



South Shore Folk Music Club

Traditional Ballad Singing Contest for Students

At the South Shore Folk Music Club, we love the traditional ballads from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and we want to promote interest in singing them. A ballad is a song that tells a story in words. The traditional ballads are a window into a much earlier time that is different from our own time, and yet the people in these ballads experience events and emotions that resonate with us now. The traditional ballads are the original source material for many of today's new songs. Here are some of the most familiar traditional ballads: Barbara Allen, Molly Malone, Jock o' Hazeldean, The Golden Vanity, Mattie Groves, Clerk Saunders, Spencer the Rover, Star of the County Down, The Cruel Mother, Lord Randal, The Four Marys, The Mermaid, Henry Martin, The Wraggle Taggle Gypsies, O! and The Wild Rover.

Our 2009 Traditional Ballad Singing Contest **for students in grades 4 through 12 will be held on Friday, April 17th** from 8:00 to 10:30 PM at the Beal House, Rte 106, Kingston, MA. The contest is being held on a night when we would be having one of our regular coffeehouses, so we expect our regular friendly audience to come and enjoy the contest performances.

There will be 4 categories with CASH PRIZES! The categories are:

1. Solo performer with no instrumental accompaniment - \$50 cash prize donated by Folk Song Society of Greater Boston, www.fssgb.org
2. Solo performer accompanying him/herself with an instrument - \$50 cash prize donated by Boston Coffeehouse Association (BACHA), www.bostoncoffeehouses.org
3. Group (2 or more) with no instrumental accompaniment - \$100 prize provided by South Shore Folk Music Club, www.ssfmc.org and Sounder Systems, www.soundersystemsinc.com
4. Group (2 or more) accompanying themselves with instrument(s) - \$100 prize provided by South Shore Folk Music Club, Karen Haffner and Lynn Feingold

****IMPORTANT****There are only so many great performances we can squeeze into one night, so students who want to perform need to submit a CONTEST FORM (below) by Friday, April 10, 2009. Contest Organizer Karen will call or email you by Saturday, April 11th to let you know whether you will be one of the performers based on the date your form is received and how much space there is in each category.

****IMPORTANT****To be eligible, your song must be a ballad (a song that tells a story) and must be listed in either or both of the listings below. These listings are wonderful resources where you can read the lyrics and hear the tunes and learn the song right from the site. Or if you think you might know a traditional ballad that is not listed, call Contest Organizer Lynn Feingold who will decide whether your song qualifies.

1. Cantaria listing of Traditional Songs – go to www.cantaria.com and click on Traditional Songs
2. The Child Ballads – go to www.contemplator.com and click on Child Ballads

Contest Organizer Lynn Feingold is happy to discuss songs and answer questions, 781-961-6649

Contest Judging – Performances will be judged for musical ability and how well the performer brings the ballad's story across to the audience.

There will no charge for Contest Participants. All other attendees will be charged the regular South Shore Folk Music Club Coffeehouse price of \$5 for Club Members and \$6 for Non-Members.

KEEP THE TOP PART OF THIS SHEET. MAIL THE CONTEST FORM BELOW TO: KAREN HAFFNER, 326 SPRING ST, ROCKLAND, MA 02370 or EMAIL CONTEST FORM TO KAREN at haffnerk@hotmail.com



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Traditional Ballad Singing CONTEST FORM

Name: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Category:

___ Solo performer with NO instrumental accompaniment

___ Solo performer accompanying him/herself with an instrument

___ Group with NO instrumental accompaniment

___ Group accompanying themselves with instrument(s)

Please List the Ballad You Plan to Sing Here:

If you change your mind, please let us know.