



Folk Talk

A Newsletter for Columbia, Snake, and Yakima River Folk

Vol. 34 Issue 1

August/September 2022

26th Annual Tumbleweed Music Festival will be live on Labor Day Weekend

Mark your calendars now and plan to stay in town over Labor Day weekend! The 26th annual Tumbleweed Music Festival will be held in Howard Amon Park in Richland, September 2-4. After two years of producing virtual festivals, the Three Rivers Folklife Society is excited about offering a live, in-person festival again! This year's Tumbleweed is, as always, co-sponsored by the City of Richland, with additional support from local and regional sponsors.

Friday night, September 2nd, on the North Stage beginning at 6:30 PM, a free concert will feature younger local bands and talented single performers with an eclectic mix of acoustic folk, indie rock, and possibly other genres represented. This concert kicks off this year's festival with a great showcase of local talent that will appeal to people of all ages.

Tumbleweed is a free, family-oriented festival. It is the only one of its kind in the Tri-Cities, and has become one of the most popular acoustic music festivals in the Northwest. There will be an eclectic mix of over 100 local, regional and national acts on five outdoor and two indoor stages, representing a multitude of musical genres: traditional and contemporary folk, international, Celtic, nautical, old-time, bluegrass, blues, and even some folk-rock. The River Stage will feature blocks of music and storytelling geared for children and families for the first several performances each day. There is also an open mike stage, where folks who are brave enough can showcase their talents.

Festival performers will conduct free music and dance workshops, and there will be an indoor dance and sing-along stage inside the air-conditioned Community Center. In addition to music

and dance performances, workshops galore, and jam sessions, there will be plenty of arts and crafts booths and an assortment of festival foods will be available. There is something for everyone at Tumbleweed!

Each year at Tumbleweed there is a juried songwriting contest, with songs based on the festival theme for the year. This year the theme is "Dear Friends." The ten finalists will perform their original songs at the festival Saturday afternoon before the judges and the winner will sing their winning song during the Saturday evening concert. On Sunday evening there will be a free "Theme" concert, in which more than a dozen performers will sing songs with this theme as we celebrate 26 years of making music together.

Another popular event at the festival is the Dave Oestreich Memorial Band Scramble on Sunday afternoon, in which members of ad hoc bands are drawn from a hat, have an hour to prepare two songs or tunes together, and then perform them on stage.

Saturday night's Tumbleweed benefit concert (a paid event, with the \$15.00 tickets on sale at the Info Booth) will begin at 7 PM on the North Stage. The \$15 admission cost is a bargain for three wonderful acts: The Great Sanger and Didele, the Tri-Cities' own Trillium-239, and longtime Tumbleweed friend and family member, Dan Maher.

The festival will conclude at 8 PM on Sunday, with a contra dance featuring a live band and caller in the Richland Community Center's dance area. Admission is \$10, and children under 12 are free. Contra dancing is fun for all ages, and is related to English, New England, Southern-style country

dancing, and American square dancing. It is easy to learn and no partner is necessary.

Mitchell Frey, a caller from the Spokane area, will teach all the dance moves progressively throughout the evening, so no experience is necessary. The Prestwold Players will be providing the live music for the dance. Earlier in the day on Sunday (5:45-6:30 PM), there will be a free "Contra Dance 101" workshop to prepare novices for the dance but if you miss it, don't let that stop you.

Throughout our 26-year history, Tumbleweed has gained a reputation as one of the Northwest's friendliest and most community-oriented acoustic music festivals, largely because of our deliberate fostering of a sense of family, and in community involvement in the interaction of performers and their audience. You too can become a member of the Tumbleweed community as you participate in this very special festival as a volunteer or just as an audience member. YOU are the folk in folk music!



Tumbleweed Preparations Roll Along

Preparations continue apace for this year's live Tumbleweed Music Festival in Howard Amon park AND the virtual segment which will be on our festival website tumbleweedmusicfestival.org. Micki Perry is working hard to bring everything together for the live festival. We're finally getting more food vendors, and the craft vendor count is climbing, too! Dave Carson is working to bring together the virtual segment of the festival, which is of a smaller scope this year. We'll have roughly 40 virtual sets, plus one pre-recorded workshop and the assemblage of all ten of the Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest finalists, as well.

