



Olivia Lloyd to Play and Sing March 29th

INTERVIEW BY MICHELLE HUGHES

March's Concert Series performer, Olivia Lloyd, has spent several years doubling down on her efforts to build community within the Alt-Country and Americana scene. She followed up her debut 2021 album, Loose Cannons, with 2025's Do It Myself.

March's Concert Series also returns to Natalie's Grandview on Sunday March 29th at 2:30 pm (doors open at 1:30), 945 King Ave, Columbus, OH, as part of the Americana/Folk Concert Series. You can learn more about Olivia at <https://olivialloydmusic.com/>.

Tickets available at <https://www.showclix.com/tickets/olivia-ellen-lloyd-apqal1b>.

Michelle Hughes: First off, I just have to say—oh, I wonder if we have been living the same life, because some of these songs hit really close to home. Without asking you to divulge anything more personal than maybe already you've shared in your songs, do you pull inspiration from your own life for your songs? And if so, given how heart-wrenching some of them are, what does the process of channeling those feelings into song, and then performing over and over look like without kind of....I guess, re-injuring your own heart?

See Olivia Lloyd, pg 2

The Montvales' Concert Series January performance had to be canceled due to weather (boo!), but THEY ARE RESCHEDULED! Come see them perform at 8 p.m. March 14th at the Columbus Mennonite Church at 35 Oakland Park Avenue.

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Olivia Lloyd, from pg 1



Photo Credit Mandi Fountain

Olivia Lloyd: My songs are very personal to be sure, but I think people overestimate *how* personal they are. I can rarely write when i am actively in the depths of despair or actively Going Through It. Typically, my songwriting process begins once I have at least begun to process the factors and choices that led me to disappointment or sorrow. I find songwriting to be more clarifying than cathartic. It helps to name the emotions ruling my mind and body, and can often help me contain them. I find songwriting about big emotions to be a bit like cleaning house- it helps me make space in my mind for other things. Often that means I am examining my own feelings from a distance, and drawing on other people's experiences as well.

Michelle: Bound to Lose feels like such a time-warp to me! I'm not the most

well-versed in older country artists, but this sounds like a lot of what I heard growing up—is there a particular artist whose style influenced this song? Who would you say has influenced your music the most, in general?

Olivia: I love classic country music and grew up in the very small but supportive country music scene in New York City. My first gigs were classic country gigs, with no originals in sight (I still do that every once in a while under the moniker Denise & The Grand Slams). George Jones and Loretta Lynn are obviously big influences, but for my money nobody sings like Connie Smith. I am always channeling her on more classic country infused songs. This song in particular was written specifically for my friends Phil and Mafa, who are gorgeous two steppers and dance at almost all of my original and classic country gigs. I wanted to make sure they had a proper shuffle to dance to on this record. My general influences are varied, which lends my sound an eclectic quality. I love classic country crooners and more alt country songwriters like Guy Clark, John Prine, and Nanci Griffith. Mary Chapin Carpenter and Lucinda Williams rank pretty high on my list as well.

Michelle: Speaking of influences, it seems like your newest album "Do It Myself" is perhaps a bit slower tempo overall and maybe has fewer tunes that have that classic Country-Western feel than your previous album. Do you feel like that tracks, and if so, what do you think the driver of that was?

Olivia: I definitely think that it's a less trad influenced record, and the reason is simple: I've started bending my ear in different directions. I have a strong foundation of tastes and influences but much like Lucinda and John Prine, I find my music changes based on what I am currently listening to and what I am trying to say. I am grateful for the traditional country mode, which permits a lot of plainspoken songs that hit straight at the heart. But as my writing grows more specific and complex, I am interested in musical modalities that meet my songs with a bit more nuance, uncertainty even. Plus, I find myself frankly overwhelmed and disappointed by the recent wave of "neo traditional" country music. It's all starting to sound stale, and same-same, and I want to distinguish myself from that sound.

Michelle: On your website, it says "Olivia Ellen Lloyd will try anything once." What is one thing you tried that you never thought you would? And how has this philosophy influenced your artistry?

