

Central Pennsylvania

Traditions

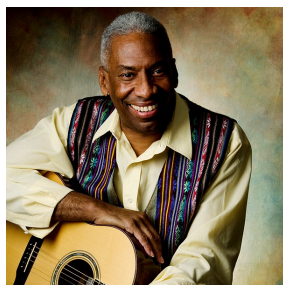
the newsletter of the

Harrisburg, PA USA

Since 1985

**Susquehanna Folk
MUSIC SOCIETY**

January / February 2021 Events



Reggie Harris.....Page 2

Sun, Jan 17 • A much-loved musician and cultural ambassador presents a free, live-streamed performance of "Songs of Joy, Hope, and Freedom," which showcases African American culture and history through music.



Windborne.....Page 3

Sun, Jan 24 • An engaging quartet of New England singers brings an energetic performance of exquisite vocal harmonies in a live-streamed concert that will be preceded by a free community sing via Zoom.



Harrisburg Mandolin Ensemble.....Page 4

Sat, Feb 13 • Harrisburg's own local participants in the community mandolin orchestra revival share an eclectic mix of music in a free, live-streamed performance suitable for all ages.



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Sat, Feb 27 • The Campbell Brothers, a world-renowned "Sacred Steel" gospel group, and The Spiritual Messengers Warriors for God, a Harrisburg-area contemporary gospel ensemble, combine to present a free slate of online performances and presentations in "Artist to Artist: A Residency Exploring Gospel Traditions."



What do
folk music
and
SFMS
mean
to you?



SFMS Reflections.....Page 6

We asked some friends of Susquehanna Folk Music Society what SFMS means to them, to the community, and to the future of folk arts. Hear what they had to say, and enjoy scenes from some outstanding programs.

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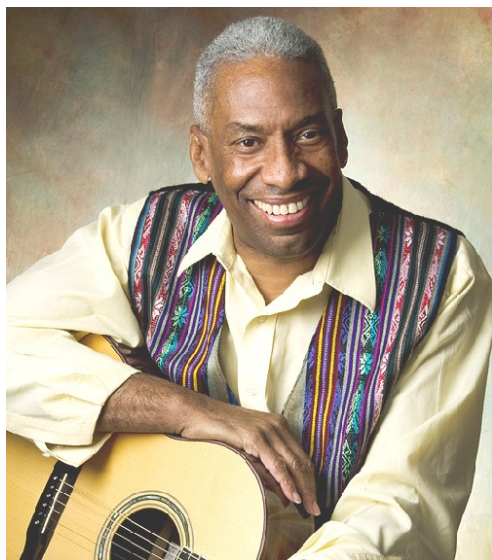


The Hall Foundation



The Stabler Foundation

Reggie Harris, Sunday, January 17



A highly respected performer, lecturer and cultural ambassador, Philadelphia-native Reggie Harris will present “Songs of Joy, Hope, and Freedom” for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society in a free, live-streamed performance on Sunday, January 17, at 2 p.m. Harris’s 60-minute, all-ages program will showcase African American culture and history through music.

For more than four decades, Harris has entertained, educated and inspired audiences and peers alike around the world. He combines spirituals and roots music, historic inspiration, and moving original songs, often in the themes of unity and social justice. A songwriter of great depth and insight, he writes from a personal but accessible place, revealing his deep sense of humanity and uniquely positive worldview.

For most of his musical career, Harris was known as one-half of the acclaimed folk duo Kim & Reggie Harris. In addition to touring together, the pair made numerous recordings on the Appleseed Recordings and Folk Era labels, notably their ground-breaking albums – “Steal Away” and “Get on Board” – featuring songs on the

Underground Railroad and the modern civil rights movement. Their most recent album, 2012’s “Resurrection Day,” is an inspirational tour de force grounded in Harris’s life-saving liver transplant in 2008.

Kim Harris, the holder of a Ph.D. in worship and the arts, has curtailed touring and recording to focus on university teaching. Meanwhile, Reggie Harris remains in high demand at performing arts venues, schools, universities, retreat centers and festivals, both as a performer and as a leader of workshops on songwriting, race relations and performance.

