**The 41st Washington Folk Festival**

**Glen Echo Park, MD**

**Saturday, June 3 & Sunday, June 4**

**12 – 7pm Each Day, Rain or Shine, FREE!**

We are excited to announce that the Washington Folk Festival is nearly upon us! For more than four decades, this beloved annual event has presented a diverse array of music, myriad styles of dancing, captivating storytellers, and artisans in a marketplace of beautiful crafts — all by people who live in the Washington region.

You’ll experience a variety of American music styles like bluegrass, honkytonk, blues, swing jazz, old-timey, rockabilly, skiffle, and gospel. From abroad, savor offerings from the British Isles, Mexico, North India, Scandinavia, Afghanistan, Greece, Italy, Slovakia, Paraguay, Spain, the Balkans, and more. Prepare to move with dances including English country, contra, klezmer, bal folk, waltz, tango, Cajun, Middle Eastern, Bulgarian, and swing, with fantastic bands and expert callers who know their stuff.

There are some new performers this year to check out. **Crooked Sparrow, Fiddlin’ Wille Band,** and **Badger Crossing** offer roots, bluegrass, and traditional folk styleswhile singer-songwriters **Susan Rowe** and **Rick Landers** present contemporary originals. Miles Spicer, Marcy Cochran, and Jael Patterson join forces to form the new blues trio **Spice Cake**. On the international side, **Nordensong** brings Scandinavian and Celtic tunes on unique instruments, **DC Ambience** plays hot jazz of Paris in the 1930s and 40s, and the **Rigatoni Quartet** takes us to, you guessed it, Italy, to relish songs of immigrants. And **Madwitch** transports us to a raucous renaissance faire. It’s a veritable cornucopia!

Of course, we’ll anticipate the return of perennial festival favorites and recent additions to the festival too such as blues groups **DC Mudd**, **Alpha Dog, Blue Panamuse**, **Rick Franklin** with **Tom Mindte, Ian Walters** withmaster harmonica player and National Heritage Fellow **Phil Wiggins,** and thetrio of **Sol Roots, Jay Summerour & Eric Selby.** You'll enjoy bluegrass and old timey musicfrom **Pictrola, Flower Hill String Band, Randy Barrett, King Street Bluegrass, and Sweet Yonder.** Hear country and rockabilly by **Dede & the Do-Rights, Ruthie & the Wranglers, Crayfish Sisters, Karen Collins & Backroads Band.** The **Rock-A-Sonics, Djangolaya, DC Ambience,** and **Foggy Bottom Whomp Stompers** present vintage jazz styles. **Abbie Palmer** brings alternative harp music and **Christylez Bacon** delights with hip-hop fusion.

Groups performing a variety of new and roots music include **Annette Wasilik and the Porchmen, Esther Haynes, Joe Uehlein & the U-Liners**, **Shenandoah Run, Isn’t That So, Bill Baker Band**, **Black Workers Center Chorus, Andrew Acosta Band, Sweater Set,** and **Capitol Hillbillies.**  A cappella groups **Reverb** and **Mutual Agreement** share gospel, originals, and pop classics. **Urban Artistry** demonstrates dance and movement inspired by urban traditions, while the **Cutting Edge Rapper Sword** and **Sligo Creek Sword** exhibit exciting rapper sword dances, but in a workshop this year, all can participate!

Performers representing international cultures from around the globe return this year too. They include **Trio Sefardi**, **Flamenca Aparicio**, **Fez Tones**, **Soumya Chakraverty**, **Karpouzi Trio, Humayun Khan, Washington Toho Koto Society**, **Machaya**, **Halau Ho'omau I ka Wai Ola O Hawai'i,** and **Raymi**. Others include **Orfeia**, **Art Spencer**, **Orchester Praževica,** **Lyuti Chushki**, **Samovar Russian Folk Music Ensemble, Tower Green, DeSanguashington,** **Mrs. Toretsky’s Nightmare, Grupo Fénix**, **Tom Teasley**, **Spelmanslag**, **Gabby’s Hawaiian Jam**, and **Paraguayan Harpist** **Hector Muñoz**.

Celtic sounds and demonstration are covered by **Lilt**, **Blackwood & Brass**, the **Culkin School of Traditional Irish Dance**, and the **Maryland Youth Pipe Band**. As in past years, the **Pipe Band** along with **Eric Rice-Johnston** will start off the festival on Saturday with a march from the parking lot into the park! Not to be missed, the **Chinese Lion Dance** parades through the park to start the day on Sunday.

Besides music performances and dance demonstrations, no fewer than 20 storytellers on a dedicated stage will be regaling us with yarns of mischief and adventure, fairy tales, originals, and a joke swap! Some of those raconteurs include **Barbara Effron, Gayle Turner, Miriam Nadel, Bonnie Gardner, MyLinda Butterworth, Jane Dorfman, Marc Young**, and **Bill Mayhew**.

As usual, there will be several showcases: one telling us about the craft of songwriting, another presenting percussion styles, and another showcasing ballads. There will also be a tribute to Lisa Null, our treasured and much missed Folklore Society pillar, celebrated folk singer, longtime programmer of the festival and board member of FSGW, and beloved partner of Charlie Baum. We will also be honoring Pete Kraemer at this festival, a long-time member of FSGW, talented musician, and an engaging emcee on the Palisades stage for many years. Both Lisa and Peter left us too soon.

And finally, don't miss the **New Sunshine Skiffle Band** who will continue the longstanding tradition of closing the festival on Sunday with a rousing musical ending.

Bring the whole family! Besides the playground and historic Dentzel Carousel, everyone can revel in the picnic area jam sessions, indulge in ice cream treats, and enjoy the food and beverages provided by the Praline Bakery. They can also meet the artists-in-residence around the park. Watch out for the **Morris Dancers**, who will be performing spontaneously on the walkways!

The festival is presented by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington; the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, in cooperation with the National Park Service; and with support from the Richmond Folk Festival, donors, and volunteers. WOWD-LP Takoma Park Radio is the official media sponsor of the Washington Folk Festival 2023. [www.takomaradio.org](http://www.takomaradio.org)

Would you like to get involved in helping to run the festival? Visit [www.washingtonfolkfestival.org](http://www.washingtonfolkfestival.org) to volunteer. Just a few hours of your time will help the festival run smoothly and you’ll have great fun too. You will also find on the site the full program schedule and more information about the performers. “Like” the Washington Folk Festival on Facebook! Spread the word!

Parking on-site is limited, so please take advantage of the festival shuttle from the free satellite parking at the Waverly parking lot located at 7400 Waverly Street, Bethesda, MD 20814, one block from the Bethesda Metro station on the Red Line. See you there on June 3 and 4!