

M I D W I N T E R 2 0 1 6

Green Apple Folk Music Society Newsletter

Green Apple Mission

The Green Apple Folk Music Society seeks to promote folk music in Northeastern Wisconsin. We do this by sponsoring concerts, hoots open mic events), picnics, campouts and other activities. In addition we serve as a communication link to our members and the public regarding folk music events and news.

Got News or Views for the newsletter? Send to Doug Wheeler at dougwheeler74@gmail.com

Website: www.greenapplefolkmusic.org

FaceBook: www.facebook.com/GreenAppleFolk

Email: greenapplefolkmusic@gmail.com

Fun Events on the Near Horizon

Save the Date!

February Hoot

February 20, 2016

A fun night of local musicians.

Location:

The Fellowship

More Info Inside

Celtic Night

March 12, 2016

Druid's Table Hosts a Night of Celtic Music

Location:

Mosquito Hill

More Info Inside

Sloppy Joe

April 23, 2016

Bluegrass and Old Time Music with

Sloppy Joe

February Hoot

The February Hoot is coming soon! February 20, 2016, as it were. It will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 2600 E Philip Lane, Appleton, WI.

Call Dean @ 920.982.2890 to sign up or for more information.



Folk Instruments Available!

Have you ever thought you'd like to experiment with a musical instrument that's new to you? Are you reluctant to invest time and money when you have no idea if you'd like it? Here's your chance to try out an instrument at no cost!

In addition to the CD's that Green Apple inherited from Clare Knudsen, we now own two dulcimers, one guitar and a fiddle. The guitar and fiddle are currently available. If you would like to borrow one of these please contact Doug Wheeler at dougwheeler74@gmail.com.





Druid's Table to Host Celtic Night!!!

Mosquito Hill – March 12th

You will hear traditional Irish tunes and songs played by Green Apple's own *Druid's Table* as well as a variety of Celtic music by guest musicians Peter Bartman, Mike O'Connell, David Haas, and Shillelagh (Jim Anger, Pat Schwenke, Caelan Anger and Dean Sauers.)

There is still room for more guest performers. If you've got a favorite Celtic tune you'd like to perform, don't wait - call Barbara Hoffman now at 920-730-1917 and you could be a guest artist. We'll plan a special grand finale with all the musicians on stage. There will lots of fun for all the participants and the audience as well

The show starts at 7:30, March 12 at Mosquito Hill.

Admission: \$5.00 members / \$8.00 non-members



From the Washington Post:

According to the Census, there are 34.5 million Americans who list their heritage as either primarily or partially Irish. That number is, incidentally, seven times larger than the population of Ireland itself (4.68 million). Irish is the second-most common ancestry among Americans, falling just behind German.

New York has the most concentrated Irish population; 12.9 percent of its residents claim Irish ancestry, which compares to a rate of 11.1 percent of the country overall. Boston, meanwhile, claims the most-concentrated Irish population for a city: 20.4 percent.

There is exactly one neighborhood in the *entire* country that has a majority-Irish population: Breezy Point in Queens. There, 54.3 percent of the population claims Irish ancestry.

The full article with county map can be found here:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/03/17/the-irish-american-population-is-seven-times-larger-than-ireland/>

Side Note — A Column About Music and Related Topics.

Editor's Note: Got an opinion or article that you have written and would like it published here? Send to me at DougWheeler74@gmail.com

Where Are We Going and Why Are We In This Hand Basket?

By Doug Wheeler

Digital Music is well engrained at this point with downloads, multiple streaming stations, Internet Radio and YouTube. There are many articles concerning its effect on the music industry, artist compensation, exposure, overload, loss of fidelity, etc., etc., and etc. It definitely has changed many things but interestingly enough change is not new. I recently read an article in the Smithsonian Magazine about the change that the phonograph wrought upon the state of music and some of the fears that came with it. The full article *How the Phonograph Changed Music Forever* can be found online at

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/ist/?next=/arts-culture/phonograph-changed-music-forever-180957677/>.

So what were some the changes? Recordings were made to fit the technology of the time. Waxed cylinders and disks could only hold 2 or 3 minutes of music so songs became shorter. Fidelity was poor so instrumentation was altered to allow better sound on the recording. Consistency in performance became more important. (Anyone who has ever recorded knows the pain of constant takes in the studio.) One of the more interesting things to me was that people started to define themselves by the genre that they listened to. Blues, jazz, etc.

I was surprised by the dire predictions.

From the article:

Others worried it would kill off amateur musicianship. If we could listen to the greatest artists with the flick of a switch, why would anyone bother to learn an instrument themselves? "Once the talking machine is in a home, the child won't practice," complained the bandleader John Philip Sousa. But others wryly pointed out that this could

be a blessing—they'd be spared "the agonies of Susie's and Jane's parlor concerts," as a journalist joked. In reality, neither critic was right. During the first two decades of the phonograph—from 1890 to 1910—the number of music teachers and performers per capita in the U.S. rose by 25 percent, as Katz found. The phonograph inspired more and more people to pick up instruments.

There is much more in the article and I recommend that you take a look.

So where does that leave us? What is the Internet doing to the music? It has definitely changed how I listen. I stream Pandora, music on my phone and watch videos on YouTube. Lyrics, tab and chords are readily found as well as How-To videos. Want to take a trip down the rabbit hole? Pick a song and watch related videos on YouTube. For example I have watched more surf and hot rod videos than I care to admit. I started out with Pipeline by the Chantays and may have veered off into some Rockabilly on the way. Whew! I made it back ok but what a ride!

Some albums are made to listen to in order and my usual shuffle mode puts a damper on that but a quick change in play mode and I listen in the intended order. A station on Pandora that I seeded with multiple artists introduced me to my latest musical infatuation, Eilen Jewel. I also heard Robert Earl Keen's cover of *He Had a Long Chain On*. That was a song I first heard by Peter Paul and Mary. A search revealed that Jimmie Driftwood wrote it. Ah, the things learned along the way.

Something that I found encouraging from the Smithsonian article is *"It's very rare to come across someone of college age or younger who's only invested in one or two styles of music," and they're less likely to judge people on their musical taste.*" That's a good thing I believe.

As you listen to music I ask you to consider the following. What is your favorite way to listen? How else can you listen? What is being said? How can you share it? What else is there to listen to? Can I find it live somewhere?

Happy listening!