Harris’s first solo album, “Ready to Go,” was an instant favorite on the Folk DJ charts when it was released in 2018. In addition to his solo touring, Harris occasionally performs as a duo with fellow folk musicians Greg Greenway, Scott Ainslie and Pat Victor. He recorded his latest album with Greenway, 2019’s “Deeper Than the Skin: A Musical Presentation on Race in America.”

Harris has been a teaching artist for the Kennedy Center’s Changing Education Through the Arts program for nearly 30 years. He is a founding board member and musical director of the Unitarian Universalist Living Legacy Project, which since 2013 has shared the story of the civil rights movement and the work that still needs to be done to achieve its aims.

Advance registration is required for free admission to the live-streamed program. To register, please visit SFMS’s webpage for this event at <https://www.sfmsfolk.org/concerts/ReggieHarris.html>.

The program will be archived for later viewing. SFMS is presenting the program in partnership with York County Libraries and Martin Library. It is supported by a Welcoming Communities Grant from Better York.

The program is part of CelebrateARTS! – a series of free community cultural celebrations during January 16 - 23 compiled by the Cultural Alliance of York County. For a calendar of events, please visit <http://www.culturalyork.org/events/celebratearts-week>.



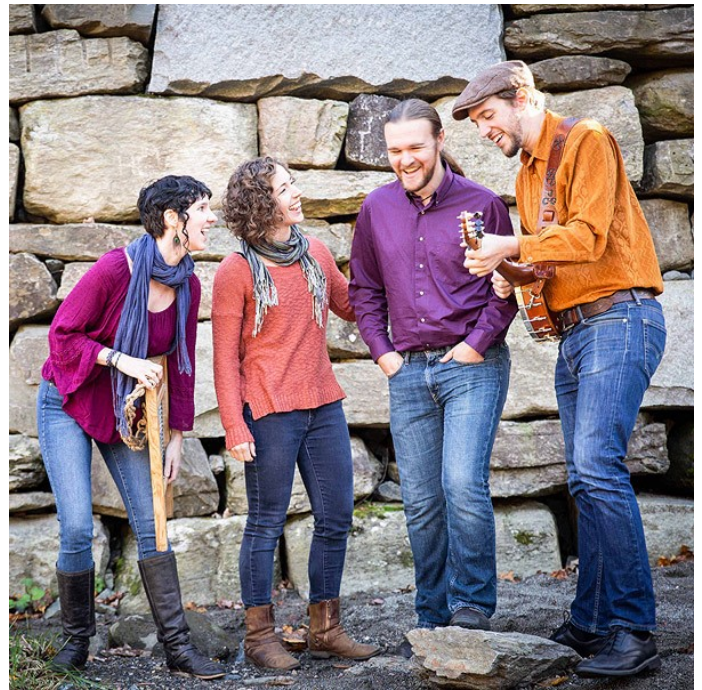
The live-streamed Winter Coffeehouse on Nov. 1 featured (clockwise, from upper left) Chris Purcell, Beth Greenberg and Paul Wegmann, Russ and Paulette Matthews, and host Joe Cooney.

Windborne, Sunday, January 24

Windborne, a quartet of young New England singers whose masterful performances have been described as a “feast of a capella harmony,” will present two exciting online programs for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society on Sunday, January 24, beginning with a free community sing via Zoom at 4 p.m. and concluding with a live-streamed concert at 7:30 p.m.

Specializing in close harmony singing, Windborne possesses a vibrancy and strong connection that inform its performances. The group draws upon their collective five decades of experience as performers and teachers to switch effortlessly between drastically different styles of singing within the same performance, all the while engaging the audience with their trademark vocal energy and carefully crafted arrangements.

The four Windborne singers – Lauren Breunig, Jeremy Carter-Gordon, Lynn Mahoney Rowan, and Will Thomas Rowan – grew up immersed in the traditional song and dance communities of New England and discovered a love of world folk music in their teens. They performed with organizations such as the Vermont-based Village Harmony, whose camps and music ensembles explore harmony singing styles from traditional cultures, and they obtained academic degrees grounded in music, performance and education. Individually and collectively, they sought out masters of traditional singing styles in the U.S. and around the world to study a wide variety of vocal music. This has led to Windborne’s eclectic repertoire, which includes, in addition to traditional and original American folk music, songs from places as diverse as Corsica, Bulgaria, the Republic of Georgia, Quebec, and the Basque region.



