

CONSONANCE

March 6-8, 1998

*Holiday Inn San Jose North
Milpitas, CA*

WARNING



FILKERS AT PLAY

Contata 98

THE PERMANENT FLOATING EAST COAST FILK CON
IN ITS FINAL NEW YORK APPEARANCE THIS MILLENNIUM!

Guest of Honor
Toastmaster
Interfilk Guest
Listener Guest

Steve Macdonald
Mark Osier
Jane Mailander
Marc Glasser

MEMBERSHIP: \$35 UNTIL JUNE 15, 1998; \$40 THEREAFTER
SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP \$10, CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE

July 1998

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18

ARE WE ON YOUR CALENDAR YET?

Howard Johnson's
Plaza-Hotel
Saddle Brook, NJ
\$75/night 1-4 persons
201-845-7800

Contact person: Bruce Adelschlag, 73-12 35th Ave, Apt. E25, Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Consonance 1998

Guests of Honor

Barry and Sally Childs-Helton

Toastmasters

Heather Alexander and Phil Obermarck

Interfilk Guest

Diana Huey

Special Guests

Rand Bellavia and Adam English

Why?

Because we *like* you!

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A Note from the Chair

Alan Thiesen

Welcome to Consonance!!!!

I'd like to call your attention in particular to our charity events.

First of all, the Gary Anderson Ose-Fest and Benefit Auction.

If you don't know about Gary Anderson, his battle against brain cancer, and the tremendous outpouring of support for him from his many friends in fandom, see the Gary Anderson support page at <http://www.filk.com/gary/index.html>. We are glad to do what we can to help Gary.

And yes, we are having the usual Interfilk auction as well. Feel free to donate auction items to Interfilk or to Friends Of Gary (FrOG), or both, as the spirit moves you.

I would also like to call your attention to the many wonderful performers who may be new to you. We have made a special effort to find outstanding musicians who are appearing at Consonance for the first time. In fact, most of our concert performers have never attended Consonance before.

Yes, many of your favorite filkers you know and love will be here. But we also hope you will hear new voices and meet new friends.

No filk convention is possible without the help of many dedicated volunteers. I would like to thank the members of our concom:

- Dr. Jane Robinson, programming
- Bob Laurent, sage advice and dealers' room
- Lindy Sears, children's programming
- Colleen Savitzky, hotel liaison and con suite
- Jo Kellner, registration
- Lynn Gold, publications
- Kristoph Klover, sound

I would also like to thank Interfilk for having the stupendous good taste to select Diana Huey, "the singing con chair," as our Interfilk guest. And I would like to thank the many Ookla the Mok fans who have made it possible for Rand Bellavia and Adam English to be with us.

Most of all, I would like to thank YOU for being here. Without all of you, there would be no point. In the words of Diana Huey, our Interfilk guest,

"You make this possible; you are the voice that shapes our song, the drum that keeps our beat, the reason we work this hard year after year."

Thanks for being here, and hope you have a wonderful time!

—*Alan Thiesen, con chair*

Where and When to Find Everything

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

Dealers' Room: The Korbel Room

Hours: To be announced

Con Suite: Room 402

Hours:

Friday: noon-2am

Saturday: 10am-2am

Sunday: 10am-to be announced

Children's Programming: Room 502

Hours:

Saturday: noon-6pm

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 help.

Smoking Filk Room: Room 302

Smoking is permitted in this room from 2pm Friday till 5pm Sunday.

Dead Dog: Room 302

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

A Note from Publications

Lynn Gold

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

- Fuzzball, for being the cutest doggie in the world, and for distracting me when I needed it most
- Warren Maack, for his help and support
- Diana Koivunen, for her "brass actions" (she fetched the trombone for...well, you'll see...)
- Bob "Kanef" Kanefsky, Judith Hayman, Phil Obermarck, and Mary Ellen Wessels, for contributing biographies of our honored guests
- Diana Huey and Shelby Bartellis, who also wound up helping out at the last minute (this is how we treat our *guests*???)
- Gary Anderson, for inspiring all of us with his positive attitude and never-ending sense of humor in the midst of a crisis

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!

—Lynn Gold

Guests of Honor: Barry and Sally Childs-Helton

Barry and Sally: Off the Top of My Head - (Hey! What are you guys doing up there!?)

by Mary Ellen Wessels

They have ferrets. Three of them. They have a whole room dedicated to their ferrets. They also have a dog named "Grace" that Barry growls at when he needs to remind the world that he is, in fact, the alpha male of the household! (It's true! Ask him!)

Barry has more guitars than anyone else I know personally. Once when I visited him he was showing me his guitars and I swear it was like a magician pulling things out of a hat... they just kept appearing from all over the house! They also have a full kit drum and a gazillion percussion instruments, all of which Sally plays wonderfully. This includes by the way a full size orchestral marimba.

