



OVFF 39
October 27-29, 2023
Columbus, Ohio

GUEST OF HONOR: SUMMER RUSSELL

TOASTMASTER: LAUREN OXFORD

HONORED LISTENER: MIKE GUCCIARD

INTERFILK GUEST: DANIEL KELLY

SPECIAL GUEST: LESLIE HUDSON

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE OVFF COMMITTEE**

Steve Macdonald: Chair, Pegasus Evangelista
Doug Cottrill: Vice-Chair, Programming
Roberta Slocumb: Vice-Chair, Registration
Elizabeth Huffman: Treasurer
Sally Kobee: Hotel
Linnea Davis: Volunteer Wrangler
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Robin Nakkula: Noodge & Food Trucks
Mark Peters: Sound & Tech
Kat Sharp: Graphic Design
BJ Mattson: Gifts & Kibitzing
J. Elaine Richards: Tea Party & Kibitzing
Lori Coulson: Concom Emeritus

AND STAFF

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Lyn Spring
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**WITH THE HELP OF
THE FRIENDS OF
OVFF**

Lorene Andrews
Alan Dormire
Nancy Graf
Gary Hartman
Bill Henley
Judi Miller
Kaitlin Palmer
Sharon Palmer
Jeff Tolliver

**OVFF BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

Lyn Spring: President
Elizabeth Huffman: Treasurer
Linnea Davis
Sally Kobee
Mark Peters

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to OVFF 39!

Solfège, per Wikipedia, is a method to teach music. Rogers & Hammerstein popularised it with the song 'Do-Re-Mi' from 'The Sound of Music'; but the method has been around since the eleventh century.

Sometimes I feel like I've been around filk for nearly that long.

But I digress. The point of solfège is to set tones in your mind by singing them- which is entirely appropriate to us and our community. And speaking of singing along, our Guests this year highlight some of the greatest talents in our community.

Please join me in welcoming our awesome Guests this year:

Summer Russell, Guest of Honor
Lauren Oxford, Toastmaster
Mike Gucciard, DI, Honored Listener
Daniel Kelly, Interfilk Guest
and our Special Guest, Leslie Hudson!

Attend their concerts and workshops! Catch them in the halls and find out just why we thought so much of them to make them our Guests this year!

I also want to give my sincere thanks to each and every member of the OVFF Committee and Staff- without their hard work and dedication we would not be able to be here.

Lastly, thank YOU for coming, and helping to ensure that the oldest filk convention on Earth stays healthy for another year!

I expect that you're reading this at home in mid-November, long after this year's con is a pleasant memory. If not- then what are you doing here?! Get out there, get in the circles, join the workshops, meet friends and found family (both new and old)! I'll see you in the hallways and in the filk rooms!

Sing on!



Steve Macdonald
Chair, OVFF 39

Con Policies

COVID REGULATIONS FOR OVFF 2023

Due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, for 2023 we require proof of vaccination against COVID-19 from all attendees.

This includes children of all ages.

Proof of vaccination can be sent to vaxproof@ovff.org in the form of a digital photo of your COVID-19 vaccination card or provided at time of registration. If we have your proof of vaccination on record from a previous year, you are not required to provide it again.

Please note: You will not be admitted to the con without proof of vaccination prior to or at the time of registration.

OVFF CONTACT INFORMATION

1720 Bendelow Dr
Columbus, OH 43228
Phone Number: 614-451-3154
Visit our website: www.ovff.org
Email us at: ovff@ovff.org

MASK POLICY & SOCIAL DISTANCING

OVFF will require masks covering the nose and mouth in all convention spaces within the hotel. We recommend wearing a respirator-style mask (N95, KN95, KF94, FFP2, etc.) rather than a cloth mask, based on the best scientific evidence about current COVID-19 variants. Masks should not have exhalation valves.

The masking requirement applies in all circumstances EXCEPT when eating or drinking in the Consuite or at the Pegasus banquet, and when actively performing in a concert, workshop, or filk circle. Thank you for your help in making OVFF 2023 as safe as possible for everyone involved.

CLEAR AISLE SAFETY POLICY

Please make sure to leave all aisles and hallways clear of instrument cases and other clutter. Due to the increasing numbers of people using wheelchairs, scooters, and strollers, we need to maintain clear right-of-ways. In the past, someone tripped over an instrument case, fell, and received a nasty gash, which required a trip to the emergency room. We'd like to avoid any similar incidents!

OVFF'S RECORDING POLICY

Individuals are welcome to make recordings for their own *private* use as long as the recording is unobtrusive and the performer's implied permission is given. Performers have the option of announcing, "Please don't record me" prior to their performance. In order to ensure that performers' wishes are respected, unattended recording is generally frowned upon unless previously arranged with OVFF.

OVFF'S ROLLOVER POLICY

If you purchase a membership in advance to OVFF in any given year and then find that you are unable to attend due to an unexpected change of plans, OVFF will gladly consider rolling over the membership to next year's convention PROVIDED you inform us before

the beginning of the con. We require notice in writing, (an old-fashioned letter or e-mail), not a phone call or a verbal message carried by a friend.

Memberships will be rolled over only one year. If you are still unable to attend the second year, we regret that we cannot roll it over again

LOST & FOUND

OVFF's lost & found department is located at the Gopher Table. Lost items found by OVFF staff can be claimed there. Items unclaimed at the end of the con will be held until next year. If still unclaimed, the items will be donated to charity.



CONSUIITE

If you would like to donate food for the Consuite, please bring pre-packaged, individual servings. Unfortunately, thanks to the pandemic, we can no longer accept donations that you cooked at home. Thanks for your understanding and support!

ART CREDITS

Cover Art: Kat Sharp

Nancy Graf: Pegasus Awards logo

Lorene Andrews: All other pegasi used on the Pegasus Awards, ballots, and website.

All other art is clip art.

OVFF'S ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

Harassment of any kind is not tolerated. If someone tells you "no" or asks you to leave them alone, your business with them is done.

Your right not to be harassed is not a right to not to be offended. All of us have different things that we find offensive. If you are offended, the best solution may be for you to walk away from the person who offends you. Should that person pursue you and continue to offend you, that could be harassment.

If you feel that you are being harassed, or if you notice someone behaving inappropriately (such as violating hotel or convention policies), we respectfully suggest the following:

1. If you feel comfortable doing so, point out the inappropriate behavior to the person(s) involved. Often this will solve the problem immediately.

2. If you do not feel comfortable talking with the person(s) involved, or if talking to them does not resolve the issue, please report the situation immediately to any OVFF Concom member. It would be extremely helpful if you could provide a name, badge name, and/or physical description of the person(s) involved. Please remember that we need to know about any incidents during the event in order to take action.

OVFF reserves the right to revoke the membership of anyone failing to conform to the letter and spirit of these policies, those of our hotel, and the laws of the City of Worthington and the State of Ohio.

GOPHERS WANTED

Would you like a discount on your OVFF membership? If you volunteer for 6 hours of work over the weekend, your con is FREE! And if you can't put in a whole 6 hours? We'll pro-rate your paid registration against the hours you worked! You can choose to have a refund check mailed to you after the con, or apply it immediately towards an advance registration for next year.

We need people to volunteer to support the Consuite each year, as well as folks to help us move in supplies early Thursday evening and to help tear down the Consuite and move out supplies Sunday during the dinner break. If you are interested contact Linnea Davis or check in at the Registration Desk!





Chambanacon

One Last Time

Writer GoH: Juanita Coulson

Music GoH: Bill Roper

**Ghost GoHs: Andrew J. Offutt
Wilson Bob Tucker, Gene Wolfe**

Toastmistress: Jen Midkiff

Fan GoH: The Scherer Family

Nov 24—26, 2023

**Bloomington/Normal Marriott
Hotel and Convention Center,
Bloomington/Normal, Illinois**

**Fully-masked
convention spaces...
because Covid and flu
and RSV are still with
us, and Chambanacon
actually cares!**

If you've been one of those who has said, "I'd really like to make it to Chambanacon one of these years..." well, this is your *very* last chance. After 52 years of nearly uninterrupted existence, Chambanacon shuts its doors. We've had a very good run, but the time has come to say goodbye.

