



REEL TIMES

MARCH 2010

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Great Double Feature March 26th: The Stairwell Sisters & Freighthoppers!

The Stairwell Sisters

San Francisco's all-gal old-time teardown, THE STAIRWELL SISTERS, play a deep and rowdy repertoire of timeless tunes plus a solid standing of smart, original material that is winning praise on a national level. The Stairwell Sisters lay down concerts and square dances for counter-culturalists everywhere, infusing the old music with intoxicating energy and soul. The stairwell has never sounded better. Producer Lloyd Maines recalls his first encounter with the band: "I happened upon this tribe of women musicians, playing old-time string music, with the power and excitement of a great rock band." <http://www.stairwellsisters.com/>

The Freight Hoppers ride again!

"There are certain string bands that everyone looks to in setting the bar high for musicianship, performance and showmanship and The Freight Hoppers deliver the goods. Their infectious high energy and bracing, uncompromising sound is what I look for in a band. I know their loyal and patient fan base including myself is glad they're back and we're very excited about seeing them perform again." - Jim Roe

Their music turned people on and trail blazed the way for other successful string bands to follow their lead. The reshaped band will elaborate on their trademark sound by drawing upon their personal musical rapport to make a sonic hue that refracts their inspirations and love of Southern American, gospel, blues, punk and, folk music. A new album on Rounder Records is already in production and eagerly awaited. And so a new chapter begins and The Freight Hoppers ride again....

To hear a few of The Freight Hopper's tunes, visit them on the

web at <http://www.myspace.com/thefreighthoppers>

When: Friday, March 26th

Time: 8pm - 10pm

**Cost: \$15 general admission
\$12 for AFTM members**

Location: Ruta Maya Coffee House, 3601 South Congress, Austin

<http://rutamaya.net/hours-location.html>



ALSO OF INTEREST

The **RiceGrass Festival**, March 27-28 in nearby Fischer, TX, will be featuring both these great bands plus Danny Barnes, Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum, Alan Munde & Byron Berline, and many other great bluegrass/oldtime acts. Call Cabin 10 Productions at 830-739-6986 or visit www.cabin10.com/riceGrass.htm for more information about this new Central Texas music festival.

**John Roberts,
Renowned English
Folksinger and
Concertinist,
Sunday March 28th**

Fiddlers Green Music Shop, 1809
W. 35th St., Austin
Sunday March 28th
7 - 8 pm, \$10
Regular Irish session follows show

Born in Wales and raised in Kidderminster, England, John Roberts got involved with the emerging folk music scene as a teen. When he came to the States in 1969 to attend graduate school at Cornell University, he met Englishman Tony Barrand and a 35-year singing partnership began. Moving to Vermont after college, the two became fast friends with Margaret MacArthur, a great source of Vermont and New England songs, thus adding song treasures from the American and Canadian branches of British folk song to their repertoire. Since then, John and Tony have performed around the country, at pubs, folk clubs, festivals, coffee houses, maritime museums, and even art museums.

John has been on staff at the Augusta Heritage and Country Dance and Song Society music and dance camps. He has also been a member of Nowell Sing We Clear, featuring seasonally-themed per-

formances of song and "mumming" (ritual folk theater). Not content with that, in the past few years he has also been performing in a trio called Ye Mariners All, which performs maritime song, and he has played for Morris dancing and for English country dancing. John has recorded over a dozen CDs with Tony and the members of Nowell Sing We Clear, as well as appearing on several other recordings including Ye Mariners All.

This is John Roberts' first trip to Texas. Please make him welcome!

Rafe Stefanini Workshop & House Concert March 23-24

Rafe Stefanini, nationally recognized, fabulous old-time fiddler and banjoist, will offer a fiddle workshop on Tuesday, March 23, 7-9 pm. Cost: \$30. On the following day, Wednesday, March 24, he will perform a house concert from 8-10pm, suggested honorarium, per seat, \$15. For information & reservations: ebpittman@austin.rr.com or call 512-476-3991.

Kalimba Showcase at Ruta Maya - AFTM is sponsoring a 3-act kalimba showcase at Ruta Maya from 7 to 10 p.m. on April 2nd. The concert will feature three great kalimba players: **Daniel Leonidas**, a 72 year old African

refugee from Burundi, Africa; **Ralph White**, local songwriter, banjo wizard and former Bad Liver fiddler; and **Joel Laviolette**, the leader of the extraordinary drum band Rattletree Marimba. \$10 - general admission; \$8 - AFTM members

**Robin and Linda
Williams & their fine
group, Tues., April 20th**

On Tuesday, April 20 the Supple Series will present returning favorites Robin and Linda Williams & their fine group. The show starts at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10 and the price includes general seat and dessert & coffee post performance.

