

The Cotton Patch

Rag!



Official Newsletter of the Houston
Folklore and Music Society

Volume 60, Number 6
Summer 2025



Second Sunday Concerts

No concerts from June — August

September 2025 Jack Motley and Butch Morgan song swap

October 2025 Sara Beth Go and Nathan K song swap

HFMS Song Circle

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

July 1, 2025

August 5, 2025

(First Tuesday) 7:00 PM

Midtown Bar & Grill

Upstairs



Monthly Pickin' Party

June 15, July 20, August 17

3rd Sunday every month!

June Artist—Iris DeMent

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!

The Sound of Silence

by Andy Longo



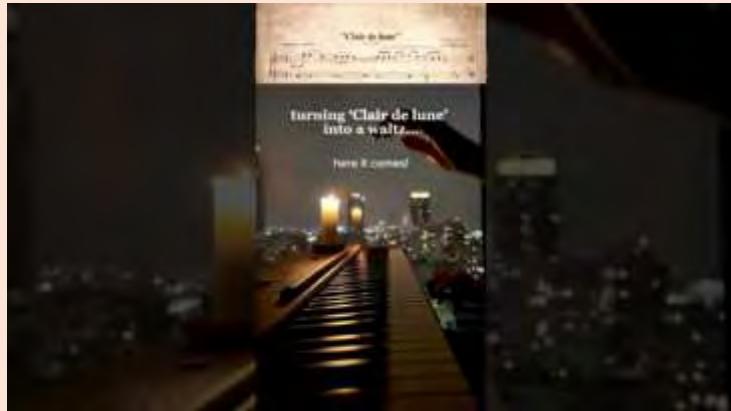
There is a great deal of music that many of us have enjoyed which consists of bright rhythms and melodies to which we may tap our feet. Some of these will remain in our memories and play out again and again without notice. This may be true of a host of traditional tunes, Irish jigs and reels, etc. But there is another side to musical enjoyment.

“Music is the space between the notes”

... *Claude Debussy*.

“The music is not in the notes, but in the silence between them.” ... *Mozart*.

It is the space between the notes that may give the listener time to process the sentiment expressed in the composition. This concept can be demonstrated by this brief recording of Debussy’s “Clair de lune”. Click on the image to get to the YouTube recording.



Paul Cooper's Featured Song

The Rat Was Me

I got a bit of inspiration for this song from my friend Joe Crookston's song about the drunk rooster in the mash pile. When I did this song for a roomful of psychologists, I told them that I was sure they could find all manner of symbolism and clues about the author's psychological makeup in this song. But beware: Sometimes a rat is just a rat. You can hear this song on the HFMS Audio Archive page at: [https://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/](https://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/AudioArchives)
[AudioArchives](https://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/AudioArchives).

Rat In My Kitchen

- By Paul Cooper

Chorus

Am E Am A7 Dm A7 Dm

Rat in my kitchen, how do I know? –

Am E7 Am

Pantry door is open, and the whiskey's gettin' low.

Dm G C

Lock my house up tight, I let nobody in

Am E7 Am

'Fore I go to bed get up and check the locks again.

Dm G C

Get up in the morning, make my coffee in the pot

Am E7 Am

Bottle on the counter it looks down by quite a lot.

Chorus

Am E Am A7 Dm A7 Dm

Rat in my kitchen, how do I know? –

Am E7 Am

Pantry door is open, and the whiskey's gettin' low.

F G C

What can be the story here – something goin' on –

Am E7 Am

Somethin' in my kitchen went and drank that bottle down.

Dm G C

Cockroaches, mouse traces, I'll have none of that

E7 Am

I'll bet fifty dollars it's a whiskey drinkin' rat.

Dm G C

So I rummaged in my tool shed to see what I could find

Am C E

To liquidate that rat and leave this episode behind.

Dm G C

Lyin' in a corner underneath some rusty scrap

E7 Am

The answer to my problem – it's a good old-fashioned trap.

(continued next page)



Dm

G

C

Found a piece of cheese in the fridge that I had missed.

Am

E7

Am A7

It was old and hard and nasty, like a rat cannot resist

Dm

G

C

I pulled back the spring and I cocked that sucker tight.

Am

E7

Am

Put it on the floor where it was sittin' in plain sight.

