

The

Cotton Patch

Rag!



**Official Newsletter of the Houston
Folklore and Music Society**

Volume 61, Number 3

March 2026



SECOND SATURDAY

AT ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5308 RUTGERS at Bissonnet
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77005

March 14, 2026

7:00—9:00 PM

CLAUDIA GIBSON

OPENING FOR CLAUDIA:

RAY WYATT



Claudia Gibson

"...Claudia Gibson's second album is a travelogue through time and the vast expanse of America, a heady mixture that conjures the ghosts of John Steinbeck and Townes Van Zandt and yet remains uniquely personal...." - Alan Cackett, UK music reviewer. Claudia is a Kerrville New Folk Finalist, a 1st Place winner of the Woody Guthrie Songwriting Contest, and has been a featured artist at multiple songwriting festivals since 2018. She will be coming to us from Austin. See <https://claudiagibson.com/>

Ray Wyatt

Ray will be opening for Claudia. The Houston Songwriters Association voted him the Songwriter of the Year in 2021 and 2024, and winner of Song of the Year multiple years. His 5th album "I Ain't Worried" is due for release on 3-1-26 just in time for our concert—He's from Houston.



www.houstonfolkmusic.com

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Warren Family Center
5308 Rutgers Houston, TX 77005

Suggested Donations at the Door \$20 **cash or check only**

Coming Saturday 4-11-26
Riders on the Orphan Train
with Charles Bryant opening

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERTS

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 Concerts are 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](mailto:jim@saHouston.com) at jim@saHouston.com for more information.



HFMS Song Circle

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

NOTE: NEW LOCATION AND TIME

Hickory Pit BBQ

6601 S. Rice Ave. in Bellaire

6:00—8:00 PM

Monthly Pickin' Party

March 15, 2026

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!**

HIS LOT TO BE THE BRIEFEST HISTORY OF TIME

by Paul Cooper

This is one of many fine songs by Steve Goodchild of the group *Across the Water*, who played for our Second Saturday Concerts several times. The inspiration for this song was Stephen Hawking’s 2007 zero-gravity flight in a NASA aircraft. Despite his serious physical disabilities, the astrophysicist and cosmologist Hawking led a full life. His book **A Brief History of Time** appeared on the *Sunday Times* bestseller list for a record-breaking 237 weeks. Steve performs this song in E. I have transcribed it in D to make the chords a little easier. Capo II to play along as Steve sings about Stephen. You can hear this song on the CD *Enough is all you Need* by Horizon Ridge, Steve’s current group based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada or on the HFMS Audio Archive page at <https://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/AudioArchives>.

WHEN STEPHEN SPREAD HIS WINGS

- Steve Goodchild

CHORUS:

D **G** **D**
He learned his days were numbered in his prime
D **F#m** **G** **A**
His lot to be the briefest history of time
Bm **F#m**
And from forty years’ confinement
G **A**
To feel what freedom brings
D **F#m** **G** **A** **D**
I smiled the day that Stephen spread his wings.

D **F#m** **G** **D**
Observing from a distance in reverence and awe
D **Bm** **E7**
I watched him walk a lonely road where Albert went
A7
before
G **D**
While clumsy limbs declared him lame
G **A**
His heart chose to ignore
D **F#m** **G** **A** **G**
And I marvelled as he taught his mind to soar

CHORUS

Through space and time he closed his mind
To all the ties that bind
Grounded in that gravity, constrained but not confined
Refusing to release the dream and make of truth a lie
He’d prove to us that one day he could fly.

CHORUS

Against the odds he stayed the course
And proved them all in vain
While nurses pulled the strings we watched him waving from the plane
Far out across the water they swear they heard him sing
In joy the day that Stephen spread his wings

CHORUS

Now here I stand, an older man
But still the boy inside
Who looks to heaven in wonder and awe, eyes open wide
At miracles beyond our sight, and those right here on earth
And I wonder what can one man’s life be worth

CHORUS

From forty years’ confinement
To feel what freedom brings
I smiled the day that Stephen spread his wings

© 2007 Steve Goodchild

LOCAL EVENTS

ROTARY CLUB OF KATY PRESENTS

WILD WEST BREWFEST

MARCH 26-28 2026!