Olivia: Touring across the country, for one. I am actually a pretty big scaredy cat, and a very nervous person. Touring and driving solo for hours on end never sounded like something I would be capable of doing once, much less for the bulk of my life. I used to be so afraid of being in a car that I would have to lay down in the backseat with my eyes closed, and driving a car was utterly out of the question. Pursuing my music has been an ongoing lesson in bravery—and every time I challenge my own beliefs about myself and what I am capable of, I find my songs opening up a little more.

Michelle: I also noticed that you mentioned that you've put a lot of effort into building community within the Alt-Country and Americana scene. I am inclined to say that community is an integral part of Folk music and any adjacent or sub-genres, and is something that makes it unique. What do you think are some of the characteristics that define this community? Is there something that you've felt is missing as you've worked on doing this? And why is it important to you?

Olivia: Well like anything, these scenes are not a monolith. We exist in a bunch of overlapping little scenes, and I am very partial to the one I have found in the Northeast and in Appalachia, which I can speak to best. In particular, the New York music scene—specifically the one I'm part of, which largely consists of middle-class working musicians—is extremely



Photo credit Kate Daddaria

supportive and sweet. We all recognize that trying to be a professional creative in an unbearably expensive city is insane. So we take pains to look out for one another and celebrate our wins collectively. And it doesn't feel forced—we are really all out here showing up for one another, fostering a deep sense of belonging. I really feel like I belong in my musical community, and that everyone within it deserves to belong as well. Every once in a while, somebody pulls to the front of the pack, and is quick to bring everybody else along for the party. It is truly such a rewarding and mutually beneficial relationship, I couldn't ask for a better community.

Michelle: You are a member of the Resistance Revival Chorus—can you tell us more about this project?

Olivia: The Resistance Revival Chorus is an amazing collective of artists and activists who embody joy as an act of resistance. Whether we are lending our voices at a protest or backing nationally touring artists like Renee Rapp and Big Freedia, it has been so rewarding to be a part of a collective that centers liberation and joy at the heart of the songs we sing and the gigs we take. You can learn more about the chorus here: <https://www.resistancerevivalchorus.com/>. I am so grateful to be a member.

NOW ACCEPTING KIRBY MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Due March 20th

The Columbus Folk Music Society has awarded 39 students The Kirby Music Scholarship. A number of the winners have been beginners, with no experience, while others have been quite accomplished musicians! The awards will be presented this year once again at The Central Ohio Folk Festival 2026.

CFMS established The Kirby Scholarship to honor the memory of Bob Kirby, who supported folk music in central Ohio and believed in preserving musical traditions.

Application Process

Open to all students from central Ohio in grades 3-12

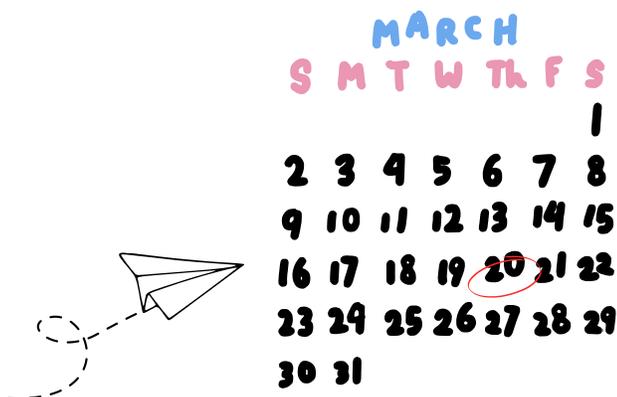
Download, print and fill out this application form.

<https://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/kirby/KirbyMusicScholarship26.pdf>

