

CONSONANCE



2025

CONSONANCE



**MARCH 7 — MARCH 9
2025**



THE San Francisco Bay Area Filk Convention!

THIS YEAR'S INTRIGUING GUESTS!

Guest of Honor

Cat Faber

Interfilk Guest

Chris "The Bard" Clarke

Fan Fund Guest

Lauren Oxford

Toastmaster

Peter Alway

Message from the Chair

by Lynn Gold



Welcome to
Consonance
2025!

This year's guests make up one of the most simpatico lineups we've ever had.

Cat Faber, our Guest of Honor, has written a wealth of songs and is also a first-rate instrumentalist with a lovely soprano voice. **Peter Alway**, our Toastmaster, is a good friend of hers, and is also a first-rate instrumentalist with a really sweet voice. Rounding things out is our Fan Fund Guest, **Lauren Oxford**, who lives near Cat, frequently jams with her, and just keeps getting better and better.

Because Interfilk guest **Chris Clarke** had to cancel at the last minute, we're doing something a little different for the Interfilk concert. Since so many people who attend Consonance have been Interfilk guests, the Interfilk concert will feature performances by some of them. This concert will also include a couple of Chris Clarke's songs to give everyone an idea of what we'll be missing..

This is also our first time at this hotel. While there aren't any food options within walking

distance other than the hotel restaurant, we plan on having a dinner run Sunday where we'll match up cars with people needing a ride. Of course, this is contingent on finding a suitable restaurant. We aren't familiar with the restaurants in the area, so we'll check some of them out on Friday. Stay tuned.

Our con suite will be stocked with soft drinks and pre-packaged snacks because we don't want to risk spreading COVID or any other viruses.

That said, we hope you'll have a great time, and we're really happy you're here!

OUR GUESTS

GoH: Cat Faber

by Peter Alway



There are hundreds of glittering jewels in the night sky; each is really a blazing sun. But only 22 are of the first magnitude. If filk has even half that many first magnitude stars, Cat Faber is certainly among them. I know because most filkers can sing along with a few of her songs. In fact, at every filk gathering I attend – a convention, a house filk, or an online gathering, I inevitably hear a melody by Cat Faber. It may be a vintage Echo's Children song, or a more recent piece. Usually it's a cover, but often it's a parody using one of her memorable melodies. Consonance is fortunate to have Dr. Faber as a guest.

I was first introduced to Cat's music at a house filk in 2002, though I just knew them as "songs a local filker sang". I later learned that she chose her music because she was a sight-reader, and the Echo's Children songbook was a rare collection of

Fan Fund Guest: Lauren Oxford

by Cathy McManamon



proper filk sheet music. I learned later that Cat writes music with other singers in mind. She avoids wildly chromatic melodies and weird chords so that more people can sing her work.

I got to know Cat as a human being a few years later, in a carpool to Filkontario in 2007. One of the delights of my life was when she took the time to write lyrics for a tune that the lot of us were jamming on in the van. It's been my honor to collaborate with her on a few more songs, as she is a supreme lyricist. She is also a meticulously kind human being, taking care to treat people well, from the filk community to the patients at a low-income health care clinic where she volunteered for years. Those of us who are enjoying Lauren Oxford's music at Consonance can thank Cat for welcoming Lauren to our community and mentoring her.

Cat's songs cover big themes ("Hydrogen and Time" covers the history of the universe in just over a minute) and small ("True To A Sixteenth" is about the dimensional tolerances in canoe-building. Cat penned that in just 15 minutes.) She highlights women's accomplishments in a number of her songs. Another, "Goodnight Opportunity," will bring a tear to your eye over a real-life robot. Anyone who only knows her by her work with Echo's children is in for a real treat. I am especially fond of "Tree of Forgiveness" and "Tell Julia," songs as powerful as her older classics.

Cat's credentials are impeccable; she's won seven Pegasus Awards since 1995, and was inducted into the Filk Hall of Fame in 2023. Old-time filkers know her best from the four albums she made with Echo's Children from 1997 to 2004 but she wasn't done recording. She has released three CD's since then: her free-to-duplicate "I Promised Eli," and two more conventional albums, "The King's Lute" and "Dr. Faber's Medicine Show."

