# A Different Strummer

## CFMS Honors Child Musicians with Scholarships

We are pleased to announce the 2014 Bob Kirby Scholarship winners. The awards will be presented on the Bob Kirby stage at 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 3 at the Central Ohio Folk Festival.

*by Bill Cohen*

Toryn Maleah Myles, Charis Williams, Sam Bermudez, and Denver Brown.

Remember these 4 names because someday, you may hear them headlining a folk festival or performing music on a concert hall stage, on TV, or in a best-selling album.

The 4 children are being honored at the upcoming Central Ohio Folk Festival as this year's winners in the Bob Kirby Scholarship Contest.

First place winner Toryn began violin lessons at age 5, and now she is 11. She hopes to one day "play with the Columbus Jazz String Group and get a

*Photos in this article courtesy of Linda McDonald*

*See Kirby Winners - page 4*

## Folk Music: What is it anyway?

*by Scott Alarik*

You may have seen this article before as we published it in our 2013 CFMS calendar and included a longer version in our May, 2013 newsletter. However, it contains so many "goodies" that we couldn't help but print it again.

It is extracted from the book "Deep Community; Adventures in the Modern Folk Underground" by Scott Alarik. The book is a treasure compilation of articles about folk music and some of the many performers who make it happen.

**Pete Seeger:** "I think I'd preface my statement by saying I'd just as soon the term was no longer used except by professional folklorists who know what they are talking about. But if it is to be used by journalists, I always point out it's music that has more of the traditional element; whether it's gospel music or Chinese or Jewish music or even Appalachian music with a Scotch-Irish background. . . ."

*Photo courtesy Anthony Pepitone*

*See Folk Music - page 3*

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## Welcome to CENTRAL OHIO FOLK FESTIVAL 2014 !

You're here (or hopefully will be shortly!) Be sure not to miss the 18th annual Central Ohio Folk Festival at the lush and green Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park in southwest Columbus on May 3 and 4.

For children and their parents, we've got a special children's arts and crafts area, an instrument petting zoo where kids can pick up and play a drum, or guitar or fiddle, and a series of 15 mini-concerts/presentations/ jams just for kids.

For folks who want to learn a new instrument or brush up on some techniques, we've got 60 workshops on everything from talks on "Discovering Folk Music" and "The Roots of Songwriting" to harmony singing, song-writing and "How to Make a Band Work", to playing techniques for guitar, banjo, dulcimer, bouzouki, the harmonica, autoharp and more!

*See Festival - page 7*

# Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park –

## Some ***very*** good reasons to come back for a visit !

*by Tim Taylor*

We did a short interview with park naturalist, Tim Taylor. Consider coming out for a visit this summer!

*Ed. note.*

***Why is this particular park special to you?***

***Tim:*** I've been working at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park since 1993 and will retire from this park. It's special to me in many ways but the best thing about working here is the people I get to work with. From management down, the employees are always glad to come to work and are enthusiastic about their jobs. They work hard but with a smile on their face and a feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day.

***What are some features of the park?***

***Tim:*** Battelle Darby Creek is a very unique park. It is the largest Metro Park in the state of Ohio with over 7,500 acres. Flowing through the middle of the park are Big and Little Darby Creeks which are State and National Scenic Rivers. They contain 100 species of fish and 44 species of freshwater mussels and are considered by many as the most biologically diverse streams for their size in all of North America. What a wonderful feature to have.

There are also 1200 acres of restored tall grass prairies, a 600 acre wetland complex and one of the most modern and green nature centers in Ohio – which includes a living stream with critters from the creeks that you can view up close and personal.

While visiting the Nature Center make sure you take time to enjoy our bison herd which consists of 6 cows, and a bull. Hopefully this summer we will have calves.

*the new Nature Center at Battelle Darby*

Over 20 miles of hiking trails, fishing areas, pet trails, shelters for picnicking, and more greet the visitors to this wonderful western Franklin County park.

