

# *CO/*SONANCE



**MARCH 31 — APRIL 2**



**THE San Francisco Bay Area *Filk* Convention!**

## This Year's Intrepid Guests!

**Guest of Honor:**  
Valerie Housden

**Interfilk Guest:**  
John McDaid

**Brave Little Toaster:**  
Rhiannon's Lark (Alyssa Yeager)

\*\*\*

### Message from the Chair

*by Lynn Gold*

Welcome to Consonance 2023! I might not show it on the outside, but I'm totally pumped on the inside about this year's lineup.

**Valerie Housden**, our

**GOH**, is someone I've enjoyed spending time with at European cons. She also herds the *n'Early Music Consort*, the UK's filk choir, and will be teaching and leading one of the nMC's songs. I'm a sucker for anything with harmony. She's also a wonderful performer and songwriter.

**Alyssa Yeager**, our **Toastmistress**, hails from upstate New York. I've seen her in many **Festivals of the Living Rooms**, and she's delightful. She writes and performs the kind of songs I wish I had in me. We were both at Philcon this past November, but I wasn't able to hang around after my concert there because I had my (tired and cranky) 89-year-old mother with me. I'm hoping to rectify this at Consonance. (That was the scariest concert I'd ever done because it was the first time my mother had ever heard me sing and play my material.)



## OUR INTREPID GUESTS



GoH: Valerie Housden

Valerie Housden grew up singing solo, with younger siblings, or in various school and church choirs. She started playing the guitar at the age of fourteen (as one does), and eventually graduated to doing solo floor spots at folk clubs until Real Life™ got in the way.

She went to her first SF convention in 1981 and finally found the filkroom in 1986. She hasn't looked back since...

Valerie was on the concom for the 1st, 2nd, and 6th British filkcons, was GoH at Decadence (the 10th British filkcon), in 1997,

and Fan GoH at Sferacon (the Croatian National SF con), in 2000.

In addition to guitar, Valerie plays banjo, ukulele, various recorders, and she can shake or bash things with the best. She played in the band, *Cosmic Trifle*, which was GoH at FilkCONTinental in 2004. Fellow band members were the late Zanda Myrande, Chris O'Shea and Silke Kovàr.

In 1995 Valerie organised a programme item showcasing vocal harmony arrangements of filksongs for Obliter8 (the 1996 British filkcon), and found she had created a choir, the *n'Early Music Consort* or nMC for short. The group was still going strong up to the start of the pandemic, having won Sams for their filkcon performances in 2013 and 2019.

Her solo album *Lady in Veils* was released in 1990. Over the years a number of her songs have won British Filk Awards/Sams: "Catsblood" won the Best Serious Song Award in 1991, and the following songs have won the Filk Gold Sam: "Following in Valentina's Footsteps" in 2000, "Robinton" aka "Eulogy for a Harper" in 2010, and "Afraid of the Dark" in 2014. In 2020 "Following in Valentina's Footsteps" won the Pegasus in that year's Best Space Song floating category.

In 2004 Valerie was inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame.

She was one of the main "conspirators" in "Before the Dawn", the shared world filk saga, and in 2009, played the role of the Magdalene in the production mounted for AXXidental (21st British filkcon). In 2014 she produced and directed the longer, more ambitious production for Loncon 3 (London Worldcon). In the process she somehow ended up playing the Beggar as well.

Valerie is juggling various projects, including her YouTube channel. "Following in Valentina's Footsteps", as performed at the 2017 Worldcon in Helsinki, can be found at <https://youtu.be/Db9NEPFjpis>.

She is married with currently just one cat, and wishes it to be known that she hasn't grown up yet. She doesn't adult very well...



### Interfilk Guest: John McDaid

John G. McDaid is a science fiction writer, folk/filk singer-songwriter, and freelance journalist from Rhode Island. A 1993 Clarion grad, he sold his first short story, the Sturgeon Award-winning "Jigoku no mokushiroku", to Asimov's in 1995. Cory Doctorow writes, "John's an amazing polymath of a writer, one of those short story writers like Ted Chiang whose all-too-infrequent work breaks new ground."

Since retiring in 2016 from a career in corporate communications, John has been writing full time and playing at venues around the Northeast. He was a finalist for the writer/composer Pegasus in 2020 and 2021.

