

# 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 3

July/August/September 2024

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Martha Burns House  
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ary, and singalong)

Mid-Day Singing  
Parties

Hyacinth for the Soul



Look for more info on  
our website:

[www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)

Email [info@fssgb.org](mailto:info@fssgb.org)



Join us on  
Facebook!

## Martin and Eliza Carthy

Friday, August 23, 2024, 7pm  
First Parish of Sudbury  
327 Concord Rd, Sudbury, MA

Admission:

- General admission: \$25
- FSSGB members: \$20 through August 10, \$25 after August 10
- Students: \$10
- 17 and under free



*Some tickets may be available at the door, but we recommend purchasing tickets in advance! Tickets can be purchased at [www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org).*

For more than 50 years **Martin Carthy** has been one of folk music's greatest innovators, one of its best loved, most enthusiastic and, at times, most quietly controversial of figures. His skill, stage presence and natural charm have won him many admirers, not only from within the folk scene, but also far beyond it. Trailblazing musical partnerships with, amongst others, Steeleye Span, Dave Swarbrick and his award-winning wife, Norma Waterson, and daughter Eliza Carthy have resulted in more than 40 albums, but Martin has only recorded 10 solo albums, of which the much anticipated *Waiting for Angels* (Topic TSCD527) is the latest. Whether in the folk clubs (which he continues to champion), on the concert stage or making TV appearances (he was the subject of the acclaimed *Originals* music documentary strand on BBC 2) – there are few roles that Martin Carthy hasn't played.

**Eliza Carthy** is undoubtedly one of the most impressive and engaging performers of her generation. Twice nominated for the Mercury Prize and winner of innumerable other accolades over a 20 year career, Eliza has performed and recorded with a diverse array of artists including, Paul Weller, Rufus and Martha Wainwright, Patrick Wolf and Bob Neuwirth. More than most, Eliza has revitalised folk music and captured the most hardened of dissenters with intelligent, charismatic and boundary-crossing performance.

FSSGB is honored to be able to bring you this concert, which Martin and Eliza are doing for us before they head off to be on staff at TradMaD Camp in Plymouth, MA.



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.)

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):

- July 12 - Malden
- July 26 - Malden
- Aug 9 - Cambridge
- Aug 23 - Malden
- Sept 6 - Malden
- Sept 20 - Malden
- Oct 4 - Malden
- Oct 18 - Malden
- Nov 1 - Cambridge
- Nov 15 - Malden
- Dec 6 - Malden
- Dec 20 - 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](http://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.



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

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

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 in your calendar. We will be sharing more information as it becomes available.

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](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*



## Martha Burns House Concert

Sunday, September 22, 2024, 3pm ET  
Cambridge, MA  
Reservations required: email  
[HouseConcerts@fssgb.org](mailto:HouseConcerts@fssgb.org)  
\$20 for all at the door (\$5 for students)

Martha Burns sings old-time American folk songs the old-time way. Heart songs, cowboy songs, tragic ballads and comic ditties – songs from the mountains and songs from the range. Songs from the earliest period of recorded country music and songs never sung in a studio. Her haunting voice is perfectly suited to her old-time repertoire. An accomplished guitarist, Martha's accompaniments bring out the pith in a song. She has been singing and playing American folk music since Hoover was in the White House - well, almost - and has performed throughout North America and abroad.



You can find out more about Martha on her website, [www.marthaburns.net](http://www.marthaburns.net).

### “There Is A Season” - a new Pete Seeger Podcast!

The Pete Seeger Podcast is dedicated to rediscovering and helping to further uncover the music, work and politics of the late American folk musician, Pete Seeger. This show's objective is to evaluate Pete Seeger's life, music and political work, and in doing so to consider how we might further apply Pete Seeger's work and music in contemporary times. On the show we investigate Seeger's musical and political socialization, activism, records and performances, and navigating censorship over the years with the reactionary media and U.S. government. The podcast can be found on most major platforms including Apple.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/there-is-a-season-the-pete-seeger-podcast/id1716193623>

A D V E R T I S E M E N T



## FSSGB Fall Folk Gathering

Saturday, October 26, 2024, 10am-5pm  
 (Registration and continental breakfast at 9:30am)  
 First Parish of Waltham  
 50 Church St, Waltham



Registration costs and the exact program are still being worked out, so please keep an eye on our website for updates. Below is an example of the program (which was sketched out before the staff was lined up.)

The **Vox Hunters** (Benedict Gagliardi and Armand Aromin) and **Flannery Brown** are on staff for this event. Hailing from the great state of Rhode Island, **Armand Aromin and Benedict Gagliardi** are seekers and singers of old songs, cultivators of local music, and chronic multi-instrumentalists. They are touted as strong tradition-bearers in their generation, and their genuine affinity for the music is evident in the emotion they draw from it. With a pair of oft-harmonizing voices tastefully garnished with fiddle, free-reeds, and tenor guitar, The Vox Hunters offer an all-natural connection to the living tradition of folk music. **Flannery Brown** plays cello, sings songs, writes tunes, and infuses the trio's music with an infectious energy.

FSSGB Fall Folk Gathering (Example schedule, big changes expected)		
	Whitcomb Hall	Chapel
9:30-10am	Registration Continental breakfast	–
10-11am	Morning Songs	Old-time Jam
11am-12pm	Harmony 101	
12pm-1pm	Lunch	–
1-2pm	Songs from a Hat	Guitar workshop
2-3pm	Ballads	–
3-4pm		–
4-5pm	Concert with Vox Hunters and Flannery Brown	–

### “Singing for Justice”

Viewing of Faith Petric documentary and Singalong  
 Sunday, November 17, 2024, 11am  
 Community Church of Boston  
 565 Boylston St., Boston  
 Free! (Donations gratefully accepted)

*This event is co-sponsored by the Community Church of Boston  
 and FSSGB*



Learn about the musical and political history of Faith Petric and the role of folk music in progressive politics in 20th and 21st-century America. Faith Petric (1915-2013) proudly called herself a radical, and she chose folk music as her vehicle for creating a more just world.

