

THE COTTON PATCH RAG

The Newsletter of

the Houston Folklore and Music Society

Volume 55, Number 8
AUG 2020



SECOND SATURDAY CONCERTS have been canceled for the remainder of 2020 and will resume when the Houston Folklore and Music Society AND West University Community Building both determine it will be safe from a public health perspective.

Second Saturday Concert is presented by the **Houston Folklore and Music Society**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of folklore and folk/acoustic music. Concerts are held in the West University Community Building at 6104 Auden (intersection of Auden and Rice Blvd) Contact Carolyn Davis (281-240-9797) or carolvnadavis@aol.com for more concert information. Visit our website at: houstonfolkmusic.org.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERTS ARE ALL **TENTATIVE** for the foreseeable future

NO CONCERTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020

January 9, 2021: Albert and Gage

February 13, 2021: Small Potatoes

March 13, 2021: Paul Sachs

April 10, 2021: Anne Hills

May 8, 2021: C. Daniel Boling

OTHER UPCOMING HFMS EVENTS

*****HFMS MEETING/SONG CIRCLE—CANCELED for August 2020**

Our monthly song circle meeting at the Jewish Community Center is canceled for public health reasons.

*****AUGUST PICKIN' PARTY — CANCELED.**

Watch our web site, <http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/#pknpty> and emails for updates.

SOMEDAY WE'LL BE BACK AT IT AGAIN!!! UNTIL THEN, PLAY ON!!!

RAG WELCOMES NEW EDITOR

First of all, our deepest thanks to Carolyn Davis for a great job editing *The Cotton Patch Rag* for four years, especially while she was both *Rag* editor and Second Saturday Concert producer at the same time. We now welcome Cehlana Solus as Editor, starting with this issue. Cehlana, the founder of the Celtic Group **Wylde Meade**, is a performing musician and songwriter. We are happy to have her creativity and knowledge of music behind the editorial desk. Please note her invitation on page 6 to send in any information about local events that you would like to see in the pages of the Rag.

WHILE WE WAIT

by Andy Longo

With the suspension of song circles and pickin' parties, this may be a good time to consider the fun of dabbling in the construction of a simple instrument. It can be rewarding to complete and experience the joy of realizing its capability. The cigar box guitar is one form of the basic string instrument. It has but a single string; it belongs to the class of "didley bows".



As you look at it, you can see that you will not need much in the way of instructions. One reference that may be helpful is a spreadsheet which will give you the required fret spacing for the scale length that you choose. This spreadsheet uses the "rule of 18" to calculate the fret spacing for you: [EXCEL for FRET SPACING](#)

Three and four string cigar box guitars have been seen in the hands of many accomplished musicians.



Cigar box builders are known for using available hardware to complete their instruments such as cabinet hinges, tread-stock, and other miscellaneous household items. However, you may wish to order components from the likes of:

C B Gitty, an enterprise that deals in components of a cigar box instrument as well as pick-ups and amplifiers. <https://www.cbgitty.com/>

You may wish to start out with a complete kit. Backyard Music deals in banjo, dulcimer and harp kits: <https://www.backyardmusic.com/Welcome.html>

Another good supplier of kit components is MGB Guitars, they also sell necks and bodies for mini guitars and ukuleles. <https://mgbguitars.com/>

Steward MacDonald is a company dealing in premium components and kits. Their website is interesting to browse. You can find photos of kits completed by their customers. <https://www.stewmac.com/>

There are other sources for instrument builders, however, I listed these because I have dealt with each over time and find them to be responsive to their customers and diligent in filling their orders.

Believe It Or Not The mail must go through.... by Andy Longo

Woody Guthrie wrote "Mail Myself to You" in 1963. The first verse includes:

*I'm a-gonna wrap myself in paper,
I'm gonna daub myself with glue,
Stick some stamps on top of my head;
I'm gonna mail myself to you.*

Now one might say he was using poetic hyperbole, but you would be incorrect!