***How long a stay should visitors plan?***

***Tim:*** A few minutes or a few days, because there is so much to see and do at Battelle Darby Creek.

***Where can folks who are interested pick up a magazine which further describes all of the planned activities happening at the park?***

***Tim:*** You can pick up the Metro Parks magazine "Parkscope" at the Nature Center, the Ranger Station or at several of the bulletin boards thoughout the park.

*[Ed. note: just some of the events coming up in May at Battelle Darby:*

*<u>Birding at its Best: May 10, Sat 8am</u>*

*Enjoy the morning chorus of warblers, finches, orioles and other birds. Indian Ridge Bulletin Board.*

*<u>Wildflowers: May 10, Sat 1pm</u>*

*Discover native wildflowers on a 2-mile rugged hike in steep terrain.*

*<u>Catch the Current: May 11, 17, & 24</u>*

*(requires advance reservation; call 614-508-8111)*

*Enjoy a 4-hour canoe trip on Big Darby Creek. Canoes, equipment and return transportation provided. Paddlers must be 14 years or older; riders 8 years or older.]*

***Why does the Battelle Darby park staff like helping out with Central Ohio Folk Festival (COFF) each year?***

***Tim:*** Besides the wonderful staff of COFF that we get to work with every year, we love to see people visiting the park and enjoying themselves while they're here. COFF has been a wonderful draw for the park and we have a foot stomping good time during the first weekend of May every year.

***Is it true that birds are where man first got the idea about making up song?***

***Tim:*** I once read a quote that stated,

"Music was never invented; birds sing, water drips, leaves rustle, wind sighs, fire crackles." It might be better to ask, "Who first realized that the world is so filled with music?"

*Folk Music - from page 1*

**Ani DiFranco:** ". . .I think folk music is sub-corporate, community-based music o' the people. . . The form it takes doesn't speak to me as much as the whole context in which it's created. It just tends to be unpretentious music that's uncommercial, made by unpretentious people who are not interested in moving units. . . ."

**Lui Collins:** ". . . [Folk music is] something passed along from generation to generation. Folk music in its purest sense can only be sustained where you have a nation. . . But in this present-day technological society, folk music, if it can exist at all, has to take on a whole new meaning."

*Photo courtesy of Lipofsky Photography*

A definition? **Number one** would be "music that comes from the heart and that speaks of and to the world as the musician experiences it. . . . **Number two** is music that deals with what is real. . .as opposed to doing what might be commercially viable. **Three,** I think folk music is primarily acoustic. . .I would include electric basses, pickups, p.a. systems, but I think of it as primarily acoustic. I see it as music that's primarily simple. . . . **The fourth** thing. . . is music that's open to interpretation by other performers – what we call the folk process. It's music that changes and grows, depending on who is playing it, and when it it is being played. . . The final thing. . .folk music is music that encourages the development of community. . .encourages people to come together."

**Scott Alarik** (noted journalist who covered the folk music scene for the *Boston Globe* for over 20 years):

". . . The term was originally coined to distinguish this music not by style or content, but by class. 'The folk' was a term that referred specifically to the lower classes, peasants, the poor and working people. And folk music was the music they created for themselves, for their own use in their own lives.

"For nearly all our history, folk music was the only music of, by and for the vast majority of people everywhere in the world. Only the nobility and the wealthiest elite could afford to have what was called "art music;" that is, music composed and performed by formally trained musicians. . . .In the main, folk music was made nonprofessionally, by the same people who listened to it. It was then passed on in an endless creative cycle called the folk process, passed from singer to singer, player to player, generation to generation, culture to culture.

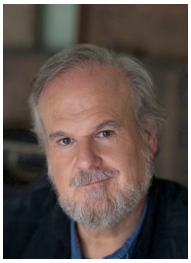
"Technology changed all that, first with published song sheets called broadsides that were sold to the masses; then with sheet music for parlor pianos; and later with records, radios and television. With mass-market technology, it became possible for music to be profitably sold to the folk, and that industry became known as popular, or pop, music.

"What were once functional and precise definitions that distinguished folk, pop and art music have now become aesthetic ones. People are still drawn to the real-life qualities of folk music, whether it is made by a cowboy-turned-singer, or a rich'n'famous singer-songwriter. The songs tend to be about more than just dating and mating, like so much pop music is, because life itself is about more than that. The folk sang songs about courtship, of course, but also about work, their community, history, children, parents, pets, politics. Music was made for dances and weddings and funerals, to mark the changing of the seasons, celebrated holidays, and to worship.