As always, we're still desperately looking for volunteers for all positions, all shifts during the live festival. If you have not yet signed up and would like to, please go to our Volunteer form at <http://www.tumbleweedfest.com/volunteers.html>, where you can fill out the form and send it back in a number of different ways. We will have a short volunteer orientation on Sunday, August 28 beginning at 2:00 pm on the patio behind the Richland Community

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Katrina Knight 509-587-3060

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(Mic ki Perry)

Center. There you can learn from experienced volunteers what exactly the job you signed up for entails. And please, spread the word to everyone you know that they can spend a couple hours volunteering in the presence of great live music too!

Saturday Night Concert Headliners Are All Tumbleweed Veterans

September 3, 7:00 PM
Howard Amon Park North Stage

We have an exciting lineup of headliners for our Saturday Evening Concert for our 25th anniversary of Tumbleweed. All have been headliners in past years, and all have been important contributors to the history of Tumbleweed.

Sänger and Didele started playing as an "act" during the second year of Tumbleweed and have been festival favorites ever since. They are sometimes known as the Seaman of the Inland Empire or as the "Tillesquat Two", but those who have known them for a long time know them as Kent and Kurt Mesford, brothers who grew up in Richland, Washington, and the Tri-Cities' version of the Smothers Brothers. Kurt now lives in Michigan and Kent is from Spanaway, WA, where he and his wife Carol perform as Spanaway Bay, but it is always a treat to see these brothers united to bring their sometimes hilarious and sometimes beautiful versions of original and traditional sea songs and parody songs to audiences anywhere. We love those guys!

[Trillium-239](#) is a trio of musical divas, formerly known as Humphrey, Hartman and Cameron. Both Mary Hartman and Janet Humphrey are former coordinators of Tumbleweed, and both are excellent songwriters who performed together as a duo until they met Michelle Cameron at Tumbleweed and added Michelle and her cello into the mix. The trio is known for their complex melodic lines and quirky lyrics highlighted with masterful arrangements on a variety of instruments. Cello, guitar, and banjo provide thoughtful support for their

tight vocal harmonies.

[Dan Maher](#), who hosted NWPB's Inland Folk radio show for many years, has been a strong supporter of Three Rivers Folklife Society and Tumbleweed Music Festival for all the years we have been in existence. He has done many benefit concerts for Tumbleweed and has usually been the emcee for our Saturday night concert, but this year he is one of the featured acts of the show. Dan is a song collector, an occasional songwriter, a great sing-along leader, and an all-around fantastic entertainer with a vast knowledge of all genres of folk music. He always gets folks singing whenever he can.

Since Dan will not be emceeing this year, his shoes will be filled by Seattle songwriter Wes Weddell who has emceed the Jane Titland Memorial Song Contest for years. Wes will also announce the winners of this year's contest and the winner will sing their winning song as part of the concert.

The evening concert is one of just two paid events at Tumbleweed. Buy your tickets early at the Information Booth. The concert is a fund-raiser for the festival which is free during the day and quite a bargain for three great acts plus one winning song. Don't miss it!

Autoharp Virtuoso Brings Poetry and Stories to 3 Rivers Audience

Saturday, September 24, 7:30 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Nationally known autoharp player and storyteller [Bryan Bowers](#) will bring his wide repertoire of songs, tunes, poetry, and stories in concert on Saturday, September 24, 7:30 PM at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1312 Kimball Avenue in Richland. Tickets are available at the door or online through our website 3rfs.org for \$20 general admission/ \$15 3RFS members. Enter downstairs near the parking lot at the rear of the church. The concert will be upstairs in the sanctuary.

Bryan Bowers was raised in Virginia where he heard a lot of call and response music from field workers and

gandy dancers and also in church music. This was his first exposure to folk music, and call and response is still one of his favorite styles of singing. He dropped out of college in the '60s and took up the guitar like most '60s folkies, but soon discovered the autoharp and learned to play it. He moved to the Northwest in the early '70s and was a Seattle street musician who got lots of attention because he was a master player on an unusual instrument. He drove cross country in his 1966 Chevy panel truck "Old Yeller" and got to know the bluegrass band The Dillards at the Cellar Door in Washington DC. The Dillards introduced him to the national bluegrass and old-time music scene, and soon he was playing festivals and doing concerts all over the country. Bowers gained a reputation as one of the best autoharp players in the music world, was included in *Frets* magazine's First Gallery of the Greats and was inducted in the Autoharp Hall of Fame in 1993.

Bryan Bowers is most known as a master of the autoharp, but he is also a great singer, songwriter, storyteller, and most recently, a great poet. During the years of the Covid-19 isolation you would think he might have been holed-up in his cabin near Sedro Wooley playing his autoharp and singing old songs. Unfortunately he was unable to play the autoharp due to problems with his wrists and shoulder so he utilized his creative energy writing poems about his "first" 80 years. Twenty four poems were recorded outdoors, producing a unique CD called *Sunset Scribbles*. Don't miss this opportunity to hear this all-around great entertainer in a performance that combines instrumental virtuosity with warmth, elegance of expression, and professionalism.

