

# FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA

# FOLK NOTES

Contemporary, traditional, roots and alternative music

June 2009

## ACOUSTIC UNDERGROUND

CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:

## Mike Barra and his band – Mr. Barracuda

Saturday, June 6, at 8 p.m.

Is there no end to the talent floating around in South Florida? And how does Val find it again and again? Now we have a chance to hear a group in which each member has deep experience and finely developed musical skills but only one of them, Sean Dibble, is a full-time professional.

Mike Barra, a.k.a. Mr. Barracuda, for example, won the 1986 New York City Malboro country music songwriting contest for his song *Now You Know Why*. That was 23 years ago, but he has not been resting on his laurels. As a solo acoustic performer, he has opened for Kenny Rankin (he received three standing ovations), Greg Brown, Chubby Checker, The Battlefield Band and none other than Gamble Rogers.

Praise has been consistently high for Mike over the years. Reviewers speak of his unique sound, of dazzling, pounding guitar work and lyrics that can

“bring you the edge of your seat,” Val says

“He is an original, in its most undistilled form, swirling listeners out to the edge of his sometimes twisted, parallel universe.” Perfect for describing life in South Florida; we can all relate.

Apparently, Mike has changed little over time. In 1977, Good Times magazine called him the Bob Dylan of South Florida. Writing in Miami New Times in 1996, Arelle Castillo said, “His original material was mostly humorous with a lot of griping thrown in.” He probably speaks for many of us. Reviewing one of Mike's shows at the Barnacle in the Coconut Grover, Hamish Ziegler was taken

with his warmth and his “take-it-easy, Everyman voice, easy to listen to, like the sound of pouring water. His quirky, disarming entree into the world of our fear” won him over.

Mike's lead guitarist is John Holland, who has a background in bluegrass, jazz, funk, R&B, gospel, reggae and rock. Sean Dibble, the percussionist, is a multi-instrumentalist and composer who has played and recorded with Julio Iglesias, Angela Patua, world fusion band Outdance and Haitian roots band Ayebombe; you can catch him at Scotty's Landing on Friday

evenings with Live Bait.

Steve Jernigan plays stand-up and electric bass and does vocals; his work has included the Stan Kenton Reunion Band, Mitch Miller and the Blue Ridge Country Ramblers and TST.



Talent, experience, many genres and looks, and a charismatic lead singer. It sounds like a great evening to me. See you there. Bring your friends, including the aunt who never gets out; they'll love you for it.

—BJW

### Saturday, June 6, at 8 p.m.

LUNA STAR CAFE

775 NE 125<sup>th</sup> St., North Miami, phone 305-799-7123.

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

## THE PREZ SAYS . . .

### More inclusive folk music

By Barry J. White

Recently the Board of the Folk Club of South Florida agreed to make our music more inclusive of the folk music of the many ethnicities living in South Florida. Every subculture has the music of its native land, the music from its family gatherings, its living rooms, its daily lives. This music exists apart from the more commercial or "Tin Pan Alley" music you might hear on the radio or in a club. It is the music you might hear at celebrations, weddings, funerals and other events marking rites of passage.



We have so many musically rich cultures in South Florida: Haitian, Jamaican, Cuban and the rest of the Caribbean, the nations of Central and South America as well as people from the rest of the world; we are so rich and so blessed with the diversity, with the foods, with the music.

We have already started to show this expanded range of folk music in some of our programming. We recently booked SOL, a lovely and talented young lady of Cuban descent at Luna Star. Her music reflects her heritage as well as the current musical culture of Cubans in South Florida. A few years ago we produced the Music Festival of the Americas and Beyond for the Miami-Dade County Department of

Parks and Recreation. About a dozen cultures were represented including steel drums from Trinidad, families from Jamaica and Colombia, *punto guajiro* from Cuba, as well as traditional and contemporary American folk music such as John Blosser's fantastic dulcimer sounds. It was a diverse and rich program and set a standard and model for what can be presented.

We will be seeking out folk music which represents the many ethnicities as well as performers of traditional and contemporary American music. We welcome input regarding such groups and individuals. Your information and recommendations, and involvement, are welcome. We have new and existing venues for them and will be making every effort to fulfill our mission to bring this expanded definition of folk music to a wider audience. Stay tuned.