John released his first album, *Proverbs of Hell*, in 2019. It includes his song "The Internet's Own Boy: Aaron Swartz", which has special meaning to many of us in Silicon Valley. John's studio album *Trail of Mars*, released in 2021, won the John Culkin Award from the Media Ecology Association. You can find his music at <http://johnmcdaid.com>, on Bandcamp, and on YouTube.

John is currently completing a secret history novel set in the closing weeks of WWII. In addition to teaching media theory at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, he is a citizen journalist and political activist. He blogs about Rhode Island politics at <http://harddeadlines.com/>. In 2010, John ran for school committee in his home town of Portsmouth. Like Margaret Thatcher, he lost his first political race.

Here is a partial list of John's fiction.

"Jigoku no Mokushiroku": This award-winning story, first published in the November/December 1995 issue of *Asimov's*, appears online at <http://harddeadlines.com/fiction/jigoku>.

"Keyboard Practice": This novelette, first published in the January, 2005 issue of *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, won the Media Ecology Association's Mary Shelley Award. You will find it online at <http://harddeadlines.com/fiction/keyboardpractice>.

"Umbrella Men": This novelette, in which giving someone an umbrella leads to world peace, was the cover story of the January/February 2012 issue of *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, which is available on Kindle.

"(Nothing But) Flowers": This 2012 short story is available on Kindle.

*Uncle Buddy's Phantom Funhouse*: You will find this newly revised interactive SF/mystery puzzle game at <https://dtc-wsuv.org/projects/uncle-buddy/archival/index.html>. It is the reincarnation of John's 1992 hypertext novel of the same name.



## Brave Little Toaster: Rhiannon's Lark (Alyssa Yeager)



ethical dilemmas with insightful lyrics,

gorgeous vocals, and gentle humor.

Creator Alyssa Yeager is both a professional musician and practicing music therapist since 2003. In 2013, Alyssa's solo project *Rhiannon's Lark* was born, bringing together her unique perspective on nerdery, spirituality, and moral choices in a chaotic world. Over the last several years, Rhiannon's Lark has made appearances at sci-fi, fantasy, and gaming conventions as well as pagan-centered events including Gen Con, DragonCon, Sirius Rising, Origins, Ravencon, OVFF, and more.

Her first EP under the new project, *Initiative*, showcased exactly what you can expect from a Rhiannon's Lark show: a deep-dive into board games and general geekery, some sweet personal stories, and a questioning look at society's current values.

Building on this introduction, Alyssa released her first full length Rhiannon's Lark album in 2016, *Sky Full of Phoenix*. This was an ambitious undertaking that allowed Alyssa to create much fuller arrangements of her repertoire and perform on a variety of instruments in the studio: guitar, bass, ukulele, percussion, harmonica, jeans, and corduroy (yes, she played pants).

In 2018, Rhiannon's Lark released a different sort of album, *Meditations for Geeks*. Meditations about Hobbits, the Dark Crystal, the Force, cats, and more? Yes please! Alyssa drew on her experience leading guided meditations as part of her music therapy work to create a unique collection of guided meditations based on sci-fi and fantasy themes.

Rhiannon's Lark has won multiple Pegasus Awards, including the 2021 award for Best Performer. In addition to ongoing songwriting, live-streaming, touring, and senior facility performances, Alyssa started a new position as a hospice music therapist in 2023. Can you tell that she enjoys lots of challenges?

Rhiannon's Lark has just released her eighth full length album of original songs, *Cylinder Becomes Unicorn* (just in time for Consonance!) This album reflects the joy that



Alyssa has found in letting go of the expectations of others and slowly uncovering the person she wants to be.



## EVENTS & GATHERINGS

As always, there'll be lots to see, hear and do at Consonance. You'll find everything from scheduled events to spontaneous con-suite and lounge filks to just hangin' out in the hallway around the registration area. Planned events include:

### Special Events

Workshop: Live Meditations for Geeks.  
with Alyssa Yeager

Start your day off Geekfully! Err...Mindfully and geeky? Alyssa will ease you into your day with 3-4 guided meditations in the spirit of Fandom: You might encounter your Patronus, bend some elements, or connect with the Force.

A little time to relax and recharge is sure to level up your entire convention experience!

Workshop: Music as World Building, with  
John McDaid

Participants should come ready to talk about their favorite example of how music is used to create the deep texture of fictive environments. Construed broadly—Monty Python, Broadway musicals, Janelle Monáe's "Dirty Computer," Thomas Pynchon, Ursula Le Guin's "Always Coming Home," etc. — but diagetically (that is, in-world music that is heard by the characters as opposed to soundtrack). John will share something from his current work in progress, the revised *Uncle Buddy's Phantom Funhouse*.



