

## HTMA President's Notes

by Lynne Edmondson

Hello Friends of HTMA,

Wow! What a great year for our Sunday Meeting Jams and Tuesday Coffeehouses! Lots of professional and hobby musicians showing off their stuff; Lots of excellent new talent as well. Thanks for trusting our judgement on the long distance groups Jani booked. Coffeehouses are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month in June, July, August, October and November. See more info about the line up in the newsletter and website.

Instead of a coffeehouse, September's music event is the Gazebo Concert on Sunday, September 10. I am looking for talent to perform. Please let me know if you would like to play with a band or on your own. Contact information is on our website [huntsvillefolk.org](http://huntsvillefolk.org)

HTMA Meeting Jams are held at Downtown Huntsville, Madison County Library, 1:30-4pm. We welcome a variety of abilities, acoustic instruments, and all ages. And for those of us who are shy about playing in public, just know we are not alone. Our fellow musicians are here for support as we open up and play in public.

Can you donate an average of 11 hours a month?! We have an incredible number of folks who contribute to running HTMA. **But, without a new person for each of these open positions, they will not happen. As our board members find they need to retire their volunteer positions, please consider taking on one of the tasks! We currently have 2 positions that need to be filled: 1. A person to schedule nursing home and community performance gigs with our volunteer talent and 2. Publicity is a shadowing position to take over in**



**HTMA Membership meetings 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.**

**July 25<sup>th</sup> Steel City Jug Slammers**  
Opening by Mike Ball

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> Alabama A&M Concert**  
**Choir**  
opening by Jim Vest

**October 24<sup>th</sup> The Old Fashioned**  
**Rhythm Method**  
opening by the Special Ks

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

**September.** Over 9 months, 8 volunteers worked 795 non-performance based hours total. That is an average of 11 hours a month. Total volunteers including performers for a variety of community events including nursing homes:23. Total coffeehouse audience since January: 706. Total participants at our workshop: 40. Total audience for all other community events members played for : 5247. Members perform at these community events free of charge and we service a wide variety of audience members: age, ethnicity, and ability.

*Lynne Edmondson, HTMA President*



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

## ***Politicizing?***

By Jerry LeCroy

We had a remarkable event happen a couple days after HTMA’s June coffeehouse. The remarkable event was that president Lynne Edmondson received an email commenting on the coffeehouse.

I can remember many times being congratulated over the quality of our coffeehouse performances after shows, but I don’t recall getting any thank-you letters

from our audience after any show. And that still hasn’t happened.

In this case it appears that one audience member was offended by statements that Lynne made regarding how she felt about having three white musicians playing a mostly blues set on our stage. The writer felt that the HTMA stage was not the appropriate venue for what he perceived to be political speech, and complained bitterly about the matter.

I would likely take exception to any argument that our stage should not host political speech. I think a significant portion of my own repertoire consists of what might be referred to as “protest songs”. That genre might include:

- *Forest Lawn*, by Tom Paxton
- *Waist Deep in the Big Muddy*, by Pete Seeger
- *There But for Fortune*, by Phil Ochs
- *Pastures of Plenty*, by Woody Guthrie
- *Talking Vietnam Blues*, by Noel Paul Stookey
- And any number of union-related songs, like *Whose Side Are You On?*

My opinion is that folk music has always contained a substantial political element, and ought to continue to do so.

In my opinion, Lynne’s speech at the coffeehouse was a tad long – I’d rather have (in the words of the top 40 DJ) “less talk and more music”. But Lynne did not say anything different from what I’ve heard from other white performers playing blues.

If you want an excellent example, look up the intro to *Count On Me* on Jack William's *Bound For Glory* album. Jack makes an excellent argument for both why white musicians may fail as blues players, and why they should keep playing the blues anyway.

In the meantime, I will be delighted to publish any comments on HTMA performances or operations. If you have something to say, write it down and send it to me in an email. My only stipulation is that I will decline to publish any anonymous opinion pieces. But if you are ready to own your opinions, I am good to publish them.

I'd like to hear from readers – what would you care to hear more (or less) of on HTMA stages?

*Jerry LeCroy*



*3 Former HTMA vice president and long time gear-schlepper Steve McGehee enjoying the show at the 2003 Gazebo festival (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)*



*2 Bob Keefe with his 5-string banjo at the 2003 HTMA Gazebo Festival (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)*

## ***Webmaster Notes***

The Huntsville Traditional Music Association is proud to announce the launch of their new blog section on the HTMA website.

