

NORTH HARRIS C? DULCIMER SOCIETY

Newsletter for August 2023

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Meeting Schedule for Saturday, August 19th

The next club meeting is on Saturday, August 19th. We will be following our normal schedule. Be sure to indicate on Facebook and/or Meetup if you will be joining us.

2:00 p.m.	Jam Sessions and Lessons start
3:30 p.m.	Break and Club announcements

4:00 p.m. More jamming

Due to lack of demand, the club is not planning to stream the meeting via Zoom this month. If you would like the club to resume streaming via Zoom, please e-mail the club officers to request a stream.

Message from the President

I hope everyone is having a pleasant summer and finding ways to keep cool. A friend shared a quote with me since she knows I enjoy walking and music... "the Earth has music for those who listen". The origin of the quote is unknown.

The quote made me think about what Marianne wrote last month about The Ash Grove. She said the song reminded her of rippling water. I had not thought about that, but as I play The Ash Grove, I can definitely hear water moving in parts of the song. That led me to think about reversing the quote... what music do you know that brings memories of or thoughts about the Earth?

Because of learning to play my hammered dulcimer, I have learned songs such as Wildflowers, June Apple (sorry if June Apple is actually a person rather than apples in the month of June), Green Corn and Prairie Sunflower. What is your favorite song that mentions the Earth in some way? I know our music has the ability to make people, including me, happy and joyful. I hope you find joy in the music of the Earth and in the music we play each month.

I look forward to seeing everyone who is able to attend at our monthly Jam at Advent Lutheran Church on Saturday August 19 beginning at 2pm.

Musically yours...

Valerie Harelson

Music Notes by Marianne

Several weeks ago the choir at my church sang a beautiful anthem called "Blessed, How Blessed." As I was leaving the choir loft, I realized the anthem had reminded me of another tune known as "Holy Manna" or "Brethren We Have Met to Worship." I started off trying to see if there was any relationship between the tunes. Then I decided you all could come along and see what happened when I start looking for information.

This first video is the arrangement on the anthem my church sang. The text is by Susan Palo Cherwein and the musical arrangement by David Cherwien.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtueOZhXz9M

"Holy Manna" is a tune I learned in the Dulcimer club. I was surprised to find the music was not in the files and what I located online was not good. Thanks to Peggy, we now have a nice arrangement in DGD and I hope we play it at the meeting. You can find it newly added to the Jam List and on the club website.

Holy Manna is a pentatonic melody in Ionian mode. It was originally published by William Moore in Columbian Harmony, a four-note shape-note tune book, in 1829, and is attributed to him. Below is the link to a shape note version that was recorded in College Station, TX. For those not familiar with shape note singing, the four shapes are what is sung in this part of Texas and what Margaret Wright teaches.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WVE28Qrn3s

If you thought you heard a similarity in these tunes, there is a good reason. The anthem is set to an old Scottish Lament called "Flowers of the Forest." The tune is a simple modal melody. Typical of old Scottish tunes it is entirely pentatonic, with the dramatic exception of the 3rd and 5th notes of the second line which are the flattened 7th.

According to <u>wikiwand.com</u>, "Flowers of the Forest", or "The Fluuers o the Forest" (Roud 3812), is a Scottish folk tune and work of war poetry commemorating the defeat of the Scottish army, and the death of James IV, at the Battle of Flodden in September 1513. Although the original words are unknown, the melody was recorded c. 1615–1625 in the John Skene of Halyards Manuscript as "Flowres of the Forrest", although it might have been composed earlier.

I'm really smitten by this tune and agree with a quote I found by a person I could only identify as Ritson. "Ritson says that 'the tune Flowden Hill or The Flowers of the Forest, is one of the most beautiful' Scottish melodies now extant, and, if of the age supposed, must be considered as the most ancient." (quoted by John Glen, Early Scottish Melodies, 1900, p. 6).