Workshop: Songwriting, with Tim Griffin

Tim will guide us in writing a song the way he does with a class of third graders. This workshop meets for an hour on Saturday and an hour on Sunday. On a personal note, I (Alan) can write a song only when inspiration strikes, so the fact that Tim can reliably coax a song out of a few students amazes me. I hope that if I can learn Tim's classroom songwriting methods and adapt them to individual songwriting, I could sit down and write a song whenever I feel like it.

### Panel: Kindness

- ❖ Kathy Mar will talk about her kindness campaign.
- ❖ Tasia Russell will describe, via Zoom, how the kindness of the filk community saved her life.
- ❖ Blind Lemming Chiffon will talk about how kindness starts with being kind to yourself, and how to free yourself to do that.
- ❖ Alyssa Yeager will discuss how, for her, sustainable kindness has been about understanding and accepting herself.

### Harmony Rehearsals

Valerie Housden will teach us the n'Early Music Consort's choral arrangement of "Wassaliens," by Zanda Myrande, which we will perform right before the closing ceremony.

### Theme Circle: Honouring Les Barker

British poet Les Barker, whose wit and surrealistic humour have touched the hearts of many filkers, passed away on January 14 of this year at the age of 75. We will honour him by performing his poems and songs. Many of Les' poetry booklets will be available, from which you can pick your favourites.

## Regular Events

### Open Filking

WHERE? Open filking can spring up in any space where no official Consonance programming is scheduled, except for the hallway outside the concert rooms. This includes: **Krystall A & B**, the **Huddle** (formerly known as the Boardroom), the **Con Suite** and the **Registration** area. The only rules are: don't block foot traffic in the hallways, block any doorway or elevator (fire regulations) or disrupt ongoing programming.

WHEN? Open filking can occur at any time of the day or night. The biggest filks occur after the evening programming is over, but if you've got a yen to sing at 8:30AM, the acoustical world is yours for the taking!

WHO? Open filking is first come, first served. If you're the first one in the room and you want to start a Bad Musical Puns Chaos Circle, have at it! Of course, you can't lay claim to a room that has scheduled programming..

### Concerts

These are the heart (but not the soul) of Consonance. They will be held in **Champagne II and III** throughout the convention.

### Theme Circles

Hear and share songs with a designated theme—vampires, media, cyber, science, history—you name it, filkers write songs about it. You may find a circle for songs with a particular mood – funny, bawdy, schmaltzy, or “ose.” Any circle can be run in a particular style—chaos, bardic, poker-chip bardic, etc. This year's scheduled circles are listed in the program grid.

If you don't see a topic/style that hoists your sails, start your own theme circle! Go to the Info-Desk, locate an open time slot & function room on the schedule, and write up an announcement including your name, theme, mood and style. However, these circles

work like open filking, not a concert. You don't get to pick who performs!

### Request Concert

As stolen from...er...inspired by FilkCONTinental. There will be a request box, at the info table, where you can request songs you would like to hear again. Please write down both the song title and the performer. We will check the box Saturday evening and again Sunday morning and contact the performers you would like to hear.

### Sign-up-and-Sing: 2x10s

Want to showcase one or two special songs or get some practice performing on stage? Here's your chance to shine! Sign up for a 2 x 10 at the Registration table. You get 10 minutes to set up, perform one long or two short songs, acknowledge the thunderous applause of the multitudes, and make a graceful exit. Microphones and plug-ins are provided, and the stage crew will help you get your act together. Keep it simple! Remember, your time includes setup and teardown.

### Interfilk Auction

Keep those fabulous Interfilk Guests coming! Support the good work of IF by attending their enormously entertaining auctions, held right after the Interfilk Guest concert on Saturday afternoon. Be dazzled by the sight of Kathleen Sloan and her cadre of scantily-clad wenches and he-nches as they present the auction items (and themselves!) for appraisal, and drape themselves upon the bidders with gleeful abandon. Bid early and often!

### Closing Ceremony

This is our chance to thank everyone who helped make Consonance possible: the concom, the guests, and everybody here. We will give the guests gag gifts. We will sing two

noble songs together: "My Dandelion Friend" by Summer Russell, and "Sam's Song" by Zanda Myrande.

### Child Care Policy

PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING THEIR CHILDREN! Young children should not be left unattended, even in the Con Suite, in the hope that Concom members or other attendees will watch over them. Children are welcome to attend concerts and filk circles with their parents or guardians, but they must be removed if they become distracting or annoying to other people in the room. In the absence of parents, the child will be removed from the room by a Concom member and an attempt will be made to locate the parents.

### Dealer's Room

Once again, Hucksters will be in the **Korbel** Room. Official hours are: 4 to 6PM on Friday; 11AM to 6PM on Saturday and again after the Saturday evening GOH concert; and 11Am – 3PM on Sunday. Look for filk music and other treasures at the Consonance silent auction and individual vendor's tables.

### Con Suite

This year's Con Suite hosts are Diana Koivunen and Devon Creasey. Due to COVID-19, the Con Suite is only serving individual portions of pre-packaged foods. In keeping with the spirit of doing as good a Con Suite as possible, there will be a variety of things you can grab and take with you to keep you going, whatever your dietary restrictions may be. You'll find a variety of "regular," gluten-free, sugar-free, dairy-free, nut-free, and vegetarian (and vegan) options, as well as soft drinks, both regular and diet, as well as bottled water. If you're looking for something and don't see it, feel free to ask Diana or Devon about it. **Please note:** the con suite will be

closed for Saturday night dinner and the concerts, but will open after the concerts so you can fortify yourselves for the evening's filking.

### Space Race Fundraiser

Join us for the Space Race between the astronaut and the alien! Fundraising went so well last time we're doing it again!

As you may know, Consonance does not charge enough in membership fees to pay for 100% of con costs. We make up this difference through fundraising at our auction and in our Consonance Challenge Space Race.

We will be having a Consonance Challenge again this year to defray convention costs. You, too, filk fans, can help the Astronaut or the Alien make it up the rocket by donating to the Challenge for that character. You can also check the progress of your chosen hero throughout the con at the registration table. Donate early, and donate often to your preferred figure (or both!). If we raise enough money to hold Consonance 2024, we'll all be winners! Race poster artwork generously donated by Taunya Gren in 2016.

### COVID-19 Policy

While attending Consonance, we ask that you remain masked while on the second floor of the hotel (our Function Space) and when you are in the Con Suite except when you are performing or eating. This is to protect the health of everyone at the con.



## In Memoriam



Howard Gary "Howeird" Stateman

*November 15, 1950–October 5, 2022*

Howeird, as he preferred to be known, was a regular attendee of Consonance, among many cons. He was also a regular attendee at BASFA (Bay Area Science Fiction Association) meetings, even when he retired and moved to Las Vegas. He was also a longtime friend.

Howeird was born in NY and spent his first 14 years on Long Island, first in Levittown and then Wantagh. At 14, his family relocated to Seattle for his father's job at Boeing. There, Howeird attended the University of Washington, where he majored in journalism and photography.

After college, he joined the Peace Corps from 1975-1977, and served in Thailand as an agricultural photographer, gaining a lifelong love of the people, culture, and cuisine. I can vouch for the fact that he spoke fluent Thai. He sometimes hosted entertaining slide shows of his many trips to Thailand.

Musically, he was a mellifluous baritone who played many instruments, including piano, trumpet, and french horn. He was active in Silicon Valley musical theatre and orchestras. I saw him in several productions and was amazed at his rendering of "A Modern Major General" in *Pirates of Penzance*. I also caught him in *Room Service*. In both cases, I'd no idea he was in the production until he walked out on stage. Howeird was active in TACO ("Terrible Adult Chamber Orchestra,")

composed of "musicians of all levels of skill and talent." He had also self-published a CD titled *Howeird's Grossest Hits*. I had a copy of it, but lost it in a car accident: My car was totaled; the album was in my CD changer.

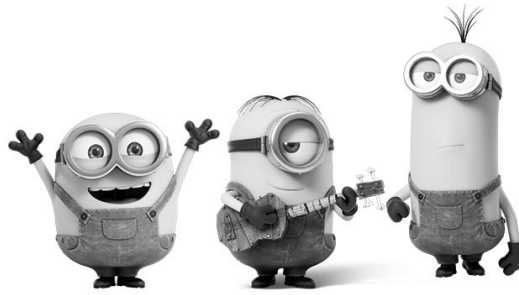
Howeird began a career as a photojournalist, eventually retraining and moving into Quality Assurance. He had done QA at many companies in Silicon Valley, where he'd lived for over 30 years. He usually had at least one cat, often vying for with said feline for a place at the piano. He retired just before the pandemic and moved to Las Vegas, keeping up with his Bay Area social life over Zoom.

