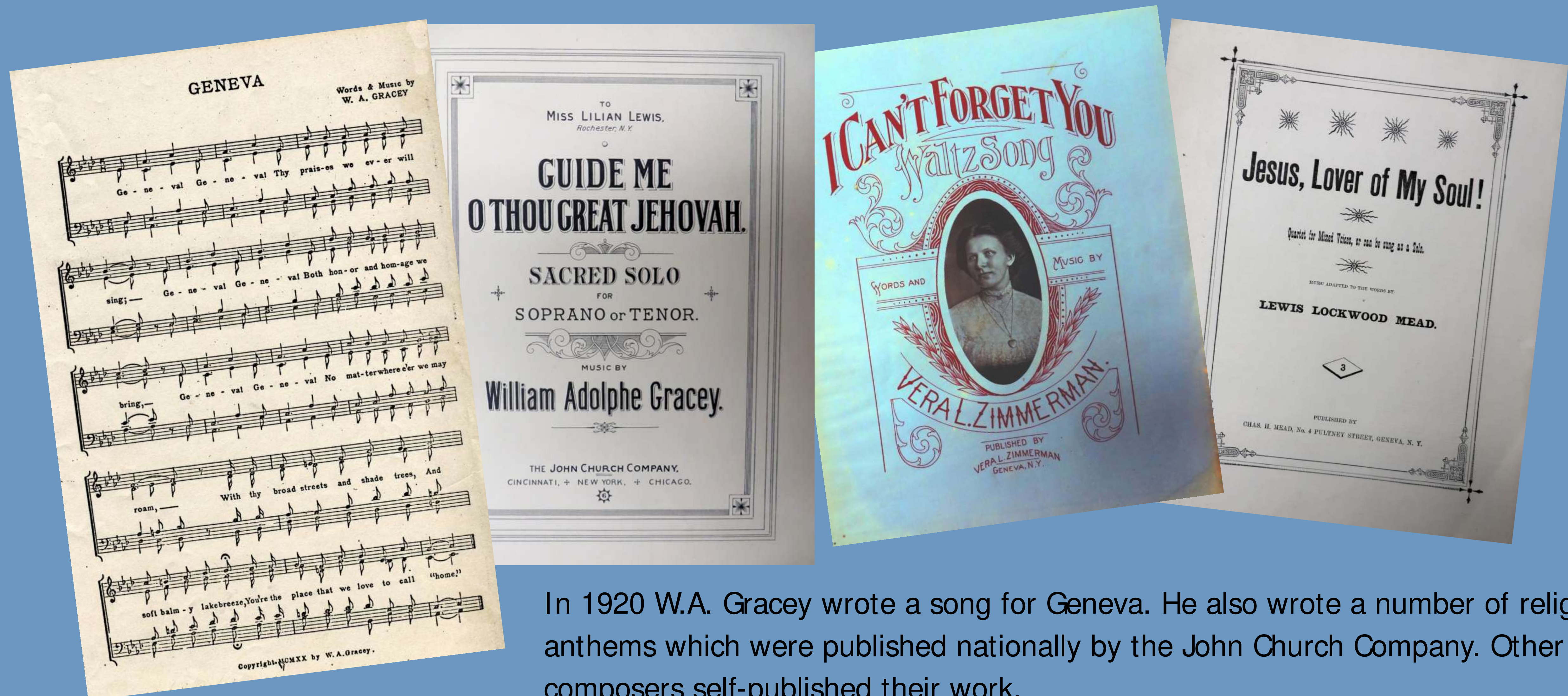


Teachers and Composers

Every musician begins with a teacher, whether through family, friends, or school. Some teachers and composers have formal training, others do not. In either case, they are a special kind of creative mentor. Dedicated instructors and music leaders have been found in Geneva's schools, colleges, churches, music stores, social clubs and private studios.



In 1920 W.A. Gracey wrote a song for Geneva. He also wrote a number of religious anthems which were published nationally by the John Church Company. Other local composers self-published their work.

One of the legends is Geneva High School teacher Godfrey Brown. W.A. Gracey published *The Geneva Times*, led the Geneva Choral Society for many years, and wrote music. Along with arranging music, Bob Bardeen taught at all levels of the Geneva City School District. Jack Bullock arranged music for the Appleknockers and began the Gorham Pageant of Bands in 1960.

Godfrey Brown was one of those people who gave of himself throughout his whole life and shared his talent with many, many people.

