

The



Cotton Patch



Rag!

Official Newsletter of the Houston
Folklore and Music Society
Volume 61, Number 5
May 2026



SECOND SATURDAY

AT ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

This month—in The Annex
5308 RUTGERS at Bissonnet
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77005

May 9, 2026
7:00—9:00 PM

ROB LYTLE

OPENING:
LEAH DAWN

Rob Lytle

Rob Lytle was born and raised in the small steel towns around Youngstown, Ohio. Those influences, and references can often be heard in his music. When combined with songs that move from humor to wry observation, and to satisfying moments of recognition, Rob has been described as “an irresistible artist, the kind whose vocal tenderness and lyrical honesty compel you to listen.” <https://roblytle.com/>



Leah Dawn

Leah Dawn is a Houston based singer songwriter, guitar player, and bass player. She splits her time between Houston and Austin to play bass guitar with the all-female Rhinestone Renegades band.

See <https://leahdawnmusic.com/home/> for more about Leah, who will be opening for Rob.

www.houstonfolkmusic.com

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

Suggested Donations at the Door \$20 for adults and contribute as you can for children, with **cash or check only** at the door.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERTS

September 12, 2026

Opening

Daniel Boling

Misery Loves Company

October 10, 2026

Opening

Karyn Oliver

Hudson Mueller

November 14, 2026

Opening

Pierce Pettis

Geoff Simpson

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 for adults, contribute as you can for children (**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, May 5, 2026

NOTE: NEW LOCATION AND TIME

Hickory Pit BBQ

6601 S. Rice Ave. in Bellaire

6:00—8:00 PM



Monthly Pickin' Party

May 17, 2026

**Featured Artists: Paul Simon and/or
Art Garfunkel**

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!**

HE WAS SCALDED TO DEATH BY THE STEAM

by Paul Cooper

This song was composed in 1923 by Henry Whitter, which makes it just over 100 years old. That is important, because compositions over 100 years old become “common domain”, which means I can reproduce this song here without infringing on Mr. Whitter’s copyright. As a point of information, for the songs I have published here that are neither traditional nor over 100 years old, I have obtained the songwriter’s permission to do so. The song tells the story of a famous railway disaster that occurred in 1903. The names and towns mentioned in the song are all in accordance with the actual history. Andrew (“Steve”) Broady was the engineer on Train No. 97, known as the *Fast Mail*, which had a reputation for never being late. Trying to maintain schedule, the train derailed at the Stillhouse Trestle near Danville, Virginia, killing 11 on-board personnel and injuring 7 others.



The Wreck of Old 97 at Stillhouse Trestle near Danville, Virginia, 1903. The photograph is believed to have been taken a few days after the occurrence of the wreck as the locomotive, Southern Railway 1102, which had overturned, has been righted.

You will recognize that the tune is the same as The Kingston Trio’s **MTA**. The tune is originally from a song called *The Ship That Never Returned*, written by Henry Clay Work in 1865. You can hear *The Wreck of Old 97* as performed

by Flatt & Scruggs here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=732g2a7pmpM&list=RD732g2a7pmpM&start_radio=1

or on the HFMS Audio Archive page at <https://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/AudioArchives> Flatt & Scruggs do the song in Bb, which for bluegrass players means the Key of G with the capo at III. If that’s a little high for you to sing, just slide the capo down.

THE WRECK OF OLD 97

By Henry Whitter

G **C**
Well, they gave him his orders in Monroe,
Virginia sayin’
G **D**
Steve you’re way behind time – this is
G **C**
Not thirty-eight, but it’s old ninety-seven, you
must
G **D** **G**
Put her in to Spencer on time.

Well, he turned around, and said to his
fireman
Shovel in a little more coal
And when we cross this big wide mountain
They’ll watch old ninety-seven roll

It’s a mighty rough road from Lynchburg
to Danville
And lies on a three mile grade
It was on that grade that he lost his air brakes
See what a jump he made

He was going down that grade going ninety
miles an hour
When his whistle broke in to a scream
He was found in the wreck with his hand on the
throttle
He was scalded to death by the steam.

A telegram came to Washington City
And this is how it read:
The brave engineer that run Old 97
Is lying in old Danville dead

Now all you ladies from me take warning
From this time now and learn
Never speak harsh words to your true loving
husband
He might leave you and never return

Music Made by Hand

Andy Longo

Once upon a time, a family might gather to share a meal together and afterwards, grandpa would take out a fiddle, perhaps a daughter would pick up a banjo and all would sing together and share in laughter. Up until the early twentieth century, this is how music was made and heard, that is - live and unedited. In 1877, Thomas Edison invented the phonograph. At the time, he demonstrated it as a recorder with his own voice reciting “Mary Had A Little Lamb” because he could not recall the profound statement he considered earlier. By 1905, he had a marketable, reliable, cylinder phonograph that could replay musical recordings, something most remarkable. However, it had a downside. Someone might hear a fiddle or a banjo in the music, and think, “I’d like to play one of those.” Next, they might go to the Sears catalog and purchase an instrument. After giving the effort some time and study, they may have thought, unfortunately, “I can’t play like those folks on the record. It must be I



don’t have the talent.” The instrument would then be left in a closet or, worse yet, in an attic. Sadly, this process has continued into current times.

The point I would like to make is that what’s missing in the equation is making your own music, especially with others, can be just plain good fun. One does not have to be a master to realize the pleasure and fun of making music by hand. There is also the added pleasure of singing along with the music. I could relate anecdotes from my life regarding this, but I think it would be for you to ask an amateur musician that you may know about “music made by hand”.