Little did you know, I bet, that Sally started out on saxophone! (gee, I hope I am remembering that right—oh well, if I'm wrong that's how great rumors are started eh?) [Editor's note: flute]

In an attempt to make their college degrees equal in number to their instruments they each hold three degrees (at least 3). Barry has Literature, Psychology and a Ph.D. in folklore. Sally has Music, Library Science and a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology. (Forgive me if I got these wrong guys!)

Sally is a certified "Music for People" facilitator. If you ever get to attend one of her workshops don't miss it! They are fantastic! She also helped to found an organization called "Hear Rays" which uses expressive therapies to help people with AIDS and their family and friends.

Barry is a wonderful cartoonist. He draws the most amazing doodles. Some of them appear in their songbooks.

By day Barry (AKA Bear) is an editor.

By day Sally works for a library/museum. (I confess, I am not quite sure what her official title there is.)

Barry used to play in a duo called "The Chianti Brothers."

Barry can recite long and rambling and delightfully bizarre poems at will. (Beware! I have a poetic mind and I'm not afraid to use it!)

Their musical taste is at least as eclectic as mine! Ranging from jazz to classical to folk to rock to....what will be next?

Sally has a delightful and wicked sense of humor (why drummers *need* stage mikes!).

Sally has a sordid past as either a Southern Belle or a reckless and wild tomboy. You guess which.

Sally has a special fondness for Fish, Barry for Bears and both of them for dinosaurs. They have done special concerts for children's museums using the theme of stars and dinosaurs.

They both are quite skilled as costumers. Barry as Gort is a true vision of... loveliness?

They have a huge collection of videos - everything from classic SF to Laurie Anderson.

There must be all sorts of things I'm leaving out but take the time to get to meet them. You won't regret it. They are two of the kindest, funniest, most intelligent and eclectic people you could ever meet. And I'm not just saying that because I'm in the band!

Toastmasters: Heather Alexander and Phil Obermarck

Heather Alexander

by Phil Obermarck

Heather Alexander spends her days playing tag with her five cats, being trained by her Arabian horse, horsing around with her husband, being scolded by her parrot, or scolding her daughter. Her free time is spent singing and playing original and traditional Celtic music on fiddle, guitar, mandolin and bodhran.

Last year her performances took on a new dimension when she was joined on stage by her foster daughter Mairi, an 1800 year old changeling who doesn't look a day over 17. Partially deaf, Mairi provides song signing, which brings the musical imagery closer to audiences, materializing mythology before their very eyes.

With the release of her solo CD, "Wanderlust," Heather has been receiving nationwide recognition. Praised as "...an exceptional album" (Dirty Linen), with "high marks for authenticity and fire" (Folk Roots), "Wanderlust" is well worth a listen. Since "Wanderlust," she has released a live album, "Life's Flame" and another studio recording "Midsummer."

Early this year, she began work on her fourth solo album, "Kiss the Wind," a selection of both original and traditional songs and music.

Her previous work on book/album tie-ins like "Songsmith" and "Shadowstalker," as well as her original Celtic rock album "Keepers of the Flame" (with her former band, Phoenix), have assured her popularity at SF cons, while her appearances at pubs, coffee houses, and Highland Games have made her music available to the public at large.

She can be found on the Web at <http://www.teleport.com/~seafire/>

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

Phil Obermarck: "Cause I'm the Author, That's Why!"

by Phil Obermarck (edited from his web page)

Against my protests, I have been forced by friends and family to include this here. In order to make it easy, I will list the things I am known for and talk a little about them:

1. Husband to Heather Alexander
2. Lyricist
3. Computer Nerd
4. Web Author
5. Graphic Designer

Husband to Heather Alexander

Sorry kids, you're too late. Heather and I met in 1979, were married in 1986, and plan on sticking together for many moons to come.

Often people come up to me and ask me if I am "The Phil," by which they mean, am I the one that Heather is always talking about from the stage. Yes, that's me. Which leads me to:

Lyricist

If you ever bothered to read the credits to Phoenix' "Keepers of the Flame" album (assuming you have one), Heather's "Midsummer," "Live," or "Wanderlust" albums, or had the privilege of seeing Heather live, you've probably heard my work. I have had many songs published, including:

- Creature of the Wood (Keepers of the Flame)
- Stormbringer (Keepers of the Flame)

- Tomorrow I leave for Battle (Midsummer)
- Courage Knows no Bounds (Heather Alexander, Live!)
- Faerie Queen (Wanderlust)
- Wanderlust (Wanderlust)

Computer Nerd

Oftimes people see me at Heather's gigs with my nose buried in my trusty little laptop (an Apple Powerbook 180c, if anyone cares), and assume that I am just some dweeby dork who isn't worthy to bask in the glow of Heather's smile. Well, tough!