Cat's presence is a welcome highlight to this year's Consonance. Don't miss her concert!

From the moment Lauren Oxford entered the filk music scene, she commanded everyone's attention. Not loudly, not aggressively, but by quietly and gently emoting tremendous power and beauty in her crystal-clear voice and her creative chordings on an ever-growing assortment of stringed instruments. She has the polished ability to present each song so confidently that you can't tell if it's an original or a cover.

Lauren's gentleness was just our first introduction to her, of course. She soon proved how fiercely she could express herself in music by sharing songs so raw we can't help but listen and be drawn in to experience - and perhaps better understand - the complexities of being human. The purity of her voice cannot be ignored, and once she's got us, she makes us listen in awe to every glorious note, wonder at every innovative instrument tuning, and ponder the meaning of the universe through her lyrical mastery.

Lauren has deservedly received the Pegasus Award for Best Writer/Composer, been a standout participant at John McCutcheon's songwriting retreats, released her own self-titled debut album in 2022 (with a little help from a few of her talented friends), and plays as one-fourth of The Starlight Darlins band. She's also backed up many of her friends both on recordings and on stage, and her versatility as a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist makes any performance a notch (or two!) better. And amazingly, in the light of all this talent and success, Lauren remains humble, unassuming, and one of the kindest humans I know - whom I would also definitely want on my side in any fight moral,



social, political, or otherwise.

Personally, I've been very pleased to be on stage with Lauren during concerts that were hers, mine, or others'. I will never forget an FKO where very late one night Lauren added banjo to one of my songs and I was nearly moved to tears at how well it sounded, and I knew this young person was someone to pay attention to. I am honored to be one of her adopted filk godmothers and to watch her grow as a songwriter and performer. Lauren is already one of our musical treasures; I can only imagine how tremendous she will be as time goes on, and I look forward to seeing that!



Interfilk Guest:
Chris "The Bard"
Clarke

It is with great regret that we must announce that Chris will not be able to join us this year due to health concerns.

We wish Chris a full recovery and smooth return to what we know he loves to do—make music and be with other musicians.

Please keep Chris in your prayers, meditations, and/or fond thoughts. You can view Chris's video message to Consonance [here](#).

Toastmaster: Peter Alway

by Summer Russell



Whimsy and Wonder are twin planets in the heart of the galaxy of Peter Alway's music.

Whimsy is a world ruled by a hundred squirrels, all in a six-foot man suit. Its atmosphere is 60% giggles, 20% belly laughs, and 20%

facepalms (approximate). We have received multiple transmissions from unicorns and hedgehogs performing extemporaneous absurdity, usually accompanied by a baritone ukulele.

Wonder is a world of spirals. Unearthly beauty illustrates its elegant equations. Microscopic beings live in the light of distant stars, and on the far shore there be dragons who guard the sorcery for mastering the air. It is from here that travelers begin their flights to places that humankind is still learning to see. In seeing them, I have learned more about being human.

The space around these planets rings with the voice of pure music. No words will carry here. Constellations make the shapes of stately dancers, and the moon sings lullabies. Once a year or so, if I am very lucky, I can hear the hymn of a dulcimer near Jupiter.

Peter arrived to the filk world in 2003, when his brother Dave guided his course to FKO and OVFF. He became an ambassador for Whimsy and Wonder and the stars beyond. He brings with him his telescopes and the maps that he has memorized, knowing that knowledge is one of the surest paths to wonder. He documents the details and histories of rockets of the world, compiling them with his meticulous drawings in books that set the standard for reference in model rocketry.

His affinity for teaching is near in magnitude to his love for music, but I have observed the bright center where music and friendship combine. It is because of Peter that I'm here. He knows that music, like knowledge, is best when shared. Just as astronomers wax rhapsodic about celestial mysteries, he finds joy in tending spheres of song through ever-expanding orbits.

It was because of Peter that when I walked into filk, it was straight to a front row seat at a Pegasus concert. I sat there and listened, and felt, and understood, and my life changed. Because Peter's special talent is revealing the wonders of the universe.



