

THE FOLK MUSIC REVIVAL

During the Great Depression, American radicals embraced folk music as "the people's music" - a cultural weapon in the labor struggle, the fight against fascism, and the campaign for civil rights. Paul Robeson, Josh White, and the Almanac Singers were among those who lauded these values and reflected those views in their music. Many folksingers continued to view music as an instrument of progressive politics after World War II. "The people are on the march and must have songs to sing."

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, a craze for folk music swept the nation. With songs ranging from Leadbelly's "Goodnight, Irene" to Harry Belafonte's rendition of "Day-O" to Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind," folk recordings often reached the top of the Billboard charts. Performers as diverse as Pete Seeger, Odetta, and Phil Ochs and found likeminded individuals in the clubs and coffeehouses of Greenwich Village. They made the neighborhood the heart of the nation's folk music revival.

This course will cover the dynamic history of the progression of Folk Music in America. Emphasis will be on "behind the scenes" and learning more about the artists and their music – including inspirations and interpretations. It is a fascinating journey that links the various phases of the folk music revival together – and each week's session to the next.

The 8 sessions will be a combination of biographical information about the artists as well as material about their songs. The songs will be broadcast to the group along with the words so that anyone who cares to (and it is very much encouraged), can sing along.

A sampling of the artists to be covered:

Part One – Folk Music Pioneers

Woody Guthrie

Pete Seeger

Leadbelly

Harry Belafonte

Part Two – The Folk Music Revival – Singer / Songwriters / Troubadours

Joan Baez

Theodore Bikel

Judy Collins
Bob Dylan

Part Three – The Folk Music Revival – Groups

The Clancy Bros. & Tommy Makem

Peter, Paul, & Mary

New Christy Minstrels

Part Four- Folk Rock

The Animals

Simon & Garfunkel

The Mamas & the Papas

Crosby Stills and Nash

Leader: Larry Wolfert's passion for folk music over the past 30 years includes founding the Folk Music Club of East Brunswick, being a member of the folk duo The End of The Line, and being substitute DJ at WRSU-FM's Home Made Music show.

Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, 8 weeks: March 6 through April 24

Location: Monument Hall