Robin and Linda Williams have thrilled folk, bluegrass, and country audiences throughout America for thirty years. From their many appearances on "A Prairie Home Companion" and "The American Radio Company" to "Austin City Limits" and "The Grand Old Opry," the Williams' music reaches deep into American traditions and, in the words of the Richmond Times Dispatch, "encompasses all that's best in country music."

Location: Price Senior Center, 222 West San Antonio St., San Marcos, TX 78666-5550. Info at Fine Arts Texas State University 512-245-2308; Price Center phone number is (512) 392-3114.

AFTM Officers/Board 2008/2009

President • Elizabeth Pittman
Vice-President • Angie Wooten
Secretary • Christy Foster
Treasurer • Dale Rempert
Newsletter Editor • Tim Wooten
Dance Liaison • Keith Tuxhorn
Events Coordinator • Jeanne DeFriese
Web & Membership • Sharon Rempert

REEL TIMES is published by Austin Friends of Traditional Music (AFTM), a nonprofit organization (est. 1974) dedicated to encouraging the performance and appreciation of all genres of traditional music and dance. Copyright 2010 by AFTM. PO Box 49608, Austin, Texas 78765
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Web: www.aftm.us



AFTM Board Elections Coming in April - would YOU like to serve on the Board?

The following Board members are willing to serve in their current positions for another year:

Vice President: Angie Wooten
Dance Liaison: Keith Tuxhorn
Events Coordinator: Jeanne DeFriese
Secretary: Christy Foster
General Duties: Howard Rains
General Duties: Sharon Isaac

In addition, Tim Wooten is willing to serve as President and to continue as editor of Reel Times, Elizabeth Pittman is willing to switch from President to Treasurer and Sharon Rempert has agreed to continue managing the website although she will no longer be on the board. Dale Rempert is stepping down as Treasurer and will no longer serve on the board.

The board meetings occur on the 2nd Sunday each month at 12:30 pm, and currently the meeting location is the back room at Artz Ribhouse. Board members are expected to attend at least 10 of the 12 meetings, and to appoint a proxy for any meeting they cannot attend. Board members are expected to help to put on AFTM events. Any AFTM member of six month's duration or more and who is willing to work is qualified to serve on the board.

Nominations from the board and the floor will be made and closed at the meeting on March 14th. The list of nominees will be emailed to the membership, and also will be published on the website. The election will take place this year on April 11th. Every current member is eligible to vote, and must be present at the meeting to vote.

AFTM Bylaws Amendment Proposed

Article IX of the AFTM bylaws requires that:

1. Amendments to these bylaws shall be introduced at a business meeting, published in the following newsletter, and voted upon at the business meeting following issuance of that newsletter.
2. Amendments shall be passed by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting at that meeting.

The following proposed amendment to our AFTM Bylaws Article III(5) was introduced at our last board meeting and circulated to the board members by e-mail. The intent of this amendment is to enlarge the maximum number of board members from eight to twelve. The board would be permitted but not required to have twelve members. We encourage all AFTM members to attend the board meeting on March 14, 2010 at 12:30 p.m. at Artz Ribhouse on South Lamar to vote on the proposed amendment. You may review a complete copy of the bylaws at our website: www.aftm.us. New language is underlined and deleted language is ~~lined-out~~.

Article III. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors (Board) is responsible for administering the affairs of the organization. The Board shall not be paid a salary but their authorized expenses, if any, incurred in connection with the affairs of the organization shall be reimbursed by the organization. The elected directors and their duties shall be as follows:

1. President. The President shall be the chief executive officer, shall call and conduct all business meet-

ings, shall have the authority to sign checks, shall oversee the activities and receive the reports of committees, shall be informed of all current and potential activities of the organization, and shall appoint committee chairpersons and other necessary functionaries, including a person to collect, open, sort, and distribute mail.

2. Vice President. The Vice President shall conduct meetings in the absence of the President and, in the event the President is unable to complete his/her term, shall assume the office of President for the duration of the term. The Vice President shall have the authority to sign checks and shall be responsible for coordinating the social meetings described in section 6 of Article V.

3. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep records of the organization, shall keep minutes of the Board of Directors meetings, shall have the authority to sign checks, and shall carry out necessary general correspondence.

4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep financial records, shall have the authority to sign checks, shall hold and deposit funds, shall pay the bills, shall prepare monthly and annual financial reports, shall fill out federal and other tax forms, and shall oversee the physical assets of the organization, including its financial archives. The Treasurer must be bondable.

5. Additional Directors. The Board may have up to ~~four~~ eight additional directors. Additional directors shall have full voting privileges. Their duties shall be assigned by the Board and may include, but not be limited to, fundraising, producing a newsletter, maintaining records of membership, maintaining the organization's archives, and acting as liaison with other dance, music, cultural, or community groups.

Dance News

English Country Dance News

The next English Country Dance will be held **March 12**, from 7:30-10:30 at Carpenter's Hall, 400 Josephine, one block North and one block West of the corner of Barton Springs and South Lamar. All dances will be taught and called. The cost is \$6, students \$5. For more information contact Ann McCracken at ann@mccr.org or 266-9949. Let Ann know if you can bring a snack to share. This dance is fragrance free.

Rob Baden will be holding an English Country dance **March 26** at 7:30 pm at the Ballroom in the Sky (private house), 19 N Peak Rd, Austin (West Lake Hills), \$5 donation. Directions: From Mopac, go West on Bee Caves Rd. (2244) turn right on Rollingwood, then left on N. Peak. 19 N Peak is the next to last house on the right. Contact Rob at rnbaden@juno.com for more information.

Austin International Folk Dancers present "The Inheritance" on Saturday, **March 27** from 7:30-11pm. It will be an evening of international music, dancing and walkthroughs of traditional Balkan dances. Location: Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st St. Bring your friends. \$5 at the door +

tips for the band. They will also be teaching Balkan dances in the weeks leading up to the event so that people can learn the dances ahead of time. Details on the web at: <http://aifd.cc>

March 28th - The Austin Barn Dancers host their 12th annual **Dance in the Park** on Sunday, March 28 from 1 to 5 pm on the stage at Zilker park. We will have two great bands! Come early and picnic! Invite your friends and make a day of it! This dance is sponsored by AFTM and the City of Austin. Any questions? Call Dale at 453-4225 or check <http://austinbarndancers.org>.

Contra dancing is also held every Wednesday night at the Hancock Recreation Center from 7:30-10 pm, and every First Friday at Carpenters' Union Hall, 400 Josephine St., from 8-11 pm. *English Country Dancing* is also held at Carpenter's Hall every second Friday from 7:30-10:30 pm. All dances are taught and called by a caller, and no costumes or experience is required. Well-behaved children are welcome, and older children who are interested are welcome to dance. For more information, go to austincontradance.org, or call Chuck Roth at 453-8936.



Monthly Open Mic

OPEN MIC at Ruta Maya's on Saturday, March 27, 3 - 6 pm, 3601 South Congress. Come sign up for your 15 minute slot, all kinds of traditional music welcome!

Old LPs For Sale

Pat Glenn has almost 200 old LPs and some cassettes of classic bluegrass, Australian bush music and other favorites at a very low price. Most of the LPs are still in good shape. If you are interested, please contact him at snuffy@gvyc.com. He will send you a list of the titles he has available.

E-Reel Times!

Reel Times is available by e-mail. Save a fast-growth pine by going to our web site (www.aftm.us) and signing up for e-mail delivery!

Angeline the Baker

Angeline the baker
Her age is forty-three
I fed her candy by the peck
But she won't marry me.

Her father is a baker
They call him Uncle Sam
I never will forget her
Unless I take a dram.

She says she can't do hard work
Because she is not stout
She bakes her biscuits every day
And pours the coffee out.

Angeline the baker
Lives on the village green
The way I always loved her
Beats all you ever seen.

Angeline the baker
Angeline I know
I should have married Angeline
Just twenty years ago.

(Sung to **A** part only)

Free Music at AFTM Showcase!
Chojo Jacques & Billy Bright, Steelhead String Band, Ruby Jane
Perform at Central Market North on April 10th

Come out to a great free 3-act concert at Central Market North on April 10th. In another collaboration between Central Market and AFTM we present:

Chojo Jacques and Billy Bright
- 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Steelhead Stringband - 6 - 7 p.m.