In my research I learned that "Flowers of the Forest" is sometimes considered the unofficial National Anthem of Scotland. It is often played on the bagpipes at funerals, particularly military funerals. I found the video linked below. The video continues after the music ends and there is no more music in case you do not want to watch the whole procession.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbMGnGkkSzA

There was a point where I was trying to match up the notes to see how close these two tunes come to being the same. Holy Manna is in 4/4. The choir music for "Blessed, how Blessed" is in 12/8. I found the "Flowers of the Forest" as a waltz. Since it is used for military processions, I feel confident it is often played in 4/4 time. My conclusion is the tunes are not the same, but do have some phrases that are alike. I also discovered a lovely and ancient melody that I'm now wondering if it can be played on our diatonic dulcimers. I've got to check out those flattened sevenths.

I hope to see everyone Saturday. We'll be playing some more G tunes.

Marianne

Jam Tunes July - September

Song Name	Key/Tuning	<u>Comments</u>
Amazing Grace MW	DGD	
Angel Band	DGD	Tab-only
Ash Grove (in G)	DGD	
Beautiful Isle of Somewhere	DGD	
Beyond the Pines	DGD	
Big Scioty	DGD	
Black Eyed Susie / Hot Corn Cold Corn	DGD	
Bound To Have A Little Fun	DGD	
Boys, She's a Daisy	DGD	
Brethren We Have Come to Worship	DGD	Added to the list this month
(Holy Manna)		
Butcher's Gap	DGD	
<u>Colinda</u>	DGD	
Elk River Blues - Low Easy	DGD	There's also a <u>high octave</u> version
Fanny Power	DGD	
Farewell To Whiskey	DGD	
Flop Eared Mule	DGD	
Golden Slippers	DGD	
Gum Tree Canoe	DGD	
I'll Fly Away	DGD	
Jesse James	DGD	
Leaning On The Everlasting Arms	DGD	
March Of St Timothy	DGD	
Mayhaw Tree	DGD	
Merrily Kissed the Quaker's Wife	DGD	
Morning Has Broken	DGD	There's also <u>harmony</u> and <u>flatpick</u> versions

DGD	
DGD	
DGD	Added to list this month
DGD	
DGD	There's a more <u>complicated</u> version on the website
DGD	Added to list this month
DGD	
DGD	
DGD	There's a more <u>complicated</u> version on the website
DGD	2 parts
DGD	
DGD	
DGD	
DGD	
	DGD DGD DGD DGD DGD DGD DGD DGD DGD DGD

Treasurer's Report

July 2023 (as of 08/13/2023)

Beginning Balance	(in Checking Account)	\$8348.68
	(in Cash)	\$310.00
INCOME:		
	Dues (Cash)	\$0.00
	Dues (Checks)	\$20.00
	TOTAL Income	\$20.00
EXPENSES:		
	Donation to Alzheimer's Association in memory of Jenny Gonzales's Mother	\$-50.00
	TOTAL Expenses	\$-50.00
Ending Balance		
	Checking Account	\$8318.68
	Cash	\$310.00
	Total Cash Plus Checking	\$8658.68
Door Prizes	Balance	\$4.80

Renewing Members: Valerie Harelson Connie Blakely New members:

This is a reminder: Check when your membership expires and your dues need to be paid.

You can find this information by logging into the NHCDS website: <u>https://nhcds.org</u> Select Member Pages / List of Members on the top menu Log in with password **dulcimersR4me** Locate your name and information. The last column shows when your membership expires.

Secretary's Report

July Club Meeting Notes

17 people attended the club meeting in July.

A motion was made to reserve the pavilion at Bear Creek Park for the annual club fall festival on October 28th. This passed with 14 yeas.

Website Notes

During the DGD jam it was noted that a few pieces of music are actually DGD tunes but were mislabelled on the website. Hot Corn / Cold Corn (Black Eyed Susie) and Red Wing were relabelled as DGD and a DGD-tuned version of Seneca Square Dance was created for those who didn't have it before. Also, two new songs were added. Peggy provided a DGD tuned version of "Holy Manna" and Jan provided DAD tab, midi, and tef files for a song called "The Squirrel Hunters".

Pre-registration for the next NHCDS Annual Acoustic Music Retreat is up. Feel free to sign up and tell your friends!

