

# Folk Music Society of New York, Inc.

Virtual Fall Weekend November 6 – 8, 2020

Workshops are 45 minutes each

## Friday November 6

- 7:30 PM **Intro to Staff**  
Staff introduce their workshops and do a number or two.
- 8:30 PM approx General chat and sing

## Saturday November 7

- 10:00 AM **Spoken not Sung** (Heather Wood)
- 11:00 AM **Paddy West's School of Sailor Stuff** (Chris Koldewey)
- 12:00 noon **Filipin(x/a/o) Music** (Vox Hunters — Armand Aromin & Benedict Gagliardi)
- 1:00 PM Lunch and general chat
- 2:00 PM **Songwriting Workshop: Finding Inspiration from Traditional Folk Music** (John Ziv)
- 3:00 PM **Sailors & Sweethearts** (John Roberts & Lisa Preston)
- 4:00 PM **My Songs Have Fleas** (Vox Hunters)
- 5:00 PM **Camper Concert I:** Anyone can sign up for a spot
- 6:00 PM Dinner and general chat
- 7:00 PM **Concert:** Chris, John & Lisa, Vox Hunters
- 8:30 PM approx General chat & sing

## Sunday November 8

- 10:00 AM **Songs of the Spirit** (hosted by Clarice Kjerulff)
- 11:00 AM **Collier Lads and Lasses** (John & Lisa)
- 12:00 noon **Surf and Turf from NYS and New England** (Chris)
- 1:00 PM **Camper Concert II**, chat, and Farewell

## Workshop Descriptions

### Saturday November 7

10:00 AM: **Spoken not Sung** (Heather)  
Stories, poems, and monologs, read or recited. Definitely participatory. Anything (legal!) goes.

11:00 AM: **Paddy West's School of Sailor Stuff** (Chris)  
Ever wonder just how those old sea chanties were used during the age of sail? Join Chris in his description and "virtual" demonstration of the working of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Square-Rigger, and the specific songs that helped get those various jobs done together and more easily. By use of a PowerPoint demonstration, and Chris' knowledge gained after a 20-year association with the demonstration squad of Mystic Seaport Museum and sailing the square-riggers, participants will sail a 19<sup>th</sup> Century vessel through Cyberspace, singing as we go. Time will be allotted for questions and answers.

12:00 noon: **Filipin(x/a/o) Music** (Armand & Benedict)  
Under the dark shroud of the Pandemic, a dull glint was spotted in the peripheral. Upon closer examination, and with coarse steel wool and burning curiosity in hand, a silver sliver of an opportunity to explore Armand's own heritage was revealed! Feast your ears on some fiddlefully filtered Filipin(x/a/o) folk music: it's like a new exciting cuisine but served to you on the same dishware that feels like home. And, although you can't quite put a finger on it, you'll find flavors that are familiar to you despite its newness. You may find yourself wondering, *what is that flavor? I've tasted it before!* And while you contemplate that feeling in the pit of your stomach, we'll learn how to count in Tagalog (via song, of course), and also open up the Virtual Filipino Instrument Petting Zoo for all those in attendance.

2:00 PM: **Songwriting Workshop: Finding Inspiration from Traditional Folk Music** (John Ziv)

Keeping traditional folk music alive includes opportunities for contemporary interpreters of traditional song to tell their own stories through music. This workshop will explore the influences of traditional folk music on the songwriters at the weekend. Workshop participants will have an opportunity to present their own songs during the workshop, time permitting, as well as during the camper concerts later in the program.

3:00 PM: **Sailors & Sweethearts** (John & Lisa)

Traditional ballads and songs of faithful lovers, parted by the distance of time and the sea, who struggle successfully or not, to reunite against all odds. Also included are women gone to sea in sailor's dress to retrieve their missing mates, and the one maid who prevails to walk all alone on the shore.

4:00 PM: **My Songs Have Fleas!** (Benedict and Armand)

In the folk music world, fleas (=insects of the order Siphonaptera) are usually only thought of while tuning a ukulele. Thankfully(?), after a few years of dredging through various resources, Ben has compiled a small treasure-trove of obscure flea-related songs and dance tunes that he is itching to share. This multimedia workshop will feature woeful broadside ballads; 19th century parodies and comic songs; games songs; fiddle tunes; and stories of morals, monsters and romance; all interspersed with informative digressions into the biology and life history and folklore of fleas.

5:00 PM: **Camper Concert** Anyone can sign up for a spot

7:00 PM: **Concert:** Chris, John & Lisa, Vox Hunters

## **Sunday November 8**

10:00 AM: **Songs of the Spirit**, hosted by Clarice Kjerulff (Participatory). Songs of the spirit are many and varied, and include everything from super serious dirges, Gregorian chants, long Hindu and Buddhist mantras, Bach cantatas, and, of course, rousing hymns about going to Heaven, acquiring a mansion, and sitting around gaping at a jewel-encrusted throne. If there is a heaven, I'm not sure I would want to spend thousands of years looking at a throne, but if there is group singing and wonderful adhoc harmonies, I would want to be there. Bring whatever kind of song of the spirit that cheers you on, and join in with the (Zoom) angel band. Sadly, no room of celestial harmonies over Zoom, but we can keep our spirits up until we can all meet and sing and harmonize together again.

11:00 AM: **Collier Lads and Lasses** (John & Lisa)

Though coal mining is a declining industry, now essentially non-existent in Britain, the trade has been a major source of folk song and folklore. Here is a selection of songs of the coal miner ("collier" in the UK), his life, his loved ones, and his dangerous occupation.

12 noon: **Surf and Turf from NYS and New England** (Chris)

Ballads, Songs and Stories collected primarily from New York State and New England. Songs will be from those collected by some of the cornerstones of folk music collecting in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and from some of the singers who carried on the traditions with their own songs.