

The



Cotton Patch



Rag!

**Official Newsletter of the Houston
Folklore and Music Society
Volume 61, Number 2
February 2026**



SECOND SATURDAY

AT ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5308 RUTGERS at Bissonnet

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77005

This month, the Balalaika Orchestra will be in the Warren Family Center

February 14, 2026

7:00—9:00 PM

HOUSTON BALALAIKA SOCIETY



The Houston Balalaika Society is a community-based, nonprofit organization whose primary mission is supporting the Houston Balalaika Orchestra (HBO). The orchestra performs folk and semi-classical music on traditional instruments such as the balalaika and domra, as well as more well-known instruments, including accordion, keyboard, violin, guitar, banjo, bass guitar and a variety of percussion. For certain of our arrangements, we will bring in instruments from other cultures, such as the pennywhistle, the *cajon*, and the Greek bouzouki.

During our many years of existence, the orchestra's repertoire has expanded from the music of Russia and Eastern Europe to also include music from all of Europe, The Middle East, and the Americas. The HBO performs at traditional music festivals, public concerts and private venues.

The HBO performs under the direction of Ms. Pamela Bingham Sheppard, a graduate of The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. All our musicians donate their time to the orchestra, and we represent a mix of professional performers, teachers and accomplished amateurs. Our members come from many different national backgrounds and represent all ages and generations – from students to retired individuals. We are all united by our passion for the world's music, and a desire to share it with our community.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERTS

February 14, 2026	Houston Balalaika Society Orchestra
March 14, 2026	Claudia Gibson
April 11, 2026	Riders on the Orphan Train
May 9, 2026	Rob Lytle
September 12, 2026	Daniel Boling
October 10, 2026	Karyn Oliver
November 14, 2026	Pierce Pettis

Second Saturday Concert is presented by the Houston Folklore and Music Society, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of singer-songwriters working in the folk music traditions. Houston Folklore and Music Society presents folk music concerts from a wide variety of subgenres on the second Saturday of each month (mostly) at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. \$20 suggested donation (**cash or check only**) at the door – all proceeds go to support the artists. *Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.* Concerts are held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian. Visit our website, www.houstonfolkmusic.org or contact [Jim Gill](#) at jim@saHouston.com for more information.



HFMS Song Circle

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

NOTE: NEW LOCATION AND TIME

Hickory Pit BBQ

6601 S. Rice Ave. in Bellaire

6:00—8:00 PM

Monthly Pickin' Party

February 15, 2026

Artist: Ola Belle Reed

Gary's Place

518 Fair Oaks Dr.

Stafford, TX

2:00 pm snack* and socialize

3:00 pm pick-n-play

***bring anything you like!**

More on Musical Training via the Internet

by Andy Longo

It is indeed no revelation that you can learn many things by watching YouTube videos. Available videos serve as the better form of an instruction manual for cooking appliances, power tools, and electronic devices. You can also find many excellent musicians who offer training videos on YouTube, including downloads of instructional material. Recently, I learned there is even something for those who study with a personal music instructor. For example, if you are studying violin via the Suzuki method, an individual has recorded videos of each exercise included in Suzuki Method Books 1 through 6. Each exercise is played exactly as written so the student will be reminded of the technique to be mastered.

From the Violin Garden: Suzuki Method Book 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQlhrSawZg4>



This musician offers some comments along with performance of the exercises.

The Faber Piano Method:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebIZrCrvpgo&list=PL8hZtgRyL9WRy-z3v-Pp70ze1wMCeS5KS>



For the guitar player who is studying with the Mel Bay Guitar Method, there is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wi2N8YSMwU0&list=PL5de5JcsUqg9aCHbLE5ZoT4W3P4MGc8if>



Thus, whether you wish to learn to play an individual tune or study a method of playing an instrument, your cup runneth over via YouTube videos!



It Would Not Make Me Tremble To See Ten Thousand Fall

by Paul Cooper

This is a very old song that appeals to hard-core folkies and to more contemporary artists alike. It has been recorded by folksingers like Jean Ritchie and Joan Baez, but also by groups like the Grateful Dead. I think this broad appeal is because it has a great story, a nice melody, and some cool chord changes. The song first appeared as a British broadside ballad in the early 1800s, and exists in many version under many different titles. I like this version by Jerry Garcia and David Grisman from their album *Shady Grove*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qui2tRHvKUU&list=RDQui2tRHvKUU&start_radio=1 I have transcribed it in their key of E minor. You can also hear this song on the HFMS Audio Archive web page at <https://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/AudioArchives>