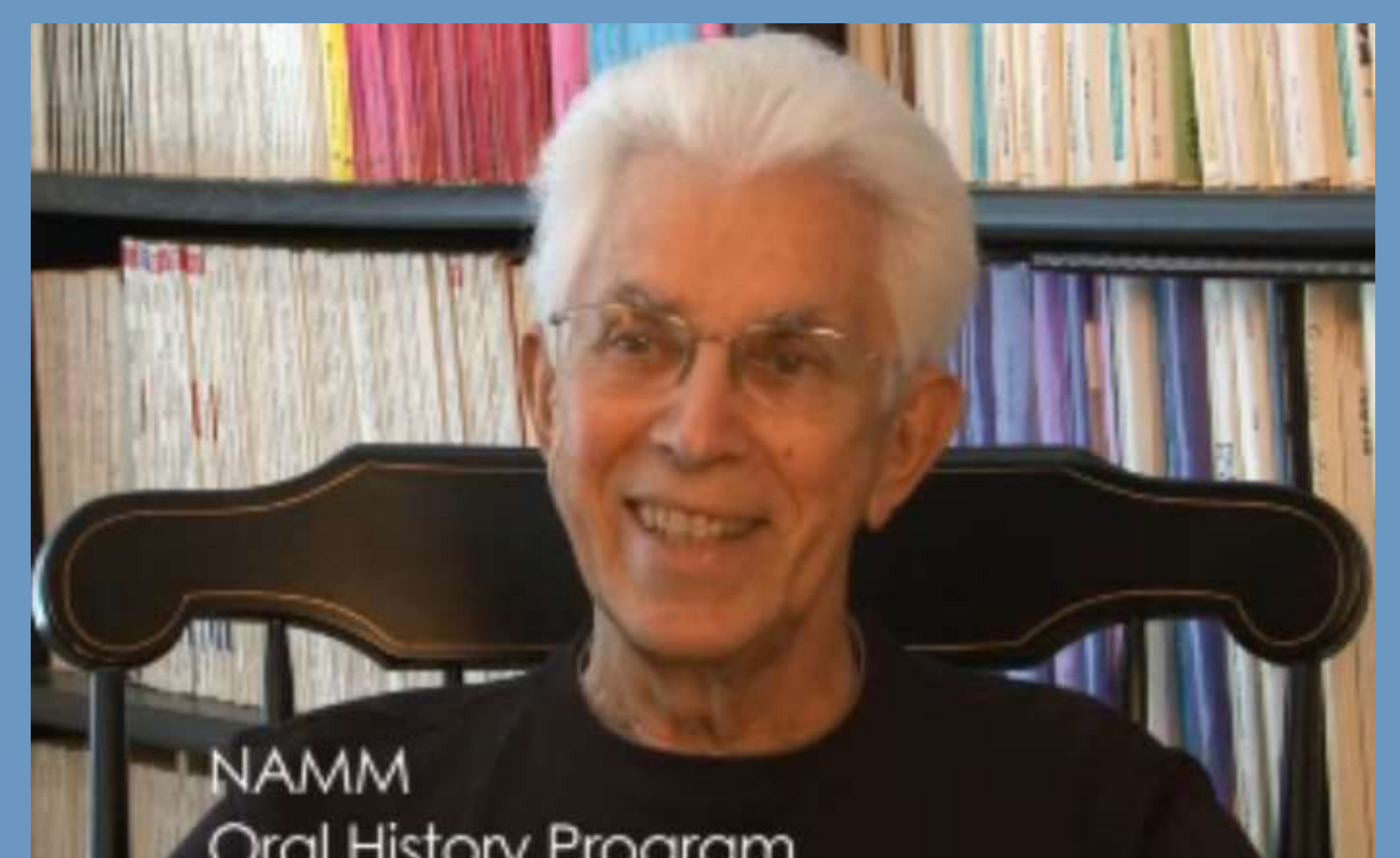
- Joseph Donahue, manager of the Appleknockers Drum and Bugle Corps



Godfrey Brown conducted the band, choruses, orchestra, and assisted with musicals. He also led men's and women's barbershop choruses and the Appleknockers Drum and Bugle Corps.



Bob Bardeen is remembered for his teaching ability both in school and private lessons. He built his own harpsichord and arranged orchestral music for bands.



While Jack Bullock is remembered locally, his arrangements have probably been played in every school in the United States. He has written or arranged over 700 pieces of music for school-age musicians.

Courtesy of www.namm.org

Musicians Extraordinary

A student of Godfrey Brown, Scott LaFaro went from the Appleknockers and jazz combos to legendary jazz bassist. Gym Class Heroes and Ra Ra Riot are 21st century success stories in popular music. Others have excelled in classical, new age and alternative rock music. Geoffrey Herd has brought his gifts home again by founding a music festival.