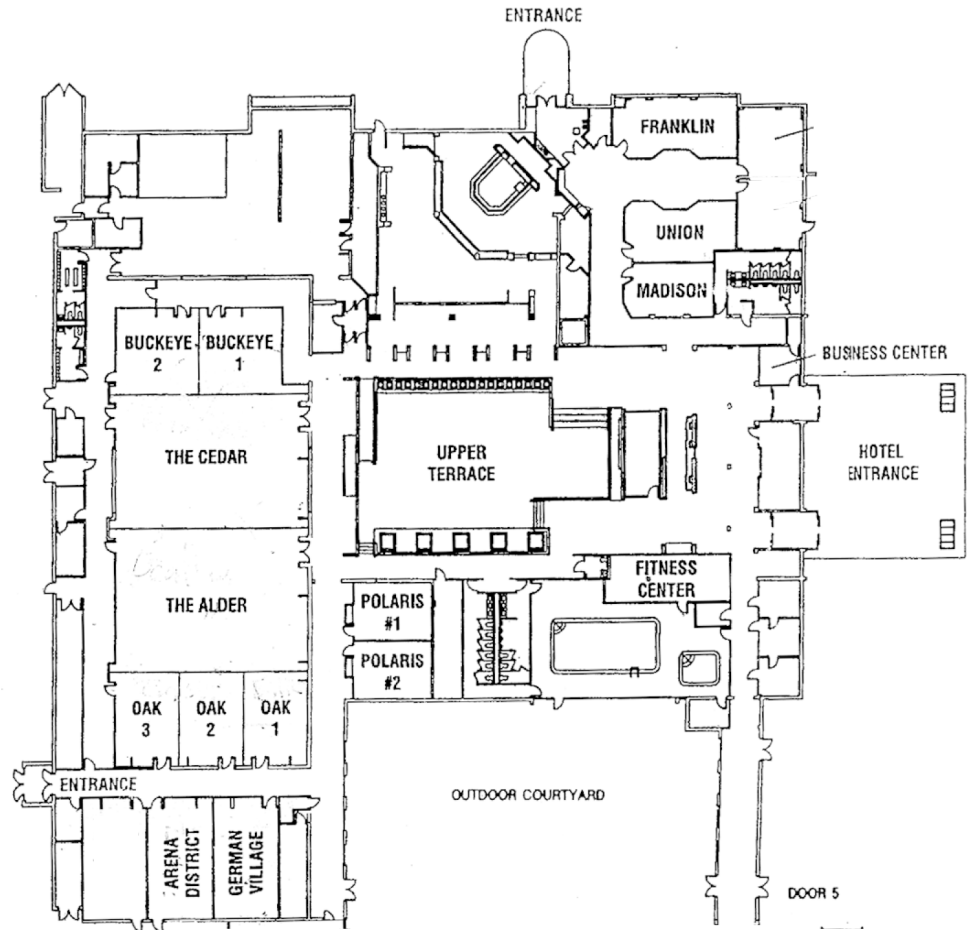
We're throwing one last party, one last banquet, one last chance to schmooze and chat and filk the nights away surrounded by friends and family after our customary post-Turkey Day celebrations.

We have a ton of things to do at this last con, with authors and musicians and fans galore. So, don't wait. Book your rooms and make your registrations now. There will never be another Chambanacon.

Music, music, music! And even more music with Leslie Hudson and Lauren Oxford!
Games, merchants, art, writers workshop, a fantastic con-suite, and a plated banquet.

More information and online registration available at chambanacon.org.

What's Where



- Con Registration & Operations:** Polaris One
- Main Programming:** Cedar & Alder Ballroom
- Function / Filk Rooms:** German Village, Arena District, Franklin
- Dealers Room:** Buckeye Ballroom
- Consuite:** Oak Ballroom
- Gaming Rooms:** Madison & Union
- Meeting/Rehearsal Room:** Polaris Two
- Pegasus Banquet, Party Functions:** Upper Terrace

Consuite Full Service Hours

Friday: 5 very 'ish - midnight
 Saturday: 10am - 10pm
 Sunday: 10am - 3 'ish

Dealers Room

Friday: 5pm - 8pm
 Saturday: 11am - 5pm
 Sunday: 11am - 4pm

OVFF 39 Schedule Of Events

THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND

Gaming Room - A place where people can hang out and play various games.

Chamberfilk - Cat Faber will gather together all the orchestra instruments she can find and meld them into a cohesive unit in the course of three short days. If you are interested in performing with Chamberfilk, please contact Cat Faber Friday evening if you can or show up a little early for the first rehearsal Saturday. There will be two rehearsals, then a short concert on Sunday afternoon.

Pegasus Rehearsal - Need a few minutes to warm up before your slot in the Pegasus Concert? Come see us at the programming table in the back of the main Concert Room and we'll unlock a door for a quick 15 minute session where you won't be disturbed.

Plan Your Own Event - Need to hold a rehearsal? Want to hold a meeting? Host your own theme filk? Come see us at the programming table in the back of the main Concert Room to reserve a space in one of our open rooms at least 3 hours before you want to hold your event.

One Shots and Juried One Shots - Because of the limited number of slots and the number of people who want to have one of them, the slots will assigned by lottery. Entry slips are located on the hallway table opposite the doors to the main filk room. You may enter in both lotteries (One Shots and Juried One Shots), but if you are drawn in the lottery for Juried One Shots, you will not be drawn in the regular One Shots. Drawings this year will be closed around 10:00 the night before the scheduled one shot and winners posted on the main concert doors and Consuite doors at approximately one hour later. If you enter on Friday and are not selected for the Saturday One shots, you do not need to re-enter. You will remain in the Saturday night drawing for the Sunday One Shots.

Open Filk (Any Open Room) – Open filk may be started in any room at any time **provided there is no scheduled activity**. If an open filk isn't happening and you want to filk, grab a friend, sit down, and start filking. If you filk, they will join! Please note that Fairfield is unavailable for the entire weekend this year as another group is using it and has it set up for the next day even if it appears that no one is in there right now.

OVFF 39 Schedule Of Events

The schedule of events printed here was accurate as of the time the program book went to "press" (actually laser printer...) However, as is normal with any event the size of OVFF, it isn't unusual that some late adjustments to the schedule have been made. Double check this against the Pocket Program, which will always be more current than the Program Book.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023

8:00 'ish **Frisky Puppy Filk** (Oak) - First Filk of the weekend for those getting in early to get a head start. We don't know where it will be, we just know it'll be fun. Check the white board that will be set up in the main lobby for start time and location The room will be available beginning 8:00 pm('ish).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023

4:00'ish **Afternoon Delight Open Filk** (TBA) - For those who need to get a little filk in before we start the rest of the weekend. We'll still be getting set up for the Friday main events, so we'll figure out where we're doing this and let you know on the white board in the main lobby.

7:00 'ish **Mad Hatter's Tea Party** (Upper Terrace) - This charming event will be an opportunity for nibbles and chats with your music-loving hostesses, Mary Frost-Pierson and Elaine Richards, who are hosting a musical tea party. Please come appropriately attired in your favorite, most spectacular hat. Those without head gear will be provided with the most embarrassing hats possible. Our gracious hostesses will award prizes for the best costume, best hat, and whatever else tickles their fancy.

8:00 'ish **Pegasus Nominees' Concert** (Cedar & Alder) - Are you familiar with the songs nominated for this year's Pegasus Awards? Here's your chance to hear them all! All nominated songs will be played for your listening pleasure. Don't forget voting ends at midnight!

8:00 'ish The Franklin, German Village, and Arena District Rooms become available for **Open Filking**. (*But why would you want to miss the Pegasus concert?*)

10:30'ish **Music Release Party** (Upper Terrace) - We have four albums being released this year at OVFF!

- An event 20 years in the making, we're celebrating the release of "**Courage, Dear Heart!**" **Summer Russell's debut studio album!** She is thrilled and eager to send these songs out into the world, having carefully chosen them to represent her work from her baby bard days until now. More than anything, she can't wait to share the art of many talented hands coming together to create something greater than she could ever have created on her own.
- In 2019, Bill and Gretchen gathered their wits and their luggage, and made their way to Germany to perform at DFDF. Their performance was recorded; and now they are releasing their first LIVE album: **Bill & Gretchen Roper, Live In Germany ... Mostly!**

OVFF 39 Schedule Of Events

- Pegasus Award Winner Jen Midkiff is releasing her third CD, "**Finding My Balance**", at long last!! Harp, vocals, violin, clarinet, and more...featuring the Pegasus Award-winning song "Underfoot". Come get your very own copy at the party!!
- **Bridge: A Collection of Songs That Bring Us Together** Years in the making, Kathy Mar has gathered artists and songs from all over the world into a double length album release.

11:00'ish **Theme Filk: Funny Songs** (Arena District) - Come join in to sing songs that make people laugh. blind lemming chiffon.

11:00 'ish **Theme Filk: Unicorns** (German Village) - Any songs that mention unicorns. What more of a description is needed? Hosted by Shirley Frantz

11:00 'ish **Night Owl Open Filking** (any open space) - And don't forget Franklin!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023

10:00 'ish **Chamberfilk Rehearsal** (Franklin) - Come join Cat Faber to practice orchestral arrangements of filk songs for the Sunday Chamberfilk Concert. Please try to make it to both rehearsals if at all possible. Contact Cat Faber for details..

10:00'ish **Harnessing Large Language Models in Songwriting** (Arena District) - ChatGPT describes the panel as follows: (Let's see how close to this we can get). Join us for a captivating exploration into the fusion of technology and creativity at this year's filk music convention. As artificial intelligence progresses, large language models like ChatGPT are emerging as potential aids in the songwriting process. In this discussion, our panel of expert songwriters and technologists will delve into the advantages, challenges, and ethical considerations of utilizing AI to craft melodies and lyrics. Whether you're curious about how AI might streamline the songwriting process, concerned about the preservation of authenticity, or simply eager to understand where the future of music might be headed, this panel promises insights and debates that will resonate with tech enthusiasts and music purists alike. Don't miss this chance to tune into the intersection of tradition and innovation! Hosted by Mark Peters

10:00 'ish **Improvising Harmony Lines to Phil Ochs Songs** (German Village) - I put forward some workshop ideas to the filk community, and got positive responses to a Phil Ochs themed workshop, and positive responses to Harmony Singing. So this workshop will be a bit of both.As a predominately online/solo performer, I do a lot of improvise over-dubbed harmony lines to the songs I record. This workshop will be talking through the 'non-scary' principles of improvised harmony singing (as opposed to learning written harmonies in a choir). Caveat: I'm not an expert, and this workshop will be collective learning, so bring your own knowledge to share.No music theory knowledge required, just a love of Phil Ochs and a willingness to sing

OVFF 39 Schedule Of Events (Sat. Cont'd)

and sound bad while on the path to sounding good. If you want to get an idea of which songs I'll be working with (I haven't decided exactly), they will be from this playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pChwndY9pJw> Daniel Kelly (Interfilk Guest)

