Book Review: *Night Drive: Travels With My Brother* by Garnet Rogers

Reviewed by Peter Ross

A 735-page book by a relatively minor musician might seem a bit daunting, but Garnet's writing is loaded with interesting anecdotes, humor, and folkloreabilia. Garnet pulls no punches, though, and I came away with a deep understanding of both brothers, warts and all. I was captivated in the first eight pages when Utah Phillips is quoted twice: “There are no career moves in folk music”, and “Punctuation is no substitute for timing.”

Garnet's description of how he tried to shorten the book is an example of his self-effacing humor: “I removed most of the ‘F’ words. That lost 50 or so pages. I then took out all of the sex scenes, which took care of a paragraph. (We were, after all, a folk band.)” The book actually does have some sex, but it's at the R, not X, rated level. Here's another amusing quote about when the brothers were trying to get started in the music world: “Stan was busy in Toronto, pitching songs and continuing his studies as a freelance gynecologist, so I decided to move back to Hamilton to be closer to my parents' bank account.” *Night Drive* spends little time on the brothers' childhood, although it does note that in high school in eastern Canada, Stan was shy, chubby, and awkward, with horn-rimmed glasses and a comb-over, even at 17. He taught himself guitar, and the early musical influences for both brothers included Gordon Lightfoot (“of course”), Fred Neil, Jerry Jeff Walker, Ian Tyson, Joni Mitchell, and a little later Bob Dylan. The bulk of the book involves the decade when Stan, Garnet, who played fiddle and flute, and various bass players toured all over Canada and the eastern US. The early years were very tough, with small audiences in rough venues, gigs canceled at the last minute, long drives like a 45-hour one from their home to Calgary (hence the book's title), and poor or nonexistent lodging. Garnet observes that their small band spent much time just staring out the windshield: “None of us ever slept in those days.” When the band did stop for meals, they would sit at separate tables, each with his own paperback book. Otherwise, Garnet observes, “if we didn't get a break from each other's company, there was going to be a murder”. There were many lighter moments on the road, as when Stan remarked, “Nothing handles speed bumps like a rental car.”

As some of Stan's songs like Barrett's Privateers became well-known, the band would sometimes substitute obscene words in a parody on stage, and audiences wouldn't even notice! Barrett's Privateers had actually been written as a joke, to get the attention of drunks in the audience. Once, when Stan was interviewed on a folk-friendly radio station in New Jersey, he claimed that the intensity of playing music on stage was like sex, and “It's like you're making love to the entire audience. It's better than sex actually.” Garnet and the bass player were listening while sitting out in the car, and they had to turn the radio off as they were getting ready to barf!

Canadian songwriter Stan Rogers will be well known to most folk club members for his rousing songs like the Mary Ellen Carter, the Northwest Passage, and Barrett's Privateers. Sadly, Stan died when just 33 in a plane crash in 1983, on his way home from the Kerrville Folk Festival. His younger brother Garnet, also a folksinger, waited 33 years before writing his memoir about their times together, especially their touring for almost ten years.

(continued on page 6)
The San Francisco Folk Music Club is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the enjoyment, preservation and promotion of acoustic music in individual, family, and community life.

“The only thing better than singing is more singing” – Ella Fitzgerald

Board Members
President: Ed Hilton ♦ Vice President: Hali Hammer
Thad Binkley ♦ Charlie Fenton ♦ Bob Helliesen ♦ Daniel Hersh
Amelia Hogan ♦ Phyllis Jardine ♦ Jerry Michaels ♦ Dave Sahn

4th of July Virtual Campout
by Hali Hammer

Since we can’t get together in person, we’ll have a virtual get-together Friday night, plus four online workshops and a 2-hour open mic each day on Saturday and Sunday. Workshops will be one hour each. Ed Hilton and I will host. If you want to share a song, you can put your request for a turn that day in that workshop.

The URLs for the Zoom workshops and open mics will be posted on SFFMC’s Harmony List, or you can email me (halih@yahoo.com) or Ed (ed_hilton@yahoo.com) and we’ll send you the URLs. Hope you can join us on Zoom this weekend. Better virtual than never!!!