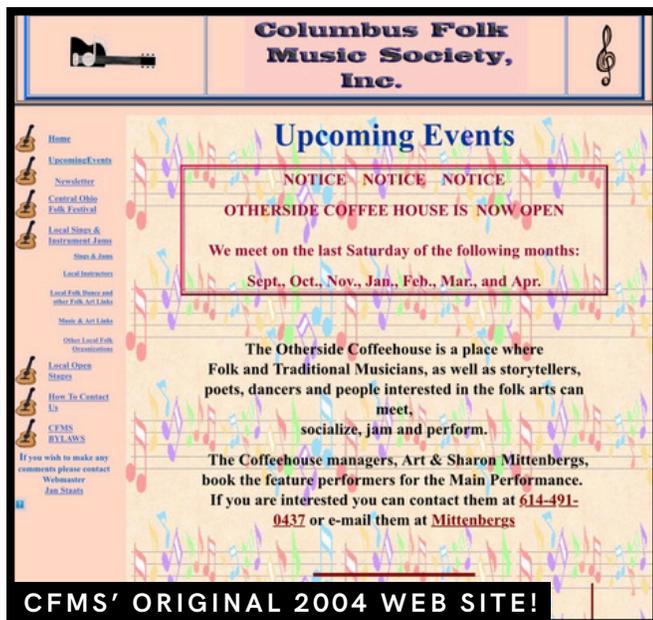
Submit a letter along with this form that explains your interest in music or singing.

This Award Includes

- + \$500 to be used to further musical needs
- + Free household admission to The Central Ohio Folk Festival 2026 June 6 & 7 at Bank Run Metro Park
- + An opportunity to perform at the festival but not required
- + One year membership to The Columbus Folk Music Society

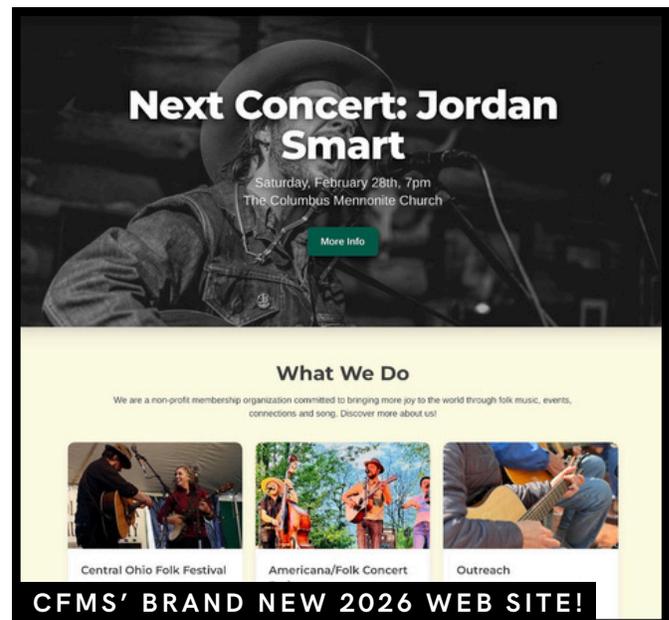


CFMS Has a New Webmaster - And a New Website!



You may have noticed that the Columbus Folk Music Society's website (<https://columbusfolkmusicociety.org>) looks a little (ok, a lot) different! Over the past six months, we've undertaken an effort to modernize the look, feel and function of the website and address some long-standing complaints, such as having a website that is readable on mobile devices.

The bulk of the design and implementation work was done by our new webmaster, Eric Clemens. Eric joined the CFMS team in the early spring of 2025, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the role. Eric's day job is in IT Asset Management for a local credit bureau; he's also a musician and performs locally with his feel-good folk soul band Red Healer (<https://redhealerband.com>). In addition to creating the new CFMS website, Eric has been busy creating a web portal for a local agency so they process contracts for their clients and artists more effectively as well as creating and maintaining the Red Healer website.



The CFMS website has been around since the early 2000s, first created and managed by now-deceased members Larry and Jan Staats. In 2013, management of the website was taken over by member Carl Yaffey with graphic design support from Diane Boston, and then Brian King took over as webmaster from Carl in 2021.

Over the years, various web design tools were used to build the website - some requiring coding, others using a visual, drag-and-drop interface. Regardless of the tool being used, our website was never optimized for the mobile devices which are ubiquitous today.

For the latest redesign, we decided to modern coding tools that would let us customize the look and feel of the website to be visually appealing while still maintaining the "folky feel" of the original website, and also paying close attention to the mobile device experience.

