



CONSONANCE

Y2K



March 3-5, 2000

*Biltmore Hotel
Santa Clara, CA*

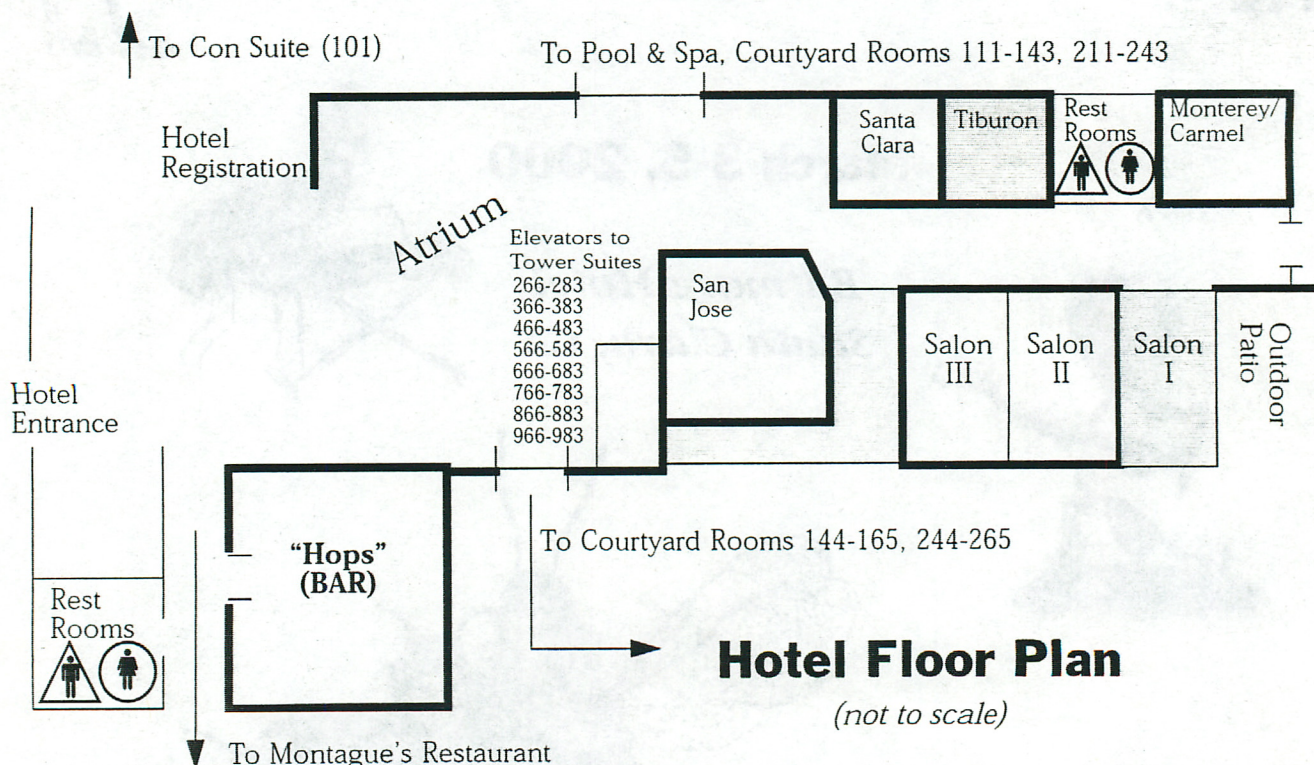


Cover Story

The following Y2K bugs managed to infiltrate our cover this year (starting from the top of the cover):

- Hemanopterus Guitarus—A native of Michigan, often seen lurking the corridors of hotels with a dreadnought-shaped appendage in tow.
- Hymenopterus Germanus—These two specimens are an import often seen wherever there are dandelions.
- Lucanus Microsoftus—A married version of the stag beetle often seen hanging around Windows™.
- Ctenocephalidus Interfilkus—This specimen of the Canadius subclassification has infiltrated from “north of the border.”
- Harpidopterus Celtus—A long-legged, slender, red-crested creature with a sweet song.
- Coleopterus Stophus—Often seen engaging in mating and other rituals with the female *Harpidopterus Celtus* while hauling various shaped stringed appendages.

We have issued the appropriate warnings so you can be aware of the presence of these bugs.



Consonance Y2K

Filk Guest of Honor

Steve Macdonald

Folk Guests of Honor

Margaret Davis and Kristoph Klover

Toastmaster

Jeff Hitchin

Interfilk Guest

Heather Borean

Also Starring

Juliane “Yooh” Honisch and Kerstin “Katy” Dröge

Why?

Why, too, Kay!

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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 once again with 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!

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

- Lynn Gold, programming, web-wizardry, and publications
- Alan Thiesen, hotel liaison and treasurer
- Colleen Savitzky, hospitality
- Jo Kellner, registration
- Lindy Sears, children's programming
- John & Mary Creasey, dealers' liaisons
- DeWayne Stuart and Gerry Tyra, technical crew
- John & Chris O'Halloran & Seanan McGuire, logistics crew

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

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:

- "Dr. Jane" herself, for putting together the bulk of the Progress Report
- Jo Kellner, for dotting our "i's," crossing our "t's," and contributing to our Progress Report
- John O'Halloran, for his careful proofreading of this book, and for suggesting where to put various...uh...never mind....
- Alan Thiesen, for his helpful comments
- Fuzzball—just for being herself
- Warren Maack, for his help and support, and for taking care of Fuzzball this weekend
- Whoever is on the air this Sunday on KLIV from 1pm to 9pm so *I* don't have to be there

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!

