

The **16th Northeast Filk Convention**

Concertino 06

18-20 June 2006

Progress Report

Mike Whitaker GoH

Mary Crowell Toastmistress

Mabel Liang & Bob Leigh

Honored Listener Guests

Nancy Louise Freeman

Interfilk Guest

Concerts, workshops, song contest, choir, open filks,
food, friends, fun, and singing late into the night!

Concertino
c/o Ellen Kranzer
18 Cottage Avenue
Arlington, MA 02474-5504



NEFilk[™]

The Northeast Filk Music Convention

brought to you by



M.A.S.S.

F.I.C.

18 Cottage Avenue

Arlington, MA 02474

www.concertino.net

WORKSHOPS

There's lots to choose from. Among other things, Mary Crowell will lead a Yoga in Singing workshop, Gary McGath will talk about Digital Filk Archiving, Nancy Freeman will host a Drumming Workshop, and Mike Whittaker will host a Guitar or Performance Workshop. Bring your latest and greatest for a Fiber Arts Show & Tell with Mabel Liang, and bring your ear and memory for names and tunes to Name Those Tunes! Help Spencer identify performers and songs from cons gone by. We'll start with filk from Noreascon4.

VOLUNTEERS

Well, it worked the last time we asked for volunteers (3 years ago!) Thanks so much to them! We couldn't do it without them! Please come and do it again!

CONCOM

Here's who we are:

Con Chair: Robin Holly
Concom: Joe Kesselman, Ellen Kranzer, Paula Lieberman, Spencer Love, Lois Mangan, Paul Mangan, Gary McGath, Mark Mandel, Heather Munn, Lara Ortiz de Montellano, Patricia Parcels, Hillary Sherwood, Rachel Sommer, Victor Stevko, Persis Thorndike, Talis Thorndike Love

MEMBERSHIPS

US\$50 at the door. Children 6 and under (in-tow) are free. Children 7-14 are \$10 (Youth rate) and do not receive publications. Supporting memberships: \$10, include progress report and program book, and can be converted to attending by paying the difference in price.

KID'S ROOM

We have reserved one of the function rooms to be an unsupervised (by the Con Com) place for kids to hang out. Walls are not padded. You are still responsible for the behavior of your child ages 7-14. Some activities will be provided; feel free to add to the enrichment of our children.

DEALER'S ROOM

Yes, we will have one. So far we have Auntie Arwin, Kathy & Leo Sands, MITSFS Used Books, and Antika Nueva confirmed.

HOW TO REACH US

Snail Mail to Ellen Kranzer,
M.A.S.S. F.I.L.C.
18 Cottage Avenue, Arlington, MA 02474-5504
Phone: 781-646-3118
E-Mail: info@massfilc.org
Web: <http://www.concertino.net>

UNRULY MEMBER POLICY

The rules for this convention are basically common sense. People are expected to act in a civilized way and not interfere with other people's reasonable activities, privacy, or property without their consent.

Children under the age of 7 years attending ConCertino must always be "In Tow" — in line of sight of their parent/guardian, or of another adult who has explicitly accepted responsibility for them — while in convention facilities. This policy exists so that if a problem arises (behavioral, medical, or other) it's clear who has primary responsibility. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Due to incidents at past conventions, we are forced to announce that exceptionally unruly individuals may, at the discretion of the convention staff, have their memberships revoked and be denied further access to convention facilities. In the case of children-in-tow, this will take the form of revoking the membership of the responsible parent/guardian. We sincerely hope that no filk con will ever be forced to actually exercise this policy!

There are no costuming or weapons events, so there are no weapons rules as such. You should, however, be aware that Massachusetts has draconian weapons laws, including a mandatory year in jail for gun violations. We can't give you any protection in this regard. Using a guitar in the "El Kabong" manner will also be frowned upon.

Consuming liquor isn't permitted in public places, e.g., the hotel lobby. Please be discreet about bringing in outside liquor.

Smoking isn't permitted in the function or dealers' rooms, or in the con suite. After all, we're here to sing! For smokers, there is plenty of open space around the hotel which is worth enjoying.

You may tape performances unless the performer requests otherwise, provided you are unobtrusive. This means: Don't stick a microphone in the performer's face.

Don't ask performers to accommodate your recording needs. It helps to remove the crinkly plastic from new tapes in advance. If the performer asks not to be recorded, then don't. Don't shush people who are singing along; your right to record is on no higher a level than their right to sing along (and the performer has the right to veto both). If you run cords, be careful not to leave them where they might cause a tripping hazard; long cords should be taped down.