I have found that I am able to get more work done (and I'll explain what I mean by "work" in a moment) at Heather's gigs, than any other time. This is because the work I do at there is primarily Heather-related. After doing the 8-hour day thing as a Computer Hardware Technician, I have very little time to do the things that give me joy (and can talk about in public). Therefore, I work at Heather's gigs, so I don't have to work when we both have "free" time.

Web Author

I was the one who created her web page, from the text to the graphics. I got into Web Authoring by making a sidestep from graphic design. I am willing to do so for others as well. Contact me via e-mail at seafire@teleport.com. By the way, I did most of the web page work at Heather's gigs (nyahh).

Graphic Designer

Another thing I do for hire (and for Heather) is graphic design. I combine text with pictures for posters, postcards, flyers, CDs, cassettes, brochures, advertisements, and damn near anything else.

This past year has seen the beginning of a continuing collaboration between myself as a colorist and Stephen G. Prescott on numerous projects in the SF/F vein.

My credits include:

- Software Compact Disc design for IntelliCorp, Inc.
- Cassette and Compact Disc, Cover and Booklet design for Phoenyx' album "Keepers of the Flame"
- Cassette and Compact Disc, Cover and Booklet design for Heather Alexander's "Wanderlust" album.
- A Drawing (Artwork Stephen G. Prescott, Coloring Philip R. Obermarck)
- A Bookmark (Artwork Stephen G. Prescott, Coloring Philip R. Obermarck)
- A Button (Artwork Stephen G. Prescott, Coloring Philip R. Obermarck)

Interfilk Guest: Diana Huey

Diana Huey—Deb School Drop-Out or Filk Maven: You Be the Judge!

by Judith Hayman

Diana Huey distinguished herself in her first public performance at the Wright Patterson AFB Officers' Club by spitting up carrots on the spit & polish shoes of the waiter. She was two. She felt no shame then, nor has she since.

Despite having taught the 'lower classes' of filk (that's us) the finer points of the Deb wave ("Elbow, elbow, wrist, wrist, wrist; pearls; rest"), she really is a Deb school drop-out.

She is Diana, Fearless Rescuer of Cats. Abandoned Kitty Luna and her five itsy-bitsy fluffy kittens (Godzilla, Rhodan, Mothra, Gigantor, and King Kong) can attest to her kind heart. So can the various members of the filk community that she's kindly put up, making the Huey Hostel rival Hotel Hayman in notable guests. The Columbus filk community owes to Diana the establishment (finally) of regular house filks that have fostered the emergence of local talent.

She is Diana, Volunteeraholic. She volunteers at work (FIVE committees in one year); she volunteers for Marcon, a large GenSF con where she's done insignificant jobs like Guest Liaison & Filk Programming, and she has served OVFF faithfully for years (at least six) in minor roles like conchair, co-conchair, and other odds n' ends. We try to stop her (as if!) but she just can't seem to break the habit.

She is Diana, Incognito Filker, who hid her light under a bushel for years, until, with much encouragement, she became the first member of the OVFF concom to regularly, publicly PERFORM! Diana has a lovely voice and is developing what is already an elegant guitar style (she's her teacher's prize pupil) on her lovely new La Patrie classical (ask her about it!). She also writes songs both really, really odd ones, and really evocative ones. Some are scurrilous about fellow cons and filkers, but we won't go into that just now. Unfortunately, when Diana does concerts, she tends to leave out her own material to promote that of others, so do beg her to sing some of her own songs.

She is Diana, VSP Employee of the Quarter. Was this because she taught the Deb wave at work, served on committees, was a Move Coordinator when Vision Service Plan moved office, or because she leads the way in taking advantage of their offer of two pairs of glasses per year? Who knows? (Diana is the only person I know who has an entire wardrobe of spectacles, coordinated to her clothes, her accessories and her guitar straps)

She is Diana, Patroness of Interfilk, giving unending support, as a donor, a buyer and a sometime Interfilk Wench at the goofy eastern/midwest auctions. But her contributions aren't why she's a guest: we think that Diana is one of those people who are musically talented, and giving of themselves so that they MAKE the filk community happen. All that and she's terrific friend material too. To make it worse, she's quiet and avoids both the limelight and crowds. That being the case, we put her front and center for you to enjoy.

And she is Diana, wife of Bob. Don't enjoy her too much: her heart belongs to him.

Special Guests: Rand Bellavia and Adam English (of "Ookla the Mok")

[Note: Kanef refers to Rand and Adam as the "demo version" of Ookla the Mok.—Ed.]