Where and When to Find Everything

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

Registration Desk: The Lobby by the Atrium

Hours:

Friday: 2pm to 8pm

Saturday: 10am to 8pm

Sunday: 10am to 4pm

Dealers' Room: Monterey/Carmel Room

Hours:

Friday: 3pm to 6pm

Saturday: 11am to 6pm, and for at least half an hour after Steve Macdonald's concert ends

Sunday: 11am to 4pm

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

Con Suite: Sico 101

Hours:

Friday: noon-2am

Saturday: 10am-2am

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

Children's Programming: To Be Announced (see registration desk)

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 or for the children participating. 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"): To Be Announced (see registration desk)

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.

Recovering Dog: Con Suite

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

Eat Me!

The following describes the care and feeding of filkers at this con.

Complimentary Breakfast

If you're staying at the hotel, you're entitled to a free breakfast buffet at Montague's. The hotel has extended the hours of this till noon for us in Hops (Montague's stops breakfast at 10am).

Dinner

Because there are many people with car space and many people without cars, we'll have signup sheets by the con registration desk for dinner runs. Here's how it works:

1. Someone with a vehicle posts the initial sign-up sheet. At the top, they list the restaurant name, a description (such as "Italian," "Mexican," "Ethiopian," or "Amurkin"). Also list the time the list closes so you can call in the reservation (if applicable).
2. In the lined section of the page, they start an enumerated list, starting with themselves and anyone they know they'll be driving.
3. They then add numbers to the list for each extra person they can carry in their vehicle.

When someone who wants "in" on the dinner run and needs to be driven comes by, they sign on one of the enumerated spaces.

When someone who wants "in" on the dinner run who has a vehicle comes by, they add a number for themselves and each passenger space, add themselves and each person they know they'll be driving. This is how the list grows.

Ideally, several folks will get together and start a list for a restaurant so we can start out with a decent-sized restaurant run.

We've already started plans to organize a Saturday dinner run to a rather good salad bar called "Sweet Tomatoes" that's not too far from the con. Unlike many salad bars, this one tends to have meat items, so even the carnivores in the party won't have to go hungry.

If we get at least ten people in this dinner party, we can get a 20% discount, putting the cost of an all-you-can-eat, all-you-can-drink meal at around \$7.50/person. The extra advantage of this place is you can start eating immediately, making dinner leisurely yet getting us all back with time to spare for the evening activities.

There will be a closing signup time of 3pm for the "Sweet Tomatoes" run to make sure we can get our discounted rate.

As for Friday and Sunday, the usual signup methods apply.

Filk Guest of Honor: Steve Macdonald

by Puzzlebox (Paul Kwinn, Taunya Shiffer, Alisa Schaeffbauer)

Chair: This confirmation hearing will now come to order!

Michigan: Mr. Chairman!

Chair: The Chair recognizes the senator from Michigan.

Michigan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have here the results of our research into the background of the candidate, Mr. Steve Macdonald. He seems to have had an average upbringing, in my own state of Michigan. He was born to two high-school teachers, and took up singing impromptu compositions at an early age. He was involved with school choirs as early as 3rd grade. When he was in the 6th grade, he received a free meal by singing a song in a restaurant.

Iowa: Steve Macdonald had a fan, e-i-e-i-o.

Chair: The senator from Iowa will keep his snide remarks to himself until he is recognized.

Iowa: (*mumbling*) Apologies, Mr. Chairman.

Michigan: As Mr. Macdonald matured, he continued to develop his talent in music, embracing such performers as The Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel, Cat Stevens, the Indigo Girls...

Alabama: Mr. Chairman!

Chair: The senator from Alabama has a comment?

Alabama: Mr. Chairman, it is an outrage that this august body be forced to listen to this litany of known left-wing radicals!

Chair: Senator, Mr. Macdonald is a candidate for a Guest of Honor post at a filk convention; his political affiliations or leanings are not relevant to these proceedings.

Alabama: But Mr. Chairman! What about moral turpitude?!

Chair: I'd say we're some distance yet from making that sort of determination, Senator, but your concern is noted. Continuing the background...

Michigan: Mr. Macdonald has specifically asked that it be entered into the record that the Sex Pistols were *not* among his musical influences.

Chair: Um, all right. So entered.

Michigan: Also, he has likened himself to ravioli, in that he's reasonably predictable, but sometimes has a surprise hidden inside.

Alabama: Mr. Chairman! This is outrageous!

Chair: Gentlemen, let's just try to get through the background, for now. Is there anything else from the senator from Michigan?

Michigan: Yes sir. Mr. Macdonald has had a long-time interest in science fiction, which led him to a career in the musical genre known as filk.

Thing: !!

Chair: (*wearily*) The chair recognizes the Thing with Three Heads from a Distant Star.