- 11:00'ish **Juried One Shots** (Cedar & Alder) Come perform on the main stage in front of a panel of 3 judges who will give constructive critiques on how to improve your performance. This is a one hour block with only 4 slots, so each performer gets immediate feedback from our panel right after the performance. This happens before our Toastmaster kicks off the day, so audience should be minimal.
- 11:00'ish **Yoga** (German Village) - Nothing energizes a sleep-deprived body like some yoga. Be sure to wear loose clothes and bring a mat; if you don't have a mat, bring a towel. Hosted by Dr. Mary Crowell
- 11:30'ish **Workshop- Cowriting and Collaboration** (Arena District) - Creating new music with more than one person can be immensely rewarding... and also challenging. We'll talk about tools, techniques, do's and don'ts for creating music with a group, both in person and remotely, for both writing and music production. We'll also discuss the differences between cowriting and collaboration, and we'll talk about some common pitfalls and strengths of getting more than one brain involved in a creative process. We'll also cover some new technologies and tools to make collaborative writing/producing easier than ever. Hosted by Eric Distad.
- 12 - 12:30 **One Shots** (Cedar & Alder) - Come listen to performers with a song to share. Sign up sheet is outside the main concert hall if you want to participate. Space is limited and you must sign up the night before by 10:00 PM. Check to see if you won at 11:00 PM on Main Concert doors and Consuite doors.
- 12:30 - 1:30 **Toastmaster Concert** (Cedar & Alder) - Join our Toastmaster Lauren Oxford as she kicks off our concert day with an hour of great music!
- 1:00'ish **Workshop- Basic Music Theory: From Do Re Mi Toward I, IV, V** (Arena District) - Let's start at the very beginning of Western Music Theory, and see how far we can get, from notes to scales to keys to chords. Hosted by Jo-Ann Scheffer
- 1:00'ish **Workshop- Beginning Voice** (German Village) - A participatory workshop for those who've never had any training in singing. We'll cover basics like how singers breathe, supporting a note, projecting, and diction. Limited to 12 people. Hosted by Mark Bernstein.
- 1:30'ish **Interfilk Concert** (Cedar & Alder) - Enjoy an hour of great music from our interfilk Guest Daniel Kelly all the way from Australia!
- 2:30'ish **Workshop- Guitar Basics and Fun Chords for Beginners** (Arena District) - This workshop focuses on basic chords for the guitar along with fun stuff like triads, power chords, how a capo works, where a ukulele is hiding in a guitar, how do harmonics produce sounds like bells, and a host of other cool 'tricks.' You might be asking "Wait What? I don't know what those words mean." Come to the workshop and find out. The workshop is geared toward beginning to intermediate players plus anyone who likes to listen to guitar music and is curious about guitar 'secrets.' Hosted by Dick Green.

OVFF 39 Schedule Of Events (Sat. Cont'd)

- 2:30 'ish **Special Guest Concert: Leslie Hudson** (Cedar & Alder) - Our cup runneth over- join us to listen to this year's Special Guest, Leslie Hudson, for even more music!
- 2:30'ish **Workshop- Semi-advanced Guitar** (German Village) - Going paperless. How to play simple songs by ear and change keys without a capo. 5 easy keys, and when to use a capo for difficult keys. How to combine melody with harmony in strumming, flatpicking, and fingerpicking. Hosted by blind lemming chiffon.
- 3:30 **Honored Listener Concert** (Cedar & Alder) - Our Honored Listener, Mike Gucciard, has put together a set list of his favorite songs performed by some of his (and our) favorite performers. Join us to find out what they are, and who is performing!
- 4:30 **Guest of Honor Concert** (Cedar & Alder) - What a great way to wrap up the afternoon! Join us to hear this year's Guest of Honor Summer Russell, for even more great music!
- 6:00'ish **Awards Banquet** (Upper Terrace) - Come find out the winners of this years Pegasus Awards while enjoying a lovely dinner with friends.
- 8:00'ish **Song Contest** (Cedar & Alder) - Our first songwriting contest of the weekend is the traditional type: write a song on the specified topic (*We Are Family*). Please stop by the programming table in Cedar&Alder to confirm that you are on our list if you haven't heard from us. PLEASE REVIEW THE CONTEST RULES ON PAGE 17.
- 9:00'ish **Interfilk Auction** (Cedar & Alder) - Interfilk provides us with great guests that we would otherwise never get to meet. Come support Interfilk and get cool stuff of interest to the filk community. You never know what will be on the auction block, and it's always a good time . Start time approximate- we will begin the auction after the Song Writing Contest finishes.
- 9:00'ish **Theme Filk- Thicker Than Blood** (German Village) - Songs of the families we choose, be they human, animal, fae, alien or something else. Hosted by Cat Greenberg.

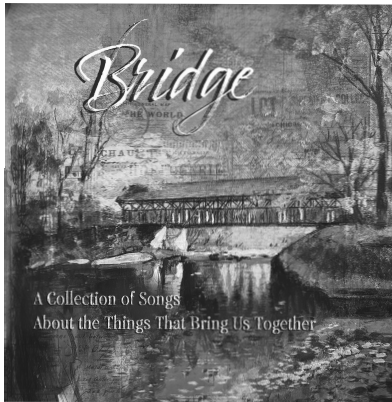
OVFF 39 Schedule Of Events (Sat. Cont'd)

- 11:00'ish **Theme Filk: Music of the Modern Middle Ages: Songs of the SCA** (Arena District) Come join Surreptitious Whiskey to hear their favorite SCA songs and share your own with them as well..
- 11:00'ish **Loud Filk** (Franklin) - Like your filk a little LOUDER? The LOUD FILK welcomes electric instruments, drums, string sections, and jamming along. It's a different way to filk! Hosted by Dave Stagner & Daniel Gunderson.
- 11:00'ish **Theme Filk-Bardic Inspiration** (German Village) - Some songs are magic. They can inspire hope and wonder, fear and courage, love and sorrow. They can charm and enchant both friend and foe, or rouse a weary party to fight again. They may summon mysterious creatures, weave tapestries of strange lands and beckon the listener to step through to the other side. Or maybe they'll make a tavern full of rowdy patrons laugh and fill your cap with coins. Whatever the effects, come and bring your most powerful spell-songs to enchant our bardic circle! Hosted by our Guest of Honor, Summer Russell

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

- 10:30'ish **Workshop- Basic Harmonic Arranging** (German Village) - An introduction to chords, chord voicing, and building a vocal harmony around a tune. Hosted by Clif Flynt
- 11:00'ish **Chamberfilk Rehearsal 2** (Franklin) - Come join Cat Faber to practice orchestral arrangements of filk songs for the Sunday Chamberfilk Concert. Please try to make it to both rehearsals if at all possible. Contact Cat Faber for details.
- 11:00'ish **Workshop- Stay Afraid, But Do it Anyway** (Arena District) - From stage anxiety to impostorism to the specter of "what will people think," the challenges of fear can get in the way of doing the things we want to do. Instead of trying to wait out the fear or make it go away, let's talk about how we can do the things anyway--and how embracing vulnerability can serve and enrich our performances, our creations, and our lives. Hosted by Summer Russell.

New Albums At OVFF!



Bridge

A Collection of Songs About the Things That Bring Us Together

Years in the making, Kathy Mar has gathered artists and songs from all over the world into a double length album release.



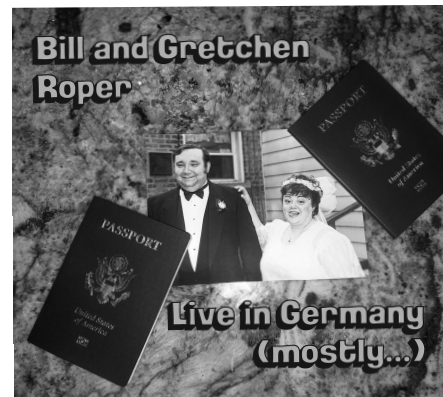
Courage, Dear Heart by Summer Russell

Summer is thrilled and eager to send these songs out into the world, having carefully chosen them to represent her work from her baby bard days until now. More than anything, she can't wait to share the art of many talented hands coming together to create something greater than she could ever have created on her own.



Finding My Balance by Jen Midkiff

Harp, vocals, violin, clarinet, and more...featuring the Pegasus Award-winning song "Underfoot"!



Live in Germany (mostly...) by Bill & Gretchen Roper

In 2019, Bill and Gretchen gathered their wits and their luggage, and made their way to Germany to perform at DFDF. Their performance was recorded; and now they are releasing their first LIVE album!