Songwriting Contest Finalists

Each year at Tumbleweed we have a juried songwriting competition: The Jane Titland Memorial Songwriting Contest. Ten finalists are chosen by a committee of pre-judges from the 30-40 applicants and they perform their songs live before a panel of three judges and an audience of fans on Saturday afternoon at the West Stage. There are monetary prizes for the top three place winners and also a People's Choice Award. The winner

will sing their song at the evening concert and receive the Tumbleweed trophy. Each year we have a theme, and this year's theme was "Dear Friends".

This year's finalists:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Eli Ashley | <i>Dear Friends of Mine</i> |
| Kat Bula | <i>The Ballad of Flinty</i> |
| Ron Dalton | <i>Good Ol' Friends</i> |
| Kathe Davis | <i>Here's to You and Me</i> |
| Kaylie Dawes | <i>Love and Friendship</i> |
| Steff Kayser | <i>The Space Between the Fences</i> |
| Larry Lotz | <i>A Distant Wind</i> |
| James Tristan Redding | <i>Dear Friends</i> |
| Eric Schaffer | <i>My Friend</i> |
| Thaddeus Spae | <i>Dear Friends</i> |

Would YOU like a \$1,000 Guitar?



Every year at Tumbleweed, a donated guitar is raffled off to raise money to keep the festival going (and free!), and this year is no exception.

Our guitar to be raffled this year is a Martin Custom 15 guitar generously donated by Gene Weisskopf. It features a Sitka Spruce top, and Rosewood back and sides. The entire package being raffled includes this guitar, a stand, a Martin hard case, and a new tuner. The guitar has been authenticated, and the entire package is valued at \$1,000!

We have 500 raffle tickets total, and each costs \$5.00. We've had a LOT of interest in this guitar, with several of our performers promising that they were going to buy a LOT of tickets!

We'll have the tickets for sale during this year's festival at the main info booth, the auxiliary info booth inside the Community Center, and of course from our button/ticket sellers who'll be roving the grounds. The winning ticket will be drawn at the conclusion of the Sunday "Theme" concert at the South stage. You need not be present to win.

Now do you want a \$1,000 guitar?

Last Call for Donations

The silent auction is a fun way to support Tumbleweed by donating surplus musical instruments and other music and folk-related items. Your no-longer-used guitars, banjos, ukes, harmonicas, songbooks, CDs, or even vinyl records and cassettes can be someone else's treasure. Contact Terri Andre 509-987-7630 or teresaandre@charter.net to donate or volunteer to help monitor the auction.

New Prices for Admission

Your Three Rivers Folklife Society seeks to continue to attract regional talent for concerts and coffee houses, as well as maintain affordable events for our members and attendees. To that end, the board of directors has been considering our performer fee schedule and our admission fees. Over the last nine months, the board has reviewed our practices and compared them with similar community events, including theater productions, concerts, movies, and folklife society concerts elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. The result of this has been the establishment of new admission prices beginning with our September concert and coffee house seasons. For concerts, general admission will be \$20 and \$15 for members. Coffeehouse general admissions will be \$10 and \$8 for members. At the same time these fees take effect, we are increasing our performer guarantees to \$300 or 90 percent of the net gate for concerts, and \$150 or 90 percent of the net gate for coffee houses. These new performer minimums mark a 50 percent increase from the past and are the first changes in our performer fee schedules in as long as we can remember. These new admission fees and performer rates put us in line with similar organizations in the Northwest. There will be no changes at present to our contra dance admissions, band, and caller fees. We believe these new rates provide good value for live music and a fair return to performers for their talents and effort.

2nd Saturday Sea Song Singalong

Saturday, Aug 13 & Sept 10, 6 PM
Round Table Pizza, Richland

Since we know you'll be attending Tumbleweed, we're warning you - YOU WILL BE HEARING SEA CHANTEYS! And you will want to sing them forever! We invite you to join us on the second Saturday of every month at Richland's Round Table Pizza. It's a fun and informal group singing sea songs and other stuff. Join us!

September Coffeehouse - Dorothy Sted

Friday, September 9, 7:00 PM
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Last year we heard Dorothy Sted perform for our coffeehouse open mic and we liked her so much that this year we've invited her back for a full set. Dorothy has been involved with music since kindergarten, beginning with piano and harp lessons before teaching herself guitar. She began writing songs in middle school and has been writing on-and-off ever since. Over the past four years, she has become more serious in writing her songs. Writing lyrics is her favorite part of the songwriting process. She loves the way words fit together and become a story.

