

Vibraphone

THE 1994 BRITISH FILK CONVENTION



OAK HOTEL, BRIGHTON
4TH-6TH FEBRUARY 1994

Vibraphone

Another Word From The Chair-Being

As you all know by now Vibraphone is the sixth British Filk Convention, to be held at the Oak Hotel in Brighton over the weekend of the 4th, 5th and 6th of February 1994.

Yes, we're still in Brighton - they haven't twigged that we're there yet! Seriously though, the Brighton Tourist board is apparently getting quite keen to get Conventions back into town - word has it that they went down with a case of near terminal jealousy when they heard about Intersection....

As before, the Vibraphone committee consists of -

Smitty : Chair-being
Valerie Housden : Membership
Minstrel : Hotel Liaison and Publications
John English : Treasurer
Martin GK : Things Technical

We are still trying to hammer the programme together, but things seem to be coming along quite nicely so far.... Having said this of course, any suggestions will be gratefully received! We have had a number of useful suggestions so far, but the more the merrier!

Once again, we are pleased to announce Talis Kimberley, Tom Smith and Fox as our Guests of Honour. We are sure that they will be entertaining and fun Guests, and if things get a little weird, as they may well do with this combination - well, what the heck....

Due to all sorts of things outside our control, this PR is out a little later than we had planned. As a result, we must ask you to return your hotel booking form as soon as possible, as we need to confirm numbers with the hotel and pay them a deposit. If you have any problems or queries, Minstrel can be contacted on 0273 737539.

Smitty

British Filk Awards

Well, why not? We think they're a good idea, so we will be awarding prizes for songs in the following categories:

Best Serious Filk
Best Humorous Filk
Best New Filk First Performed at Vltraphone.
Best Rip-Off

Eligible songs are those written by European filkers plus songs written by non-European filkers who were living in Europe at the time. Previous award-winners are not eligible for nomination for the same award.

In addition we are introducing a new award for Best Performance. This is intended to be a very wide category. For example, is there a filker who always makes you feel good when he/she sings/plays. Is there someone who while not British Filk's answer to Pavarotti, Cher or Eric Clapton, is a really great entertainer? Or maybe those people who did that group song that had people falling off their seats with laughter? And what about the time that the Klingon Male Voice Choir had you crying all the way to the bar? Then again, maybe not. There are limits. Who do you think deserves an award?

And finally, (honestly folks!) we're instituting the All Time Great Award, for songs that have stood the test of time. There are no limits for this, except that the song should be over two years old. So yes, you can nominate Hope Eyrie or previous winners of the British filk awards (I think Valerie is hinting - Ed) or any of those (British, American, Amoeboid-Zingatularian, whatever) songs you like to sing in circles. And if you can think of a better name than All Time Great or Filk Hall of Fame, please let us know.

Send your nominations on the enclosed nomination form to the convention address.

Previous winners of the British Filk Awards presented at Con2bile in February 1990 were:

| | |
|---|--|
| Best Serious Filk | Catsblood (Valerie Housden) |
| Best Humorous Filk | Ai Cthulu (Brian Biddle) |
| Best Rip-Off | The Dead Wizard Sketch(tune: Requiem) (Bill Longley) |
| Best New Song First Performed at Con2bile | The Old Ones (Zander Nyronnd) |

Valerie Housden

Songbook

The committee has been utterly underwhelmed by the response to our request for songs. Well, we don't mind. We'll just fill it with our own songs. So if you don't want Your Hundred Favourite Barry Manilow Filks or Dinah's Book of Utterly Wonderful Songs in your convention pack, send your songs NOW to the convention address. Remember, the deadline was the end of October - you've now got until Christmas.

Weapons Policy

No weapons. None whatsoever. Not even peace-bonded as part of a costume. Okay? In any case of doubt the committee will try the offending article out on the owner/wearer.

Flying Filk Fund

We'd be hard pushed to come up with something as spectacular as Pentatonic's Filk (or was it a Quilk?) but we've got to raise some money, just the same.

For those of you who don't already know, the Flying Filk Fund is the fund which provides the airfare for the British Annual Filk Convention's American Guest of Honour. Our guest from the States this year is Tom Smith, and having been given the cash to fly him across (and back - stop worrying, Tom!), it is therefore incumbent upon us to put something back into the fund for later years.