OVFF 39 Schedule Of Events (Sun. Cont'd)

- 11:00'ish **More One Shots** (Cedar & Alder) - Another round of one shots if the first set didn't fit your schedule, or you just need to hear more music. Sign up sheet is outside the main concert hall if you want to participate. Space is limited and you must sign up the night before by 10:00 PM. Check to see if you won at 11:00 PM on Main Concert doors and Consuite doors.
- 11:30 **Chamber Filk Performance** (Cedar & Alder) - Come join Cat Faber's group to play orchestral arrangements of filk songs or enjoy the concert from the audience. Rehearsals were on Saturday and earlier today. Here's the performance! Hosted by Cat Faber.
- 12:00'ish **Iron Filker Contest** (Cedar & Alder) - Our second songwriting contest, designed for those fast on the draw. Three verses and a chorus, written during the con itself on the specified topic. PLEASE REVIEW THE CONTEST RULES ON PAGE 17.
- 1:00 -1:30 **Sunday Concert 1:** (Cedar & Alder) Please join us for a half hour of great music from Debora VanHeyningen
- 1:30-2:00 **Sunday Concert 2:** (Cedar & Alder) And for our second concert, please join us for a half hour of great music from Mikey Mason
- 2:00-2:30 **Sunday Concert 3: Music Release Concert** (Cedar & Alder) - You bought the CDs Friday night and listened to them all weekend. Now it's time to come sing along!
- 2:30-3:00 **Sunday Concert 4: Bridges CD Release** (Cedar & Alder) - Join us for a sampling of the Bridges Release from Kathy Mar performed by as many artists as we can fit into a half hour concert

OVFF 39 Schedule Of Events (Sun. Cont'd)

- 3:00 **Iron Filker Winner's Announcement** (Cedar & Alder) - Find out who won the Iron Filker Contest just before the closing jam!
- 3:00'ish **Closing Jam** (Cedar & Alder) - Join us for this bittersweet moment when we come together to play and sing along – mostly to rock, folk, and oldies filk. Anything that almost everyone knows is acceptable. Barry Childs-Helton
- 3:00'ish **Closing Jelly** (Franklin) - For those who find the Farewell Jam a bit too amplified. Come say farewell here instead.
- 4:30'ish **Dinner Break** (Cedar & Alder) - Room will be safely locked with your equipment inside while we all break for dinner. Room locks at 5 PM, so get your equipment here before then, or make sure it's safe somewhere else. Open when people get back from dinner.
- 5:00'ish **Dinner Trek** Our annual trek to BD's Mongolian Barbeque to feed the beast and let off steam. We STRONGLY REQUEST that if you are even thinking about coming along, PLEASE sign up by Saturday late afternoon so that we can give the restaurant a reasonably accurate estimate of our party size. Start gathering in the Consuite at 5:00. We'll organize driving pools and leave from there around 5:15.
- 7:30'ish **Dead Dog Filk** (Cedar & Alder) - Not ready to go home yet? Join us for one more night of open filk, or chat with your friends in other open areas. The fun starts when people get back from dinner.
- 7:30'ish **Dead Hound Dog Filk** (Franklin) - The Dead Dog just got too @\$%\$# big, so we had to split it in half up front. Choose the dog you like, or float between.

OVFF 39 Songwriting Contests

We held our first songwriting contest in 1986 at the OVFF 2. It was so popular that in 1995 we added a second contest.

Songwriting Contest

The Songwriting Contest will be held Saturday evening at 8:00 pm. This year's topic is:

We Are Family

Entries should be new material of limited distribution written between November 2022 and October 2023. Your song can be entirely original, or new lyrics to existing music.

The Iron Filker

The Iron Filker Contest will be held Sunday at 12:00 noon. This year's topic will be announced at Opening Ceremonies at 8:00PM on Friday night.

The song must be written AT THE CON, and must consist of at least three verses and a chorus.

Contest Rules:

- The songs are to be performed in front of a live audience for a panel of judges.
- Songs are judged on the quality of the writing - not on the strength of the performance.
- If the songwriter is not a performer, the entry may be performed by a friend. Please note that the songwriter must be in attendance at the convention in order to enter.
- Please bring four (4) copies of your song for the judges. A copier should be available in the hotel's business center. OR use the submission form on our website: ovff.org/programming-song-contest-entry-form. You may also bring a flash drive with the same information to us in the main concert room (Cedar/Alder).
- All entries MUST be received AT LEAST 1 HOUR before the contest starts.
- Please stop by the programming table in Cedar/Alder to confirm that you are on our list if you haven't heard from us

Songwriting Contest: The Cat's Meow

1st Place: *Memo Re: Communication* by Paul Kwinn
2nd Place: *The Forging of Gleipnir* by Douglas Davidson
3rd Place: *My Cat's Meow* by Beth Kinderman
Audience Choice: *Cat With No Name* by Dave Stagner

2022

Iron Filker: What could pawsibly go wrong?

1st Place: *Cat Warning Label* by Beth Kinderman
2nd Place: *The Irish Physicist's Song* by Mike Stein
3rd Place: *Dream of a Thousand Cats* by Naomi Hinchin
Audience Choice: *Cat Warning Label* by Beth Kinderman

Songwriting Contest: Future So Bright

1st Place: *Optimism Song* by Luke Bretscher
2nd Place: *Not If But When* by Gabrielle Gold
3rd Place: *Betelgeuse* by Michael Stein
Audience Choice: *As We Run Toward Our Future* by Cecilia Eng

2021

Iron Filker: KABOOM!

1st Place: *Exploding Whales* by Dave Stagner
2nd Place: *Pressure* by Beth Kinderman
3rd Place: *There Was Supposed to be a Kaboom* by Douglas Davidson
Audience Choice: *Pressure* by Beth Kinderman

Songwriting Contest: My Corona

1st Place: *Raise your Voice in Chorus* by Douglas Davidson
2nd Place: *Spikey Ball of Death* by Paul Kwinn
3rd Place: *Don't Forget to Wash Your Hands* by Dana Katz-Buchshtav
Audience Choice: *Spikey Ball of Death* by Paul Kwinn

2020

Iron Filker:

Due to COVID-19; there was no Iron Filker Contest in 2020

Songwriting Contest: Music Is the Universal Language

1st Place: *CISUM* by Claudia Mellenthin
2nd Place: *Long Before* by Cat Greenberg
3rd Place: *Music is the Universal Language* by John McDaid
Audience Choice: *El Muro (the Wall)* by Rhiannon's Lark

2019

Iron Filker: Lost in Translation

1st Place: *Lost in Translation* by Rhiannon's Lark
2nd Place: *Subtitle* by Elizabeth by Cat Greenberg
3rd Place: *The Ghost is Ready but the Meat is Soft* by Andrew Ross
Audience Choice: *Lost in Translation* by Rhiannon's Lark



FILKONTARIO



2024

APRIL 19-21, 2024
MARKHAM, ONTARIO



GUEST OF HONOR: THE BLIBBERING HUMDINGERS

FILK WAIFS: PHIL MILLS & JANE GARTHSON

INTERFILK GUEST: ELI BAR-YAHALOM

ADULT: \$63 CAD/\$53 USD

YOUTH 13-17: \$46 CAD/\$41 USD

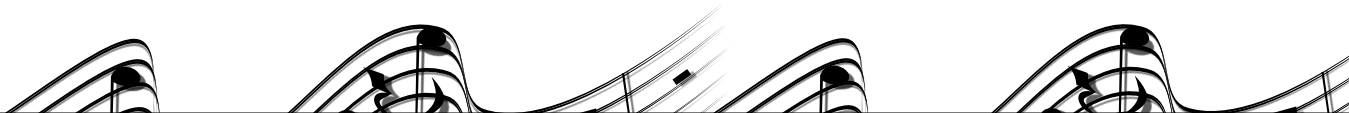
CHILD 6-12: \$32 CAD/\$27 USD

CHILD UNDER 6 FREE



Questions?
filkontarioinfo@gmail.com

registration link at filkontario.ca
or use the QR code above



IN MEMORIAM

We take a moment to remember filkers and affiliated people that we lost this year.

Bruce Coulson: Though not a filker, Bruce was a fan who loved reading and playing table-top role-playing games. He was often a friend of OVFF, running role-playing games for the older kids at OVFF for many years. He is sorely missed by his mother, Juanita Coulson, and his wife, Emily Vazquez-Coulson, as well as their daughter, Miranda Coulson.

Bill Laubenheimer, aka Moonmoth: was a Bay Area fan and filker who wrote and sang a wide array of filk. Bill's H.P. Lovecraft burlesque, *The Sunken Land of R'lyeh*, is acclaimed. A software architect, Bill was especially known for composing computer-related songs. Bill was married to fellow fan Carole Parker. Bill was also the LepreCon 32 Music GoH. He passed away after arriving in Winnipeg to attend Pemmi-con, the 2023 NASFiC.



Interfilk is a registered non-profit organization. Our primary goal is to promote cultural exchange through filk music, and a secondary goal supporting filk conventions with guests. We accomplish these goals by: *Sending filkers to conventions in the United States and Canada, promoting the growth of the filk community, and promoting the genre of science fiction and fantasy music.*

The **Interfilk Auction** sets new highs (and lows) for silly entertainment; plus you might score some cool stuff. We also feature a wench-free zone for those who prefer auctions with a little less heat; or use the internationally recognized symbol for "No Wenching" as illustrated below right. This year we'll again try to not bid against ourselves.

Thank you for enjoying the auctions, the auctioneers and the wenchers. Thank you to the generous donors of auction items, royalties, songbook entries and to the wonderful buyers and those who cheer them on. Thank you, as always, to the wonderful guests we get to send to you.

Contact us at directors@interfilk.org

Upcoming Interfilk Guests

Who	From	To	Year
The PDX BroadSides	OR	GAFilk	2024
Naom Hinchén	MA	Consonance	2024
Eli Bar-Yahalom	Israel	FilKONtario	2024
Heather Preston	OR	OVFF	2024



Confluence 2024

July 26, 27 & 28

Sheraton Pittsburgh Airport Hotel

Confluence is . . . Panels • Writing Workshops & Exercises • Concerts • Dealers Room
Art Show • Art Workshops & Demos • Entertainment • Autographing • Poetry • Readings
Hospitality Suite • Pitch Sessions • Authors • Editors • Fans and more!

Guest of Honor, Featured Musician, concerts and featured Saturday evening
entertainment will be announced soon!

**VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES:
WWW.CONFLUENCE-SFF.ORG**

Online registration opens Nov 1st
Writing workshop registration opens March 15th.

Our Featured artist this year is **Christine Hutson!**
<https://www.saatchiart.com/christinehutson>



CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

The Confluence Art Show wants you....and your art!

