankful. As a young girl, I enjoyed doing a variety of art projects. These included drawing, painting, sewing - just the act of 'making things' was so satisfying and fun. One year I made the 3 wise men for our Christmas tree. I used felt, glue, thread, beads and ribbons on wooden spools to fashion them. I still have them, and although they may not be considered 'good' they are not without charm. Other examples are the handmade greeting cards I created for my parents and sister all through my time living at home. I realize now that I have been designing cards for a very long time!

[See Face Behind the Face, pg 7](#)

“ It is hard to pinpoint where exactly the feelings come from - a hint of remembered light or a bright red roof with blue sky shining behind it, or maybe two lovely birds flying together... Part of the big draw of what I do is, indeed, the mystery of it all.”

- Margie VanAuken



West coast singer-songwriter, Jenner Fox, is based out of Bainbridge Island, WA

Jenner Fox, from pg 3

one all time hero right now it would be Justin Vernon and all his projects, especially Bon Iver.

Bill: What's your assessment about how the singer/songwriter genre fits into the broader category of folk music? Do you see the singer/songwriter scene attracting more younger people, so that American folk music will be rejuvenated as we older "folkies" pass on?

Jenner: Hmmm, big question. I don't think "American folk music" will ever go away. And being a singer-songwriter is cool because it has the fewest barriers from bedroom to stage. I do think "folk music" in America is changing, and the definition is ever elusive. I think there is a certain kind of nostalgia that the "older-folkies" have for the Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchel, 60's thing. But folk music is the music of the "folks." I think one of its

core tenants is in revealing the truths of the common people, and its simplicity and ability to thrive in living rooms and theaters alike.

I think there's a new generation of wonderful musicians carrying the torch of the music of the "folks." And I think it's inevitably different than the 60's version. We can find it in freestyle rap circles, campfire strummers, and digital producers. But I do think we're experiencing a reckoning of whether younger people will come out to these smaller stages and pay real money for the "service " of folk music. My friends do. Get off Netflix? We need the vibrations of live. Virtual doesn't cut it. Don't let our small clubs die!



CFMS Membership — TIME TO RENEW OR JOIN!

If you are not one of the people who've already paid for 2023, please join or renew here:

www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/member-application.html

Or, you can fill out a hard copy from the membership form on this newsletter and send in your check!

Don't forget to checkmark the volunteer things you want to help with — we promise not to over-work you! And, we are a friendly bunch!

Jenner Fox in Concert:
FRIDAY, October 28, 8pm at
Columbus Mennonite Church



Welcome NEW and RETURNING Members

BIG Welcome to Our New Members

Paul Graham Anne Woods
Ralph Leeseberg Laura Zimmerman
Andy Minard Family

Welcome Back to Renewing Members

Michael Barrie Jim Buddelmeyer
Roger Benjamin Joanie Calem
George Bennett Diane Casey
Diane & Kathleen Janet Chandler
Boston Lee Cherney
James Bowling Karen & Don Cogley

More to be welcomed in November



Save the Date!

Concert Series

Jenner Fox – FRIDAY, Oct 28 at 8pm
Open Mic: 7pm, Jam 6pm

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

Zoom Jam Sessions

For dates, times and session links,
contact Jane: vanaukj@gmail.com

In-Person Jams

Sat, Oct 1, 1-4pm

- Battelle Darby Metro Park
- Hope Thru Housing, Linworth

Sun, Oct 16, 1-4pm

50+ Event at Slate Run Metro Park

Mondays, 6-8pm, 4th Ave

Christian Church

Thursdays, 11:30am-12:30pm,

Gillie Community Senior Center

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor (interim): Diane Boston

Regular Writers: Pete Insabella, Bill Cohen

Layout: Sherry Hubbard

Distribution: Pete Insabella

CFMS Event Photos: Linda McDonald

Face Behind the Face, from pg 5



Bill: Has the Covid pandemic impacted your creativity and your artwork?

Margie: Since I already spend a great deal of time at home with my husband, Arthur, and our cat, Ralphie, at first, the lock down did not seem to affect my art life. I did begin to feel kind of frozen by the sheer enormity of the hit the world was taking because of the virus. My creativity came out in different ways. Gardening, sewing and cooking were my main pursuits, rather than drawing and painting. As time went on, I realized I really missed having live music, one of my most treasured muses, in my life. We were no longer able to go out to public places to enjoy bands and there were virtually no traveling groups to be seen. Eventually back yard concerts started popping up, and with vaccinations becoming more available, the options broadened. We started inviting friends to the house to play with my singer songwriter husband, and I went to a few small music parties. The inspiration is back and now I am going strong!



The Columbus Folk Music Society

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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.

- | | | | |
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| <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 _____ |
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| <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 | |

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with payment to: Columbus Folk Music
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