Smarter than the average rock star! More musical the average filker! Look! Up on the stage! It's Ookla the Mok!

by Bob Kanefsky

Greetings, people of Consonance. Here are some things you should know about your special guests.

Ookla the Mok was created one dark and stormy night, when lightning struck a recording studio roof in Buffalo, sending electricity arcing out of the microphones. (The studio was wired the same way as the bridge on the Enterprise.) A random would-be rock star happened to be holding the microphone at the time, and needless to say, this freak accident not only twisted his mind, but also split him into Rand and Adam, the original two bodies of the modular creature now known to the world as Ookla the Mok.

Since then, much like an amoeba, it has absorbed and discarded several other bodies to gain extra limbs so that it can perform unspeakable (and sometimes unsingable) acts in front of unsuspecting audiences. Today, it is double its original size, a large creature (in technical terms, a "high band-width" creature) with eight arms and eight legs -- having absorbed its own recording engineer, Doug, not long after he finished his work on its *Less Than Art* CD. It generally uses some of those sixteen limbs to play percussion (amazingly, just two arms and maybe some feet, from its first absorbed body, Luis), and up to six more hands to play bass and guitar.

It uses two of its brains, acting as one, to write rock music with lyrics that are clever and original even by filk standards. The lyrics are semi-intelligent in their own right; they crawled into my brain in 1994 off of the "Poor Man's Copyright" tape and have refused to leave ever since, and the songs on their "Less than Art" CD show every sign of doing the same. The chorus of "Stranger In The Mirror," one of the weirder Ookla the Mok songs, mentions a great work of literature, a pop song, and a comic book issue practically in the same breath, a level of scholarship not usually attained in mundane rock music. The lyrics sometimes are cleverly structured, as in the way that "Still Can't Buy Me Love" weaves T.V. commercial slogans into a love song, and the parallel verses of "AGeD," "Math," and "Das Uber Tuber." It apparently still retains memories of its childhoods, because much of its songwriting captures the magic of childhood (or maybe "boyhood" would not be overly specific), in a non-sugar-coated way, a little bit like what some of the Calvin and Hobbes strips did: the ambitions of "Cool" and "Private I," the nostalgia of "Viewmaster." The main SF connection is in its songs about Star Trek ("Number One," "Tiberius Rising"), comics ("Arthur Curry"), and movies ("Dollar Fifty Movies," "Bride of Wolfman"). Other songs offer an offbeat look at romantic relationships in general ("Three Monkeys," "Home") and the communication difficulties in male/female relationships in particular ("Gorilla Gorilla" and "Tandem Bike"). "Tandem Bike" depicts a woman who is playing the passive-aggressive side of a two-player game that the guy is clueless about the rules to. He can't interpret her signals, even with the aid of his trusty cowboy secret space detective super-hero radioactive message decoder watch.

As its unique powers become more widely understood, Ookla the Mok is becoming a respected member of the Legion of Super-Filkers.

I would urge you to attend the concert, but if you're like me, you didn't have time to read this program book until you were halfway home. ("I looked through the program grid. I don't know why I did. Everything good is in the past." — to quote one of my own Ookla the Mok parodies.) Too bad; you missed a great concert. So if you haven't bought the CD, *Less than Art*, be sure to do so; it's great. And for those of you who have already bought it — ha! that old thing? You haven't seen anything yet; half of the best songs weren't on it, and there have been some great ones since then. Just wait until you hear the next Ookla the Mok CD (to be released soon), and the one after.

For the latest updates on the effects of Ookla the Mok, see <http://www.infinet.com/~scoteder/otmfan>. This site will also allow you to enjoy pieces of the songs—about two seconds at a time.

Programming

Jane Robinson

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'll also be a separate "Smoking Filk Room" in room 302 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; you'll find them leading the various workshops and theme circles, and perhaps in the **20-minute mini-concerts Sunday** (sign up at registration).

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 an equal amount of time (more or less).
- **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!

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

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

Meet the Guests/Premiere Party

This will be a dessert buffet (yes, there'll be stuff for diabetics, hypoglycemics, and vegans to eat and drink) catered by our Con Suite Director, Colleen Savitzky. While you munch and socialize, you'll be able to listen to the latest filk releases (and feel the money in your wallet pulling, dare I say *urging* you towards the Dealers' Room).

Drum Circle/Workshop

Sally Childs-Helton, Deirdre McCarthy, Nancy Freeman

Not one, not two, but *three* percussion masters will be leading 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!

History/Fantasy Circle

Heather Alexander, Leslie Fish, Mary Bertke, Cynthia McQuillin

This circle features music about historical events and fantasy topics.

"Covers" Circle

The Duras Sisters (Debbie Baudoin, Elizabeth Burnham, and Chris Dickenson), Jeff Hitchin, Jane Robinson

This is a circle where you can do any song you want as long as it was written by somebody else. Sheets (of other people's music) are optional.