The Confluence Art Show features artwork produced by professional as well as amateur artists. We welcome both walk-in and mail-in art in 2D or 3D format in all media with a science fiction, fantasy or horror theme.

We charge a small commission on sales.
Art that is for display only is charged a nominal hanging fee.

<https://confluence-sff.org/art-show/>

FIND US ON SOCAIL MEDIA:

facebook.com/groups/confluencesff Instagram: @confluenceSFF
Bluesky social: <https://bsky.app/profile/parseconfluenceink.bsky.social>

Confluence is presented by PARSEC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. www.parsec-sff.org.

Meet Our Guest of Honor Summer Russell

"For me, no matter the genre or the sound, the common threads are the stories we tell and the feelings we share." Summer Russell

What is it about Summer?

I don't remember when we met, but I remember hearing her sing and thinking that she had an ephemeral calm and open eyed clarity that imbued every word with luminous meaning.

It's hard to see just one Summer, because she has a wonderful chameleon nature, her face shifts with costume and craft, so that she can embody anything, or fade into the background when she wants to shift the spotlight to a fellow performer.

Learning her many forms was the gentle work of years, of slowly building associations; of meeting different aspects of Summer, fighter, singer, lover, friend, through her Facebook essays, which were by turns heart-breaking and hilarious.

And we all saw her shift her shape and change the shadow of her story, campaigning

against a seemingly impossible set of odds; when she won back her good health and peace of mind through a surgical end to her endometriosis, it was a miracle managed through sheer determination and aided by the support and love of her friends.

I didn't count myself as a friend yet. We hadn't had a moment of recognition. We're both busy people, and you can't make magic on demand.

Or maybe you can.

During the first phase of the pandemic, when Summer's face was in a tiny box on Zoom, among dozens of other boxes, I heard her do a Cry, Cry,

Cry cover and suddenly we had a common thread, and I messaged her, finally sure of what to talk about.

We learned each other in bits and pieces. Chats on zoom text, Facebook comments, and then in person at the first in-person filk cons.

But my first impression hasn't changed. Like all of us, Summer draws herself anew many times per day. I've seen her console a friend



them to laugh, I've seen her singing protest songs she believed with her whole heart, and I've watched the smile build on her face as she watches people make connections with each other, or get up the courage to perform something difficult.

Summer's own performance style varies heavily, blending singer-songwriter and rock influences with Renaissance and Celtic musical styles, all filtered through a voice that's equally at home in classical music or campfire folk and roots. Her songwriting themes range all over the map, but each one has a burning core of reality, whether it's fantastical, or drawn from her wealth of memory and metaphor. Or both. Both is good.

I've also had a lot of joy watching Summer find her place in the filk community; welcoming and wise, and above all kind, it was a perfect fit.

She's been an enthusiastic participant in so many open circles, and embraced February Album Writing Month with her usual zeal. She credits FAWM, and filkers generally, with helping her to try new styles, and adding layers to her multi-faceted musical tastes.

My mental picture of Summer is one that doesn't really exist. She's standing with a battered suitcase and an instrument case, covered in stickers from all the places she's been. She's dressed to travel, looking towards

a new adventure, and a new chance to shift her shape. I see it in my mind's eye, and it makes me smile every time, because it's never the same twice.

We see you Summer, in all your fierce and gentle forms. Thank you for being part of this family.

(written by Merav Hoffman)



Meet Our Toastmaster Lauren Oxford

I met Lauren Oxford, then Lauren Cox, at a start-of-school party a music friend of ours threw for the local college LGBT group. I happened to start chatting with the nearest youngster over brownies and slices of rainbow layer cake, and it turned out that not only did she love music, she loved science fiction and fantasy—and cats as well, so I mentioned filk to her, thinking it might appeal. She thought it sounded wonderful and wanted to throw herself into it from the start, while I worried I might just have persuaded a broke college student to take up an expensive hobby—but there was no holding Lauren back.

She got her first real taste at the housefilk hosted that winter by Signe and Dave Wegener in Atlanta (an ideal low-cost, low-pressure venue to introduce a college student to filking) and as we tore ourselves away and walked out on the porch, she turned to me, her breath steaming in the midnight air, and said, “I’m going to GAFilk if it KILLS me.”

It turned out there was no need for life-and-death striving; rides and roommates were easily arranged, and Lauren won hearts everywhere she went, with her outgoing manner, her fondness for the oddest chords and tunings, and the intimate quality of her voice. Silky smooth and sweet, it can make songs by Joan Shelley or Kate Wolf uniquely her own, or slip her own lyrics—whether to original melodies or filks of show tunes—deep into the listener’s heart. Lauren is also a music cross-pollinator; riding with her has introduced me to Kate Wolf and Joan Shelley but also to Maiden Radio and Vienna Teng.

Lauren has a jack-of-all-trades approach to instruments and is always willing to learn another, the stranger the better; if she doesn’t know any songs for it, she will write one. She has

an entire closet full of instruments at this point. In sheer self defense we have come to an arrangement; when we have three or fewer people carpooling she may bring any instrument she can put into the car by herself. When we have four people, the requirements get, of necessity, a bit tighter, and she is down to three instruments, which will usually be whichever guitar she is currently romancing, her Peter Cox banjo, and her ukulele. Like many filkers, she is very much a night-owl, and can often be found filking and talking till the wee hours of the morning with anyone with the stamina to keep up with her. In addition to playing solo, Lauren is also one fourth of singer-songwriter “queertet” The Starlight Darlins, whom she has dragged along with her for their first filk convention ever.



Her songs range from the silly—the trials of long-haired cats and litter boxes, inspired by her two fluffy cats: Henri (named after photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson) and Ansel, (named after photographer Ansel Adams)—to

the serious, songs of the love of her life, or missing her grandmother during the pandemic, or the losses and griefs that come to us all.

Lauren majored in photography in college and loves film photography as an art—the manipulations and effects that can be done with liquid and light in a darkroom. She grew up near Nashville, married last year, and currently lives in a small house surrounded by native pollinator-friendly plants in the mountains of East Tennessee, near Great Smoky Mountains National Park, with her wife Emma (a graphic designer and illustrator), and their three cats (for closure’s sake, Emma’s cat’s name is Alli).

(written by Cat Faber)

Meet Our Interfilk Guest Daniel Kelly

I'm writing this biography in the first person, as my introduction to the Filk music community has been entirely online, and I don't really know any of you beyond the Zoom window and other digital exchanges. The number of active Filkers in Australia (that I know about) can be counted on less than one hand, and while I have done a shared real-life concert with harpist Ann Poore and had one in-person chat with Robbie Matthews (and contributed to some of his songs on YouTube), we certainly aren't a close or active community. Not to mention the fact that Melbourne and Canberra are some 600 kilometres (400 miles) apart.

I have been performing as Daniel Kelly since I first started writing songs and putting them online back in 2011 (Daniel is my real name, but for various good reasons I perform with a stage last name, that also happens to belong to a famous Australian Bushranger, and also belongs to my wife). The Internet can be terrible, but it can also be amazing; over the course of the last 12 years I have had comments from experts in Gregorian chant asking who wrote my improvised plainsong version of the Hospitaler Knights anthem that I recorded while in Malta. I have sung at the annual Sydney commemoration for the thousands of orphan girls sent to Australia from Ireland in the 1850s, held for their descendants. I have also played at the Irish Embassy here in Canberra and spent a weekend performing for a history conference attended by the Irish Ambassador and his wife. In the online community I have met many passionate and talented songwriters, continuing the legacy of poet and singer activists like Phil Ochs, Pete Seeger, Alistair Hulett, Leonard Cohen and Australian John Dengate. I was introduced to British poet Cicely Fox Smith by a Sydney

shanty singing group and went on to set a whole album of her poems to music, and through that work meet a network of sea shanty lovers. If you look for them, the Internet is full of pockets of passionate welcoming communities.

I found the passionate and welcoming Filk community through a local Yass friend in 2017, when he sent me a link to 'Banned from Argo'. Prior to discovering Filk, my main musical interest was Irish rebel songs and other general folk music of Ireland and Scotland. I didn't quite understand the gravity of the situation when Leslie Fish commented on the absurd video I made with my kids to go with my cover of 'Band from Argo'.

"Snicker. I'm familiar with the 'folk process', but when my songs get filked, it's usually the words that get changed!"

Just in the last weeks Eli Goldberg sent me a recording of Leslie and Mary Frohman doing a concert for the Industrial Workers of the World in Chicago in 1974. Leslie had written her own unaccompanied ballad about the Irish war of independence. The body of work and contribution to Filk Leslie has made is staggering, and to share a Zoom circle with her a few times was truly an honour.

Since 2015, I have completed 21 albums of diverse material, ranging from Sea Shanties, to Child Ballads, many social justice songs, two albums of local Yass folklore and history and 3-4 dedicated Filk albums (four if you count the absurd cat-centred Christmas album). My most recent album, 'Tin Foil Cat', was written in three hours and recorded over six days. If you would like to see the scar on my finger that turned out to be the price of demanding so much from the

I have sung since before I could remember, and grew up messing around on my fathers guitars and did formal piano lessons in my final three years of high-school. I've been in choirs as a Bass from high-school, through to university, and was also in a fabulously filk-themed choir at work for 10 years until COVID put a stop to it. Our repertoire included the Dr Who theme, many Lehrer and Coulton songs, a medley of 60s TV show themes and War of the Worlds choral mashup (which I attempted to do on my own on YouTube).