On January 1, 1913, the USPS inaugurated the shipping of large parcels through the



mail. This made possible access to goods and services of all kinds to millions of American people. Just a few weeks after Parcel Post began, an Ohio couple named Jesse and Mathilda Beagle "mailed" their 8-month-old son James to his grandmother, who lived just a few miles away in Batavia. According to historian Jenny Lynch, "Baby James was just shy of the 11-pound weight limit for packages sent via Parcel Post, and his "delivery" cost his parents only 15 cents in postage (although they did insure him for \$50). The quirky story soon made newspapers, and for the next several years, similar stories would occasionally surface as other parents followed suit."

The shipping of children through the US mail, mostly by train, came to an end in 1920.

*******FEATURED SONG*******

by Paul Cooper

BRING ALL MY WORRIED NATIONS

I think this song is a gem tucked away amid the hundreds and hundreds of Woody's songs. Some of the concerns Woody writes about are little different from those of today. You can hear an excellent rendition of this song by Joel Raphael from his 2-CD tribute album of Woody Guthrie songs at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9ysMXEkllk>, or the on the HFMS Audio Archive page at http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS_Audio_Archive.html.

DANCE AROUND MY ATOM FIRE

By Woody Guthrie

Am **F**
Bring all my history pages
C **G**
Bring all my wits and sages
Am **F**
Back down from the glacial ages
C **E7**
Dance around my atom fire

Am **F**
Bring all my blood relations
C **G**
Bring all my worried nations
Am **F**
Back down through my civilizations
C **E7**
Dance around my atom fire

CHORUS:

F **G** **Am**
Dance around my atom fire
F **G** **C**
Dance around my atom fire
F **G** **Am**
Dance around my atom fire
C **E7**
Dance around my atom fire

I'll bring my sons and daughter
I'll bring my heavy waters
Titanium Uranium
Dance around my atom fire

Bring all my lads and lasses
Nitro and blister gasses
Brotherhood or a world of ashes
Dance around my atom fire

CHORUS

The brightest of eyes and faces
Down out of my history places
All of my humanly races
Dance around my atom fire

Warfare is not the settlement
Bloodshed is not the element
Shake hands and work together
Dance around my atom fire

CHORUS



Please help Support Houston Folklore and Music Society

Have you enrolled in [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://smile.amazon.com)? Amazon shoppers can help support HFMS in our mission to continue promoting folk and acoustic music (and similar folklore traditions) in the greater Houston area. Doing so allows us to continue bringing excellent performers to Houston for Second Saturday Concerts. You can help **at no cost to you** when you make purchases from Amazon. Simply go to smile.amazon.com, sign into your Amazon account and select "Houston Folklore and Music Society" as your charitable organization.

After that, go to smile.amazon.com each time you shop and Amazon will automatically donate 0.5% of the amount of your purchase to HFMS. Every little bit helps! Please send this information to everyone you know who might be willing to support our organization in this way. It only takes a minute and will help us continue the HFMS tradition.

AND/OR

CONSIDER A GIFT TO HFMS. MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION!! HFMS is a 501(c)3 organization. Your contribution to support our organization can be claimed as a charitable donation. Contact Paul Cooper, Treasurer at 713-204-1207 or pcooper1@peoplepc.com

While you spend this time in quiet reflection, remember to check in with loved ones and those around you. Maybe play them a song virtually over a Zoom meeting or play on your front porch for a neighbor. Keep music in your life and a song in your heart! If you know of any local or virtual events coming up that you'd like to share, please email Cehlina: Celtic.Music@aol.com and be sure to include **LOCAL EVENTS** in the subject line; we'll do our best to include it in the next issue.

Remember, many opportunities exist to hear our favorite performers in virtual live or recorded performances online:

🎸 Check websites and Facebook pages of your favorite musicians for links to their virtual concerts and other updates.

🎸 A quite extensive listing of folk and acoustic virtual concert links is posted by *Folk Alliance International* <https://folk.org/livestream/>

UPCOMING & UPDATED FOLKLORE AND MUSICAL EVENTS around Texas & the US



<https://www.kerrvillefolkfestival.org/>

In the meantime you can "Sing A-Long to Heal in the Wisdom 2020"!

For details on how you can participate go to:

<https://www.kerrvillefolkfestival.org/kff2020-healinthewisdom-singalong>



49th Walnut Valley Festival has been postponed to September 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns. All tickets sold for WVF 49 will be valid for entry in September 2021.

