

# THE COTTON PATCH RAG

The Newsletter of

the Houston Folklore and Music Society

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**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 [carolynadavis@aol.com](mailto:carolynadavis@aol.com) for more concert information. Visit our website at: [houstonfolkmusic.org](http://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 HFMS EVENTS

### \*\*\*SEPTEMBER HFMS MEETING/SONG CIRCLE — CANCELED

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

### \*\*\*SEPTEMBER 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!!!**

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## The Dies Irae, A Musical Theme Over Many Centuries

by Andy Longo



In the movie *Lion King* when Mufasa dies, or when Luke Skywalker's aunt and uncle are killed in *Star Wars*, or when George Bailey (*It's A Wonderful Life*) is about to take his own life, there runs a common thread...

It is during these scenes in all three movies that the same four notes are repeated in the musical track.

This musical phrase is known as the 'dies irae'; the meaning of these words being "day of wrath" or "day of judgment". The phrase was written as a chant for monks to use at requiem masses in the 13th century and was later picked up by many composers including Mozart to express the feelings that accompany death. It was even used in the track of the silent movie, *Metropolis*. This series of four notes in an ever descending pattern appears to have a consistent effect on listeners that surpasses time and place.

For a video presentation on this subject by a musicologist see: [The Dies Irae](#)

**A Review of "Odetta: A Life in Music and Protest"--Ian Zack**

by Eric Johnson

I have listened to folk music all of my life. However, I never had any desire to play guitar until I heard Odetta at a Dinner With The President on TV. I was hooked from that moment on.

Now there is a biography about her written by Ian Zack entitled "*Odetta: A Life in Music and Protest*," which chronicles her life and legacy in the realms of folk music and social unrest.

As a young woman, she started playing mostly for a few friends. This eventually led to better and higher exposure, after she met Harry Belafonte, who instantly recognized the extent of her talent. As this relationship grew, she became more involved with the folk scene in the late '50's and early '60's. Her repertoire became immersed in work songs, such as "*Take This Hammer*" and "*Water Boy*, and her guitar technique had a driving beat as she developed. She also had a flair for singing songs with a distinctive hand-clapping style on "*Prettiest Train*" and "*Another Man Done Gone*."

As her career progressed, she became more politically minded as a result of meeting Pete Seeger, Peter, Paul, and Mary, and Bob Dylan. She came to sing protest songs as well as her earlier material. She recorded for several record labels, but ended up performing mostly on Vanguard and RCA. She had a rather turbulent relationship with the latter, which dropped her as a result of lax record sales that included mostly blues numbers. She performed at Carnegie Hall, and Vanguard and put this excellent concert on LP. She also put out a concert LP done at Town Hall in New York. She eventually earned the name "Queen Of Folk."

She toured all over the world, but found her true niche in Africa. Her hairstyle grew longer, and influenced some Afro hairstyles in the United States. In the late '60's and early '70's, she appeared on several talk shows. I saw her give a demonstration on Mike Douglas' program about musical and social harmony. It was magical.

The music business aspect of her career had its ups and downs because of bad management issues, to the point of living in poverty, but she got by with the help of her folksinger friends. In the years before her death, she received the National Medal Of The Arts and Humanities from Bill Clinton. She had given up playing guitar by this time, but still toured singing blues accompanied by bass and piano players. I was lucky to see her at the University of Houston's Cullen Hall.

These are just a few elements covered in this great biography. There will never be another Odetta. She was truly the "Queen of Folk."