Thing: Bazu! Sneck bjork snock!

Chair: It appears Mr. Thing's translator is broken again. While the technical staff makes repairs, we'll continue.

Thing: Screeep!

Michigan: Mr. Macdonald's career in music has included numerous "gigs" in various coffeehouses over the years, singing folk and rock material from the 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s. In filk, he has been a guest at over half a dozen conventions. This included an Interfilk guestship, during which he appeared on-stage nearly naked and painted blue.

[The senator from Alabama sputters, begins to rise from his chair, and collapses to the floor.]

Chair: The Sergeant-at-arms will procure assistance for the gentleman from Alabama.

Michigan: To conclude, Mr. Macdonald has thoroughly distinguished himself in filk: he has won numerous song contests and no fewer than 4 Pegasus awards. He has also recorded 3 albums: "Songspinner," "Journey's Done," and just last year, "Reap the Wind." In addition, a live album is thought to be on the way.

Chair: Thank you.

Man: Mr. Chairman, I object!

Chair: Who are you, Sir?

Man: I'm another filker who was considered for the post! It's not fair! Steve's too good! I never had a chance! [pulls out a guitar and begins to sing his sad story, notably out-of-key]

Chair: The Sergeant-at-arms will dispatch the intruding filker!

[Bang!]

Chair: Thank you. Anything else?

Michigan: Mr. Macdonald claims to be attracted to neither Monica Lewinsky nor Hillary Clinton.

Chair: A positive attribute, in these scandal-ridden times.

Michigan: He's an extremely talented and beloved filker, Mr. Chairman, and I respectfully recommend his rapid confirmation.

Chair: Very well. We'll take up the issue of moral turpitude after lunch. Adjourned!

Toastmaster: Jeff Hitchin

by Anne Prather

What do you get when you cross Debbie Reynolds with Dr. Demento? Why, Jeff Hitchin, of course!

Funny and musically adept, the Columbus Ohio native embarked on a Quest in 1993—which landed him in Seattle, smack dab in the middle of the filk world. Endowed with the incredible ability to actually *sing* the "Filsinger's Aria" (by his own admission, his favorite filk), his 30 songs range from the hysterical to the serious and intimate.

Drawing ideas from biology lab manuals, jobs, and other musicians (notably Christine Lavin, Patty Larkin, and Andrew Ratchin), his songs will leave you laughing and thinking. Though he doesn't like anything over 10 minutes in length you might (if you ask nicely) get an InstaFilk of "Banned from Argo."

His goal in life is to release an album someday. Hopefully it will be someday soon!!!

Folk Guests of Honor: Margaret Davis and Kristoph Klover

Margaret Davis

by "Dr. Jane" Robinson

Margaret Speaks: "I saw my first harp at the age of 3, and was entranced. I started singing at age 6, piano at 8, and flute at age 10, in which I specialized for the next 13 years. I taught myself recorder at 12 and harp at 25...I have B.A.s in Music and French Literature...and have studied with internationally-known voice teacher Lillian Loran..."

When I read Margaret's biographical information, I was brought up short by the phrase, "...taught *myself* harp*..." Evidently she taught herself well; anyone who has heard her perform knows that Margaret is an enormously talented, world-class harpist, and her accomplishments as a vocalist and flautist are no less formidable. She continues to work hard at her several musical crafts, although she seems already to have mastered them all. She turns out the most complex instrumental and vocal flourishes with a fluidity and grace that make them seem easy — but those of us who have tried to learn to sing well, or play flute or harp at all, have a deep appreciation for her level of virtuosity. She currently specializes in Celtic, Medieval and Renaissance music, which she performs with her band Broceliande; but she also performs Celtic and psychedelic rock with her husband Kristoph's band, Avalon Rising. As if this weren't enough, she is co-owner and chief administrator of Flowinglass Music, and also manages to turn out stunning custom calligraphy, as well as illustrations and layouts for "Marion Zimmer Bradley's FANTASY Magazine."

Margaret Speaks: "Music took off for me in a wonderful new direction when I met Kristoph. I started improvising, writing, arranging, and playing in rock bands. My first arrangements were the "Songs of the Hebrides" and on the writing of flute parts for the Magic Fire and Moon Shadows tapes, which were my first recorded backups on anything..."

I have had the privilege of working with Margaret on numerous folk projects including two of my own, and she is unfailingly professional, versatile and demanding of herself. Her singing, arranging and back-up talents are apparent on such folk tapes as: "Consenting Adults of Darkover;" "Dr. Jane's Fossil Fever;" Dr. Jane's Remains;" "Moon Shadows;" "Dreams of Fortune;" "Bedlam Cats;" "This Heavy Heart;" and especially "Witch's Dance." Her vocal mastery and musicianship shine on the "Avalon Rising," Starlit Jewel" albums; but she truly comes into her own with her first *all Margaret* album, "Princess of Flowers." Her voice is lyrical and enchanting, and her flute, recorder and harp work defy description, let alone comparison. I am particularly delighted by her ability to sing in several different languages, including Gaelic and French; just listen to ThaMi Sgith on the Darkover tape, or Andray Soulet on the Avalon Rising CD, and you'll know what I mean.

