

HTMA President's Notes

by Lynne Edmondson

Hi Friends of Huntsville Traditional Music Association,

We are nearing the end of our 2022 Coffeehouse season. This year we have enjoyed pretty good turnout at our events in spite of frequent weather challenges.

The HTMA Member Show during Burritt's Folk Music Festival, which was formerly played at the Gazebo will move to the Old Church this year due to Burritt having conflicting bookings for the Gazebo on October 9th. This activity starts at 1:30pm and will run through 4:00 We have a great line up of HTMA member performers! Randolph Avenue Motleys (Larry Halterman, Michael Perry, Dan Malloy and Phil Searcy), Lawana Beard, Eric Bram, Chase Creek Strings (Jack Ellis, Sue Huffman and Bill Cassels), and Karen Newsum. You don't have to be an HTMA member to be an audience member, but HTMA members get free admission to the park on this day (use code HTMA). This activity showcases the skills of our members so... Bring your game, friends, and family!

Our six HTMA Coffeehouses so far brought in 453 paid audience members, and some number of unpaid youth audience. I'm glad folks realized weather is not a problem during the Coffeehouses, because depending on the weather situation, we have several possible locations within Burritt including the open air Gazebo, the open air covered Pavilion, and in the event of really bad weather we can move to an indoor area. We have one more Coffeehouse. The final Coffeehouse of the season on September 20 features HTMA member openers, Randolph Avenue Motleys: Larry Halterman, Michael Perry, Phil Searcy, and Dan Malloy. Featured performers are Curtis & Loretta.



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 \$15.

**September 20th
Curtis and Loretta
opening by Randolph Avenue Motleys**

**Sunday October 9th
Annual HTMA Member Festival
Burritt Old Church, 1:30-4:00
HTMA Members admitted free**

The October show at the Old Church completes HTMA's coffeehouse 2022 Season.

Check the next newsletter or the website for our 2023 performance schedule

Curtis & Loretta are an acclaimed folk singer/songwriter duo featuring extraordinary harmonies and an array of stringed instruments. Curtis Teague performs vocals, guitar, mandolin, mandocello, clawhammer banjo, steel ukulele, and harmonica. Loretta Simonet, fiscal year 2022 recipient of a Creative Support for Individuals grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, provides vocals, folk harp, guitar, mandolin, kazoo, and shakers. Tickets are a bargain: \$10 in advance \$15 at the door! Bring your chair!

HTMA Meeting Jams are once a month at the Madison County Library Auditorium downtown Huntsville, Alabama. The auditorium is a large enough space to spread out! Between 12-18 participants consistently show up ready to share songs and background info on their songs in this jam format. A variety of instruments, ability levels, and genres are represented. One good resource with lots of songs we can play together is the Parking Lot Picker's Songbook by Dix Bruce; I use the Guitar Edition for playing both violin and mandolin. Using a common material is good if you want to build a common repertoire. But you are not limited to using this resource. Upcoming dates are: September 18th, October 16th, November 20th, and December 18th always 1:30 to 4:30. Bring your favorite songs!

We always have requests for folks to play traditional folk music events around town. I am starting a list of performers who I can notify as these opportunities arise. If you are interested in possibly playing at any of these events let me info@huntsvillefolk.org know your name, email address, and phone number optional. A sample of events include: October 2--4th Annual Alabama Honey Festival www.huntsville.org/event/2022-alabama-honey-festival/47071, October 9 HTMA event in Old Church, November 5 Folk Festival at Burritt. This is part of HTMA's mission, so bring your old time tunes!

As we enter the fourth quarter of 2022, we begin planning for 2023. These plans include continuing Coffeehouses, Meeting/Jams, and opportunities to play around town; we will take into consideration any input in this regard. Also, we are considering new activities that are in line with our mission. HTMA really needs a new volunteer to give long-serving Jim England assistance on booking and emceeding monthly member performances at area retirement and nursing homes. Do you have ideas that you would work on? Or would you like to help out with ideas we have? All of our workers are volunteers, so donate/bring your time!

Finally let me mention all our hard -working board members and other volunteers:

President Lynne Edmondson

VP / Public Service Chair Jim England

Secretary / Treasurer Pat Long

Publicity Chair Bob Hicks

Performance Co-Chairs Jani Brill & Larry Halterman

Publications / Past HTMA President Jerry LeCroy

Webmaster Chris Kidd

George Williams Lead Sound Technician

Tom Derington 2023 Sound Technician

Stephen Edmondson & Mary Lou Lewis door/tickets

Phil Searcy Backline Technician

Bill Cassels Regional Event Updates

Lynne Edmondson, HTMA President



1 HTMA President Lynne Edmondson fiddling around (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

HTMA WELCOMES CRUCIAL NEW PRODUCTION VOLUNTEERS

By Jerry LeCroy

I am delighted to thank two new HTMA member/volunteers who have offered to make the effort to help maintain our live music productions.

