

# The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston

# FSSGB

# FOLK LETTER

*Dedicated to providing opportunities for everyone to make, enjoy & support folk music*

Volume 52 Number 1

Jan/Feb/March 2024

Sign up for the  
Members' Concert!

Mike Agranoff House  
Concert

Bound for Glory 2024

FSSGB Sponsors  
Cash Prize for Ballad  
Contest for Students

FSSGB 65th  
Anniversary Party!

Sara Grey and Kieron  
Means House Concert

Mid-Day Singing  
Parties

New Monthly Round  
Sings in Boston Area!



Look for more info on  
our website:

[www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)

Email [info@fssgb.org](mailto:info@fssgb.org)



Join us on  
Facebook!

## Mike Agranoff House Concert

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, 7pm

Roslindale, MA

Admission: \$20 cash at the door  
(\$5 for students)

*Reservations required:* send email to  
[HouseConcerts@fssgb.org](mailto:HouseConcerts@fssgb.org)

If you've been around the folk scene, you couldn't miss seeing Mike. Tall, ginger beard, and always around where the music is. He's been on the scene for many many years, listening to the fine details of what makes this genre of music so special to the soul, so able to make us laugh and cry and think. And lucky for us all, he got serious about having fun at it.



Less a singer-songwriter than a singer-songfinder, Mike takes great delight in discovering the little-known hidden gems, polishing them with his own distinctive style, and bringing them to the light of day where they sparkle. He will shift from beautifully contemplative, to uproariously funny, to instrumentally brilliant, to powerfully emotional in the space of a few minutes. Equally at home in the contemporary and traditional camps of the Folk world, he is a fine musician and storyteller. His prime instrument is the guitar, upon which he shines with intricate fingerstyle arrangements of anything from Tin Pan Alley tunes of the '20s to fiddle tunes to his own music. He also plays concertina, piano, banjo, or sings a cappella. The man will capture your attention, and then your heart.

Not only a performer, Mike is involved in presenting folk music as well. He is one of the prime movers of The Folk Project, New Jersey's oldest and strongest folk music organization. For over two decades he has been chairman of that organization's Minstrel Coffeehouse, one of the longest lived and most respected folk venues in the country.





The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization of people who are actively interested in folk music: its traditional origins and sources, as well as its current expression. We are dedicated to providing opportunities for everyone to make, enjoy, and support this music. Membership in the Folk Song Society entitles you to reduced admission to FSSGB concerts, attendance to singing parties and special events, a free subscription to the Folk Letter, and regular announcements of FSSGB events.

To join or renew: send your name, address and phone number along with a check for \$10 student, \$20 single, \$30 double, \$35 family membership, or \$25 for organizations to FSSGB at PO Box 2941, Acton MA 01720. **You can also join or renew online** via our website. You can join or renew for up to 3 years at a time.

## Annual FSSGB Members' Concert (online)

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 7pm  
*Look for links on [www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)*

Please join us for our annual Members' Concert! We'll continue the relatively new tradition of having this event on Zoom and livestreamed to Facebook Live. This is a favorite event of the year for many of us — an opportunity to delight in the rich and diverse talents of FSSGB members, old and new.

All FSSGB members are invited to sign up to perform one song or tune. Contact Lori Fassman ([lori.fassman@gmail.com](mailto:lori.fassman@gmail.com), 978-264-9710) by **January 15** to reserve a spot.

All performers will be in the Zoom meeting (muted during others' performances), and the show will be livestreamed to Facebook so everyone else can watch. (You don't need to have a Facebook account to watch the livestream.)

We will accept donations during the performance which will benefit FSSGB. Much of that money will go to scholarships which enable young Boston-area musicians to attend folk music camps.

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## Mid-day Singing Parties

The sings are all on Fridays, begin at 11:30am and run to roughly 3pm to help those who travel avoid heavy traffic and nighttime driving.

We ask that attendees be vaccinated (honor system). Acoustic instruments are welcome. RSVPs are appreciated but not necessary. To RSVP or ask questions contact the party coordinator (by phone or text) at 617-283-8532.

### Upcoming dates (these are all Fridays at 11:30am):

- Jan 12 & 26
- Feb 9 & 23
- March 8 & 22
- April 5 & 19
- May 3 & 17
- June 14 & 28

Please reach out to the party coordinator (617-283-8532) if you're willing to host in the future.

Keep an eye on the website ([www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)) for updated dates and locations, as individual sings occasionally get rescheduled or cancelled.

## Folk Letter Deadlines



The deadline for getting articles and ads into the Folk Letter is always the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication:

### March 10 for the Apr-May-June issue

We will continue to have combined issues for the foreseeable future.

