



SOUTH SHORE FOLK MUSIC CLUB



Traditional Ballad Singing **CONTEST** For Contestants Grade 4 through Age 25

Friday, March 16, 2018, 8:00 – 10:30 p.m., Beal House, 222 Main St (Rt. 106), Kingston, MA

Contestants: No admission charge. All others: \$8 Non-Members, \$7 Members, \$4 Children

At the South Shore Folk Music Club, we love the traditional ballads from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and we want to promote interest in singing them. The traditional ballads are a window into a much earlier time that is different from our own time, and yet the people in these ballads experience events and emotions that resonate with us today.

There will be FIVE categories with CASH PRIZES! The categories are:

Grades 4 through 12:

1. Solo performer with no instrumental accompaniment - \$50 cash prize
2. Solo performer accompanying him/herself with an instrument - \$50 cash prize
3. Group (2 or more) with no instrumental accompaniment - \$100 cash prize
4. Group (2 or more) accompanying themselves with instrument(s) - \$100 cash prize

SPECIAL CATEGORY FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES TO AGE 25:

5. Solo or group, with/without instrument - \$50 cash prize

Performances will be judged on:

1. Did the contestant sing a ballad? (as defined below)
2. Did the contestant bring the ballad's story across to the audience?
3. Musicality

Contestants, read this important information:

- To qualify, you must present a **ballad**. A ballad tells a story with a plot - a sequence of events and a conclusion. **IMPORTANT:** If it is just a song about how someone feels about a situation or if it is really light on plot, your song may not be a ballad. If you present a traditional song instead of a ballad you will lose points.
- Your ballad must originally be from England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales.
- Your ballad must be "traditional" - the song is so old that nobody knows who wrote it, OR if the songwriter is known, the song must have been written at least 100 years ago.
- This is a contest about skill in a traditional oral art form: ballad singing. The judges and audience must be able to hear the words and understand the story that is being told. The performer must bring across the emotional impact of the ballad. It is not necessary, and it is not expected, that contestants wear a "costume" to compete.
- **DEADLINE: You must submit your Contest Form by Friday, March 9, 2018. The Contest Form is on the next page.** Mail or email the form to Contest Organizer Karen Haffner, 326 Spring Street, Rockland, MA 02370 or haffnerk@hotmail.com. Karen will contact you within a few days of receiving your form to confirm that she received your form and to let you know that you will be in the contest. Karen will also confirm that the song you have chosen is a traditional ballad and qualifies for the contest. If not, Contest Organizer Lynn Feingold will contact you to discuss. If you have any doubt about whether the ballad you have chosen qualifies, Lynn is happy to discuss your choice – call her at 781-608-7218 as soon as you can. If you don't hear back from one of us, please contact us.

Here are some examples of traditional ballads. We would love to tell you about these ballads. If you want some information about them, call Lynn Feingold at 781-608-7218 or Karen Haffner at 781-878-1683, or look them up:

Barbara Allen	Molly Malone	Henry Martin	The Cruel Mother	John Riley
Edward	Spencer the Rover	The Water is Wide	The Dowie Dens of Yarrow	Mary Hamilton
Jock o' Hazeldean	The Wild Rover	Young Waters	The Wraggle Taggle Gypsies, O!	Ned of the Hill
Anachie Gordon	The Golden Vanity	The Mermaid	Lord Thomas and Fair Ellinor	Two Bonnie Boys
Clerk Saunders	Mattie Groves	Lord Randal	False Knight on the Road	Sir Patrick Spence

You can find more ballads at the following online sources:

www.contemplator.com See "Child Ballads" - if you choose a Child Ballad, make sure it is a "ballad" according to our definition above!

www.wikipedia.org Search "List of The Child Ballads" or "List of Irish Ballads" – If you like the synopsis in Wikipedia, search for the lyrics on Google. If you choose a song from either of these lists, make sure it is a "ballad" according to our definition above!

www.youtube.com Try this if you find a traditional ballad with lyrics that you like, but you don't know the tune. There are some good videos out there that you can use to learn the tune.

Follow us on Facebook: Traditional Ballad Singing Competition for Students



SOUTH SHORE FOLK MUSIC CLUB



Contest Form for Friday, March 16, 2018 Traditional Ballad Singing Contest

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Your Email: _____

Category:

GRADES 4 – 12:

___ Solo performer, NO instrumental accompaniment

___ Solo performer, accompanying him/herself with an instrument

___ Group (2 or more), NO instrumental accompaniment

___ Group (2 or more), accompanying themselves with instrument(s)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE THROUGH AGE 25:

___ Solo or group, with/without instrument

List the ballad you plan to sing here: _____

If you change your mind, please let us know. Karen will confirm that your ballad qualifies for the contest.

Submit your Contest Form by Friday, March 9, 2018 (SOONER IS BETTER) by mail or email to:
Contest Organizer Karen Haffner, 326 Spring Street, Rockland, MA 02370, haffnerk@hotmail.com.

✂ CUT HERE - - - - -

↓ **KEEP THIS PART FOR YOUR RECORDS** ↓



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PHONE ON THE NIGHT OF THE CONTEST: 617-875-2047. If something happens, and you will not be competing, please call Karen to let her know, even if it's the night of the contest.

The ballad you chose: _____

The date that you sent in your Contest Form: _____