The club website, Facebook, and Meetup pages should have club meetings and confirmed plays listed as events to the end of the year. The newsletter archive has also been brought up to date. If you notice any pieces of music on the website which are mislabelled, are having trouble finding readable pieces of music from the website, or notice that your club membership dates look incorrect, then please let Corey know at coreyomy5@gmail.com.

Club members are encouraged to indicate on the event pages for both the Meetup events and Facebook events when you are able to attend a meeting. This helps show potential new members that the club does have active members in the jam. You can find the club Facebook and Meetup pages at

https://www.facebook.com/houstondulcimer

and

https://www.meetup.com/north-harris-county-dulcimer-society/

Thanks and see you at the next Jam!

Corey Morrison

Play Director's List for 2023

Contact Mary Nelis 832-466-9972 or mnelis123@aol.com with questions and to sign up or be play leader

Old River-Winfree Founders Day - Sat. Oct. 14th

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Address: 4818 N FM-565 Old River-Winfree, TX 77523

Pioneer Dress. Play inside of Community Center again, as in previous years.

Jesse Jones Park "Second Saturday" - Sat. Oct. 14th

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Address: Redbud Hill Farm, 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble, TX 77338

Pioneer Dress. Will be playing on the cabin porch. 4-wheelers will not be running so be prepared to a walk from the parking area to the log cabin (or bring a cart if needed).

Heritage Village Museum Harvest Festival, Woodville, TX – Oct. 20th and 21st ?

Time TBD

Steve Heiser is looking to get a group to play at the Woodville <u>Heritage Village Museum Harvest Festival</u> on October 20th (and maybe 21st?). More details to come.

Sausage Fest, El Campo, TX – Sun. Oct. 22nd

Set up at 10:30 a.m. Play from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Address: Christ Lutheran Church, 1401 Ave I, El Campo, TX

Play leader needed. Casual, church dress or Octoberfest dress



NHCDS Fall Festival at Bear Creek Pioneer's Park – Sat. Oct. 28th

NHCDS will be hosting its annual Fall Festival at Bear Creek Pioneer's Park Pavilion #3 on October 28th from 10 to 6. Come and enjoy some good food, good music, and family friendly fun. All are welcome!

Address: 3535 War Memorial Drive, Houston, TX

Armand Bayou Fall Festival – Nov. 11th - 12th

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Address: 8500 Bay Area Blvd, Pasadena, TX 77507-1818

The Armand Bayou play in November is a club favorite since 1985 and is really convenient for players based more in the south. Good easy beginner jamming. Porch of cabin. *Pioneer dress. Please note on sign-up if you wish to play Saturday or Sunday.*

More information (when it is posted) can be found at https://www.abnc.org/martyn-farm-festival

Jesse Jones Park "Pioneer Days" - Sat. Nov. 11th

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Address: 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble, TX 77338

Pioneer dress. Standard playlist and it's OK to repeat playlist throughout the day. More convenient for players in the North areas. Play leader needed.

Jesse Jones Park "Old Fashioned Christmas" - Sat. Dec. 9th

3 p.m. to 6 p.m. (earlier time)

Address: 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble, TX 77338

Christmas music. Play leader needed.

Upcoming Festivals

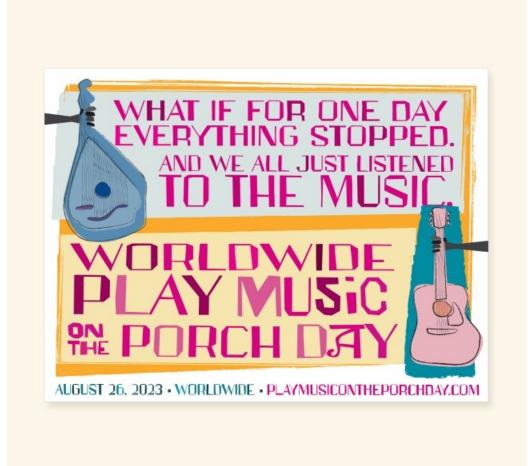
Do you know of a music festival or old-time jam nearby that you'd like to share with the club? Please contact Corey Morrison at <u>coreyomy5@gmail.com</u> with a website or details.