## Something new about something old

By John Hopkins

In my earliest memories of the house of my mother's childhood, an old fiddle hung from the wall of a room off the kitchen. My cousins and I, try as we might, could not coax Grandpa Yeatts to take it down and play. He never said why.

I was grown by the time somebody found Grandma's memoirs, handwritten in a school composition book and tucked away on a shelf. By then, only the pages were left to speak for her. They told of the early years of her marriage, when her furniture would be pushed against the wall and the neighbors called in to dance late into the evening.

In Grandma's notebook we found the secret of Grandpa's silent fiddle. "There was the devil in those tunes," Grandma wrote, "and we hung up the fiddle and learned to pray."

By the time I came along, Grandma's music was more of the amen corner kind, and her radio was tuned to Billy Graham more often than Bill Monroe.

It was years more before I would discover the music she and Grandpa had turned their backs on. And while I can't remember that it ever led me to sinning (I didn't need music for that), it surely brought me a richer appreciation of the lives they led

as the mountain South slowly recovered from the Civil War and sent new generations of sons away to war in Europe.

I love that old music, and it pleases me greatly to tell you that Folk Notes is adding a column about it this month. We've all heard Tony Thomas play, and now we get to read his thoughts and appreciation of the music. I am sure you will enjoy it.

## OLD-TIME AND BLUES



### What I like

By Tony Thomas

Starting around 1924 and until the 1929 Depression, blues singers from cities, small towns, and the cotton fields, and both black and white Southern string bands, banjo players, and fiddlers made millions of great records. Thousands of blues, string band, and Southern rural records captured great folk-based music before pop-influenced country music arose in the 1930s and before the blues were monopolized by stables of great but predictable singers and studio musicians clustered in Atlanta, Chicago, and New York City, managed by producers concerned with big bucks and stealing every cent they could from the artists.

The record companies sold the "white" music as "Old-Time Music," pimping nostalgia for the rural past that most Americans had recently left behind.

They marketed the blues and other black music as "race music" along with city jazz and pop, records by and for African Americans. Black performers and bands made "white" old-time records. European-American white musicians made race records. No one told Jim Crow. Folklorists and city folk who treasured the music scoured the South, recording people who play this music from the tradition.

Millions singing and picking this music for generations gave each hill and hollow and valley, camp, town, and cotton row its own style of blues, banjo, and fiddle music. The music was rich with what Bill Monroe called "the ancient tones" and with the anguish, exuberance, and wonder of people holding on while a new world of railroads, coal mines, levee camps, highways filled with trucks and automobiles, cotton mills, lynching, world wars, and the disaster the 1920s were to Southern agriculture crashed in.

But even if this music had none of this history and significance, there is so much joy in it. Made for dancing, imbibing, and finding, enjoying, and recovering from romance, the music powered barn dances, juke joints, country suppers, corn shuckings, house raisings, and general scenes of boot scooting, slow dragging, flat footing, buck dancing, and drinking of distilled liquid folk culture. Good times, good people, and real life twang out of old-time and swing out of the blues. Both musics can be played and sung by anyone who loves them simply and without much background, though they both produced virtuosi, masters whose entire lives and unique talents created music no one can equal.

Whether singing or picking banjo or guitar, or listening to folks who really know how to do it, this is what I like. I will be writing more about blues and old-time music each month in the newsletter.

### Song Swap and open house

The next song swap and open house of the Folk Club of South Florida will be held on Sunday, June 14, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the home of Mike Malone and Chris Kirchner, 6741 SW 68th Terr., Miami, FL 33143. Their telephone number is 305-662-4003.

Please bring your musical instruments, if any,

songs to sing, and your contribution to the pot-luck dinner.

We thank Holly White for being our May hostess and putting all that effort into trying to get county approval to use the Dice House.

To take your turn as a host, e-mail Linda Singer at [lcs\\_folk@bellsouth.net](mailto:lcs_folk@bellsouth.net) or call 305-667-4386.

– Linda Singer

## June folk calendar

### Concerts and shows

All events start at 8 p.m. unless a time is given. Our club events are in bold. Later details may be found at [www.gotfolk.com](http://www.gotfolk.com).

#### June 4

[Alejandra Czarny](#), Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125th St., North Miami; 305-799-7123.

#### June 5

[Armando Zuppa](#), right, featuring [Diane Ward](#), Debby Duke, and Jack [Shawde](#) playing Newgrass America, Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125th St., North Miami; 305-799-7123.