In terms of instruments, I play guitar, piano, harp, bouzouki, bodhran, ukulele, mandolin, a hand-made Anglo-Saxon lyre and some violin (terribly). Hobbies outside of music include Open Source software development (I've heard Richard Stallman speak in person twice, and collaborated with him on my GNU/Linux song), manufacture of real and prop weapons, gardening, painting, writing poetry and learning Irish Gaelic.

I live in Yass, a rural town in Australia (about one hour north of the capital city, Canberra). By day I work as an engineer, and by night I record obscure folk ballads and some original songs in my bedroom studio. With five kids, and a recently completed doctorate in computer science, there is always a lot going on.

Cheers,

Daniel.



Meet Our Honored Listener Mike Gucciard

Generation VII Dragon-type

The Rottweiler Pokémon

Moveset:

BARFLEET EVASIVE MANEUVER

DORSAI PUNCH (Alcoholic)

DORSAI PUNCH (Admission tickets)

DORSAI PUNCH (The punching kind)

Introduced in 2008's commercially unsuccessful and geographically unlikely Pokémon Ohio Valley / Ohio Mountain spin-off, Mike is banned from most tournament play for being over-powered against tipsy furries, which let's admit it, are basically all Pokémon. Found in rocky plateaus, concierge desks, and behind the wheel of anything with wheels.

Mik-- wait, are you sure? He's not a pokémon?

Ahem.

Mike "Gooch" "Scotchy" Gucciard, OVFF 2023 Honored Listener

Mike collects fandom secret societies and has a Dorsai Hat covered in lizards, Barfleet merit badges, and knows the secret handshake to I Can't Tell You. He--

I'm sorry, this section has been confiscated by convention security. Ahem.

Mike "Scotchy" "Gooch" "Uncle Mike" Gucciard, OVFF 2023 Honored Listener

Mike is a longtime interfilk supporter, back row of the concert hall sitter, and guy playing D&D in the hallway of the convention.

A founding member of the League of Resourceful Gentlemen, he springs up unexpectedly with salads and sandwiches when musicians, above such nonsense, are about to faint.

He made the reservation.

He spoke to the front desk.

He held the door and set up the chairs and you're welcome.

Please stop perceiving him before he needs to harrumph uncomfortably and go drive around the block. M--

Apparently I said his name too many times. A thousand pardons.

Mike "Scotchy" "Gooch" "Uncle Mike" "Wrestlemania" Gucciard, OVFF 2023 Honored Listener

WHAT, HE COULD BE A WRESTLER! I mean, I know I wouldn't win against him at arm-wrestling!

Oh fine fine fine.

Mike Gucciard, OVFF 2023 Honored Listener

You've seen him at OVFF before, listening. Year after year of soaking up the magic of the music and offering his quiet support in every way he can.

When asked to be the honored listener, he said "Wait, me? Why?" and his friends said "About damn time!"

If you haven't met him yet, well, it's about damn time, he's a heck of a guy and you'll be glad you did. But shh, the concert is starting.

—Credit to Brooke Abbey



Special Guest Leslie Hudson

Once upon a time there was a baby born with feet first and eyes open. On day one in the world they began to take notes, according to their charge and birthright: Observe humanity, for you must pass as one of them though you are none; your life depends on it. The changeling child began to speak before others and sing even when it seemed no one was listening. But somewhere someone was listening. The dead came to listen, the fae, the unseen made visible to the child, perching on windowsills and the edge of the bed. When the child was sent to their room for some misdeed, they found they had no desire to leave.

Creation came instinctively to the changeling child. Drawing, storytelling, the interplay of colour, harmony. They struggled with perspective and plot, but nailed the tiny details. The apple orchard scented the wind that blew through the window and, over the years, through all the lessons, beyond the practice, a songwriter emerged. They sat at the piano and wrote notes that stayed. They sat in the dark like their mother and learned to listen to the sounds the piano made when their fingers touched the keys. They learned to feel their way across them, measuring distances between notes.

For the changeling teen, order fought chaos in their developing mind. Rarely at peace, there were days they forgot where they came from and why they were here. To learn, yes, but not to be lost. On the busy streets of a new city they tried to leave the shadow of their upbringing behind and dove headfirst into study and spirit. The songs came. Some spat themselves out, some cried, some soared. The first album came, then another. Years

apart, but they came. Life and marriage and profession held sway, but underneath, always, the music flowed like the river beneath Fleet Street.

Then, breakthrough. New ideas, new partnerships, new calling. Stages and studios became the changeling adult's workplace. Eager to learn, they said yes to everything and everyone, learning at lightning speed. Not all of their lessons were musical, and there were casualties, but the changeling grew. They came to see that they lived a chrysalis life, with phases of dark dissolution and brilliant emergence. A life few would understand and some would resent, but a changeling must be what they are. The music comes, as it always has, from places of shadow and light. Ten years of this new life, with their eyes on the horizon, and there is so much yet to create.



Leslie Hudson (they/them) is a Canadian indie musician, recording artist, and award-winning songwriter. Their 13 albums range from storytelling styles to bluesy bar rock to dialed-up, full-band homages to pop culture. With lyrical piano skills and a voice that cuts through the crowd, their songs dive deep into archetype and folklore, modernizing ancient voices & shining a spotlight on the shadowy paths we walk through life, myth and media. Leslie has embarked on multiple international tours, in Canada, the US, and Germany, guested at several cons, and collaborated with dozens of musicians around the world.

More about Leslie can be found at <https://lesliehudson.com/>

About Our Panelists & Performers

Mark Bernstein has been active in filk since 1975. He's a writer of songs, poems, stories, and awful puns, a singer and storyteller, a listener, and a fervent believer in the filk community as a place where everyone who wants to be heard, can be.

Mary Bertke is a woman of many talents. In between ice skating, biking, and fencing in the SCA, she makes time for music by playing tenor banjo and serving on the OVFF Programming Committee, amongst other activities. One wonders how she fits it all in along with her day job- perhaps she does not sleep.

Gray Buchanan is a member of the Starlight Darlins.

Barry Childs-Helton If it's true that "a man is what he thinks about all day," why hasn't this guy turned into a guitar covered with words? Active in fandom/filkdom with wife Sally since the '80s, he edits computer books, writes songs, blogs on LiveJournal, and performs (guitar/bass/vocals) with Wild Mercy.

Sally Childs-Helton is a Percussionist, ethno-musicologist, archivist, educator, rabble-rouser. Filker since 1983 when she dragged drums into the filk room and nobody threw her out. University archivist at Butler University; teaches ethnomusicology; facilitates drumming retreats (www.womendrum.org); teaches guided music improvisation; accompanies and composes for dance, theater, and choruses; performs with improvising quartet Thin Air and eclectic Celtic and filk band Wild Mercy. With husband Barry, inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame in 2003; has several Pegasus Awards for best performer. Filk scholar. Believes everybody is a musician and that almost anything can be a percussion instrument. Mostly harmless.

blind lemming chiffon has been playing guitar since 1966 and fingerpicking since 1968. He was brought up with Allan Sherman and Mad Magazine and has been writing, singing, and filking funny songs since 1970.

Siena Christie is a member of the Starlight Darlins

Dr. Mary Crowell Pianist, clarinetist, and singer, Dr. Mary C Crowell writes jazzy songs about gaming and mythology. She also teaches music theory, piano, and composition at her private studio and accompanies a Presbyterian choir. Mary's most recent album is "I Have Missed You at My Table" (2022) Dr. Crowell performs with Play It With Moxie and Three Weird Sisters, releasing respectively *Play It With Moxie, Live!* (2012) and, *Third Thyme's the Charm* (2012). Both bands formed in Atlanta, Georgia through the GAFIA filk community. Lately she has been collaborating with CSE Cooney and Tina Connolly on a new project: The Devil and Lady Midnight—a delightful, fiendish musical to be released as six podcast episodes. She loves participating in creative challenges like Soul-writers and FAWM. Mary also creates quirky MIDI compositions and arranges instrumental music. She makes silly music videos with a host of creative people on Patreon. <http://patreon.com/drmaryccrowell>.



Eric Distad is a multi-instrumental performer/songwriter from the Pacific Northwest. He is one half of the nerdy filk duo The Faithful Sidekicks, a founding member of February Album Writing Month, and very excited to be performing at OVFF!

Jen Distad is a musical performer/songwriter from Oregon (as well as a queen of spreadsheets). She is one half of the geek pop filk musical duo The Faithful Sidekicks (the cute, snarky one), has a love of parenthetical statements, and is excited to be back at OVFF.

About Our Panelists & Performers

Katy Dröge-Macdonald was born and raised near Hamburg, Germany. She discovered filk in 1990 and has never looked back. She is a Pegasus Award winner and Filk Hall of Fame inductee. Katy has performed together with Ju Honisch (as the duo "Yooh and Katy"); is a part of "Barbership" with Eva and Rafael Van-Daele Hunt and her husband (the worlds first filk barbershop quartet), "DKSM" (with Marilisa Valtazanou), and "Twotonic" (a duo with her husband, Steve).

Cat Faber has written somewhere north of 200 songs in her life, many of them about science fiction, fantasy and other subjects near to filk fandom's collective heart. Known in particular for her lyrics, she also writes melodies and harmonies, and sings and plays the mandolin, as well as dabbling in some other instruments, most recently the violin. She lives in East Tennessee, with her husband, her three canoes, and her growing collection of instruments.

Clif Flynt has been filking since the 1970s. He's best known for being silly (Unreality Warp), ose (Ian the Grim), and irreverent (Preparation H+). But sometimes he tries to make music (Dreams, Geese).

Shirley Frantz I've been into Filk since my first con in 1975, when I heard Leslie Fish doing her Star Trek Filk. I've been to every single OVFF, my biggest claim to fame in Filk Fandom. I've been a fan of unicorns since 1978, and I like to collect unicorn songs.

