

HTMA President's Notes

by Lynne Edmondson

Hi yall,

We have a great lineup for HTMA Coffeehouses. So when you see that we are hosting a band from out of town, trust us to bring you great performers. April 25 brings headliner Milltowne to the stage with Sandy River Ramblers opening. May 23 brings Yellow Dandies, serious string band gone absurdist. Huntsville Community Drumline 1st through 6th grade percussionists are opening that May performance. June 27 Coffeehouse will be a unique Blues IN-THE-ROUND format featuring Microwave Dave Gallaher, Lukas Johnson, & Josh Taylor. June opener is Lynne Edmondson.

Our Jam/Meetings are well-attended, fun chances to play and listen with other instrumentalists—playing unplugged strings and harmonicas. The next few dates are April 23 (4th Sunday), May 21, June 18, and July 16. These are generally 3rd Sundays of each month except where noted differently. Don't be shy, just try!

Several musician members from HTMA will be playing at Burritt Farm Days on April 29. We are gathering names for folks who are interested in playing at nursing homes in the area. Contact me (Lynne) if you want on the list. We will keep you posted for other chances to play around town.

We still have a Publicity Chair position open beginning 2024. The duties were listed in the 2023 first quarter newsletter. Please contact current Publicity Chair Bob Hicks for more information.

Hope to See and Hear you soon!

Lynne Edmondson, HTMA President



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 returned to the old church at Burritt Museum. Advance tickets are available at the HTMA website, for \$10. Tickets at the gate will be \$12.

April 25 Milltowne

Opening by The Sandy River Ramblers

May 23rd The Yellow Dandies

opening by Huntsville Community Drumline

**June 27th In-The-Round showcase
with Dave Gallaher, Lukas Johnson,
and Josh Taylor**

opening by Lynne Edmondson

**Check the next newsletter or the HTMA website
for the rest of our 2023 performance schedule**



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

What's In a Name?

By Jerry LeCroy

Seems like HTMA members often get asked “What kind of music do you play?”

That turns out to be something of a poser, at least for me. HTMA is the Huntsville **Traditional** Music Association. Do we play traditional music? Sure we do, at least some of the time. But there are a couple difficulties with that general statement. First off, just what do we mean by “traditional”. Second, are we limited to traditional music, however that gets to be defined?

The answer to the second question is easy. HTMA members play all sorts of tunes. At the most recent member meeting and jam session, I heard members playing a Carter Family tune, a blues number, one by Hank Williams Sr, and a James Taylor tune. Is any of that traditional? Well, you tell me.

Recently I heard a proposal to rename HTMA to the Huntsville Acoustic Music

Association, or something similar. I have to agree that most members seem to favor acoustic instruments, but I wonder if that sort of re-branding might make some of us uncomfortable. For years now almost every artist we showcase has been plugged in to a greater or lesser extent. They might be playing an acoustic guitar, an autoharp, or a fiddle, but most of the folks who grace our stage plug in.

There are probably as many reasons for the decision to plug in as there are musicians, but the general context is that plugging in can make the performance somewhat less challenging for the performer, particularly for a singer, but also for the sound engineer. That’s because microphone management when playing an acoustic instrument is a demanding job. Get too close and maybe the guitar strings rattle against the microphone, too far away and no one in the audience can hear your instrument.

Microphone management on stage requires precision on the part of both sound engineer and performer – the difference between a fiddle six inches from the microphone and one three or four inches closer is huge. It’s not just the spacing that matters. The way the instrument is pointed can make an enormous difference. Professional sound engineers put a ton of effort into understanding the optimum microphone selection, positioning, etc. A microphone directly above a fiddle can sound pretty good, while the same

microphone pointing at the side of the same instrument is likely to produce pretty unflattering sounds.

I'd like to hear from readers – how would you describe the music you play? And would anyone like to propose a brand new name for the Association? Maybe Huntsville Musical Hackathon?



3 HTMA Performance Chair Karen Newsum at a coffeehouse in 2017 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



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



4 Performance Chair Bob Heinisch playing an HTMA coffeehouse in March 2018 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

Editors Notes

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the second edition of the HTMA 2023 newsletter!