Virtual Potluck
Friday, July 3, at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

A chance to check in with each other, one at a time due to Zoom constraints. Bring your own everything and sit down at the computer with your meal (or just join us and eat whenever you’d like…)

Workshops / Song Circles
Saturday, July 4, at 11:00 to 4:30

11:00-12:00. I (heart) Ballads – Child Ballads Preferred led by Sadie Damascus
12:30-1:30. Joan Baez Songs led by Ed Hilton
2:00-3:00. Bob Dylan Songs led by Yvette O’Tannenbaum
3:30-4:30. Sea & River Songs led by Thad Binkley & Phyllis Jardine

Open Mic, hosted by Hali Hammer
Saturday, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

1. Robert Rodriguez 2. Larry Hildes
5. Hali Hammer 6. Yvette Tannenbaum
7. Jo D’Anna 8. Rick Myers
9. Randy Berge 10. Marcie Boyd
11. Evelie Posch 12. Rob Katz

Workshops / Song Circles
Sunday, July 5, at 11:00 to 4:30

11:00-12:00. Songs of Tom Lehrer & Alan Sherman led by Danny Hirsch
12:30-1:30. Carter Family Songs led by Gary Breitbard
2:00-3:00. Story Songs and Ballads led by Robert Rodriguez
3:30-4:30. Utah Phillips Songs led by Thad Binkley & Phyllis Jardine

Open Mic, hosted by Ed Hilton
Sunday, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

1. Ron Goldberg 2. Ed Hilton
3. Mike Fletcher 4. Scott Clark
5. Sadie Damascus 6. Jim Burrill
11. Rebecca Parks 12. Marlene McCall
Our First Virtual SFFFF – How It Went
by Marlene McCall

I’m going to disregard – because it’s water under
the bridge at this point – the unfortunate reason why we
couldn’t have a festival in real life this year, and instead
report on what actually took place. Considering that we had
only a few weeks to do the planning and organizing of a
festival that was totally different than any we’d done before,
it turned out OK!

We had fewer events, of course. Some performers
and workshop leaders used to doing their thing on a stage or
in a classroom weren’t able to pivot to a virtual event. And
some events were so participatory in nature that they simply
couldn’t be done virtually.

Still, we had 25 performances, 3 events for our
family program, 2 events as part of our storytelling program, and 11 workshops. Many of us
learned a lot about using Facebook Live, YouTube Live,
Zoom, and regular YouTube to present the festival events.

All in all, not as good as live, but a lot of people
attended a lot of events, heard a lot of good music, and in
some cases played and sang along with event leaders. Not
bad, considering.

And many of the events that were recorded can still
be accessed. Go to the program on the festival website
(https://sffolkfest.org/program-2020/) and click through on
events that you missed. You may be able to hear them now.

Thanks to committee members Remy Timbrook,
Todd Silverstein, Pete Kronowitt, and especially Daniel
Hersh for all they did. And thanks to Joanne Mar for her
perennial “Saturday before the festival” show on Folk
Music and Beyond, on KALW. And all the performers and
workshop leaders who donated their time free.

If you want to make a donation specifically
allocated to the festival, please visit
www.sffolkfest.org/donate/.

Renew your Club Membership Online!
by Marlene McCall

Folks can now join the San Francisco Folk Music
Club, or existing members can renew their membership,
on the club’s website. Go to www.sffmc.org/membership/
and you’ll see these choices:

Join or Renew

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<thead>
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<th>Membership Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Income</td>
<td>$10</td>
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After you choose the type of membership, you can
also choose to add a donation before processing your
payment.

Thanks to Valerie Rose and Daniel Hersh for
making this happen!

SAN FRANCISCO FOLK MUSIC CLUB

Yearly membership levels (please check only one box):
☐ $40 Standard
☐ $20 Economy
☐ $10 Low Income: or pay what you can

I enclose $____ cash $____ check for ____ years membership in the San Francisco Folk Music Club.

Additional donation to the SFFMC: $10______ other amount $______.

Total enclosed: $_________. This entire amount may be tax-deductible. The SFFMC is a 501(c)(3) organization.

☐ New member ☐ Renew or Extend ☐ Rejoin

Be sure you have checked a box for membership level and filled in the
amount paid and the number of years.

