



HTMA President's Notes

We had a great start to the 2012 HTMA Coffeehouse series with James Smith, Don Jones, Mike Sheppard, Jim Holland and an entertaining storyteller, Bruce Walker. Even though the weather wasn't so nice, James drew a big crowd up to the old church, and he put on an outstanding show for the audience. James mixed up traditional songs, originals, guitar solos from Don Jones (who was amazing playing a regular guitar left-handed and upside down) and really funny stories from Bruce Walker. If you didn't make it there, you missed a real happening. I'm really excited to see the Coffeehouse kicked off so well, and want to thank Jerry McGough for taking up the slack as our new booking chair.

I'm facing some decisions at home that many of us may have to deal with at one time or another. I need to decide whether to have some old friends put down or restored. No, it is (thankfully) not the cat that's the problem. But our 1924 Steinway is getting to where it needs serious attention. I don't know why. It was just overhauled about thirty five years ago and then played on a couple hours a day by our kids for twenty odd years.

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Next Meeting
February 19th
2:00 P.M.

Huntsville/Madison Public Library

HTMA
COFFEEHOUSE MUSIC SERIES

PRESENTS

Across The Mountain



FEBRUARY 23RD
7:00 PM



OLD COUNTRY CHURCH

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February Area Events

New Hope Saturday Night Jam

Every Saturday night in February beginning at 6:00 PM
New Hope Senior Center, New Hope Alabama

S.P.B.G.M.A. Convention

February 2nd through 5th
Sheraton Music City Hotel, Nashville Tennessee
<http://www.spbgma.com/>

The Grascals

February 3rd 7:30 PM
Princess Theatre, Decatur Alabama
<http://www.princesstheatre.org/>

Elmcroft (Hearthstone) Assisted Living Gig

February 4th 3:00 PM
8020 Benaroya Ln., Huntsville, Alabama

The Isaacs

February 4th 7:30 PM
Cullman High School, Cullman Alabama
<http://theisaacs.musiccitynetworks.com/index.htm?id=5115>

Harbor Chase Assisted Living Gig

February 11th 10:30 AM
4801 Whitesport Circle; Huntsville, Alabama

Second Saturday Old-Time Jam

February 11th 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Constitution Village, Huntsville Alabama
<http://www.earlyworks.com/the-museums/constitution-village>

Huntsville Bluegrass/Gospel Jam

February 12th 2:00-5:00 PM
Contact blcurtis@knology.net for details

Morningside Retirement Home

(Tuesday) February 14th 2:00 PM
49 Hughes Rd., Madison

Keel Mtn. Fire Dept. 3rd Friday Night Jam

February 17th 6:00 PM
Keel Mtn. Fire Dept., Gurley Alabama

Regency Retirement Village Gig

February 18th 3:15 PM
204 Max Luther Drive; Huntsville, Alabama

HTMA Member Meeting

February 19th 2:00 PM
Huntsville/Madison Public Library

HTMA Coffeehouse

February 23rd 7:00 PM
Burritt on the Mountain Old Country Church

Huntsville Bluegrass/Gospel Jam

January 26th 2:00-5:00 PM
Contact blcurtis@knology.net for details

Executive Board

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A Simple Gift

It was the middle of December 2011 when I received a telephone call from a lady in Tennessee that I did not know. She received my telephone number and recommendation through a mutual friend we shared. She had a request. She asked if I would go to her Mother-in-law's home, in the Chase Alabama area, on Christmas Eve to play the dulcimer one hour for Mrs. Eldridge, who is 85 years old. This would be a Christmas gift to her from her children who would be there also. I agreed. I took no music, only a list of song titles. She was a delight singing along with several I played. The hour flew by. I had played less than half of the songs. Time truly does fly when you are having fun. It was a gift to me as well, not to mention an honor. Mrs. Eldridge was one of the children of the late I.D. Stamper, a well known dulcimer maker and player in the first half of the 20th Century in Eastern Kentucky. There is a web site on him.

