

HTMA President's Notes

by Lynne Edmondson

Well, it appears 2022 is unfolding as yet another unique year. I know I am ready for some stress reducing activities and fun times with friends and family. Glad you are back with us and I hope you will enjoy the activities we have planned. Please carefully read the newsletter to get the full scoop including dates.

HTMA is gearing up for a great year with Coffeehouses from March through September—usually the 4th Tuesday. We are still partnering with Burritt on the Mountain with Coffeehouses at the Gazebo and the rain location at the new Bendickson Family Pavilion (just steps away from the Gazebo). Like last year, Burritt will sell alcohol and snacks; additionally, a limited number of charcuterie boxes will be available for \$30 and feeds 2-4 people. This year you need to BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR to Coffeehouses.

Become an individual or family member in 2022 and you will automatically receive the link to a fun and informative 30 minute tuning video. Let me know if you want opportunities to perform. October 9 is the Folk Music Festival where HTMA Members play acoustic in the Old Church. Members get periodic invitations to play/volunteer around the city, so we will notify you of those opportunities. Generally, the 3rd Sunday of the month is the day for Jam/Meeting at the Madison County Library (Downtown Huntsville Library) from 1:30-4pm.



HTMA Membership are monthly gatherings in the Auditorium at the Huntsville Public Library at 915 Monroe Street.

Meetings are usually the third Sunday of each month, 1:30-4:30.

Please check the HTMA website to verify meeting times.

HTMA Coffeehouses have resumed as outdoor gatherings at the Burritt Gazebo. Advance tickets are available at the Burritt Museum website, for \$10. Tickets at the gate will be \$12.

March 22nd

**Another Town Bluegrass Band
opening by Eric Bram**

April 26th

**Allen and Connie Watkins
Opening by Consort a' l'ancienne -**

May 24th

**Walker Street Opry
Opening by Steve Edmondson**

Glad to have a great line up of Coffeehouse events thanks to the hard work of our new Performance Co-chairs, Jani Brill and Larry Halterman. Please check out our updated website brought to you by Chris Kidd. Jerry LeCroy compiles newsletters, assists with equipment, and helps navigate throughout the year. Purse strings (finances) are controlled by Pat Long. Bob Hicks is the board member keeping you updated by email and facebook. George Williams is our main sound technician. And Jim England is our institutional memory and brings your coffee to the coffeehouses. It takes a lot of behind the scenes work to keep Huntsville Traditional Music Association running. Each board member is a very hard working volunteer. Thank you TEAM!

Lynne Edmondson, HTMA President



1 HTMA President **Lynne Edmondson** instructing the audience at the August Gazebo Concert (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

Schedule of Upcoming Events

HTMA Membership meetings will normally be held at 1:30-4:00 on the third Sunday of each month. We have booked the auditorium at the Huntsville Madison Main Library for our meetings for the next several months.

Jim England's retirement home gigs are planning to restart eventually, though that has been postponed due to the Covid Delta variant outbreak. Locations and dates are not firm at our publication date.

Editors Notes

Dear Friends,

You might wonder, “Why is the first quarter newsletter three months late?” Well, there are a few reasons. Part of the story is that your editor is a pretty lazy guy. But there are other factors at play.

I see my job on this newsletter as being the editor. Period. Not the editor, chief word wrangler, and research librarian/ That means that I depend on other people to provide usable (and hopefully meaningful) content to publish. I prefer to not write if I don’t have anything to say, and not publish if I don’t have articles that I perceive as worth our audience’s reading time.

Lately, readable original content for this paper has been remarkably thin on the ground. Several helpful parties have sent me links to articles written by other people, for possible inclusion in our newsletter. I may visit those links, but I don’t have much interest in re-printing in this paper content that is easily obtainable elsewhere.

I guess we could just make up stuff from thin air and call that news, just like several popular television outlets appear to be doing with huge commercial success. But that fact-less reportage would violate my personal sense of journalistic propriety. I really want to publish pieces that are useful to our audience, or thought-provoking, but mainly limited to stories that are truth-based, or fiction labeled as such.

What do I mean by “useful”? I would welcome an article providing advice to budding musicians about the theory and practice of tuning instruments. I think that there is a world of knowledge in that area that even many experienced musicians have yet to be exposed to, but that might improve their art.

Or maybe an article comparing personal experiences with different guitar or fiddle strings. Or the tonal differences between ladder braced Gibson guitars and later bracing schemes used by Martin, Collings, and Taylor.

There is a whole world of topics that I think the people who open these pages would find interesting and helpful. But the paper needs you, gentle reader, to actually do the research and the challenging work of collecting your thoughts and setting them down in readable form. I stand ready to assist as a reviewer and editor, but I am looking to our musical community for the valuable content.