Of course I am late going to press again? I won't even make excuses. However, there is hope for the future, I have negotiated with HTMA's long-time Secretary/Treasurer to swap positions. Since the treasurer gig is an elected position, we likely won't make the change until after the members' election in September. But I think that help is on the way to improve our newsletter content and production schedule.

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 Black Market Haggis at HTMA's August 2019 Coffeehouse
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

HTMA Executive Board

President -

LYNNE EDMONDSON

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Vice President & Public Service Chairman

JIM ENGLAND

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Secretary/Treasurer

PAT LONG

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Publicity Chairman (replacement needed)

BOB HICKS

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Performance Chair

JANI BRILL

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Operations Chief (NOT Chair)

Phil Searcy

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!

Moving Up In the World?

By Jerry LeCroy

For at least twenty years it has been my aspiration to see HTMA move into a fixed and at least semi-permanent venue. This year, thanks mainly to leadership from HTMA President Lynne Edmondson, that dream may be at long last drawing close to reality.

Last winter HTMA President Lynne Edmondson worked many hours to prepare a proposal for a grant from the Huntsville Arts Council. The proposal was approved, and HTMA received a small financial grant to support our 2023 operations. The grant in itself is not huge, but one enormous side benefit is that having been approved for an Arts Council grant opened a door for HTMA to apply for a studio at the Lowe Mill Arts Center.

On Friday March 31 your executive board all went down to 2211 Seminole Drive and met with Marcia, the landlady for all of the artists studios there. This meeting was a direct result of an application for space that Lynne submitted early this year. Space at Lowe Mill is a limited resource, and all applications are "juried" before an applicant is approved to be allowed to rent a space there. Lynne did a great job on the application, and HTMA was approved as a potential tenant.

Does that mean we are moving next month? Nooooo! Lowe Mill has 154 "studios" and at present every unit at the Mill is rented. Marcia told us that she has a waiting list for openings.

So we are waiting for one or more present tenants of space at the Mill to decide to move on, after which we will get contacted by Marcia, get a chance to see the room that is becoming available, and decide if that particular space will work for HTMA purposes.

It's not a simple decision. Likely only half of the spaces at Lowe Mill will support HTMA operational goals. Many of the spaces at the Mill spaces are too small (as small as 350 square feet), some are too large (and hence too costly), and some up on the third floor don't have ceilings, so sound from our gatherings leaking out the top might present an issue for other tenants.

Our desire is to find a space large enough to hold our regular membership meetings and host coffeehouse and other member and guest performances. Ideally I think that we are looking/hoping for a room similar in size to the old church where we have been holding coffeehouses the past dozen years. That said, we may find that we down-size a tad.

A move to Lowe Mill will mean saying goodbye to our long-time friends and supporters at Burritt Museum, which is

sad. At the same time, Lowe Mill's central location should make it much easier for audience members to get to our events, and perhaps allow HTMA to attract some younger fans.

Lowe Mill is open Wednesday through Friday each week. Assuming the move goes forward the way we hope it will, that would mean moving our Sunday meetings to a day when the Mill is open – probably a Saturday afternoon.

There are a few major operational benefits that I see coming with the possibility of a permanent venue. I assume that we will be able to keep HTMA PA gear and lights on site at the location, which will cause an immense reduction in volunteer work load for our coffeehouses, and substantially reduce the wear and tear on PA gear from the transport back and forth.

Having a permanent venue will also free HTMA to host our coffeehouses on other than Tuesday evenings. My thinking is that we are likely to draw a better audience on a Friday or Saturday night gig. Your executive board and Performance Chair Jani Brill would love to get feedback from members on how you feel about moving coffeehouse dates, and what day of the week you might prefer.

Having a dedicated venue will also allow HTMA to open up beyond the one-

night-a-month coffeehouse gig we have been sponsoring. Your board would like to hear from members about how we might take advantage of this new opportunity. I wonder if we might have volunteers who would like to host a regular open-mike night, or a songwriters' night, or concerts featuring HTMA members. If you have thoughts on these or other possible uses of a dedicated venue, please let us know. Of course, adding any of the possibilities named above will require volunteers to stand up to manage the new events.

Other uses of the room might be for members to hold teaching workshops, jam sessions, or even band practice. I think that there are a ton of possibilities.