Play Music on the Porch Day and Steve Heiser Jam – August 26th

To participate just go outside and play music! You can invite friends or play alone. Make the day as big or as small as you want! Then share a video on any social media with #playmusicontheporchday.

Steve Heiser will be hosting a jam at his house on August 26th, starting at 1p.m. His address is 13507 Brook Hollow, Sugar Land 77498. If you have any questions, Steve should be at the next club meeting. Or you can e-mail him at <u>hei32sn@windstream.net</u>.

For more info or to add location to the worldwide map: <u>https://playmusicontheporchday.com/</u>



Southern California Dulcimer Heritage Month of Music – October

The Southern California Dulcimer Heritage is hosting a number of online and in-person jams, classes and concerts during most weekends in the month of October. Both mountain and hammered dulcimer workshops are available on Zoom, and there are classes for a variety of other instruments. See the link below for more information and registration.

https://scdh.org//SCDH/Festival%20Main%20Page.html



Play Reports Houston Fiddle Week - July 2023

Three fiddle players from NHCDS attended Houston Fiddle Week during the last week of July. The 15 or so students were divided into two groups based on their comfort level with learning by ear as well as experience playing the instrument. Levels varied from one year of experience to more than 60 years, some of us classically trained, others having studied/played Irish or Old Time styles. Ages went from a 4th grader (who played both viola and fiddle) to senior citizens.

The goal for the week was to learn some new tunes and how to play them using Irish, Scottish or Old Time fiddle styles. This included using some different bowing techniques to create accompaniment or percussion sounds. We were given music for three of the tunes, but we had several others that were taught solely by us hearing a phrase of music, repeating each phrase until we got to the end of the song, then repeating and practicing throughout the week.

I've included a tabbed version of The Squirrel Hunters in DAD – with minor chords in the A part. It's a fiddle tune, so it's got lots of notes, but for this tune, you can play every other 1/8th note on the dulcimer and it will sound great!

Deanne, Kieran and I spent each session with the professional players trying to soak up what we were being taught. The week ended with a showcase where we performed the tunes together. I enjoyed the time with the other participants, concentrating on the fiddle I've played since I was a teenager.

Jan Hargraves

Alief AARP - August 2023

On Thursday August 3rd, seven NHCDS members performed for the Alief AARP monthly meeting. This chapter regularly welcomes musical groups to their meetings and enjoys different styles of music. When we accepted the invitation to come, chapter president Jan Albers was thrilled to put us on their calendar.

Marianne, Mary, Valerie, Peggy, Connie, Deanne and I played for about 45 minutes using a playlist that included tunes that could have been played at a barn dance 100 years ago.

To give the audience some background, I introduced each tune with a bit of history of the song. For instance, *Buffalo Gals* traces its origins back to Buffalo, New York. The lyrics are a reference to the many "dancing girls" who performed in the bars, concert-hall dives, and brothels in the Canal district, the site where "canal and freighter crewmen" received their wages. The audience enjoyed the back stories.

As I was leaving, many chapter members came up to say "thank you" or to tell me about what music has meant to them. One lady caught me in the parking lot and sang a bit of a song that she knew when she was a child, trying to find a long lost memory. Music is such an amazing language, bringing people of all ages and diversities together to create a kind of social bonding, making and recalling memories.

Each time you join one of our plays/performances is an opportunity to use your talents to bring joy to those who hear our music. Be sure to sign up for an upcoming play!

And by the way – Jan Albers has asked us to come back in June 2024!

Jan Hargraves



Figure 1: Image of the Alief AARP Play taken by Mary Nelis

Meet the Player - Glenn Morrell (Part 1)

Where were you born and where did you go to school?

I tell people I am from Bristol, Tennessee but I was born in Bristol, Virginia because the hospital was on the wrong side of town. The state line dividing the two cities goes right down the middle of the main downtown street called State Street. As a kid I liked to stop and look at the Tennessee/Virginia markers embedded in the center line of the street. We lived less than a mile south of the border. I shared a bedroom after my younger brother came along. Later we moved to a house my parents built on the edge of town - also less than a mile from the border.

I went to Tennessee High School, Vanderbilt University, and then graduate school at Johns Hopkins University with degrees in Chemistry.

What is Bristol known for musically?