F

G

C

E7

Wandered off to bed with my expectation high

Am

E Am

E7

Am

I'll catch something in the night when that springing trap lets fly.

Am E Am A7 Dm A7 Dm

Rat in my kitchen, how do I know? –

Am

E7

Am

Pantry door is open, and the whiskey's gettin' low.

F

G

C

I dreamed I was sitting in a beautiful saloon.

E7

Am

Where the drinks were free and lovely people chatting in the room.

F

G

C

I dreamed I was walking out the door to go

E7

Am A7

When a pain like a red-hot iron exploded in my toe.

Dm

G

C

I opened up my eyes – I was walkin' with them shut

Am

E7

Am

Looked down and found the big old trap was clamped upon my foot.

Dm

G

C

Woke up in the kitchen, walkin' in my sleep.

E7

Am

My toe was broke, the rat was me, I fell into a heap.

Am E Am A7 Dm A7 Dm

Rat in my kitchen, how do I know? –

Am

E7

Am

Pantry door is open, and the whiskey's gettin' low.



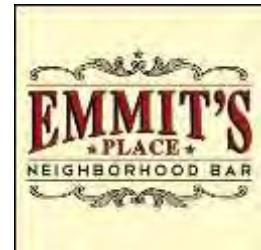
LOCAL FOLKIN'!

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



FULSHEAR HOUSE CONCERTS

JOHNSON STUDIO



WHITE OAK
MUSIC HALL

Goode Co.
ARMADILLO PALACE

kojak's
(Fresh Innotated!)

Haak
WINES

Houston
Botanic
Garden

MAIN STREET
CROSSING

The Red Brick
Tavern

McGonigel's
MUCKY DUCK



GET YOUR JAM ON!



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



Houston Storytellers Guild
4th Tuesdays
7:00–8:30 PM



HOUSTON DISTRICT
Mondays & Tuesdays
Scottish Country Dance
Register Here!



Every Wednesday, 6–8 pm



Wednesdays 12:30 pm
& Monthly Jams



Monthly Saturday Jam

TWINKLE YOUR TOES!



European Dance Guild
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6–8 pm

FOR THE KIDS!



LOCAL EVENTS

June 9-14, 2025

Houston Classical Guitar Festival & Competition

St Philip Presbyterian Church
4807 San Felipe St
Houston, TX 77056

Juneteenth Culture Fest

Miller Outdoor Theater
Dates:
June 13, 2025

Tumbling R Ranch Fairgrounds
4913 Fuqua Street
Hiratton, Texas
July 15, 2025
2pm-10pm

Leon Hayes &
The Zydeco Flaminis
Open Bar
Tickets available on Eventbrite

Saturday, August 18 Baytown Zydeco Festival

Get ready for the ultimate Zydeco and Southern Soul experience at the 2025 Baytown Zydeco Festival. It's going to be a non-stop party.

Saturday, August 5
**Houston Reggae Fest
Summer Block Party**

Watch Videos in Downtown 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 TEXAS EVENTS

Sunday, June 25

PANAMA AND WORLD RHYTHMS - FOLKLORE FESTIVAL

SHERWOOD FOREST SUMMER CAMP

Medieval Sleep-away Camp (Youth ages 8-16) Near Austin
Four week-long sessions in June-July
Swordplay Archery Leather Working Chivalry Theater Horse riding Axe Throwing, and

Saturday, July 5

El Paso Tejano Music Festival

WILLIE NELSON & FAMILY
BOB DYLAN
THE AVETT BROTHERS
THE MAVERICKS
ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL
TAMI NEILSON

WILLIE NELSON'S 4TH OF JULY PICNIC

JULY 4, 2025 • AUSTIN, TX
GENNARO INSURANCE AMPHITHEATER

TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY MARCH 7, 10AM AT TICKETMASTER.COM

★ FESTIVAL FOR THE ARTS ★
LUBBOCK LIVE
AUGUST 23, 2025
TWO DOCS BREWING CO.