Geneva has been a launching pad for musicians who have made their mark in the world. After receiving good training and local inspiration, many have gone on to study with leading musicians and teachers before embarking on their own careers.



Milo Bonacci (far left) formed Ra Ra Riot at Syracuse University in 2006. The indie rock band has released four albums and played at the Cracker Factory in April 2016.



Gym Class Heroes began as a high school band with Travis McCoy, Matt McGinley, and Milo Bonacci, playing free shows by the lake. They gained national attention in 2004. Travis and Matt continue with the band and side projects.



In 1992 saxophonist Michael Hashim was one of the first jazz musicians to tour China. He has led the Widespread Depression Jazz Orchestra, the Billy Strayhorn Orchestra, and his own quartet.



Sunday at the Village Vanguard with Scott LaFaro, Bill Evans (center), and Paul Motian remains one of the great jazz recordings. Fifty-five years after his death at age 25, bass players still listen to Scott for inspiration.

What struck me about Scotty was the short amount of time it took him to go from being just a good player, when I first heard him in California, to being a great player, when I heard him in New York just a few months later.

-Jazz pianist Don Friedman



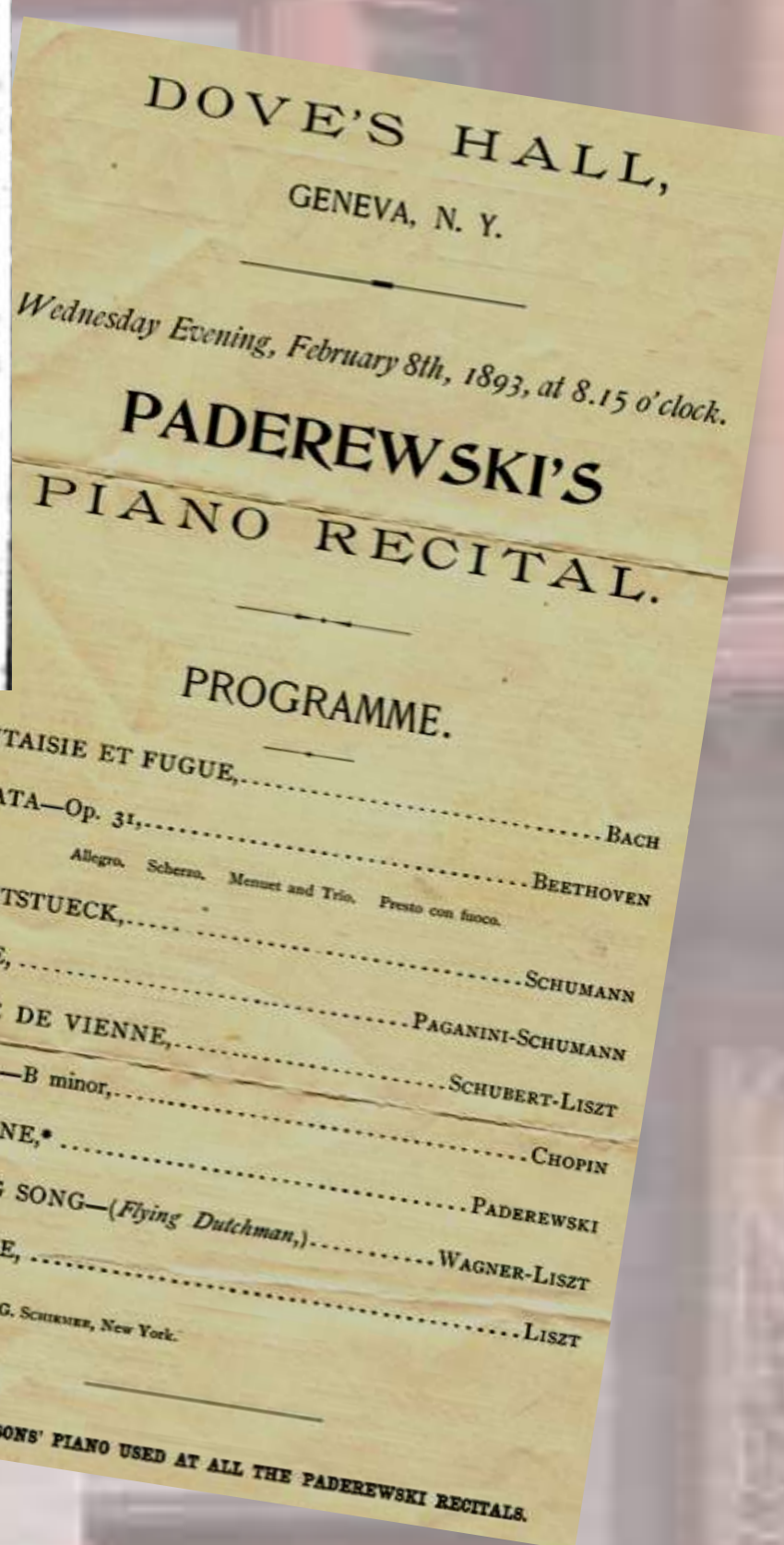
In 2011 violinist Geoffrey Herd founded the Geneva Music Festival to bring new classical music and musicians to the city. Young classical musicians from Geneva include Hannah Collins, Eliot Heaton, and Andréa Belding.