Postponed until September 10-12, 2021

<https://nationalfolkfestival.com/>

The Sixth Annual North Carolina Folk Festival will showcase live performances in movie format on September 11-13, 2020

<https://ncfolkfestival.com/>



the 2020 Montana Folk Festival has been postponed until July 9-11, 2021.

<https://montanafolkfestival.com/>

Spend your weekend listening to archived sets from over 60 years of Newport Folk.

<https://newportfolk.org/revival/>



*****OTHER FESTIVALS*****



The 25th Austin Celtic Fest
The 2020 fest is tentatively scheduled for November 7 & 8, 2020 and is to be determined.
<https://www.austincelticfestival.com/>



<https://www.artcolonyassociation.org/>



Saturday, September 5, 2020

Have a good time sharing meads, teaching the basics, and getting to know others who make or just enjoy mead. Admittance and parking are free!
<http://gcmf.mystikoak.com/>



Celtic Gathering (Sep 11-12, 2020) - A decision will be made by July 31st

<https://www.sherwoodforestfaire.com>



DATES October 3 - November 29
HOURS 9 am - 8 pm
Saturday, Sunday & Thanksgiving Friday

<https://www.texrenfest.com/tickets-season-passes>

*****LOCAL EVENTS*****

Watch for updates on the web sites of live music venues to learn when they will present shows, and how to enjoy their virtual shows.



Anderson Fair will continue to host online concerts over the next few months.
<http://andersonfair.net/>

The Mucky Duck is streaming concert's on Facebook and YouTube almost daily!
<https://www.mcgonigels.com/#shows>



Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe shows are currently ONLINE ONLY. Refunds available for all canceled live shows:
<http://oldquarteracousticcafe.com/>

The BIG BARN is OPEN and tickets are on sale for shows every Thursday, Friday and Saturday through June featuring all Texas Artists. The restaurant and bar are fully open with all covid-19 precautions in place. <https://www.doseydoe.com/>



Online Exhibits:

<https://digitalprojects.rice.edu/houston-folk-music-archive/exhibits>

*****CLOSED FOR NOW*****



<http://www.theamericanahouston.com>

JP Hops House - *Houston's Premier Brew Pub and Music Venue*

<https://www.jphopshouse.com/>

*****LOCAL CALENDAR*****

AUGUST 2020

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2
7 Folk Dances (Virtual) 7:30 http://www.folkdancers.org/	8	9
14 Folk Dances (Virtual) 7:30 http://www.folkdancers.org/ Jim Curry - The Music of John Denver (band) 8:30 https://www.doseydoetickets.com/shows/650	15	16
21 Int'l Folk Dances (Virtual) 7:30 http://www.folkdancers.org/	22 Dulcimer Society Jam (Virtual) 2pm https://www.facebook.com/pg/houstondulcimer/events	23
28 Folk Dances (Virtual) 7:30 http://www.folkdancers.org/	29	30

Thank you for supporting live music!

PLEASE KEEP OUR HISTORIC ORGANIZATION ALIVE DURING THIS PANDEMIC. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN HOUSTON FOLKLORE AND MUSIC SOCIETY OR BUY THEM A GIFT MEMBERSHIP!

HFMS is a non-profit, membership organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of folklore and folk/acoustic music. Activities include monthly SECOND Saturday CONCERT, monthly Pickin' Parties and monthly Monday night song circle/meeting. Dues are \$20 a year for a membership. Members receive our monthly digital newsletter *The Cotton Patch Rag*, and the satisfaction of supporting and promoting live folk/acoustic music and other folklore activities in the greater Houston area.

Fill-out, print, and mail this page along with check(s) payable to **Houston Folklore and Music Society**, P.O. Box 542348, Houston, TX 77254 , **OR visit our website and join on-line at houstonfolkmusic.org**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Membership Renewal Re-Joining

Is this a new address? Yes No Today's Date:

NAME

STREET

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE (wk)

E-MAIL:

Enclosed is \$20 Annual Dues Enclosed is additional tax deductible donation to nonprofit organization.

Thank you!

For information contact:

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