

NEWS FROM  
CALLIOPE:  
THE  
PITTSBURGH  
FOLK  
MUSIC  
SOCIETY

VOLUME 1  
NUMBER 1

# Rootz

CALLIOPE

Register for the Calliope School winter term by contacting the Calliope office at 412.432.0333 or [www.CalliopeHouse.org](http://www.CalliopeHouse.org). We'll be happy to send you a catalog. Classes begin February 2, 2004.

Q&A with Harp Instructor Charlie Barath

## Meet the Calliope School Faculty

*What's your typical student demographic?*

You name it. Everything from early teens to retirees and all ages in between. Teachers, students, professionals, blue collar types. Pretty much all shapes and sizes.

*What do your students hope to accomplish by taking your class?*

For the most part, the students that have taken my classes just want to sound better. The beginners want to learn to play, and those with some playing experience want to improve things like tone and playing technique.

*What's your favorite kind of harmonica?*

The kind that gets played often! I've owned and played many different brands and models over the years. Lately I've been playing the Hohner Special 20. It's basically a Marine Band harmonica with a plastic comb and slightly different covers. There are a lot of good "out of the box" harps out there. The best that I've ever played or owned have been customized or "tweaked" by professional technicians.

The Calliope newsletter is back. We hope you enjoy it. If there's something we should know about, let us know. Two ways to give us your feedback: email us at [www.CalliopePA.org](http://www.CalliopePA.org) or write us at 10 Bedford Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

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CALLIOPE

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## Dear Friend of Calliope:

For more than 25 years, Calliope has helped bring roots-based music, dance and other folk art forms to the community through concerts and the Calliope School. We try to do it all, but of course we can't. So, we'll bring as much as we can to you through our new newsletter. Please, let us know what you'd like to hear (in concert!) and what you'd like to read about (here in the newsletter). Enjoy it—and pass it on. Tell a friend about the music that's been there all along.

Steve Weber  
President  
Calliope Board  
of Directors

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 8:00 PM  
CARNEGIE LECTURE HALL, OAKLAND

## Ribbon of Highway, Endless Skyway A Concert in the Spirit of Woody Guthrie

WITH SARA LEE GUTHRIE, JOHNNY IRION,  
MICHAEL FRACASSO, THE BURNS SISTERS, JIMMY  
LAFAVE, AND ELIZA GILKYSON



Musically, Woody Guthrie was two-chord simple. ("I usually play songs in two chords, C and G," he once said, "and every once in awhile, I throw in an F, just to impress the girls.") And his words are nothing if not plain-spoken. *This land is your land. This land is my land.* But my god, the fury and steel and stare of his vision. Now that was something. That's the secret. That's why his songs are powerful, and why they're still being sung today.

But what you'll hear on November 22 is not so much a tribute to Woody. For these singer-songwriters, it's a rediscovery of the best possible kind—a reclaiming of what is old and familiar against the complex of each artist's own personality and truth and vision. "In his time, he was more of a rolling stone," says his daughter, Nora Guthrie, who was 17 when her father died of the progressive neurological disorder Huntington's chorea. "But that stone has stopped and turned into a foundation for other people to build on."

Tickets for the Woody Guthrie tribute concert and Flex-Packages for the spring concerts are available from ProArts Tickets. 412.394.3353 (12:00 noon to 5:30 pm, Monday to Saturday), or online at [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org)

Guthrie, continued

## Website Recommendations Cool, Way-Out There, and Just Plain Useful

**www.coalcountry.org**  
This regional site includes a monthly dance calendar for various groups. You can dance every night of the week.

**www.thesession.org**  
A source of Irish tunes, discussion, resources for musicians who like to jam or folks who want more details.

**www.oldtimemusic.com**  
News, events, recordings, links and everything else you can think of regarding Old-Time Music.

**www.saloonatricsmovie.com**  
“A Merry Medley of Music, Mobsters and Mayhem.” Find out more about a made-in-Pittsburgh movie starring local band Chuck Corby & Quiet Storm as themselves and pro-wrestling legend Bruno Sammartino as a vulture-like underworld club owner.


**http://www.aajc.us**  
African American Jazz Caucus, an affiliate of the International Association for Jazz Education.

**www.kennedy-center.org**  
Find information about the daily Millennium stage performances including over 1,400 archived performances that you can search by artist, genre, or date.

**www.wendyknits.net**  
“Ad nauseum running commentary on my knitting.” A blog by and about a fanatical knitter.

**www.larkinam.com**  
If you need strings for an oud, instructions on how to learn the didgeridoo, or a rare recording, check here first. Added value on the site: a photo of the pope blessing a bagpipe!

