

FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA

FOLK NOTES

Contemporary, traditional, roots and alternative music

October 2008

ACOUSTIC UNDERGROUND

CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:

Jennings and Keller

Saturday, October 4, 8 p.m.

In the two years since closing her popular Main Street Café in Homestead, Laurie Jennings Oudin has been steadily reinventing her public self. She now performs as the singer in [Jennings and Keller](#), her voice blending with the resonant sound of Dana Keller's dobro. Their "fusion folk Americana" is a little bit country, a little bit folkie, and as real as the goose bumps that rise on your arm when words and music say better than you can what you felt at some memorable time of life.

It's little wonder that Jennings and Keller were finalists at five songwriting contests in 2007 – the Falcon Ridge and Susquehanna among them. The influences that shape their tastes are as varied as Broadway, Joni Mitchell and West Texas honky-tonk. If you haven't obtained their album from early this year, *Susan's House*, there are good examples to hear at their [My Space](#) page; you



might start with *Odelle*, as recorded at WDVX in Knoxville, Tenn.

Laurie is a longtime singer, her stage confidence perhaps enhanced by early study at the National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York. After Main Street she enrolled for Amy Carol Webb's songwriting class at the University of Miami, and since January she has taught for the Inside Out arts

program at the all-women Homestead Correctional Institution.

"They gain so much self-esteem and new understanding, even new skills that they can take out with them," Laurie said of the inmates she's teaching. "We can't change the laws or the justice system, but the program is to help the people inside."

Dana is a veteran pedal steel, dobro, and guitar player, mainly in Nashville and Los Angeles. He spent years performing on stage or in the studio with such luminaries as Vince Gill, Ricky Skaggs, Stevie Wonder, Larry Graham, Marvin Gaye, Dave Mason, Johnny Rodriguez and the Alien Brothers.

Dana had come to Florida as a kid and hooked up with Bobby Ingram. He'd been playing with country bands in Texas when he came back and

played at the Main Street. "The dobro is my favorite instrument," Laurie said, "and I knew I just had to sing with him."

The synergy created from these two diverse talents is apparent in the responses they are getting from festival directors, club owners, and audience

members. Laurie's and Dana's music is not easy to define, but will leave a lasting impression on all who listen.

Laurie and Dana have been on the road quite a bit lately so we are always pleased to hear them when we can. For anyone who wants to listen to a professional, homegrown (as close as we get to it, anyway) folk and acoustic act, don't miss this show. It's top of the line.

Saturday, Oct. 4, at 8 p.m.

LUNA STAR CAFE

775 NE 125th St., North Miami.

Phone 305-799-7123

Requested contribution \$7 for member of any folk club; \$10 for non-member

THE PREZ SAYS . . .

Freedom sings in South Florida

By Barry J. White

As many of you are aware, the mission of the Folk Club Of South Florida is to bring folk music to as wide an audience as possible. And the vehicles and venues for doing so are only limited by our imaginations.

When we received a call from Julieth Dabdoub of the Wolfsonian Museum on Miami Beach, we had hands-on proof of this axiom. She conceptualized and created a series of programs dedicated to exploring the meaning of freedom, Freedom Fridays. And her first program, Free To Sing Out Loud, hit the nail square on the head.

We recommended Rod MacDonald as the person who could to bring her ideas to life including sing-along songs. And boy, did we sing. His published play list was 28 songs and we did just about all of them before they closed down the place after two and a half hours of roof raising music. From What's That I Hear (Phil Ochs) to Harriet Tubman (Walter Robinson) to Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream (Ed McCurdy) to Get Up Stand Up (Bob Marley & Peter Tosh) and Simple Song of Freedom (Bobby Darin) it was an educational, inspirational and



fun-filled evening.

Rod, the Wolfsonian-FIU staff and the Knight New Work Award from the Funding Arts Network (FAN), in partnership with the John S. James L. Knight Foundation are to be commended for this series. All events are free.

There will be three more programs in the series on Oct. 3 and 10, and Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Wolfsonian Museum, 1001 Washington Ave., Miami Beach. To learn more, visit

<http://artscenenews.com/2008/09/02/calendar-at-the-wolfsonian-museum/>

Our board meeting date has not been set. Right now it looks like it will be Oct. 13 or 14; we will send out an e-mail or you can contact a board member for the exact day and place. All paid-up members are welcome; only board members vote.

Don't miss Jennings and Keeler on Oct. 4 at Luna Star; fine stuff (see page 1). And you should hear the harmonies at the song swaps; heavenly.

For those of you observing Ramadan, we hope you have a meaningful and fulfilling holiday, and L'Shana Tova for the New Year to our Jewish friends.

Musicians, presenters head for Tennessee

By Christine Stay

In Mid-October I'm heading to Murfreesboro, Tenn. Why would I leave the crisp air and fall foliage of New York? To attend the debut SERFA Conference.

SERFA is the South Eastern Regional chapter of the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance serving Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia – states with a rich musical history and an interesting evolution of the folk tradition. The SERFA Conference aims to provide opportunities for the music community to network, and to increase access to resources for artists, presenters, and other members of the folk community.