Kristoph Klover

by Jane Robinson

Kristoph Speaks: "I always believed I was going to be a Shakespearean actor, but went into music because I thought it was easy. When I was a kid I sang in cars, at home, along with PDQ Bach records, and...I was in every conceivable possible choir. In church, my Dad and I used to try to out-harmonize each other every Sunday. We'd stand in the back of the church and just go for it, vying to see who would do the coolest bit."

Indeed, energy and exuberance are still distinguishing features of Kristoph's vocal and instrumental work, and he is still on the quest for the elusive "coolest bit." In the mature

vocalist and instrumentalist he is today, that translates as incredible attention to musical detail; this is especially evident in his arrangements, which are deliciously rich, complex and intricate. What Kristoph isn't telling you, of course, is that he studied voice with the internationally-acclaimed James Schwabacher and was headed for a career in opera; but his passion for folk, rock and Grateful Dead tie-dyed t-shirts got the better of him. And I don't recall any operas in which the lead tenor gets to play nifty riffs on electric guitar, octave mandolin, or oboe.....

Kristoph Speaks: *"I started guitar when I was 13, and started writing music the second I had a guitar, mostly stupid love songs. No, really — STUPID love songs. I was known for years by quality musicians as a shouter and a beater, but went to San Francisco State and learned some subtlety...."*

What 'Stoph isn't telling you could fill volumes. He is self-taught on guitar, electric bass, keyboard, and numerous other instruments — all of which he plays disconcertingly well. I believe he actually had lessons on the oboe, a most difficult and cantankerous instrument which he plays not only with virtuosity, but — yes — with subtlety. And he has certainly graduated Summa Cum Loud from the shouting/beating/stupid-love-song phase (which, let's be honest, we all go through at some point!). His compositions include Where the Sunset is Golden, Perilous Garde, and my personal favorite, God Walks Among Us, all of which show his gift for writing strikingly beautiful melodies and powerful, memorable lyrics. He has a mischievous side, too, however; just listen to his delightful oboe line on Cats Are Not Graceful (from "Bedlam Cats"), to the tune he wrote for Troll's Song on "The Starlit Jewel," or to any of his instrumental lines on the "Wackademia" and "Remains" albums, among many others. And as for subtlety — who among us has not appreciated 'Stoph's tasteful, spontaneous guitar back-ups at filk sings, making us sound way more wonderful than we ever would on our own?

Kristoph Speaks: *"I started recording myself in church, with a guitar and a cheap microphone..."*

And the rest, as they say, is history. 'Stoph has probably done more recording than any other engineer in filk. He engineered for Off Centaur Publications back in the late 1980s (including several projects for Mercedes Lackey and Leslie Fish). He has donated his personal equipment and done on-site sound and recording at Consonance, ConChord, BayCon and probably several others I don't know about; and of course, he's been the primary engineer (as well as performer, arranger and back-up vocalist/musician) on "Moon Shadows," "Dreams of Fortune," "Consenting Adults of Darkover," "The Adventure Continues," "Bedlam Cats," "This Heavy Heart," "Witch's Dance," "Magic Fire," "Starlit Jewel," "Avalon Rising," "Princess of Flowers," "Fire in the Sky," and several projects for Eli Goldberg's company, Prometheus Music — and I know I'm only mentioning a partial list here. He is the recording/engineering arm for his and Margaret's company, Flowinglass Music, where he records mainstream artists such as Grammy-Award-winning harpist Janet Harbison and all-Ireland concertina champion Gearoid o hAllmurhain. When I asked what he thought his crowning achievements were, he said "Learning how to mike a harp so it actually sounds like a harp...." Then he got that twinkle in his eye and said, "And then there was the time I got my cat to do a backup line....." (And you thought *oboes* were cantankerous!)

Interfilk Guest: Heather Borean

Beather Horean, Spoonerist

by Judith Hayman and Hudith Jayman

So, I'm supposed to write a bio about Heather for Consonance. What should I put in that she wouldn't kill me for...

Heather Borean is a sultry temptress of a woman, all passion and fire, with never a thought for propriety and custom. She likes to amuse her husband, Wayne, by dressing up as...

Nah! This is a woman who teaches Sunday School. No one'd believe that!

Heather likes to live on the wild side, partying her way through life...

Okay, just because that's how she fell into fandom and met Wayne and found filk, doesn't mean it's her life now. They didn't have kids then. And seriously, a wild party for Heather is one that includes real Coke and chocolate.

With outrageous daring, Heather planned the first FilKONtario, on a dream and no cash, and then did it again the next year!

Better.

A multi-faceted musician...

Whoa! Playing the clarinet in high school and being a soloist in elementary school doesn't count. *Why not?* Just because it doesn't.

Heather taught herself to play the guitar in record time, so she could interrupt other filkers and be a filk hog.

Hey! She's not a filk hog! Sometimes we can't even get her to sing, let alone sing her own songs.

Having established a multi-faceted career before having kids...

Working as a security guard for Mary Kaye Cosmetics does NOT count!

Heather became an at-home mom for quite a few years. Then she returned to the halls of high learning, and now celebrates life with children.

Yuck! Just because she's passionate about being an educational assistant and truly loves connecting with kids, there's no need to get nauseating!