Dick Green I've been attending science fiction conventions for over forty years and constantly sought out the filk circles. Three years ago I decided it was time to learn how to play the guitar. I've been teaching sailing for decades, was a professor in the WSU College of Engineering for several years, and have a passion to teach what I've learned in life.

Cat Greenberg has been filking since she first discovered it in 1988 and knew she'd found her tribe. Her songs range from original stories, sing-a-longs and re-imagined fairy tales to political statements and history lessons. She's also Filk co-chair of Archon and keeps the local House Filk email list. She hails from the St. Louis, MO area where she lives with four cats, a dog and youngest child, Aidan.

Daniel Gunderson has played in many bands and many styles over the years, and always enjoys a chance to back someone up on stage or in a circle. He's happiest with other musicians, in a circle, in a jam, or on stage. He is comfortable in a variety of styles, and if it has keys, strings, or if he can hit it, he can play it.

Emily Johnson-Erday is a member of the Starlight Darlins.

Sunnie Larsen has been a shining example of a performer from the tender young age of 3, when she discovered that her charm and her ability as a performer could move audiences. Since then, she's developed the skill to lift the hearts of her listeners by adeptly weaving deep emotional notes into the fabric of her musicianship.

Today, she regularly lends her talents to several bands, including Vixy and Tony, the "four-person filk duo" creating original and cover filk music; Bone Poets Orchestra, a psychedelic rock band; providing violin ambiance with fingerstyle guitarist Ronnda Cadle; and she's 1/3rd of improvisational string hat trick Ménage à Trio with Betsy Tinney and Alexander James Adams. She can also be found as guest fiddle and vocalist on a variety of filk and non-filk albums, further proving that she finds comfort and grace on the business end of a microphone.

About Our Panelists & Performers

Steve Macdonald A Michigan native who was transplanted to Germany, Steve Macdonald has been performing filk and folk since the early 80's. He has a bio as long as your arm, and if you corner him somewhere, he'll likely talk your ear off about it. Somehow, he became Chair of this year's OVFF. This may set new records for fannish telecommuting.

Kathy Mar has been singing since she was three, performing since she was sixteen, filking since she was twenty something, and writing songs through most of that. She's seventy-two and still going and would like to be Juanita Coulson when she grows up!

Cathy McManamon is a Chicago area musician with multiple Pegasus nominations for songwriting. She sings, plays acoustic guitar, percussion, wind instruments, and performs solo as well as with Random Fractions, Toyboat, Canticles Productions, and almost anyone else who asks.

Amy McNally has been playing the fiddle for over 35 years. She plays music full-time, so you may see her in one of her many musical configurations, teaching lessons, playing weddings, or at patreon.com/infamousfiddler. She enjoys pie, whiskey, and roller coasters, although probably not all at once.

Mikey Mason spent more than a decade as a full-time standup comedian. In 2011, he released *She Don't Like Firefly* which went viral on YouTube and got him featured on Nerdist online, SyFy, MTV Geek News, The Funny Music Project, DrDemento.com, and even Time magazine. Fourteen albums and seven EPs later, his lifelong love for fantasy, science fiction, cats, and games continues to inspire his music and help him evolve as person and artist. Today his profession is creating art and music with geeky themes. His performances are sharpened by long years of experience as a stand-up comedian. He's performed at theaters, bars, comedy clubs, casinos, colleges, festivals, and conventions

across the US, hosted podcasts, exhibited at art shows, created a coloring book, and more, continually expanding his horizons. His book, *Confessions of a Geek Bard*, was released in June 2023 through Falstaff Books.

Jen Midkiff has been part of the filk community since 2003 (when she learned that it existed, thanks to Barry and Sally Childs-Helton). Last year she had the very great honor of two Pegasus Awards, for Best Performer and Best Furry Friend Song. Perhaps best known for her work as part of filk band Wild Mercy, Jen has slowly been building a catalog of her own original songs. Thirteen of them are collected on her new album, along with her cover of the beloved classic filk song "I Am Stardust".

Judi Miller has been signing filk songs for us at OVFF for many years. She is a two-time winner of the Pegasus Award, and an inductee into the Filk Hall of Fame. Judi brings energy and enthusiasm to every performance she signs, and makes our experience visually as well as auditorily entertaining!

Robin Nakkula is a filker and fan and research scientist, who learned to play guitar in high school when the piano lessons her youngest sister was getting were switched to her middle sister instead of to her as requested. She since went on to realize that it was easier to make science the day job and music the avocation, instead of the other way around (grants & funding is easier to acquire that way). Currently, her time is occupied mostly by the day job (cancer research, finally!) and husband-keeping (Alan Dormire, fan since the 1970's).

Jason Neerenberg has been around filk circles for quite some time and plays bass with Random Fractions and Toyboat. He has recently been working on writing his own songs, some for his band and some for a future solo album, in between teaching high school math and practicing martial arts.

About Our Panelists & Performers

Mark Peters has been involved behind the scenes working the sound systems at OVFF for over 20 years. When he's not doing that, he enjoys going to other cons whenever he gets the chance.

Bill & Gretchen Roper have been filking together and separately for a very long time. By himself, Bill has a reputation for being grim, but together, Bill and Gretchen are usually very funny. They hope that still works post-pandemic.

Jo-Ann Scheffer is known as The Honorable Lady Siri Toivosdotter in the Society for Creative Anachronism. In her real life, she has taught Music from Pre-K to College and professional musicians for more than 35 years, mostly vocal music but she also plays Recorders, Keyboards and Drums. She is looking forward to her first OVFF.

Dave Stagner is a guitarist, songwriter and producer living in Minneapolis. His song Sublime was the 2018 OVFF songwriting contest winner, and This is How Elvis Died was nominated for a Logan Award for Best Original Comedy Song. He has produced numerous filk and filk-adjacent albums, most recently Beth Kinderman's Hero's Journey, and Astrisoni's Sounding with the Stars. He has been a member of numerous filk bands, including Beth Kinderman and the Player Characters, Gernsback Continuum, and the Feng Shui Ninjas. Oh, and he came up with the idea for the LOUD FILK!

Bill Sutton: The Suttons have been a fixture in the filk community since... well, for a while now. They have recorded several albums and are actively involved with the Interfilk Auction at OVFF every year. In addition, they are members of the Filk Hall of Fame and have won numerous Pegasus Awards- singly, together, and as members of other bands like Three Weird Sisters.

Brenda Sutton is half of the duo Bed n' Breakfast, one-third of the Irish trad trio Alair,

one-fourth of Three Weird Sisters, one-? of Dead Sexy, and appears this weekend as one-fourth of a new band: Surreptitious Whiskey. She has won several Pegasus Awards, is a member emeritus of the Interfilk Board of Directors, a founding member of GAFILK, and the conchair for Chambanacon. Brenda is a prolific songwriter who, along with her husband Bill Sutton, teaches music and lyric writing workshops at conventions and the Biannual Slumberbardy. She also teaches the Irish language and the bodhrán for the Irish Arts Academy of Indianapolis. Her music appears on numerous albm, and she regularly backs up other performers.

Betsy Tinney is a professional cellist in the Pacific Northwest, known for her graceful musicality, her talent for improvisation, and her broad versatility. Highly sought after for studio recording and live accompaniment, she has performed with and recorded with many different groups, ranging from solo acoustic musicians to large rock bands. Her contributions to each are unique and are, as she explains, "whatever the song wants." Betsy's solo cello work, a tapestry of acoustic cello woven with an electric looper, has been called "captivating," "mesmerizing," and "a rich texture for the ear, reminiscent of dark chocolate and fine red wine." She has won several Pegasus Awards, including Best Performer. When not behind her cello, Betsy is a web designer/developer, visual artist and calligrapher, and part-time pixie. Website: www.betsytinney.com.

Gerry & Sandy Tyra We were first introduced to Filk while in collage when we met Mike Longcor. Our first SF convention was MidAmeriCon. Gerry wanted to do some experiments in acoustics. We considered how to get field experience and EmpireCon (WesterCon 52) became our first gig. Since then we have worked a few cons here and there. We were Interfilk guest at Filk Ontario in 2009. The Microphone Petting Zoo is part of the ongoing science experiments in sound support and acoustics. To pay the bills, Gerry is a Software Engineer (aka code monkey).

About Our Panelists & Performers

Debora VanHeyningen is best known for filking in Zoom circles, with her pet parrot (and occasional backup singer) Basil on her shoulder. She's been a geek her entire life, and a filk fan since 1988, when she walked into a room at ConFusion, to hear Tom Smith singing "Temperature of Revenge". She generally performs a capella, and enjoys both singing filk classics and learning new songs. Once in a blue moon, she'll even write something herself. When not pursuing her various hobbies, she works in a medical research lab at University of Michigan, studying respiratory virus immunology.

The Starlight Darlins are a four-piece band of acclaimed singer-songwriters Lauren Oxford, Emily Johnson-Erday, Gray Buchanan, and Siena Christie. The Darlins formed at Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas, in September 2022. Their unique blend of deep friendship, four-part harmony, old-time instrumentation, and stunning original songs altogether creates what can only be described as magic.

Surreptitious Whiskey formed during the pandemic as a fun way for a musically-inclined plague pod to pass the time. Members Bill and Brenda Sutton, Kathy Coutinho, and Stephen Hoogerwerf met through the Society for Creative Anachronism, so much of Surreptitious Whiskey's music touches medieval and fantastical themes.





Atlanta, Georgia
January 5 - 7, 2024



The First RelaxaFILKCON!

