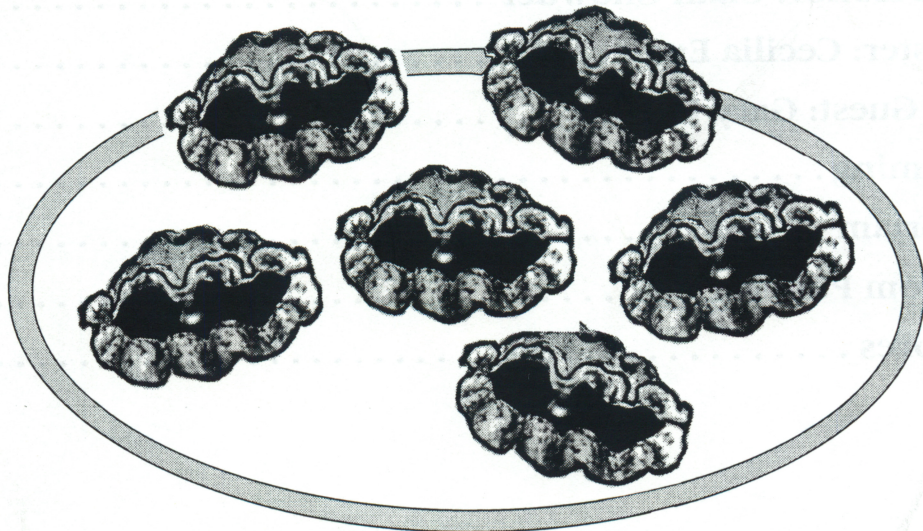


CONSONANCE

March 5-7, 1999

*Biltmore Hotel
Santa Clara, CA*



Consonance 1999

Guests of Honor

Clam Chowder (“the group, not the soup”)

Toastmaster

Cecilia Eng

Interfilk Guest

Gary Ehrlich

Why?

Because we *like* you!

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A Note from the Chair

"Dr. Jane" Robinson

Welcome to Consonance! I am very excited about our guests and concert performers this year, and look forward to greeting old friends and meeting new ones in the plush accommodations of this splendid hotel. We will be sharing function space with another convention (CONTACT), so we will have the opportunity to lure unsuspecting attendees to the "filking side of the force"—especially since our open filking function space includes the (NON-SMOKING!) bar ("Hops") and the acoustically magical Atrium. Street-singers, buskers and musical exhibitionists -- here's your chance!

Our GOH this year is the legendary filk and folk band, Clam Chowder (all *six* of them), who will be making their West coast debut at Consonance. Our Toastmistress is Cecilia Eng, the wonderfully talented and prolific singer, songwriter and arranger from Portland, Oregon. And Interfilk has done it again—we are honored to have "Gorgeous Gary" Ehrlich, armed with his wicked wit and infectious good humor, in our midst.

Unfortunately, we will be missing two old and dear friends. Gary Anderson lost his valiant battle with brain cancer last year, and Buck Coulson (husband of Juanita and staunch mid-West supporter of filk) succumbed to a long-standing illness in February. In their honor, we will hold "Kermit's Filk Sing"—featuring songs written by, or made famous by, filkers who are no longer with us. We plan to make this, along with the Harmonic Convergence, an annual feature of Consonance.

It has been a pleasure to act as Chair for Consonance this year, and a privilege to work with a talented, industrious concom including:

- Alan Thiesen, programming
- Colleen Savitzky, hotel liaison and hospitality
- Jo Kellner, registration and publications
- Lynn Gold, web-wizardry and publications
- Bob Laurent, publicity
- Lindy Sears, children's programming
- John & Mary Creasey, dealers' liaison
- Kristoph Klover, Jeff Bohnhoff & DeWayne Stuart, technical crew
- John & Chris O'Halloran, Linda von Braskat & Seanan McGuire, logistics crew

Thank you for coming to our convention -- we hope you have a great time!

Where and When to Find Everything

Note: All times are in PFT (Pacific Filk Time) and are subject to change.

Dealers' Room: Monterey/Carmel Room

Hours:

3pm to 6pm Friday

11am to 6pm and 9pm to 10:30 pm Saturday

11am to 4pm Sunday

Note: Hours are subject to change if sales are good at closing time.

Con Suite: Sico 109

Hours:

Friday: noon-2am

Saturday: 10am-2am

Sunday: 10am-5pm, then reopens at 7pm till whenever the Dead Mollusk ends

Children's Programming: Sico 109

Hours:

Saturday: noon-6pm

1pm-2pm making soap bubbles with your bare hands (Kanef)

2pm-3pm children's concert (Cecilia Eng, Steve Savitzky, and other performers)

4pm-4:30pm children's concert (Bob Esty and Kathy Sobansky)

Sunday: noon-6pm

Weasel Words on Children's Programming

Because Consonance is not a licensed child care provider or anything like that, Consonance provides a room in which children's programming may occur, but does not assume responsibility for children's programming. Children's programming is the responsibility of the parents and other caring adults who provide it. All parents are encouraged to help out. We thank you for your assistance.

Smoking Filk Room (aka "The Sin Pit"): Room 974

This room is a private room of the hotel we've obtained for those who prefer to indulge in oxidizing tobacco leaves along with their music.

Dead Mollusk: Con Suite

Hours: Sunday, 7pm-Monday breakfast (or until we all drop)

Complimentary Breakfast

If you're staying at the hotel, you're entitled to a complimentary free breakfast. The hotel has extended the hours of this till noon for us (it normally stops at 10am). The hotel has also added Clam Chowder to its menu for the weekend in honor of our Guests of Honor.

Guests of Honor: Clam Chowder

by Judy Gerjuoy, Long term member of the Clam Skill Alliance
jaelle@radix.net

I first encountered Clam Chowder roughly 20 years ago. They were to perform at Balticon, and I was dragged to Balticon by a friend who had been a clam fan since almost the start. Our conversation went something like this:

“We’re going to Balticon this weekend.”

“No, I don’t like large cons and that’s a large con.”

“It’s worth it, Clam Chowder will be performing.”

“A soup is performing?”

“No, they’re a group. - Trust me you will love them.”

And, reluctantly, I went.

We drove down to Balticon and were wandering around the hotel. In the downstairs lobby behind the escalator was a pretty woman (Kathy Sobansky) playing a harp and singing *The Queen of Air and Darkness* by Poul Anderson, and I was hooked.

The next couple of years my con going was mostly based on whether or not Clam Chowder was playing. Not 100%, but most of the time. And, getting Clam Chowder to become Darkovercon regulars was one of my major coups.

But this personal history begs the question, “what is Clam Chowder?” The answer is quite complex and not easy to do.

They are a group of people (they have varied in size from four to seven) who sing together in wonderful harmony.

There aren’t many generalities beyond that. I have heard (and enjoyed them) singing: Classic folk and modern folk, filk, sea shanties, spirituals, medieval and renaissance era songs, Australian songs, especially sheep sheering songs, westerns, drinking songs, songs from movies (including the theme song from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*), country-western, hymns, prohibition anti-drinking songs, and more. About the only thing their assorted music has in common is that it all sounds wonderful when Clam Chowder sings it.

But Clam Chowder is more than wonderful music. It is incredibly fun audience/band interaction. Various things that Clam has had done to them (mostly taken from their songs or their name):

- Dancing Clams
- Presentations of cans of Clam Chowder
- Presentation of a very dead moggie (luckily a stuffed one)
- Invasion by the KGB
- Invasion by Zombies
- Chorus line of people in long underwear

But Clam Chowder also strikes back. They have suddenly reversed who sang which part in “standard” songs. They have surprised everyone by playing a prohibition anti-drinking song (complete with Bob pulling out a saxophone).

But, most importantly, what raises them above almost everyone else is that they use their music to help the various communities both in and out of fandom. They have done benefit concerts to raise money for organizations that work on cystic fibrosis. They have raised money for Children’s Hospital. When I ran a filk convention that lost major dollars, much to my surprise they gave me some of the

profits from one of their concerts, to help cover the loss. They raised money to help pay medical bills for a local fan/medievalist who was in a serious automobile accident and didn't have medical insurance. They raised money to help remodel Manley Wade Wellman's house when he had to have his legs *amputated* because of diabetes. I could go on, but you get the idea.

They have raised money a variety of ways, but *Bend Over Greek Sailor* is a consistent winner. And, in that lies a tale.

It was a Philcon. Clam Chowder was raising money for Manley Wade Wellman. Instead of having a set list, they were taking requests on dollar bills - said dollar bills would be then turned over to the fund. After the concert was over they were looking at the dollar bills. One of them had *Black Velvet Band* written on them. John said that he wouldn't sing it for \$100. Kathy retorted, "Oh yes we would. For enough money we would sing anything. Why, we would sing *Bend Over Greek Sailor* in five part harmony." A voice from the hall (and I disavow all knowledge of that voice) said, "How much?" There was a pregnant pause and they said, "Five hundred fifty-five dollars." And the fund raising began. (Note: if Kathy tries to disavow this, tell her I have the tapes to prove it.)

Now *Bend Over Greek Sailor* is, um, rather risqué. Therefore, while not all the money requested was raised, most of it was, and Clam Chowder sang it. In five part harmony. And, it has remained a favorite for fund raising since then, whenever Clam Chowder can be convinced to sing it.

This gives you only the barest hint of what they are and can do. I envy all of you there for their concert; I wish I could be there, and until about two months ago was planning to fly out for it. I have left out so much of what makes them them - the way they sell their records/tapes/CDs for instance. But even a con as great as this one has limitations on the size of the program book.

In conclusion, while any short description of Clam Chowder found be incomplete; unexpected and lots of fun comes closest.

The members of Clam Chowder throughout the years have included:

- Bob Esty
Bob Esty has been playing harp off and on for around 15 years, and he and his wife, Sue, are a regular feature at the Maryland Renaissance Faire. Bob used to run a madrigal group, which at one time or another included nearly all the members of Clam Chowder. Bob has two daughters: Sharon, 11, and Maureen, 9, and presently is a Montessori teacher with a combined 4th and 5th grade class at the Barrie School in Silver Spring, Maryland.
- John Huff
"I play guitar, mandolin, clarinet, banjo, bass, concertina, fiddle (when no one is too near...), sing tenor and have recently launched into the keyboard (ouch!). I have my own small (cramped, noisy, cluttered) studio at which I record for myself and other poor damned souls. This is where I have done the re-mastering of the Chowder material."
- Kathy Sobansky
Kathy Sobansky has been singing and messing with the harp for over 20 years. She met up with the future members of Clam Chowder back at the Maryland Renaissance Faire in 1977 and has been hanging out with them at concerts, science fiction conventions, folk festivals, weddings and cheesy bar gigs ever since. She is the loving wife of Ed, the scourge of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Office, and the proud mother of Edward, a future World Series MVP.
- Don Stallone
Don appears on Clam Chowder recordings, but will not be at Consonance.

- Cliff Laufer
 “I play electric and acoustic fretless bass guitars with Clam Chowder. I’ve *listened* to Clam Chowder for years; a bit over a year ago John Huff asked if I’d play bass for a Chowder concert, and one thing led to another until now I play all the low notes that Sam doesn’t bother with. I’m not on any of Clam Chowder’s recorded material, but I sign the CD inserts anyway, if asked.
 “I play electric 8-string bass guitar and lap dulcimer with Stuart Mawler (Chapman stick player) as “Cliff Art,” and I play acoustic bass guitar with John Huff, mostly ’cause we just like to play the occasional humorous song together.”
- Sam Van Wyck
 Samwise the BassClam... Eldest if not wisest of the Clams. Retired schoolteacher, electronics wiz and forester, he now devotes his declining years to restoring and riding BMW motorcycles, enjoying retired life and riding herd on numerous grandkids.
- Carl Zwanzig
 Carl Zwanzig joined Clam Chowder in 1979 and became the sound engineer at live performances, handling the mixing board and sound checks for the group. He also played bones and autoharp on various recordings. He is the owner and proprietor of “Midnight Lighting and Sound”. He lives in the Silicon Valley.

Clam Chowder Tapes/Records/CDs

- Clam Chowder Stewed
- Clam Chowder for Here and to Go
- Leftovers
- Special Order
- Last Call
- Salvaged

Toastmaster: Cecilia Eng

Cecilia Eng, Rooted Out

by Michael "Moonwulf" Longcor

Okay, they want me to write a bio on Cecilia Eng. How to make it exciting? I know! Tell 'em about her colorful family history! Yeah, that's the ticket!

Cecilia Eng is the world's shortest Scandinavian. The Eng family (originally spelled Ing) moved to Norway from Sweden during the 1500's, as part of the ruling bureaucracy. When hard times hit in the 1800's, the family emigrated to the promised land, which turned out, sadly, to be North Dakota. They fled the plains in the early 1900's, moving to Southern California, where they found work in the new film industry as stunt men in silent Viking movies. The family stayed in the entertainment business through talkies, the big band era, and the Great Folk Music Scare of the early 1960's, when...

Nah, this isn't gonna work. Hmmm.

Cecilia Eng's great-grandfather came over from China and hit it big in the California gold fields. Returning to China, he invested heavily in a variety of projects in Shanghai and prospered. The family holdings were swept away when Mao nationalized China under the Communists, and the family returned to the U.S. The original family name of Chin was changed when the local Chin tong (no direct relation) got into a rather messy series of gang wars in and around San Francisco. Thus, a scion of the now-Engs, an Episcopalian pastor by trade, married and had a daughter...

Ahhh, that sounds bogus too. Just tell 'em about Cecilia.

Cecilia Eng ("Ciel" to her friends and creditors) has one of the biggest voices you'll ever hear in the smallest package you'll likely find. She sings great stuff, both her own original work and the best of others. She's fun to catch at a filk. She walks faster than people twice her height. She loves music, chocolate, Dr. Who, stuffed animals, and her husband Andrew Nisbet¹ (not necessarily in that order). She is not fond of yodeling lizards. She lives in a big old house in Portland, Oregon, with Andrew, Nyssa the cat and too many books. She has three albums out on the Firebird Music label, and has appeared on and produced many more (including the upcoming Owlflight). Ciel's most recent CD is "Harmony in Practice," It's a wonderful album. Buy it. Buy copies for your friends. You'll like it a lot. Trust me on this one.

Wow. The truth sounds good. Who knew? But I should've guessed. People who hear Cecilia sing discover they really like to hear Cecilia sing.

That's the truth.

If you have several hours to kill, ask her about her horse.

—Michael Longcor, *Flying Wolf Farm*, February, 1999

1. *The Nisbets come from a long line of Scots thugs who functioned throughout border history as bouncers, hit men, and hired muscle (think Star Trek's Mr. Scott played by John Travolta). Their descendants keep up the tradition, pursuing similar careers such as corporate downsizer, politician, restaurant maitre'd, music publisher, evil land developer, or the U.S Army's Head of Military Psychological Operations, South East Asia Theater.

Interfilk Guest: Gary Ehrlich

Gary Ehrlich—Sensitive New Age Guy

by Terri Wells

What can I say about Gary Ehrlich that someone else hasn't already made up a vicious rumor about? Let's start with the factual stuff. Earth is his planet of origin, but he overcame that nasty handicap by discovering filk at what was then considered to be the "final" Clam Chowder concert (at Unicon '89), and was instrumental in getting them back together for an encore at Bucconeer last year. In between...well, as they say, it's been a long, strange trip.

To continue with his filking career...at Phrolicon '91, he premiered (with co-writer Joe Neff) his first filk—"The Dalek Song"—to the tune of "The Lumberjack Song" ("I'm a Dalek and I'm ok..."). After a few years of hunting around for people to back him up on guitar, he took the matter into his own hands—literally—and bought himself a Seagull, which he promptly named "Christine," after Christine Lavin, his favorite folkie. (And yes, he really *is* a certified Sensitive New Age Guy, with Lavin's signature to prove it). He moved up in the world in '93, with his first concert, at Conterpoint.

In '94, tragedy struck when his grandmother died while he was at FilkOntario. He pulled through, thanks to the support of his friends, most notably Judith Hayman, MEW, and Urban Tapestry. Great tragedy sometimes provides great inspiration; in this case, his original song "Face to Face" came out of this. But of course, Gary's written lots of original songs, by turns moving, joyful, and funny: the two in his Edifice Complex (one of which Hannah M.G. Shapero did a painting for); "Through a Child's Eyes"; "Come Travel with Me" (one of my favorites -- don't miss Gary's wrapping his smooth tenor around *this* one!); "Distant Voices;" and "Builder's Song." Of course, if you *really* want funny, listen to his parodies: "Middle Age Love," "March of Cameras," "Ghost Pirates in DC," and "Operation Winter Storm," just to name a few (hey, I've got to give him a chance to surprise you; I'm not going to tell *all* his secrets!). If you wonder why so many of his songs, particularly the original ones, are about building things, his mundane job is as a structural engineer. He passed a test last year that lets him put P.E. after his name -- this means, I understand, that he has a License to Build.

Gee, I'm running out of space. Hmmm. Okay: ask him to tell you about "The Nymph Incident" (we have *that* particular humiliation on tape) or why MEW once exclaimed of him: "I think I've created a monster." Oh, and be sure to ask nicely first before you touch his guavas. :-)

Programming

Alan Thiesen

Throughout most of the con there'll be at least three rooms available. Two will have active programming items of one sort or another; the third will be available for open filking. There will also be a separate "Smoking Filk Room" in room 974 for those people who wish to inhale oxidizing tobacco products while they filk, as well as those who wish to hang out with people who like to inhale oxidizing tobacco products while they filk.

We'll have lots of concerts with many people who you may be discovering for the first time. Your old favorites will be here, too. If you want to participate in a one-shot performance or a 20-minute mini-concert, sign up at the registration table.

Note: Theme circles are *participatory*; the leaders are there to get things going and keep them running.

If you're new to filking, here are a couple of quick definitions to get you going:

- **Bardic** filking is when each person takes a turn in a circle. You must wait your turn before you perform unless someone requests otherwise when it's their turn. On the other hand, this means everyone gets something resembling an equal amount of time.
- **Chaos** filking involves people jumping in as they feel an urge to do so. Some people get more turns than others. This kind of circle takes the pressure off people who don't want to perform and who don't feel like requesting anything, and it lets performers who are lesser-known get in more songs. At the same time, it makes it possible for you to become a Filk Hog™, and trust us, you *don't* want to become known that way!
- **Freestyle** means "do what you want." You can sign up the room for an hour or so to get together with other filkers and practice something, or you can declare it to be the exclusive domain of Appalachian Nose Flute music; it's up to you!

We'll also be trying something new called a "Haiku Bardic."

Open filking (freestyle) is available in any room when there's nothing else scheduled in it.

Everyone has their favorite type of filk circle; that's why we provide a choice.

Our function rooms are available for open filking whenever nothing else is scheduled there. The San Mateo room is designated for Bardic Circles when we have exclusive use of the bar (Hops), specifically:

11 pm Friday -> 4:30 pm Saturday

midnight Saturday -> 4:30 pm Sunday

The following is a list of the special events, workshops, and theme circles at this year's Consonance:

Drum Circle

Atrium: 8pm Friday

"Dr. Jane" Robinson

Percussionists of all types are welcome at this session! Whether it turns out to be more of a workshop or a circle depends on what the people who show up want to do. Bring your percussion instruments and make joyful noise!

My Favorite Sings/Roundworm pre-release party

Eli Goldberg's room: 9pm Friday

Eli Goldberg

Listen to the latest filk releases from Prometheus Music (and feel the money in your wallet pulling, dare I say *urging* you towards the Dealers' Room).

Haiku Bardic

San Mateo: 11:30pm Friday

Alan Thiesen

Tired of those bardic circles that take as long as Pluto to come around? The Haiku Bardic may be just what you're looking for! Your performance need not be a haiku, but it may not last longer than 60 seconds. If you don't know a whole song that short, consider a standalone piece of a song. If we run out of one-minute songs, this will degenerate to a normal bardic circle.

Folk Jam

Hops: midnight Saturday (virtual Friday night)

Kathy Mar

Whether it's American or international (often by those great authors "Trad." and "Anonymous"), or modern acoustic music, it's welcome here!

Kermit's Filk Circle

Salon I: 1:00pm Saturday

"As long as I keep you, you'll live!"

-- Kermit the Frog, as told to Tom Smith

This filk circle will be dedicated to the songs of filkers who are no longer with us: Robert Cook, Bill Maraschiello, Mike Rubin, Gary Anderson, Buck Coulson, Randall Garrett, Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, and others. Help us keep the songs of our departed friends alive! If you don't know any songs by deceased filkers, bring your ears and tape recorder. No Kleenex allowed—this will be a time not to mourn, but to celebrate our filk heritage.

Amazing But True

Hops: 11:00am Saturday

Gary "Guava" Ehrlich, Alan "Flasher" Thiesen, Andrew Nisbet, and others

Some of Alan's most cherished filk memories over the years are of the hilarious true stories he's heard at filk cons: the priceless "Pigeonator" story, the story of the filker who stapled her kid brother to a tree, and a filker's explanation of why male gypsy moths are sexually attracted to him.

It is probably impossible to create these memorable moments on cue, but we'll try. In this panel, filkers will tell their most entertaining true stories. More participants are welcome. If you have a great true story, let Alan know!

Memories of Proto-Filking

Location TBD: 10:30am Saturday (1 hour)

Poul and Karen Anderson

Poul and Karen are attending CONTACT and have graciously agreed to join us for a panel on proto-filking. Look for an exact location of this panel at the registration desk.

Parodies from the Middle Ages to the present

Hops: 12:00pm Saturday

Bob Esty and Kathy Sobansky

Guitar Workshop

Atrium: 1:00 pm Saturday

John Huff

Learn tips, tricks, and licks from Clam Chowder's "first string."

Anna the Lost: "The Joy of Singing"

Atrium: 2:00pm Saturday

Anna the Lost

Not a concert. Not a panel. Come and find out what it is!

One-Shots

Salon I: 2:00pm-3:00pm Saturday

Got a special number you want to do? Want to do a number with people you don't normally get to play with? This is the place to do it!

Filk Circle: Alien Contact

San Mateo Room: 4:00 pm Saturday

We are sharing the hotel with CONTACT (<http://www.ccon.org/events/events.html>), an interdisciplinary conference that simulates alien/human contact. This inspired us to have a filk circle on that theme. If you run out of alien contact songs, plain old alien songs will do fine.

Sacred Harp

Hops: 12:00pm Sunday

Bob Esty and Kathy Sobansky

Sacred Harp, or shaped-note music was a type of three- or four-part music popular in America around the time of the Revolutionary War. Its musical form harkens back to earlier forms in that the melody line is always in the tenor and harmonies tend to be fifths and octaves, which gives it an almost medieval sound. In traditional shaped-note music, each note on a do-re-mi etc. scale had its own shape or, in older versions, a choice of four shapes. The content of the music is sort of generic Christian. The tradition behind the music is that everyone sings it; in fact, it was designed to be music in churches before organs were imported from Europe. That tradition, and the music itself, has moved west and south, and is still sung today in the Southern Appalachians, particularly in Georgia and in Alabama.

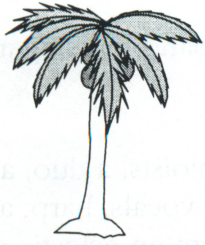
Sacred Harp has gotten a modest following in the folk community and at some science fiction conventions out East because the music sounds neat, and because the tradition is that everyone, regardless of ability, is always welcome to join. At the Sacred Harp workshop at Consonance, we will provide music and teach several tunes. You do not have to be able to read music to pick up the tunes.... indeed, the idea of the shapes was to teach music to people who could not read at all!

For more information about Sacred Harp, see <http://www.mcsr.olemiss.edu/~mudws/harp.html>.

20-Minute Mini-Concerts

11am-5pm Sunday

Want to show off your new material? Want to try performing to see what it's like? This is your chance! Check this room out; you never know who might be performing! To perform, sign up at Registration.



Choral Jam: The Harmonic Convergence

Hops: 11am Sunday

Puzzlebox

Last year El Niño met the Harmonic Convergence and we had it Acapulco—I mean, a cappella! It was so much fun we decided to keep it this way as an annual event! No musical instruments allowed other than your own voice.

[Editor's note: When I ran the spell-checker on this Program Book, it really did give me "Acapulco" for "a cappella!"]

Rock Jam!

Hops: 2:30pm Sunday

Scott "Cosmo" Snyder, Kristoph Klover

Be there with your instruments—acoustic *and* electric. We're gonna rock the night away—or at least the next two hours!

Interfilk Auction

Salon I: 4:00pm and 9:30pm Saturday

Kathleen Sloan, Interfilk Wench and Gary Ehrlich, He-wench

There'll be auctioneering for Interfilk during and between From Top to Bottom's concert and Cynthia McQuillin's concert. They have lots of surprises in store, but if we told you what they were, they wouldn't be surprises any more. *[Editor's note: I don't even know what they are!]*

Dead Mollusk

Whoever's still somewhat upright

Yep—we have a room from Sunday night through Monday morning, for those of you who just **can't stop singing!**

Concerts

Our Guests of Honor, Toastmistress, and Interfilk Guest will all be performing Saturday night. In addition, the following artists will be performing this weekend:

- **Seanan McGuire**

Seanan grew up in the filk community. She's also been doing musical theatre for years, combining a great voice with incredible comic timing.

- **The Two Bitchy Babes: Lynn Gold and Rennie Levine**

We've decided to do something a little different in combining these two. In New York City, several prominent female folk artists perform as "The Bitchin' Babes," so we thought it'd be fun to combine a current (Rennie) and former (Lynn) New York filker and call them "The Two Bitchy Babes."

Rennie is known for her wickedly funny parodies; this is her first west coast appearance in several years. Lynn is known for her warped original tunes as well as her parodies; this is her first "solo" concert at a Consonance.