Come Hear the Music Play

In the mid-1800s the largest buildings for hosting concerts and performances in Geneva were churches, which only allowed sacred music. With the construction of Linden Hall on Seneca Street in 1855 and Dove Hall in 1878 space became available for famous musicians, traveling and local artists, and shows of all kinds. At the turn of the 20th century the Smith Opera House welcomed large performances while later theaters were built for moving pictures and live vaudeville shows. Railroads provided easy access for performers and audiences to come to Geneva.



The Temple and Regent theaters, both on Exchange Street, were built in the early 1900s and offered more options for local entertainment.



Lionel Hampton at Club 86, late 1940s.
Courtesy of Legott Family

But the one I remember most was Lionel Hampton because my first wife and I, we were there...The place was full and usually every night it was full. People would come in from all over because of the big name bands.

-Joe Chester, remembering Club 86



After World War II Jimmy Legott expanded his family's Italian restaurant on the north side of town into Club 86. Dizzy Gillespie, the Mills Brothers, Buddy Rich, Nat King Cole, and most major acts of that time still hang on their Wall of Fame.

Although their names may be unfamiliar today, famous 19th-century musicians like Kate Dean, Ignacy Paderewski, and Louis Gottschalk performed in Geneva.

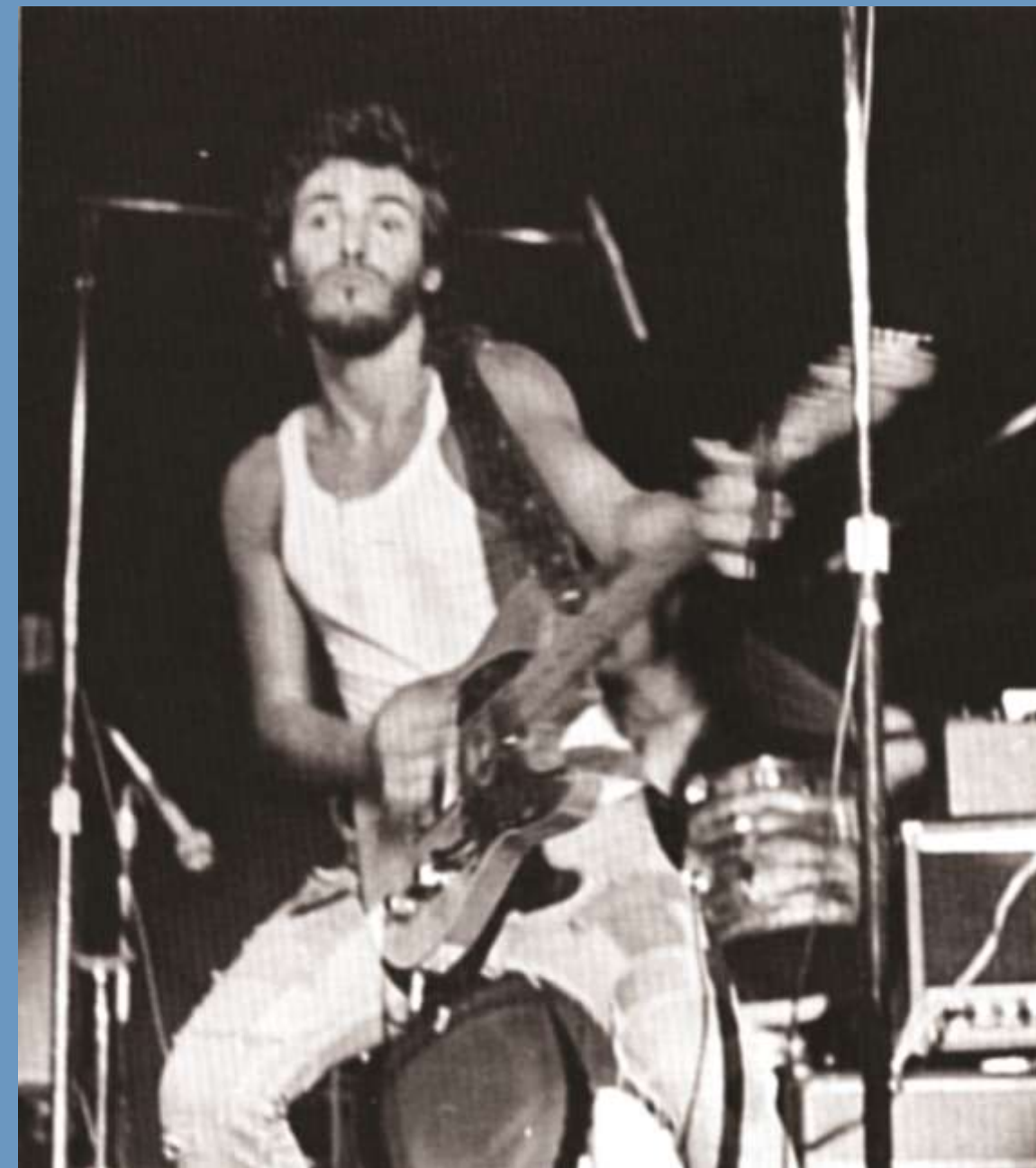


Beginning in the 1960s, Hobart & William Smith Colleges brought in many rising musicians. The student activities budget and space hosted Billy Joel, Frank Zappa, B.B. King, and Little Feat. Their biggest claim to fame was booking Bruce Springsteen in 1973 as a last-minute replacement for John Sebastian.

For years the Colleges, Smith Opera House, and Club 86 have been main venues for live music events. More recently area wineries, breweries, the Cracker Factory, and the public library have begun hosting concerts and other music events. Whether it's classical, jazz, country, traditional, rock, pop music or musical theater one is bound to find a venue to suit their music preference.

The Smith Center for the Arts has begun booking emerging performers and bands into smaller venues like Club 86, the Cracker Factory, and Billsboro Winery.

To see the likes of Billy Joel, Bruce Springsteen, Bonnie Raitt, Livingston Taylor as well as Frank Zappa was simply amazing.
-Ruth Teague, William Smith Class of 1977