For me, the conference is a rare opportunity to educate myself in the field in which I am trying to

make my living. There will be a series of workshops, panel discussions, and mentor sessions aimed at helping musicians to grow and develop their craft and their careers; recording at home or in the studio, songwriting critique or analysis, marketing and publicity, and much more. I also learn a lot from other musicians – not only the tangible things like information on venues or equipment, but also the less tangible things like coping with life on the road and the challenges of making a career in music, interesting sights and great diners.

Since this is the first Southeast regional conference, it will be relatively small, not the hectic pace of the national conference. I'm looking forward to really getting to know my fellow musicians, presenters, radio show hosts and others who share a passion for folk and acoustic music.

But the SERFA Conference is not just for musicians. There will be a series specifically for venues or house concerts to help presenters to promote and build an audience, communicate and plan in conjunction with other venues. We want to help organize the Southeast to build stronger touring options for national and regional musicians, bigger audiences and successful folk music events! Venues and presenters in Florida are a performer's dream! You guys talk to each other, coordinate shows, promote each other's events. The rest of the South is not at all like that . . . but I am hopeful. If we can get the Southeastern venues talking, help them to book cooperatively and share ideas, I think we can help more artists tour in the South and make their way into Florida.

Did I mention music? Of course there will be tons of music: singer-songwriters, instrumentalists, traditional, Celtic, bluegrass and more. They will be featured at formal showcases, pitch sessions where they perform one song to a panel of industry professionals, late-night guerilla showcases held in hotel rooms like mini-house concerts, and at my personal favorite, the impromptu jam sessions in lobbies, hallways and stairways where musicians find each other and a song they have in common.

The SERFA Conference will held at Middle Tennessee State University, about a 45-minute drive from Nashville. Visit www.serfa.org for information

about the conference and other SERFA activities.

Christine Stay, half of the duo Friction Farm, is the SERFA Conference co-chair and a former Floridian who misses you all very much.

<http://www.frictionfarm.com>

Riffs and pull-offs



John Hopkins and Liz Warriner seeking out their roots at Opryland in Nashville. Photo by Keisha Warriner.

By John Hopkins

Our long summer ramble this year was bracketed by two memorable auditory experiences – visiting the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and hearing the Rockridge Brothers, a Swedish bluegrass band, play for the weekly dance at the Floyd Country Store in Virginia. Neither was quite what I expected.

We camped at Nashville fresh after visiting the museum in Montgomery, Ala., that tries to keep alive the name of native son Hank Williams. I'd just as soon forget the museum – a gloomy place more

appropriate if Hank had gone to sleep for the last time a month ago than as a tribute to a barely-schooled genius who defined the country music of his era.

Nashville, though, gives Hank his due at the Opry and the Country Music Hall of Fame. Both are helping me sort out what became of the frank and simple musical expression brought to these shores by our pre-industrial settlers.

I don't care for the overdone production values at the Opry of today, with way too many blinding spotlights roaming the auditorium. But some of the music was, to me, surprisingly in the mainstream. For every number that reprised a hit by Williams or his contemporaries, there was another by a hot youngster you may hear any day now on WKIS. And the graying heartthrob Hal Ketchum, whose albums include *The King of Love*, showed again that sex appeal transcends age and geography.



One thing that has happened to American old-time music is its spread to Europe – or its return. Bands like the Rockridge Brothers, above, now bring us their own take on what our ancestors did with the instruments their ancestors gave us – plus the happy addition of the banjo. It was the essence of joy to hear them and to see the enthusiastic flatfoot dancing of the mountain crowd.

I can't guarantee you'd hear the Swedes if you made your way to the Blue Ridge Mountains, but your chances are very good of finding skilled and authentic mountain music any Friday night at the

[Floyd Country Store](#). Be on time, though; around there, folks go home early.

Folk is busting out all over, my friends. Joan Baez made the point a couple of weeks ago when she was being interviewed by Bob Edwards of XM Radio about her life and her new album, *Day After Tomorrow* (from Bobolink Records). Not only did Oxford University Press come out with *The Music of Joni Mitchell*, by Lloyd Whitesell, in July, but *Pete Seeger at 89* was just released by Appleseed Recordings -- and publicized Monday with a Seeger visit to the David Letterman show.

It's not too soon to plan your November music, not when Judy Collins will be in South Florida for five performances with the [Palm Beach Pops](#): Nov. 6-7 at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach, Nov. 9-10 at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, and Nov. 13 at the Eissey Center Theater, Palm Beach Community College. Or, if you like your folk a little more edgy, there's also [Rufus Wainwright](#) at the Kravis on Nov. 9.

Song Swap

Our club's song swap, pot luck dinner, and open house will be held from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12, at the home of Linda Singer and Dave Skinner. Come to play, sing, or listen. Please bring your covered dish contribution for dinner.

Address: 5249 SW 71 Place, Miami, FL ;
Telephone: 305-667-4386

We live in Lakeridge, a community whose entrance is on the east side of SW 72 Avenue between Bird Road (SW 40th Street) and Miller Road (SW 56 Street). We are one-half mile east of the Palmetto Expressway. When you turn into Lakeridge, take a right at the guardhouse. We are a couple of blocks down on the left. Use guest parking only. You may unload at the house, then move your car.

