

The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston

FSSGB

FOLK LETTER

Dedicated to providing opportunities for everyone to make, enjoy & support folk music

Volume 52 Number 2

April/May/June 2024

Sara Grey and Kieron Means House Concert

FSSGB Singing Party at NEFFA

Annual FSSGB Election and Singing Party

FSSGB 65th Anniversary Party

Ellen Schmidt Memorial Concert

Mid-Day Singing Parties

Call for Nominations for the FSSGB Board



Look for more info on our website:

www.fssgb.org

Email info@fssgb.org



Join us on Facebook!

Sara Grey and Kieron Means House Concert

Sunday, April 7, 1pm ET

(Note early time!)

Brookline, MA **(venue changed!)**

General admission: \$20

\$5 for students

Reservations required: email

HouseConcerts@fssgb.org to register and get address/directions



Sara Grey is one of the most gifted and knowledgeable artists working in the field of traditional music. Sara's singing is both powerful and sweet, with a distinctive and lovely tremolo. It is a voice well suited to native American songs and ballads of Ireland and Scotland.

It is not Sara's lovely voice alone that makes her one of the most popular singers on the folk scene; on many of her songs Sara accompanies herself by frailing a five string banjo and, when playing dance tunes, it is obvious why she is regarded as one of the foremost exponents of the clawhammer style. As well as singing and playing, Sara is well known for her storytelling - specialising in stories from New England where she grew up learning many of her stories from her father.

Kieron Means is a singer primarily of traditional songs but also of contemporary songs and guitar player of great merit. He has a great rapport with an audience and has an exceptional professionalism for a young performer. His voice is as smooth as silk, rich and mellow and he sings to his audience not in spite of them.

Kieron is the son of the traditional singer Sara Grey and music journalist Andrew Means, one time writer for Melody Maker. He was born in the United States and grew up in Britain gaining a great love of the music of both traditions as well as the contemporary scene. He has become a performer of traditional songs from the US and from the UK and many of the contemporary songs he sings he has written himself.

He has toured in the States and often performed with Sara Grey. In 2000 he has performed at Whitby and Wadebridge festivals where he was received with much acclaim. His first CD has received much praise with air play on Traveling Folk and Mr Anderson's Fine Tunes both on radio Scotland. An article on him will shortly be appearing in Folk Roots magazine.



The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization of people who are actively interested in folk music: its traditional origins and sources, as well as its current expression. We are dedicated to providing opportunities for everyone to make, enjoy, and support this music. Membership in the Folk Song Society entitles you to reduced admission to FSSGB concerts, attendance to singing parties and special events, a free subscription to the Folk Letter, and regular announcements of FSSGB events.

To join or renew: send your name, address and phone number along with a check for \$10 student, \$20 single, \$30 double, \$35 family membership, or \$25 for organizations to FSSGB at PO Box 2941, Acton MA 01720. **You can also join or renew online** via our website. You can join or renew for up to 3 years at a time.

Daytime Music Parties

FSSGB offers daytime music parties to sing, play accompaniment, socialize and have fun making music with others at private homes or other locations in eastern Massachusetts. Daytime Music Parties are hosted two Fridays a month from 11:30am until roughly 2:30pm (scheduled to help those who travel avoid heavy traffic and nighttime driving.)

Attendees kick off singing parties forming a circle spaced for comfort and for the participants to see, and hear each other easily which facilitates tighter more in sync rewarding music. Working around the circle all attendees are guaranteed an equal opportunity to select and lead a tune, or request someone else to lead their tune or pass to next in queue.

Acoustic instruments are preferred, however instruments requiring amplification are welcome if played at a low volume through a small practice amp so as not to overpower the singing. Instrumentalists must be experienced enough to accompany the singing, correctly tuned in concert pitch, using the key, chords, and tempo as written in the book or decided by the musicians.

We work from the "Rise Up Singing" and "Rise Again" books (available to borrow on site if needed) or from personal favorites that are not in our books. (Attendees choosing tunes that aren't in our books should provide a few copies to share.)

Interested folks should contact our sing coordinator (Don MacLeod - phone/text 617-283-8532) for singing party dates, locations and other pertinent information.

Folks planning to attend are asked to please RSVP at the earliest to help our hosts plan. Those providing contact information to our coordinator will receive music party invitations a week in advance of the scheduled date.