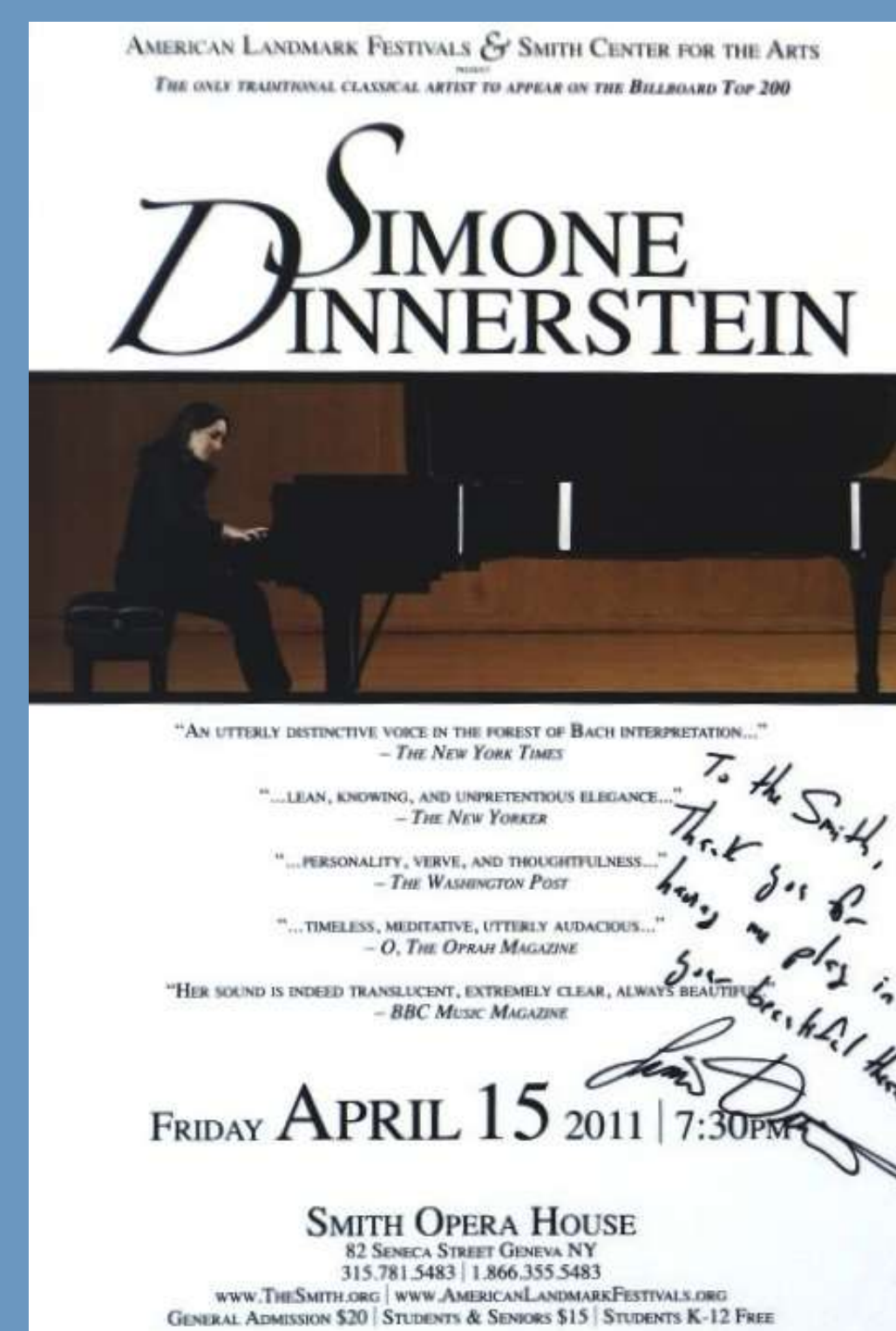


In 1973 student tickets for Bruce Springsteen were three dollars. The following year Billy Joel opened for