Name: __________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________
City: __________________ State: _____ ZIP: _________
Phone: (    ) _______ - _____________
E-mail (print clearly): ______________________________
Web site: _______________________________________

I want to know more about volunteer opportunities:
☐ Please call me
☐ Please send me information by e-mail

The Club produces a membership directory every few years
for Club members only. If you wish that all or part of your
information not be included in the directory, please specify
below.

Please do not include the following information in the Club
directory:
☐ Name ☐ Address ☐ Phone ☐ E-mail

Make checks payable to “SFFMC” and mail to: SFFMC – Dues, c/o Ellen Eagan, 149 Santa Maria Ave., San Bruno, CA 94066
For further information, email <membership@sffmc.org or phone (650) 274-6413 6/1/2020
2. When facts are banned and we're left with only lies;
When we hear the wildﬁres crackle, and watch the waters rise;
When violence against a woman is excused;
When our planet’s ﬁnal plea has been refused.

CHORUS

3. When the weak are blamed for everything that’s wrong;
When we watch the dispossession of the ones who don’t belong;
When the poor and sick can die if they can’t pay;
When our plans for a better world have blown away.

4. When the demons have been loosed, and dressed like men;
They were only names in a history book, but they’ve come back again,
With playthings that they’ve never had before,
So I’m gonna’ sing till I can’t sing anymore.

FINAL CHORUS

There will be singing in the dark times to come;
We won’t let evil cloud our wits, nor will it strike us dumb;
We’ll have rhythms, and harmonies, and rhymes;
There will be songs, and we’ll be singing, in the dark times.

[REPEAT FINAL CHORUS] There will be songs, and we’ll be singing, in the dark times.

ABOUT THE SONGWRITER AND THE SONG

After the 2016 presidential election, Maine artist Alan Magee wrote this song inspired by a Bertolt Brecht poem: “In the dark times, will there also be singing? Yes, there will be singing about the dark times.” All that has since unfolded, including the pandemic, has conﬁrmed Magee’s premonitions, yet hope remains. Magee notes: “What concerned me then, and does now, is how we, individually and collectively, should respond to powerful, destructive forces. How do we hold on to our personal guidelines for decency when facing a daunting malevolence?” Hear Alan Magee masterfully perform his prophetic song here: https://alanmageefilm.com/singinginthedarktimes Music website: https://alanmageemusic.com
PANDEMIC PARODY PAGE

Zoom Golly, Golly

tune: Zum Gali Gali (traditional)
With new words by Hali Hammer c 2020

Stuck inside to shelter in place
I became a real basket case
Mostly stayed alone in my room
Till someone told me about Zoom

Zoom, golly golly golly, Zoom golly golly
Zoom, golly golly golly, Zoom golly golly

Clicked a button, got on a screen
Saw my friends, asked
“How have you been?”
Tried to jam, but not with time lag
So a song swap was what we had

Zoom, golly golly golly, Zoom golly golly
Zoom, golly golly golly, Zoom golly golly

Now I am on Zoom all the time
Meetings, greetings, all work out fine
Although, if the truth must be told
I am now on Zoom overload!

Zoom, golly golly golly, Zoom golly golly
Zoom, golly golly golly, Zoom golly golly
Zoom!\

Ain’t Misbehavin’- Coronavirus Blues

A parody by Alzara Getz c 2020

No one to walk with, stuck indoors (C Dm G7)
Nowhere to hang out, but parks and grocery stores (C C7 Fm)
Ain’t misbehaving, 6 feet away from you...a-choo!
(C Dm G7 E7 A7 D7 G7)

Don’t know for certain, don’t know when
And if we cure it, will it just come back again
Coronavirus keeps me away from you
(C A Dm G7 C Fm C E7)

Bridge:
Like Jack Horner, in the corner
Don’t go nowhere, I wouldn’t dare (Am F D7 A7)
You could catch it almost anywhere, is it in the air?
(G A D7 G A7 D7 G7)

Got lots of time, nowhere to go
I’m home all day long
Just me and internet radio
Ain’t misbehaving, Coronavirus blues

Let’s look at Sweden, just look at Spain
Or South Korea, in the end
Will we all come out the same?
Global pandemic, Covid-19 by name
Don’t call the doctor, she ain’t got time
You won’t get tested unless you’re dying
We’ve got to flatten out the curve,
To save the world

Hand sanitizer makes me germ free
A little bleach and now I’m OCD
Ain’t misbehavin’ - Coronavirus blues

Let’s order in, shelter in place
We’re all on lockdown,
So cover your hands and face
We’re on a mission to kick the Covid flu.