A long-time favorite of New England’s festival- and concert-goers, Windborne has taken its music to a wider audience as its reputation has grown. In 2014, Windborne was one of 10 groups selected by American Music Abroad and the U.S. Department of State to tour as cultural ambassadors through music. The group traveled to Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Angola, touring with internationally known musicians, performing in sold-out national theaters, collaborating with traditional musicians in each country, and teaching workshops in local communities.

Windborne’s most recent recording, “Recollections / Revolutions” is a re-release of 2015’s “Lay Around That Shack” and 2017’s “Song on the Times,” the latter showcasing music that covers 400 years of social struggle. The quartet’s upcoming album, “Of Hard Times & Harmony,” is scheduled for release in March and will feature 14 songs in four languages.

Participants in the one-hour community sing will learn a selection of songs (in four-part harmony) from Windborne’s “Song on the Times” songbook. Windborne will discuss each song’s origins and encourage conversation about the song and how meaningful it may be in today’s times. Windborne’s members are seasoned teachers and song leaders, and they delight groups young and old with enthusiastic, clear and nuanced instruction. Although it is not possible for everyone to sing together on Zoom, the mute function will allow participants of all abilities to join in the singing without feeling self-conscious.

Separate registration is required for the community sing and concert. Voluntary donations are requested for the concert, with the suggested donation for each viewer being \$15 and the supporter-level donation being \$20. The community sing, but not the concert, will be archived for later viewing. To register for the community sing, concert or both, please visit SFMS’s webpage for this event at www.sfmsfolk.org/concerts/Windborne.html.

Windborne’s appearance for SFMS is supported by grants from The Puffin Foundation and The Stabler Foundation.

Harrisburg Mandolin Ensemble, Saturday, February 13



The Harrisburg Mandolin Ensemble, a quartet of skilled, local musicians with an eclectic repertoire arranged for the mandolin family of instruments, will perform a free, live-streamed program for the Susquehanna Folk Music Society on Saturday, February 13, at 1 p.m. The hour-long program, appropriate for all ages, will include, in addition to terrific music, an explanation of the instruments and the history of mandolin orchestras.

The formation of community mandolin orchestras became a worldwide phenomenon in the late 1800s and by the early 1900s, virtually every major city and large town in the U.S. boasted one. After World War I, mandolin orchestras went into a period of decline, but the folk music revival in the late 1950s sparked renewed interest in the instruments and the repertoire. Mandolin orchestras are now found in many American cities.

The Harrisburg Mandolin Ensemble draws from the tradition of the mandolin orchestra, but on a smaller scale. The group

came together in 2011, when several local mandolin players with wide-ranging musical tastes and a keen interest in exploring the possibilities of mando instruments in an ensemble setting became acquainted with one another.

The current lineup features Greg Rohrer on mandolin; Kevin Neidig on mandolin, octave mandolin and vocals; Tom Cook on mandola, mandolin and vocals; and Henry Koretzky on mandocello, mandolin and vocals. The quartet's repertoire includes original tunes and arrangements from its members and local musical colleagues, as well as a wide array of tunes and songs drawn from jazz, swing, bluegrass, old-time, folk and world music.

Advance registration is required for free admission to the live-streamed program. To register, please visit SFMS's webpage for this event at <https://www.sfmsfolk.org/concerts/HarrisburgMandolinEnsemble.html>.

The program will be archived for later viewing. SFMS is presenting the program in partnership with York County Libraries and Martin Library. The program is supported by a Welcoming Communities Grant from Better York.



The five female Klezmer musicians featured in the Susquehanna Folk Music Society's Dec. 6 residency on Jewish music traditions perform during a mini-concert that capped a great day of musical exploration. They are (clockwise, from the top) Susan Leviton, Susan Watts, Ilene Stahl, Lauren Brody and Cookie Segelstein. Videos of the four residency workshops have been archived for viewing on SFMS's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0Jec7v7L-aN42aKhW0Edmg/videos>.