Tom Derrington has agreed to take over as our lead sound technician, setting up the PA system for concerts and coffeehouses and running the sound mix for our shows. This is a challenging assignment for anyone to take on. Unlike a sound tech who works with the same band gig after gig, or a venue specialist who always works in the same physical space, the HTMA sound tech is working with different artists at nearly every show, and venues change month-to-month. Some acts are simple – just a vocal microphone and a guitar plug in for some solo players, but some of the acts we put on require using all sixteen channels our mixer will support.

Tom's job requires getting a handle on the performers and their instruments, the performance environment, and even the weather. Keeping track of every element in a large band is tough, and adjusting each audio channel to make the band sound their best is challenging. I think it's terrific that Tom has offered to take over this critical job.

We aren't done yet. Tom is one guy, and after the end of this year we will no longer have a backup for his position. Please

consider volunteering to work as Tom's understudy so that HTMA will have a backup if Tom becomes unavailable for one or more gigs. And Tom can always use some help setting up speakers, microphones, cables, and lights. If you can help the production crew, please contact Tom, or Lynne Edmondson or Jerry LeCroy.

In addition to Tom Derrington joining the HTMA crew, I want to welcome Phil Searcy as our new key production logistics person. Phil started in this volunteer position after the August coffeehouse, when he loaded up the collected HTMA PA and light gear in his Honda Pilot and carried it home. Phil's job is essential for most HTMA performances, and it isn't easy.

Our load-out includes fourteen packages, the largest the 40-pound main speakers, down to a small bag for DI boxes and cables. Every gig bag gets unpacked and set up at the venue, and after the show gets repacked and loaded in the car for the ride home. But Phil still has to unload all the gear out of his car after he gets home. This is a huge commitment, and the HTMA community owes Phil a ton of appreciation for offering to take it on. It's definitely a labor of love.

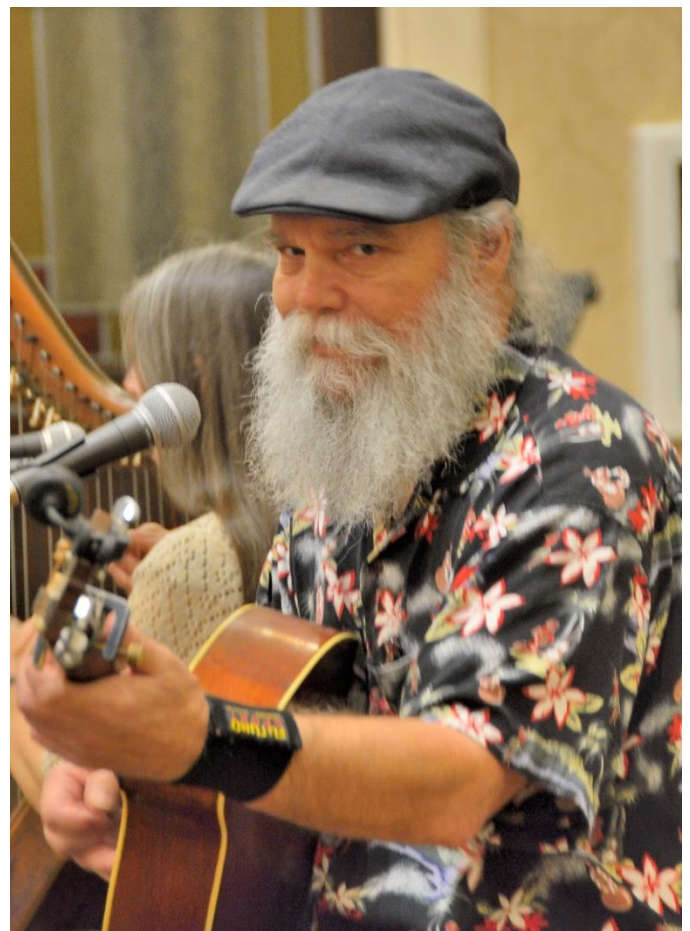


2 HTMA's new PA Gear-Hauler-In-Chief Phil Searcy (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

If you can help the association keep up our long tradition of live music performances with outstanding sound, please contact President Lynne Edmondson or Jerry LeCroy so we can get you integrated to the production team. And Thank You!