Admission is \$8 for 3RFS members/\$10 for non-members and the show starts at 7 PM with an open mic. Come early if you would like to sign up for a performance slot. The coffeehouse is hosted at the All Saints' Episcopal Church at 1322 Kimball Avenue in Richland.

Contra Corner

We look forward to dancing with all of you at our Tumbleweed Contra Dance on Sunday, September 4 at 8 PM in the Richland Community Center. The Prestwold Players, an English Country and Contra Dance band, will be playing for us. They mainly play for dances in Spokane, but are coming our way to

Local Folk Events

August

5	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's, Kennewick
8	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
10	Tumbleweed Steering Committee	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
13	2 nd Saturday Seasoning Sing-along	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
24	Tumbleweed Steering Committee	7:00 pm Wed	Zoom
28	Tumbleweed Volunteer Orientation	2:00 pm Sun	Patio of Richland Community Center

September

2	Tumbleweed New Horizons Concert	6:30 pm Fri	Howard Amon Park, Richland
3	Tumbleweed Music Festival	11 am - 6:30 pm Sat	Howard Amon Park, Richland
	Tumbleweed Concert	7:00 pm Sat	Howard Amon Park, Richland
4	Tumbleweed Music Festival	11 am - 8:00 pm Sun	Howard Amon Park, Richland
	Tumbleweed Contra Dance	8:00 pm Sun	Richland Community Center
9	Coffeehouse with Dorothy Sted	7:30 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
10	2 nd Saturday Seasoning Sing-along	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
12	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	location to be announced
24	Bryan Bowers Concert	7:30 pm Sat	All Saints', Richland
25	Volunteers' Appreciation Picnic	4:00 pm Sun	Micki Perry's, Kennewick

October

1	3RFS Contra Dance	7:00 pm Sat	Lighthouse Church, Richland
7	First Friday Folkie Free For All	7:00 pm Fri	Micki Perry's, Kennewick
8	2 nd Saturday Seasoning Sing-along	6:00 pm Sat	Round Table Pizza, Richland
10	3RFS Board Meeting	7:00 pm Mon	Gene Carbaugh's, Richland
14	3RFS Coffeehouse w/ Chainsaw and the Fine Particulates	7:30 pm Fri	All Saints', Richland
15	Go Janes and AuntMama Concert	7:30 pm Sat	Location TBA

All Saints' = All Saints' Episcopal Church, 1322 Kimball Ave., Richland
Gene Carbaugh's = 803 Birch Ave., Richland
Micki Perry's = 1011 S. Dawes St., Kennewick
Round Table Pizza = Corner of George Washington Way and Torbett St., Richland
Lighthouse Church = 1007 Wright Ave, Richland

play for our dance. Band members are Margie Heller playing violin and viola, and Steve Riggan on keyboard, both from Spokane; Lorna Woelfel playing violin from Coeur d'Alene; and Emily Faulkner playing recorder and flute from Sandpoint. Mitchell Frye, who specializes in calling English Country as well as contra will be calling our dances. They've played and called for us before and we look forward to having them back again!

Upcoming events:

The Three Rivers Folklife Society contra dance program will be providing contra dance workshops for beginning dancers through the Kennewick Continuing Education program on Saturdays, September 24 and October 15 from 10 AM - 12 PM at Kennewick High School. More information will be coming soon.

Yes!

I want to help 3RFS and the Tumbleweed Music Festival Roll on!

I would like to contribute at this level:

- _____ \$1000.00
- _____ \$250.00
- _____ \$100.00
- _____ \$50.00
- \$_____ Other

Please keep my gift anonymous (Donor names will be listed in next year's program unless you indicate you wish to remain anonymous.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Send to: 3RFS TMF, PO Box 1098, Richland, WA 99352



Membership Application

Your membership gives you voting rights in Folklife elections, discounted tickets for most events, and is tax deductible!

____ Individual (\$20) or ____ Family (\$25) Renewal? Y N

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Please send Folk Talk (choose one) US Mail **Email** **Both**

I can help 3RFS with:

- Refreshments at concerts
- Taking admission at events
- Serve on Board of Directors
- Demonstrating folk arts
- Tumbleweed Music Festival
- Song Circles
- Setting up chairs
- Folding newsletters
- Publicity
- Membership
- Fund raising
- Coffeehouses
- Other

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