

The



Cotton Patch



Rag!

Official Newsletter of the Houston
Folklore and Music Society
Volume 61, Number 6
Summer 2026



SECOND SATURDAY CONCERTS ON HIATUS TILL SEPTEMBER CHECK WHAT'S COMING UP!

September 12, 2026	Daniel Boling
Opening	Mystery Loves Company
October 10, 2026	Karyn Oliver
Opening	Hudson Mueller
November 14, 2026	Pierce Pettis
Opening	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 (except June—August and December) 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

First Tuesday of Each Month

NOTE: NEW LOCATION AND TIME

Hickory Pit BBQ

6601 S. Rice Ave. in Bellaire

6:00—8:00 PM

YOU'LL ALL BE FORSAKEN, AND NEVER KNOW WHY

by Paul Cooper

I literally grew up listening to this recording by Terry Gilkyson and The Weavers of [*On Top of Old Smoky*](#). I knew all the words when I was about seven years old. This song reached #2 on the Hit Parade in 1951. This was before Pete and his colleagues were blacklisted by the entertainment industry as a result of Senator Joseph McCarthy's allegations in 1953. The folk song *On Top of Old Smoky* was first collected by the English folklorist Cecil Sharpe in 1916 in the Appalachian mountains. You will also find this article and the recording on the HFMS Audio Archive page at: <https://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/AudioArchives>

ON TOP OF OLD SMOKY

Traditional

A Capo II (To sing along with the recording)

A **D** **A**
On top of Old Smoky, all covered with snow

A **E** **A**
I lost my true lover, for courting too slow.

Now courting is pleasure, but parting is grief
And a false-hearted lover is worse than a thief.

A thief will just rob you, and take what you have
But a false-hearted lover will lead you to the grave.

The grave will decay you, and turn you to dust
Not one boy in a hundred a poor girl can trust.

They'll hug you and kiss you, and tell you more lies
Than cross ties on a railroad, or stars in the skies.

Come all you young maidens and listen to me
Never hang your affections on a green willow tree.

The leaves they will wither, the roots they will die
You'll all be forsaken, and never know why.

He Missed That Old Gospel Singing

By Andy Longo

The song “Zen Gospel Singing” concerns a fellow who was once a Baptist, who converted to Zen Buddhism. He was happy enough until he realized that he missed the gospel singing with his former congregation, especially when his new Zen buddies were satisfied to chant just one note each day.

Medical professionals are now prepared to explain this fellow’s dilemma. There is a renewed interest in the healing power of the vagus nerve. This nerve runs directly through the neck and vocal cords. The deep, resonant vibrations created when you hum or sing manually stimulates this nerve. Brian Wilson understood this when he wrote the song “Good Vibrations” even though he was not a medical professional. Humming and singing send a message to your brain that you are safe and can relax. Additionally, singing, humming, or chanting trigger the release of endorphins, natural mood enhancers. But wait—there’s more: a release of oxytocin (AKA the “love hormone”), a hormone which promotes relief from stress.

So if you cannot join together in four part harmony singing the old gospel hymns, or chant with your new Zen buddies, it may be just as well for you to sit in quiet repose and chant “ohm, ohm, Sweet ooohhhmmm”.

You may enjoy hearing this rendition of Mark Graham’s “Zen Gospel Singing” as performed by Bryan Bowers by going to this link on the image below:



LOCAL EVENTS

Editor’s Note: In case y’all haven’t noticed, it’s really, really hot here in July and August, so aside from Mad Dogs and Englishmen (a Joe Cocker reference), most Houstonians try to stay indoors where the air is conditioned and the fridge is close by. Consequently, we don’t have a plethora of outdoor music fests. I’m sharing a few concerts that may be of interest— if y’all find more, share on our Facebook page. Support our local venues—go hear live music!