Livingston Taylor and advance tickets were a dollar and a half.

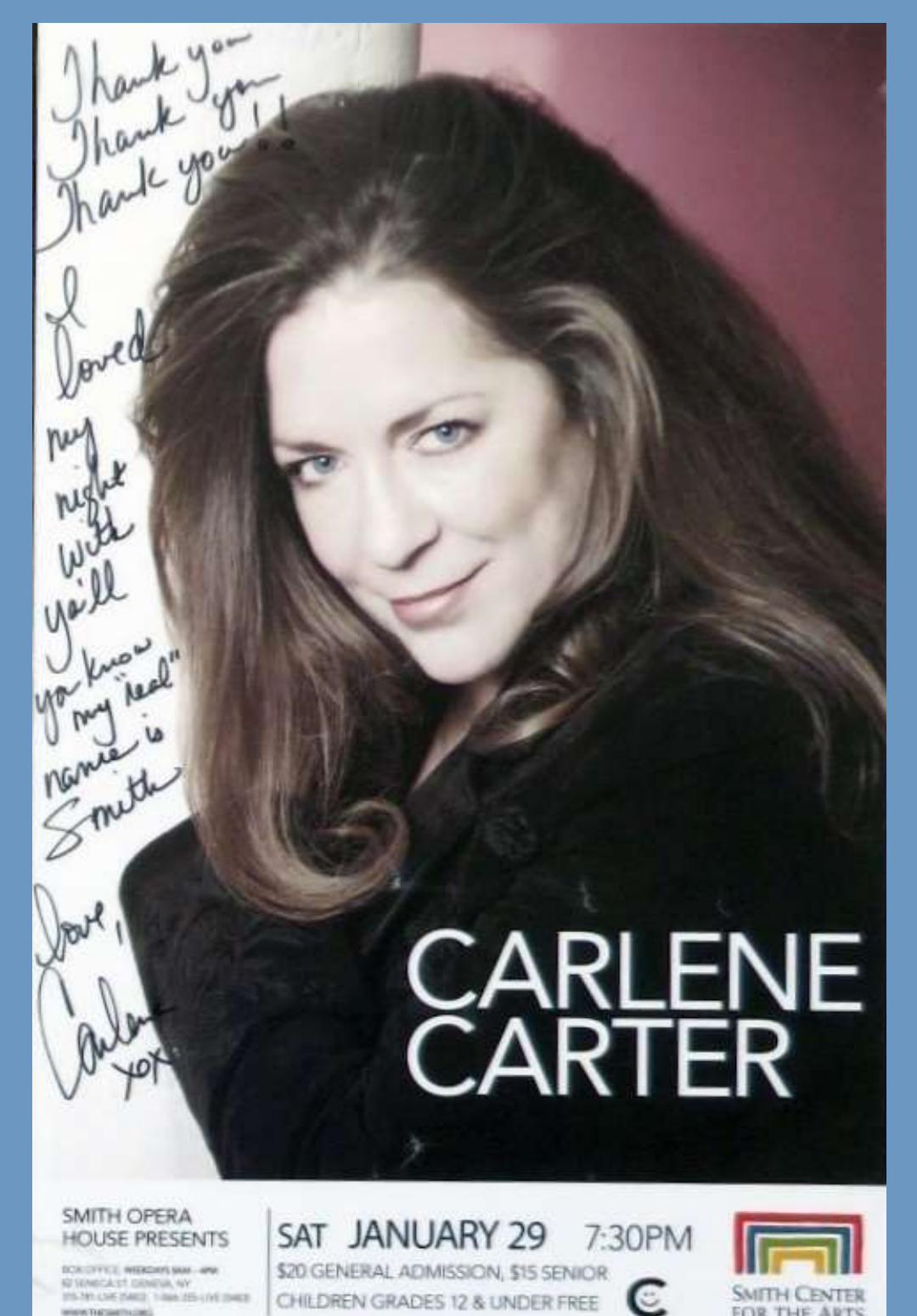
Courtesy of Hobart & William Smith Colleges