Jackaroe - Traditional

Em There was a wealthy merchant, In London he did B7 dwell C G C G He had a beautiful daughter, the truth to you I'll tell Em B7 Em Oh the truth to you I'll tell She had sweethearts a-plenty in men of high degree There was none but Jack the sailor, her true love e'er could be Oh her true love e'er could be Now Jackie's gone a-sailing with trouble on his mind He's left his native country and his darling girl behind Oh, his darling girl behind She went into a tailor shop and dressed in men's array And climbed on board a vessel to convey herself away Oh, to convey herself away "Before you step on board, sir, your name I'd like to know" She smiled all in her countenance, "They call me Jackaroe. Oh, they call me Jackaroe."	G "I see your waist is slender, your fingers they are small Your cheeks too red and rosy to face the cannonball Oh, to face the cannon-ball." "I know my waist is slender, my fingers they are small. But it would not make me tremble to see ten thousand fall Oh, to see ten thousand fall." The war soon being over, she went and looked around And among the dead and dying her darling boy she found Oh, her darling boy she found. She picked him up all in her arms and carried him to the town And sent for a physician who quickly healed his wounds Oh, who quickly healed his wounds. This couple they got married so well they did agree This couple they got married, so why not you and me Oh, so why not you and me. Oh, why not you and me.
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LOCAL EVENTS

Modern Folk: Multicultural Roots

Presented By:
[The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Dates:
January 30, 2026 - January 31, 2026



19th Annual
Houston Irish Stew Cook-off
& Music Festival
Saturday, February 14, 2026 11am-6pm

Warren Haynes

Dates:
February 24, 2026



Tom Nielson Concert
Saturday, February 7 • 6:00 - 8:00pm
Meetinghouse
live.oak.friends@gmail.com
Created by: outreach@friendshouston.org

2026 YEAR OF THE HORSE LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Saturday, February 14th | 10 AM - 4 PM
9800 Town Park Dr., Houston TX 77036



17 Farmers Markets to Explore in Houston

From fresh produce, eggs, and prepared meals to pet goods and supplies, shop 'til you drop at these bountiful markets



UPCOMING & UPDATED FOLKLORE AND MUSICAL EVENTS AROUND TEXAS AND THE US

ULLRGRASS 2026
January 30-February 1, 2026
Golden, CO

38TH ANNUAL ARIZONA **RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL** & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE
FOOD CITY
HEAR YE HEAR YE!
Thank you for an amazing season! Mark thy calendars the Festival 2026 dates are January 31-March 20! It will be here before you know it!
Experience our 50 acre village, 16 stages, arts & crafts fair, jousting tournaments & feasting all rolled into one non-stop, day long adventure!

Florida Americana Music Festival
Thu, Feb 5, 5pm - Sun, Feb 8, 5pm 2026 EST
Add to calendar
Florida Sand Music Ranch
Bradenville FL, United States

MIDWINTER BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL 2026
February 13-15, 2026
Northglenn, CO

THE FLURRY
A FESTIVAL OF TRADITIONAL PARTICIPATORY DANCE AND MUSIC
FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY | PRESIDENTS' DAY WEEKEND

WINTERGRASS FESTIVAL 2026
February 19-22, 2026
Bellevue, WA

CALIFORNIA COAST MUSIC CAMP
WINTER RETREAT FEB 20-22, 2026

WINTERWONDERGRASS COLORADO 2026
February 27-March 1, 2026
Steamboat Springs, CO

FORT WORTH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026
February 26-March 1, 2026
Fort Worth, TX

NORTH TEXAS IRISH FESTIVAL
Mar 06-08 | Fair Park |

SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST (SXSW) 2026
March 10-15, 2026
Austin, TX

Lake Havasu Bluegrass Festival
March 6,7,8, 2026

Minnesota **Bluegrass** Winter Weekend
Friday, March 6 - Sunday, March 8, 2026
Grassroots Music, Maple River, Minnesota
Concerts | Workshops | Jamming
Dances | Grass Seeds Academy
www.minnesotabluegrass.org

SHERMAN CELTIC FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES

MARCH 21ST AND 22ND, 2026!
PECAN GROVE PARK - WEST
3200 CANYON CREEK DR,
SHERMAN, TX 75092

CODY JINKS
KEVIN FOWLER ZZ TOP BOBBY CREAGER
MARK POWELL DIAMOND RIO
CODDER GRAW SILVERADA WARD DAVIS
MARCH 20-21
AUSTIN, TEXAS
BUY TICKETS AT: BUYTICKETS.COM

THE FLOYD COUNTY **OLD TIME MUSIC**
GET TOGETHER 7TH ANNUAL
MARCH 19-22 * 2026

SONOMA COUNTY **BLUEGRASS & FOLK FESTIVAL**
Laurie Lewis & Nina Gerber
Marianne Crumling, Elin Lindin Band
Jesse Appleman West Coast Swing Band
Five Mile Pizzicato Band - 4 more!
MARCH 14
SONOMA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER
TICKETS AT: SONOMACOUNTYFESTIVAL.COM

SAVANNAH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026
March 25-April 5, 2026
Savannah, GA

MINI-FEST
BROWNE ACADEMY, ALEXANDRIA, VA • MARCH 7, 2026

Sherwood Forest Faire
Located in McDade, TX
35 Miles East of Austin
Open Weekends: Feb 28 - Apr 19, 2026
Also Open Friday, Mar 20th

STORIES CONNECT US
THROUGH HEART AND MIND
STORYTELLING FESTIVAL MARCH 12-15 • 2026
BENTON CIVIC CENTER • BENTON, TEXAS

SUWANNEE SPRING REUNION 2026
March 19-22, 2026
Live Oak, FL

OPELIKA SONGWRITERS FESTIVAL
Opelaika, Alabama
March 26—29, 2026

UPCOMING & UPDATED FOLKLORE AND
MUSICAL EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD



Want to do your own search for
music festivals in the US, UK, Ireland,
and Europe? Try:
<https://musicfestivalwizard.com>



LOCAL FOLKIN'!