"Much of folk music retains a topical, populist edge, because it was originally a class-defined music. Since it so honestly and movingly portrays the hard lives of poor people throughout history, it naturally draws listeners to a desire for social justice. It may not be innately a political form; but I believe it is an innately populist one.

"It also tends to be more personal when it speaks of matters of the heart, because the old folk love songs were not written to sell to other people, but to express deep and private feelings. Then, as now, people used the vocabulary of the love song to examine their interior lives; to express their deepest feelings about both love and life . . .and perhaps explain that heart to those closest to it. The songs that lasted did so because they somehow touched something in all hearts. Those that expressed only a mood of the moment were soon forgotten.

"Of all the definitions of folk music I have heard over the years, my personal favorite came from my [10 year old] niece. . . .I had sent her Suzanne Vega's first album as a Christmas present. She told me how much she liked it – and that she could tell right away it was folk music. 'How could you tell it was folk music?' I asked her.



"'Because all the songs are about things.' She said."

*From article entitled "What is Folk Music?"*
From "Deep Community: Adventures in the Modern Folk Underground" By Scott Alarik. Publ. Feb. 1996. Used with permission.

*Kirby Winners – from page 1*

scholarship to college playing my instrument."

Charis, the second place winner, is 13 but has been playing violin for 9 years. She has focused on classical music but she now enjoys "the faster pace of the fiddle," since her teacher introduced her to folk music. Charis even bought a ukulele with her birthday money.

Third place award winner Sam is 10 years old. His singing voice is his instrument, and he's already performed in several children's choirs. As he puts it: "It's really cool that whoever made us gave us the ability to move our voices. Personally, music makes me feel happy."

Our Honorable Mention, Denver, is also a 10 year old singer. He has been in elementary school plays and musicals, even starring this year as the title character in "The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf." He notes that music can be powerful, making people "anything from happy to sad, loving to hateful."

The scholarship contest honors the memory of longtime CFMS member Bob Kirby, who loved folk music and children. This year's three top finishers will receive money for instruments or lessons, plus admission to the folk festival. The other Honorable Mention will get financial incentives to attend the festival. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will have a chance to perform on the main stage in the Bob Kirby Tent at 4 p.m. on Saturday. As a side note, previous years' Scholarship winners have been invited to perform from 10 a.m. to Noon at the festival's new Showcase Tent.

"I was amazed at the great raw talent and drive of all these kids," says CFMS member Joe Baringhaus, one of the 3 judges in the scholarship contest.

Joe notes that by honoring these children and encouraging them to attend the folk festival, they just might help carry on the folk music tradition. "Will they become instant folkies? No, but it's important that we expose these kids to it, because they might move ahead with folk music."

All 3 judges say virtually the same thing about wishing that CFMS had more money earmarked for rewarding children's enthusiasm for musical learning. Here's the way Linda McDonald puts it: "I would have loved to have given each child a full scholarship."

The Columbus Folk Music Society established the Bob Kirby Scholarship Memorial Fund in memory of Bob Kirby 6 years ago. The purpose of the fund is to assist young musicians from the central Ohio area by offering opportunities they may otherwise not experience, namely:

- opportunities to enhance their musical skills in the folk music tradition by an award that can go towards the purchase of an instrument or lessons;
- opportunities to pursue a greater knowledge of, and appreciation for folk music through workshop and Sat. evening concert passes at the 2014 Central Ohio Folk Festival AND
- performance opportunities (initially at the 2014 Central Ohio Folk Festival awards ceremony).

If you see any of these young people at this year's festival, please congratulate them!

# Opportunity for CFMS to share talent !

Interested in giving back or sharing your talent with some youngsters eager to learn?

Recently, Joe Baringhaus helped the CFMS became aware of an after-school program on the near west side of Columbus called Run the Race Club.