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## FEATURED SONG

### ON THE LEFT FOOT, PEG FOOT

by Paul Cooper



I got chills the first time I heard this song in about 1959. It must have been **The Weavers'** version, because I don't know if anyone else had recorded it yet. The song was first published in 1928 by the Texas Folklore Society. The A major IV chord at the beginning of the chorus gives the song a very interesting Dorian mode flavor. The Weavers are actually performing it in E flat minor, so to play along with them you could tune down a half step, or transpose it to D minor and capo up one. The "drinking gourd" is, of course, the Big Dipper constellation in which two of its stars point to Polaris, the north star. Pete Seeger gives more details to the story of the song in the intro to their recording, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwUsFWIVoYE>, or on the HFMS Audio Archive page, at [http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS Audio Archive.html](http://www.houstonfolkmusic.org/HFS_Audio_Archive.html)

### FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD

*Traditional*

#### CHORUS:

**A** **Em** **A** **Em**  
 Follow the drinkin' gourd, follow the drinkin' gourd.

**G** **D** **C** **Bm** **Em** **D** **Em**  
 For the old man is a-waitin' for to carry you to freedom. Follow the drinkin' gourd.

**Em** **Em** **D** **Em**  
 When the sun comes up and the first quail calls, Follow the drinkin' gourd.

**G** **D** **C** **Bm** **Em** **D** **Em**  
 For the old man is a-waitin' for to carry you to freedom. Follow the drinkin' gourd.

#### CHORUS

Now the river bank will make a mighty good road. The dead trees will show you the way.  
 On the left foot, peg foot travellin' on, Follow the drinkin' gourd.

#### CHORUS

Now the river ends between two hills, follow the drinkin' gourd.  
 There's another river on the other side. Follow the drinkin' gourd.

#### 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](https://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](https://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](mailto:pcooper1@peoplepc.com).

### \*\*\*\*\*FROM THE EDITOR\*\*\*\*\*

*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, or if you have an article you think may be of interest to the folk music community, please email **Cehlana**: [Celtic.Music@aol.com](mailto:Celtic.Music@aol.com) and be sure to include **LOCAL EVENTS (or CPR Article)** in the subject line; we'll do our best to include it in the next issue.*

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## JUST FOR FUN

- 🎸 Check websites and Facebook pages of your favorite performers for links to their virtual concerts or recorded performances online
- 🎸 Join an online Open Jam to keep the boredom away!  
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=MGQzY2thZXZxcjQ1dGVscWI0dWxiYTZpcmNAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xlLmNvbQ>
- 🎸 Join a Virtual Folk Dance from any number of countries  
HERE <http://www.facone.org/>  
HERE <https://daleadamson.com/events-calendar/>  
OR HERE <https://mailchi.mp/rscds/dance-scottish-at-home-582058>
- 🎸 See an extensive list of folk and acoustic virtual concert links  
<https://folk.org/livestream/>



Sunday, October 18th through November 8<sup>th</sup>

Here is a summary of everything you can expect from our virtual O'Flaherty Irish Music Retreat.  
<https://oflahertyretreat.org/our-virtual-camp-plans/>

Choreograph a dance (made up mostly of Scottish Country Dance steps and formations) using RSCDS published music:  
<https://www.rscds.org/get-involved/young-dancers/youth-activities/virtual-festival>  
Submission date is 1st October 2020



# #SAVEOURSTAGES

NIVA | NATIONAL INDEPENDENT VENUE ASSOCIATION

This is our final push to Congress and there won't be another opportunity. We NEED the #SaveOurStagesAct and the #RestartAct passed in order to keep independent venues nationwide from closing permanently. Please help us #SaveOurStages now.

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

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



WEEKLY VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION!  
Sundays 5pm through Saturdays 5pm  
<https://www.kerrvillefolkfestival.org/weekly-virtual-silent-auction>  
**NOW VIRTUAL IN OCTOBER!**  
**STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS!**

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

The Sixth Annual North Carolina Folk Festival will showcase live performances in movie format on September 11-13, 2020 <https://ncfolkfestival.com/>




A VIRTUAL EVENT CELEBRATING THE ROOTS, RICHNESS AND VARIETY OF AMERICAN CULTURE

Friday, Oct. 9	Saturday, Oct. 10	Sunday, Oct. 11
		

Website - Facebook  
PBS-57.1  
WPM-FM: 88.9 - 107.3 - 60.1 FM

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



Virginia Folklife Program  
VIRGINIA HUMANITIES

TRAIN connects interested students of all skill levels with a diverse range of master musicians, craftspeople, and tradition bearers offering online instructional opportunities.  
Become a student OR an instructor!