Upcoming dates (these are all Fridays at 11:30am):

- April 5 - Malden
- April 19 - Arlington
- May 3 - Malden
- May 17 - Arlington
- June 14 - Malden
- June 28 - Malden

There is no charge for singing parties. Small snacks to share would be appreciated, but are optional.

Please contact Don if you would like to host in the future. Keep an eye on the website (www.fssgb.org) for updates as music parties occasionally get rescheduled or cancelled.



Folk Letter Deadlines

The deadline for getting articles and ads into the Folk Letter is always the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication:

June 10 for the July-Aug-Sept issue

We will continue to have combined issues for the foreseeable future.

Thanks for helping us by observing the publication deadlines.

80th New England Folk Festival

Friday, April 19 through Sunday, April 21, 2024

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center

181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA



The New England Folk Festival, widely known as NEFFA, is an annual folk festival that blends dance, music, crafts, and food from many places and cultures. This year is our 80th annual Festival and we hope that you will join us! The Festival is run by the New England Folk Festival Association, a cultural and educational, volunteer-run, non-profit organization. The talent of our performers is also provided on a volunteer basis.

Festival Hours:

Session	Program	Doors Open
Friday April 19	7:00pm-11:30pm	6:00pm
Saturday April 20	10:00am-5:30pm 4:00pm-11:30pm	9:00am N/A
Sunday April 21	10:00am-5:30pm	9:00am

** Volunteers Needed! **

Volunteer for 6 or more hours and get free admission to the Festival! You can earn admission for individual sessions in exchange for fewer hours. Visit neffa.org/volunteer for more information.

2024 PRICES

CATEGORY	FRIDAY	SAT. DAY, SAT EVE, or SUN	ALL FESTIVAL
Adult (25-64)	\$25	\$45 General \$40 Member	\$120 General \$95 Member
Senior (65+)	\$20	\$40 General \$30 Member	\$95 General \$80 Member
Young Adult (18-24)	\$20	\$30	\$85
Youth (9-17)	\$13	\$13	\$30
Child (0-8)	Free	Free	Free

**Join us for FSSGB's Song Swap at
The 80th New England Folk Festival!**
Friday, April 19, 8pm, Westborough Room (Hotel West)

It's time for our annual singing party at NEFFA! FSSGB song leaders will get us started and then throw it open to the group to request or lead songs. NEFFA is a wonderful Festival full of opportunities to enjoy participatory and performance-oriented music and dance, as well as crafts, family activities, and so much more.

FSSGB's 65th Anniversary Party

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 3-5pm—free admission!
Theodore Parker Unitarian Church
1859 Centre St, West Roxbury

Please join us for a very special music party to celebrate FSSGB's 65th anniversary! We'll do some singing and playing, munch on refreshments, and everyone is invited to share their favorite memories about FSSGB.

Some special guests will join us who have graced our stages over the years.



Annual Election and Singing Party

Saturday, June 15, 2024, 1-4pm
At the home of Lori Fassman
& David Cohen
101 Charter Rd, Acton MA
lori.fassman@gmail.com, (978) 621-5814

Everyone is welcome at our annual election and singing party! The election only takes about 5 minutes at the start, so don't let that scare you off. Folky instruments are welcome, as is written music, or feel free to lead songs from memory. There will be extra copies of *Rise Up Singing!* and *Rise Again* for people to borrow.

Weather permitting, we will sing outdoors on the back (covered) patio.



Love Spread Your Wings: A Celebration of the Life of Ellen Schmidt

Sunday, September, 15th, 2024, 4-6pm (free!)
First Church of Waltham, 50 Church St., Waltham

This will be a concert of songs and spoken word that Ellen has composed or loved, performed by many of her friends and collaborators.

Please put this date on your calendar. We will be sharing more information as it becomes available. For planning purposes, [please fill out this short form](#) to let us know if you are likely to attend.

This is a free concert, however if you would like to honor Ellen's memory with a financial contribution, please consider donating to *The Ellen Farber Schmidt Fund for Cancer Research and Patient Treatment*, set up by her family to honor Ellen.