According to Eric, "With modern coding tools we gain the ability to add more complex features, like a database, payment system, membership tracking, etc. Plus, the site has a much more modern look and feel. We built this site using React, the same framework that is used by Meta (Facebook, Instagram), Netflix, Reddit, Microsoft, and more major players in the technology world."

The new website started as an "as is" port of the prior website, but with newer components such as modern buttons and mobile device support. Once Eric completed that, we were then able to enlist members of the CFMS board and various CFMS volunteers to review and help improve the content. Per Eric, "Our first goal was to create something familiar but more universally accessible, appealing to users of all different backgrounds and on all different devices."

While this new website is a great first step, CFMS has several improvements in mind that we hope to complete yet this year, making improvements for the staff, volunteers and members that use the site regularly. For example: today, all our membership and volunteer files are managed manually; when a new member joins and checks the various volunteer opportunity boxes, that information is emailed to our membership manager, who manually enters that information into a spreadsheet. In the next phase of our website, we plan to implement a back-end database where this information can be automatically and securely stored and accessed by those authorized to see that information.

This has been a fun and fulfilling project



New Webmaster, Eric Clemens

for Eric: "My top two interests have always been music and computer programming - so naturally I've always looked for ways to combine the two. This has been a very fulfilling project for me and I look forward to continuing the updates to the site and enjoying this year's festival!"

Diane Boston also volunteered her time and her eye for graphic design to this project. According to Diane, "It's been such a joy working with Eric in getting the new website up and running. The project was large as he had to capture all the many facets of what both the festival and CFMS do. He took the bull by the horns and came up with some NEW beautiful creative ways to capture what we do, not to mention volunteering his expertise in working the hidden, complex back end. I personally am SO grateful and proud of the new "face of CFMS" on the internet."

The CFMS board would like to extend its gratitude to Eric for this major undertaking, to Diane for her graphic design and content guidance, and to the volunteers who helped review and improve the website content. We are looking forward to even more improvements to the site in the future!



Save the Date!

Americana/Folk Concert Series

The Montvales (Rescheduled)

Sat, March 14th, 8 pm

6pm open jam / 7pm Open Mic (pre-sign-up) / 8pm The Montvales
Refreshments available. \$15 door donation / \$10 CFMS members
Venue: Columbus Mennonite Church, 35 Oakland Park Ave, Columbus

Olivia Lloyd

Sun, March 29th, 2:30 pm

1:30pm Doors Open
Refreshments available. \$15 door donation / \$10 CFMS members
Venue: 945 King Ave, Columbus

Zoom Jam Sessions

Mondays and Thursdays
10am - 11:30am. Please contact Jane for information: vanaukj@gmail.com

In-Person Jams

Mondays- 6-8pm - Contact Jane for location: vanaukj@gmail.com

Wednesdays- 6:30-8:30pm at Gillie Community Senior Center, 2100 Morse Centre Dr. Register online or in person for free.

Saturdays- 2 Music Jamming Classes - 2 locations / 2 times — Register online or in person
Whetstone Community Center 9:30 - 11:30 a.m, 3923 N. High St. 43214
Carriage Place Community Center 12noon - 2pm 4900, Sawmill Road. 43214

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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CFMS Board of Directors Nominations will open April 1, 2026

No April Fools jokes permitted, the person nominated must be willing to serve on the board.

The Board meets monthly (except December, July, August) typically on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm. The 2026-27 Board will be affirmed at the CFMS Annual Meeting in June.

Please consider stepping up and make your gratitude for CFMS visible.

Contact Barbara Wright, barbaraw92@gmail.com, (937) 422-4180.

2026 FESTIVAL ANNOUNCE/ SHARE CAMPAIGN

Ticket link is LIVE to purchase General Admission OR Saturday night headliner Preferred Seating tickets (which includes General Admission). Please note: the festival covers the ticket service fee IF you purchase before March 21. Visit:

<http://tickets.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/>

Check out the festival's workshops now posted to our website. Visit:

<https://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/festival/workshops> and click on the Complete Workshop Listing at the top of the page.



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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"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Musician | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CFMS concert events | <input type="checkbox"/> General Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking / Baking | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Musician | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing / Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cbus Jammer Musician | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Instructor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | <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 (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:

