



# MUSIC

DANCE, STORYTELLING, AND

COMMUNITY

## Adam Remnant to Perform for Americana/Folk Concert Series, October 25<sup>th</sup>

INTERVIEW BY MICHELLE HUGHES

Adam Remnant is a songwriter, producer, and photographer living in Athens, Ohio. Adam's recent releases include 2024's *Sunrise at the Sunset Motel EP* and the *BIG DOORS LP*, adding to his solo discography including his 2016 EP *When I Was a Boy*, and 2018's LP, *Sourwood*. See Adam at 8 p.m. October 25 at the Columbus Mennonite Church at 35 Oakland Park Avenue as part of the Americana/Folk Concert Series.

**Michelle Hughes:** Adam, I read that you are currently living in Southeastern Ohio (Athens). I also lived there for some time when I was considerably younger—is this where you grew up, as well?

**Adam Remnant:** I grew up in the Dayton, Ohio area and moved to Athens to attend Ohio University. I loved the region and planted roots here. I've now lived in Athens longer than I've lived in Dayton, so Athens definitely feels like home at this point.

[See Adam Remnant, pg 2](#)

*"But there's a full moon risin'. let's go  
dancin' in the night."* -Neil Young, Harvest Moon

## A Different Strummer Newsletter Highlights

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Adam Remnant, from pg 1



Photo courtesy of Adam Remnant

**Michelle:** How has living in SE Ohio influenced your music, if at all?

**Adam:** I've been very influenced by Southeast Ohio over the years. I absorb all of it—rock bands at the Union, singer-songwriter groups, old time jams, experimental music, house shows, recording friends, etc. I also work as an Arts Education administrator at Stuart's Opera House and run an Afterschool Music Program for middle school and high school students that inspires me all the time.

**Michelle:** "Trying to find hope after hope has been lost," that's quite a heavy theme for your most recent album (released September 2024). Do you think that you've been able to find that hope?

**Adam:** On a personal level, I do my best to remain hopeful, and I think I manage a decent amount of hope each day. The world feels like it's in pretty dire straits these days politically and socially, but I try to maintain a sense of revolutionary optimism.

**Michelle:** Another major theme of the record is about the feelings one has when

when realizing the promises of prosperity, the American Dream, and even religion are false or have been broken; do you think these themes resonate across generations? And even if so, do you think that there is a similarity in the way that they relate to these themes?

**Adam:** That's a big question! I grew up in the 80s and 90s, which was the beginning of a turning point in American life toward an emphasis on the individual and the promotion of deregulated capitalism that's made life increasingly unaffordable with each passing year as wealth inequality deepens. Simultaneously, it's been deeply ingrained in our psyches that hardships are our own personal failures. People are pushing back trying to point out the systemic failures that are causing so much hardship, but the wealthy and powerful only seem to be accelerating policies that promote further inequality while telling those pushing back that they suffer from a victim mentality—what a convenient narrative! If there's any meaningful generational divides, I suspect it's largely manufactured because most people ultimately need and want the same things but keeping us divided across generations weakens the power of people to collaborate and unify.

**Michelle:** On your website, it states that the songs on BIG DOORS have "detailed arrangements that harken back to 70s Laurel Canyon and even some 1960s soul from Motown and Muscle Shoals." What is it about these particular sounds and styles that appeal to you? What is it about them that you felt would best support the messages and themes of your lyrics?

**Adam:** I think the common factor across those genres is that they have some tenderness in them. There's a subtlety and sense of being vulnerable and soul-bearing. That tends to be the spirit of the songs I write, so it just makes for a natural fit.

**Michelle:** From what I understand, you are also a photographer! To be honest, I was hardly surprised when I found this out, because listening to "The Door Might Be Closing" from BIG DOORS definitely felt like listening to a vision rather than seeing one, if that makes sense. It was so immersive. That said, do your music and photography influence each other?

**Adam:** I started getting into photography the year before COVID hit, and then I really went deep with it during COVID. It was thrilling to discover a new art form and I loved how it made me see the world in new ways. When I returned to making music, I think I started seeing sound in a more visual-cinematic way, which can definitely be heard on the BIG DOORS album.

**Michelle:** Finally, can you please recommend a couple of songs for our readers to check out prior to seeing your show?

**Adam:** Yeah, I'll recommend "Return to Me" and "Big Doors" from the BIG DOORS album to get a sense of that album. BIG DOORS is less folky than some of my music. You could also go back further and listen to the last album of my old band, Southeast Engine, called Canary, for more folk style music from me.

## Entries Being Accepted for Singer-Songwriter Competition at COFF

The annual Central Ohio Folk Festival (COFF) organized by the Columbus Folk Music Society has long been the place for singer-songwriters to find an appreciative audience as they perform their original compositions on the festival's stages. This year, at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual COFF, CFMS is expanding the opportunities for singer-songwriters and for audiences who enjoy hearing them, with a new Singer-Songwriter Competition.

The CFMS Singer-Songwriter Competition opens for entry on October 1<sup>st</sup>, allowing singer-songwriters to compete to win a \$300 cash prize and the opportunity to perform a solo set at COFF. Applicants can fill out an online form and send in a digital file of their entry song and lyrics at the competition website.

Six finalists will be selected from the submitted entries by a panel of experienced judges. On Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> the finalists will perform their original entry and one additional original song live in front of the festival audience. Finalists will be judged on the songs' originality and overall quality, as well as their performance and general stage presence.

"It's pretty exciting to be able to create this new opportunity for singer-

# TERRY SHARKEY, New CFMS Board of Directors Member

INTERVIEW BY BRENT DAVIS

*Terry Sharkey is a new member of the CFMS board. He got interested in the organization when CFMS members Jane VanAuken and Hugh Farthing were holding Kirby Scholarship meetings at the Whetstone CML branch where Terry works. Greg Denby, a longtime CFMS volunteer, a former co-worker of Terry's, also encouraged him to participate. For the past year Terry has served on the concert committee with Greg, Diane Boston, and Marian Harris. He was born in Nebraska but grew up in Columbus - right in Clintonville. He's the father of two young girls. We asked Terry a few questions about his background and his thoughts about folk music.*



Michael, always listened to The Bluegrass Ramble.

**Terry:** I remember him listening to the show on a transistor radio out on the back steps, so I kind of inherited that from him. Saturday nights are about bluegrass.

**CFMS:** And you began to explore local folk shows, too.

**Terry:** I started going to the festival a few years ago and monthly shows maybe about a year and half or two years ago. I'd always see the postings and Jane kept me informed. But I took my daughters to go see Roberta Lea. That was a really cool experience because she signed her CD for my girls, and they had such a good time. So, yes, paying attention to folk music is probably more of a recent thing.

**CFMS:** What are some of your takeaways from working on the concert committee?

**Terry:** Originally when I talked to Greg about what he was doing with the concert committee, I felt that it would feel good to contribute to the organization and volunteer to make sure that something

**CFMS:** Where did your love of music begin?

**Terry:** My love of music goes really deep. From the time I was about 10 or 12, I wanted to play guitar. A family friend loaned me a guitar to start. After working and saving I bought one of my own. I was always playing. I started out with pop and rock and usually what I would get most interested in is working backwards into older music. I began to learn about Black music and then realized that's where the roots of rock and pop are, so that was always fascinating to me. I really got into blues music because of that. And then in high school a guidance counselor basically forced me to join the jazz ensemble. That was a huge learning experience.

**CFMS:** And you mentioned that your dad,

this is around for my daughters when they are growing into appreciating it. And also the diversity of the music is important because there's a lot of diverse folk music out there. New Americans are arriving in the Columbus area all the time. At work I conduct an English conversation group where I talk to a lot of people that have newly moved to Ohio from overseas. They talk about how diverse the community is and how friendly people are here in Columbus. From the standpoint of music the new residents are bringing that with them and it's important to hear. What does that mean for CFMS? I'm not fully sure yet, but it's on my mind.