- "My Filk" Panel Game Show
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- One (1) Track of Programming!
- Champagne New Year's Party
- Hoity-Toity Dinner Dance featuring *Play It With Moxie!*
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Guests of Honor:
Summer Lorraine Russell

Toastmistress:
Madison Metricula Roberts

Interfilk Guest:
PDX Broadsides

AND...
Our Super Secret Guest(s):
Sssssh...

Registration Info

Until November 30, 2023: \$50
At the Door: \$60
Banquet: \$45

Be a techno-savy geek!
Register online at:
www.gafilk.org



**NOMINEES FOR THE 2023 PEGASUS AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE IN FILKING**



The ballot for voting at OVFF will be found at

<http://www.ovff.org/pegasus/ballot/>

At-Convention balloting will open immediately following the Pegasus Nominees Concert on Friday night, and will close at 12:01 AM, Saturday, October 28, 2023.

Missing the Best Performer and Best Writer/Composer categories in the Concert? Visit the Concert Annex to see videos of our Nominees!

<https://tinyurl.com/OVFFConcertAnnex>

You may only submit one Final Ballot. Should you submit more than one Ballot, only the most recent one will be counted.

We would especially like to thank Mark Peters and all the artists for their kind support and permission to use their copyrighted recordings.

Thank you for your participation!!

BEST FILK SONG

- Being Watson*
by Kari Maaren
- Fight Like A Girl*
by Erin & Rand Bellavia
- Following Our Dreams*
by Lawrence Dean
- Future Me*
by Robert Beckwith
- Our Kind of Strange*
by Jen & Eric Distad

BEST CLASSIC FILK SONG

- Apology*
by Bill & Gretchen Roper
- Before the Dawn*
by Mike Whitaker
- The Dark Man*
by Paul Kwinn
- Die Puppen (The Dolls)*
by Eva Van Daele-Hunt
- Small Designs*
by Barry Childs-Helton

BEST PERFORMER

- Tim Griffin
- Sunnie Larsen
- Loewenthal
- Summer Russell
- Via Bella

BEST WRITER/COMPOSER

- Peter Alway
- Daniel Kelly
- Beth Kinderman
- John McDaid
- Lauren Oxford

BEST ADAPTED SONG

- Come to Mordor*
by Jeff Bohnhoff
- Do You Want to Build an Iron Man?*
by Lawrence Dean
- Grill Fire*
by Bob Kanefsky
- Meat*
by Kathleen Sloan
- Whiskey in the Jawa*
by Eric Distad

BEST SCIENCE SONG

- Poisoned Apples*
by Don Neill
- Shoulders of Giants*
by Tim Griffin
- Spiral Dance*
by Dr. Anne Prather
- Spirals In Your Eyes*
by Peter Alway
- Water*
by Cathy McManamon



The Pegasus Awards

The Pegasus Awards were founded to recognise and honor excellence in filking.

Any member of the worldwide filk community is eligible to win. Past Nominees have hailed from the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, Australia, and Singapore as well as the United States.

The Pegasus is an ongoing project throughout the year - there's almost ALWAYS *something* you can vote on! Between now and April, fill out a Brainstorming Poll of filkers and songs that you think are cool, nifty, or just plain good. You can fill out one, or a thousand polls.

From May to July, you can submit one Nominating Ballot to help determine the five Nominees in each category who will be on the Final Ballot.

And from September to OVFF, anyone with an interest in the filk community can submit a Final Ballot to help select one of this year's six Pegasus Award winners! MP3 samples, lyrics, and short bios

of all nominees can be found online on the Pegasus Awards site:

<http://www.ovff.org/pegasus/>

Remember, you do not need to be a paid member of OVFF to vote.

The results are tabulated, and then presented at the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening at OVFF. The Awards Ceremony is open to the general membership of OVFF (you don't need a banquet ticket to watch the action!).

Do you know someone who you feel deserves accolade? Fill out the Brainstorming Poll! Curious about whether or not a song is eligible for Nomination? Looking for lyrics of past

Winners or Nominees? Check out the Pegasus site.

The Pegasus Awards only has the meaning that you (the filk community) choose to give it. Your participation in the Awards is needed, and deeply appreciated.



Past Pegasus Award Winners

2022

Best Filk Song:	<i>The Entwife</i> by Summer Russell
Best Classic Filk Song:	<i>Helva's Song</i> by Cecilia Eng
Best Performer:	Jen Midkiff
Best Writer/Composer:	Cecilia Eng
Best Furry Friend Song:	<i>Underfoot</i> by Jen Midkiff
Best Song That Tells A Story:	<i>Nine hundred and ninety-nine</i> by Mich Sampson & Marilisa Valtazanou

2021

Best Filk Song:	<i>Second-Hand Heaven</i> by Lawrence Dean
Best Classic Filk Song:	<i>Nessie, Come Up</i> by Dr. Jane Robinson
Best Performer (a tie!):	The Faithful Sidekicks Rhiannon's Lark
Best Writer/Composer:	Lawrence Dean
Best Mad Science Song:	<i>I Built A Time Machine</i> by Eric Distad
Best Cheery-Ose Song:	<i>Tiny Kraken</i> by Rhiannon's Lark

Past Pegasus Award Winners

2020

Best Filk Song (a tie!):	<i>Child of the Library</i> by Piers & Gill Cawley <i>Mordred's Lullaby</i> by Heather Dale
Best Classic Filk Song:	<i>Somebody Will</i> by Ada Palmer
Best Performer:	Margaret & Kristoph
Best Writer / Composer:	Andrew Ross
Best Media Song:	<i>Goodnight, Sarah Jane</i> by Talis Kimberley
Best Space Song:	<i>Following in Valentina's Footsteps</i> by Valerie Housden

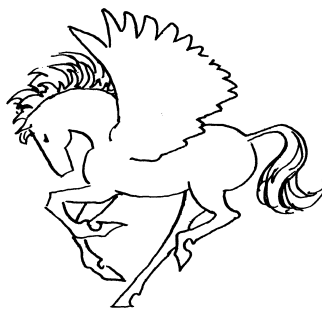
2019

Best Filk Song:	<i>Lucy on the Line</i> by Tim Griffin
Best Classic Filk Song:	<i>Ship of Stone</i> by Don Simpson
Best Performer:	Playing Rapunzel
Best Writer / Composer:	Eva Van Daele-Hunt
Best Sing-Along Song:	<i>Gone Filkin'</i> by Tom Jeffers
Best Family Song:	<i>Golden Rule</i> by Sabine Kinder

2018

Best Filk Song:	<i>Pageant Legend</i> by Katy Dröge-Macdonald & Ju Honisch
Best Classic Filk Song:	<i>Creature of the Wood</i> by Heather Alexander & Philip Obermarck
Best Performer (a tie!):	Random Fractions Twotonic
Best Writer / Composer:	Leslie Hudson
Best Roadtrip Song (a tie!):	<i>Oregon Trail</i> by Tim Griffin <i>Road to Santiago</i> by Heather Dale
Best Song About Community:	<i>Many Hearts, One Voice</i> by Steve Macdonald

For more Pegasus Winners (back to 1984!) see <http://www.ovff.org/pegasus>



Closing Notes

Being the Chair of OVFF while living in Germany offers some unique challenges. Fortunately, the technical lessons we learned from the pandemic (and Zoom) have made it possible for us to take this journey together.

I would like to thank our amazing Guests this year (Summer Russell, Lauren Oxford, Michael Gucciard DI, Daniel Kelly, and Leslie Hudson). They have been exceptional GoH's, and have really set the tone for the amazing weekend we have had!

I would also like to personally thank the insane members of the OVFF Concom and Board: Doug Cottrill, Roberta Slocumb, Linnea & Leslie Davis, Emily Vasquez-Coulson, Sally Kobee, Elizabeth Huffman, Lyn Spring, Mark Peters, Dave Tucker, Chandra Morgan-Henley, BJ Mattson, Mary Frost Pierson, J. Elaine Richards, Robin Nakkula, and Kat Sharp for all their help and support for the convention this year. They are also the ones crazy enough to think that it was possible to run this convention with their Chair living six hours in the future... Nothing that happened this weekend would have been possible without their work throughout the year to make this weekend happen.

At the end of the day, I would be totally remiss without also thanking YOU- the person reading this missive. These weekends are magical because it is only together that we can make them that way.

Harmony cannot happen without more than one voice- you play a vital role in breathing life into our world.

Just as this year came sneaking up and was suddenly here, next year is just around the corner! Join us back here at the Doubletree for OVFF 40 (40?!? HOW DID WE GET TO 40?!).

Joining us from Germany will be our GoH Pair O' Dice (Eva & Rafael Van Daele-Hunt) and Toast Franklin Gunkelmann! Our Listener GoH will be Xap Esler, and our Interfilk Guest is Heather Preston! The convention theme is 'Keep Calm and Filk On', and our songwriting contest theme is 'The Ministry of Disinformation'!

Lastly, I'll leave you with a quote that Diana Huey used in the closing of OVFF in 2001:

"Great music is that which penetrates the ear with facility and leaves the memory with difficulty. Magical music never leaves the memory."- Thomas Beecham (1879-1961)

May you all take magic home with you.

*"We belong together
Our paths the same by choice
Many hearts, one voice"*

Steve Macdonald



ConChair OVFF 39

Ohio Valley Filk Fest 40

October 25-27, 2024

GUEST OF HONOR

Pair O' Dice

(Eva + Rafael Van Daele-Hunt)

TOASTMASTER

Franklin Gunkelmann

HONORED LISTENER

Xap Esler

INTERFILK GUEST

Heather Preston

Doubletree Hotel

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