Thanks for helping us by observing the publication deadlines.

## Bound for Glory 2024

Sunday, March 3, 2024, 4pm ET  
 First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church St, Waltham  
 \$10 for all at the door

**IMPORTANT: location and start time have changed!**

After a 5 year hiatus (thanks, COVID!) we're bringing back Bound for Glory, a show featuring songs and stories from the life and writings of Woody Guthrie.

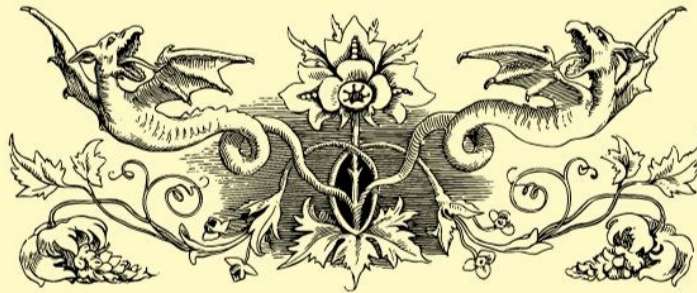
The 2024 show will be dedicated to the memory of Ellen Schmidt, long-time organizer of the show, and former FSSGB President Richard Taylor.

Also, as a celebration of our long-awaited return, we'll be reaching back across the years and bringing back some songs and performers that were featured in older shows, dating back to the 1970s.

More details to follow—keep an eye on FSSGB email and our website for more details.



## Traditional Ballad Singing Contest for Contestants Grade 4 through Age 25



Friday, March 15, 2024 at 7 pm  
 sign up now: <https://bit.ly/sing-ballads>



South Shore Folk Music Club  
 First Parish Duxbury  
 842 Temple St. (Rt 3A)  
 Duxbury, MA

*FSSGB sponsors one of the cash prizes for this contest!*

## Sara Grey and Kieron Means House Concert

Sunday, April 7, 1pm (**note early time!**)

Location TBA

General admission: \$20

\$5 for students

Reservations required: email [HouseConcerts@fssgb.org](mailto:HouseConcerts@fssgb.org) for reservations and directions.

**Sara Grey** is one of the most gifted and knowledgeable artists working in the field of traditional music. Sara's singing is both powerful and sweet, with a distinctive and lovely tremolo. It is a voice well suited to native American songs and ballads of Ireland and Scotland.

It is not Sara's lovely voice alone that makes her one of the most popular singers on the folk scene; on many of her songs Sara accompanies herself by frailing a five string banjo and, when playing dance tunes, it is obvious why she is regarded as one of the foremost exponents of the clawhammer style. As well as singing and playing, Sara is well known for her storytelling - specialising in stories from New England where she grew up learning many of her stories from her father.

Sara grew up in New Hampshire but has lived in North Carolina, Ohio, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Wales, Scotland and England. As a youngster in North Carolina she developed a love for old time songs and banjo music. She cites Kyle Creed as the chief influence on her understated, syncopated clawhammer banjo style. She has now been performing professionally for more than 30 years.

"She is one of a select band of performers who still breathe life into traditional ballads." Vic Smith, Folk Roots  
 "Sara Grey has quietly and powerfully taken over the mantle of premier interpreter of American traditional music." Tor Jonassen, WRDV

**Kieron Means** is a singer primarily of traditional songs but also of contemporary songs and guitar player of great merit. He has a great rapport with an audience and has an exceptional professionalism for a young performer. His voice is as smooth as silk, rich and mellow and he sings to his audience not in spite of them.

Kieron is the son of the traditional singer Sara Grey and music journalist Andrew Means, one time writer for Melody Maker. He was born in the United States and grew up in Britain gaining a great love of the music of both traditions as well as the contemporary scene. He has become a performer of traditional songs from the US and from the UK and many of the contemporary songs he sings he has written himself.

He has toured in the States and often performed with Sara Grey. In 2000 he has performed at Whitby and Wadebridge festivals where he was received with much acclaim. His first CD has received much praise with air play on Travelling Folk and Mr Anderson's Fine Tunes both on radio Scotland. An article on him will shortly be appearing in Folk Roots magazine.