- **John Huff and Cliff Laufer**
John and Chris play with Clam Chowder; here we get to enjoy them as a duo.
- **Barry Gold**
Barry's mellow, bass voice is familiar to many of us on the west coast. His repertoire is vast from having been a member of the filk community for many years.
- **Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff**
When Maya isn't writing fantasy novels with bimbos on the cover, she and her husband Jeff sing and play guitars and synthesizer.
- **Kristoph Klover and Margaret Davis**
Kristoph and Margaret have been singing and playing professionally for years as soloists, a duo, and as part of other bands, most notably Avalon Rising. Here we get to enjoy Margaret's vocals, harp, and woodwinds and Kristoph's vocals and string instruments as they play selections from an eclectic repertoire that ranges from ancient Portuguese to the Grateful Dead.
- **From Top to Bottom**
From Top to Bottom is an ethnically diverse, unity oriented gay male quintet led by Aurelio Font, an original member of The Flirtations. With David Dobrusky, Chris Dilley, Wade Gardner, and filk legend Joey Shoji, the five-some covers a repertoire ranging from the Doo Wop of the fifties to the music of today with wit, tenderness, and sometimes risqué humor. **Note:** Some of their material may not be appropriate for young children, right-wing Republicans, or homophobes. Jordi Sears-Zeve says they're more fun than the Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers.
- **Cynthia McQuillin**
Cindy is a master songwriter who has been performing for many years with her partner, "Dr. Jane" Robinson. Here Cindy returns to her roots as a solo performer.
- **Tom Holt** (by proxy)
Tom Holt is a masterful filk parodist from England whose two favorite victims are Leslie Fish and Kathy Mar. Leslie and Kathy have graciously agreed to perform some of his parodies of their songs. Look for Tom's outstanding book of filk parodies, *Bitter Lemmings*, in the dealer's room. Tom, who lives in Somerset, downwind of the meat-canning factory, also writes fantasy novels. To learn more about him, check out his web page, <http://www.mdstud.chalmers.se/~md4calle/holt/>.
- **Echo's Children** (Cat Faber and Callie Hills)
Cat is a very talented singer and songwriter, perhaps best known for her Pegasus award-winning song, "Acts of Creation." Callie plays flute and sings. We enjoyed them so much last year we asked them back. (Ask them about their second CD!)
- **Puzzlebox** (Paul Kwinn, Taunya Shiffer, and Alisa Schaeftbauer)
Paul Kwinn, Taunya Shiffer, and Alisa Schaeftbauer brought down the house last year with a repertoire ranging from the thought-provoking to mindless fun. Check out their web page, <http://www.puzzlebox.net>, to see their stunning new photo and find out about progress on their CD.
- **Scott "Cosmo" Snyder**
Scott grew up in the Los Angeles area, then went to Champaign, Illinois to obtain an MFA in Theatrical Sound Design in June 1998. He's now the Sound Designer for Accolade, Inc. in San Jose, California where he designs and supervises all the sound and music for their PC and PSX game titles. He's also an entertaining musician.

In Memoriam

Robert “Buck” Coulson 1928-1999

by Alan Thiesen

On the morning of Feb 19, 1999, Robert “Buck” Coulson passed away, with his wife Juanita at his side.

Buck leaves behind a lifetime of accomplishments and a lifetime of friends who will miss him greatly. Joe Ellis said it well: “Buck was... no, *is* a special person, and will long live on in our memories. We are better for having shared his life.”

Buck devoted much of his life to fandom. At Midwest conventions, he was known for his entertaining stories about fannish history. He and Juanita sold books and filk music at their huckster table, and they edited the Hugo-winning fanzine YANDRO practically forever.

Twenty years ago, at the first filk con ever, FilkCon I (or, as it was known in those days, “the FilkCon”), Buck had the honor to be chosen as the first president of the Filk Foundation. As a filker, he was not prolific, but his songs were memorable.

Buck was very modest about his own accomplishments. I did not learn until after his death that he was also a professional writer, both individually and in collaboration with Gene DeWeese. Two of his more intriguing titles are “Charles Fort Never Mentioned Wombats” and “Murder at the WorldCon.” Buck also wrote reviews for *Amazing*.

Buck’s passing brings to mind his own words about the impermanence of life, taken from one of his best-loved (and most cleverly parodied) filk songs, known as “Reminder” or “The Stardrive:”

“Now the First Ones are forgotten and the insects but a memory,
And the creature known as Man stands on the threshold of his fame,
But remember, little Earthling, there were others here before you
And still others who will follow in your flame.”

A memorial service is planned for Marcon 33. Charitable contributions in Buck’s name may be made to the American Diabetes Society, the American Heart Association, or the American Lung Society. Consonance is taking up a collection to benefit Juanita. In addition to Juanita, Buck is survived by his son, Bruce.

We’ll miss you, Buck.

Gary Anderson

by Eric Gerds

It’s been almost a year since Gary Anderson has left us. Over this past year I have, on occasion, found myself working my way out of problems by asking myself, “What would Gary do in this situation?” Surprisingly enough, it works. Faced with a choice between the convention just reprinting what myself and other have already written, or writing a new narrative in just a few days—the only answer to is think of Gary. So here we go.

A lot of stories have been told about Gary, about his life as a husband, an electrical engineer, working for the government, costuming, and other fannish activities. Rather than talk about these other things I thought I would write about a very strange passion that Gary and I shared—filk singing. That is, in fact, how we met; it was at the Los Angeles Westercon in 1980. Westerfilk was being released at the convention. Chris Weber pulled me into filking and I met Gary in my first filk Circle. As I went to the Los Angeles Filkers group monthly sings, I got to know Gary more and more.

It was Gary, Paul Willett, and Ron Bounds who were the driving force behind the resurgence of filking in Los Angeles and most of the West Coast back in the 80s. In many ways if it weren’t for him you wouldn’t be reading this right now at a filking convention. But I detract from my story...

For those of you who never heard Gary sing, you may have noticed that he is not on any convention or studio tapes/CDs. He had a low rumbling voice and used to joke that his range was 3 notes - widely spaced on the scale. He loved to sing songs about blood guts and destruction. His favorites back in the 80s were "Ian the Grim" and "Thomson, the Headless Gunner". The quality of his voice was more than made up by his enthusiasm and energy. Gary, ever since I knew him, had more energy than most eighteen-year-olds with two pots of coffee in them. There was many a convention that we went to where after working the whole convention, running the back-stage at a Masquerade, hitting a few parties, he would then grab his guitar and go to the filksing. I was, and still am, in awe -- WHERE would he get that burst of energy at 2:00 am? Then he would repeat the same thing the next night.

