



News Release

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New York Folklore Society to Gather Notables of the Folk Music Revival

The Clark Auditorium of the New York State Museum will be the setting for a day long examination of the Folk Music Revival, forty-five years after it was first discussed in a historic 1963 conference by the New York Folklore Society. ***The Folk Music Revival: Politics and Community***, a musical tribute and symposium by the New York Folklore Society, will take place on Saturday, October 18, 2008. It will feature musicians and folk music pioneers for musical performances and discussion. Events start at 10:00 a.m. and end the day with a performance by well-loved English Folk Musicians Tony Barrand and John Roberts.

The Capital Region of New York State was a hotbed of activity for folk musicians in the latter part of the 20th century. Caffe' Lena in Saratoga Springs is perhaps the most legendary venue as the oldest coffee house in America, hosting folk music luminaries and launching the careers of Utah Phillips, Bob Dylan, Arlo Guthrie, and many more. The Capital Region supported, and continues to support folk and roots music through multiple venues and community based groups including the Fox Hollow Festival, the Pickin and Singin Gatherin, and the Eighth Step Coffeehouse. This symposium and series of performances pays tribute to New York's role in forging an historic movement.

Invited speakers for October 18, 2008 include Andy Spence of Old Songs, Inc., Sarah Craig of Caffe Lena, and Wanda Fischer of WAMC's Hudson River Sampler. A panel entitled

“Folk Scare! Politics and the Folksong Revival,” will feature legendary folk musicians **Josh White, Jr.** and **Oscar Brand**, who will be joined by Sonny Ochs and Jaye Alper in discussing the political nature of the folk revival movement and the impact of Senator Joe McCarthy and the House Un-American Affairs Committee.

Suze Rotolo, author of *A Freewheelin’ Time: A Memoir of Greenwich Village in the Sixties*, will offer the keynote. **Suze Rotolo** was thrust into the spotlight in 1963, as it was she who was clinging to Bob Dylan in the photo that appeared on the cover of the 1963 record album, *The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan*. Her memoir is an insider look of the fertile early years of the folk music explosion, when Dylan was being transformed from an obscure folk singer to the uneasy spokesperson for a generation. Suze Rotolo will offer a keynote and a book-signing as part of the day’s program.

Admission to the day’s events is \$30.00.

The New York Folklore Society is **the** leading resource for information about the folklore and folklife of New York State. Based in Schenectady, the Society has published a journal of New York folklore since 1945. **The Folk Music Revival: Politics and Community** is presented with support from the New York Council for the Humanities, the New York State Council on the Arts, and WAMC radio.

Registration and full program details can be found online at www.nyfolklore.org, or by calling the New York Folklore Society at (518) 346-7008.