Carole Rosenfeld
Gurley, AL

Visit our website

www.huntsvillefolk.org





The Berry Patch

I frequently talk to Bill McCampbell about our plan. We definitely will do it! We've had this caper in mind for more than ten years and will not be denied. It won't be for the money, we will give that back. Heck, if there is not too much fuss, we may agree to pay interest on what we get. It will all be just for fun, a way to add some excitement to the lives of two old men. All our plans have been of this nature. So do not get the idea that Bill and I are mean-planners. We are strictly fun-planners

The present plan is not our original. Long before Bill took his trip we considered spicing-up our lives by going to a honky-tonk, winking at all the girls, maybe even starting a fight and then running like hell. Our better judgment told us our old legs were not up to the dream. Even now, while Bill is on his trip, we sometimes renew our honky-tonk dream. We may still do it, but not before our current bank plan. Yep! Bill and I plan to rob a bank, we haven't decided which one nor exactly when.

Bill is leaving most of the preparation details to me. He has designated, in his own words, me as "Chairman of the Arrangements Committee." Although Bill has delegated the arrangements to me, out of deep respect I submit all plans to Bill for his approval. For example, I had planned on using bicycles for the get-away. I liked Bill's suggestion of mules better. I was not offended when Bill vetoed my plan for saddles. The more I thought about it, the better I liked his idea of a bareback mule get-away ride. He said that was the way Frank and Jesse did it, and if it was good enough for the James Family, it would be good enough for us. These are examples of how well Bill and I work as team, how two great minds function as one. Just dwell on what Bill said for a moment: *If it was good enough for the James Family, it would be good enough for us.* When planning a bank robbery, the logic of our combined minds is a thing of beauty!

Neither Bill nor I want any good church-going folks to be offended with our bank-robbing plan. We likely will not get more than a mile away before we are caught. We understand that. We may not even be able to get on top of the mules for the get-away ride. It will all be just two old men trying to add a little spice to life. Besides the news media will relish the story and run it for several days. This will take some of the pressure off our President and Congress; maybe even the two political parties will get some temporary relief, giving them a break. Aside from fun, Bill and I are interested in contributing to the national good by getting the President and Congress off the hook. We say let the political parties stew in their own juice.

Now some of you doubters will find fault with this planned caper. Some may even say that Bill has gone away forever and can't do it. If you say that, you simply do not know Bill.

Do any of you have two mules we may borrow?

Joe

I have one or two guitars that also need serious work. It's hard for me to separate out the emotional connection I have with some of these instruments from the financial considerations. It can be hard to rationally justify having an old instrument restored, when the repair cost will be more than buying a new one? But there's the emotional side to consider as well. If you enjoy a terrific instrument, do you own it, or are you just conserving it for the next generation? Some musicians (I'm thinking of Tommy Emanuel here) beat the stew of their guitars, and they are ready for the dustbin in a year or two. Others get one guitar and play it for a lifetime. I think that Dave Von Ronk played a single Guild jumbo guitar at most of his gigs for over forty years., and my brother John received his D'Angelico guitar from a jazz musician who had earned a living with that instrument for going on sixty years. Something to think about – do you consider your instruments just nice tools, to be used, and maybe used up, or precious works of art? Or maybe you are one of that peculiar species of people who are *collectors*, who may acquire a dozen gorgeous guitars and play some of them only once or twice a year, the rest of the time keeping them stored in the closet. I have to say that type of collections goes a little against my grain – I think the instruments were meant to be played. But you will have to decide for yourself. And I will have to decide about the fate of our piano and other items. Oops – make that I will have to *negotiate* that decision with Ginny. It needs to be a consensus decision.

What else is new at HTMA? I'm still actively seeking the stand-up member willing to take over the mantle of leadership as HTMA president next year. I'd like to write down a few observations about how we have typically done things during my tenure. Those observations might appear to be wise guidance, or a warning of how good intentions can go wrong, depending on the reader. But if you have any interest, or just feel that it may be your turn to take up the slack, please do get in touch.

I hope to see many HTMA friends at the next meeting and coffeehouse. In the meantime, I hope that you all stay warm and enjoy love, friends, and music.

Jerry LeCroy

HTMA President