

# The Cotton Patch Rag!



Official Newsletter of the Houston  
Folklore and Music Society  
Volume 60, Number 6  
Summer 2025



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## 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 “Claire 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/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



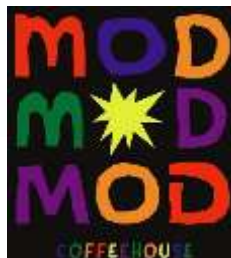
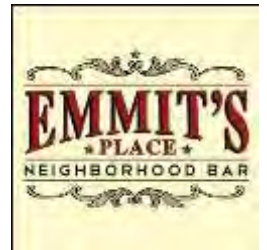
## LIVE MUSIC VENUES



Events



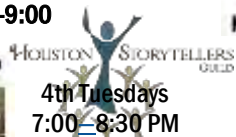
Kingwood



## GET YOUR JAM ON!



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



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!





# 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  
Houston, Texas  
July 27, 2025  
2pm-10pm

Leon Chavis & The Zydeco Flames  
DJ Trouble

Tickets available on Event Brite

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 9

**Houston Reggae Fest Summer Block Party**

Island Vibes 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 beautiful markets

# UPCOMING TEXAS EVENTS

Sunday, June 29

**PANAMA AND WORLD RHYTHMS - FOLKLORE FESTIVAL**

Saturday, July 5

**El Paso Tejano Music 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

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

JULY 4, 2025 - AUSTIN, TX  
COMANIA INSURANCE AMPHITHEATRE

WILLIE NELSON'S 4TH OF JULY PICNIC

TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY MARCH 7, 10AM AT [TICKETMASTER.COM](#)

AN AMERICAN TRADITION

★ 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



The Swannanoa  
Gathering

Asheville, NC  
June 29—July 5, 2025



PENN-MAR  
IRISH  
Festival

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



SOMERSET  
FOLK HARP  
FESTIVAL

Princeton, NJ  
July 17—20, 2025

Woody Guthrie FolkFest

July 9—12, 2025

[Okemah, OK](#)



Woodstock Folk Festival

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC

4TH ANNUAL WOODSTOCK FOLK FESTIVAL  
SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2025, NOON TO 4 PM  
THE HISTORIC SQUARE IN WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS



NEWPORT  
FOLK  
FESTIVAL

JULY  
25-27  
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



PETALUMA  
MUSIC FESTIVAL

THE END OF BEAT - CAMERON MARSH - TOWN  
KIDWELL - CRACKLES - ROOMWALKER  
WINDMILL - WINDMILL - WINDMILL  
SEBASTIAN SAINT JAMES BAND  
THE SOUL - MEGA BASS - 4-PIECE  
ERICA ARBON & THE ELEGANT SOUL PROJECT  
DUSTY TELL - ONE - HANA KOBAYASHI - 5-PIECE  
SAT. JULY 26, 2025  
Petaluma, CA  
www.petalumafestival.com

THE MONTANA FOLK FESTIVAL IS BACK

JULY 11-13, 2025



LOWELL  
FOLK FESTIVAL

Lowell, MA  
July 25-27, 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



43rd Annual  
Minnesota  
Bluegrass  
August Festival

August 7-10, 2025  
At El Pascho Mariano Community  
Richmond, MN  
www.minnesotabluegrass.org

Santa Fe Traditional Music Festival

August 22-24, 2025



PHILADELPHIA  
FOLK FESTIVAL

AUG  
15-17  
2025

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
BLUEGRASS SOCIETY PRESENTS  
The Good Old Fashioned  
BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Tres Pinos, CA  
August 7-10, 2025

Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble Picnic

Preble, NY  
August 3, 2025



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

south buffalo  
IRISH  
festival

drink • food • music • dance

Cotati Accordion Festival

August 16 & 17, 2025

At La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOLKS FESTIVAL

AUGUST 8-10, 2025 • LYONS, COLORADO



Early Music Week  
at Pinewoods  
August 9-16, 2025

Plymouth, MA



GRAND  
TARGHEE

10th Annual August 8-10, 2025



17th Annual  
Franklin Area  
FOLK FESTIVAL

Macon County, NC



GOLDEN  
OLD TIME  
CAMP-OUT

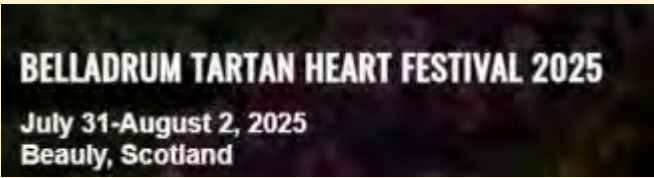
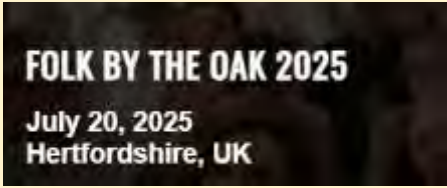
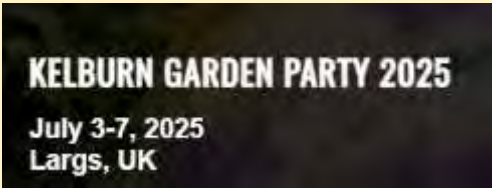
Guerneville, CA



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



UPCOMING & UPDATED FOLKLORE AND MUSICAL  
EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD



July 27—August 2, 2025



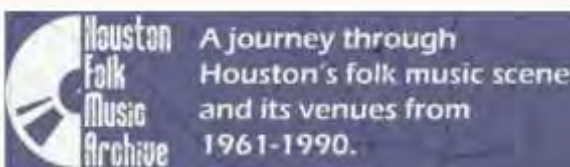
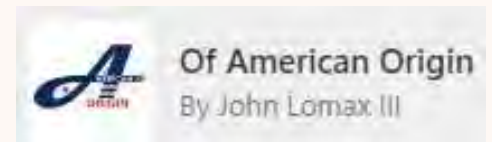
Want to do your own search for international  
music festivals? Try:

<https://musicfestivalwizard.com>



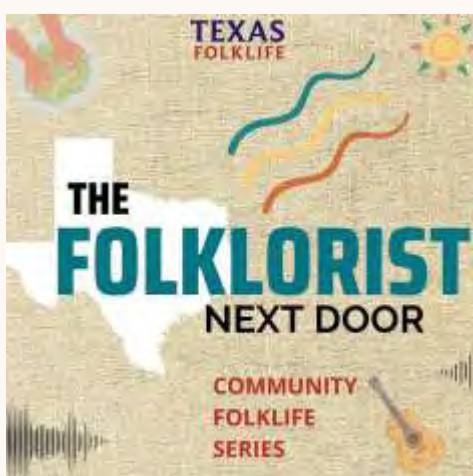
## JUST FOLKIN' AROUND

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



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!***

**For information contact:**

**Second Sunday Concerts: Jim Gill or 832-453-4455**

**Newsletter Editor: Luanne Novak**

**Membership Management: Karon Mueller**

**Social Media: Jen Grove**

**Website Management: TBD [houfolkmusic@gmail.com](mailto:houfolkmusic@gmail.com)**

**Newsletter Contributors: Andy Longo and Paul Cooper**

**General Organization Info, Our Prez: Pam Kalinec**