



November 2007

TFTM *news*

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

Meet Sharon Goldwasser

By Susan Tomlinson

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music was recently the beneficiary of a concert performed by Sharon Goldwasser at the San Pedro Chapel, Ft. Lowell district. We wanted to thank Sharon for her generosity and get to know her a bit better.



Sharon began her musical journey in fourth grade when string orchestra was offered at her elementary school. She learned to play the violin in school and began private lessons in seventh grade. Although she was complimented initially with playing well, she could not master vibrato that was essential to classical music. She quit playing violin in tenth grade, choosing instead to teach herself guitar and sing folk songs. At the time, there was no traditional music offered in her area and she had no idea she would play the fiddle in the future.

Sharon's parents were square dancers, so Sharon was somewhat familiar with the basics when she came across contra-dancing during college at UC

Santa Cruz. During college she continued the guitar, played around with the recorder and lap dulcimer, and then her violin was stolen. Music took a back-seat as her interest in birding accelerated.

She took up the recorder again after meeting her husband, Chuck Williamson while going to school at U of A. There she also saw Craig (*cont. pg 3*).

FOURTH QUARTER DANCE SCHEDULE

Location: First United Methodist Church, 915 4th Street.,

Time: 7:30 Free Introductory Lesson 8:00 Dance

Cost: \$8 public; \$7 TFTM members; \$6 Student

First Timers?: Receive a Second Dance Free card.

Nov. 3 Buz Lloyd and Friends with
Becky Nankivel

NOV. 8 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL - THURSDAY
DANCE -DANCE IN THE DESERT -
\$10.00 YMCA CAMP - ORACLE, AZ

Nov. 17 The Privy Tippers with
Don Cople and Laila Lewis

NOT AT CHURCH...CHECK WEBSITE FOR LOCATION!

Nov. 24 Open Band with J.P. Thom-Gronachan

Dec. 1 The Jumping Chollas with
Donna Howell

(how many dancers remember Donna?)

Dec. 15 Round the House and Claire Zucker

Dec. 22 Hands Four with Becky Nankivel

Dec. 29 NO DANCE

Dec. 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE!

Open Band and Callers

**SPECIAL NOTE: New Year's Dance at the First United
Methodist Church this year, NOT at the Temple of
Music and Art**

The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

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The Tucson Friends of Traditional Music

P.O. Box 40654, Tucson, AZ 85717-0654

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music (TFTM)

Is dedicated to keeping the traditions of community music and dance alive and growing in Tucson. TFTM sponsors and promotes concerts, dances, workshops and informal music sessions. Through these activities and a newsletter publication, TFTM builds awareness, educates, and fosters diversity in music and dance in the Tucson community.

Tucson Friends of Traditional Music is incorporated in the State of Arizona as a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

For more info visit www.tftm.org or call us at 520-408-6181

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Tinney in the halls who encouraged her to "bring your guitar to the dance." Contradances were free if you brought your instrument.

Sharon progressed from playing the guitar to wanting to play the melodies at a dance. She tried to do so on a recorder, switched to mandolin and eventually back to the violin/fiddle. There was a gap of twenty years between putting down her violin and picking up the fiddle in the traditional music scene. Sharon explains "When I discovered traditional music, the enjoyment of participating and sharing tunes with other people really inspired me to keep learning more. It's a social experience as well as a musical one. And playing for dancers can be incredible... I remember the first time I experienced the phenomenon called entrainment in playing for dancers. It's something that happens at a dance, where suddenly, I feel like I'm no longer playing the music but just a conduit the music is moving through and carrying along the dancers. That feeling can happen in a great jam session or stage performance too."

Open band and jam sessions are credited with moving Sharon through her learning experiences in traditional music. Along the way she classified herself as a "white bread fiddle player", one who does not have a particular style. She attended many workshops in California and Boston and took the opportunities available to her to study with great Irish fiddlers. The most recent, Randal Bays, an American Irish fiddler, was her inspiration to do a solo concert.