It is a privately-run after-school program for neighborhood kids ages 5 - 18. The inspiration behind its founding by Rachel Muha in 2005 was in response to the death of her son, who's life was taken by a couple of inner city youth. She felt this was the best way to honor her son's memory and hopefully prevent, in some small way, what happened to her from happening to other families. With the exception of one part-time paid staff member, the center is entirely run by volunteers.

There are a number of rooms in use for various activities, including: a Tumbling Room; Gym; Art Room; Dining Room (where hot suppers are served to the kids); Library/Computer/Chess room; Food Pantry

*See Run the Race - page 7*

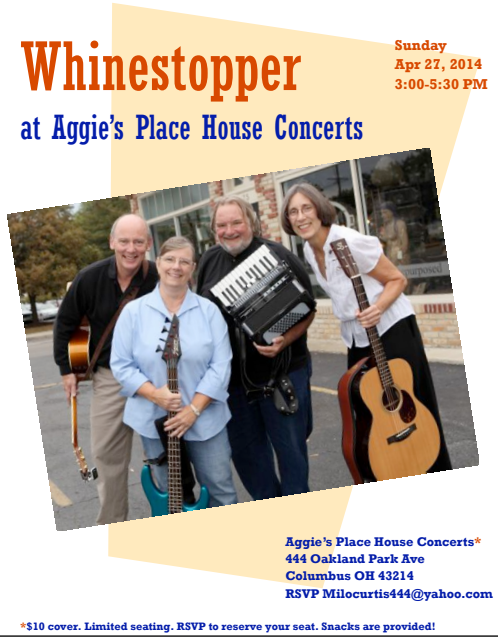
## SAVE THE DATE . . .

The **Saturday Music Jam** at the **Worthington Farmers' Market 9:30 - 11:30 a.m**. May finds the group back on the southeast quad of Worthington Square. All are welcome to come out and play. Every Saturday through Fall Festival in October. It's good to bring a chair.

**May 2, 3, 4 - Central Ohio Folk Festival.** Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park. Take I-270; exit at US40 West; go 6 miles, then follow signs.
**Friday: Meet & Greet 6-9:30 p.m. Cedar Ridge Lodge**
**Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to ~10 p.m. Indian Ridge area**
**Sunday: 10 a.m. to ~5:30 p.m.** or ? (park closes at dark).
**Don't miss the Meet & Greet** on **Friday evening.** Lots of food—lots of good cooks. If you want to bring something, please feel free, but don't stay away if you can't furnish food.

The delightful **"Worst Song in the World" contest** starts at **8 p.m.** Jamming everywhere! You can also pick up your registration packets.

**Saturday, May 17 (CFMS Jam at Run the Race) 3 - 4 p.m.** (details in article on pg. 7). If you're interested in Run the Race and the possibility of becoming involved with this future CFMS project, please come!




**How can I find out more about the Columbus Folk Music Society and/or it's events?** www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org
OR you can join us as a member. Benefits include: camaraderie with the folkies in town, discounts on certain admissions, this monthly newsletter and the comfort of knowing that all events are family friendly! A membership form is provided on last page of this newsletter.

☞

**House Concert:**
**@ Aggie's Place;** 444 Oakland Park Avenue, Cols, OH 43214. RSVP Milocurtis444@yahoo.com

$10 cover. Limited seating. Please RSVP to reserve your seat. Snacks provided.

Thanks to all those who have donated milk jugs for the Central Ohio Folk Festival, including Randi Cohen (who by the looks of it, must drink a LOT of milk!)

## FOLLOWING OUR OWN. . .

**Sunday, April 27 & May 25: Social Action Song Swap** (hosted by Joanie Calem ) – *Northwood High Building*, 2231 N. High St, Artspace Rm. 100. **1-3 p.m.** Questions? Call 614-208-6731