Now this image might shock some people who had only met Gary a few times. That is because Gary came across as a quiet person. He didn't bellow at the top of his lungs when there was a problem, toot his own horn when he was successful, or leave the dirty work for someone else. He would often try to fix conflicts by pulling people off to the side of the room and have a quiet chat with them, to calm them down or suggest solutions to their difficulties. Gary had a talent of working behind the scene where, unless you were working beside him, you had no idea how much work he was putting in. I personally watched him fix or rescue numerous conventions over the years. One of the most famous stories is the time he completely rewired a hotel's electrical system, without disrupting service.

Even with all of his energy and abilities Gary would also just sit back and listen to other people perform. He had a huge collection of filk tapes in his car and whether driving to work or a convention, Gary would always have a tape playing, with him singing along as he drove down the road. Even though he had many obligations that did not allow him to go to filk sings as often as he wished, he never gave up his love for this crazy music and the people who make it.

So whether you are new or old to filking, let me say for Gary; "pull up a chair, don't be afraid to join in, because if this group of crazies will let *me* sing, *you* have nothing to fear."

A Note from Publications

Lynn Gold

This program book reflects the work of everyone Dr. Jane has mentioned and *then* some. I'd like to thank the following folks:

- Eric P. Scott, for helping me design the new logo
- Jo Kellner, who compiled another excellent restaurant guide and our Progress Report
- "Dr. Jane" herself, for serving as the energy force behind the whole con (even when she didn't have any!)
- Fuzzball, for learning to tolerate music that *isn't* about something gross or disgusting
- Warren Maack, for his help and support
- Mike Hedblom, my boss at BroadVision, for helping me out with the overhaul of the Consonance web page (not to be confused with the many bosses I've mentioned in my filksongs)
- Elaine Leong, who's on the air this Saturday night so *I* don't have to be

I'd also like to thank you for attending this con, and most of all, for actually reading this.

Have a great time this weekend!

Music Stores

Lynn Gold

Given that many people break guitar strings or just plain want to go out and check out the music stores in the area, I've compiled a list and written some commentary about the ones I use regularly based on my experiences with them.

The Starving Musician
3427 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95051-2806
Phone: 408-554-9041

The Starving Musician is the nearest music store to the con. Take Lawrence Expressway to El Camino Real, turn left, and it's on your left (you have to make a U-turn after you see it). It's also a fun place to visit; you never know what you'll find for sale, as they mix their current inventory with their consignment stuff. I've seen a guitarron (the big six-string bass guitar they use in Mariachi bands), regular and guitar lutes, and many international instruments. They sell strings 2-for-1, and their prices are very good. Unfortunately, they're not open Sundays.

Gryphon Stringed Instruments
211 Lambert Ave
Palo Alto, CA 94306-2217
Phone: 650-493-2131

This is a first-rate shop for anything with strings. They not only sell guitars, but harps, dulcimers, banjos, ukuleles, and violins. They're not open Sundays.

Guitar Center
3430 Stevens Creek Blvd
San Jose, CA 95117-1042
Phone: 408-249-0455

It helps to be male to get decent service here. I've come in nearly ready to buy something when a salesman would screw up the deal by making a condescending remark or would ignore me. The last time I bought something from them I had to jump up and down and wave my arms to get the cashier's attention. They do sell strings, however, and they're open Sundays.

Guitar Showcase
3090 S Bascom Ave
San Jose, CA 95124-2099
Phone: 408-377-5864

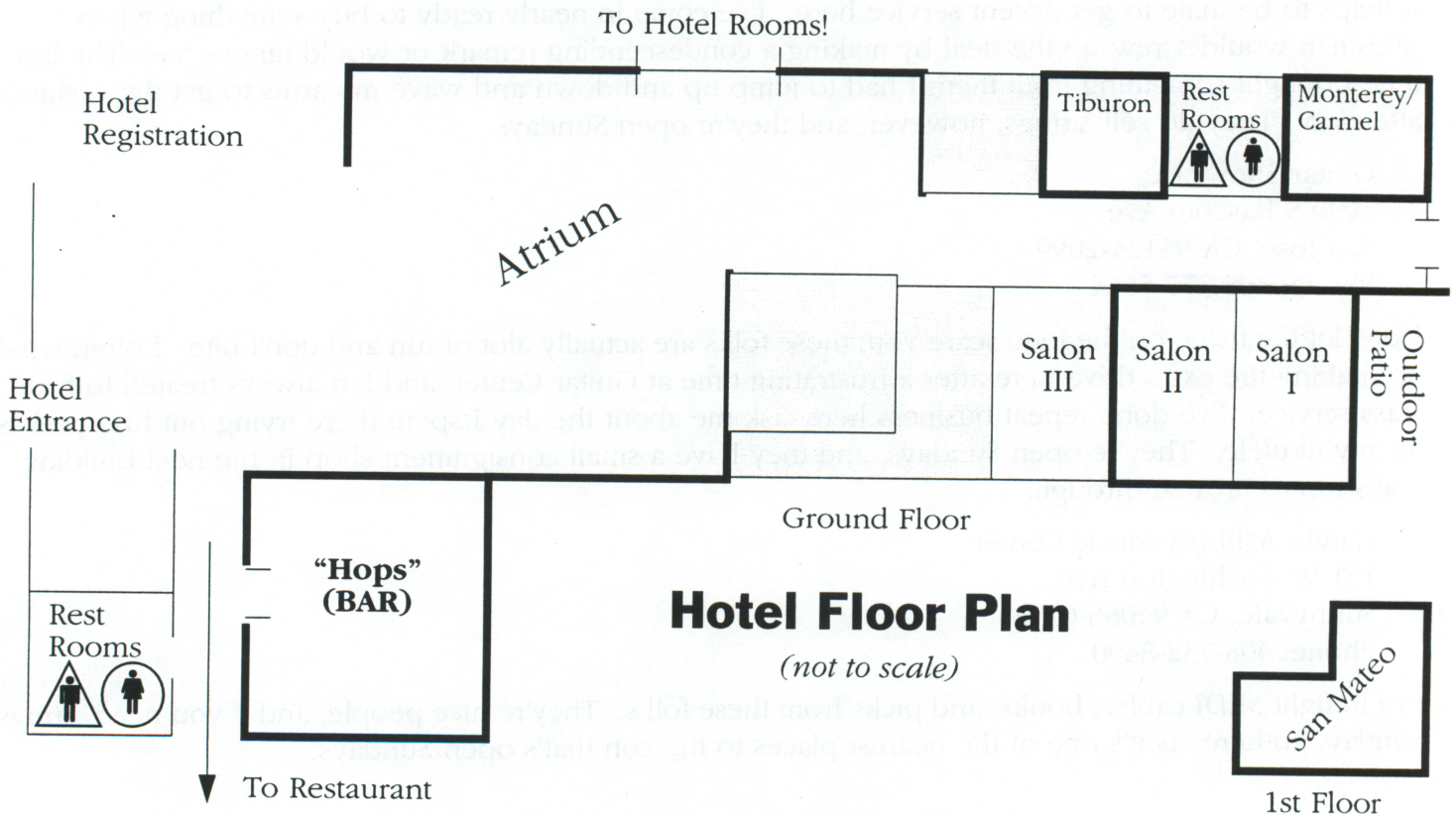
Don't let the fishie on the logo scare you; these folks are actually a lot of fun and don't bite. I often wind up making the extra drive here after a frustrating time at Guitar Center, and I'm always treated to first-class service. I've done repeat business here; ask me about the day I spent there trying out fuzz pedals for my ukulele. They're open Sundays, and they have a small consignment shop in the next building that's fun to browse through.

Haight Ashbury Music Center
151 W Washington Ave
Sunnyvale, CA 94086-6152
Phone: 408-732-8490

I've bought MIDI cables, books, and picks from these folks. They're nice people, and if you need strings Sunday, go here, as it's one of the nearest places to the con that's open Sundays.

Consonance Schedule: FRIDAY

	Salon I (Concerts)	Hops (Jams, Circles, Events)	Atrium (Jams, Circles, Events)	San Mateo (Open Filking, Workshops)
noon	Open Filking (Freestyle)	Open Filking (Freestyle)	Open Filking (Freestyle)	Open Filking (Freestyle)
4pm		Not Available For Filking		
5:30	*****Dinner Break *****			
8pm	Seanán McGuire	Not Available For Filking	Drum Circle	Open Filking (Freestyle)
8:30pm	Two Bitchy Babes (Lynn Gold/Rennie Levine)			
9pm				
9:30pm	John Huff/Cliff Laufer		Open Filking (Freestyle) till whenever....	Haiku Bardic till whenever....
10pm	Barry Gold			
10:30pm	Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff			
11pm	Open Filking (Chaos) till whenever....			
11:30pm				
12am		Folk Jam till whenever....		



Consonance Schedule: SATURDAY

	Salon I (Concerts)	Hops (Jams, Circles, Events)	Atrium (Jams, Circles, Events)	San Mateo (Open Filking, Workshops)
10:30am	Open Filking (Freestyle)		Memories of Proto Filking (tentative)	Open Filking (Freestyle)
11am		Amazing But True		
11:30am	Harmonic Convergence (Choral Jam)		Open Filking (Freestyle)	
12pm		John Huff Guitar Workshop		
12:30pm		Parodies from the Middle Ages to present		
1pm	Kermit's Filk Circle			
1:30pm				
2pm	One-Shots	Sacred Harp	"The Joy of Singing" (Atrium)	
2:30pm				
3pm	Kristoph Klover and Margaret Davis	Open Filking (Freestyle)	Open Filking (Freestyle)	
3:30pm	From Top To Bottom			
4pm	Interfilk Auction 1		Alien Contact: Theme Circle	
4:30pm	Cynthia McQuillin	Bar Open to Adults who Drink and Filk	Open Filking (Freestyle)	
5pm	Tom Holt by Proxy (Leslie Fish/Kathy Mar)			
5:30pm				
6pm	concert setup	Dinner Break!!!		
7:30pm	Gary Ehrlich	Open Filking (Freestyle) till whenever...	Open Filking (Freestyle) till whenever...	Open Filking (Bardic) till whenever...
8pm	Cecilia Eng			
8:30pm	Interfilk Auction 2/ Intermission/ Clam Chowder setup			
9pm	Clam Chowder			
9:30pm				
10pm				
10:30pm				
11pm	Open Filking (Freestyle) till whenever...			

Consonance Schedule: SUNDAY

	Salon I (Concerts)	Hops (Jams, Circles, Events)	Atrium (Jams, Circles, Events)	San Mateo (Open Filking, Workshops)
11am	The Joy of Singing	Harmonic Convergence (Choral Jam)		
11:30am				
12pm	Puzzlebox	Open Filking (Freestyle)	Not Available for Filking	Open Filking (Bardic)
12:30pm	Echo's Children			
1pm	20-Minute Mini-Concerts Performer sign-up at Registration Desk			
1:30pm				
2pm	Scott "Cosmo" Snyder			
2:30pm	Rock Jam			
3pm				
3:30pm				
4pm				
4:30pm				
5pm				
5:30pm		Bar Open to Adults who Drink and Filk		
6pm	Con closes; Dinner Break, then Dead Mollusk in the Con Suite (Sico 109) at 7pm			