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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

As always, there will be a number of special events during the convention. Please check the schedule at the end of this program book or your handy-dandy pocket program for times and places. Theme circles, panels and workshops will be in **Tactic 2**.

Theme Circle: Songs of Justice

with Cat

Songs about something the world is always short of. Come, be inspired and inspire.

Theme Circle: Because We Care About Each Other

with Cat & Lauren

Songs about filkers and the filk community. Bring your songs—participants will generate the love!

Workshop: What I Learned About Songwriting from John McCutcheon

with Cat & Lauren

Consonance and Interfilk conspired ... er, ah, that is, *collaborated* to send Cat and Lauren to John McCutcheon's songwriting camp in the summer of 2021. Lauren taught us what she learned there in a workshop at Consonance 2022. Lauren learned even more at a later songwriting camp, John's invitation-only camp for promising young musicians. We're also eager to hear from Cat on this topic.



Workshop: Filking While Neurodivergent with Griff Sanford

In this workshop, we'd like to gather the community and share and discuss these themes:

1. Circles and neurodiversity
2. The norms of filk and filking
3. Raising awareness of neurodiversity in filk.

Kudos to Griff for bringing this workshop to Consonance. He originally offered it at OVFF 2024.

Workshop: Try the Ukulele!

with Watson Ladd

Please bring your ukuleles, if you have them and join the Uke Brigade! Come and have fun with tiny instruments.

Panel: Stay Afraid. But Do It Anyway

with Summer, Lauren & Cathy

From stage anxiety to imposter syndrome to the specter of "what will people think," the challenges of fear can get in the way of doing the things we want to do. Instead of trying to wait out the fear or make it go away, let's talk about how we can do the things anyway – and how embracing vulnerability can serve and enrich our performances, our creations, and our lives. Originally presented at OVFF 2023.

Sharps & Flats: What Worked & What Didn't

We welcome your opinions on what worked and what could have been improved this weekend. Last year we called this "Hiss and Purr". Thanks to Bob Kanefsky for suggesting a musical title.



REGULAR EVENTS

Meet the Guests

Just what it sounds like, filk fans. Come meet our charming guests and have a nice mingle! This will be in **Ballroom 1&2**, which is our main function space.

Each guest will state a fun fact, tell a true story about themselves, and sing a song. Our guests have chosen their facts, stories, and songs to help you get to know them better. We also will give those of you in the audience who are attending Consonance for the first time an opportunity to stand up and introduce yourselves. If nobody wants to do that, it's OK.

Meet the Guests ... Again!!!

You'll have another chance to meet the guests, up close and personal, in the **Con Suite** at 11AM. (That's the 11 when the Sun is up).

CONCERTS

These are the heart (but not the soul) of Consonance. They will be held in **Ballroom 1&2** throughout the convention. Besides those performed by our delightful guests, we will have half-hour concerts by:

- * Cathy McManamon
- * Griff Sanford
- * Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff
- * Margaret and Kristoph
- * Paul Kwinn
- * Celebrating Interfilk.*

*This is a full hour concert. In Chris Clarke's absence, we will offer a special celebration of Interfilk, featuring Interfilk alumni and a couple of Chris's songs. Interfilk has been sending guests to Consonance since 1996. We are grateful. We are also grateful to the multitudes who bid recklessly at Interfilk auctions.

Open Filking

"Where and when can I Filk?"—the question that roams the halls of every convention, looking for an empty room...

After-hours filking will be in **Ballroom 2** and **Tactic 2**. Check the program grid at the end of this guide or your portable pocket program for times.

The hotel reserves the right to ask us to stop filking at any time after 1AM. Please refer to the Aloft Rules section at the end of the program book for more details.

Theme Circles

Hear and share songs with a designated theme – vampires, media, cyber, science, history. You name it, filkers will 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!

Theme circles will be in **Tactic 2**.

Request Concert

As *inspired* by FilkCONTinental (okay, we stole the idea), 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 in the **Boardroom**. 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.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Interfilk/Consonance Auction

Keep those fabulous Interfilk Guests coming, and help keep Consonance rolling! Support the good work of IF and Consonance by attending their enormously entertaining auction, held right after the Celebration of Interfilk concert on Saturday afternoon. Be dazzled by the sight of Kathleen Sloan and her cadre of enthusiastic wenches and mensches as they present the auction items (and themselves!) for appraisal and approach bidders with gleeful abandon. Bid early and often!