She’s right, of course. But he’s not only left America a legacy. He’s left a challenge. So listen to his words, words that came straight from his indignant and determined heart, words that rolled out of him as though he was sounding Gabriel’s trumpet. “I hate a song that makes you think that you are not any good,” he wrote. “I hate a song that makes you think that you are just born to lose. No good to nobody. No good for nothing. I am out to fight those songs to my very last breath of air and my last drop of blood. I am out to sing songs that will prove to you that this is your world and that if it has hit you pretty hard and knocked you for a dozen loops, no matter what color, what size you are, how you are built, I am out to sing the songs that make you take pride in yourself and in your work...”.

Join Calliope on November 22 as a new generation explores the powerful words and music of Woody Guthrie.  SALLY ANN FLECKER


**We Couldn’t Do It Without:**

## Calliope Volunteer Coordinator Simona Loberant

Calliope Volunteer Coordinator and Carnegie Mellon student Simona Loberant saw her first Calliope concert the same night she coordinated volunteers for the first time. “It was trial by fire,” but things worked out just fine says the 25-year-old Squirrel Hill resident.

Her favorite Calliope concert so far? “I loved Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem. I’d heard of them on NPR, but never heard their music. They were wonderful in concert. Very energetic and the kind of group that keeps folk music young and vibrant.”

Although a civil engineering student, Loberant likes to balance that side of her brain with her love of drawing, painting and reading. “My schedule is pretty busy, but during school breaks, I hope to get back to attending classical and jazz music performances, as well as opera and ballet.”

Her goal as volunteer coordinator for Calliope is to “bring in more student volunteers. I think students who have fun at a Calliope concert will bring in more students and young professionals. I want to spread the word around Pittsburgh’s college campuses that there’s a fantastic concert series in their own backyard.” 

**Ask Steve**

## Out of the Attic

Not a week goes by without someone walking into my shop and asking whether their violin is valuable. These instruments come to me in peeling and deteriorated cases, shopping bags, cardboard boxes, or sacks. Generally, these noble fiddles have spent the last few decades in an attic and are very dry and have separated seams and multiple splits in the wood. Most folks are disappointed to hear that their “attic Strad” is just another student grade violin, and in need of significant repair.

“But the label says . . .”

Sorry.

Antonio Stradivari was born in 1644 and in his Cremona, Italy, shop produced over 1000 instruments before his death in 1737. And while many have been destroyed by floods, fires, shipwrecks, and



**The Stylish  
Calliope T-Shirt**

## The Must Have Item for the Folk Lover on Your Holiday List?

It’s music you can wear. Get the shirt right off our rack. Just ten (twelve?) bucks and you can let ‘em know that “We pull the music out by the roots.” Long sleeve, black back-ground with stand-out

green printing, colors that go well with just about any kind of music. Calliope’s got a lot more than haystacks and harmonies and we have the t-shirt to prove it. Order one for yourself, and a friend.

Makes a great holiday gift. Hey, if the shirt fits, wear it.

T-Shirts available by calling 412.432.0333 or on sale at most Calliope concerts or events.

## The Calliope Concerts Upcoming Shows

November 22  
**The Woody Guthrie  
Tribute Tour**

January 17  
**Roy Book Binder**

February 21  
**Juggernaut Jug  
Band**

March 20  
**Lunasa**

April 17  
**Mike Marshall &  
Darol Anger**

wars, it is estimated that about 500 original “Strads” are still in existence. In the centuries since his death, literally millions of Stradivari copies have been produced with the common “Antonius Stradivarius” label. Virtually all genuine Strads have been accounted for, and the likelihood that one is hiding in your attic is slim. Having said that however, this would be as good a time as any to visit the attic to rescue that old violin. Attics are no place for musical instruments!

While a genuine Stradavari violin may be worth several million dollars, most of the violins we come across are worth \$500 or less. As the value of any vintage instrument is determined primarily by condition, and most of these otherwise venerable fiddles are in need of some restoration, the value generally falls below \$300. Often, the cost of repairs exceeds the value of the instrument.

The primary culprits are heat and lack of humidity. Hot and dry attics are torture chambers for musical instruments. Ever go into your attic on a hot August afternoon? I am here to tell you that Februaries are no day at the beach either.

Well-made guitars, banjos, mandolins, and violins can last for generations with proper care, and the tone of a good instrument will improve with age. Here are a few tips:

- Keep instruments in good quality cases, away from direct sunlight and other heat sources.
- In the dry winter months, keep your music room adequately humidified.

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