3 HTMA's last pre-Covid member meeting, January 2020 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



4 Curtis of Curtis and Loretta playing HTMA's last pre-covid coffeehouse in February 2020 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

Editors Notes

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the final edition of the HTMA 2022 newsletter!

Why are we late going to press again? Same as last time – your editor is pretty lazy, and content from association members has been a trifle thin. Still, this newsletter, like so many other things, remains a work in progress.

I am always looking for new content, articles, essays, poetry, or pictures, from HTMA members. Even a collection of banjo jokes will be welcome! There is a soft requirement that there ought to be some kind of musical connection (requirement waived for poetry) and a hard requirement that it needs to be original – not a repost from some random web page.

Best Regards,

Jerry LeCroy

For more information about HTMA or current events, you can visit our website at

www.huntsvillefolk.org

You can join up or renew membership using PayPal at <http://www.huntsvillefolk.org/paypal.htm>

Note that ALL HTMA memberships expire at year's end, so if you haven't yet renewed your membership, it's time to do that.



5 The Alabama A&M Choir singing at HTMA's August 2022 Coffeeshouse (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

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 Chair

GEORGE WILLIAMS (emeritus)

george.p.williams@pobox.com

Tom Derington (incoming)

[TBA](#)

Webmaster/

CHRIS KIDD

chris@lawcall.com

Acting Newsletter Editor

JERRY LECROY (Position open!)

jerry.lecroy@gmail.com

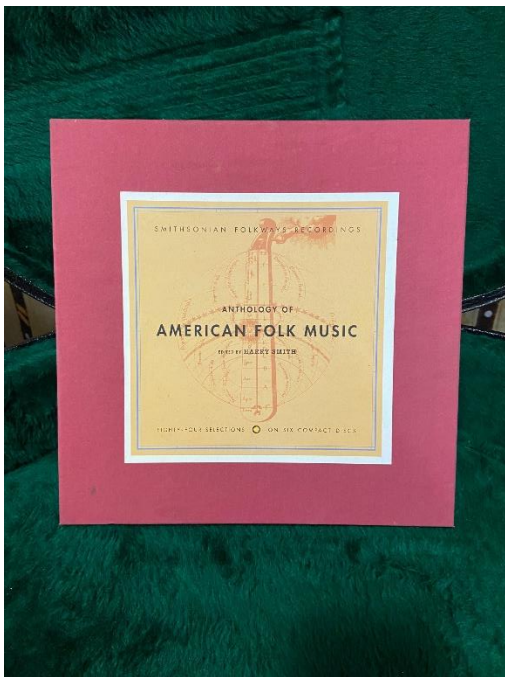
The leadership of HTMA invites YOU to be an active part of our great organization, whether you play an instrument, or want to share in any other way, we welcome you and thank you for your support!

So, You Want to Hear More Traditional Music?

By Larry Halterman

Or is the question, “Should I listen to more Traditional Folk Music?”

The answer is, “Yes, of course you should.” And your next question is, “Where do I start?” And before you can say, “Hey Siri/Alexis/Google.” Go get (order) yourself a copy of Harry Smith’s “Anthology of American Folk Music.” Originally issued in 1952 on Folkway Records. I recommend the six CD set that includes the book and pamphlet. (I’m sure vinyl exists but it’s probably hard to find and quite expensive, and I don’t see the necessity unless you’re a purist).



According to Greil Marcus, “These recordings from the 20’s and 30’s were the foundation of the American Folk revival”

and famed folk artist Dave Von Ronk considered these records as “The Bible” of the Greenwich Village folk scene of the fifties.

Now I don’t exactly recall when I first heard these recordings but once I did, they were hard to forget, mainly due to their familiarity. Not in the sense that the tunes themselves were in my memory banks but in the sense that they bent your ear and imagination in the direction to where your favorite artist received their inspiration and influences. You’ll then realize these folks from the 20’s and 30’s were merely engaged in the oral folk tradition from a previous era where recordings did not exist and lucky for us carried and shared them for the future enjoyment of others.

These CD’s, though not high in fidelity, continually inspire me to practice, to learn and listen to new songs and artists. And isn’t that what it’s all about? So go and get yourself some Folk Music. I do not think you’ll be disappointed.

