

# The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston

# FSSGB

# FOLK LETTER

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

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Look for more info on  
our website:

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

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



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## The Future of FSSGB—Update!

Many of you read Ed Council's letter in the last Folk Letter (which also went out in email) announcing that FSSGB was on the brink of dissolving after almost 67 years due to a shortage of new people who were willing to run the organization. We have a very exciting update for you! The FSSGB Board of Directors has just voted to hand the reins over to a lovely new group of people who will lead us into the future!

Enormous kudos go out to long-time members Jeff Keller and Michael Bergman, who pounded the pavement hard and assembled this wonderful group of folk music lovers who are excited about ushering in the next generation of FSSGB. Some of us "old guard" organizers have been working with the new folks over the past few months and are impressed with how dedicated, thoughtful and intelligent they are. We'll be formally electing the new Board of Directors and welcoming other new leaders at the annual Election and Singing Party on Saturday, June 20, 1-4pm in Acton. Several of us long-timers will stay on the Board for the first year to offer guidance.

We don't know exactly what "FSSGB Version 2" will look like—there'll be a heavy emphasis on singing parties, in some cases bringing existing singing groups under a common umbrella. There'll likely be house concerts and maybe some bigger concerts in more public venues. Some of our long-standing traditions like the Members' Concert, Bound for Glory and the Pub Carol Sing may continue—time will tell!

You can send email to [future@fssgb.org](mailto:future@fssgb.org) if you have opinions or requests, and/or want to get involved.

## Proposed slate of Board of Directors 2026-2027

President: Rob Lasell  
Treasurer: Connor Jordan  
Secretary/Clerk: Colette Parry

Other Board Members: Michael Bergman, Ed Council\*, Lori Fassman\*, Lynn Feingold\*, Jeff Keller, Ben Rechel, Aviva Selling.

\* First year, transitional



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To join or renew: we're retiring our paper-based membership forms. Please look for the online membership tool on our website at [www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org).



### Folk Letter Deadlines

This may be the last Folk Letter we publish. We'll push out news about the future of FSSGB on our website, via email to members and friends, and on Facebook. If you have questions at any point, feel free to send email to [info@fssgb.org](mailto:info@fssgb.org).

## 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.

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.

### Upcoming dates - these are all Fridays at 11:30am ET:

- April 17, May 1 and May 17
- June 12 and June 26
- July 10 and July 24
- August 7 and August 24
- September 4 and September 18
- October 2, October 16, October 30
- November 13 and November 27
- December 11

## Annual Election and Singing Party

Saturday, June 20, 2026, 1-4pm

At the home of Lori Fassman and David Cohen

101 Charter Rd, Acton (*LEFT branch of shared driveway*)

[lori.fassman@gmail.com](mailto:lori.fassman@gmail.com), 978-621-5814 (cell)

Everyone is welcome! This will be a very special gathering, bringing together current and past FSSGB members with the new team that will be leading FSSGB into the future.

The election usually takes about 2 minutes as soon as we have at least 5 FSSGB members present, but this one will take just a *wee* bit longer, since we'll be introducing the new proposed slate of officers and Board. Not quite the usual rubber stamp scenario, but it still won't take long.

There's plenty of free parking along the driveway and on the grassy areas. There's a large bit of yard in front of the house we call the "parking lot". Arrive early if you want to be guaranteed a spot near the house. Feel free to bring something for the snack table. There'll be a bit of lunch food as well as snacks and beverages.

## Sara Grey and Kieron Means House Concert

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 2pm

Cambridge, MA

\$20 at the door (\$5 for students)

Reservations required: [HouseConcerts@fssgb.org](mailto:HouseConcerts@fssgb.org)

**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 – specializing in stories from New England where she grew up learning many of her stories from her father.

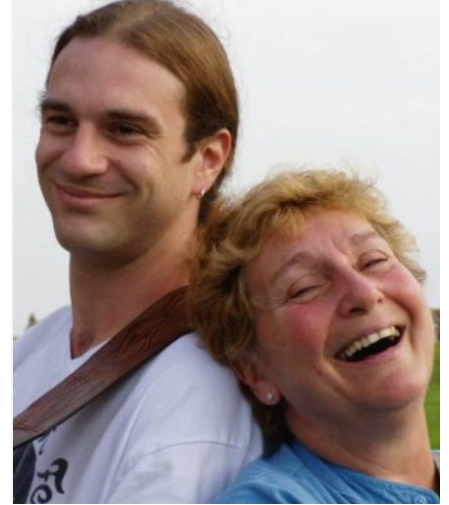
"She is one of a select band of performers who still breathe life into traditional ballads." Vic Smith, Folk Roots  
 "Sara Grey has quietly and powerfully taken over the mantle of premier interpreter of American traditional music." Tor Jonassen, WRD

Sara grew up in New Hampshire but has lived in North Carolina, Ohio, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Wales, Scotland and England. As a youngster in North Carolina she developed a love for old time songs and banjo music. She cites Kyle Creed as the chief influence on her understated, syncopated clawhammer banjo style. She has now been performing professionally for more than 30 years.

**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 Travelling Folk and Mr Anderson's Fine Tunes both on radio Scotland. An article on him will shortly be appearing in Folk Roots magazine.



**Join us for FSSGB's Song Swap at  
 The 82nd New England Folk Festival!**  
 Friday, April 24, 7pm, Tent by the Trade Center  
 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough



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.

## Bound for Glory (Woody Guthrie Tribute Show)



Sunday, May 31, 2026, 4-6pm  
First Parish in Waltham  
50 Church Street, Waltham, MA  
(*parking tips below and on website*)  
Admission: \$10 (17 and under free)

FSSGB is pleased to present "Bound for Glory", our annual Woody Guthrie tribute show! The show features many FSSGB members, many of whom have performed in past Woody shows going way back to the 60's.