The main fund-raiser this year will be an auction of fannish cast-offs items. If you have anything you can donate, or have a fund-raising idea, please contact us with details.

Taping Policy

We ask that you note the following conditions on recording at the convention:-

The recorder should be silent, without end of tape alarms, and be self powered, without trailing leads. Similarly, if using an external microphone, please keep it close to your chair, rather than laying trip wires for unsuspecting filkers!

Taping shall be for personal use only, and may not be sold, lent or duplicated, unless with the performer's (and song author's) express written permission.

If a performer requests that they should not be recorded, their wishes should be complied with without question or fuss.

Please remember that the performance is for the benefit of the audience, and that taping may only take place as long as it does not interfere with other filkers enjoyment. Requests of "Can you wait a minute while I change the tape" may not be made.

The committee will have the final decision on any dispute arising from taping.

Eating Out

The Oak Hotel has a good restaurant, and excellent barfood (I can personally vouch for their Soupwich!) However for those of you who might want to eat out in Brighton, either as a brief escape from the filking, or to save money for all those books and tapes you're going to buy, here are a few suggestions, all within 5 minutes walk of the convention.

Browns

3-4 Duke Street

Cambridge & Bristol Fen may be familiar with Browns. When I first came to Brighton, Browns was the place for a poor student to go for a treat. As I've become more prosperous, Browns have also gone upmarket, so I still view a trip to Browns as something special. Their Steak, Mushroom and Guinness pie is definitely recommended, as is their Grilled Goats Cheese Salad. A good place for cocktails and dinner, but bring your chequebook!

Al Fornos

East Street

This is not Pizzaland, this is the real thing! Italian restaurant with pizza and pasta for under £5.00, meat and fish dishes for about £7.00.

Ed's Easy Diner

Prince Albert Street

An all-American diner, right down to the Juke-Box controls in front of every stool. Sit at the counter and enjoy Burgers from £2.75, a Tuna Melt (recommended) for £2.95, or perhaps a Californian Cobb Salad.

They do Malts and Sodas to order, and even Diet Coke Floats (though you have to ask for them, Mike!). There's nothing on the menu here over £5.00 (except for the Champagne.)

Blues Brothers Restaurant

6 Little East Street

Being on a mission from God can be real hungry work, and this is the place to take off the shades and relax. Lunches (Club Sandwiches, Burgers, Ribs & Wings, Hot Chilli Squid...) for around £3-5.00, with more substantial meals (Grilled Goats Cheese, Charbroiled Steak, Dim Sum...) for £5-8.00. NB This place serves Budvar!

Old Orleans

1/3 Prince Albert Street

Another familiar place for Cambridge fen, Old Orleans serves a range of 'American' food styles from Creole and Cajun food to Southern Fried Chicken. With main courses from £6.00 to £11.00, it's not cheap, especially with cocktails, but it's where I'll be found on my evening off. Conveniently situated right next door to Hagen Dazs.

Food for Friends

Prince Albert Street

Vegetarian Restaurant, but don't let that put you off! Certainly the best budget restaurant I know of, with meals starting at £2.50, and proving once and for all that Veggie cooking doesn't have to be just beans and tofu. Well worth a visit for their desserts!

The Hotel

The Oak Hotel is centrally located in Brighton, 600 yards from Brighton Station(BR), 100 yards from the seafront and close to the Palace Pier. The Lanes, the heart of Brighton's main area for shopping and eating out, is just a minutes walk away, and the Odeon Cinema is next door.

The hotel rate is £25.00 per person per night, based on sharing a twin room. A small number of single occupancies are available for £35.00 per person per night. For those of you staying for a third night, there is a discount of £5.00.

Please send a cheque for £20.00 per person deposit with your hotel booking form. Cheques should be made payable to Vibraphone, as we will be giving the hotel a single cheque with each block booking.

This PR is unfortunately rather late, which has apparently created some alarm regarding the hotel booking form. Apologies for the delay, and for any concern this may have caused. The hotel is aware of

the situation, and is happily holding rooms until the end of December. We therefore ask you to return the hotel booking form immediately with your cheque, to avoid any delays with the Christmas post. Alternatively, if you attend either the Wiggle or Tun meet in London, I will be there, so grab me and force a cheque upon me there.