Then there's the tee-hee zone Heather.

<hee-hee> You mean where Heather gets over-tired and spoonerizes or gets her words mixed up? Or laughs until she's almost sick?

Who can forget Mew and Joey turning into Jew and Moey? Or Mew and Judith into Mewdith? Or "Maroon, like your robe!" "Oh, you mean teal?"

Hey! We're talking about a good friend here! <hee-hee>

Y'know, writing a bio for someone that you know way too much about is hard. Maybe I should decline. Yeah, that's the ticket.

Also Starring: Juliane Honisch and Kerstin Dröge

Yooh and Katy

by Anke Teschke

One was born with a tin-whistle in her hand... The other already sang harmonies to of a telephone or the siren of a police car when she was still a toddler... Now they've up to become filkers! And here they are—all the way from Germany—Yooh and Katy!

But—who are they? Somebody might have told you how great their song “Terror Tit Lancre” is. Yooh finally—and justified!—got the “Sam-Award,” Britain’s Filk-Award, for “E Silly Song” just a few weeks ago... But, please: don’t reduce them to that! They are far more capable of than “just” this song, which slowly gets the “Banned from Argo”-quality! They have so many more great songs as you will discover soon!

A set done by them is really a treat! It is the combination of Yooh’s beautiful and sometimes twisted lyrics and her masterly whistle-playing (I especially love the low whistle) and Katy’s brilliant voice (she is called the “velvet voice” in German filk fandom!) that makes their appearance on stage so colorful.

Yooh has been involved in music since childhood. Irish Folk has always been a part of her life. She lived in Southwest-Ireland for a year, studied some Irish Gaelic to be able to sing those beautiful “sean nós” (=old style) ballads and got her fingers in knots playing speedy reels in Irish sessions. However, she also has sung in some classical choirs and learned to play piano when she was a teenager.

She had just become involved with filk when she met Katy at a Star Trek convention back in 1991. She had been already writing a lot of filk-type songs then. Up to now she has written about 130 songs (!) and has released two songbooks, the third just about to be released at Consonance! Yooh is the more quiet part of the duo—but don’t be fooled: she is the one who writes those lyrics (and most of the tunes) and she really knows which end of the tin whistle to blow into—most times! She is also a hug-addict, sings audacious harmonies, and is somebody to talk away the time!

Katy has always been into music as well—be it the accordion-orchestra she joined when she was 13, or her company rock band, whose lead-vocalist she is. She has been in Fandom for almost twelve years, starting as so many did—in Star-Trek-Fandom. She has been hooked up with Filk since 1990 when she heard her first filk songs and wrote to Wail Songs to get some recordings. She got the tapes—and definitely fell in love with it! Katy is the bouncy part of the duo, always in for a laugh, hug-addict and harmony-a-holic! She is always there if you need somebody to do a harmony—ask her!

Yooh and Katy are among the most active filkers in German filk fandom... Since 1993 they released two tapes and one CD, have participated in numerous other recordings and have made appearances on uncountable conventions to make filk more popular—not counting several British filk-cons, OVFF, or them being Interfilk guests at FilKONtario 1998! Furthermore they are involved in the organization of the German filk con FilkCONtinenta!

I am that much a fan of them, that I am travelling all the way to San Francisco to hear them do a set... *grin* ...and ah, yes, did I mention that they are hug-addicts? So give 'em a hug whenever you see them!

Programming Overview

Lynn Gold

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" 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!

Open filking 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 Santa Clara room is designated for Bardic Circles.



A Cappella Programming

We've had many requests from people who don't play guitar and like to filk to have more a cappella programming. A cappella programming is easily identified by the "no guitars" icon shown to the left of this paragraph.

Drum Circle Etiquette

Richard Man

Drum Circle is a community event. Since there are so many different types of drums and percussion instruments (including the author's instrument of choice, the didjeridu), some etiquette should be observed to make this into an enjoyable experience for all. This short list is culled from experiences from many drum circles and from Arthur Hull's book, *Drum Circle Spirit*, Earth Drum Council's literature, and Kurt's Talking Stone's *Too Many Drums* flyer.

DOs

- Have fun!
- Build a community. You're in a *circle*. This is not a "Star show."
- Respect other people's instruments, ask before using anything not yours.
- Circle dynamic changes constantly, go with the flow.
- LISTEN to the person to your right and left.
- LISTEN to the person across you.
- LISTEN to the rhythms in your body. Your body knows where the rhythm is.
- Find the pulse, and listen to the rhythms.
- Drum humbly. "Drum Hogs"¹ and "Prima Donnas"² are disrespectful to the community³.
- Let the softer sounding drums (Bodhran, tar, frame, doumbek) have a voice too.
- Play with polyrhythms...if you can. If you cannot, LISTEN for the main beat(s) and stick to that!
- Send your energy to the dancers.
- The song must end some times so the dancers can rest.
- Stop between songs. Catch your breath and let the dancers catch theirs. Feel the vibration left over in the air. Let the energy flow through you.