Your submissions don’t need to be how-to articles or reviews, though I personally like those forms. I will happily publish your poetry, short stories, or essays. If you know me you may suspect that I am not inclined to be shy about publishing controversial material. Have something to say about all the musicians who are cashing in by selling their catalogs to big corporations? I am ready to receive. How about your views of musicians supporting certain political issues or politicians? Ditto.

And, of course, graphic art. I would dearly love to publish a reader-produced cartoon. Or any pictures that you personally took. But no web-findings – borrowed material is legally problematic for this public forum.

So think about it. Surely there is some facet of music or like that you think is important enough that you would like to share it with others. Here's your chance to be heard.

Best Regards,

Jerry LeCroy



2 HTMA players performing at Regency Assisted Living in May 2019
(photo courtesy B. Cassels)

HTMA Executive Board

President -

LYNNE EDMONDSON

info@huntsvillefolk.org

Vice President & Public Service Chairman

JIM ENGLAND

256-852-5740 harpatune@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer

PAT LONG

plong@hiwaay.net

Publicity Chairman

BOB HICKS

publicity@huntsvillefolk.org

Performance Chairs

JANI BRILL & LARRY HALTERMAN

booking@huntsvillefolk.org

Operations ChairS

GEORGE WILLIAMS

george.p.williams@pobox.com

LARRY HALTERMAN (co-chair)

vincenthalterman@yahoo.com

Webmaster/

CHRIS KIDD

chris@lawcall.com

Acting Newsletter Editor

JERRY LECROY (Position open!)

jerry.lecroy@gmail.com

The leadership of HTMA invites YOU to be an active part of our great organization, whether you play an instrument, or want to share in any other way, we welcome you and thank you for your support!



3 Jerry LeCroy playing at the HTMA Gazebo music festival in 2019
(photo courtesy B. Cassels)



6 Consort a l'ancienne playing an HTMA coffeehouse in October 2021 (Photo courtesy B. Cassels)



4 HTMA players entertaining residents at Magnolia Trace in June 2019. (photo courtesy B. Cassels)



7 A big HTMA crew playing at Elmcorft Assisted Living in 2019
(photo courtesy B Cassels)



5 HTMA players performing at Regency Assisted Living in September 2019
(photo courtesy B. Cassels)



8 HTMA members playing at Regency (photo courtesy B. Cassels)



9 Chapman James playing HTMA's September 2019 coffeehouse
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

**Mark Your Calendar for
these
Upcoming HTMA
Coffeehouse/Concert
Dates**

(all shows 7-9)

Mar 22

Apr 26

May 24

June 28

July 26

Aug 23

Sept 20 (not a 4th Tuesday)

**HTMA meeting jams at the
Huntsville/Madison County
Downtown Library
Auditorium
1:30-4pm**

December 19 (3rd Sunday)

January 16 (3rd Sunday)

February 20 (3rd Sunday)

March 20 (3rd Sunday)

April 24 (4th Sunday due to Easter)

May 15 (3rd Sunday)

Coffeehouse Operational Changes

For 2022 HTMA will continue producing outdoor concerts. Our shows will be normally be presented at the Burritt Museum Gazebo. If it is raining on the show date we will move over to Burritt's new outdoor pavilion, which will keep off the rain. As usual, showtime is 7:00.

New for 2022 is the need for our guests to bring their own seating, lawn chairs or blankets, as Burritt staff will no longer be setting up chairs for our shows. As always, youngsters who don't mind standing up all evening or sitting on the grass need not bring chairs.

Advance tickets are available through the Burritt web page:

<https://burrittonthemountain.com/events/2021-07/>

Burritt will continue to provide a bar table at the show for our guests, with wine, snacks, and a limited number of charcuterie boxes available for purchase.

We hope that you and your friends are all vaccinated/boosted by now, but if not we would appreciate it if un-vaccinated guests will do us the courtesy of donning masks, even in our outdoor venue. The HTMA audience includes many older folks who are health-challenged due to age-related issues, and HTMA's younger families may bring children who are vulnerable because they are too young to receive vaccinations.

Advance tickets are \$10, and limited tickets may be available at the door for \$15. Kids 12 and under will continue to be admitted free with ticket-holding family.

Thanks for your understanding of the event admission restrictions as HTMA tries to adapt to our post-COVID world.



10 Jerry and Brandy Cobb playing an HTMA Coffeehouse
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



11 Jerry Grantland with the Cotaco Creek band
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

Another Town is the featured artist for HTMA's 2022 concert

season opener

Another Town is an exciting Bluegrass Band made up of seasoned musicians who have worked with some of the best Bluegrass touring acts such as Volume Five, Warrior River Boys, Hurricane Creek, and The Madison County Ramblers.... The Band is based on Traditional Bluegrass music with a modern fresh sound.