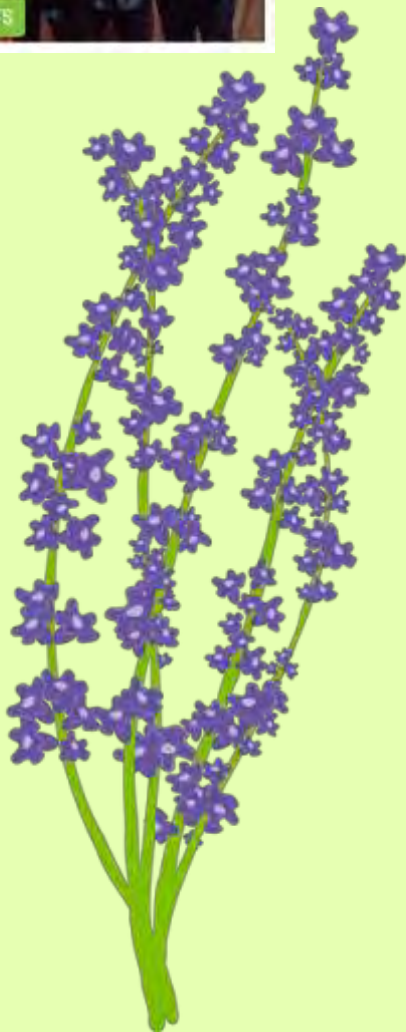
William James, a philosopher and psychologist (1842-1910) stated, “They do not sing because they are happy; rather they are happy because they sing.”



LOCAL EVENTS



Saturday, May 30, 2026
Discovery Green—Houston



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 U.S.



Camp Whispering Winds
Julian, California



Grapeland, Texas

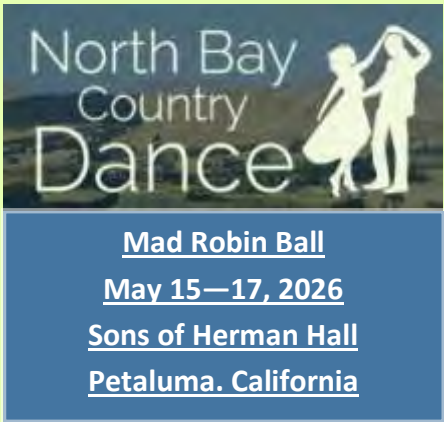
Camp Sturtevant Contra Dance Weekend Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25, 2026



Ukulele Weekend 2026
Fri, May 22 - Mon, May 25



The Ashokan Center
477 Beaverkill Rd.
Olivebridge, NY 12461

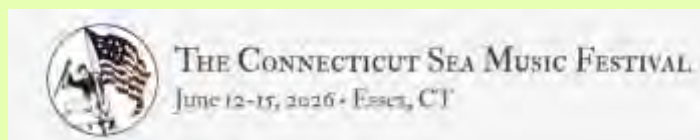




June 13-14, 2026
Flagstaff, AZ



June 26-28, 2026
Winter Park, CO



RACER
Family Week

Music & Dance Camp:
June 21-27, 2026

Monte Toyon, CA



UPCOMING & UPDATED FOLKLORE AND MUSICAL EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD



Scandimoot 2026
This year's Scandimoot will take place from
Fri 1st May to Mon 4th May (BH weekend)
in and around Clapham, North Yorkshire

Upton upon Severn Folk Festival 2026
Dates — 1st May to 4th May



Gower Folk Festival
Weobley Castle Farm, Gower, SA3 1HB
12th-14th June 2026



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



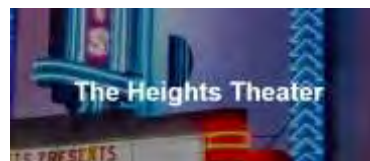
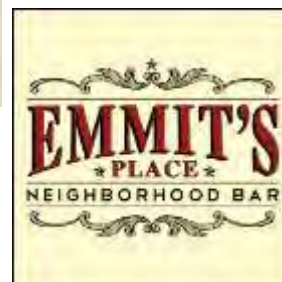
LIVE MUSIC VENUES



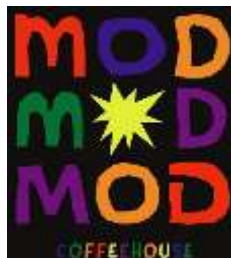
Events



Kingwood



JOHNSON STUDIO



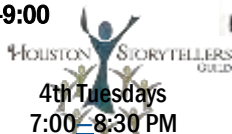
GET YOUR JAM ON!



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



MONTHLY SUNDAY JAM



4th Tuesdays
7:00–8:30 PM



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



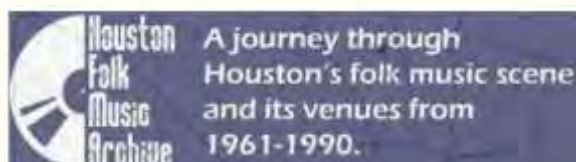
Select
Saturdays & Sundays
Check for times!

FOR THE KIDS!



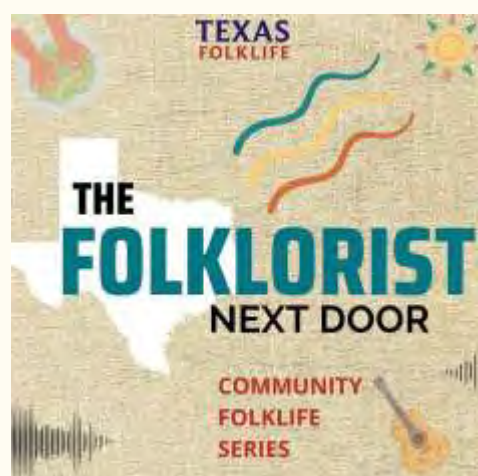
JUST FOLKIN' AROUND

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*



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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