Gary Anderson Benefit “Ose-Fest”

Cynthia McQuillin, Jordin Kare, John and Chris O’Halloran

We will:

- sing songs for Gary (ose, mor-ose, cheery-ose, and miscellaneous undead)
- tell stories and anecdotes about Gary
- tell sick and warped brain cancer jokes to be passed onto Gary
- although contribution is *not necessary for attendance*, we will pass the hat for Gary
- auction items for the Friends of Gary (FrOG) fund

Note: A second filk tape of Gary the Grim is in the FrOG benefit auction. It is an entirely different recording from the one auctioned at the Wizards & Warriors ball in January.

If you wish to be creative, you can request or perform a song and contribute money for each verse to the FrOG fund

Because of the extra support for Gary from outside the filk community, people not attending Consonance who want to attend the Gary Ose-Fest can pay a special \$10.00 admission just for that evening. All Consonance members get into the Gary Ose-Fest for free.

The proceedings will be taped and sent to Gary; our songs and well-wishes are important, along with the money we raise.

After all, healing takes energy, and we plan to send him as much good filking energy as we can!

[Editor’s note: Has it occurred to anyone else that we’re making the tape for Gary in a hotel that bases itself in San Jose?]

Arranging

Rand Bellavia, Adam English, Jeff and Maya Bonhoff, Barry Childs-Helton, Debbie Baudoin

How *do* they make their music sound so good? Find out here!

Your Album: From Songs to Sales

Heather Alexander, Phil Obermarck, Kristoph Klover, Jane Robinson

Writing, choosing material, covers & graphics, engineering, duplication, and marketing: the folks running this workshop are seasoned pros who will teach you everything you’ve always wanted to know.

Music Theory 101

Carol Flynt

Carol will teach you what you need to know before you try to do arrangements.

Books and Media Circle

The Duras Sisters (Debbie Baudoin, Elizabeth Burnham, and Chris Dickenson), Barry and Lee Gold

Tune into this circle full of the “write stuff” — songs that originate from media and literature.

Cybersongs and Techie-Tunes

Jordin Kare, Steve Savitzky, Jeff Hitchin, Lynn Gold

Propel yourself or take a hard drive towards this meg-nificent panel of high-tech professionals who will lead you in songs that bring out the geek in all of us (and give you a gig-gle or two).

One-Shots

12:30pm-1:30pm 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!

Folk Jam!

Kathy Mar, Mary Bertke, Puzzlebox (Paul Kwinn, Taunya Shiffer, and Alisa Schaeftbauer)

Whether it be 60s folk, folk music from the British Isles, or modern folk, you'll find it here.

Rock Jam!

Barry and Sally Childs-Helton, Rand Bellavia, Adam English, Kristoph Klover

Be there with your instruments—acoustic *and* electric. We're gonna rock the night away!

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!



Choral Jam: The Harmonic Convergence

Kristoph Klover, T. J. and Mitchell Burnside-Clapp, Jeff and Maya Bonhoff

This year El Niño meets the Harmonic Convergence as it goes Acapulco—I mean, uh, a cappella! No musical instruments allowed other than your own voice.

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

Celtic Orgy!

Heather Alexander

The Celtic Jam is back at Consonance! Bring your bodhran, fiddle, tin whistle, harp, and anything else you can think of that fits and join in!

West Coast Circle

Whoever's left

This is a "down-home" circle; kick back and transcend to a "higher plane" as other con attendees transcend into the air on jet planes.

Interfilk Auction

Diana Huey, Rand Bellavia, Adam English, Kathleen Sloan

There'll be auctioneering for Interfilk during and between Diana's concert and Rand & Adam'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 Dog

Whoever's still somewhat upright

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

Concerts

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

- **Jeff Hitchin**

Contrary to popular belief, this Seattle-based performer is not the reason we've been having so much rain; blame it instead on El Niño. Jeff is a fabulous singer/songwriter who plays keyboards. Originally from San Diego, he currently hails from the Seattle area.

- **Shirlee Dunlop**

Also known as "Anna the Lost," Shirlee has performed at SF cons in the Pacific Northwest and in the SCA.

- **Nancy Freeman**

Nancy is an Arizona-based singer, guitarist, and drummer with an eclectic repertoire.

- **T. J. and Mitchell Burnside-Clapp**

Mitchell is a wonderfully entertaining rocket scientist with an Australian accent, and T. J. is a computer scientist with a lovely tenor voice. Ten years ago these Pegasus award-winning individuals met at a filk convention in the bay area, and they've been making beautiful music ever since!