The folknik song pages are produced by song page co-editors Barbara Millikan and Jas. Adams. Email or text us with your song suggestions or comments. To submit a song to be considered for publication, send words, melody, chords and an audio file to: Barbara Millikan, (503)434-8003, barbara.millikan@gmail.com; and Jas. Adams, (503)349-0840, jadams@teleport.com. Songwriters, composers & lyricists retain all copyright privileges.
Night Drive from page

As Stan became better known, his band performed at many of the big folk festivals in Canada and later the US. At the Mariposa Folk Festival in the 70s, for example, Garnet describes meeting and playing music with Utah Phillips, Ramblin Jack Elliott, David Bromberg (wearing a T-shirt that said, “You’re only as good as your last gig”), Tom Paxton, Archie Fisher, and even Sweet Honey in the Rock. Stan and Tom Paxton had to share a room at the 1982 Calgary Folk Festival, even though they were polar opposites in life-styles. Stan was a hard drinker, as was Garnet, and Tom Paxton later even tried to get Garnet to attend an AA meeting.

A short chapter on “Ann Arbor/Pete Seeger” describes how Stan's watching a Pete Seeger benefit for The Ark was a life-changing event for him. Afterwards the band's shows evolved from mere performances to participatory events, with the band and audiences as partners. Stan began to line out the choruses on some songs and teach the odd harmony from the stage. Garnet mentions that a year later at the Philly festival he and Stan saw Pete in the mud and heat picking up garbage with a green plastic bag, causing them to do the same.

Alcohol pays a big role in the memoir. One of the more bizarre incidents involved a jam session at the Kerrville festival, where the brothers finally got to meet and play with Eric Bogle. Dave Van Ronk and Aly Bain drunkenly crashed into the session, and Aly landed on Garnet's fiddle, breaking the bridge. Then Van Ronk drank the last unopened bottle of single malt in seconds, sang a song, and passed out in his chair. Bogle, who was originally from Glasgow and had a lifetime of experience with this sort of thing, said, “Christ, get him out of here before he shits himself.”

Both Stan and Garnet hated touring, partly as, Garnet observes, “There was a complete lack of a sense of place”. In fact, Garnet had frequent severe panic attacks that occasionally caused him to miss a gig or even leave a tour. Garnet points out wryly, “Every band needs a doctor and a psychiatrist to travel with them on the road.”

The book ends with over forty photos, many of the brothers growing up with their parents and some from their band's tours. Sadly, there are no photos of the many other famous folk singers discussed in the book. There is a nice 45-minute documentary entitled “One Warm Line: The Legacy of Stan Rogers” that's available on Vimeo at youtube.com/watch?v=vvPPSv76eSw

It includes Stan with his band performing about eight of his songs, mostly the popular maritime songs, and insightful interviews with Stan's wife, mother, Garnet, Stan's agent, and other musicians.

On the whole, there are two serious defects with Garnet's memoir. First, there is no index, that's a shame for such a long, non-fiction book. Second, there are only several brief mentions of Stan's tragic death, with no details on it or on its effects on his family and the public. Stan died on an Air Canada plane after it made an emergency landing in Cincinnati due to a sudden fire inside the cabin. The webpage https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_Canada_Flight_797 describes the famous accident that caused Stan's death and that of 22 other passengers, from smoke inhalation and burns from the flash fire. This led to changes in global airplane safety, like the installation of smoke detectors in lavatories and strip lights marking paths to exit doors.

Former folk club member and professional musician Adam Miller, who generously gave me his copy of the book, told me that he found the book special as “it is a page-turner even for readers who have never heard of Stan and his music”. He added, “I found it to be among the most truthful and accurate accounts of the folk music biz in the 1960s/70s.”