By the same token, when you're performing you may ask not to be recorded; even the official con recording will be suspended if you really don't want your performance recorded.

Any recordings which you make are for your personal use only, and may not be duplicated for commercial distribution without the permission of the performer and the copyright owner.

And the most important rule: Have a good time.

HOTEL

The hotel for ConCertino 2006 will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel, located in downtown Worcester at 50 Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA 01692
Phone: 508-791-1600.

The room rate is US\$89/night(plus tax) for 1 to 4 people. The deadline to receive the Con room rate is 3 pm on **May 26, 2006**. You will need to call the hotel directly during normal business hours and mention ConCertino to get the Con room rate. Do not use the hotel's web form; you will not get the Con rate. Please note that pets are not permitted in the hotel. If you have trouble with your reservations, please contact hotel@concertino.net

Our room block includes the rooms around the con suite on the first floor, and over the function space and the consuite on the second floor. Unfortunately, this hotel has chosen to allocate the first and second floor sleeping rooms as smoking rooms. As there is no sound proofing between the first floor function space and the second floor sleeping rooms, we would like to fill those rooms on the second floor with convention members (to avoid another incident like the one OVFF had with "March of Cambreadth.") Please let us know if you have severe allergies that prevent you from taking a room in our buffer zone. The consuite will be treated with an ionizer; our allergy prone members were not able to detect the fact that the rooms were designated smoking rooms. All other first and second floor rooms in our block will be aired out sufficiently.

There is the usual hotel restaurant with very acceptable hotel food, with the usual hotel pricing. A restaurant guide of area eateries is available at <http://home.comcast.net/~jonathan.turner>. Most all have been tested by our intrepid guides, and rated.

The hotel has an indoor/outdoor pool, and a hot tub. Pack suitable clothing. The hotel has an open roofed, 3 level parking garage just across from the main entrance. The \$4/day fee will be on your hotel bill, and allows for unlimited in and out. If by strange chance this garage is full, there is an open air overflow lot one block away.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From North of Worcester (via Mass. Route 2) • In Leominster, take Exit 33 from Route 2 to I-190 South, which starts there. Go down I-190 a little over 19 miles until it ends at I-290 in Worcester. Bear right onto I-290 West. • Stay in the right lane of I-290 West and take the very first exit (Exit 18 - 0.7 miles from the start of the I-190 fork to the exit). See From North of Worcester (from I-495 South) below for local street directions.

From North of Worcester (via I-495 South) • Take I-495 South to Exit 25. Take I-290 West approximately 13 miles into Worcester. Immediately after the interchange with I-190, move to the right hand lane and take the very first exit Exit 18 - less than half a mile). • Local Street Directions: At the light at the foot of the exit ramp, take the right onto Lincoln Street, and follow the signs for Lincoln Square. At the first light (one block) take the left fork to follow the signs for Lincoln Square. After a block or two you will see the hotel up ahead on the

PROGRAMMING

Friday night features a range of concerts and theme filks. Saturday programming includes an early risers' filk, workshops, more concerts, performers circles, theme filks, rounds, Stan Rogers singalong, Scarèd Harp singalong, and open filk galore. And Sunday, ... more of the same! Start off by joining the All Nighters' and Early Risers' Breakfast Run, then continue all daylong, and into the night. Throughout the con there will be opportunities to meet, greet and eat with your fellow filkers...

ONE-SHOTS & 2-BY-10'S

Please sign up for the one-shots and 2x10's at registration as there are limited slots on Saturday and Sunday. Sorry, no overflow.

SONG WRITING CONTEST

Theme: Before the Dawn

Entries will be judged by the Guests. Entries on tape or sung by a friend are welcome. Songs must have been written after Contata '05. Please remember to bring an extra hard copy of your song lyrics for the judges.

INTERFILK AUCTION

Once again, there will be a superlatively entertaining Auction to raise funds for our beloved Interfilk, featuring the infamous Interfilk Wenches. Said Auction will be held on Saturday night after dinner. Donations of items will be gratefully received by Persis Thorndike, and displayed at the side of the main concert amphitheater. Auction forms will be available at registration. Please tag your item with your name and suggested retail value, as well as a starting bid. The live auction will run for 1 hour; bidding for the silent auction will close at 1 pm on Sunday.