This transition is not without cost. Beyond the sadness of leaving a comfortable spot and friends at Burritt, there are financial costs. Two HTMA angels have committed to covering at least half of our first year's lease cost for space at Lowe Mill, but there are other non-trivial start up costs that we will have to figure out before we are able to commence operations at a new-to-us room.

We will probably have to build a stage/riser. I'm thinking something akin to the riser at the back of the old Church at Burritt, but a bit wider to accommodate larger bands. And we will need to secure a passel of chairs to seat

members for meetings and audience for performance events. Please let President Lynne Edmondson know if you have ideas to help with the stage setup or seating arrangements. We definitely need help to make those portions of the transition project happen. There are probably numerous things that will need to be done that I have not thought of. For instance:

- Painting etc to clean up the room before we move in
- Maybe wall hangings to help soften the room acoustics
- Signage or posters to publicize our new venue.
- Do we need a coffeepot? Is that even allowed? Or maybe a small refrigerator for bottled water?

If you think you might help us with any of the transition project needs, please let board members know. Additional financial support would be lovely, but if you know where we might find a small truckload of inexpensive seating or a locker to use for PA gear storage, or tables, etc. your generosity and advice can make a huge difference to how well we accomplish the move.

There are a ton of details that remain to be worked out, though a lot will depend on when we get offered a space and what that space looks like. But if we can

pull this off, I think 2023 can really be a banner year for HTMA.



6 Eric Bram opening a 2021 HTMA Coffeehouse
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

**HTMA meeting jams at the
Huntsville/Madison County
Downtown Library
Auditorium
1:30-4pm
April 23th
May 21st
June 18th
July 16th**



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



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

**Mark Your Calendar for
MILLTOWNE returning to
the HTMA coffeehouse**

**Tuesday April 25th
(7-9, doors open at 6:45)**

**opening by
Sandy River Ramblers
with Paul Turner. Pat long.
Karen Falkowski. Nancy
Richardson. and Don Evans**



9 Former HTMA president Ken Hinkle and Treasurer Jim Holland at a concert in 2001 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



10 Newsletter editor Jerry LeCroy playing an HTMA concert in 2002



13 HTMA President Jack Ellis playing at one of the last pre-COVID coffeehouses in 2019 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

Bob Palik Gone West

By Dave Gallaher

For many years, Huntsville resident/father/music fan/tennis player/skier Bob Palik self-published a monthly email calendar containing all the local music gigs that fit the following criteria: smoke free, admission free or reasonable, and within a short driving radius of metro Huntsville. He showed up a lot at the events he listed, always supporting the musicians he saw, and speaking of the others with respect.

Bob would drop by a Microwave Dave & The Nukes gig and say "I almost didn't come in! There was nowhere to park!"

On many Monday evenings during the first two decades of this century, Bob would rush into Mama Annie's on a Monday night when I was playing solo from 5 to 7pm. He was nearly always late from playing tennis, but the Carter family would serve him, and he and I would dine together before I loaded out my gear.

Bob's memorial service was held today in Huntsville, and I noted several local musicians there among his family and many, many friends from church, tennis, the Huntsville Ski Club and his decades of work here.

Truly, I can say: "Bob, I almost didn't come in! There was nowhere to park!"

Rest in peace, and in our regard and appreciation.



11 John and Vickie LeCroy playing an HTMA concert in 2001
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



12 Bob Palik (photo courtesy M.L. Lewis)



14 Shane Adkins playing at the January 2023 HTMA coffeeshouse
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



16 Cotaco Creek band playing a 2000 HTMA Coffeeshouse
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



17 HTMA Members playing at Harbor Chase Assisted Living in 2016 – Don Evans, Jim England, James Smith, Jery LeCroy, Bill Nuessle, Collier Rawls, Jack Ellis, and Al Yancey (photo courtesy Bill Cassells)



15 Dale Ramsey playing his big shiny guitar at an HTMA Coffeeshouse in May 2008
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



18 Jim England playing at Harbor Chase in 2016
(photo courtesy Bill Cassells)

Who's coming to The Coffeehouse?