Finally, I was personally disappointed in that I never saw Stan perform live, even though I was in our folk club and living in the South Bay when he and Garnet gave a concert in the Plowshares series at Ft. Mason on May 22, 1983. This was right before they left for Kerrville and, eleven days later, Stan's ill-fated trip home on June 2.
Regularly Scheduled Events Calendar as of 6/28/2020

All events are online ("virtual") unless a location is provided. All times are PDT.

Daily at 5:30pm: Quarantine Happy Hour hosted by Horsenecks https://www.facebook.com/groups/1106385289724371/
Every Sunday noon: Margie Butler and Paul Espinoza https://www.facebook.com/goldenboughmusic
Every Sunday ?am: Monica Pasqual https://www.monicapasqual.com/
Every Sunday 1pm: Emma's Revolution workshop: Learn an ER song https://www.emmasrevolution.com/concerts
Every Sunday 1pm: Kyle Alden https://www.facebook.com/Kyle-Alden-120590675509
4th Sunday 1pm: Bluegrass & old-time jam, Ocean View Park, Santa Cruz, info luke@playingbyyear.com
Every Sunday 2pm: Daoiri Farrell https://www.facebook.com/DaoiriFarrell/
1st Sunday 2pm: SCVFA jam on Zoom, info: president@fiddlers.org
Every Sunday 4pm: Waltz concert (4th Su contra) https://www.facebook.com/groups/HaywardContraDance/
Every Sunday 5pm: Fiddle Hell (fiddlehell.org) online jam https://www.facebook.com/groups/fiddlehellmassachusetts/
  Instructor schedule at https://fiddlehell.org/
Every Monday noon: Mamuse https://www.facebook.com/MaMuseMusic/
Every Monday 9:30am: vocal warm-up with Briget Boyle https://www.facebook.com/kitkavocalensemble
Every Monday noon: Annie Patterson leads Rise Up Singing singalong
  https://www.riseupandsinging.org/annie/concerts/online
Every Monday 4pm: John Whelan https://www.facebook.com/john.whelan.142
Every Monday 7pm: South Bay "Old Time" jam on Zoom https://zoom.us/j/6747487977 pw:[]722286[] (delete brackets)
2nd,4th Monday 7pm: Groundbreakin Trad session on Zoom https://www.meetup.com/irish-music-trad-session/
Every Tuesday 11am: AJ Lee & Blue Summit https://www.facebook.com/BlueSummitmusic/
Every Tuesday 4pm: Amelia Hogan https://www.facebook.com/ameliaisaverb/
Every Tuesday 4pm: Eric & Suzy Thompson https://www.facebook.com/ericandsuzy/
Every Tuesday 6pm: The Ould Sod Irish session https://www.facebook.com/ameliaisaverb/
Every Wednesday 12pm: Traditional Irish session on Facebook, info: apetvet@gmail.com
Every Wednesday 12:30pm: Noctambule (Marla Fibish & Bruce Victor) https://www.facebook.com/noctambulemusic
Every Wednesday 1:30pm: Nell Robinson & Jim Nunally https://www.facebook.com/nellandjim/live/
Every Wednesday 2pm: Fiddle Hell (fiddlehell.org) online jam, Instructor schedule at https://fiddlehell.org/
  Jam at https://www.facebook.com/groups/fiddlehellmassachusetts/
Every other Wednesday 4pm: Annie Patterson & Peter Blood, using music to work for justice
  https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7P-NeAInLRabSNvxsXWMyQ
Every Thursday 11am: Emma’s Revolution workshop: Songwriting Level II https://www.emmasrevolution.com/concerts
Every Thursday 6:30pm: The Shipwrecked Shanty Band https://www.facebook.com/groups/171947164165522/
  and outdoors at Quinn’s Lighthouse Restaurant and Pub: 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland
Every Friday 2pm: flatpicking lesson w/Eric Thompson https://www.facebook.com/ericandsuzy/
Every Friday 4:30pm: Martinez Music Mafia presents https://www.facebook.com/MartinezMusicMafia/
Every Friday 6pm: Sin Silver https://www.facebook.com/sin.silver.7
Every Friday 7pm: Kathryn Rose https://www.facebook.com/kathrynorosefolk
  1st Friday 7pm: Drum circle on Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/[]8905334765[] (delete brackets to use)
Every Friday 8pm: Amelia Hogan https://www.facebook.com/ameliaisaverb/
  1st Friday 8pm: CCE Irish/Scottish singing session on Zoom, info: mfj@iee.org
Every Saturday 12:30pm: Noctambule (Marla Fibish & Bruce Victor) https://www.facebook.com/noctambulemusic
Every Saturday 7pm: ukulele jam, join https://www.meetup.com/San-Francisco-Ukulele-Meetup/

Submissions for next folknik: Deadline: Friday Aug 7. Send items by e-mail to appropriate page editor.
Event Calendar as of 6/28/2020

All events are online ("virtual") unless a location is provided. All times are PDT.