UPCOMING & UPDATED FOLKLORE AND MUSICAL EVENTS AROUND THE US



Acadia Festival of Traditional Music and Dance 2025

College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor ME
June 22 – 28



Asheville, NC
June 29—July 5, 2025

Woody Guthrie FolkFest

July 9—12, 2025

[Okemah, OK](#)



Held annually on the third Saturday in June in York County, PA

[Folk Arts Center of New England International Sessions at Pinewoods Camp](#)

Stoneham, MA
June 19— 26, 2025

JULY 17-20, 2025



Princeton, NJ
July 17—20, 2025

[Puget Sound Guitar Workshop](#)

2025 Camps

San Francisco Free Folk Festival

Saturday July 12, 2025
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Run by the San Francisco Folk Music Club



LARK CAMP
Mendocino, CA
Join us in 2025: August 1 – 9



The Ashokan Center
Olivebridge, NY



Lowell, MA
July 25-27, 2025

THE MONTANA FOLK FESTIVAL IS BACK
JULY 11-13, 2025

22nd Annual

Summergrass San Diego 2025

AUGUST 15-16-17
At the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N Santa Fe Avenue, Vista, CA



The Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival
Tres Pinos, CA
August 7-10, 2025

Santa Fe Traditional Music Festival
August 22-24, 2025



SAT, AUG 23, 2025 • CAZ PARK
NOON - 10 PM

south buffalo IRISH FESTIVAL
drink • food • music • dance

Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble Picnic

Preble, NY
August 3, 2025

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOLKS FESTIVAL

AUGUST 8-10, 2025 • LYONS, COLORADO



Plymouth, MA



17th Annual Franklin Area FOLK FESTIVAL
Macon County, NC

2025 Oak Grove Folk Music Festival
Staunton, VA
August 22, 23 & 24

UPCOMING & UPDATED FOLKLORE AND MUSICAL EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD



KELBURN GARDEN PARTY 2025

July 3-7, 2025
Largs, UK

MAVERICK FESTIVAL 2025

July 4-6, 2025
Woodbridge, UK

FOLK BY THE OAK 2025

July 20, 2025
Hertfordshire, UK

BELLADRUM TARTAN HEART FESTIVAL 2025

July 31-August 2, 2025
Beauly, Scotland



July 27—August 2, 2025

Shrewkfest - The Shrewsbury Ukulele Festival

Aug 1-3, 2025

XVI Summer Folklore Festival
August 15-18, 2025
Prague, Czech Republic

Piping Live! The Festival

Aug 8-16 2025
Glasgow, Scotland



August 12—17, 2025
Montoire, France

PURBECK VALLEY FOLK FESTIVAL 2025

August 14-17, 2025
Wareham, UK

SHREWSBURY FOLK FESTIVAL 2025

August 22-25, 2025
Shrewsbury, UK

MOSELEY FOLK & ARTS FESTIVAL 2025

August 29-31, 2025
Birmingham, UK

FOUND FESTIVAL 2025

August 22-24, 2025
Buckingham, UK



Want to do your own search for international music festivals? Try:

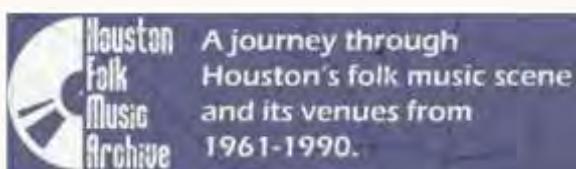
<https://musicfestivalwizard.com>

JUST FOLKIN' AROUND

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

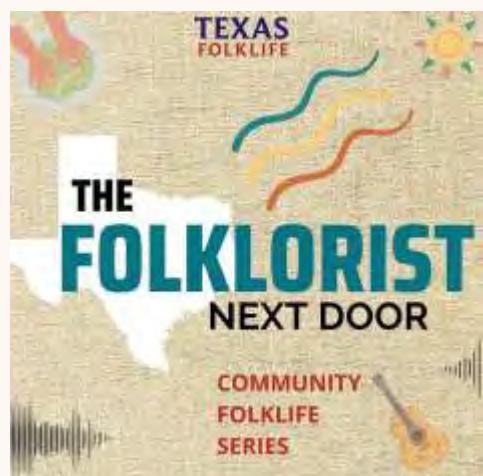


[Greenwich Village Folk Concerts](#)



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 non-profit, 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 100% of concert proceeds have gone to 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 Sunday 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 (one email address) individual membership, and \$35 (two email addresses) joint membership.**

Join us online at [Online Memberships](#). Or if your preference is snail mail,  this form can be printed and mailed with a check payable to Houston Folklore and Music Society, P O Box 16013, Sugar Land, TX 77496.

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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