**THE FOLK SONG SOCIETY OF GREATER BOSTON**  
**P.O. Box 2941, Acton, MA 01720, fssgb@fssgb.org, info@fssgb.org**

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**2023-2024 Officers & Coordinators**

President	Ed Council, (508) 904-4539, <a href="mailto:elc@timberfield.com">elc@timberfield.com</a>
Treasurer	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, <a href="mailto:lori@fassman.com">lori@fassman.com</a>
Secretary/Clerk	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, <a href="mailto:lori@fassman.com">lori@fassman.com</a>
Folk Letter	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, <a href="mailto:lori@fassman.com">lori@fassman.com</a>
Memb. Renewals	Sallie and Bill Satterthwaite, (978) 369-2365, <a href="mailto:salliesatt@comcast.net">salliesatt@comcast.net</a> , <a href="mailto:billsatt@icloud.com">billsatt@icloud.com</a>
Concert Food	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, <a href="mailto:lori@fassman.com">lori@fassman.com</a>
Concert Sound	<a href="mailto:sound@fssgb.org">sound@fssgb.org</a> (Chair role vacant)
Fall Getaway	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, <a href="mailto:lori@fassman.com">lori@fassman.com</a>
Publicity	Lynn Feingold, (781) 227-7500, <a href="mailto:lynnfeingold0@gmail.com">lynnfeingold0@gmail.com</a>
Membership	<a href="mailto:membership@fssgb.org">membership@fssgb.org</a>
Singing Parties	Don MacLeod, (617) 283-8532, <a href="mailto:don@oceanjams.com">don@oceanjams.com</a>
Recording Sec	Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, <a href="mailto:lori@fassman.com">lori@fassman.com</a>
Trad. Swaps	Lynn Feingold, (781) 227-7500, <a href="mailto:lynnfeingold0@gmail.com">lynnfeingold0@gmail.com</a>
Volunteers	<a href="mailto:volunteers@fssgb.org">volunteers@fssgb.org</a>
Webmaster	<a href="mailto:webmaster@fssgb.org">webmaster@fssgb.org</a>

**SEND NEWSLETTER ITEMS TO:**

Lori Fassman  
101 Charter Road  
Acton, MA 01720-4210  
[folkletter@fssgb.org](mailto:folkletter@fssgb.org)

**FOLK LETTER DEADLINES** are the seventh of the month for the following month's issue. Advertisements are \$15 for 1/4 page, \$20 for 1/3 page, \$40 for 2/3 page, \$30 for 1/2 page, and \$60 for a full page. Email us for more information.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Ed Council, Lori Fassman, Lynn Feingold, Peter Hamlin, Mark Katz, Bill Lehrman, Suzanne Mrozak, Merle Roesler, John Shockey

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

Mark Katz (617) 325-5147, [markkatz@mac.com](mailto:markkatz@mac.com),  
Lori Fassman, (978) 264-9710, [lori@fssgb.org](mailto:lori@fssgb.org)

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE:**

Chairs: Lynn Feingold, Ruth Perry, Lori Fassman.  
Members: Isobel Abelson, Bill Lehrman, Suzanne Mrozak, Merle Roesler

*FSSGB is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.  
Contributions are tax deductible to the extent  
allowed by law.*

**FSSGB's 65th Anniversary Party!**

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 3-5pm  
Theodore Parker Unitarian Church  
1859 Centre St, West Roxbury

Please join us for a very special party to celebrate FSSGB's 65th anniversary! This will be a song swap with refreshments, and some special guests who have graced our stages over the years.



**FSSGB Library:** FSSGB's entire collection of printed materials and resides at the New England Conservatory Library at 255 St. Botolph St., Boston, where it is available to the public for perusing onsite. The collection is known as Folk Song Society of Greater Boston (FSSGB) Collection at New England Conservatory. See the FSSGB website for information on how to access the materials and make donations.

# The Folk Song Society of Greater Boston



**THE FOLK LETTER**  
c/o FSSGB, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2941  
Acton, MA 01720  
[www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

[www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org)

- Sat. Jan 27     **FSSGB Members' Concert**, 7pm, livestreamed
- Sat., Feb. 3     **Mike Agranoff House Concert\***, 7pm, Roslindale, MA
- Sun., March 3     **Bound for Glory (Woody Guthrie tribute)**, 4pm, First Parish in Waltham, 50 Church St, Waltham, \$10 for all at the door
- Fri., April 7     **Sara Grey and Kieron Means House Concert\***, 1pm, location TBD (*note early start time!*)
- April 19-21     **Find us at the New England Folk Festival!** (exact date/time of our song swap TBA)
- Sun., May 5     **FSSGB's 65th Anniversary Party**, 3-5pm, W. Roxbury

\* Admission for house concerts is \$20 (\$5 for students with advance notice).

COVID rules for house concerts: Everyone must be fully vaccinated (honor system), masks are optional, stay home if not feeling well that day!

**See [www.fssgb.org](http://www.fssgb.org) for details about all events**