DON'Ts

- DON'T pound the drum as hard as you can, you will hurt your hands or worse, hurt the drum!
- DON'T play skin headed hand drums with finger rings.
- DON'T burst out like a violent flame and force other people to your drum will. If everyone does that, then you'll only be extinguished like a flame by the next violent flame.
- But don't be afraid to lead when the time comes.
- Don't confuse cacophony with polyrhythms.
- Don't pick up a cowbell or a pair of clapsticks unless you know how to play one.
- Don't wear out the dancers.

1. Drum Hog: Someone who refuses to let other people have a turn with a drum or a rhythm; one who "forces" people to drum what he or she wants instead of honoring the gestalt that is a drum circle.
2. Prima Donna: Someone who wants all the focus and attention on them, someone who wants to solo for extensive period of times leaving out the rest of the circle.
3. A Drum Hog or Prima Donna typically has the loudest drum and subscribes to the theory that whoever has the loudest drum wins. A master plays a loud drum wisely.

Program Item Descriptions

Here is a list of the special events, workshops, and hosted circles at this year's Consonance.

Friday Programming



Drumming and Chanting

Atrium: 8pm Friday

Richard Man, Christina Willrich

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!

Roundworm Pre-Release Party

Eli Goldberg's room: 9pm Friday

Eli Goldberg

Prometheus Music and Bob Kanefsky invite you to a filk party to celebrate the non-release of Roundworm!

Yes, filkdom has narrowly escaped being subjected to a *Roundworm* release at Consonance. This gives you one last chance to sing the original songs before they become forever tainted—and sing the parodies before everyone has heard them at home.

Performing Filk for Non-Filk Audiences

San Jose: 8pm Friday

A rotating selection of hosts; see Program Grid for details of who's there when

When you've performed filk music for non-filk audiences, you've got stories about how the non-filk audiences react significantly different than a filk audience would react to some of your material. [*Lynn's note: For example, ask me about the time an audience thought "California Love Song" was supposed to be a serious ballad!*]. This circle will be hosted by a rotating selection of our con's guests and various performers. Note that because this is a *hosted* circle rather than just a *performance* circle, the intent is that everyone share stories and songs.

Note that because this is a hosted circle, the hosts also have the option of changing the theme if they have something they'd rather do in their half hour.

Saturday Programming

Amazing But True

Hops: 11:00am Saturday

Alan "Flasher" Thiesen 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!

Vocal and Performance Workshop

San Jose: 11:30am Saturday

Margaret Davis, Kristoph Klover

Learn techniques from a couple of seasoned pros with many years of formal training. Margaret and Kristoph both give private music lessons; this is your chance to get one for free! No matter how many years you've been performing or how good you think you are, you'll learn something from them.



Choral Jam: The Harmonic Convergence

Santa Clara: 12:30pm Saturday

To Be Determined

This is our annual a cappella vocal jam. No musical instruments allowed other than your own voice.

Electronic Gizmos and Filk

San Jose: 12:30pm Saturday

Lynn Gold, Steve Savitzky, DeWayne Stuart, Gerry Tyra, and others

Not so many years ago you weren't likely to hear phrases in a filk room like, "Excuse me while I grab my piano," or "Please wait while I pull my digital recording device out of my pocket." Over the years, electronics have become sophisticated and more compact, and being true science enthusiasts, filkers are quick to embrace new technology. This is a "show and tell" session featuring some of the latest in portable and luggable electronic music-making and recording devices.

One-Shots and Double-Shots

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

Got a special number or two 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!

Interfilk Auctions

San Jose: 4:30pm Saturday

Salon I: 10:30pm Saturday

Kathleen Sloan, Interfilk Wench Extraordinaire and others

There'll be auctioneering for Interfilk between the One-Shots and Scott "Cosmo" Snyder's concert, and again between Heather Borean's concert and Steve Macdonald'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!]*



Drumming and Chanting

Atrium: 8pm Saturday

Richard Man, Christina Willrich

Just like last night—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!

Sunday Programming

Unusual Instruments Panel

Hops: 11:30am Sunday

Richard Man and others

Have you ever wanted to get your grubby little hands on a didjeridu? Have you found some really cool instrument you like taking to filk rooms or just plain like taking around? This is your chance to play "show and tell" with some of the more odd pieces in your instrument collection.

20-Minute Mini-Concerts

1:30pm-2:50 (ish) 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.

Celtic Jam

San Jose: 2:50pm Sunday (or whenever the mini-concerts end)

Margaret Davis, Kristoph Klover, and others

Back by popular demand, the Consonance Celtic Jam! This is your chance to whet your penny whistle, beat your bodhran, and have a rollicking good time!

Rock Jam!

San Jose: 4:00pm Sunday

Kristoph Klover and others

Be there with your instruments—acoustic *and* electric. We're gonna rock the afternoon away—or at least the next hour and a half!

Recovering Dog

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

Because we have "so many guests and so little time and space," we're spreading out the main guests' concerts. Our Special Guests, Juliane Honisch and Kerstin Dröge, are performing Saturday afternoon, our Toastmaster Jeff Hitchin, Interfilk Guest Heather Borean, and Filk Guest of Honor Steve Macdonald are all performing Saturday night, and Folk Guests of Honor Margaret Davis and Kristoph Klover are performing Sunday afternoon. In addition, the following artists will be performing this weekend:

- **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.