The Band Consist of Stacy Richardson on Mandolin from Tuscumbia AL. Adam Duke on Guitar from Cullman AL. Damion Kidd on Dobro from Athens AL. Russell Rollo on Bass from Bremen, AL and Anthony Bailey on Banjo from Cullman, AL.



12 Another Town Bluegrass band
(photo courtesy the artists)

This concert will open with HTMA member Eric Bram. Eric finds a lot of pleasure in playing traditional tunes, including old English ballads.



13 Eric Bram (Photo courtesy E. Bram)



14 Ben Davis at an HTMA Coffeehouse in June 2019
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

Allen and Connie Watkins will play for HTMA on April 26th

Allen and Connie Watkins offer acoustic music on guitar, banjo and mandolin. Original music comprises the majority of their shows, along with covers of traditional bluegrass, gospel and folk music. Allen has a local music studio where he teaches guitar, mandolin, banjo, and bass; in addition to being a recording artist and studio musician in Muscle Shoals. His 25-year musical touring career included time with Claire Lynch and the Front Porch String Band and The Lonesome River Band. Connie has been featured in singer-songwriter showcases and has a CD of original music.



15 Allen and Connie Watkins
(photo courtesy the artists)

The April 26 Concert will open with Consort a' l'ancienne

Consort a' l'ancienne won an Alabama American String Teachers Association award for best new educational program. An extension of "Phil Sanders Strings at The Fret Shop," Consort plays chamber music from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries.



16 Consort a l'ancienne performing at the Burritt Old Church
(photo courtesy Lynne Edmondson)

Feature artist for the May 24th HTMA concert will be Walker Street Opry



17 Walker Street Opry (photo courtesy the artists)

Formed on Walker Street in the heart of historic downtown Huntsville, Alabama, the Walker Street Opry, has been a part of the bluegrass scene in Northern Alabama since 2002. Comprised of members Rick Taylor, Blaine Anderson, Phil Easterbrook, Tony Robertson, and Joseph Brown, the Walker Street Opry produces a sound that rings with the haunting familiarity of traditional bluegrass music while still fitting comfortably with today's

contemporary bluegrass and Americana roots-style music. The Walker Street Opry's tight, driving rhythms, evocative harmonies, unique musical arrangements, and accomplished instrumental skills, combine to create an overall entity of exceptional talent. The Walker Street Opry has a wide repertoire of music that also includes some classic country as well as original songs and instrumentals that can stand up notably to legendary bluegrass songs.

The May HTMA concert will open with HTMA's first gentleman Steve Edmondson.



18 Steve Edmondson playing an HTMA coffeehouse in October 2021 (photo courtesy B. Cassels)



19 Judy and Josh Allison playing an HTMA coffeehouse in 2018 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



20 .45 Surprise Band at the November 2021 Gazebo Concert (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



21 Rick Russell playing the January 2019 coffeehouse. (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



22 Charelle Hudgins singing her heart out at an HTMA coffeehouse in June 2019 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

HTMA Membership

Your membership dues serve an excellent purpose, and are much appreciated. You can renew on-line via PayPal at:

<https://www.huntsvillefolk.org/membership>

Or by sending a check made out to “HTMA” to Treasurer Pat Long, 414 McClung Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801.



23 Ricky J Taylor playing an HTMA coffeehouse in July 2019 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

HTMA

Local Music Resources



Do you have an item for sale? Are you looking for an instrument? Are you wanting to acquire, trade or sell musical gear, recordings, books, get something repaired.... Do you need music lessons? Are you wanting to join or find a new group or band member? This section of our newsletter is for members to place ads for services or instruments or anything related to music. It will be updated *for each newsletter*. If you have an item or advertisement you would like to be published, please send an EMAIL to jerry.lecroy@gmail.com to have your listing included in the upcoming newsletter. In your email, fully describe what you are offering or looking for, and how you want users to contact YOU, via email, phone or both, etc. Once your listing or item is no longer active, please also email webmaster@huntsvillefolk.org for removal of your listing.

Please note that HTMA makes this free service available to aid members and friends in finding, trading or selling music items and services only - and HTMA is not responsible for the completion or non-compliance of any transactions.

Members Gigs

Musical Instruments and Gear

Burritt Museum has some lightly-used PA equipment available.

\$400

2-Behringer Eurolive B112 Speakers with stands & bag

Yamaha 16-Channel mixer

Gemini wireless microphone

Contact stephanie.timberlake@huntsvilleal.gov



Music Books, Sheet Music, Tab