Please donate auction items! You can choose whether the items you donate will benefit Consonance or Interfilk. Kathleen Sloan, who is a Director of Interfilk and a Director of Fanfare Music, which runs Consonance, says, "Interfilk is very deserving, but Consonance does not survive on membership fees alone, and Interfilk has a vested interest in Consonance continuing to thrive." Choose wisely...

Interfilk Mini-Grants

We want to make sure that our youngest filkers know about Interfilk Mini-Grants. You may apply for a grant if you are 35 or younger.

If you are accepted, Interfilk will reimburse you for up to \$500 of your expenses (travel, lodging, con fees) to attend any filk convention, including Consonance! For more details, go to the [Interfilk website](#) and click on "Mini-Grants".



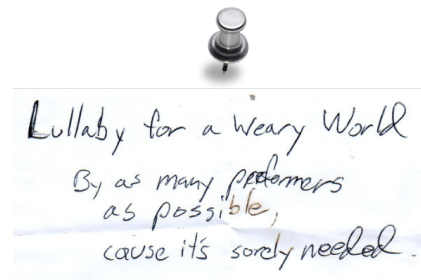
Closing Ceremony

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 songs together that are special to us.

There will be a Closing Ceremony request box at the info table (labeled so that you won't confuse it with the request box for the Request Concert) where you can beg for a song you would like us all to sing at the closing ceremony. Please choose a song that can be googled so that folks who don't already know the song can listen to it ahead of time and view the lyrics on their cell phones.

The closing ceremony request box will be available Friday only, so that a performer will have time to learn the song if the songwriter is not at Consonance. We will choose one of the requested songs and announce the song on Saturday.

The second song will be "Lullaby for a Weary World", by our 2022 co-GoH TJ Burnside Clapp. Last year, it was requested for the request concert, and someone said we should sing it every year. Time will tell if we'll do that, but at least we'll sing it at the closing ceremony this weekend. Here is the original request:



Huckster's Room

Hucksters will be in **Tactic 1**. Official hours are: 1 PM to 7PM on Friday; 10AM to 6PM on Saturday; and 10AM to 3PM on Sunday.

Find filk music and other treasures at individual vendor's tables.



Con Suite

This year's hosts will be Diana Koivunen, Jeanne Mueller & Devon Creasey. They'll be waiting for you when you get to the con on Friday, and will open at 9AM on Saturday and Sunday to offer light breakfast choices.

All food will be pre-packaged to minimize the chance of spreading any spiky balls of contagion. Be sure to let the staff know if you have food allergies or sensitivities!

ALoft Rules

Please Read!

The new hotel comes with a couple of new rules of conduct.

1) Unfortunately, the hotel is concerned that we might make too much noise late at night, so they insisted on putting a **clause in our contract stating that we can't filk after 1AM**. We don't know if they will enforce this deadline. A similar deadline at last year's hotel wasn't enforced. In response, we're starting open filking a bit earlier. We're also getting older as a group, so this may be easier on some of us anyway.

2) **No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the function space**, not even the sealed bottles of beverages that turn up at Interfilk auction. Those of us who are auctioning alcoholic beverages are asked to take a photo of your item and bring that to display for the auction. Yeah, it's not the same thing as seeing a bottle of homemade liqueur, but we don't want to anger the folks who run this fine establishment ... who will fine offenders \$500. Be warned.

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.

COVID-19 Policy

All attendees are required to have been vaccinated against COVID. While booster shots aren't required, we highly recommend that all people who are eligible get one. If you are flying to Consonance, we highly recommend that you wear a mask at the airport and on the plane, where you are exposed to many travelers' germs.

While the local government might not be requiring masks, Consonance is requiring that all members wear masks when in the convention space or visiting the Con Suite.