<http://danafarber.jimmyfund.org/goto/EllenFarberSchmidt>



Concert Organizers: Lori Fassman, John Ferullo, Cheryl Perreault, Howie Rashba, Tom Smith, Dan Tappan
Sponsored by the Folk Song Society of Greater Boston

THE FOLK SONG SOCIETY OF GREATER BOSTON
P.O. Box 2941, Acton, MA 01720, fssgb@fssgb.org, info@fssgb.org

The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston is a non-profit organization of people who are actively interested in folk music: its traditional origins and sources, as well as its current expression. We are dedicated to providing opportunities for everyone to make, enjoy, and support this music. Membership in the Folk Song Society entitles you to reduced admission to FSSGB concerts, attendance to singing parties and special events, a free subscription to the Folk Letter, and regular announcements of FSSGB events.

2023-2024 Officers & Coordinators

President	Ed Council, (508) 904-4539, elc@timberfield.com
Treasurer	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Secretary/Clerk	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Folk Letter	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Memb. Renewals	Sallie and Bill Satterthwaite, (978) 369-2365, salliesatt@comcast.net , billsatt@icloud.com
Concert Food	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Concert Sound	sound@fssgb.org (Chair role vacant)
Fall Getaway	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Publicity	Lynn Feingold, (781) 227-7500, lynnfeingold0@gmail.com
Membership	membership@fssgb.org
Singing Parties	Don MacLeod, (617) 283-8532, don@oceanjams.com
Recording Sec	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, lori@fassman.com
Trad. Swaps	Lynn Feingold, (781) 227-7500, lynnfeingold0@gmail.com
Volunteers	volunteers@fssgb.org
Webmaster	webmaster@fssgb.org

SEND NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO:

Lori Fassman
101 Charter Road
Acton, MA 01720-4210
folkletter@fssgb.org

FOLK LETTER DEADLINES are the seventh of the month for the following quarter's issue. Advertisements are \$15 for 1/4 page, \$20 for 1/3 page, \$40 for 2/3 page, \$30 for 1/2 page, and \$60 for a full page. Email us for more information (folkletter@fssgb.org)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Ed Council, Lori Fassman, Lynn Feingold, Peter Hamlin, Mark Katz, Bill Lehrman, Suzanne Mrozak, Merle Roesler, John Shockey

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

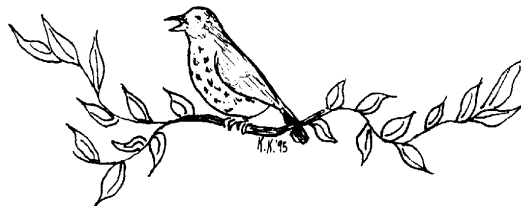
Chairs: Lynn Feingold, Ruth Perry, Lori Fassman.
Members: Isobel Abelson, Bill Lehrman, Suzanne Mrozak, Merle Roesler

*FSSGB is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent
allowed by law.*

Call for Nominations for FSSGB Board of Directors

The current slate of nominees for the FSSGB Board of Directors is the same as the current Board (no retirements or new additions as of this writing): Ed Council, Lori Fassman, Lynn Feingold, Peter Hamlin, Mark Katz, Bill Lehrman, Suzanne Mrozak, Merle Roesler, and John Shockey.

Nominations for the Board are welcome...if you are interested in joining, or know someone who would be a good addition to our leadership team, send email to nominations@fssgb.org.



FSSGB Library: FSSGB's entire collection of printed materials and resides at the New England Conservatory Library at 255 St. Botolph St., Boston, where it is available to the public for perusing onsite. The collection is known as Folk Song Society of Greater Boston (FSSGB) Collection at New England Conservatory. See the FSSGB website for information on how to access the materials and make donations.

The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston



THE FOLK LETTER
c/o FSSGB, Inc.
P.O. Box 2941
Acton, MA 01720
www.fssgb.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

www.fssgb.org

- Sun., April 7 **Sara Grey and Kieron Means House Concert**, 1pm, Brookline, \$20 (\$5 for students) *Note early start time and new location!*
Reservations: HouseConcerts@fssgb.org
- April 19-21 **80th New England Folk Festival** (FSSGB Song Swap is Friday April 19 at 8pm in the Westborough Room.)
- Sun., May 5 **FSSGB's 65th Anniversary Party**, 3-5pm, W. Roxbury, free!
- Sat., June 15 **Annual FSSGB Election and Singing Party**, 1-4pm, Acton, free!
- Sun., Sept 15 **Ellen Schmidt Memorial Concert**, 4-6pm, First Parish in Waltham
- Sun., Sept 22 **Martha Burns House Concert**, 3pm, Cambridge, \$20 (\$5 for students) *Note early start time!*

See www.fssgb.org for details about all events