- **Kirstin Scholz**

Kirstin is one of Germany's best filkers. This is her first appearance in the U.S. During her set she'll be assisted by some of the other German filkers in attendance.

- **Andrea Dale**

Andrea has been an integral part of the midwestern filk community for many years. She has spent alot of time honing her craft, both by taking lessons and by performing at local bookstores and coffeehouses.

- **Lloyd Landa and Karen Lindsley**

Lloyd and Karen had been performing together professionally for years when they suddenly discovered filking. They were Interfilk Guests at ConChord a few years ago, where they received a standing ovation for their performance.

- **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.

- **H. Paul Schuch**

Also known as "Dr. Seti," Paul performs original songs about space exploration and travel guaranteed to amuse.

In Memoriam

Rhanda Regent 1962-1999

by Seanan McGuire

Where are you going? Where are you going?

Will you take me with you?

For my hand is cold and needs warmth...

Where are you going?

—*Godspell*



Rhanda Regent came into fandom quietly; almost by accident. Once she got there, however, no one was going to make her leave. She arrived shortly before ConFrancisco—what a place to begin! She brought to fandom in general and the filking community in particular a warm, open heart and a rich, glorious voice, and she shared them both as freely as she shared her laughter. She was always among the first to sit down within the circle and the last to leave, encouraging the songs of both new friends and old.

Forever willing to experiment, her boundless enthusiasm dragged people along before they had a chance to realize what was happening -- a trait which proved time and again to be worth its weight in gold. She welcomed people into her heart, her family and her home on the grounds that everyone was worth loving. Under her smile, more than one person who would previously have doubted that adage proved its truth.

On Monday, April 19th, 1999, Rhanda passed away quietly in her sleep. She left behind a daughter, Jacqui, an extended household, and a family of friends beyond counting. Much like her arrival, her death gave no warning: it came quickly and without making a fuss, simply stepping in and taking her away. She was a friend, mother, and lover to fandom; her voice warmed many a midnight. She will be missed, and mourned, and we are poorer for her loss.

But look, Rhanda. We're still singing.

Rhanda Regent

by Kathy Mar

Rhanda Regent was a wonderful friend of filk. She ran Baycon filking for two years and helped in other capacities for several more. She had a deep rich voice and was best known for her rendition of "By My Side" from *Godspell*.

Her license plate read (heart symbol) FILK, so she wore her love for this music proudly wherever she went. She brought so many people into our circles just by her enthusiasm. She loved to share her interest with anyone she talked to. And she brought other types of musicians into our circles so the sharing could go both ways. She always had a kind word or helpful suggestion for anyone who came to her. And she gave perfectly wonderful enveloping hugs that made one feel special just to be alive.

Last April she died quickly and peacefully in her sleep on what was one of the happiest days of her life. We will miss her songs, her warmth, her laughter, and especially her unflinching sense of caring for all of us.

Marion Zimmer Bradley 1930-1999

by Cynthia McQuillin

Last fall, on September 25, Marion Zimmer Bradley passed away after several years of ill health. Though she was most often remembered for her best-selling Arthurian novels and popular Darkover books, she also edited the amazingly successful *Sword and Sorceress* anthologies and *Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine*. But Marion had another side few people saw in her later years; she dearly and truly loved music.



One of the great disappointments of her life, she once told me, was that she couldn't be an opera singer—or at least sing Country/Western (she was always a woman of seemingly absurd paradoxes). She did, in fact, sing whenever she got the chance; and before the series of minor strokes that made singing impossible for her, she had a rather pretty, clear soprano voice. I still remember the spontaneous round of applause she received at the Starry Plough Pub one evening, for her rendition of *The Faerie's Love Song* while we were waiting for Oak, Ash & Thorn to perform.

Marion once stated, loudly and publicly, that “Filking should be done in private by consenting adults.”

This oft-repeated comment is frequently misinterpreted by those who didn't understand her deadpan sense of humor. Those of us who knew her, however, insisted on calling the Darkover filk tape *Consenting Adults of Darkover*. She (who supposedly hated filk) kept that tape in the cassette player at her bedside, and listened to it often.

Though she preferred the finer operatic voices, she was fond of many of the filkers as well. She was a regular at the very early sf con bardics that spawned the likes of Juanita Coulson, Poul and Karen Anderson, Randall Garrett, Fritz Leiber and Gordy Dickson, and even wrote a few filks of her own. She set a number of J.R.R. Tolkien's poems to music and published them as *The Rivendell Suite*; this formed the basis of Margaret and Kristoph's stunning *Starlit Jewel* tape, which will soon be re-recorded and released as a CD.

She also actively supported and encouraged many filkers in their recording careers—especially Margaret Davis, Kristoph Klover, Dr. Jane and Cindy McQuillin. *Dr. Jane's Wackademia*, *Moon Shadows*, *Dreams of Fortune*, *Bedlam Cats*, *The Adventure Continues*, and *Consenting Adults of Darkover* were all recorded in her renovated carriage house. She was delighted to have us there, and freely gave permission to record and publish songs based on her universes, which is not true of every author. Sometimes she came out to see what all the noise was about, and ended up as a member of the chorus on a song or two—oh, she *loved* that! If you listen carefully you can hear her in “The Dimover National Anthem” on the *Darkover* tape and in “A Look At Things That Don't Exist” on *Wackademia*. Her favorite filk, she told me, was “Keeper of the Arilinn Tower;” but I think in retrospect her favorite filk was whatever we happened to be singing at the time.