We thank Barry and Ronnie White for graciously hosting and feeding our club members and guests who attended in September.

—Linda Singer

Special events for October

All events start at 8 p.m. unless time is given. Our club events are in bold.

2	Thu	Ana Kanpa , alternative/indie rock, Luna Star Café , 775 NE 125 th St., North Miami
3	Fri	Amanda Stallings & Brother Lou, Luna Star Café
4	Sat	Standing on the Side of Love : Folk and Swap music benefit against Florida Marriage Amendment, UU Church, Oakland Park, 7 p.m. Jennings and Keller, Folk Club of South Florida's Acoustic Underground Concert Series, Luna Star Café, (see page 1) Glen Allen's open mic, Vegetarian Restaurant, 73 NE 167 th St., North Miami Beach
5	Sun	South Florida Bluegrass Association Festival, Oak Grove, 1511 NE 207th St., North Miami
10	Fri	Sam Pacetti , Luna Star Café
11	Sat	Valerie C. Wisecracker/Bob Macdonald, the Labyrinth Café , UU Church of Fort Lauderdale, 7:30 p.m.
12	Sun	Folk Club Song Swap, home of Linda Singer and Dave Skinner, 5 p.m. (see page 4)
16	Thur	Stefanie Smerkers , Luna Star Café
18	Sat	Rod MacDonald , Lantana Greenfest , 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Diane Ward , Luna Star Café Broward Folk Club song circle , Southwest Ranches
24	Fri	2 Bottle Sunday , Luna Star Café Michael Smith with Bill and Kate Isles , Boumel House Concert Steve Greenberg MC's at Starbucks, 9700 Pines Blvd., Pembroke Pines
26	Sun	Ellen Bukstel at Kolot of Jewish Family Service's domestic abuse luncheon, Signature Grand, Davie, noon Music in the Park , Julia Assembly Hall, Secret Woods. 2701 W State Rd. 84, Dania Beach, 2 p.m.
30	Thur	Out of the Blue, Chocolate Moose , 9 p.m.

Fuller detail about events and venues may be found at www.gotfolk.com. To add an event to our calendar, e-mail writerrad@aol.com – before the 18th of the previous month.

Play, sing or listen

You are welcome at these weekly "open mic" events, starting at 8 p.m. unless specified here. To add, change or remove a listing, write to Tony Thomas at writerrad@aol.com.

Sundays

John Brown's acoustic showcase, [JohnMartins](#), 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables

Mondays

[Java D'Lites](#), 2528 University Dr., Coral Springs, 8:30 p.m.
[Marvelous Coffee](#) (acoustic), 8616 Griffin Rd., Cooper City, until 11 p.m.

Tuesdays

Lou's jam, [Luna Star Café](#), 775 NE 125th St., North Miami, 5-7 p.m.
[Old-time jam](#), Elks Club, 700 NE 10th St., Pompano Beach, 7-10 p.m.
Acoustic (except Oct. 21), [Chocolate Moose](#), 9118 SR 84, Davie, 9 p.m.
[Shauna Sweeney](#), Kingshead Pub, 2692 N. University Dr., Sunrise
[Blues](#) at Nitecap Lounge, 15455 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami Beach, 9 p.m.

Thursdays

[Elks Club](#), 6304 SW 78th St., South Miami

Saturdays

[Bluegrass jam](#), Lake Forest fire station, SW 39th Street & 41st Avenue, Hollywood, 3 p.m.
Oct 11 and 25, [Luna Star Café](#)
Acoustic (except Oct. 25), [Chocolate Moose](#), 9118 SR 84, Davie, 8:30 p.m.

And don't forget club director Michael Stock's *Folk & Acoustic Music*, broadcast every Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. over WLRN-FM, 91.3 MHz. You can call Michael at 305-995-2220 or write him at mstock@wlrn.org.



FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Is a non-profit organization (501-C) and member of The North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance. We proudly support Friends of Florida Folk and the radio station WLRN in Miami, Florida.

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Barker House Concert Series: www.floridamusic.org
Broward Folk Club: www.browardfolkclub.com
Local Folk Music Resources: www.gotfolk.com
North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance: www.folk.org
South Florida Folk Festival: www.southfloridafolkfest.com
Palm Beach Folk Club: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pbfcchat>

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE FILL OUT MEMBERSHIP INFO AND
MAIL YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CHECK

Made out to:

FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA
10001 SW 129 Terrace
Miami, FL 33176

Annual membership entitles you to a special rate on concerts, a monthly newsletter and admission to our annual party featuring complimentary food and music. Please choose the membership that is best suited for you and your family:

**INDIVIDUAL \$20.00 -- FAMILY \$25.00 --
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THE FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA
10001 SW 129 Terrace
Miami, FL 33176

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DON'T MISS:

- JENNINGS and KELLER at the Luna Star Café, 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4
- SONG SWAP in South Miami, 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, phone 305-667-4386
- FOLK & ACOUSTIC MUSIC with MICHAEL STOCK, Sundays 2-5 PM, WLRN 91.3 MHz