Late last September, Howeird went in for prostate surgery. A few days after he went home, he died in his sleep of an embolism.

I'll always remember him as a fun, creative, and intelligent person who loved music, theatre, science fiction, cats, photography, all things Thai, and bad puns.

—Lynn





## YOUR 2023 CONSONANCE CONVENTION MINIONS

Con Chair - Lynn Gold

Treasurer - Lisa Harrigan

Hotel Liaison - Victoria Chang

Travel Arrangements - Alan Thiesen

Programming - Alan Thiesen

Guest Liaison - Alan Thiesen

Stage Manager - John O'Halloran

Chief Sound Engineer, Provider of Equipment - Jeff Bohnhoff

Sound Crew - Kristoph Klover, Maya Bohnhoff

Instrument Procurement - Lynn Gold

Registration - Ravan and Datawolf

InfoDesk - Kitty Crowe

Program Book Wranglers - Margaret Davis & Alan Thiesen

Program Book Editor - Maya Bohnhoff

Con Suite Staff - Diana Koivunen & Devon Creasey

Dealer Liaison - Ravan Asteris

Publicity - Lynn Gold

Flyers, Ad Swaps & Outreach - Lynn Gold

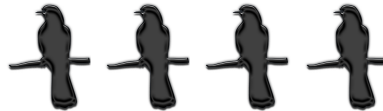
Website - Heather Stern

---

***Consonance is sponsored by FanFare Music, a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible.***

## Programming Grid

	Champagne II/III	Krystall	Champagne I
<b>Friday</b>			
5:00 PM	closed for setup		
5:30 PM			
6:00 PM		drum circle	
6:30 PM			
7:00 PM	Meet the Guests		
7:30 PM	songs from Britain and other Commonwealth countries		
8:00 PM			
8:30 PM	Alyssa Yeager, Brave Little Toaster		
9:00 PM			
10:30 PM	break before open filking		
10:00 PM	closed for the night	theme circle: Empowered Women, with Alyssa Yeager	open filking, with John McDaid
10:30 PM			
11:00 PM		open filking	open filking continues
all night			



	Champagne II/III	Krystall	Champagne I
<b>Sunday</b>			
10:00 AM	closed for setup	Workshop: Music as World Building, with John McDaid	theme filk: Oldies, with Alyssa Yeager
10:30 AM			
11:00 AM		Harmony Rehearsal, with Valerie Housden	Songwriting workshop, with Tim Griffin
11:30 AM			
12:00 PM	concert: Jim Partridge		
12:30 PM	concert: Doug Davidson		
1:00 PM	concert: Kathleen Sloan		
1:30 PM	request concert		
2:00 PM			
2:30 PM	Harmony Performance and closing ceremony		
3:00 PM	Rock Jam		
3:30 PM			
4:00 PM	teardown	dead dog until 6 am Monday	dead dog until 6 am Monday
4:30 PM			
5:00 PM			
5:30 PM			



<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Champagne II/III</b>	<b>Krystall</b>	<b>Champagne I</b>
10:00 AM	closed for setup	Live Meditation for Geeks, with Alyssa Yeager	Honouring Les Barker
10:30 AM			
11:00 AM	closed for sound checks	Harmony Rehearsal, with Valerie Housden	Songwriting Workshop, with Tim Griffin
11:30 AM			
12:00 PM		Kindness panel, with Kathy Mar, Alyssa Yeager, Lem, and (via Zoom) Tasia Russell	
12:30 PM			
1:00 PM	2x10s		
1:30 PM	concert: Blind Lemming Chiffon		
2:00 PM	2 x 10s		
2:30 PM	concert: Nick Smith		
3:00 PM	2x10s		
3:30 PM	concert: Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff		
4:00 PM	John McDaid, Interfilk Guest		
4:40 PM			
5:00 PM	Interfilk Auction		
5:30 PM			
6:00 PM	Dinner!		
6:30 PM			
7:00 PM			
7:30 PM			
8:00 PM	concert: Margaret and Kristoph		
8:30 PM	Valerie Housden, GOH		
9:00 PM			
9:30 PM	break before open filking		
10:00 PM	closed for the night	theme circle: History, Myth, and Legend, with Valerie Housden	open filking with John McDaid
10:30 PM			
11:00 PM		open filking	open filking continues
all night			