**Sunday, April 27: Whinestopper –** *House Concert at "Aggie's Place"* (See above).

**Saturday, May 10: Grassahol** – Rambling House Soda Pop, 310 E. Hudson, Cols, OH 43202 **8 P.M.** $5.00 cover.

**Tuesday, May 13: Hardtackers** – *Grandview Heights Public Library: Music in the Atrium* **7 p.m.** Free.

**Friday, May 16: Grassahol** – **Byrnes' Pub** - 1248 West 3rd Ave. - Cols, OH **7 - 9 p.m.** Free.

**Saturday, May 17: The Folk Ramblers** (Bill Cohen & Carl Yaffey) – Java Central Coffee House, 20 S. State St., Westerville, OH. **7 P.M.**

**Saturday, May 17: The RedBuds –** Rambling House Soda Pop, **7 p.m.**310 East Hudson St., Cols, OH 43202 $5.00 cover.

**Friday, May 23: Grassahol** – Westerville OhioHealth 4th Friday Celebration in historic Uptown Westerville. **6 - 9 p.m.** Free.

**Saturday, May 24: The Folk Ramblers** – *Sing-a-long* at North Congregational United Church of Christ, **7 - 9 p.m.** 2040 W. Henderson (Clintonville).

*Run the Race - from page 4*

(with donated food available for the families); Clothing Room (with donated clothes available for families); a Bike Repair shop (contains lots of donated bikes) AND a good sized Music Room that also contains a collection of donated instruments.

The Run the Race Club currently has no regular music program, yet they have a large room they would like to devote to it and many students who show interest in becoming more involved in music.

This might be a great opportunity – if the CFMS has some interested members – for one or two members to agree to do a program with the kids for 6 - 8 weeks. It could start out with something as simple as teaching basic rhythm, harmony or doing sing-a-longs. Our involvement could easily develop into teaching basic guitar, learning how to string and tune an instrument; actually there are numerous possibilities if the idea takes off and we have a number of interested musicians.

However, we are just at a beginning stage and need to get a feel for interest, both on the part of our musicians, and on what the kids are looking for.

The CFMS is going to host an informal "jam" on the afternoon of Saturday, May 17 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the gym room. Any CFMS members who are interested in participating can join. We will bring our "bag" of rhythm instruments to pass out to the kids. It will be an opportunity for the kids to meet our folks and for us to meet them.

If you are interested in attending, please let us know via the following e-mail: dboston2@columbus.rr.com. We look forward to the event and hope that a number of our members can attend! By attending this event, there is no commitment to become involved further. Of course we are hoping some interested musicians will come forward later to become involved! So please consider coming!

*Festival - from page 1*

Just want to sit back, relax, and enjoy great performers? We'll have that too with hourly showcase concerts featuring bluegrass, jug band, Americana, old time, and other types of music.

Want to try your hand at jamming? Or just listen to some informal jamming that's bound to pop up? We'll have that too. We'll also have a special Pete Seeger Tribute (jam circle & sing-a-long) on Saturday afternoon. Everyone is welcome; you can bring along chairs to join in the jam or a blanket and sing along to some old favorites!

Plus, there's a special Saturday night concert featuring nationally-known musician/singer-songwriter, Joe Crookston.

Except for the special Saturday night concert and the workshops, all the festival events are FREE !!!!!!!

So – walk the nature trails, sit in the grass, and let the sunshine warm your spirits as you enjoy this perfect mixture of nature and music.

For all the details, google "Columbus Folk Music Society" and click on "Central Ohio Folk Festival."

For a 90 second lively video promoting the festival, go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEaAP37aM6s.

And consider helping us spread the word about the festival to those you know!

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS:**

Doug & Deena Snapp

Bostwick & Linda Wyman family (new)

Shirley M. Davenport (new)

Robin L. Frees

Joe Baringhaus

Jim & Martha Bowling family (new)

# Member Highlight

We would like to include more articles like the one below in the future. If you have a story, or would like to be interviewed for such an article, please e-mail: billcohen@columbus.rr.com.

*by Carl Yaffey*

It was 1960 and I was a freshman at what is now Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. At that time, it was a 2-year branch of William and Mary and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. One morning I walked into the student lounge and spied a guitar player. I felt drawn to the music! I don't remember what the song was, but I couldn't help but just stand there in amazement. He stopped and asked me if I played guitar. I said no but I think I'd like to.