<https://virginiafolklife.org/train/>

## 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/>

**Bayou City Art *Virtual Experience***  
October 5-11, 2020 - online art auction, virtual performances, art projects for kids of all ages, creative activities... From the safety of your home, you can purchase art from your favorite artists or discover new artists to follow.



<https://www.artcolonyassociation.org/donate-today>



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/>

Saturday, September 12 at 6pm

On Facebook and YouTube!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/341707990185245/>

<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 MUSIC 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 concerts on Facebook and YouTube almost daily AND is having some live shows again!  
<https://www.mcgonigels.com/#shows>



Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe shows are currently ONLINE ONLY.  
Refunds available for all canceled live shows:  
[http://oldquarteracousticcafe.com/?page\\_id=1767](http://oldquarteracousticcafe.com/?page_id=1767)

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/>



**Houston Folk Music Archive**



**RICE**

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/>

## MORE LOCAL EVENTS



HIFD is a recreational group that dances a wide variety of ethnic folk dances from around the world. Come dance with us!

Virtual dances (for now) by HIFD/AIFD are planned every Friday.

[http://www.folkdancers.org/?fbclid=IwAR2BaQTNf7Gj7ZfOjZQR1jKs5a9\\_xaV-tM5uCdBGBwSuy\\_xo6OUOgSEnMdY](http://www.folkdancers.org/?fbclid=IwAR2BaQTNf7Gj7ZfOjZQR1jKs5a9_xaV-tM5uCdBGBwSuy_xo6OUOgSEnMdY)



Houston and The Woodlands classes begin September 2020 if it is safe to do so. <http://www.houstonrscds.org/events-2020/4594786198>

In the meantime VIRTUAL CLASSES are Tuesday nights on Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/Houston-and-District-Branch-RSCDS-218401374861410/>



Friday, September 18, 2020  
DAN'S HOUSE OF HOPE  
9th Annual "Driving FORE Hope" Golf Tournament.

September 28, 2020, Monday  
Molly's 10th Annual Charity Golf Tournament benefiting  
Texas Prader-Willi Association

<http://www.theirishsociety.org/CalendarofEvents.html>

\*\*\*\*\*LOCAL CALENDAR\*\*\*\*\*

**SEPTEMBER 2020**

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5
<b>10</b> <b>MATT THE ELECTRICIAN</b> <b>7PM <i>Mucky Duck</i></b> <a href="https://www.mcgonigels.com/shows/matt-the-electrician/">https://www.mcgonigels.com/shows/matt-the-electrician/</a>	11	12
<b>17</b> <b>AMANDA PASCALI 7PM</b> <b><i>Mucky Duck</i></b> <a href="https://www.mcgonigels.com/shows/amanda-pascali-and-the-family-this">https://www.mcgonigels.com/shows/amanda-pascali-and-the-family-this</a>	18	19
<b>24</b> <b>BEAT ROOT REVIVAL</b> <b>7PM <i>Mucky Duck</i></b> <a href="https://www.mcgonigels.com/shows/beat-root-revival/">https://www.mcgonigels.com/shows/beat-root-revival/</a>	25	<b>26</b> <b>BLUEGRASS JAM 12 –</b> <b>4PM <i>Kleb Woods Nature</i></b> <b><i>Center</i></b> <a href="https://www.bluegrasssing.net/our-jams">https://www.bluegrasssing.net/our-jams</a>  <b>SARAH HICKMAN</b> <b>(VIRTUAL) 7PM</b> <a href="https://www.mcgonigels.com/shows/sara-hickman/">https://www.mcgonigels.com/shows/sara-hickman/</a>

*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 the following monthly events: *Second Saturday Concerts*, Monday night song circle/meetings, and Pickin' Parties. 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](http://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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Andrew Longo, Webpage Editor  
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