The music scene continues to grow as bars, like Microclimate (above), and restaurants are hosting open mic nights, informal jam sessions, and local bands.



The Smith Opera House strives to bring in diverse performers, from classical to country, that will appeal to both local and regional audiences.



Just Folks, Making Music Together

Folk, or roots, music in Geneva comes in many styles. People of Irish, Scottish, Italian, and many other backgrounds play heritage music. Others find these same tunes so heartfelt that they learn and share them, too.



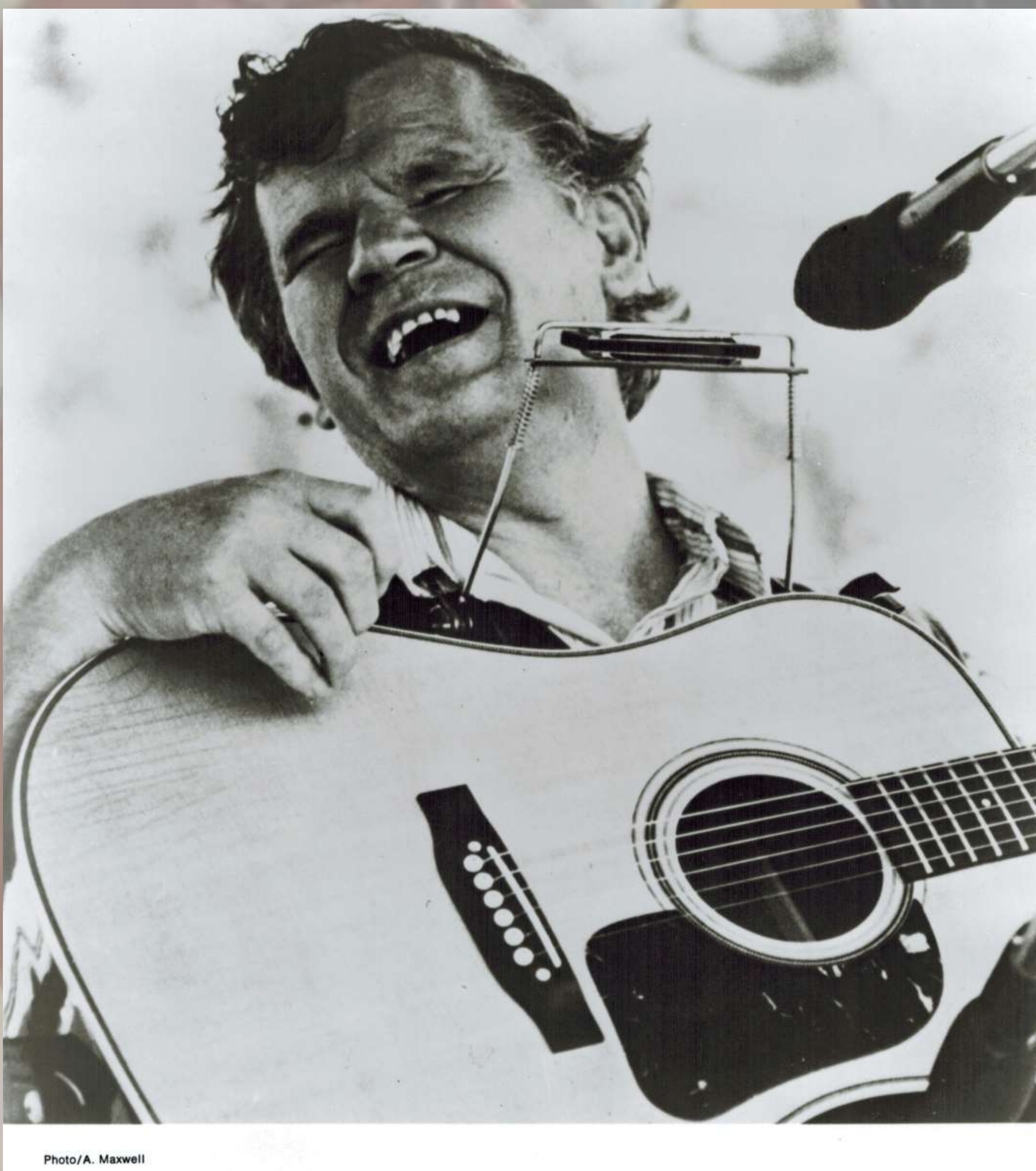
For several years the Founders Square neighborhood has sponsored Musical Porches, bringing music back into the open.

