

T.F.T.M. Newsletter

TUCSON FRIENDS of TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Vol. 6 No. 7
October 1981

TUCSON MEET YOURSELF

Well friends, it's that time of year again. The eight edition of Tucson Meet Yourself will take place over the weekend of Oct. 9-11 in its usual location, downtown El Presidio Park. The crew at the Southwest Folklore Center is hard at work on posters, program, publicity, and the thousand things that must get done before opening night. It's coming together nicely, and I thought I'd give the TFTM a bit of a preview. (For an article on the festival in general, see this month's Tucson Magazine.)

The shape of the festival will be pretty much as it always has been. It runs Friday evening from 7 till 10; Saturday all day from 11 AM till 11 PM; and Sunday afternoon from 1 till 5. There will be a main stage over by the City Hall, booths selling food all over the place, and a crafts demonstration and workshop area up the ramp at the south end of the park. Food will be in the same profusion and variety as always. As far as we can tell, all the usual kinds of food will be served. (That's Mexican, Papago, Yaqui, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, Scots, Greek, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Irish, Cuban, Filipino, Vietnamese, Lao, Spanish, Armenian, Lebanese, Indian, Japanese, and Soul Food) In addition, Danish, Brazilian, and Chinese organizations will be setting up booths for the first time.

The theme for this year's festival is the family as a setting in which the skills we feature are nurtured and preserved, and many of our regular families will be back. The Camps with their western harmonies, the Venutis with their Mandola and guitar instrumentals, the Jenningses with their hot mandolin and close harmony, and the Joaquins with their high energy Papago polka music will all appear. In addition, there will be Samba music on Sat. night, intertribal social dances Friday night, and to open the festivities, Dean Armstrong and his Dance Hands. This old time western band has been (cont. on page 2)

MUSIC OF OKINAWA, JAPAN

The Japan America Society of Tucson and the East Asia Center, U. of A. will sponsor the Court Dance Theater and Music from Okinawa, Japan at the main auditorium of the University of Arizona, Wed., Oct. 14, 1981, 8:00 PM. The performance presented by the Asia Society of New York in cooperation with the Japan Foundation will be the premier tour of the group in North America. Founded by the great dancer, Minoru Miyagi, for the purpose of preserving Okinawa's traditional arts, the dance-plays will reflect the traditional role of Okinawa as the cultural crossroads for Asian arts of China, Japan, Korea, and Indonesia. Hand-dyed costumes in the ancient, traditional manner, traditional musical instruments, and beautiful props will make a spectacular visual performance. Tickets at \$6.00 for regular admission, \$5.00 for students and senior citizens are available at the U. of A. at the following locations: Civil engineering rm. 206, Franklin Bldg. rm. 404, and the Science Library rm. 540. For information, call Barbara Blair, 881-5670.

TFTM POTLUCK AND SQUARE DANCE

Saturday, Oct. 3 at the YWCA gym there will be a potluck supper starting at 6:00 PM. We've always had great turn-outs at our potlucks with many mouth-watering dishes offered. Then at 7:30 PM the square dance will begin and is free to all paid up TFTM members. At the potluck self-nominations for the board will be made.

ELECTIONS FOR TFTM BOARD

Elections for the TFTM Board of Directors are coming up. The board positions consist of President, Vice-president, Activities Director, Liason Officer, and Dance Chairperson. The board positions are for purposes of (cont. on page 2)

TUCSON MEET YOURSELF cont.

in Tucson for a long time, and features Ed Smith on fiddle and Billy Burkes (who used to back up the legendary Jimmie Rodgers) on steel. So you dance fans will have a lot of different kinds of music to dance to over the course of the weekend. (Speaking of dances, there will also be Ukrainian, Hungarian, Lao, Spanish, Mexican, Filipino, Yaqui, Papago, Cuban, Indian, and Scots dancing on the main stage.)

The workshop stage will feature fiddle and banjo workshops, (the latter including a fine tenor player and a West Virginia clawhammer player, among others), and a session of cowboy songs and stories. It will include Mexican and Spanish play parties on Sunday, and end with a repeat of last year's jam session, so bring your instruments. The genial workshop host will be TFTM'er Dan Madden.

Crafts this year include Ukrainian embroidery, woodcarving, and egg decorating, Mexican pinata, cascarron and paper flower making, Lao weaving, and cowboy rawhide work. There will be Japanese flower arranging and origami. There will be a Mormon quilting circle on Sat. afternoon and a quilt piecing demonstration by Mrs. Woods, an Afro-American quiltmaker, on Sun. afternoon. Some of the sessions, like the cascarron making and Sunday's quilting bee, will be participatory.

So that's the general shape of this year's Tucson Meet Yourself. We hope it's a good one, fulfilling its purpose of presenting the traditional art forms of Southern Arizona's folk and ethnic communities. We hope you enjoy it. And we hope that many of you will want to help us.

TFTM has always been involved in TMY. We'll be using the new sound system for the workshop stage. Dan Madden is running the workshops and Bill Bowman is in charge of volunteers. But we need yet more help. The information booth is a traditional TFTM activity, and we need all the volunteers we can get again this year. As most of you know, There is an incredible amount of work to be done, in order that the event runs smoothly.

