



HTMA President's Notes

July 2009

This past month just flew by for my family – Ginny and I spent a lot of June travelling around Europe with our daughter Alicia, a Peace Corps volunteer in Moldova. We got to visit the Vienna Opera House, where so many of Mozart and Brahms' compositions were premiered. We didn't get to hear the Vienna Philharmonic, though – turns out that their performances are sold out two years in advance. Some recent ticket sale situations simply amaze me – I read in the news that before he died there had already been 100,000 tickets sold to the concerts that Michael Jackson was planning to put on in London. The promoters don't think that they will have to refund too many of the Jackson tickets – less than half of the tickets for Elvis Presley and Kurt Cobain's last concerts were refunded – apparently a lot of fans wanted to keep the tickets as memorabilia.

I'm thinking about tickets because we are about to put tickets on sale for two HTMA concerts – first a house concert with bluesman Roy Bookbinder, then a major concert put on with the support of Trinity Methodist Church presenting John McCutcheon. I am very happy to be putting on both these shows.
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The Huntsville Traditional Music Association normally meets on the third Sunday of each month. **This month, instead of the regular meeting, on July 19th at 1:30-5:00 we are having our annual summer concert at Burritt**

Museum

Our next meeting is on:
Sunday, August 16th
2:00 - 4:30 PM

Huntsville Public Library Auditorium



The Log Cabin String Band features Jonathan Blakely, Terry & Sara Burcham, and Lou Beasley

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Calendar of Events for July

Saturday, July 12th, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Traditional and Old-time Jam (Free admission for musicians, regular admission for non-musicians) at Constitution Hall Village

Sunday, July 19th, 2:00 - 4:30 PM

Instead of the regular HTMA member meeting, please join us at the Burritt Museum for HTMA's annual summer concert. Music starts at 1:30.

Thursday, July 24th, 7:00 PM

No Coffeehouse due to Burritt Festival.

For more information on all HTMA meetings, concerts, coffeehouses, and other events, visit our website at www.huntsvillefolk.org.

HTMA Executive Board

President: **Jerry LeCroy** 880-6234
jelecroy@knology.net

Vice President: **Jim England** 852-5740
jengland@knology.net

Sec/Treasurer: **Pat Long** 539-7211
plong@hiwaay.net

Publicity Chair: **Position Available!** (Great Pay and Benefits)

Public Service Chair / Pres. Emeritus:
Bill McCampbell 882-2400
mccampbellwm@bellsouth.net

Performance Chair: **Lou Beasley** 859-5016
lrbeasley@mchsi.com

Newsletter Editor: **Position Available!** (Great Pay and Benefits)

Operations Co-Chairs:
George Williams 880-6234
george.p.williams@pobox.com
Steve McGehee 858-2032
catwithnotail69@aol.com

Mr. Bill's Gigs

July 2009 NURSING HOME GIGS

Nursing Home Gigs are on Saturdays at 3:00 PM UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Saturday July 18th, 3:00

Morningside of Madison

49 Hughes Road, Madison AL

Saturday July 25th, 3:00

Regency Health Care

2004 Max Luther Drive, Huntsville, AL

If you have any questions or suggestions for retirement home performances, please contact Bill McCampbell at 882-2400, or mccampbellwm@bellsouth.net

Report From The Retirement Home Circuit (Senior Center Gazebo)

I was at the senior center this morning and was the recipient of comments re: our performance at the gazebo concert. Great. Wonderful. So enjoyable. Restful. Others. Members who took part were:

Danny Davis, Danny Charles, Ben Davis, David Schrimsher, Keating John, Sue Charles, Bill McCampbell, Ken Hinkle, and Jim England. I'll bet that next year we will do even better. We will for sure have a chance.

We had the policemen quintet, **The Blue Notes** softening up the crowd for us. Tough act to follow. They were great.

Bill McCampbell

Help Wanted Needed!!

Our terrific Publicity Chair Claire Mikkelsen is benched on the injured list, and may not be able to resume those duties for a while. Please contact Jerry LeCroy or Jim England if you might be able to help HTMA with getting our event notifications to the newspaper and radio stations, and help send out email announcements to our members and fans. Not a tough job, maybe, but those announcements are critically important to our audience and artists.

And please keep Claire in your thoughts and prayers.



NOTES FROM THE BERRY PATCH:

I had a nice chat with a new friend today. He wanted to know about some of my experiences as a lawyer, things that I remember and found interesting.

This brought to mind a causal friend and client. I will call him "Willie."

Willie had called me late in the day, wanting to know if I could see his daughter, I will call her "Alice." He indicated he was fearful that she might be in danger.

I waited in my office. It was almost dark when they arrived.

I had a lengthy discussion with Alice, outside the presence of Willie. Alice and her young husband had very serious problems. It appeared that her husband might well take her life. With the client's consent, I called Willie into our conversation. I was fearful for the young lady's safety and needed the father's help.

To both, I explained that the court was closed for the day and that it would be the next morning before I could seek a restraining order. I strongly urged Alice to go to her father's home, to stay there, and not to be found alone with her husband.

Willie was standing at my office door the next morning when I arrived. I shall never forget his first and only words, "Joe, he has killed my baby."

I will never fully understand why Willie, at that tragic moment in his life, came to me. Maybe he sensed that I would take him into my arms and let him cry.

Sometimes, it seems, that is what being a lawyer is. It is a willingness to hold one's client and let them cry. Let the early morning passers-by look, gawk, and wonder why the lawyer stands on his front sidewalk and holds his client in his arms. What others think does not matter, when one's client needs to cry.