In 1927 Ralph Peer came to Bristol, Tennessee to record some "hillbilly music" for Victor Records (operated by the Victor Talking Machine Company). Most previous hillbilly music had been recorded in big cities like New York and Atlanta. After 2 weeks Peer had 76 recorded performances by 19 artists including the Stonemans and the first recordings of Jimmie Rodgers, and the Carter Family from Maces Spring, Virginia 26 miles away. Carter songs included "Bury Me Under the Weeping Willow", "Single Girl, Married Girl", "The Poor Orphan Child", and "The Storms Are On the Ocean". Later some came to call this the "big band of country music". Johnny Cash said "These recordings in Bristol in 1927 are the single most important event in the history of country music." The recordings were later released all together as the Bristol Sessions. In 1998 the United States Congress recognized Bristol as the "Birthplace of Country Music". In 2014 the Birthplace of Country Music Museum opened in Bristol, Virginia.

What was it like growing up? Who were the friends or family who stand out?

My brother is my only sibling, but we had many many relatives in the area. My Dad was the oldest of 14. My Mom was the oldest of 5. My brother and I had 10 aunts and 7 uncles that all married and all but one had children. The last time I added them up, it came to about 35 first cousins. My great-grandparents were farmers who lived out in the country on the far side of the South Holston River in the foothills of Holston Mountain.

Morrells came to this area from New York and New Jersey in the 1770s before there was a United States of America and before Tennessee was separated from North Carolina. I don't know where all my Morrell relatives lived, but if you look at the right map you can find Morrell Town Road (my grandfather's childhood home, and other relatives), Boyd Road (my Dad's childhood home, and other relatives - my Dad's grandmother was a Boyd). Also nearby are Morrell Road, Morrell Creek, Morrell Creek Road, Morrell Trail, Morrell Spring, Morrell Cave (renamed more recently to Worley's cave, the current owner), and there is a Morrell Cemetery but it is miles further downriver and the nearby Shipley Cemetery is where many of my relatives are buried. My Dad's mother's family is represented on the map with Carrier Hollow and Carrier Branch. The area is known as Hickory Tree, but it is not a town. On the map, the Hickory Tree label is near a store, Hickory Tree General Store, and a church, Hickory Tree Union Church, and there are a few houses nearby. I have heard that in the old days they had music at Hickory Tree on Saturday nights. We never went to any of that, I think, because there was too much "spirit" around there then. Maybe that is related to the fact that Troublesome Hollow is nearby.

A few years ago someone recorded all the information from the grave markers in Shipley Cemetery. The records show that there are at least 9 families with 20-99 family members buried here. Many people born here in those early days did not move far away. Many marriages were between nearby families - there were marriages between Morrells and 7 of those other families. Dad has some double first cousins because his mother's sister married his dad's brother. I also have seen where a Morrell daughter married a distant Morrell cousin.

My Mom's grandparents, Rust and Gross families, also lived on the other side of the river but further upstream. The TVA dammed up the river to make South Holston Lake in the 1940-1950s and the government bought our properties that were to be flooded. The Rust and Gross families I knew lived in or near Bristol. The original Rust Cemetery is still there near the lake as it was up on a hill, but the Gross Cemetery graves had to be moved.

My Dad's parents lived on a hill that drops down to a flat area at the river. Some time ago, they built an open covered picnic shelter just feet from the river. It had four large picnic tables and some smaller tables to hold food and drinks. Nearby was a "dock" that extended out over the water. I say "dock" because you couldn't land or launch a boat there. That wasn't needed because there was already a shallow spot upstream that was perfect for boating. For many years there was a family picnic there every non-winter holiday. No prior planning. Just show up with something and eat. One of the uncles usually cooked hot dogs and hamburgers. One aunt usually brought blackberry cobbler. One uncle usually brought fried chicken from his Maryland Fried Chicken store. When the weather got hot, say mid 80s, there would be some complaints. If they were generating electricity at the dam, water in the 50s or less would be up to the edge of the river bank and you just had to move a little closer to cool off. My grandparents both had running water and electricity. Ceiling lights were a bare wire coming down to a bare bulb. They both had outhouses. Dad's had two holes because of the large family.