TOMBALL GERMAN Heritage Festival

MARCH 27-29, 2026

Folk Life Festival

Kenneth D. Welch Outdoor Learning Center
40th Annual Folk Life Festival
Saturday, April 11, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Katy, Texas

GALVESTON COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO

Galveston County Fair and Rodeo Fairgrounds
Hitchcock, TX 77563

APRIL 17 - 25, 2026 Fri 4pm-10pm, Thu-Sat 10am-10pm, Sun 12pm-10pm, Mon-Wed 4pm-9pm

Czech Center Museum Houston

SPRING FESTIVAL

Live Music | Great Food | Family Fun

Saturday 5th April 2025 | Noon- 6:00PM

MAYPOLE DANCE • FLOWER CROWNS • CZERASKA UNI DECHOVKA BAND • CZECH FOLK SINGERS • COUNTRY STORE • CZECH - SLOVAK ROTALTY • FACE PAINTING • KOLACHE EATING CONTEST • POLKA DANCE LESSON • TAPOK LESSONS AND SO MUCH MORE!

Free Admission \$8.00 - Members & Kids Under 5 Are Free

HOUSTON LATINFEST WORLD CUP EDITION

APRIL 11TH 2026
Live Latin & Salsa Party event, Sun 12-10pm

FOODIELAND

April 10-12, 2026

NRG Park
3 NRG Parkway
Houston, TX 77054

Chappell Hill Historical Society presents the 62nd Annual Bluebonnet Festival

April 11th & 12th, 2026

LOMAX ON LOMAX

John Lomax at The Mucky Duck
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

BAYOU BLUES FESTIVAL

Sunday, March 8, 2026
Houston Botanic Garden
11:00 am - 6:00 PM

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

THE TWISTED MURAL

KIDS' DAY OF MUSIC

LOVE PARK
1000 W. 12TH ST.
MARCH 21, 2026
10:00AM-2:00PM
FREE

LEAGUE CITY PRESENTS

A DAY OF MUSIC IN LEAGUE CITY

SATURDAY MARCH 21
League Park | 512 2nd St.
2 - 9 p.m.

A FREE CONCERT FEATURING LOCAL MUSICIANS AND FOUR-TIME GRAMMY NOMINEE

TROUT FISHING IN AMERICA

SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES

2 p.m. Rock 'N' Classic Music School
3 p.m. Richmond Music Development Center
4 p.m. Attwood School of Music
5 p.m. Bay Area Ringers Association
6:30 p.m. League City Fish Association
8:00 p.m. Trout Fishing in America

GULF COAST FIRE SERVICES PRESENTS

Montgomery MUSIC & MUDBUGS

MARCH 28TH
12PM - 7:00PM

ELI YOUNG BAND
WAYNE TOUPS
DON LOUIS
SCOTTY ALEXANDER & MORE TBA

OUTBACK & BLUES: GARY HAMMON & NEW VOCALIST NO MONTGOMERY TX.

MontgomeryMusicFest.com

SAT MAR 28
11 AM-8 PM 2026

Music FEST

FREE LIVE MUSIC

PROFESSIONAL BANDS • BEER & WINE GARDEN • FOOD TRUCKS • KIDS GAMES

CASHLESS EVENT
NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL ALLOWED
levitthouston.org/musicfest



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

 **NORTH TEXAS IRISH FESTIVAL**

Mar 06-08 | Fair Park |

 **38TH ANNUAL ARIZONA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE**

HEAR YE HEAR YE!
Thank you for an amazing season! Mark thy calendars the Festival 2026 dates are January 31-March 29!
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!

Lake Havasu Bluegrass Festival

March 6,7,8, 2026

SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST (SXSW) 2026

March 10-15, 2026
Austin, TX

Minnesota Bluegrass Winter Weekend

Friday, March 6 - Sunday, March 8, 2026
Croswell Plaza Mpls West Hotel, Plymouth

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

SONOMA COUNTY BLUEGRASS & FOLK FESTIVAL

Laurie Lewis & Nina Gerber
Marianne Channing, Elvin Leodin Band
Joan Appleman West Coast String Band
Five Mile Mountain Band & more...

plus jamming, workshops & square dancing

MARCH 14

SEBASTIAN COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER
TICKETS AT SONOMACOUNTYFOLK.COM

THE FLOYD COUNTY OLD TIME MUSIC GET TOGETHER 7TH ANNUAL

MARCH 19-22 * 2026

SAVANNAH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026

March 25-April 5, 2026
Savannah, GA

 **TEXAS STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**

MARCH 12-15 • 2026

SENIOR CIVIL CENTER • DENTON, TEXAS

CODY JINKS ZZ TOP

KEVIN FOWLER MARK POWELL
ROGER CREAGER DIAMOND RIO
CODDER GRAY SILVERADA WARD DAVIS

MARCH 20-21

OUTLAW LEGENDS

OUTLAWLEGENDS.COM

 **Sherwood Forest Faire**

Located in McDade, TX 35 Miles East of Austin

Open Weekends: Feb 28 + Apr 19, 2026
Also Open Friday, Mar 20th

SUWANNEE SPRING REUNION 2026

March 19-22, 2026
Live Oak, FL

MINI-FEST

BROWNE ACADEMY, ALEXANDRIA, VA • MARCH 7, 2026

23rd ANNUAL PALESTINE OLDTIME MUSIC AND DULCIMER FESTIVAL

MARCH 26-28, 2026
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY
PALESTINE, TX