Editor’s note: Larry supplied a nice photograph of the contents of the Anthology with this article. Unfortunately the listings would be unreadable in the newsletter format. If you’d like to know what’s contained in the Anthology, I have saved a copy of the discography at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vrcS4PUNecTr0hs53DgtHAoPbx3UQ0db/view?usp=sharing>



6 Alabama A&M Choir members singing in the Burritt Pavilion August 2022 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



8 Milltowne at the August 2022 HTMA Coffeehouse (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

**HTMA meeting jams at the
Huntsville/Madison County
Downtown Library
Auditorium
1:30-4pm
September 18th
October 16th
November 20th
December 18th**



9 Loretta playing HTMA's last pre-covid coffeehouse, February 2020 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



7 Charelle Hudgins and Ben Davis Playing with Milltowne at the August 2022 HTMA Coffeehouse (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

**Mark Your Calendar for
The Curtis and Loretta
HTMA
Coffeehouse/Concert
September 20th
(last 2022 coffeehouse)
7-9, doors open at 6:30)
(not a 4th Tuesday)**



10 George Williams at the August 2022 Coffeehouse. He may look like he's enjoying an e-book, but he's actually running the sound system on our digital mixer, using an iPad app. (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



12 Mary Ann Swanstrom and Lowery Riethmeier at the July 2022 HTMA Coffeehouse (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



13 Mary Ann Swanstrom and Lowery Riethmeier at the July 2022 HTMA Coffeehouse (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



11 Lowery Riethmeier in the July 2022 coffeehouse (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



14 Keating Johns and Charelle Hudgins at the August 2022 HTMA Coffeehouse (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

Who's coming to Dinner The Coffeehouse?

By Jani Brill

September 20 – **Curtis and Loretta**. By pure kismet, HTMA has had the good fortune to be able to close out our Coffeehouse series with Curtis and Loretta headlining. If you have yet to experience them, mark your calendar NOW, while you are reading this newsletter. Hailing from the Twin Cities, these two award winning storytellers will keep you mesmerized as they perform with no less than a selection of ten instruments, including the hauntingly beautiful Celtic harp and mandocello.

Opening act will be the **Randolph Avenue Motleys** – HTMA members Larry Halterman, Phil Searcy, Mike Perry and Dan Malloy, newcomer member, just returning to Huntsville after residing in Italy, where he became enchanted with the mandolin and has added it to his collection of stringed instruments. Picking in my parlor this past year, I have come to appreciate their clearly unique styles and talent, with Phil's crisp finger picking, Larry's quirky repertoire of rare selections, Mike's original compositions with his pure vocals, and Dan's strong, overall talent and broad mastery of a myriad of styles, whether it be mandolino or guitar, these gentlemen are talented entertainers.

Come out to join us at one of the three available venues at the Burritt – the historically interesting Little Church, the stellar (pun intended) Gazebo with the majestic views of our town and valley twinkling below, or the new Pavilion, with its solid flagstone rear wall serving as a “curtain backdrop” of sorts for our bands. Spread the word to your family and friends about our upcoming performances, we look forward to seeing you!



15 Milltowne at the August 2022 HTMA Coffeehouse (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.



16 Curtis and Loretta playing for HTMA in 2017 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

Can Farm Sayings Be Song Lyrics?

By Lynne Edmondson

We have worked very hard (outdoors in extremely hot weather) this year to transition the farm animals to be less problematic and more productive: spent 2 months with a dog trainer, converted fencing (son drove in about 70 t-posts at least 18 inches deep) to create a better fenced in area for dogs to run, registered our goats, and neutered our buck goat. Plus, I am trying to keep up with the cashmere fiber, canning, freezing, baking, gathering eggs, and some gardening.

For a number of years I have been collecting farm sayings recognizing how they are a true reflection of farm dynamics. Can farm sayings be song lyrics? Check out my silly song and let me know if you can come up with an accompaniment or your own farm saying lyrics.

Farm Song

Pecking order rooster-ruled the roost,

This ole chicken flew the coop.

One blue moon, the grass is greener on the other side.

Don't love this man to be his bride.

Changing horses in midstream,

No pig in the poke, no one mean.

One blue moon, the grass is greener on the other side.

No man to love, to be his bride.

He's out horse tradin' way down south,

I got it straight from the horse's mouth.

One blue moon, the grass is greener on the other side.

I saw this man and I like his hide.

Eggs in the basket, Bird in the hand

Ill be your wife if you'll be my man.

One blue moon, the grass is greener on the other side.

I love this man and Ill be his bride.

What's good for the goose is good for the gander

Make hay while the sun shines; no one wanders

One blue moon, the grass is greener on the other side.

I love this man and I'm his bride

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

Jerry LeCroy has a lightly-used hammer dulcimer that needs a new home. Hand-crafted in 1997 by Enos Yeager. 13/14 course, with hard case, height-adjustable stand, tuning wrench, and three pairs of hammers. \$400

Contact jerry.lecroy@gmail.com



Music Books, Sheet Music, Tab