Some of the things I remember from my childhood:

Catching lightning bugs; eating from the garden - tomatoes, corn, cantaloupe, green beans, potatoes, turnips; picking and eating - black cherries, red cherries, apples, seeded grapes, paw paws, blackberries, blueberries; first hula hoops; first skateboards; Putt Putt; walking to elementary school; playing marbles; walking to church for VBS (I drove before my Mom did); my Morrell grandparents' farm with chickens, hogs, and a milk cow; picnics; camping; hiking; catching poison icy; fishing, mostly for bass and crappie; playing with friends and relatives - many aunts and uncles were still children; school lunch cost .25 plus .02 per milk; hiding under the school desk to practice for nuclear attack; Sputnik; Davy Crockett show from Disney; finding arrowheads.

When did you first start playing music? What instruments did you play?

My first instruments were an Indian drum from Cherokee, NC and a recorder in elementary school. Later, my Dad bought an old well-used guitar, and with some lessons, I learned some chords and could even pick a little. More on the lessons later. We had a family autoharp and gave one to my Dad's father who liked to play and sing, mostly to himself.

Which old time instrument do you now play?

I play mountain dulcimer and a little pickin' stick.

To be continued next month....

Cy-Fair Jammers and Lone Star Strummers

Anyone who would like to play during the week is invited to join either Cy-Fair Jammers or Lone Star Strummers... or both! Both groups play for a variety of events during the year.

The Lone Star Strummers meet weekly at the Forum at the Woodlands, 5055 W. Panther Creek Drive, every Tuesday from 12:45 to 2:45PM. There is a Beginner/Slow Jam at the Forum at the Woodlands every Friday except 4th Fridays from 12:45 to 2:45PM. In addition, the Strummers also teach Beginner Dulcimer Lessons at Lone Star College Montgomery campus each Fall and Spring.

The Cy-Fair Jammers meet weekly at Copperfield Church, 8350 Highway 6 North, every Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00PM. If you are interested in more information about either group, you can contact Doris Coleman at either 281-450-9574... call or text or email at <u>doris@texascoleman.com</u>. Several of us... Deanne, Valerie, Peggy, Mark, William play with Cy-Fair Jammers. Let us know if you have questions or would like more information.

Club Classifieds

Please check out our club website! Search for our <u>Event Calendar, Upcoming Events, Links</u> to other music sites, and <u>Member Pages</u> to find a list of officers and members, music, and even old newsletters. The music available includes <u>songs of the month</u>, <u>tunes for the new dulcimer player</u>, <u>group play</u>, and <u>music for Christmas</u>.

NHCDS website: www.nhcds.org, member password: dulcimersR4me

Follow North Harris County Dulcimer Society on Facebook and Meetup. Heights Guitar Tech



Heights Guitar Tech is a stringed instrument repair shop in Houston that also offers tube amplifier repairs, vintage guitars, music accessories, sales, music lessons, and a friendly atmosphere for musicians, conveniently located at **742 W. 20th Street** (*between Shepherd and Durham*) in the Houston Heights. We are an authorized repair facility for Taylor, Ibanez and Guild guitars.

We specialize in setups and repairs of acoustic and electrical stringed instruments including guitar, bass, banjo, mandolin, fiddle (violin), dulcimer and more. Our turnaround times are second to none in the Houston area, with most basic repairs performed overnight.

Our hours are from 11 am til 7 pm Tuesday through Friday, and 10 am until 5 pm on Saturday. www.heightsguitartech.com 713-426-1888

North Harris County Dulcimer Society

NHCDS meets the third Saturday of each month at Advent Lutheran Church, 5820 Pinemont Drive, Houston, TX. Please park in the back lot of the church.

Annual Club Membership

Dues are \$15.00 for a family membership and \$10.00 for individual membership. Also, donations are gladly accepted.

NHCDS Board 2023-2024

President	Music Director	Play Director	Secretary	Treasurer
Valerie Harelson	Marianne Drabek	Mary Nelis	Corey Morrison	Peggy Johnson
713-518-6131	713-664-0771	832-466-9972	832-387-8858	713-819-0255