Ruby Jane - 7:30 - 9 p.m.

Headliner **Ruby Jane** is one of the finest fiddlers you'll ever hear (and she is 15 years old). She is a fast-rising star in country and bluegrass-Americana music. With deep familial and cultural ties throughout the South, especially Mississippi, where she lived until she was 12 years old. She now lives in Austin with her mama when not traveling as a musician, actress, or model.

Ruby Jane exhibited a strong connection to music as early as age one and began classical violin instruction at age two. At age eight, she devoted herself to old-time and bluegrass music. Subsequently, she began old-time fiddle lessons, which included the study of its unique bowing techniques, archaic tunings, and depth of expression. After only six fiddle lessons she won first place in the first fiddle competition she entered, beginning a run of victories and increasing fame that continues today.

She was granted an apprenticeship by the Mississippi Arts Commission at age eight to apprentice with Charles T. Smith, one of the last great Mississippi old-time fiddlers. For the past three years, she has competed in dozens of prestigious music competitions and per-

formed with many bluegrass and country greats, including Marty Stuart, Willie Nelson, Lyle Lovett, Asleep at the Wheel, Rhonda Vincent ("The Queen of Bluegrass"), Mike Snider, Jesse McReynolds, Jim Brock, James Monroe, Carl Jackson and many others.

In 2005, at age ten, Ruby Jane acted in her second film, contributed an original song to a film soundtrack, performed as the youngest invited fiddler in the history of the Grand Ole Opry, played at the Ernest Tubb Record Shop three times, and won the National Beginners Fiddle Championship (which ranked her first nationally under twelve). Also in 2005, she won Second Place on the mandolin in the National Beginner Country Musician Competition. In October 2005, she won First Place in her category and then won the Fiddle-Off at the Mississippi State Fair Southern Championship Fiddle Contest, establishing her as the Mississippi State Fiddle Champion of 2005 for all age groups. She was the youngest state champion in the competition's history.

The Steelhead String Band is Trent Shepherd on fiddle, Sharon Sandomirsky playing guitar, Jerry Hagins on banjo and Brink Melton on bass. All long-time Austin musicians, these guys spin out the finest oldtime Appalachian fiddle tunes around. Nothing too fancy, just straight-ahead oldtime dance music with clawhammer banjo, rock solid guitar, and driving bass, plus Trent has a few songs up his sleeve when his bow arm gets tired.

Trent and Brink were bandmates for many years in the popular local band Onion Creek Crowdaddies, performing at notable venues near and far. Sharon has played with many groups over the years, including the Fuzzy Mountain String Band, the New Rubitonic Entertainers (with Fred Cockerham), and the Herald Angels. She recently released a critically acclaimed CD Road to Agate Hill with Alice Gerrard and Gail Gillespie. Jerry plays with many local bands, including Christy and the Plowboys, Old Waterloo, and the Rising Gorge Boys. He has performed and recorded with Ken Waldman and played for several years with the Pistol Love Family Band.

Billy Bright and Wayne "Chojo" Jacques first met at the Wings and Strings Music Festival in Florida in 2001, where Billy was appearing with "Peter Rowan's Texas Trio", and Chojo was appearing with the "Waybacks". After many late night motel jams, and shared gigs over the next few years, they developed a close musical relationship.

In 2007 they decided to perform as a duo, and after a year of performing at clubs, house concerts, and festivals, Billy and Chojo have released their debut CD "Texacali Blues", and have developed a reputation for a new and fresh interpretation of classic fiddle and mandolin tunes, quirky originals, and an engaging stage show that audiences and promoters have described as transcendent, hilarious, and one of a kind.

Austin Friends of Traditional Music
PO Box 49608
Austin, Texas 78765



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AFTM Jam Session: Every Second Sunday, 2 pm • Artz Ribhouse on South Lamar
Next Jam Sessions: Sunday March 14, 2010 & Sunday April 11, 2010 • Bring Instruments & Voices!
Member Meetings before the session • All Welcome!

AUSTIN FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

\$15 Individual \$20 Family \$30 Patron \$50 Business/Sustaining Renewal

Total enclosed: \$ _____. Please make check payable to **Austin Friends of Traditional Music**
and mail to: PO Box 49608, Austin, TX 78765. Thank you!

For more information email AFTM at aftm@yahoogle.com or visit us on the web at: www.aftm.us