Joe M. Berry

June 9, 2009

(President's notes, cont'd from page 1)

We presented Roy B about ten years ago, at the Roberts Recital Hall at UAH, and he put on a great show to a nearly packed house there. Roy played extensively with blues greats like Reverend Gary Davis, Pink Anderson, Honeyboy Edwards, and Dave von Ronk, and lately does workshops every year at Jorma Kaukonen's Fur Peace Ranch. If you'd like to hear authentic acoustic blues and ragtime tunes, there won't be any better place to go than the Clubhouse at the Villas of Jones Valley on September 26th.

A terrific songwriter and musician, John McCutcheon has played to sell-out audiences all over the world, including European tours and selling out at Australian venues, including the Port Fairy Folk Festival, where he was selected folk musician of the year. John is a regular performer at Wolf Trap, and has recorded an amazing thirty two albums (and counting!), with five Grammy nominations. John may be the greatest living practitioner of hammered dulcimer art, and will be playing his dulcimer and half a dozen other instruments for our show. Please let your friends know about this performance – it has been over ten years since John McCutcheon was last in Huntsville, and this may be our best opportunity to see him perform here.

Closer in time (two weeks as I write this column) is our annual summer music festival at the Burritt Museum. This is always a fine time for HTMA musicians to get together and have fun playing for an audience in the ambience of the Burritt Museum grounds. The music will start about 1:30 and run till 5:00, and there is no admission (though we will have a bucket for donations). Burritt Museum supports HTMA on this show by inviting listeners to come without the usual visitors' admission charge, but Stephanie Timberlake has requested that all visitors stop by the visitors' center on their way to the music area, so Burritt can have an estimate of how many people our event draws to the museum. Please do stop by the center and sign in for Stephanie.

Steve McGehee and Lou Beasley tell me that all our HTMA coffeehouses are booked through the end of 2009, but we are looking now for performers to book for 2010. If you have suggestions for coffeehouse feature acts, or if you are interested in sponsoring a 2010 HTMA concert, please contact Lou, Steve, or me.

Jerry LeCroy

Coffeehouse Report

Arriving at the Old Church around 6 PM, I found HTMA Sound Engineer George Williams, hard at work setting up a bank of microphones and sound board system. George was getting a welcome hand from Steve McGhee (sound engineer in training). Much of the success of HTMA concerts is directly attributable to a well established, and controlled, sound system (many thanks to George and Steve). Well before the ringing of the church bell at 7 PM, it was evident that we were going to have a great crowd. When Steve rang the bell, the church was full, and several folks were either sitting on the floor or standing along the walls (young folks I might add).

Tonight's coffeehouse was opened by Marge Loveday, a local singer songwriter who plays both the guitar and keyboard. While the keyboard is not a typical instrument for HTMA concerts, she worked it into her presentation very tastefully. Marge has a lovely voice and, with either instrument, is easy listening. Marge kept everything going on a smooth pace, was entertaining and a pure delight. We will try to schedule Marge in as a feature HTMA coffeehouse performer in the near future.

Among Marge's pieces were the *Charlie Brown Theme* (dedicated to Steve), *Come Away With Me*, *I've Been Thinking*, *Roll In To Me*, *I Am The One*, a tribute to Michael Jackson (a request by Steve), *Rain*, and *Great Balls of Fire*. A couple of these were her own compositions. An all around great job, Marge.

The featured act was the bluegrass band, Walker Street Opry, composed of Blaine Anderson (guitar), Rick Taylor (bass), Tony Robinson (mandolin), and Phil Easterbrook (banjo, guitar and dobro). Also joining the group was Blaine's daughter, Mary Katherine, now a high school senior, on the fiddle.

This is a very accomplished group of talented musicians, kept on pace by Rick Taylor, who is a very funny and entertaining group leader and whose adlibs kept everyone on their toes. Their set covered a wide range of bluegrass 'standards' including: *Used to be With You*, *Dancing With Angels*, *Hold What You Got*, *Walk Softly*, *Old Joe Clark* (featuring Mary Katherine, now this young lady can play that fiddle), *Wayfaring Stranger*, *Cloudy Days*, *Dear Old Dixie*, *Dark Hollow*, *Same Old Man*, *Who Needs You*, *My Window Faces The South*, and *Ashes of Love*. Their set included great instrumentals, and various combinations of solos, duets and trios featuring Rick, Tony, and Phil on the vocals. These folks have a great band, present a good program, and are a pure listening pleasure. Personally, I am pleased to see someone without grey hair (Mary Katherine) playing the fiddle!

Overall, this was a great setting, a wonderful and appreciative crowd, and great music. Wow, what a combination! A hearty HTMA thank you, for a job well-done, to the sound engineers, the musicians, the audience, one and all, for a wonderful June Coffee House Concert.

Lou Beasley

MONTH	DATE	Time	FEATURED ACT	Location
JUL	19	1:30	Burritt Museum HTMA Members Performance	Burritt Museum Gazebo
AUG	27	7:00	<i>Hanging By A Thread</i>	Burritt Museum Old Church
SEP	24	7:00	Members' Theme Coffeehouse	Burritt Museum Old Church
SEP	26	7:00	<i>Roy Bookbinder house concert</i>	Villas of Jones Valley clubhouse
OCT	4	7:00	<i>John McCutcheon</i>	Trinity Methodist Church
OCT	22	7:00	Old time fiddler <i>Matt Brown</i>	Burritt Museum Old Church
NOV	19	7:00	<i>Shane Atkins</i>	Burritt Museum Old Church
DEC	TBD	7:00	Members Christmas Concert	Burritt Museum Old Church