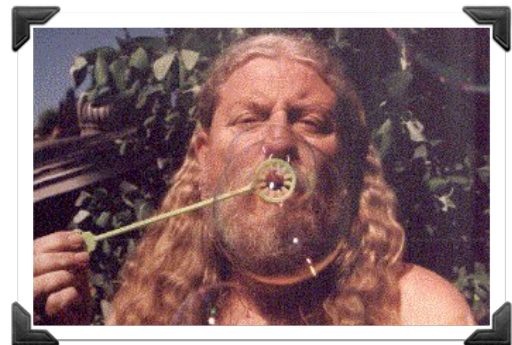
Please remove them only when you are eating or drinking.

If you forgot your mask, we have some at the Information Desk. If you are running a fever or have something contagious, please stay home.

LIFE EVENTS

This past year has been a roller coaster in ways too numerous to count. We have experienced highs and lows. We have lost friends and gained family.

We Remember...



Tom Digby
January 6, 1940 - March 27, 2024

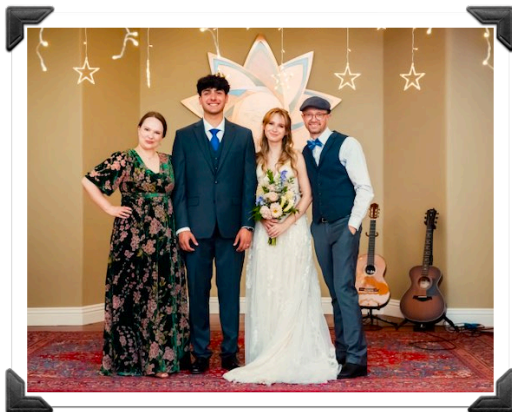
Tom "Bubbles" Digby attended Consonance regularly for years, most recently in 2019. He passed away a few days after Consonance 2024. No one on the concom knew him well enough to write the tribute he deserves, so we will confine ourselves to letting you know where you can find some of his works of unique creative genius. Tom's best-remembered filk song is probably "[Little Teeny Eyes](#)", written back in the 1960s.

You may also wish to honor Tom by visiting his [personal website](#) or [TOM DIGBY ALONG FANTASY WAY](#), produced for the 1993 Worldcon, where Tom was Fan Guest of Honor.

Rest in peace, Tom.



We Celebrate!



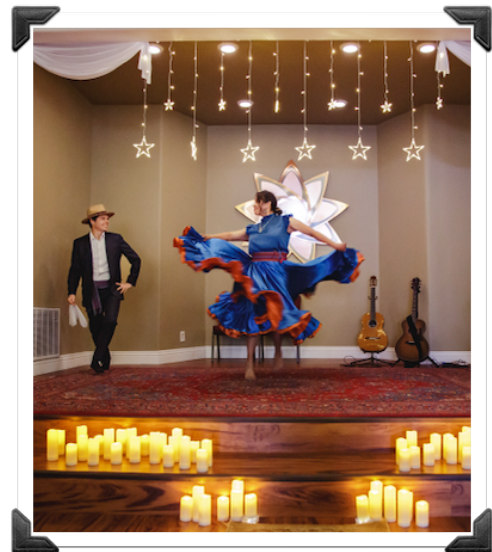
Conga-rats to the Bohnhoffs and their daughter, Amanda Kaathlyn, on her marriage this past July to Sebastian Mihdi Serrano, who is very tall.

Also pictured are Amanda's siblings, Kris and Alex, whom many of you may have met at one con or another. All the young Bohnhoffs have been

raised in the Filk, attending cons since they were fret high to a Stratocaster.

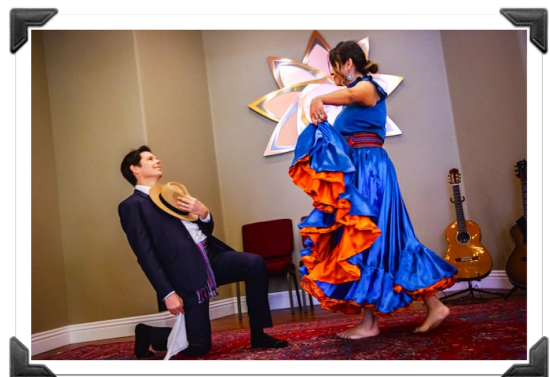
The newlyweds are residing in San Diego where Sebi attends UCSD. (Amanda graduated from UC Davis earlier this past year.) Sebi is also a very fine guitarist and the two have been known to perform together. As you can see, the family guitars also participated in the very musical wedding, which was held at the San Jose Baha'i Center.