He promptly put the instrument in my hands and described how to play the "Peter Gunn Theme" on the big E string (Peter Gunn is an American private eye television series which aired on the NBC and later ABC television networks from 1958 to 1961).

I was hooked! Not long after that I bought a beautiful Sears Roebuck guitar complete with insanely high action, and the rest is history.

For those of you whose interest is peaked, the "Peter Gunn Theme" can be found on Youtube at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oysMt8iL9UE.

*[Ed. note: Carl has played in various bands since 1962 and also has taught lessons on various stringed instruments. Now, a retired software developer, he plays music full-time! Oh, and he also manages the CFMS website.]*

## Answer to March's "Name that Photo"

*Ed. note:* Sorry you had to wait two months to find out the answer to this one. Here is the explanation of the photo by the musician himself: "This photo is of me in early 1964. The mandolin is a Silvertone (made by Kay) from Sears that I got for Christmas '63. I was a big fan of Jethro Burns of Homer and Jethro. Check out the stylish blue telephone. Little did I suspect that the tsunami of the Beatles was soon to wash over America and by Christmas '64 I would put aside the mandolin for a Danelectro electric guitar and stopped cutting my hair. I took up the mandolin again in the introspective '70's and it is now in the possession of my Son-In-Law, Tim Kanke". John Schomburg

# Old Photo Sparks Solving of Gibson Guitar Mystery

*By bill cohen*

Musician and law professor John Thomas kept staring at the old black and white 1944 photo he'd found somewhere and had put on his office wall. And he kept wondering: who were these 70 1940's-style young women, posed in front of a building with a sign that simply said Gibson Guitars?

Finally, in 2007, Thomas stopped wondering and starting researching. He discovered that even though all the "official" historical accounts of the World War II era declared that only war material was produced in that Michigan factory, those women were actually churning out 9,000 Gibson guitars. Because of a special decal on them, they were called "Banner" guitars, and they were considered some of the best ever made.

Thomas found 12 of the original female luthiers who were now in their 80's and 90's and interviewed them. He found out they'd had no training in making musical instruments but they caught on fast and did excellent work. In fact, he brought in his own beloved 1943 Gibson guitar and had it re-inspected by one of the original factory inspectors.

Now, we folkies can read the fruits of Thomas' labor. It's a book called "Kalamazoo Gals: A Story of Extraordinary Women and Gibson's "Banner" Guitars of World War 2."

The book itself has received positive reviews, and there's a lot of buzz around the internet about it. In fact, if you simply search the net for "Kalamazoo Gals," you can find not only reviews but also audio of songs being played on the old Gibsons.

Jonathan Kellerman writes this in the forward of the book: "The contributions of Rosie the Riveter and her cohorts to the survival of American manufacturing during the "Good War," are well known and beyond profound. But until now the contributions of a band of intrepid, unpretentious, stunningly skillful, thoroughly American women to both the war effort and to the endurance of one of the greatest musical instrument manufacturers ever known, has gone unheralded."

**THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES**

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## Next Issue in June

**We're on the web!**
**www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org**

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Date: _____ ☐ I'm new to this ☐ I'm back for more

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (Day): _____ (Eve.): _____ (Cell): _____

E-mail address(es) (if a household membership): _____ _____

Membership renewals are due annually by September 30th. For new members, please check one of the membership levels listed below & pro-rate the amount of your check as indicated. If joining during the month of:

Feb-April: Your membership level amount x .5
May-July: Your membership level amount x .25
Aug-Oct: Your membership level amount as listed
Nov-Jan: Your membership level amount x .75

☐ Individual $20
☐ Household $25
☐ Good Friend $50
☐ Sponsor $100
☐ Patron $200
☐ Silver $250
☐ Gold (Life Member) $500
☐ Yes! Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities within the organization.

Please send completed form and payment to:
The Columbus Folk Music Society
P.O. Box 20735, Columbus, OH 43220

In an effort to be both fiscally and environmentally responsible, we will send a full-color, interactive newsletter via e-mail unless you request a hard copy be mailed to you.

I enjoy the annual Central Ohio Folk Festival (early May): Lots 5 4 3 2 1 Not (please circle one)