You'll be able to find articles about traditional music in Huntsville and the surrounding area as well as news about upcoming concerts, workshops, and other opportunities to get involved in the Huntsville Traditional Music Association.

Be sure to check out the blog section of the Huntsville Traditional Music Association website at [huntsvillefolk.org](http://huntsvillefolk.org).

*Chris Kidd*

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

[www.huntsvillefolk.org](http://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.*



*4 The Wade Mountain Wanderers featuring HTMA past president Wayne Taylor playing at the Gazebo Festival in 2018 (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)*

## **HTMA Executive Board**

**President -**

**LYNNE EDMONDSON**

[info@huntsvillefolk.org](mailto:info@huntsvillefolk.org)

**Vice President & Public Service Chairman**

**JIM ENGLAND**

256-852-5740 [harpatune@yahoo.com](mailto:harpatune@yahoo.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**

**PAT LONG**

[plong@hiwaay.net](mailto:plong@hiwaay.net)

**Publicity Chairman (replacement needed)**

**BOB HICKS**

[publicity@huntsvillefolk.org](mailto:publicity@huntsvillefolk.org)

**Performance Chair**

**JANI BRILL**

[booking@huntsvillefolk.org](mailto:booking@huntsvillefolk.org)

**Operations Chief (NOT Chair)**

**Phil Searcy**

**Webmaster/**

**CHRIS KIDD**

[chris@lawcall.com](mailto:chris@lawcall.com)

**Acting Newsletter Editor**

**JERRY LECROY (Position open!)**

[jerry.lecroy@gmail.com](mailto: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!*



5 Free Indeed playing a HTMA Coffeehouse  
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

**HTMA meeting jams at the  
Huntsville/Madison County  
Downtown Library  
Auditorium  
1:30-4pm  
July 16<sup>th</sup>  
August 20<sup>th</sup>  
September 17<sup>th</sup>  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
November 12<sup>th</sup>**



6 Russian accordion impresario *Victor Sadovsky* performing on cow  
horn at the April 2023 HTMA Coffeehouse (photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

**Mark Your Calendar** September  
Music Event is the Gazebo Concert

The Huntsville Traditional Music Association will host a Gazebo Concert on Sunday, September 10, 1:30 to 4:00 pm, at Burritt on the Mountain. The featured performers will be HTMA members. I don't have a line up yet, so let me know your interest as part of a band or an individual musician. The concert is a free event for performers and audience. Great afternoon for a family picnic on the lawn at Burritt. Can't wait to see the talent! Additional information as it becomes available or to email Lynne Edmondson for a performance spot go to HTMA web page at [huntsvillefolk.org](http://huntsvillefolk.org) .



7 Bob and Cathy White demonstrating some of the finer points of old-time music at an HTMA meeting in 2023  
(Photo courtesy L. Edmondson)



9 Phil Searcy opened the May 2023 coffeehouse  
(photo courtesy L. Edmondson)



8 HTMA Secretary/Treasurer Pat Long with her band, the Sandy River Ramblers at an 2023 coffeehouse (photo courtesy B. Cassells)



10 MILLTOWNE playing an HTMA concert in 2023  
(photo courtesy B. Cassells)



"The Father of the American Folksong Revival"  
**Alan Lomax**  
**1915 - 2002**



11 Stage in Deep Ellum (photo courtesy L. Edmondson)

## Deep Ellum Blues

By Lynne Edmondson

You may have heard Stephen and I sing the lyrics from Deep Ellum Blues, “When you go down to Deep Ellum put your money in your pants those good looking women they won’t give you a chance.” Is that some mythical place? The song is actually referring to the eastern portion (between the railroad and Central Expressway) of Elm Street in Dallas, Texas. It was home to music legends Lead Belly, Blind Willy Johnson, and others.

My association with Deep Ellum goes back to mid 1900’s, around the time Central Expressway was built through the largely African-American neighborhood. My Grandpa Sam and Grandma Sara owned a paint store there. After the Korean War my Dad joined them in the business. I would hang out there sometimes on Saturdays and summer breaks. Dad kept a baseball bat behind the counter in case he might need it, especially when “the summers get hot,” he said. Next door was a shoe shop. Down the street was something akin to a BBQ food truck. Further down Deep Elm Sons of Hermann Hall still exists as a legendary place for live music and swing dancing. Going down the street in the opposite direction to the west were strip clubs including Jack Ruby’s. Further to the west on Elm Street is Dealey Plaza where John F Kennedy was shot. My parents were cheering for the President when his motorcade drove by. Everyone that I knew at the time were both saddened and embarrassed by the assassination; as recent as last year, a proposal was brought forth to close that part of Elm Street

If you walk around deep Ellum at night be aware of the art, the lights, and the people. The area currently hosts arts and entertainment venues, great BBQ, and tattoo parlors. Dad’s old building is now a piano bar. Malcolm X Blvd crosses Elm Street in Deep Ellum. I hope you enjoy the photos of my last walk around Deep Ellum at night with resident artist, Karen Stone, and my brother Elliott.