"Bound for Glory" is a performance of songs and stories about the life of Woodrow Wilson ("Woody") Guthrie, considered by many to be the founder of modern American folk music. Many wonderful songs written by Woody and performed by members of FSSGB are interspersed with short recitations from his autobiography. It is a funny, cynical, earthy and tragic account of his life in an Oklahoma oil-boom town, of the Depression that followed, and of his subsequent travels in, on, and under trains, in stolen cars and on his feet, round an America going rotten from the top downwards.

Chorus sheets are made available and the audience is encouraged to sing along.

**Refreshments** will be served at intermission.

**Parking:** there are small lots on either side of the church, and there's some on-street parking in the neighborhood. We're allowed to park at the middle school next door (75 Church St), and there's a municipal lot at the intersection of Church St and Rt 20 (one block south of the church). There's a detailed map on the website (in the Bound for Glory concert listing.)

## Cate Clifford and Sarah Godwin Murdoch House Concert

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Details TBD (*keep an eye on the website*)

This is a double bill featuring two very talented young Boston area singers.

**Cate Clifford** began her folk life as a child enamored with Irish trad tunes. That love carried her to Limerick Ireland for a semester abroad in 2010, then to Providence RI in 2016, where she found social singing waiting for her alongside the sessions she'd come for. She has since filled her song book with favorites spanning Appalachia to Scotland, 1609 to 2014, children's rhymes to gospel to ballads to protest music. Cate has gleefully attended festivals such as TradMaD, Youth Trad Song Weekend, NEFFA and Mystic Sea Music Festival, and has had the privilege of performing at the Fox Point Folk Fest and Pawtucket's Downtown Rising Festival, as well as (devilishly, each October) with The Vox Hunters, Westeryear, and Lindsay Straw.

**Sarah Godwin Murdoch** was born and raised in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania, where her parents taught her "the more music you know, the more music you love." Having firmly taken this to heart, her repertoire ranges from murderous songs, to Child Ballads, to original tunes. She's performed in various NYC spots, including Parkside Lounge, Sidewalk Cafe, and the Knitting Factory, where she opened for Gaelynn Lea. She's had the pleasure of singing for the Folklore Society of Greater Washington and has regularly attended both TradMad and Youth Trad Song Weekend. She can stop anytime she wants.



## Boston Song Sessions

For many years, Jeff Keller has been maintaining a website and email list called Boston Song Sessions. The site contains information about pub sings and chantey sings within hailing distance of Boston. Such sessions typically emphasize traditional songs with choruses everyone can join in on, and they're generally free.

It seems likely that this list will come under the FSSGB umbrella. In the meantime, you should all be aware of its existence as a wonderful resource.

<https://www.bostonsongsessions.org/>

## Generous Bequest

The Board of Directors of the Folk Song Society of Greater Boston would like to express our deepest gratitude for the generous bequest we received in January from the estate of William Heess, a long-time FSSGB member who passed away last year. His executor informed us that Bill really valued FSSGB and he felt good about being able to make this donation. The Board is considering our options for how to make use of this lovely gift.

Our condolences go out to Bill's family and friends.

Longtime Boston area folk music band (traditional Irish, Scottish, maritime, French Canadian, Appalachian, etc.) seeks strong fiddler and singer for gigs in coffee houses, outdoor events, libraries, retirement centers and private parties. To indicate interest, email [djrosen@comcast.net](mailto:djrosen@comcast.net).

ADVERTISEMENT

## My Last Folk Letter!

Hi folks. I took on the job of Folk Letter editor starting with the February 1992 edition, and now, 34 years later, I'm putting together my very last one—a bittersweet experience! It's been tons of fun keeping in touch with you all, and seeing your names on the printed labels over the years.

Just wanted to say thanks for reading! If you want to keep in touch you can reach me at [lori.fassman@gmail.com](mailto:lori.fassman@gmail.com).

Keep singing!

Lori

## Past Presidents at the Members' Concert

The running joke at the Members' Concert in January was that practically every performer was a past or current President of FSSGB. We managed to get a group photo after the concert! Thanks to Lynn Feingold for the idea and the photo.



Left to right: Ed Council, Paul Beck, Mabel Liang, Bob Leigh, Lynn Feingold, Merle Roesler, Lori Fassman, Rich Korn, Karen Korn, Suzanne Mrozak.



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

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**2025-2026 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>
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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>
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Volunteers	<a href="mailto:volunteers@fssgb.org">volunteers@fssgb.org</a>
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**SEND NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO:**

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[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 Library:** FSSGB's entire collection of printed materials 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.

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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., April 24      **FSSGB Song Swap at the New England Folk Festival**, 7pm, 181 Boston Post Rd West, Marlborough, [www.neffa.org](http://www.neffa.org)
- Sun., May 3      **Sara Grey and Kieron Means House Concert\***, 2pm, Cambridge, \$20 at the door (\$5 for students)
- Sun., May 31      **Bound for Glory (Woody Guthrie tribute show)**, 4pm, First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church St, Waltham, \$10 at the door
- Sat., June 20      **Annual Election and Singing Party**, 1-4pm, 101 Charter Rd, Acton
- Sat., July 18      **Cate Clifford and Sarah Godwin Murdoch House Concert\***,\* details TBD

Much more to come, courtesy of the lovely new group of organizers who will be leading FSSGB into the future!

\* Reservations required: [HouseConcerts@fssgb.org](mailto:HouseConcerts@fssgb.org)