 **OPELIKA SONGWRITERS FESTIVAL**

Opelika, Alabama
March 26—29, 2026

 **Walker Creek MUSIC CAMP**

Spring '26 Music Camp!
Thurs - Sun April 23 - 26, 2026

[West Marin County, CA](#)

 **TEXAS SANDFEST**

Sculpting Coastal Memories
PORT ARANSAS, TX

April 17 - 19, 2026

PDC
Piedmont Dulcimer Club Mini-Festival
April 25, 2026
A-Day-With

 **Bill Collins Mary Lynn Michal**

9:00am - 5:00pm
3 Dulcimer Workshops & Concert
Piedmont Church of the Nazarene
1000 Church Ln, Unionville, NC 28758, PA
March 15th: www.piedmontdulcimerclub.org

POTOMAC RIVER SHAPE NOTE SINGING CONVENTION

SATURDAY IN SILVER SPRING, MD, AND SUNDAY IN ARLINGTON, VA • APRIL 11 - 12 2026

 **CALIFORNIA BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION**

SPRING CAMPOUT

Pickin' & Singin' with Good Friends Old & New
Tuesday thru Sunday, April 14-19

Together with the Annual California State Old Time Open Fiddle & Picking Championships
Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18 in Jackson Hall

 **Lodi Grape Festival Grounds**
413 E Lockeford Street, Lodi

 **MerleFest**

Music. Moments. Memories.
April 23-26, 2026

Presented by **Window World**

Wilkesboro, North Carolina

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL GAMBLE ROGERS FOLK FESTIVAL

April 10th, 11th and 12th, 2026
St. Johns County Fairgrounds, St. Augustine, Florida

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



Celtic Spring Festival
Saturday, March 28, 2026



March 28—29, 2026



River Falls, Wisconsin

11TH ANNUAL JAMES WIMMER BRISTOL BLUEGRASS
SPRING FEST MARCH 27&28, 2026

Bristol, Virginia



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



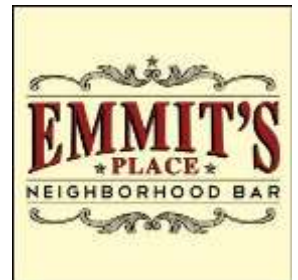
LIVE MUSIC VENUES



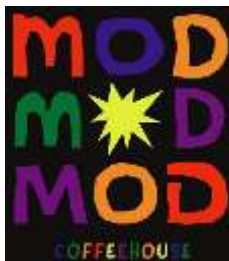
Events



Kingwood



JOHNSON STUDIO



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!

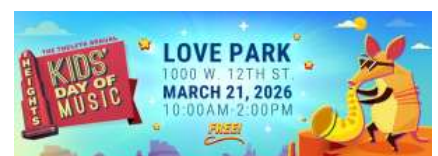


European Dance Guild
2nd & 4th [Thursdays](#), 6–8 pm



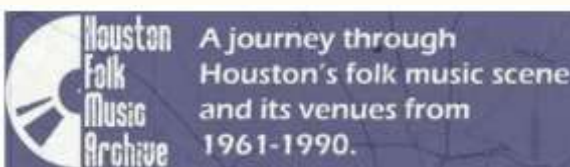
Select
Saturdays & Sundays
Check for times!

FOR THE KIDS!



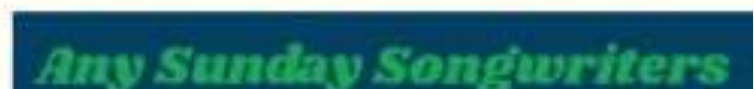
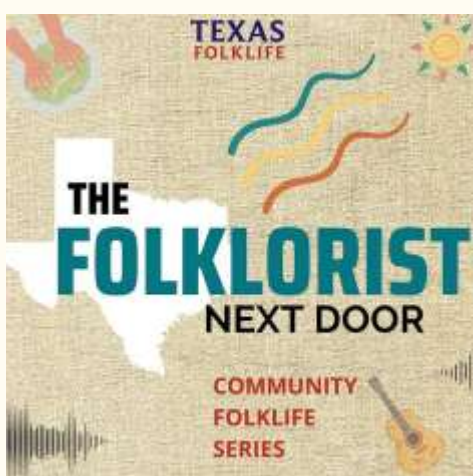
JUST FOLKIN' AROUND

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*



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!

For information contact:

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