A student peace activist in her 20s, she continued to protest war as a Raging Granny in her 80s. She aided migrant workers in California during the Great Depression, built Liberty Ships during World War II, faced Cold War-era FBI surveillance, and marched for racial justice in Selma, AL. A single working mother, Faith retired in 1970 at age 55 and reinvented herself as a traveling folk singer, performing nationally and internationally into her 90s.

Singing for Justice is produced and directed by award-winning Stanford historian Estelle Freedman and award-winning documentary filmmaker Christie Herring. Singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist John McCutcheon is the Composer and Musical Supervisor.



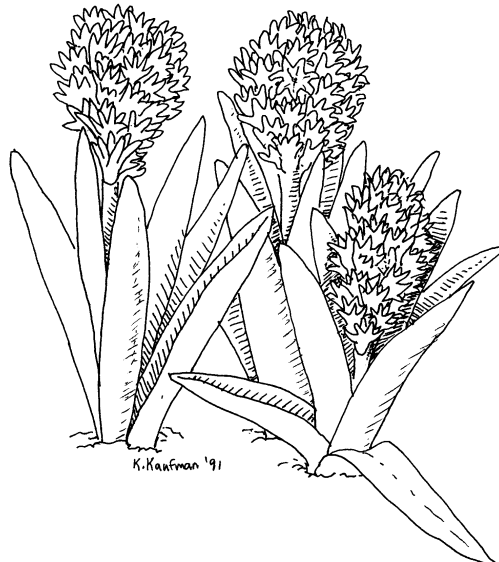
## Hyacinth for the Soul

May 12-26, 2024



Our first visit to Ireland was bound together by our continuing good fortune in finding traditional music sessions in local pubs. The music and singing were beyond my hopes or expectations. In Galway at Tig Coili we heard musicians playing the fiddle, accordion, guitar, and two Uilleann pipes. The banjo player passed by me and said, “I’m sorry you had to stand so long.” In Doolin at McGann’s, a well-known fiddler, Tara Breen, backed up a guitarist and two banjo players. In Dingle we located the recommended O’Sullivan’s Courthouse Pub and had front row seats to hear Tommy O’Sullivan, owner of the pub, on guitar and singing, and Jeremy Spencer on fiddle. Tommy sang several favorites -- *Rose of Allendale*, *Lakes of Pontchartrain* and *Wild Mountain Thyme*. We hope to see him at The Burren in Somerville. In Kinsale, Dalton’s Pub wasn’t open, but we found Kitty O’Se Pub (pronounced O’Shea) and heard Ultan, a strong guitarist and baritone singer who sounded like Stan Rogers sing *Kilkerry Ireland* and *Fields of Athenry*, poignant songs about the famine and lifelong separation from loved ones. In Kilkenny, a guitarist/singer and an accordion/pipe player drew me into Matt the Miller’s Pub with a favorite -- *Leaving Nancy*, by Eric Bogle. Our taxicab driver highly recommended *O’Donoghue’s Bar on Merrion Row*. This narrow pub had an excellent 9:30 p.m. session with two guitarists, accordion and harmonica players, and additional singers sitting in a half-circle, moving from song to song, inviting everyone to join in. I was standing in the front row and sang most of the songs. We left after singing *Wild Mountain Thyme* and walked back to our Green Hotel on St. Stephen’s Square. I lost my voice that evening! Deep pleasure, emotional memories.

— Chris Farrow-Noble



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

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**2024-2025 Officers & Coordinators**

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

**SEND NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO:**

Lori Fassman  
101 Charter Road  
Acton, MA 01720-4210  
[folkletter@fssgb.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

## FSSGB Annual Election Results

The annual election of the FSSGB Board of Directors was held on Saturday, June 15 at the singing party in Acton, MA. The members present unanimously elected the Board of Directors (all of whom are continuing in their roles—no changes this year):

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

Since there wasn't a quorum of Board members present at the event, the Board deferred the election of officers to a separate Board meeting which was held on Friday, June 21. There, the following officers were unanimously elected to continue their duties:

President: Ed Council  
Treasurer: Lori Fassman  
Secretary/Clerk: Lori Fassman

Congratulations and thanks to all these FSSGB members for their continued service.

**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](http://www.fssgb.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)

- Fri., Aug. 23     **Martin and Eliza Carthy**, 7pm, First Parish of Sudbury, 327 Concord Rd, Sudbury, \$25 general/\$20 FSSGB members (through 8/10; then \$25 for all), 17 and under free
- Sun., Sept 15     **Ellen Schmidt Memorial Concert**, 4-6pm, First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church St, Waltham, free
- Sun., Sept 22     **Martha Burns House Concert**, 3pm, Cambridge, \$20 (\$5 for students) **Note early start time!** Reservations required: [HouseConcerts@fssgb.org](mailto:HouseConcerts@fssgb.org)
- Sat., Oct. 26     **FSSGB Fall Folk Gathering**, First Parish of Waltham, 10am-5pm, see [fssgb.org](http://fssgb.org) for registration details (soon!)
- Sun., Nov. 17     **“Singing for Justice”** (viewing of Faith Petric documentary, and singalong), 11am, Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St, Boston, free

**See [www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org) for details about all events**