[Coffee House Gypsies](#), Hotel St. Michel, 162 Alcazar Ave., Coral Gables, in benefit for Best Buddies. Info from 305-444-1666 or [thp@thecoffeehousegypsies.com](mailto:thp@thecoffeehousegypsies.com).

#### June 6

[Matthew Sabatella](#) and the Rambling String Band, 3-4 p.m., Gusman Concert Hall, University of Miami, 1314 Miller Drive, Coral Gables; 305-271-7150, grownups \$12, children \$10.

**Mr. Barracuda, Acoustic Underground Concert, Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125th St., North Miami. (Details, page 1.)**

#### June 10

Aaron Rafiere, [Luna Star Café](#), 775 NE 125th St., North Miami; 305-799-7123.

#### June 11

Big Water, Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125th St., North Miami; 305-799-7123.

#### June 12

Inez Sebon, Haitian folk and singer-songwriter, [Luna Star Café](#), 775 NE 125th St., North Miami; 305-799-7123.

#### June 13

[Davie Barn Dance](#), with Loose Shoes; Brian Kushner calling; Davie Woman's Club, 6551 Orange Drive, Davie. Info: Marty at 954-270-9764.

[Kuyayky](#), traditional Peruvian Music, [The Wallflower Gallery](#), 10 NE 3rd St., Miami 305-579-0069.

#### June 16

Songwriters Showcase presented by [Crystal Hartigan](#), Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Abdo New River Room.

#### June 19

[Diane Ward](#) acoustic trio, featuring [Jack Shawde](#) and Debbie Duke, Luna Star Café, 775 NE 125th St., North Miami; 305-799-7123.

#### June 20

Songwriters' Series Showcase with [Deep Water Willy](#), Ryan Rachel, and Steve Minotti, The Wallflower Gallery, 10 NE 3rd St., Miami; 305-579-0069.

[Grant Peeples](#), [Luna Star Café](#), 775 NE 125th St., North Miami; 305-799-7123.

#### June 26

Outta the Blue, country-flavored acoustic folk; [Luna Star Café](#), 775 NE 125th St., North Miami; 305-799-7123.



The Acoustic Underground Concert Series will take a break in July, then resume August 1 with BluesGotUs. You may have read about their latest CD, *Runnin Outa Georgia*, in SingOut.

Photo by Eddie Kavetsky.

## Monthly regular events

All events start at 8 p.m. unless time is given. Folk Club of South Florida events are in **bold**.

### June 5

[Broward Folk Club](#) open mic 7:30 p.m., featuring [Friction Farm](#) at 9 p.m. Fresh Aroma Coffee Bar, 3656 Hillsboro Blvd., Deerfield Beach; 954-463-7374.

### June 6

Open mic, [Vegetarian Restaurant](#), 73 NE 167th St., North Miami; 305-405-6346.

### June 7

[South Florida Bluegrass Association Festival](#), 12:30-5 p.m., Greynolds Park, Miami Gardens Drive and NE 22nd Avenue.

### June 11

**Folk Club of South Florida open house and song swap, 5-9 p.m., 6741 SW 68<sup>th</sup> Terr., South Miami. Contact 305-662-4003. Details, page 3.**

### June 14

[Bluegrass jam](#), 2 p.m., Fern Forest Park, Lyons Road and W. Atlantic Boulevard, Pompano Beach; 954-970-0150.

### June 16

Irish music, [Luna Star Café](#).

### June 21

Broward Folk Club song circle and open house, 7 p.m., home of Susan Moss. Write [OzWoman321@aol.com](mailto:OzWoman321@aol.com) for more information.

### June 25

[Jamming in the Park](#), Julia Assembly Hall, Secret Woods Nature Center, 2701 W. State Rd. 84, Dania Beach; 954-791-1030.

### June 26

[Bluegrass gospel sing and jam](#), 7 p.m., 2400 South Pine Island Dr., Davie; 954-578-1359 or 954-663-3568.

## Weekly regular events

### Sundays

Michael Stock's *Folk & Acoustic Music*, broadcast 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](mailto:mstock@wlrn.org).

Open mic, 6 p.m., hosted by [Paul T](#) at Tom's NFL, 5001 NW 36th Street, Miami Springs. For info call Paul at 786-970-8021.

