WINNIPEG FOLKIES HAVE A NEW FOLK MUSIC CLUB
by Gregg Brunskill

The Winnipeg Folk Connection Inc. was established in March 1988. It has a mandate to promote live folk arts in the community, with an emphasis on traditional and contemporary folk music. It is a non-profit organization.

The club is reminiscent of the popular coffeehouses during the 1960s. Although the Folk Connection plans to draw on the abundance of local talent in Winnipeg and its surrounding areas, it will also stage well-known acts from across Canada and beyond.

In addition to the main act of the show, each evening will also provide a guest spot for up-and-coming local acts to perform, and one of three host bands will also provide continuity during the evening. There will be occasional folk dance events, with the emphasis being on “audience participation”. Plans are also under way for the Winnipeg Folk Connection to link with other folk clubs in Canada to facilitate an exchange of ideas and performers.

Membership to the Folk Connection is available for a nominal fee of $2.00. As a member, you will be entitled to reduced ticket prices, quarterly newsletters, advance notice of future performances and access to the general meetings. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing your part to support and promote live folk music in Winnipeg.

We hope that you will be able to add your applause regularly, so that the club develops as a social event rather than simply a concert.

The Folk Connection meets every other Tuesday at the West End Cultural Centre, 586 Ellice Avenue. Tickets are available at the door. It has featured a variety of bands and individual performers in the April-June 1988 season: Sneezy Waters, The Original Chicken Flat String Band, Len Udow, Nouveau Station Wagon, Slavic Hanzlik, and Wholesome Bluegrass. The host bands are Meadowlark, The Blarney Band, and No Strings Attached.

The Winnipeg Folk Connection is also the regional chapter of the Canadian Folk Music Society, and as of late May '88 had 53 members. Anyone interested in joining WFC should write to our Secretary, Sheila Brunskill, Box 22, Tourond, Manitoba, R0A 2G0.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In the late 1960s I put in a lot of time on CFMS’s “big bibliography” funded by the Canada Council. The files are stored at the National Library and I have used them quite frequently, doing the odd bit of updating. It is too bad that CFMS members do not avail themselves of this rich information source, or do not even know about it.

I do like folk tunes – at least the good ones, if only the guitar was used more sparingly. Who ever said that folksongs had to be accompanied on this instrument? I much prefer to accompany (or rather play along) on the piano in 2 oboes – 2 horns style (if you know your Mozart)!

Helmut Kallmann, C.M.

Many thanks for the fine reading material. I really enjoyed it . . . I've been on the road since I got here in June. Just finished playing the Ex. at Camrose. We had a full house, and I feel that the old style music is still OK.

Wilf Carter

Thank you for the June 1987 issue of the BULLETIN. We were indeed pleased to have the article on Moses Asch and we thank you and Phil Thomas for the kind words.

We were previously unaware of Dr. Ida Halpern's death this past February. The last of her Folkways albums, “Haida: Indian Music of the Pacific Northwest”, was never released by Folkways because of Mr. Asch's poor health and subsequent death. It remains up to the Smithsonian Institution as to when it will be issued.

We have been appointed by the Smithsonian Institution as sole distributors of Folkways. Please note that we have closed the Manhattan office of Folkways and have moved the entire operation to Princeton.

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