Gospel Traditions, Saturday, February 27

On Saturday, February 27, the Susquehanna Folk Music Society will present “Artist to Artist: A Residency Exploring Gospel Traditions,” a free, online program featuring The Campbell Brothers, a world-renowned “Sacred Steel” gospel group led by 2004 National Heritage Fellowship recipient Chuck Campbell on pedal steel guitar, and the Spiritual Messengers Warriors for God, a much-beloved contemporary gospel ensemble whose work in the Harrisburg area spans 30 years.

The gospel program is the second in a series of day-long residencies that explore folk traditions in our community through pairing locally performing musicians with touring artists of like-genre for a day of illuminating workshops and exciting performances.



The Campbell Brothers

“Gospel music,” says the Library of Congress “is a form of euphoric, rhythmic, spiritual music rooted in the solo and responsive church singing of the African American South.” The residency will offer virtual attendees an opportunity to learn about this all-American art form, from the important role that it plays in black churches to its influences on rock and pop culture, during a jam-packed day featuring musical demonstrations, concerts by both groups, and conversations with the artists moderated by SFMS folklorist Amy Skillman.

Please check the SFMS website (www.sfmsfolk.org) in the coming weeks for the schedule of events and registration information.

About the Musicians

The Campbell Brothers are practitioners of “Sacred Steel,” African American gospel music with electric steel guitar and vocals. This tradition is just now emerging from the House of God Keith Dominion Church, where for over 60 years it has been an integral part of worship and a vital, if little known, American tradition.

As *The Campbell Brothers*’ music has moved from the sanctuary to the concert stage (including the Hollywood Bowl, Kennedy Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music and Symphony Space), secular audiences are now able to



The Spiritual Messengers Warriors for God

appreciate a performance both devoted and rocking. Pedal steel guitarist Chuck Campbell is one of the finest in this tradition. Rounding out the band, which has been playing together for nearly two decades, is a high-energy rhythm section featuring brother Phil Campbell on electric guitar, his son Carlton on drums, and bassist Malcom Kirby. Classic, gutsy gospel vocals by Katie Jackson and Denise Brown bring the ensemble to a level of energy and expression that defies description. The Campbell Brothers present a compelling, rich variety of material from the African American Holiness-Pentecostal repertoire with a new twist: the growling, wailing, shouting, singing, and swinging voice of the steel guitar, played as you have never heard it played before.

The Spiritual Messengers Warriors for God are a contemporary gospel ensemble based in the Harrisburg area. They are deeply rooted in traditional African American gospel with its harmonies, call-and-response, group singing and complex rhythms. However, their repertoire spans the whole range of contemporary gospel, from early spirituals through rhythm & blues and soul music, even pulling in reggae beats and pop sounds reminiscent of The Temptations or the Chi-Lights.

Rev. Moses Jackson, his son Anthony Jackson, James “Mac” MacFarland and Wayne Boulware are original members, going back to 1991. Other members include Tom Cook, Daniel Stern, Jim McGroarty and Mark Ward. The group members draw on their own experiences and the Word of God to

Continued on page 6

What does SFMS mean to you?

"To connect on an emotional level and a musical level, it's probably more necessary than ever. It's a lively place. It's like Bob Dylan going electric at Newport. It's coming into the modern age... We can be entirely online and still have this community."
~Rob Kronen

"Today, as a musician, it's about loving what you do... and that's what makes these shows so beautiful...seeing people loving what they do."
~ Grace Lee

"I just love it when you wake up in the morning and your head is buzzing, humming the tune or singing the song of the concert the night before."
~ Cushla Srour

"It's really important. Folk arts is not understood by a lot of people. A lot of people think it's just the customs...They don't look at the wide range of the culture and the traditions that make up the field."
~Dana Payne
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts

"If you love music, you need to be part of Susquehanna Folk Music Society."
~ Hank Imhof