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

### Mondays

Acoustic night, 8:30 p.m., hosted by Gene Merola at Mangos, 904 E Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. For info e-mail [geneshow@aol.com](mailto:geneshow@aol.com) or phone Gene at 954-829-6085.

### Tuesdays

Lou's jam, 5-7 p.m., [Luna Star Café](#), 775 NE 125<sup>th</sup> St., North Miami.

[Old-time jam](#), 7-10 p.m., Elks Club, 700 NE 10<sup>th</sup> St., Pompano Beach.

Acoustic open mic, 9 p.m., [Chocolate Moose](#), 9118 State Road 84, Davie.

[Shauna Sweeney](#), Kingshead Pub, 2692 N. University Dr., Sunrise.

[Blues jam](#), 9 p.m., Nitecap Lounge, 15455 W. Dixie Hwy., North Miami Beach.

### Wednesdays

[Epiphone acoustic open mic](#), Churchill's Pub, 5501 NE 2nd Ave., Miami (not on June 3).

### Thursdays

**Open mic, [Elks Club](#), 6304 SW 78<sup>th</sup> St., South Miami.**

[Open mic](#), D.P.'s, 200 N. Hollywood Broadwalk; 954-922-7993.

### Fridays

[Bluegrass jam](#), Elks Club, 87190 Davie Road Extension, Hollywood; call 954 374-2464.

### Saturdays

[Bluegrass jam](#), 3 p.m., Lake Forest fire station, SW 39<sup>th</sup> Street and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Hollywood.

[Luna Star Café](#), open mic June 14, 21 and 28, at 75 NE 125th St., North Miami; 305-799-7123 or [lunastarcafe@aol.com](mailto:lunastarcafe@aol.com)

Acoustic open mic, 8:30 p.m., Chocolate Moose, 9118 State Road 84, Davie.

To add, change, or remove a listing, write Tony Thomas at [writerrad@aol.com](mailto:writerrad@aol.com) before the 18<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

## FOLK CLUB OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Purpose: To foster and promote traditional, contemporary and multicultural folk music and other folk arts in South Florida by supporting and encouraging local talent and showcasing local and national folk performers. To increase public understanding of the rich variety, artistic value, cultural and historical significance, and continuing relevance of folk music. The club is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status and a member of The North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance. We proudly support Friends of Florida Folk and Miami radio station WLRN.

President and director **Barry J. White**, 305-251-1960, [bwtamia@bellsouth.net](mailto:bwtamia@bellsouth.net)  
Vice-President and director **Valerie Caracappa**, 305-891-3528  
Secretary and director **Karen Goldstein**, [kargol47@yahoo.com](mailto:kargol47@yahoo.com)  
Treasurer and director **Jane Matthews**, [mommamatt@aol.com](mailto:mommamatt@aol.com)  
Director Carol Foster, [Mangomum2@aol.com](mailto:Mangomum2@aol.com)  
Director Tony Thomas, [writerrad@aol.com](mailto:writerrad@aol.com)  
Director Bob Ingram, [ringram42@bellsouth.net](mailto:ringram42@bellsouth.net)  
Director Charlie Rathburn, [CRatMiami@aol.com](mailto:CRatMiami@aol.com)  
Director Michael Stock, 305-995-2264 or [mstock@wlrn.org](mailto:mstock@wlrn.org)  
Members-At-Large: Nellie Lee, Win Lippert, Grant Livingston, Linda Singer, Andrew Susman and Frost Walker

Newsletter: John Hopkins, 786-242-0766 or [jdj-miami@att.net](mailto:jdj-miami@att.net)

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

### WEBSITE LINKS

## 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 – Family \$25 –  
Supporting \$35 – Sustaining \$75 –  
Sponsor \$125 – Benefactor \$250 –  
Pete Seeger Endowment Fund, above \$250**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**First Class Mail**  
**Address Correction Requested**

### DON'T MISS:

- **MR. BARRACUDA** at the Luna Star Café, 8 p.m. Saturday, June 6
- **SONG SWAP** in South Miami, 5 p.m. Sunday, June 14, phone 305-662-4003
- **OPEN MIC**, Elk's Lodge, South Miami, 8 p.m. Thursdays, phone 305-666-2495
- **FOLK & ACOUSTIC MUSIC** with MICHAEL STOCK, Sundays 2-5 PM, WLRN 91.3 MHz