Sharon wanted to take her music to the next level and received grants from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and the Tucson Pima Arts Council to go to Whidbey Island, Washington where Randal lives. She had committed herself to a recital/concert upon her return as a means to motivate her to practice, practice, practice. She housesat in Whidbey as she spent a week of two-hour a day lessons with Randal. She practiced three to four hours a day.

Upon her return she prepared for the concert to incorporate all she learned from Randal. Sharon claimed it took a lot of chutzpah to publicize and promote a concert of Irish music when her last name is Goldwasser. Even as the day of the concert dawned she wondered, "What was I thinking???"

Of course the concert was enjoyed by all that attended! Sharon wanted to thank her family and everyone in Round the House (Dave, Chuck, Claire, and Mark) who supported her goals and efforts. Sharon wanted to give back to the communities who supported her also. By donating to the Ft. Lowell Neighborhood, she is helping them continue to restore the chapel. Sharon felt she could best thank TFTM by helping fund opportunities for other musicians through scholarships or subsidies for future workshops.

(Dance Gypsy in England cont)

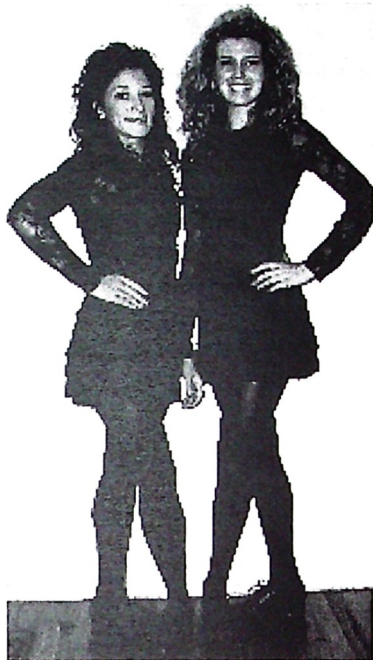
The dance hall was a wonderful large room, with a lovely wooden floor and a large stage for the band. Of course the band was Wild Asparagus, so the music and calling was excellent. There were contras nightly, with a special evening set aside for the local dancers. The dancing was terrific, with flowing dances and experienced dancers going with the flow and twirling the nights away.

We really looked forward to seeing the locals performing the "real" English Country dances that Contra is based on, but we were in for a surprise. We knew as the week went on that the locals were all very high energy dancers, which I attributed to most of them being college-aged and athletic. But our evening with the locals was an experience we weren't prepared for. As best we could tell, the local interpretation of English country dance involved many very complicated maneuvers with only an occasional recognizable step followed by full-on chase and pursuit to semi-random places in the line. Apparently our familiar version of English Country Dance is based on the historical rather than the current.

Additionally, there was a group from Cambridge performing the art form known as "Molly Dancing". This was certainly the highlight of the dance week. The energy and precision of the Molly Dancers (in full costume) was astonishing and hugely entertaining. The dance seemed like martial steps combined with energetic posturing as performed by court jesters. Even the couple from Cambridge (the leaders of the Molly Dancers it turns out), who would contradance an entire night without breaking a sweat, were completely winded by the performance. Thunderous applause greeted the end of each of their dances.

At the end of each evening's dancing we retired to the local pub. Arrangements were made for us to 'take over' the pub each night, as it was required by law to close at 11, the ending time of our dances. But we were able to get together after every dance night, order up our evening's worth of stout, and bond with the other campers. A great time, even for very light drinkers like Susan and myself. Rita and Garr, a couple from Long Island we met there showed up one evening this past year at our local dance. Small world, the contradance community!

We had a terrific time on our dance trip, and I've run out of room without being able to describe the Cathedral, day trips to London as well as the Queen's Summer Home and a tour of Oliver Cromwell's house or our first week in York. Try vacationing around contradancing...you won't be disappointed!



Téada's IRISH CHRISTMAS IN AMERICA

Saturday, December 1st
2:00pm and 8:00pm
Berger Performing Arts Center

Six of Ireland's top traditional musicians, including 3 members of Téada, the lead vocalist of Danú, Ireland's top harp player, and an Irish (uilleann) pipe player, are coming to Tucson, lead by All Ireland's champion fiddler Oisín Mac Diarmada. The show adds two of America's award-winning Irish dancers to present a multi-media show celebrating Ireland's traditions.