April 25th - Milltowne -

Milltowne is a band that pays tribute to Americana acoustic roots by weaving a dynamic blend of bluegrass, folk, rock, blues, & country music. With influences ranging from Bill Monroe and the Beatles to the Grateful Dead, Milltowne delivers modern interpretations of traditional classics while rendering modern tunes with traditional arrangements to create a timeless sound that appeals to listeners of all ages and musical backgrounds

The Sandy River Ramblers play traditional American and Celtic string band music. Reels, jigs, waltzes breakdowns, ballads.. the works!

Guitar: Paul Turner

Mandolin/Vocals: Pat Long

Banjo: Karen Falkowski

Fiddle: Nancy Richardson & Don Evans

May 23rd – The Yellow Dandies. The

The Yellow Dandies are best described as an absurdist string band. Whether they're dazzling crowds with tongue and finger twisting original

compositions, or dusting off Bluegrass standards and old-time fiddle tunes, the Birmingham-based band takes listeners on eclectic romps that never quite spin out of control.

Actually the Dandies are skilled and serious musicians. Ben Hood (guitar) has both a songwriting degree from MTSU and certified rhythmic superpowers, which earned him a grant recently from the Tennessee Arts Commission. Bailey Hill (mandolin and banjo) is a full time musician in Birmingham Alabama giving private lessons in mandolin, fiddle, banjo, and guitar. Ryan Brown (upright bass) has spent years performing with jazz bands and symphonies, as well as rock bands and his own projects. Prior to joining the band, fiddler Aerin deRussy (fiddle) spent the last several years playing with various symphonies, including stints on both viola and violin with the Gadsden Symphony and the Muscle Shoals Symphony. After being petitioned by the band, she graciously decided to return to her roots as the 2007 Georgia Fiddle Queen. With such a talented lineup, the Yellow Dandies have infused every song with outstanding musicianship as well as their distinctive humor and authentic style. They are guaranteed to leave any crowd pumped full of holy Dandies spirt, hootin', hollerin', dancin', and demandin' more.

Opening act is TBA



*19 Grace Wood playing for HTMA in August 2017
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)*

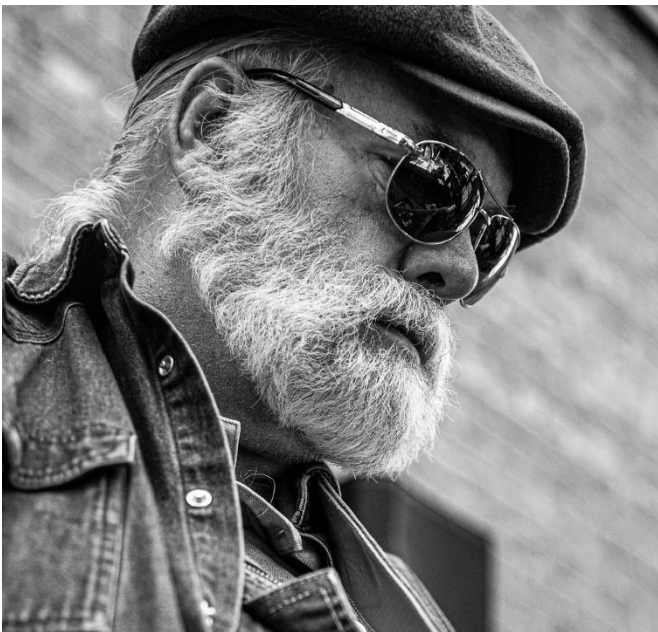
June 27th –

IN-THE-Round will feature Microwave Dave Gallaher, Lukas Johnson, & Josh Taylor

The Huntsville Traditional Music Association's June Coffeehouse format will be a little different this month. An evening of acoustic blues will be showcased "in the round." Local legend Microwave Dave Gallaher, young "up and coming" Cigar Box and musical Stringed Shovel artist Lukas Johnston, equally uniquely gifted Josh Taylor, and our very own HTMA President Lynne Edmondson, who will bring her soulful, weeping fiddle to the stage, will come together to create a special evening of music that you don't want to miss, our only "in the round" CoffeeHouse this season. With this season's CoffeeHouses continuing to sell out, get your tickets now, don't wait, at huntsvillefolk.org

Soundbite – Microwave Dave

<https://youtu.be/GYi0HZQWZ2Y>



20 Microwave Dave Gallaher (photo courtesy the artist)

Luke Johnston (Lukas Jam) has been building and playing improvised instruments since 2021, when he discovered the Cigar Box Guitar Store at Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment. He made his onstage debut with his

band, Lukas Jam and the 106ers, at Panoply 2022. He enjoys the inclusive music community in Huntsville and exploring traditional and untraditional ways of making and playing instruments.



