



SOUTH SHORE FOLK MUSIC CLUB

We love to share great music with you!



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Kingston Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Traditional Ballad Singing CONTEST **for Students grades 4-12 CASH PRIZES!** **Sign up by Monday, April 11** **CONTEST FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011 at 8:00 PM** **at The Beal House, Kingston, MA**

A ballad is a song that tells a story. A traditional ballad is so old that nobody knows who wrote it.

Solo performer WITHOUT instrument \$50 cash prize

Solo performer WITH instrument \$50 cash prize

Group (2 or more) WITHOUT instrument \$100 cash prize

Group (2 or more) WITH instrument(s) \$100 cash prize

Your song must be a traditional ballad from England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales such as Barbara Allen, Molly Malone, Jock o' Hazeldean, The Golden Vanity, Mattie Groves, Clerk Saunders, Spencer the Rover, The Cruel Mother, Lord Randal, Henry Martin, John Riley, Ned of the Hill, Two Bonnie Boys, Young Waters, The Dowie Dens of Yarrow!, The Wild Rover and others.

Contestants will be judged on musicality, how well they bring across the story of the ballad and on choice of song ("extra points for a ballad with a lot of story").

See attached information sheet and CONTEST FORM for more information about what songs are eligible and how to sign up and join the fun! Or contact Karen at 781-871-1683 or haffnerk@hotmail.com. Or visit www.ssfmc.org



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. 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 today.

Our 2011 Traditional Ballad Singing Contest for Students in grades 4 through 12 will be held on Friday, April 15th from 8:00 to 10:30 PM at the Beal House, Rte 106, Kingston, MA. Performances will be judged on the ballad the contestant has chosen (see “**EXTRA POINTS!**” below), musicality, and how well the contestant brings the ballad’s story across to the audience. There will be no charge for contestants, all others: \$7 Members, \$8 Non-members.

****IMPORTANT****To qualify, your song must be a ballad (a song that tells a story), it must be originally from England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales, and it must be traditional. For our contest, this is how we define traditional: either the song is so old that nobody knows who wrote it, or if the songwriter is known, the song was written at least 100 years ago.

****EXTRA POINTS!** This year we are focusing on the fact that a ballad tells a story. We want to hear ballads that have a lot of story to them. We want to hear stories with a plot, stories where there is a beginning, a middle and an end, stories where there are a number of things that happen and then a conclusion. Ballads that don’t tell much of a story, but are more like a description of a situation and how the singer feels about it will be allowed, but contestants will get more “points” for a ballad with a full story.

Here is an example of the story line of a popular traditional ballad, The Dowie (sad) Dens of Yarrow:

There was a beautiful woman. Nine gentlemen were in love with her, but a young ploughboy loved her, too, and she loved the ploughboy. The nine gentlemen vowed to fight for her, but she helped the ploughboy look like a brave knight. The plowboy met the gentlemen on the hills, they fought and he killed some of them and the rest ran away. But then the woman’s brother came up behind him and killed him. The woman had a dream, and her mother interpreted it to mean that her lover was dead. She went into the hills and found him. She carried him home and wept over him. An older man who had nine noble sons said she shouldn’t cry and he would marry her to one of his noble sons. She said that his sons were fine, but they couldn’t compare to her love, the ploughboy lad from Yarrow.

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

1. Solo performer with no instrumental accompaniment - \$50 cash prize
2. Solo performer accompanying him/herself with an instrument - \$50 cash prize
3. Group (2 or more) with no instrumental accompaniment - \$100 cash prize
4. Group (2 or more) accompanying themselves with instrument(s) - \$100 cash prize

Submit your CONTEST FORM (attached) by Monday, April 11th 2011, the SOONER the BETTER!

Mail the form to Contest Organizer Karen Haffner, 326 Spring Street, Rockland, MA 02370, or email to haffnerk@hotmail.com. Karen will contact you by April 11th to let you know whether you will be one of the performers. This will be based on the date your form was received and how much space there is in each category. Karen will also confirm that the song you have chosen is a traditional ballad and qualifies for the contest.

Here are some examples of traditional ballads. We would love to tell you about these ballads. So if you want some information about them, call Lynn Feingold at 781-961-6649 or Karen Haffner at 781-878-1683

Barbara Allen	Spencer the Rover	The Wild Rover	Ned of the Hill
Molly Malone	Tam Lin	The Water is Wide	Anachie Gordon
Jock o’ Hazeldean	The Cruel Mother	John Riley	Two Bonnie Boys
The Golden Vanity	Lord Randal	Edward	Young Waters
Mattie Groves	The Mermaid	Henry Martin	The Dowie Dens of Yarrow
Clerk Saunders	Henry Martin	Mary Hamilton	Lord Thomas and Fair Ellinor
False Knight on the Road	The Wraggle Taggle Gypsies, O!		

If you want to sing a ballad other than those listed above, here are some ideas for how to find a different ballad. Make sure the song you choose tells a story, came from England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales, is either listed as “traditional” or was written at least 100 years ago.

www.cantaria.com, see “Traditional 1600-1950. This site often has an actual recording of the ballad.

www.contemplator.com, click on Child Ballads. All Child Ballads qualify, but some have more story than others. This site has midi files, so you can hear the tune.

www.wikipedia.com, search “List of Irish Ballads”. Make sure you choose a traditional ballad.

www.wikipedia.com, search “List of the Child Ballads”. All Child Ballads qualify, but some have more story than others.

www.mudcat.org, a good place to search for lyrics for a ballad when you already know what you’re looking for.

www.youtube.com, try this if you find a traditional ballad with lyrics that you like, but you don’t know the tune.

If you think you might know a traditional ballad, but you can’t confirm that it is a traditional ballad and qualifies for the contest, call Contest Organizer Lynn Feingold who will decide whether your song qualifies. Lynn is happy to discuss songs and answer questions (781-961-6649).



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CONTEST FORM



South Shore Folk Music Club



Traditional Ballad Singing Contest

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. Karen will confirm that your song is a traditional ballad from England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales and that it qualifies for the contest.

MAIL THE CONTEST FORM TO: KAREN HAFFNER, 326 SPRING ST, ROCKLAND, MA 02370
Or EMAIL CONTEST FORM TO KAREN at haffnerk@hotmail.com

~~~~CUT HERE~~~~~CUT HERE~~~~~CUT HERE~~~~~

### KEEP THIS PART FOR YOUR RECORDS

South Shore Folk Music Club



### Traditional Ballad Singing Contest, April 15, 2011, 8PM

Contact:

Karen Haffner, 326 Spring Street Rockland, MA 02370

781-878-1683

[haffnerk@hotmail.com](mailto:haffnerk@hotmail.com)

The ballad you chose: \_\_\_\_\_

The date that you sent in your Contest Form: \_\_\_\_\_