Jul 5
Sun

Willie Nelson at Outlaw Music Festival with Willie Nelson, Wilco, Sheryl Crow and many more

2:00 PM • 🇺🇸 The Woodlands, TX, US • The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion

📅 Hottest event 📅 Independence Day weekend

JULY 2, 2026

KATE WATERS + HUDSON MUELLER + SARAH GOLDEN

THE DUCK HOUSTON

THURSDAY, JUL 02

Kate Waters, Hudson Mueller, Sarah Golden - Songwriters Night

Start

THE DERAILERS

THE DUCK HOUSTON

THURSDAY, JUL 09

The Derailers - Early Show

Start

WALT WILKINS + TERRY KLEIN + THOMM JUTZ

THE DUCK HOUSTON

THURSDAY, JUL 09

Songwriters Night - Walt Wilkins, Terry Klein, Thumm Jutz

Start

BEN JONES + COLIN BROOKS

THE DUCK HOUSTON

FRIDAY, JUL 17

Ben Jones and Colin Brooks - Songswap

Start

SHAKE RUSSELL

THE DUCK HOUSTON

SATURDAY, JUL 18

Shake Russell - Early Show

Start



Flatland Cavalry

Sat - Jul 18 • 7:30 PM

The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands, Texas, USA

The Montvales Galveston Tickets

Sat, Aug 15, 2026 at Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe, Galveston, TX

8:30 pm • From \$15.00

The Cleverlys Tomball Tickets

Thu, Aug 20, 2026 at Main Street Crossing, Tomball, TX

8:00 pm

28



Friday, August 28, 2026 at 8:00 PM

Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder

20911 Interstate 410, The Woodlands, TX, United States, Texas 77380



SUN AUG 30, 2026

7:00PM | Music Hall

DON MCLEAN

29



Featuring **CARRANZA**

Acoustic Performers

Music Performers

August 29th, 2026

Main Stage

Houston Songwriter Showcase featuring CARRANZA

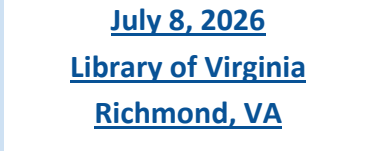
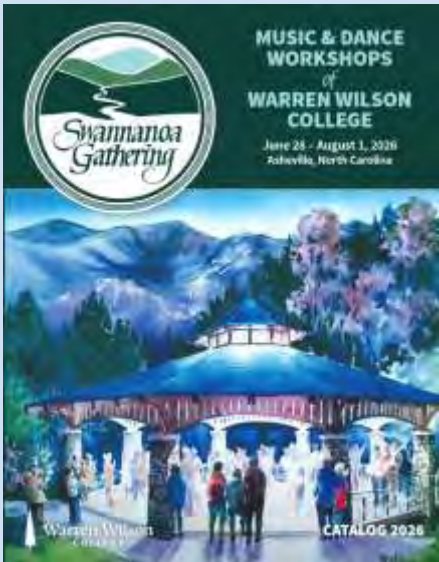
Woody Power Live

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.



MORE UPCOMING & UPDATED FOLKLORE AND MUSICAL EVENTS AROUND TEXAS AND THE U.S.



July 24-26, 2026
Lowell, MA



Cotati Accordion Festival
August 15& 16, 2026
At La Plaza Park, Cotati, CA

California Musical Saw Festival 2026

SATURDAY - August 15th, 2026 - TBD
SUNDAY - August 16th, 2026 - 10:00am to 4:00pm at ROARING CAMP in Felton, CA
CONTEST: SUNDAY - August 16th, 2026 11:00am to 12:00noon



Camp Russian River
Guerneville, CA



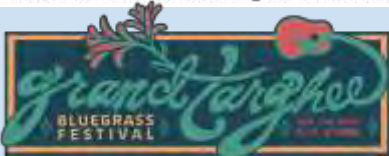
Staunton, Virginia

MN Bluegrass August Festival

August Fest 2026 - August 6-9, 2026 - El Rancho Mañana Campground - Richmond, MN



The 32nd Annual Good Old Fashioned Bluegrass Festival will be held August 6-9, 2026.



36TH ANNUAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOLKS FESTIVAL

August 7-9, 2026 • Lyons, Colorado

23rd Annual Summergrass San Diego 2026

AUGUST 14-15-16
At the Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N Santa Fe Avenue, Vista, CA