21 Lukas Johnson (photo courtesy the artist)

Josh Taylor is a guitarist and singer from Huntsville Alabama. Bachelor of Music in Commercial Guitar Performance. Josh's specialty is deeply rooted in the old time picking styles of guitarists such as Atkins, Merle Travis, and Tommy Emmanuel. He is not only a cover artist but also a composer and arranger. He won first place in the Alabama Old Time Fiddler's Convention State Championships in 2019 and was runner up in 2021.



22 Josh Taylor (photo courtesy the artist)

Opening for the June coffeehouse will be HTMA president **Lynne Edmondson**.

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.

Situation Available!

For the past dozen years or so Bob Hicks has served as HTMA’s principal Publicity Chair. Bob has done a terrific job sending out announcements of upcoming Association events and populating our Facebook page with all sorts of great stuff. Bob has also been an invaluable proofreader for this newsletter. However, Bob is ready to hand over the Publicity reins to a new (and presumably younger) volunteer.

Please consider becoming a key contributor to the HTMA Executive Committee by taking on this chairmanship!



24 HTMA Performance Chair Lou Beasley and Bonny Blackburn [standing] at a July 2002 HTMA coffeehouse (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



25 Abby Parker playing an HTMA coffeehouse in March 2017 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



23 Jim Holland playing with Sue Charles and HTMA Performance Chair Chip Gulbro in February 2002 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

See the Pretty Bird Sing

V.L.Halterman

(Chorus 1) Everyone wants the pretty bird, pretty bird

Everyone wants the pretty bird prize

Everyone wants the pretty bird, pretty bird

Seize the pretty bird prize

(Verse 1) Purse your beak and fluff your wings

Pretty bird sing, pretty bird sing

Unfairest bird will shout and caw

Song that signals its spring

(Chorus 2) Everyone hear the pretty bird, pretty bird

Everyone hear the pretty bird sing

Everyone hear the pretty bird, pretty bird

Hear the pretty bird sing

(Verse 2) We're all drawn to the Siren's call

Pretty bird sing, pretty bird sing

We're all drawn to the Siren's call

Wax your ears for Fall

(Chorus 3) Everyone see the pretty bird, pretty bird

Everyone see the pretty bird sing

Everyone see the pretty bird, pretty bird

See the pretty bird sing

(Verse 3) Steer the ship from the rocks in the sea

Rocks in the sea, rocks in the sea

Steer the ship from the rocks in the sea

Change of course for all

The Composer is Dead

A Review by Lynne Edmondson

I recently enjoyed a performance by Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, *The Composer is Dead!* a musical murder mystery by author Lemony Snicket music by Nathaniel Stookey. The suspects, musical instruments, have both motive and alibi. The Inspector interrogates in the musical style of a somewhat similar youth orchestra performance, *Peter and the Wolf*.

Debussy

Vivaldi

Mendelssohn

Mozart

And many more are all dead. Who killed the composers?

If you are a musician or love listening to music you can listen to a version of the performance and solve the mystery yourself. All of us musicians have butchered a composer at one time or another. But without the orchestra musicians playing the songs, the composers are dead! Keep the composers alive by playing their songs and telling their stories.

Hear the Murder Mystery for yourself

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuABdROntEQ&t=64s>



26 Chase Creek Strings [Bill Cassells, Stephanie Clark, Sue Huffman, and Jack Ellis] opening the February 2023 HTMA coffeehouse (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)



28 An outdoor concert at the loading dock at Lowe Mill Arts and Entertainment Center (photo courtesy the Center)



27 Girl, Guy, and Guitar playing in the Old Church at Burritt (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

Huntsville Arts & Cultural Grant Program



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, Ta