The Deep Ellum Blues version of this song was written and recorded by the Lone Star Cowboys/Shelton Brothers. It was later recorded by Les Paul, Jerry Lee Lewis, Jerry Garcia, and Levon Helm.



12 An inviting Deep Ellum bar (photo courtesy L. Edmondson)



13 The Yellow Dandies playing the May 2023 Coffeehouse  
(photo courtesy L. Edmondson)

## Who's coming to The Coffeehouse?

### July 25<sup>th</sup> - Steel City Jug Slammers-

The Steel City Jug Slammers are an American jug band from Birmingham, Alabama. Active members include Ramblin' Ricky Tate, Jerrod Atkins, Corey Medders, Steven Bate, & Jacob Mathews.

Founded in 2012, Steel City Jug Slammers released their Self- titled debut album in 2014. The band's second album "Tall Tales" was released in 2018. "Hot Butter" the band's third studio album was released in fall of 2019.

The Jug Slammers have been featured on the National Jug Band Jubilee. The band also won the 2015 Minneapolis Battle of the Jug Bands.



14 Steel City Jug Slammers  
(photo courtesy the artists)

### The July coffeehouse will open with long-time north Alabama institution **Mike Ball.**

In addition to serving for twenty years as the state senator from our area, Mike Ball is a remarkable musician. Mike plays guitar, mandolin, banjo, and fiddle, and has been an outstanding bluegrass style musician for years. Mike is also a thoughtful song writer. His set is guaranteed to bring out grins in the audience



## August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Alabama A&M

**University Choir.** The Alabama A & M University Choir continues a choral tradition, which had its inception during the tenure of William Hooper Council, an ex-slave, who founded Alabama A&M in 1875. The choir's tradition contains a high standard of performing excellence that is continuing under Director Dr. Horace Carney. The choir will be performing a cappella Spirituals.



15 The Alabama A&M Concert Choir performing for HTMA in 2022  
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)

### Jim Vest will open this coffeehouse.

Jim started playing guitar at the age of 14 but a tour in the Navy, college studies at USF, raising a family and a corporate career took away a lot of playing time.

Approaching retirement age Jim helped start the Shady J's acoustic band and has had the honor of playing with really talented people. Presently living in rural Alabama on his great grandmother's farm, he gets to sit on his porch and play to the crowds of... well a few dogs, cats, squirrels and birds.

## October 24<sup>th</sup> –

### The Old Fashioned Rhythm Method

In 2011 Chuck King and Tom Dameron joined with Jason Bailey to form The Old Fashioned Rhythm Method, a unique musical trio made up of Trumpet, Tuba and Tenor Banjo. The group enjoys experimenting with different styles of music

ranging from Traditional New Orleans Jazz, Blues, and tunes from the 1920s.

The three members are unique in their own right. Chuck King is a music teacher, professional photographer and incredible trumpet player and vocalist. Tom Dameron is a professional artist, retired hospital Pharmacist and tuba player. Jason Bailey is a professional mandolinist, composer, teacher and studio musician who is active in a number of performing groups in Birmingham and Nashville and is considered one of the best innovators of the acoustic music scene.



16 The Old Fashioned Rhythm Method trio  
(photo courtesy the artists)

### The Special Ks will open this coffeehouse.

Kay Corder and Kim Cappaert form the Special K's and blend their vocal harmonies with guitar and ukulele tunes. They describe their music as folk and are inspired by the melodies of Secret Sisters, John Denver, and the Wailin' Jennys amongst others. And they actually met at an HTMA jam.

## 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!



*17 Bronwyn and Troy Young playing an HTMA Coffeeshouse in J2002  
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)*



*18 HTMA president Lynne Edmondson and her band at the 2018 Burritt Gazebo concert  
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)*



*19 HTMA Webmaster Chris Kidd playing at the 2018 HTMA Gazebo concert  
(photo courtesy J. LeCroy)*



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



21 Tricia Walker and Davis Raines playing an HTMA Coffeehouse in April 2003 (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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**Music Books, Sheet Music, Ta**