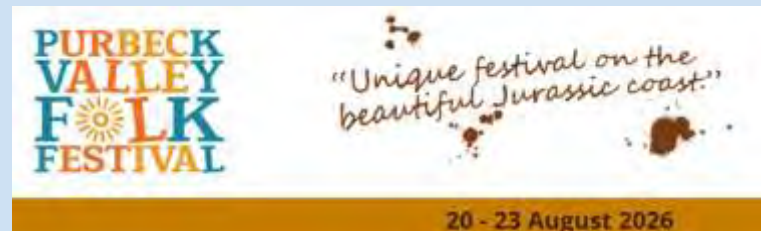
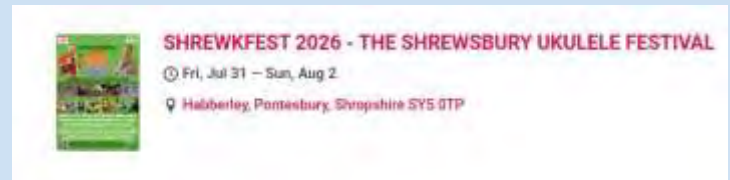
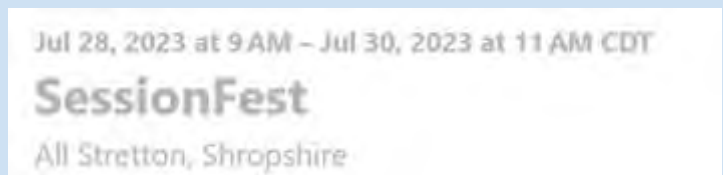
PHILADELPHIA FOLK FESTIVAL 2026

Early Music Week at Pinewoods

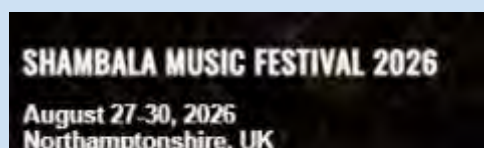
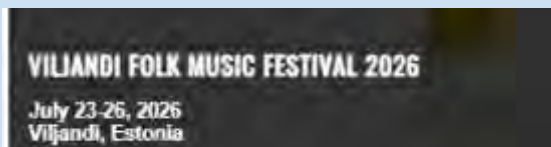
August 23-29, 2026 // Plymouth, MA
Renaissance, baroque, and medieval music for players and singers of all levels



UPCOMING & UPDATED FOLKLORE AND MUSICAL EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD



Between Corfe Castle and Harmon's Cross, Devon, UK



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



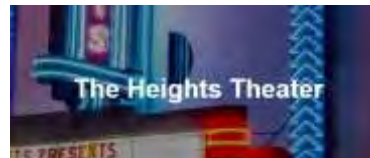
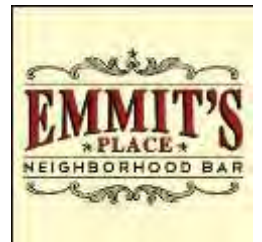
LIVE MUSIC VENUES



Events



Kingwood



JOHNSON STUDIO



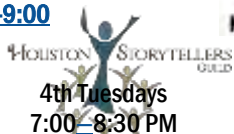
GET YOUR JAM ON!



[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!

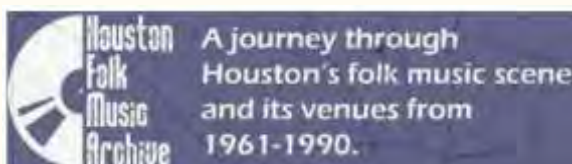
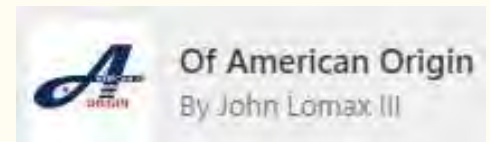
FOR THE KIDS!



young audiences
arts for learning
HOUSTON

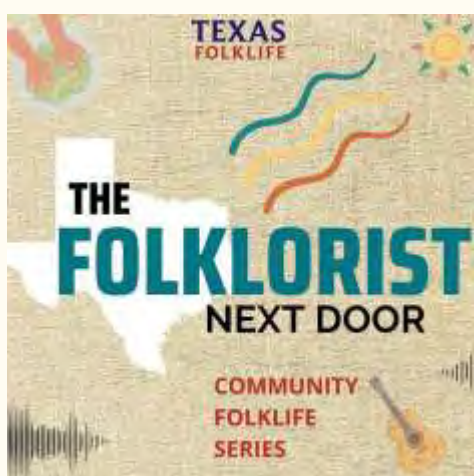
JUST FOLKIN' AROUND

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!

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