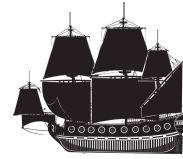
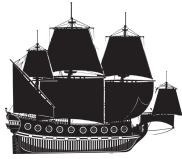
The program book minion wanted to share with y'all a little something from the wedding that she hopes will uplift spirits. A group of friends who claim to have plotted ... er, assisted in bringing Amanda and Sebi together, performed a Marinera – a traditional Peruvian dance that synopsized the course of their long distance courtship.



As Three Dog Night so aptly and sagely said:

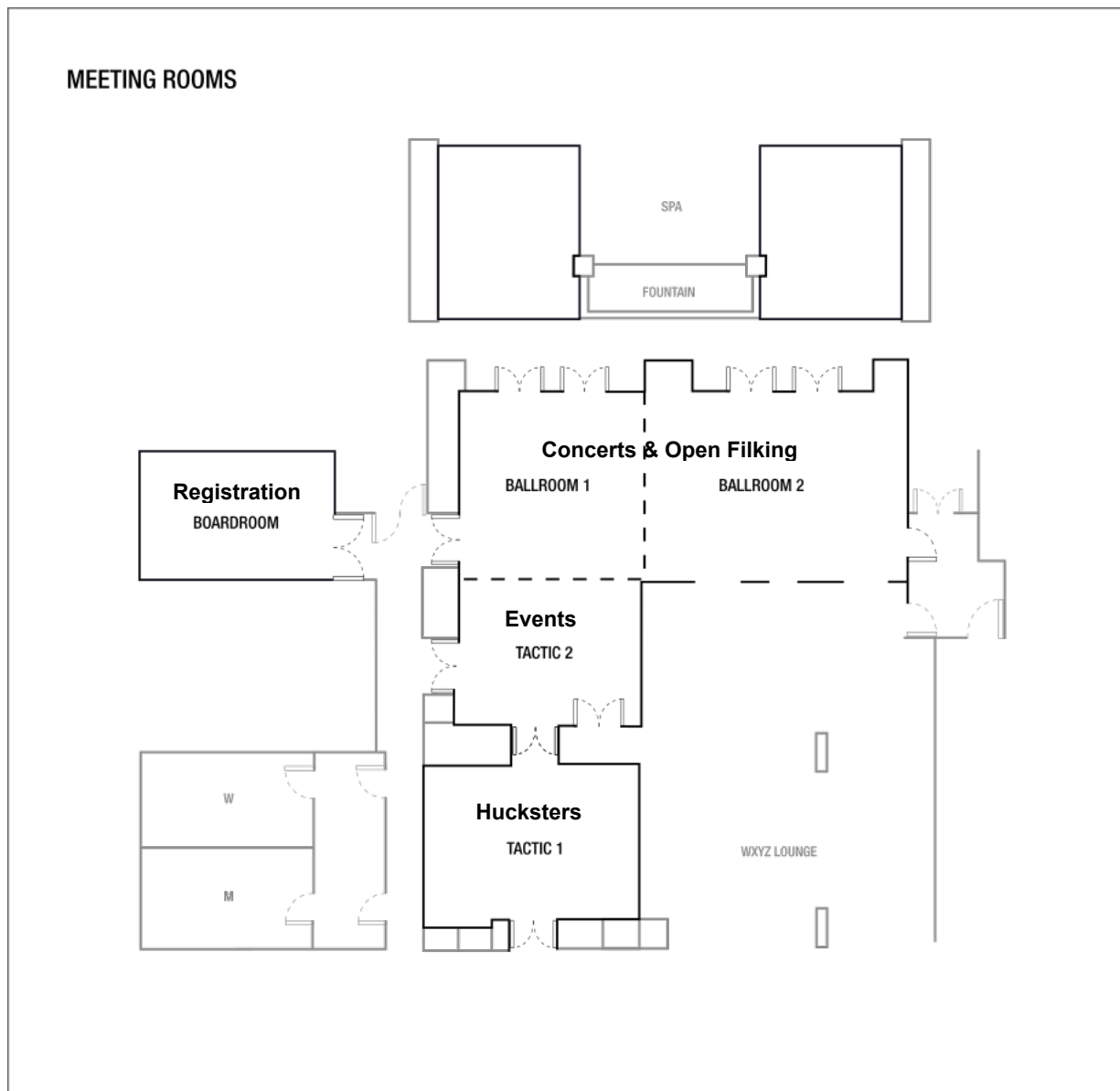
"Celebrate! Celebrate! Dance to the Music!"





