

## *The Bulletin Wants More Songs*

by Howard Kaplan

As a new Songs Editor (English), I want to share my thoughts on what changes are in progress, and let you know how you can participate in the changes.

The new Editor, Lynn Whidden, has made several policy decisions that should encourage more of us to submit songs:

The Bulletin will be published on schedule four times yearly; spring, summer, fall and winter. Work by current and recent songwriters that fits within the folk traditions is definitely welcome, and in fact she would like to see the Bulletin play a major role in distributing such material.

There is no specific quota on songs, and in fact, there is currently a great need for all kinds of material.

The Bulletin is interested in a non-exclusive right to print songs, and does not wish to restrict their being published elsewhere.

Eventually, of course, we would like to see the Bulletin be so successful that people will expect to see the best work of Canadian songwriters appear there rather than in other magazines.

To make this work, we need ground rules, starting with the definition of the songs which I will edit. A song is something that has words set to music,

whether or not they are printed together. Tunes, that is to say wordless musical compositions, will continue to appear in the Bulletin, as will words without music, when the music is already well-known or when the song is of historical interest and the music has been lost, but most of the time words and music will be printed together.

Specifically, we are interested in Canadian folk songs, loosely defined as songs that have an important Canadian connection and would not be out of place at an event calling itself a folk festival. This includes songs collected in Canada, songs about specifically Canadian history, geography, or peoples, and songs that can be performed within the folk tradition. Songs which suffer from a lack of operatically-trained voices, songs written according to Schoenberg's rules for 12-tone series, songs (other than rounds) which have only one correct harmonization, and songs requiring at least two electric guitars and a set of four drums are generally outside this tradition. Songs that adapt well to whatever variety of voices, instruments, and skills happen to be present on the occasion, are generally inside this tradition.

Because so much of our history is lost or in danger of becoming lost, truly traditional material does not have to be especially well-crafted to appear in the Bulletin, although it must be interesting, and it

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will always require at least a paragraph of explanation about its context, how it was collected, etc. For the other songs, those by current or recent composers, we will be looking for well-written songs, both in terms of the craft with which words and notes are arranged and the composer's unique viewpoint on the situation depicted in the song. In other words, we consider it our role to promote good songs by daring to declare some songs more worthy of publication than others.

As for the mechanics of submitting songs, we want something that's as close to the final printed product as you can manage. We figure that everyone can type or neatly print words, so we want printed lyrics, a paragraph or so about the song and its composer, and, if appropriate, chords. If the words are to an already well-known tune, all we need is its name. Otherwise, if you can also provide the music as you would like to see it notated, do that also, as neatly as you can manage. All songs will be reset for printing -- we're not expecting camera-ready copy; however, if you have a good line drawing relevant to the song that we could copy exactly, please include it. If the tune is original or obscure and you can't provide the written music, or even if you can but your song is of the sort that is hard to appreciate from the written version, send a cassette also -- we don't want a fancy performance, just a clear one that we can use to judge the song's suitability for the Bulletin. Also, if your lyrics are on the long

side then, if we accept the song, we'll be asking you whether you can send them as an ASCII file on an MS-DOS diskette.

When you submit songs, be sure to include your name, address, phone number(s), and where we can phone you, because if we want to include your song, there may be some editorial matters that we can clear up more easily with a short call than with an exchange of letters. Note that our goal will be to print songs, not to publish them. The copyright and all other rights remain with the composers, the publishers, the record companies, SOCAN, etc. -- we only want the permission to distribute the written form to the readers of the Bulletin. Therefore, you should also include a signed statement from whomever owns the copyright to the song, authorizing us to print it. In most cases, if the song has never appeared in print nor in a recording offered for sale, then you are the copyright owner automatically -- you do not need to register with Ottawa. However, there are protections for your copyright for which such registration is often appropriate. If the song is already being sold in some form, then presumably you know its copyright status.

If you want your submission to be acknowledged, include a self-addressed "business" envelope (about 4" by 9") with sufficient postage. We will keep all written submissions but will return cassettes if you provide the postage -- enclose a self-addressed sticky label and sufficient stamps with your submission, and we'll use them to send the cassette back in the same mailer you used originally.

Our priorities will have to be the processing of good songs into a printable form rather than the criticism of songs we don't print. In other words, sometimes we may take the time to explain why we are not accepting a song, and sometimes you will have to settle for an unexplained ``no'' for an answer. We can't teach song-writing through the mail.

If you have written or collected songs that fit our needs as described above, you may submit them to me:

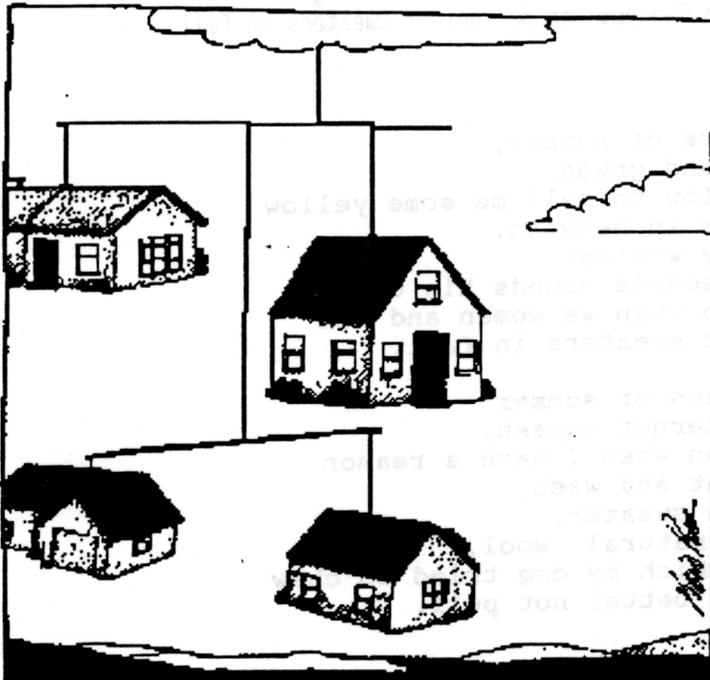
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## CLASSIFIEDS

PLEASE NOTE:  
Classified rates are 50 cents per word, including numbers (except for lost or stolen instrument ads which we'll run free).

All classified ads **MUST** be prepaid.

Deadline for next issue is next September.



## MOBILE?

Don't forget to  
notify us of your  
change of address  
early!