- **Syntax** (Jeff and Maya Bonhoff)

When Maya isn't writing fantasy novels with bimbos on the cover, she and her husband Jeff sing and play guitars and synthesizer.

- **Carol Flynt**

Carol is a Michigan-based singer/guitarist with a sweet soprano voice.

- **Brandywine Bay** (Mary Bertke, Becky McGraw, and Brian Rogers)

Mary and Becky have delighted audiences at OVFF, FilKONtario, and ConChord with their Celtic a cappella harmonies. They are now joined by Brian Rogers, who, as a high school sophomore, won a U.S./Canadian student singing competition.

- **Howard Kaplan**

Howard is a Toronto-based (as in Canadian, eh?) scientist who doubles as a singer/songwriter. He specializes in rather technical songs, on subjects such as the sex lives of earthworms, the flexible sigmoidoscopy procedure, and panty hose in outer space. His song "The Mouse" (inspired by "Flowers for Algernon") won the songwriting contest at the last FilKONtario.

- **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. This is their first bay area appearance.

- **Puzzlebox** (Paul Kwinn, Taunya Shiffer, and Alisa Schaeftbauer)

Paul Kwinn and Taunya Shiffer performed as a duo at the last Consonance with a repertoire ranging from the thought-provoking to mindless fun. Now Alisa Schaeftbauer joins Paul and Taunya on keyboard and vocals, further expanding the group's range.

Food and Other Amenities

The Consonance Restaurant Review Team™

There are lots of really great places to eat near the con. We could write a book about them, but then, this book is supposed to be about *Consonance*. At the Asian shopping complex just down the street from the hotel you'll find bakeries, a supermarket, jewelry stores, a restaurant supply store, and many restaurants that sell everything from sandwiches to turkey testicles [*Editor's note: Yes, I know turkeys don't have testicles; I just lifted that from one of the menus I saw. I wasn't brave enough to try them, though*]. If you want to go to WalMart, Borders, or any of the shops across the street at McCarthy Ranch, we're told the hotel has a shuttle bus that'll take you there for free.

Meanwhile, we've checked out some of the eateries and nearby shops. Some of our recommendations and observations follow.

Bombay Cafe

In the Cozy 8 Hotel on the other side of Highway 880

Colleen Savitzky has eaten here on many occasions and gives it a "thumbs-up!"

Tung Kee Noodle House

In the Asian Shopping Center

Can you say "bargain," kids? Good, I *knew* you could! This noodle house is a locally-based chain. You can get a *very* filling meal of soup or a noodle or rice plate for \$3-\$4 (and I'm including tax!). Those big bowls of soup are the "regular" bowls; the "large" bowls look like something your mother would serve from.

Ranch 99 Market

In the Asian Shopping Center

Another place for great cheap eats. It's a supermarket chain with an Asian bent to it. There's a counter where you can get pieces of dim sum (make sure they heat it!!!) or quick and cheap Chinese food. The bakery to the left of it (I forget its name) is also quite good for char siu bao (Chinese barbecued pork buns).

In and Out Burger

McCarthy Ranch

If you're going to do the basic burgers, fries, and a soft drink, do it here instead of McDonald's. They make everything to order fresh and even blot the excess grease off the freshly-cooked (you can see the guy in the back cutting the fresh potatoes!) fries. They're also open till 1:30am Fridays and Saturdays and till 1am Sundays.

Applebee's

McCarthy Ranch

Normally good Amurkin food, but this particular one had horribly slow service when our Expert Eaters™ tested it. Our waitress ignored our table in favor of one that was ordering massive quantities of mixed alcoholic drinks. The service was so horrible we had to get up and go to the hostess to get our bill so we could leave! The only place we'd experienced worse service was the Denny's in Eugene, OR, where the waitress ignored us in favor of cutting the food of a guy who was drooling on the counter.

Black Angus

McCarthy Ranch

It's your typical Black Angus restaurant.

WalMart

McCarthy Ranch

It's your typical WalMart, but with one twist: it's not open 24 hours. I believe they close at 11pm.

Borders Books and Music

McCarthy Ranch

A smaller Borders store. I don't think this one does live music, but they do sell recorded music in addition to books.

Mayflower Restaurant

427 Barber Lane

This one gets special mention because it's been recommended to the Program Book editor for **dim sum** by multiple (read: 5 or 6) unrelated sources, including the Savitzkys and a co-worker who's lived in and whose wife is from Hong Kong. The phone number is (408) 922-2700.

And Finally...a Note on Safe Badge Practice

Lynn Gold

At another recent west coast con whose name shall remain nameless, many people exchanged membership badges, causing much confusion amongst the attendees. We at Consonance instead require that our members practice Safe Badge.

Respect yourself and your fellow filkers. Admission to Consonance is the sole responsibility of each member and all attendees should ensure precautions are taken to avoid unwanted misidentification.