**CFMS:** Where do you hope to see the organization going in the next 3 or 4 years?

**Terry:** It's funny because I started out thinking this would be a potential outlet to get back into playing music with others socially. Then I fell into volunteering. When I look around the room at the shows and see the folks in the room, I want to make sure that this continues generationally. It's a very good feeling when you hear Bill Cohen get up in front of everybody and talk about how it's truly a volunteer organization and we're powered through volunteers. That's impactful to me. And the fact that the people like Bill and Randy Cohen and Diane Boston have been doing this for so many years and it's something really worthwhile to invest time in. Like I said, I hope that some younger folks are drawn into it, and that ideally, we reflect the diversity of the city that we're living in.



## CFMS Remembrances



**Marty Hartzendorf**—long-time CFMS member. He always was a regular at the Coffeehouse jams! The last few years as we took our outreach jam to his retirement home, to our delight, he was able to join in with traditional folk songs from the 60's!



**Jacqueline LaMuth**—a former CFMS board member who at the time it was needed, understood the organizing work to be done to bring our organization forward. She was a gifted singer and played the banjo and bass with several noted folk music groups, including a twelve-year involvement with "Loosely Strung".

# FESTIVAL BIG ANNOUNCE and SHARE CAMPAIGN

BY D.BOSTON, FESTIVAL CHAIR

Howdy folks! Talk has been in the pipes for a couple of years concerning a festival location move. It's serendipitous that we've now outgrown Highbanks Metro Park in terms of parking AND the Metro Parks will be soon opening their Bank Run Metro Park dedicated to large events.

We're super enthusiastic about the new space and we know you'll love it as well! We are grateful for the great home that Highbanks has been for us the last number of years, but we're excited to embrace the change. The new space also allows us to move the festival one month later to the first full weekend in June, allowing for warmer, much more pleasant weather!

So, the "FESTIVAL BIG ANNOUNCE"?

In 2026, the home of the Central Ohio Folk Festival will be Bank Run Metro Park in Lockbourne, OH —and will have a new date of June 6 & 7!

What can you expect at the Bank Run space?

Sizable, appealing green space with lots of huge old trees for plenty of shade and comfort; large, outdoor stage (our Kirby Main Stage) lending even more so to a true "festival vibe"; expansive, high-ceiling gorgeous new pavilion housing a generous seating area; the Ingram Building housing our Festival Store; more restrooms and more parking, making things easier and more accessible.

The space, while larger than Highbanks, is not so much so, allowing our festival to keep its small community vibe. We'll be offering the same number and types of programming you've come to know and love: multiple performing stages, ongoing jam tents, Nocterra craft beer, food trucks, and robust programming for kids and youth.

What new programming initiative will we have?

CFMS member Bob Lipetz is coordinating a Singer-Songwriter Contest, and both finalists and the winner will get an opportunity to perform. AND since the initiative was such a huge success last year, we'll continue on with the Festival Artists Improv Jam Band slot at Sunday's close.

What is our "SHARE CAMPAIGN"?

We are hopeful that YOU will help us spread the word about the new location and the new date! You like what we offer? You are our best "Festival Ambassadors"! Tell your music friends, jam session friends, and when we post on social media, share the posts with your networks!

Lastly, if you have any ideas how to help us celebrate and promote these changes, please shoot them our way! We'd love to hear your thoughts; it takes a village!

Email: [coffpublicity@columbusfolkmusicociety.org](mailto:coffpublicity@columbusfolkmusicociety.org)





## Welcome NEW Members

Lucas Larcomb      Erica Tornes  
...and Welcome Back RENEWING Members!