OUR GUESTS

Guest of Honor **Mike Whitaker** took part in his first filk at Camcom '85 in the UK. He became hooked on filk at the 1987 UK Worldcon, where he met "a whole bunch of US filkers". Since then, Mike has chaired the UK filkcon Contabile, released several solo albums including *Shattered Dreams* and *The Oak*, *The Rowan* and *the Wild Rose*, and been a founding member of the UK filk-rock band Phoenix. For fun, Mike plays in Fleetfoot Mike, a Fleetwood Mac tribute band. Come hear Mike, and you may just be treated to a surprise duet with he and his equally talented wife Anne Whitaker.

Toastmistress **Mary Crowell** lives with her husband, Wesley, and their son Simon, in Athens, Alabama, where she is a teacher of piano, yoga, and music appreciation. She was introduced to filk music by Karen Murphy and John Brewer, who paid her way and drove her to her first filk convention - GaFilk 2001. Mary has written several torchy songs like "Magnus Retail", blues songs such as "Legolas", and some that defy description like "The Song Will Tell Me True". A member of the filk trio Three Weird Sisters, she is currently recording a solo CD with Greg Robert on the Bedlam House label. Mary's sultry vocals and jazz piano chops are sure to keep your feet tapping throughout the weekend.

Honored Listener Guests **Bob Leigh** and **Mabel Liang** come to filk from the folk communities of New England. They have been avid listeners of filk for over 10 years, having attended Concertino '95 as their first introduction to filk. At Concertino, they found good music, a welcoming atmosphere, the fun of Interfilk auctions, and thought "Ah, we're home! Where have we been all our lives?" Lovers of parodies, Bob and Mabel's personal songbook draws heavily from the folk tradition and contains a vast array of silly songs and songs that poke fun at traditions. Come share your parodies with them or ask them to share theirs with you.

Our Interfilk Guest **Nancy Louise Freeman** is a singer/songwriter, who performs mostly her own originals along with some cover tunes and parodies. Among her home filk community in Arizona, she is best known for her blues singing. Nancy also writes and plays in a variety of styles including folk-rock, country & western, and ballads. She has written a fantasy filk opera, "Stardust County", which she hopes to get into the studio "one of these days".

right. The hotel's sign is visible on a brick wall at the far right corner of the intersection. • At the 2nd light, continue across the intersection in the right hand lane as Lincoln Street becomes Worcester Center Blvd. The Crowne Plaza's driveway is the first right. It has a pedestrian light.

From Eastern Massachusetts • Take your best route to the Massachusetts Turnpike westbound (I-90), a toll road. Take Exit 10 in Auburn onto I-290 East. After the toll booth, bear left 3 times to get to I-290. After approximately 7 miles, take Exit 17 in Worcester. It says Route 9, Ware/Framingham. See From All Other Directions below for local street directions.

From Rhode Island • Take State Route 146 North to the Massachusetts Turnpike westbound (I-90), a toll road. After 3 miles take the next exit (Exit 10) in Auburn onto I-290 East. After the toll booth, bear left 3 times to get to I-290. After approximately 7 miles, take Exit 17 in Worcester. It says Route 9 - Ware / Framingham. See From All Other Directions below for local street directions.

From Eastern Connecticut • Take I-395 North until it becomes I-290 East (at I-90). Continue on I-290. After approximately 7 miles, take Exit 17 in Worcester. It says Route 9 - Ware/Framingham. See From All Other Directions below for local street directions.

From All Other Directions • Take your best route to the Massachusetts Turnpike eastbound (I-90), a toll road. Take Exit 10 in Auburn onto I-290 East. After approximately 7 miles, take Exit 17 in Worcester. It says Route 9, Ware/Framingham. • Local streets: At the light at the end of the exit ramp, take the left on Mass. Route 9 West (Belmont Street). After a block or two you will see the hotel up ahead on the left. The hotel's sign is visible on a brick wall at the far left corner of that intersection. • Take the left at the second traffic light onto Worcester Center Blvd. The Crowne Plaza's driveway is the first right. It has a pedestrian light.

ARRIVING VIA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

As of April 2006, there is one airline flying directly to Worcester. However, it is fairly simple, albeit time consuming, to travel there by public transportation from Logan Airport. Alternatively, you can take Amtrak, Commuter Rail (MBTA) or long-distance bus. If you arrive at either the train station or the bus station, you should call a taxi from the payphones in the station. Please look at the Public Transportation directions on the www.ConCertino.net web site at <<http://www.concertino.net/publicdirections.html>> as they are fairly lengthy.