Scotland Online - various performers online https://scotlandonline.org/ Note concerts times are in the Scottish time zone (UTC+1). California time is 8 hours earlier.

June 26-July 3 Coviddle Tunes (Fiddle Tunes) festival https://coviddletunes.org/
W July 1 Noon: Romancero! Sephardic Jewish folk song class (part 4) with Mark Levy https://www.aquarianminyan.org/
July 3-5 SFFMC virtual Fourth of July camp https://www.sffmc.org/
Fr July 3 7pm: online open mic, register: https://www.meetup.com/SouthBayAcousticMusic/events/271426701/
Starting week of July 5: online classes from the Freight, register: https://www.thefreight.org/learn-to-play/classes/
July 6-24 Augusta classes/music events/cultural sessions https://augustaheritagecenter.org/old-time/
July 10-12 Kindred Gathering Dulcimer Festival https://sites.google.com/view/kg-forever/
Fr July 10 8pm: SFFMC musical meeting, email ed_hilton@yahoo.com for Zoom link
Sa July 11 11am: vocal workshop with Mahsa Vahdat, register: http://www.kitka.org/events
Sa July 11 5pm: Clairdee https://www.thefreight.org/stream/
Sa July 11 7pm: Teton tea party circle sing on Zoom, email halih@yahoo.com for Zoom link
Su July 12 11am: Gerry Tenney: Yiddish & Yinglish songs, register: https://klezcalifornia.org/online-events/
Tu July 14 8pm: SFFMC Board Meeting, email ed_hilton@yahoo.com for Zoom link
July 14-19 Woody Guthrie Folk Festival online https://www.woodyfest.com/
Su July 19 7pm: Mary Scholz https://www.facebook.com/maryscholzmusic
M July 20 7:30pm: Bay Area Sacred Harp sing on Zoom https://www.facebook.com/groups/189309431104811/
July 23-26 Strings Without Boundaries online classes https://www.stringswithoutboundaries.com/
Fr July 24 8pm: SFFMC musical meeting, email ed_hilton@yahoo.com for Zoom link
Su July 26 11am: Cookie Segelstein klezmer workshop, register: https://klezcalifornia.org/online-events/
Su July 26 3pm: Maurice Tani https://www.soundroom.org/upcoming-events/maurice-tani-1
July 31-Aug 2 Women’s Hearts & Hands Guitar Camp online http://womensheartsandhands.com/
Sa Aug 1 Pataluma Music Festival online https://www.petalumanmusicfestival.org/
Sa Aug 1 5pm: Taimane https://www.thefreight.org/stream/
Aug 7-9 Women's Summer Singing Retreat, Aptos, register: https://www.facebook.com/events/680949915772070/
Su Aug 9 7pm: Azuah https://www.facebook.com/azuahmusic/
Fr Aug 14 7pm: Steven Seifert (Redwood Dulcimer Day), tickets: https://www.communitymusicschool.org/dulcimer-day
Fr Aug 14 8pm: SFFMC musical meeting, email ed_hilton@yahoo.com for Zoom link
Sa Aug 15 9am: Redwood Dulcimer Day, register: https://www.communitymusicschool.org/dulcimer-day
Aug 28-30 QuaranTUNE 2.0 Virtual Dulcimer Fest, register https://www.virtualdulcimerfest.com/
Aug 28-30 Summer Hoot (Ashokan Center) http://hoot.love/
Fr Aug 28 8pm: SFFMC musical meeting, email ed_hilton@yahoo.com for Zoom link
Sa Aug 29 your time: Play Music on the Porch Day! http://www.playmusicontheporchday.com/

Genre Music Calendars Online

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