I can't see any problems, as long as people return their forms as soon as possible, but if you are worried, please call me on 0273 737539, or Email me - either at:-

chris.malme@portofc.org

or

chris.malme%f86.n441.z2@nowster.demon.co.uk.

Parking

Parking in Brighton can be a bit stressful sometimes, but we've found the best deal is Brighton BR, which is just £2.50 per day. A map showing this and other alternatives is enclosed.

Minstrel

CONVENTION RATES

| | Waged | Unwaged |
|---|--------|---------|
| Membership until 30 November 1993 | £22.00 | £18.00 |
| Membership after 1 December 1993 | £27.00 | £23.00 |
| Supporting membership | £8.00 | |
| Children, 8 to 14 years at time of convention | £8.00 | |
| Children under 8, infants and babies | £1.00 | |
| Toys and pets (if badge required) | £1.00 | |

Vlbraphone Membership at 3.9.93

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 59 A Lissa Allcock | 4 A Martin G-K | 41 A Richard the Rampant |
| 60 A Phil Allcock | 24 A Bruce Grant | 12 A Nicky Retallick |
| 10 A Tom Abba | | 19 A Roger Robinson |
| 38 A Countess Axyliides | 62 A Linda Hansford | 54 A Tony Rogers |
| | 65 A Adam Heath | |
| 40 A Mary Beaird | 68 A Hitch | 75 A Teresa Sanders |
| 76 A Kluggers the Barred | 63 A Juliane Honisch | 28 A Alison Scott |
| 58 A Andrew Barton | 79 A Fraser Hotchkiss | 29 A Mike Scott |
| 25 A D.J. Bass | 6 A Valerie Housden | 32 A Jean Sheward |
| 18 A Ninja Bear | 61 A Sue Humphries | 34 A Kate Soley |
| 27 A Chris Bell | | 2 G Tom Smith |
| 47 A David Bell | 66 A Judith Jackson | 8 A Smitty |
| 33 A Michael Bernardi | 20 A Rhodri James | 45 A Kathy Sterry |
| 31 A Susan Booth | | 36 A Barbara Stewart |
| 44 A Alan Braggins | 46 A Keris | 35 A John Stewart |
| 82 A Paul Bristow | 1 G Talis Kimberley | |
| 85 A Roger Burton-West | 51 A Tim Kirk | 72 A Alice Terrell |
| | 71 A Pompino the Kregoyne | 57 A Peter Tyers |
| 9 C Cub | | 49 A Madeleine Tyrrell |
| 52 A Rafe Culpin | 73 A The Magician | 48 A Nick Tyrrell |
| | 26 A Marion | |
| 30 A Steve Davies | 83 A Keith Martin | 21 A Peter Wareham |
| 74 A Richard of Dawlish | 53 A Sue Mason | 17 C Karen Westhead |
| 69 A Robert Day | 56 A Melusine | 14 A Kathy Westhead |
| 11 A Lawrence Dean | 7 A Minstrel | 15 A Mike Westhead |
| 50 A Miki Dennis | 77 A Shaun Murrant | 16 J Peter Westhead |
| 64 A Kerstin Drøge | | |
| | 67 A Helen Nemeth | A = Full Attending; |
| 5 A John English | 42 A Gytha North | C = Child aged under 8; |
| 84 T Etzel | 39 A Zander Nyronnd | G = Guest; |
| | 80 S Zander's Mum | J = Child aged 8-14; |
| 37 A FanTom | 81 S Zander's Dad | S = Supporting; |
| 70 A Colin Fine | | T = Toy. |
| 43 A Brian Flatt | | |
| 3 G FOX | 55 A Nigel Parsons | |
| 78 T Foxy | 23 A Jerome Perkins | |
| 22 A Gwen Funnell | | |

Addresses:-

Membership and Programming

Vibraphone,
Minas Istarion,
2 Duncan Gate,
London Road,
Bromley,
Kent
BR1 3SG

Hotel Booking

Vibraphone
Ground Floor Flat
45 Clarendon Villas
Hove
Sussex
BN3 3RE