There are various types of badges available, and it is important to choose the one that best suits you and your partner. Here is a brief summary of methods with comments on the advantages and disadvantages.

Clip-On

This can be 99% effective if used every time you have social intercourse. Clip-on badge holders are widely available, widely used, and are the best method to use to reduce the chances of catching a manually transmitted misidentification.

They have no side effects and the disadvantages are limited. Some say the clip-on badge holder ruins necklines, irritates the wearer, and cuts down on spontaneous identification—all of which can be combatted by using a little imagination!!

The Hanging Clip-On

This is a badge holder designed for people who don't like clip-ons (if you have ever seen one, it can generally be assumed that they were invented by corporate executives). This attachable cord enables the badge to provide identification, and the plastic sheath protects the ID card. It is an identification method which is relatively new and is not widely used.

The Stick-On

This method is 85-99% effective, this must be used in conjunction with glues that can damage clothing. Can be stuck on before social intercourse and must be left in place for at least six hours afterwards. At Consonance, we don't bother with stick-on IDs.

Misidentification and You

There are many myths concerning misidentification, For example, you cannot catch MIDS (Mis-

Identification Syndrome) from a toilet seat which has been used by a misidentified person, by drinking out of the same cup, or by kissing. It is not present in sweat, tears, spit or Tullamore Dew. It is present in blood, brain rot, and marginal puns, and the only way you can catch it is by allowing someone else's badge to enter your badge holder, such as through badge-swapping or exchanging holders during social intercourse.

You catch WIT (Who *Is* That?), which progressively invades the body's identity until no one can figure out who you are. The process can take seconds, minutes, or even days, depending on how healthy you are when you catch the virus and how healthy you keep yourself afterwards.

It can, however, take a very long time to develop. Some people have gone for days without the WIT virus developing into full-blown MIDS. MIDS is fatal with no cure or vaccine. People can have the virus for days without realizing it; it is therefore vital that you take responsibility for your membership and your badge. Educate yourself and make wise choices.

Always use a clip-on badge holder for protection unless you are 100% sure about your partner.

Bear in mind that every time you switch badges with a different partner, you increase your chances of becoming misidentified.

MIDS is not a "guitar player's" virus. Anyone can get it and more and more a cappella singers are being diagnosed with WIT every year.

Do not assume if you are a percussionist that it will not happen to you. Every time you wear someone else's identification badge, you're wearing the badges of everyone else who wore that badge before you. Although you are not a high risk group you can catch the virus by swapping with members who have had unprotected badge with infected badge-holders in the past, members who have shared guitar strings, and members who had a voice lesson prior to 1985.

Socially Transmitted IDs

A name badge that has been passed from one person to another during social intercourse is a socially transmitted badge (STB). There are many different ways of being misidentified. What they all have in common is that they can happen during social intercourse, be it talking, hugging, or backrubs.

Just about anyone who attends a convention can get misidentified. You don't have to swap around to lose your identity, but the more badge-swapping partners you have, the greater the risk of catching an STB. However, even if you have been with the same partner for a long time, it is possible that one of you might suddenly discover a misidentification because some folks don't know you or your partner.

What to Look For

If you notice any of these warning signs, see Registration right away. The sooner you recognize early symptoms and go for treatment, the quicker and easier it will be to cure you.

Possible signs of misidentification include:

- hitting sour notes
- sores or blisters on the fingertips—and you don't play guitar!
- pain or burning while singing, and/or pain during hugs

It is possible to have an incorrect identification badge and no symptoms.

If you have reason to believe that you might have caught the wrong badge, check in with the Registration desk anyway. You won't be wasting anybody's time.

[Editor's note: What's the point of all this? We'd like for you to wear your own badge and not somebody else's. Many folks don't know you, you don't know them, and it's hard for them to know who you are if you're pretending to be somebody else...and yes, this was revised from a real "Safe Sex" text.]