Two Tucson shows on Saturday, December 1st include a 2 pm show opened by local band Round the House.

Both shows include Irish step dancing, a slide show of Ireland, and Irish music and song. Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh, who sings and plays flute and whistle was last here with the band Danú in March of 2006. Other musicians are Sean McElwain, guitar/banjo, Tristan Rosenstock, Irish drum (bodhran), Grainne Hambly, Irish harp and Tommy Martin, uilleann pipes. The dancers are Sienna Hickey and Abby Magill.

All Reserved Seating. \$25; \$23 seniors and students, in advance on line at www.inconcerttucson.com, with seat selection.

For the 2pm show only tickets children 6-18 are just \$8, available at the two outlets below. Ages 6-18 \$10 at door. Tickets also available at Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Avenue and the Folk Shop, 2525 N. Campbell.

On line fee is \$3/ticket, mailing available. Door tickets \$3 more: \$28, \$26 seniors, students.

The Berger Performing Arts Center is at ASDB, 1200 West Speedway. Presented by In Concert!, Tucson and Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association. Supported by the Tucson Pima Arts Council. For disability seats or more information, call Don Gest at In Concert!: 981-1475

DANCE IN THE DESERT EARLY BIRD DANCE OPEN TO ALL

The Early Bird dance on Thursday evening, November 8th is open to the general public. The fee for that dance will be \$10.00 per person. The dance begins at 7:30 p.m. and run until 10 p.m.

Air Dance and many of our local musicians will be playing. It should be a great evening. This is an excellent opportunity for those who are unable to attend the Dance in the Desert camp to listen and dance to our extraordinary talent.

The location of the dance is the dance hall at the YMCA Triangle Y camp in Oracle, Arizona. Check the DITD link on the TFTM.org website for directions.

Please also note that if you have NOT signed up for EBS, you MUST leave the Y Camp after the dance on Thursday evening as the rest of EBS is closed to those not already registered for it. Car-pooling is a great idea.

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ENGLISH & SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCES

Come learn a bit of history and dance at the TFTM/"Seven Pipers Society" Country Dances.

The dances will take place at the United Methodist Church hall at 915 E. 4th St, adjacent to The University of Arizona. No experience or dance partner is needed. All dances begin at 7 p.m. with instruction throughout. Refreshments are served. A donation of \$5 per person is appreciated.

These are the schedule dance parties for the season:

December 20:	Christmas party,
February 14:	Valentine's Day Party
April 3:	Tartan Day Party

The music will be provided by a new ensemble called "The Silver Lining" Fiddle: William W. Don Carlos; Piano & Recorders: Dr. Janne E. Irvine; Piano Accompaniment: Dr. Stephanie Don Carlos; Callers: TBA Refreshment Arrangements and other details: TBA

COTTONWOOD CAPER - A NEW CONTRADANCE WEEKEND

JANUARY 18 - 19, 2008

Callers: New Mexico's Richard Wilson
Arizona's Claire Zucker and Deb Comley
Bands: The Privy Tippers, Updraft, and Round the House

Info @ 623-979-4875 judy.norman@juno.com
Check flyer table at dances for registration forms

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! 2008 EVENTS:

- Special Dance - March 9: Donna Hebert, Jane Rothfield and Max Cohen with Tod Whittemore calling.
- Workshops - Potluck - Dance
- (www.dhebert.com/groovemama.html)

JOIN TUCSON FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC!

Membership benefits include: Discounts on many events, including all TFTM events, plus a subscription to this newsletter and free classified listings in the newsletter.

Send this form and your check to: TFTM, P.O. Box 40654, Tucson, AZ 85717-0654

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Yes, Include me in the TFTM contact email listing

I am a multi-talented individual with a friendly personality and willing heart to help with:

Dance Camp Newsletter Sound
 WEBSITE! Contra Dances
 Special Events FUNd Raising

TFTM is a solely volunteer motivated and run, non-profit organization dedicated to having a great deal of fun. Please do what you can to partake in all the fun and to add to the enjoyment of fellow members, dancers and music lovers!



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