## Save the Date!

### Americana/Folk Concert Series

#### **Adam Remnant**

**Saturday, October 25, 8pm**

6pm open jam / 7pm Open Mic (pre-sign-up) / 8pm Adam Remnant  
Refreshments available. \$15 door donation / \$10 CFMS members  
Venue: Columbus Mennonite Church, 35 Oakland Park Ave, Columbus

### Zoom Jam Sessions

#### **Mondays and Thursdays**

10am -11:30 am. Please contact Jane for logon information:  
[vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com)

### In-Person Jams

#### **Mondays**

7-9pm. 4th Ave Christian Church, 296 W. 4th Ave

**Wednesdays** 6:30-8:30pm. Gillie Center, 2100 Morse Road

**Saturdays** 9:30-11:30am.

Whetstone Community Center, 3923 N. High St. off parking lot.  
Register for free "Music Jamming with Others" class.

9 am-noon. Worthington Farmers Market, Southeast Village Green

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

**Editor:** *J. McHie* / Contact Jim at [editor@columbusfolkmusicociety.org](mailto:editor@columbusfolkmusicociety.org)

**Regular Writers:** *M. Hughes, E. Sink, Dori Smith*

**Layout:** *S. Hubbard*

**Distribution:** *E. Smith, Eric Clemens, P. Insabella*

**CFMS Photos:** *L. McDonald*

Singer-Songwriter Competition, from pg 3

songwriters to share their original songs at a large festival like this, instead of open mics, or 'mail in your song' competitions," says Bob Lipetz, competition organizer. "And it's great for festival goers, too. They get the benefit of a full hour and half concert of curated, best of the best, singer-songwriters performing, and then another half hour of the competition winner playing original songs. It's a win for everyone."

Entries are accepted from October 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Complete competition information and entry form can be found at:

<https://columbusfolkmusicociety.org/songwriter-competition>

## Play Along with the CBUS Jammers!

All folk instrument players are welcome to jam with the CBUS Jammers regardless of skill or experience!

To learn more, check the CFMS website:  
[www.columbusfolkmusicociety.org/jam-sessions.html](http://www.columbusfolkmusicociety.org/jam-sessions.html)



## The Columbus Folk Music Society

P.O. Box 20735  
Columbus, OH 43220  
VMB: 614-470-3963



[www.campusprinting.net](http://www.campusprinting.net)

[info@campusprinting.net](mailto:info@campusprinting.net)

(614) 261-7991

### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY

Date \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renew Preferred Newsletter Format:  Digital  Hard Copy [NOTE: if you choose hard copy, we request an additional \$15 contribution over & above dues to cover postage & handling]

Name(s) / Band Name (if applic) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

General Age Range – Born:  1930s-40s  1950s-60s  1970s-80s  1990s-2010s

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ If Band, website \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Additional e-mail (if a household or band) \_\_\_\_\_

We are also a growing, vibrant community of volunteers; the awesome force behind our work! Please ✓ at least 1 box.

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> May folk festival   | <input type="checkbox"/> General Help      | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Skills   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CFMS concert events | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design    | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Musician   | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Design           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking / Baking    | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Instructor | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing / Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Management     | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal             | Instruments: _____                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising         | <input type="checkbox"/> Musician          | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity               | <input type="checkbox"/> None                 |

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE ANNUALLY ON DECEMBER 31. ✓ one of the membership levels listed below.

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Band \$25        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver \$250      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$25  | <input type="checkbox"/> Good Friend \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$200  | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$500 |

*I have included an additional \$15 (postage & handling) to have a printed version of newsletter mailed to me.*

To join/renew by credit card, visit CFMS' website: [columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](http://columbusfolkmusicsociety.org) (About Us/Join)

OR click here: <https://tinyurl.com/CFMS-Join>

To join/renew by cash or check, please mail completed membership form with payment to: Columbus Folk Music Society, PO Box 20735, Columbus, OH 43220. Membership amounts may be tax-deductible.

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