THE MAP ROOM

Here, for your logistical needs, is a treasure map of our new lair! You can mark your own X's to chart where your treasure be!



PROGRAMMING GRID

Friday	Ballroom 1 and 2	Tactic 2	Ballroom 2
4:30 PM	closed for setup and sound checks		
5:00 PM			
5:30 PM			
6:00 PM			
6:45 PM	Meet the Guests		
7:00 PM			
7:30 PM	Peter Alway, Toastperson		
8:00 PM			
8:30 PM	break before open filking		
9:00 PM		theme filk: Songs of Justice, with Cat	open filking begins, with Peter and Lauren
9:30 PM			
10:00 PM		open filking	open filking continues

Saturday	Ballroom 1 and 2	Tactic 2	Ballroom 2
10:00 AM		"Stay Afraid, But Do it Anyway" (Summer, Cathy, Lauren)	
10:30 AM			
11:00 AM		Try the ukulele! (Watson)	
11:30 AM			
12:00 PM	Paul Kwinn		
12:30 PM	2x10s		
1:00 PM	Cathy McManamon		
1:30 PM	Griff Sanford		
2:00 PM	2x10s		
2:30 PM	Lauren Oxford, fan fund guest		
3:00 PM			
3:30 PM	Celebrating Interfilk		
4:00 PM			
4:30 PM	Consonance/Interfilk auction		
5:00 PM			
5:30 PM	Dinner!		
6:00 PM			
6:30 PM			
7:00 PM	Cat Faber, GoH		
7:30 PM			
8:00 PM	break before open filking		
8:30 PM		theme filk: Because We Care, with Cat and Lauren	open filking begins, with Peter
9:00 PM			
9:30 PM		open filking	open filking continues

Sunday	Ballroom 1 and 2	Tactic 2	Ballroom 2
10:00 AM		Behind the Songs (Peter and friends)	
10:30 AM			
11:00 AM		Filking While Neurodivergent (Griff)	
11:30 AM			
12:00 PM		What I Learned about Songwriting (Cat and Lauren)	
12:30 PM			
1:00 PM	Kristoph and Margaret		
1:30 PM	request concert		
2:00 PM			
2:30 PM	Jeff and Maya		
3:00 PM	closing ceremony		
3:30 PM	Rock Jam		
4:00 PM			
4:30 PM			
5:00 PM	teardown	Sharps and Flats: What worked and what didn't	
5:30 PM			
6:00 PM			
6:30 PM			
7:00 PM		dead dog begins	dead dog begins





YOUR 2025 CONSONANCE CONVENTION **MINIONS**

Con Chair - Lynn Gold

Treasurer - Lisa Harrigan

Hotel Liaisons - Victoria Chang and Douglas Davidson

Travel Arrangements - Alan Thiesen

Programming - Alan Thiesen

Chief Sound Engineer, Provider of Equipment - Jeff Bohnhoff

Sound Crew - Kristoph Klover, Margaret Davis, Maya Bohnhoff

Instrument Procurement - Lynn Gold

Registration - Smiley

InfoDesk - Kitty Crowe

Program Book Editor - Maya Bohnhoff

Con Suite Staff - Diana Koivunen, Jeanne Mueller & Devon Creasey

Dealer Liaison - Ravan Asteris

Publicity - Lynn Gold

Publicity, Flyers, Ad Swaps & Outreach - Lynn Gold

Website - Heather Stern

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