Consonance Membership List

As of March 6, 1998

Heather Alexander	Tom Hubbard	Margaret Sandor
friend of Allan Anderson	Diana Huey	Colleen Savitzky
Shelby Bartellis	Chris Illes	Emerald Lee Savitzky
Robin Baylor	Rebekah Jensen	Katy Savitzky
Rand Bellavia	Heather Rose Jones	Stephen Savitzky
Mary Bertke	Bob Kanefsky	Alisa Schaeffbauer
Keith Bierman	Howard L. Kaplan	Jordi Sears-Zeve
Alex Borders	Stacy C. Katz	Lindy Sears
Diana Gail Brown	Jo Kellner	Ann Sharp
Fred Capp	Bruce Krawetz	Taunya Shiffer
Mairi Chaney	Paul Kwinn	Joey Shoji
Barry Childs-Helton	Ruth Anne Ladue	Don Simpson
Sally Childs-Helton	Bob 'Blars' Larson	Kathleen Sloan
Jessie Burnside Clapp	Bob Laurent	Nick Smith
Mitchell Burnside Clapp	Mike Liebmann	Rod Stansfield
T.J. Burnside Clapp	Jane Mailander	Heather Stern
Tory Burnside Clapp	Richard Man	Alan Thiesen
Donald R. Clarke, Jr.	Ariane Man-Willrich	Unlikely Publications
Sean Collins	Silviane Man-Willrich	Linda Von Braskat-Crowe
John Creasey	Kathy Mar	Steve Wade
Mary Creasey	Lola McCrary	Wail Songs
Ingrid de Buda	Becky McGraw	Lynn Western
Lara Ortiz DeMontellano	Seanan McGuire	Dusti Wiebe
Jim Dennis	Helenjane McKee	Chris Willrich
Dunlop's Polished Junque	Cynthia McQuillin	Eric J. Wilner
Rob Dunlop	Phil Obermarck	Steven Joel Zeve
Shirlee A Dunlop	Chris O'Halloran	Leonard N Zubkoff
Adam English	John O'Halloran	
Cat Faber	Chester Moira Brown	
Leslie Fish	Nola Ortiz	
Carol Flynt	Jim Partridge	
Nancy Louise Freeman	Joseph Yule Prather	
Barry Gold	Martha Todd-Prather	
Lee Gold	Random Factors	
Lynn Gold	April Reed	
Eli Goldberg	Barb Riedel	
Pam Goodrich	Jane Robinson	
Harold Groot	Rock Magic Enterprises	
Arlene Hills	Lisa Rose	
Jeff Hitchin	Shirlee Roth	
Michael J Horton	Kristin Ruhle	

Consonance Schedule: FRIDAY

	Krystal A (Jams & Circles)	Krystal B (Concerts)	Boardroom (Open Filking, Workshops)	
6pm	Tune up, warm up, or just schmooze!	Meet the Guests/ Premiere Party	CLOSED	
6:30pm				
7pm	Drum Circle		Concert set-up	Open Filking (Freestyle)
7:30pm				
8pm				
8:30pm	History/Fantasy Circle	Jeff Hitchin		
9pm		Anna the Lost (Shirlee Dunlop)		
9:30pm		Nancy Freeman		
10pm		T. J. and Mitchell Burnside-Clapp		
10:30pm	"Covers" Circle	Syntax (Jeff and Maya Bonhoff)	Open Filking (Bardic) till whenever....	
11pm		Open Filking (Chaos) till whenever....		
11:30pm				
12am				
12:30am	Gary Anderson Benefit "Ose- Fest" (Open-ended...)			
1am				
1:30am				
2am				

Consonance Schedule: SATURDAY

	Krystal A (Jams & Circles)	Krystal B (Concerts)	Boardroom (Open Filking, Workshops)
11am	Arranging (Workshop)	Your Album: From Songs to Sales (Workshop)	Music Theory 101
11:30am			
12pm			
12:30pm	Books & Media Circle		One-Shots!
1pm		Carol Flynt	
1:30pm		Brandywine Bay	
2pm	Cybersongs & Techie-Tunes Circle	Howard Kaplan	Open Filking (Freestyle)
2:30pm		Echo's Children	
3pm		Puzzlebox	
3:30pm	Diana Huey Concert & Interfilk Auction		
4pm			
4:30pm	Rand Bellavia and Adam English Concert & Interfilk Auction		
5pm			
5:30pm			
6pm	Dinner Break!!!		
6:30pm			
7pm	Heather Alexander		
7:30pm			
8pm	Barry and Sally Childs-Helton		
8:30pm			
9pm	Folk Jam!	Open Filking (Chaos)	Open Filking (Bardic)
9:30pm			
10pm			
10:30pm	Rock Jam! (Open-ended...)		
11pm			
11:30pm			
12am			

Consonance Schedule: SUNDAY

	Krystal A (Jams & Circles)	Krystal B (Concerts)	Boardroom (Open Filking, Workshops)
11am	Choral Jam: the Harmonic Convergence		
11:30am			
12pm			
12:30pm			
1pm	Celtic Orgy!	20-Minute Mini-Concerts 11am-5pm Sign up at Registration	Open Filking (Freestyle)
1:30pm			
2pm			
2:30pm			
3pm			
3:30pm	West Coast Circle		
4pm			
4:30pm			
5pm	Dinner Break!!!		
5:30pm			
6pm			
6:30pm			
7pm	Dead Dog in Room 302 till Monday breakfast (or until we all drop) (No Smoking)		

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