"One of our favorite bands comes from Sweden.... One time... we actually invited them to stay for lunch...They were delighted, and we were delighted to sit and talk to them just like neighbors."
~ Karen Hostetter

"The [Susquehanna Folk] festival is something that I'll judge every other festival I go to by, simply because of the close connection between the audiences and the performers."
~ Tony Chauveaux
National Endowment for the Arts

"The music has a way of taking you and carrying you off to wherever that style of music is from, and I think that's something that everyone can enjoy, and something that's really important, especially right now."
~ Autumn Moore

"When I came here and discovered the folk jams, it was like the greatest thing. And to my friends back in Erie, I was saying 'You guys gotta find your local opportunities to go to a folk jam.' We get musicians of all levels, raw beginners, professional musicians, and everything in between, all manner of instruments."
~ Joe Cooney

Some friends of the Susquehanna Folk Music Society were recently asked what SFMS means to them, to the community, and to the future of folk arts. Their complete reflections and their connections to SFMS, accompanied by wonderful photos from a rich trove of programming, can be viewed on SFMS's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xSF1IMJKYM. Those wishing to help "keep the music coming" by donating online can do so here: www.sfmsfolk.org/info/store.html#!/Donate-to-SFMS/p/158926504/category=0.

Gospel Traditions *Continued from page 5*

inspire others to love and respect themselves and their community.

With originals like "Take the Children Back" and "Clean Up," they are creating social change through music, carrying on the tradition that inspired the freedom songs of the civil rights movement. "There's a difference [between] learning it from books and then learning it from the source. This is part of a living community," says Stern of the group's approach. "This is not repertory music; it's a living culture that's produced a living music." (A full profile of The Spiritual Messengers Warriors for God can be viewed in SFMS's Folk Arts Gallery of local traditional performers: www.sfmsfolk.org/folkarts/artist.html?a=spiritual_messengers.)

* * *

The residency is a program of the Susquehanna Folk Arts Center and is presented in partnership with Penn State Harrisburg's Kulkarni Cultural Series, School of Humanities, and Pennsylvania Center for Folklore. It is funded by a CARES Act grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Although the program is free, donations to SFMS are welcome.



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- family membership extends discounts to everyone in your household
- inclusion in SFMS's online Resource List
- the satisfaction of seeing traditional arts flourish in our community

Please consider becoming a member.

Individual membership: \$25

Family membership: \$40

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Get a membership form at:

www.sfmsfolk.org/info/membership.html ♦ 717-745-6577

Thanks to These New and Renewing Members

New Members

Vivian Beeler - York
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Michael Brill - Indianapolis, IN
Libby Buuck - Columbus, OH
Carl Choper - Harrisburg
Barbara Dunnam & Isabella Deschner - Buda, TX
Judy Ellis - Lewisburg
Don & Bobbie Gallagher - Lititz
Kathryn Hayden - Brooklyn, NY
Bruce Hirsch - Evanston, IL
Donna Hunt - Elkins Park
Jennie James - Bainbridge Island, WA
Karen Keninger & Bryan Healy - Silver Spring, MD
Sharon Kraybill - Lancaster
Jean Malotte* - Freeland, MD
Dolores Mikita - Lewisburg
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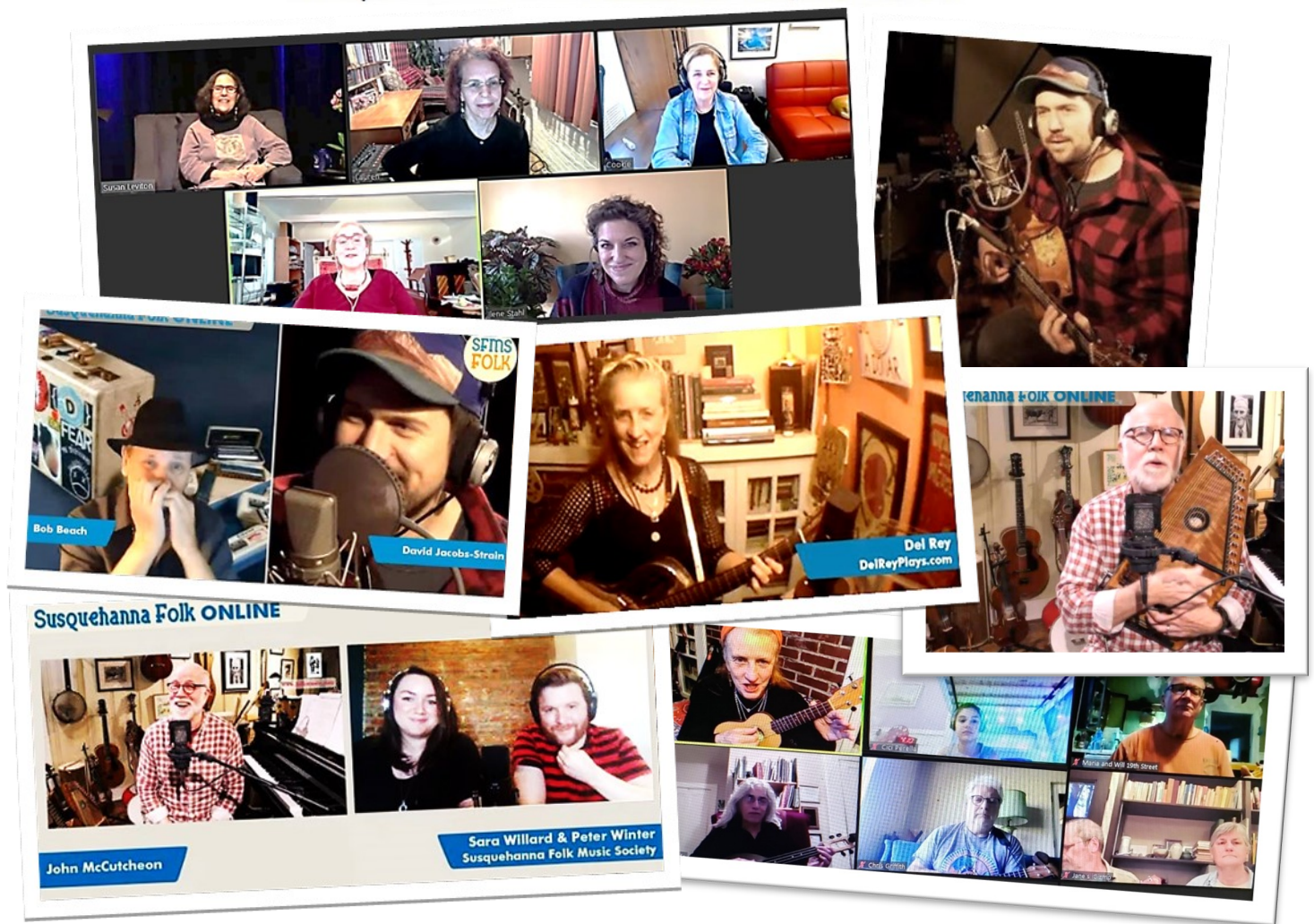
*SFMS thanks these members and others who wish to remain anonymous for donating an additional \$879.

Are You Due to Renew?

If the expiration date on your mailing label has passed, or you haven't received any correspondence from us in a while, your membership has probably expired. To continue your membership, please renew now. If you have any membership questions, please contact me at (717) 763-5598 or member-ship@sfmsfolk.org.

~ Bruce Kolka, Membership Coordinator

Susquehanna Folk Music Society Memories



Scenes from recent online events. Top row, from left: (clockwise from upper left) Susan Leviton, Lauren Brody, Cookie Segelstein, Ilene Stahl and Susan Watts during their Dec. 6 residency on Jewish music traditions; David Jacobs Strain during his Nov. 21 concert. Middle row, from left: special guest Bob Beach and David Jacobs Strain on Nov. 21; Del Rey during her Nov. 14 concert; John McCutcheon during his Dec. 13 concert. Bottom row, from left: John McCutcheon chats with SFMS Board members Sara Willard and Peter Lee on Dec. 13; Del Rey (upper left) and some of the participants in her Nov. 15 ukulele workshop.