(And there's the volunteer party at the Griffith's after it's all over.) So if you can help out, call us at the Folklore Center (626-3392) or Bill Bowman at home after work (624-2815). And we'll see you there! Jim Griffith.

ELECTIONS cont.:

financial management and to coordinate the board meetings. Participation in board meetings is encouraged for all TFTM members. We hope to publish the meeting times for the new board in the upcoming newsletter.

The responsibilities for each office are: President: preside over board meetings and help to schedule concert artists. Vice-president: direct concert publicity and promotion. Treasurer: keep the books. Activities Director: scheduling of concerts and dances. Liason Officer: insure accomodations for concert artists while in Tucson. Dance Chairperson: represent interests of dance at board meetings. Further there is a newsletter editor on the board which is a non-electoral (volunteer) position.

Members who are not officers but wish to participate on the board are welcome. The board responsibilities are informal and do vary.

The election process is by self-nomination at the Oct. 3rd potluck/square dance. If you cannot attend Oct. 3 but wish to be included, call Craig Tinney (327-2362) for details. After the nominations are finalized, all paid-up members can vote for their choices at Tucson Meet Yourself Oct 9-11. The results will be published in the Nov. newsletter.

If you want to participate in a non-board position there are lots of opportunities. People to help with promotion, activities scheduling, artist and party accomodations, and the newsletter are always welcome.

BALALAIKA ORCHESTRA GETTING IN TUNE by Guy Velgos

The University of Arizona Balalaika Orchestra has begun rehearsals for its ninth season of performing traditional Russian folk music. The Orchestra is sponsored by the University of Arizona Department of Russian and Slavic languages, as a musical arm of its Russian club. Mia Gay conducts and coordinates the group.

The balalaika is a stringed instrument similar to a guitar, usually with three strings, and a distinctive triangular body. Though long associated with the folk music of old Russia, particularly that of the peasantry, the balalaika is actually a relative new comer to that country, having been introduced there only three centuries ago by the Turks.

Since its inception as a balalaika trio in 1973, the Orchestra has grown steadily, and now comprises over a dozen balalaikas, three guitars, two accordians, and several woodwinds. Performers include many past and present Russian language students, and a number of others, all sharing an interest in Russian folk music and dance. The Orchestra has performed for functions of the Russian Club, as well as for various other organizations, both on and off the University campus.

PARLOR MUSIC REVIVED

Bill Monroe and Bluegrass music stimulated the re-discovery of the mandolin. But did you know that back at the turn of the century and for the first one or two decades or so of the 1900's the most common musical instrument in the country was not the violin or piano or guitar, but the mandolin? Scott Joplin wrote "The Entertainer" for the mandolin and dedicated it to "James Brown and his Mandolin Club". The Mandolin was promoted by Gibson and other manufacturers by their travelling mandolin orchestras. Music from the light classics was transcribed for amateur mandolin groups.

That tradition has been revived in Tucson largely through the organizing efforts of Mia Gay. The Tucson Mandolin Society is now in its fourth year, and has room for more players. We do play from printed music, so at least some ability to read music is necessary, and it provides an opportunity to get copies of early 1900's mandolin ensemble music. Mandolins, mandolas, mandocellos, guitars, and bass are needed. Call 327-4418 or 299-6690 if interested. Bill Calder.



Dances \$1.50, TFTM

Fall Schedule

\$2.00 not TFTM

Sat. October 3 Potluck supper and nominations for TFTM board, 6PM, YWCA
Dance, mainly squares, 7:30 PM, YWCA.

Fri.-Sun. Oct. 9-10-11 TUCSON MEET YOURSELF, El Presidio Park. downtown FREE

Sat. October 17 Dance, mainly contras, 7:30 PM, YWCA

Wed., Oct. 28 From Ireland, Kevin Burke and Micheal O'Donnail,
8:00 PM U. of A. Student Union Ballroom. More Enclosed.

Sat. November 7 Dance, mainly squares, 7:30 PM, YWCA

Sat. November 21 Dance, mainly contras, 7:30 PM, TWCA

MONDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 30th: SANDY BRADLEY AND THE SMALL WONDER BAND
Dance, mainly squares, with concert breaks, 7:30 PM YWCA

TUCSON FRIENDS OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC . MEMBERSHIP FORM

tftm use only:

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

exp. date: _____

ADDRESS: _____ work PHONE: _____

notice sent

date: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP _____

renewal received

date: _____

SINGLE \$7.00 _____ TODAY'S DATE: _____

FAMILY \$10.00 _____ CHECK ONE: Renewal

New Member

Address change only

CAN WE LIST YOU IN THE TFTM DIRECTORY? Yes No

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR CLUB ACTIVITIES?

Yes No

INTERESTS AND COMMENTS:



TUCSON FRIENDS OF
TRADITIONAL MUSIC

P.O. BOX 40654 · TUCSON, AZ · 85717