

Folk singer utilizes an array of styles

Hall often asks audiences to listen to a tale or join in a song

Fretless banjo, guitar, concertina and button accordion are a few of the instruments folk musician Tim Hall puts to use during one of his concerts.

Hall, who lives in Seattle, said he is equally at home with singing ballads, sea songs, children's tunes and old-time banjo ditties. Audience sing-alongs are also part of the singer's performances, as are bits of folklore, history and witty commentary on current issues.

Hall spent three years as a member of a quartet called Shay's Rebellion, which spent its time playing at peace rallies, labor union events and folk music festivals. He also played for a season in the orchestra of Seattle's Bathhouse Theater and continues to teach guitar and banjo from his home.

Referring to his musical style of performing, Hall said he thinks folk music should be "accessible to all—not just the guys with the sound systems."

North of the Black Sea

Husband and wife duo Ray Torley and Joan Gaustad make up the group North of the Black Sea, which showcases the traditional vocal and instrumental music of Russia, Ukraine, and other parts of Eastern Europe.

Torley has performed with the San Francisco Russian Community Balalaika Orchestra and the Golden Gate Gypsy Band, among others. He is proficient on both the Russian balalaika and the dorna. The dorna, a mandolin-like instrument played with a pick, has a clear ringing tone, while the triangular balalaika produces a range of sounds almost as varied as the human voice.

Vocalist Gaustad has studied both classical and folk voice for many years and has performed in 16 languages. Gaustad sang for several years with Danica Balkan Chorus and has performed with the Khadra International Folk Ballet as a dancer, musician, singer and vocal director.

The group has recently released a tape of music entitled *The Cossacks Were Whistling: Music for Ukrainian Bandura and Voice*.

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