Last summer Marion became deeply depressed because her doctors wouldn't let her attend conventions any more; so I organized a small bardic with as many of her favorite bards and filkers as I could get, to try to cheer her up. She had a wonderful time sitting in the circle, so happy to be included. And as the evening began to wane, something magical happened: someone asked her to sing. A look of joy and gratitude suffused her face as we all urged her to go for it. She hesitated for a moment, then began “The Outlaw,” a song she had written for one of her *Darkover* novels. Her voice was small and tremulous at first, but grew stronger as she sang. She finished in a soft, clear voice without missing a word.

No one in the room was left unmoved—and that's the image of Marion I'll always hold in my heart: my dear friend and mentor joyously transcendent in that one perfect moment of music.

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

	San Jose (Performing Filk for Non-Filk Audiences)	Eli Goldberg's Room	Atrium (Jams, Circles, Events)	Santa Clara (Open Filking, Workshops)
6pm	*****Dinner Break *****			
8pm	Steve Macdonald, Andrea Dale			
8:30pm	Paul Kwinn & Taunya Shiffer, Scott "Cosmo" Snyder			
9pm	Heather Borean, Lloyd & Karen	Roundworm Non-Release Party (runs till Eli kicks everyone out...)	Drumming and Chanting'	Open Filking (Bardic)
9:30pm	Jeff Hitchin, Echo's Children			
10pm	Leslie Fish, Lynn Gold			
10:30pm	Margaret & Kristoph, Jeff & Maya Bohnhoff			
11pm	Open Filking (Chaos)			
11:30pm	till whenever....	Open Filking (Freestyle) ...until someone complains about the noise....		

Consonance Schedule: SATURDAY AFTERNOON

	San Jose (Concerts)	Hops (Jams, Circles, Events)	Atrium (Jams, Circles, Events)	Santa Clara (Open Filking, Workshops)
10:30am	Open Filking (Freestyle)	People Eating Breakfast		Available for Rehearsals and Breakout Sessions (sign up at the door)
11am				
11:30am	Vocal & Performance Workshop with Margaret & Kristoph	Amazing But True		otherwise Open Filking (Freestyle)
noon				
12:30pm	Electronic Gizmos and Filking			Harmonic Convergence
1pm				
1:30pm	Barry Gold	Open Filking (Freestyle)	Open Filking (Freestyle)	
2pm	Kirstin Scholz			
2:30pm	Andrea Dale	...until the management kicks us out (to set up for opening the bar)...	...until someone complains about the noise...	Available for Rehearsals and Breakout Sessions (sign up at the door)
3pm	One-Shots/ Double-Shots			
3:30pm	Lloyd Landa & Karen Lindsley			otherwise Open Filking (Freestyle)
4pm	Scott "Cosmo" Snyder			
4:30pm	Interfilk Auction 1	Bar Open to Adults who Drink and Filk		
5pm	Juliane Honisch & Kerstin Dröge			
5:30pm				
6pm	concert setup	Dinner Break!!!		

Consonance Schedule: SATURDAY NIGHT

	Salon II and III (Concerts)	San Jose (Jams, Circles, Events)	Atrium (Jams, Circles, Events)	Santa Clara (Open Filking, Workshops)
8pm	H. Paul Schuch	Open Filking (Chaos) till whenever...	Drumming and Chanting	Open Filking (Bardic) till whenever...
8:30pm	Toastmaster Concert: Jeff Hitchin			
9pm				
9:30pm	Interfilk Guest: Heather Borean		Open Filking (Freestyle) until someone complains about the noise...	
10pm				
10:30pm	Interfilk Auction 2			
11pm	Filk GOH Concert: Steve Macdonald			
11:30pm				
midnight	Open Filking (Freestyle) till whenever...			

Consonance Schedule: SUNDAY

	San Jose (Concerts)	Hops (Jams, Circles, Events)	Atrium (Jams, Circles, Events)	Santa Clara (Open Filking, Workshops)	
11:30am	concert setup	Unusual Instruments Workshop		<p>Available for Rehearsals and Breakout Sessions (sign up at the door)</p> <p>otherwise Open Filking (Freestyle)</p>	
12pm			Not Available for Filking		
12:30pm	Folk GOHs Concert: Margaret and Kristoph	<p>Open Filking (Freestyle)</p> <p>...until the management kicks us out (to set up for opening the bar)...</p>			
1pm					
1:30pm	20-Minute Mini-Concerts Performer sign-up at Registration Desk				
2pm					
2:30pm					
3pm	Celtic Jam (starts whenever Mini-Concerts end)				Open Filking (Freestyle)
3:30pm					
4pm	Rock Jam				
4:30pm					
5pm			Bar Open to Adults who Drink and Filk		
5:30pm	equipment teardown				
6pm	Con closes; Dinner Break, then Recovering Dog in the Con Suite (Sico 101) at 7pm				

101

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- Via e-mail: filk@mciworld.com
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