Community Folk Music Calendars, Venues and Other Concert Resources
in and around the Houston Metro Area— *Images are Live Links!*

- Search by genre or your favorite band
- Create your own schedule/calendar
- Get email updates



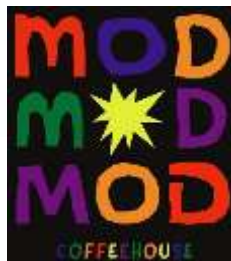
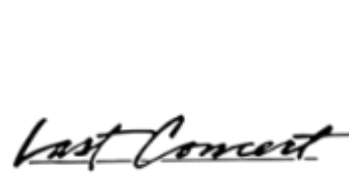
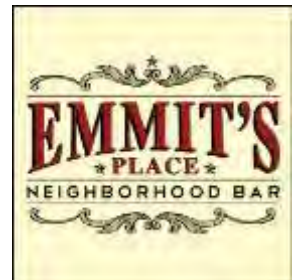
LIVE MUSIC VENUES



Events



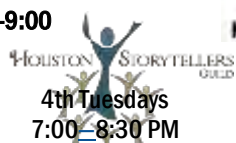
Kingwood



GET YOUR JAM ON!



Luka BBQ Steak House
Tuesdays 7:00–9:00



Wednesdays 12:30 pm
& Monthly Jams



Monthly Saturday Jam

TWINKLE YOUR TOES!



Houston District
Mondays & Tuesdays
[Scottish](#) Country Dance
Register Here!



Mondays & Fridays
Check for locations!



European Dance Guild
2nd & 4th [Thursdays](#), 6–8 pm

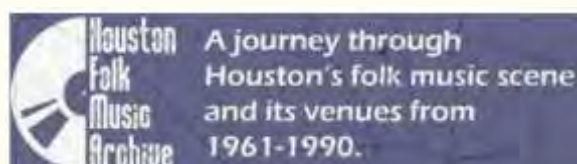


FOR THE KIDS!



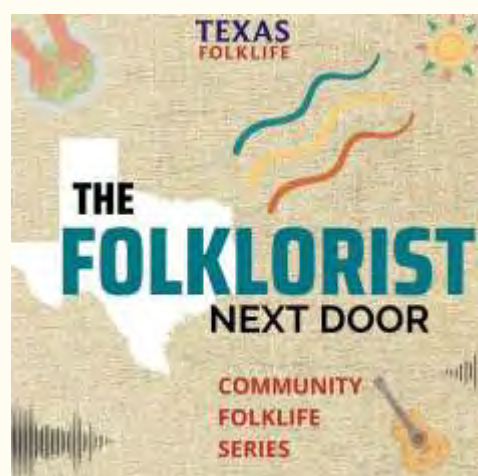
JUST FOLKIN' AROUND

Virtual resources for learnin', partakin', or just listenin'!



THE OULD SOD VIRTUAL TRADITIONAL IRISH SESSION ON ZOOM

Google Map of Old Time Jams, Festivals, Fiddle Contests, Irish Sessions, and Contra Dance Bands in the US and Around the World! *confirm local listings*



Any Sunday Songwriters



JOIN US, INVITE YOUR FRIENDS
OR BUY THEM A GIFT MEMBERSHIP!

Started in June 1951, Houston Folklore and Music Society (HFMS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the preservation of folk music (from the German word Volksmusik meaning "people's music"), and promotion of singer-songwriters working in the folk music traditions. In 1980, HFMS started hosting concerts and all concert proceeds have been used to support the artists! We are a 100% volunteer organization presenting: traditional folk, bluegrass, country music, old time, blues, acoustic jazz, other Americana/Roots music, European and Celtic folk, Mexican and South American, and the list goes on... You never know who will turn up at a Second Saturday Concert!

Members receive our monthly digital newsletter, The Cotton Patch Rag (with extensive local resources and worldwide events) and the satisfaction of supporting and promoting live music in the greater Houston area. Dues are \$20 for individual membership (one email address) and \$35 for a joint membership (two email addresses).

If you would like to join online, please go to the Membership page at our website, Houstonfolkmusic.org. Or if your preference is snail mail, this form can be printed and mailed with a check payable to Houston Folklore and Music Society, 5610 Innsbruck St., Bellaire, TX 77401.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

☐ Re-Joining

Is this a new address?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Today's Date:

NAME(s):

STREET

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

(wk)

E-MAIL (1):

E-MAIL (2):

Enclosed is

☐ \$20 Annual Dues

☐ \$35 Annual Dues

Thank you!

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