Courtesy of Geneva Neighborhood Resource Center

[Folk music] endures over time without any support from high culture or the economy. You can't kill it.

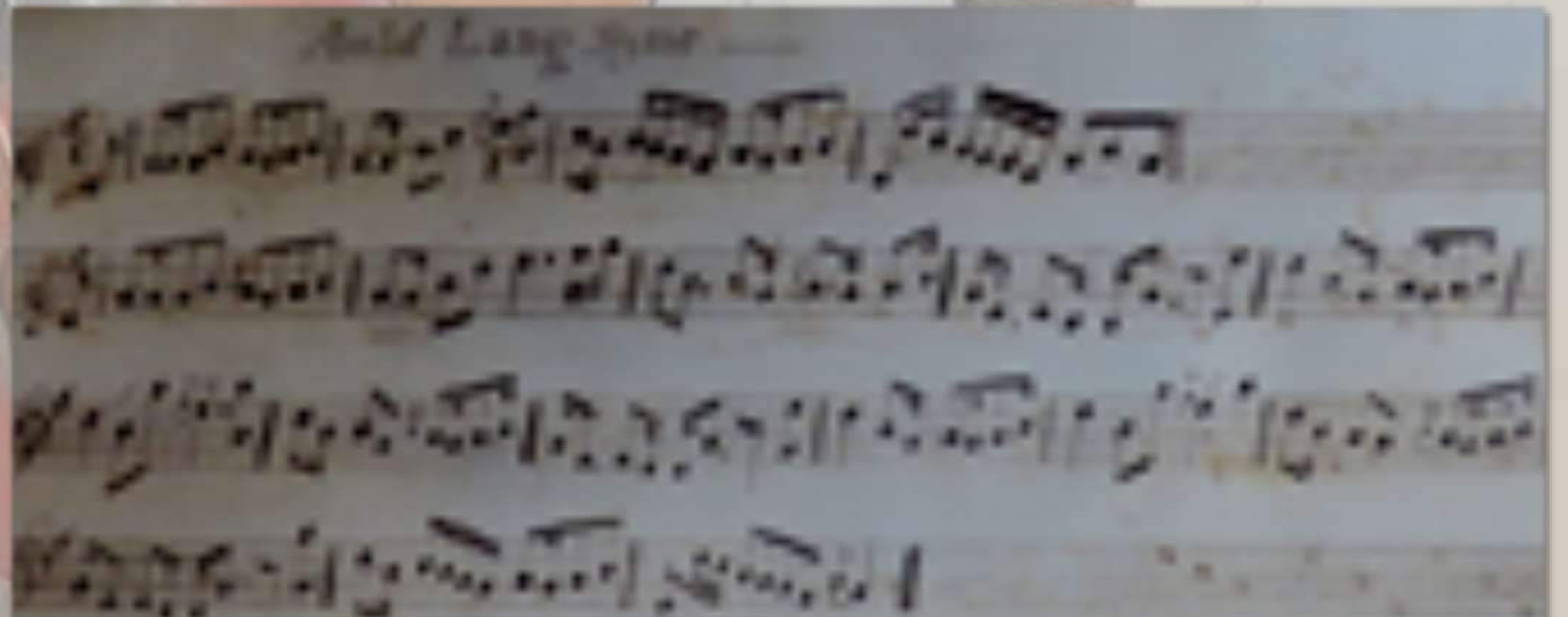
- Susanne McNally

Some songs become popular and are passed by ear, changing as they are adopted by many musicians. Others, like *You Are My Sunshine* or *Good Night, Irene*, are composed and published. As songs are passed among musicians the composers may be forgotten, but the songs survive because they share a common human feeling or experience.



Hobart and William Smith Colleges' Folk Fest (1975-2001) brought top name performers like Doc Watson (above) to Geneva.

Courtesy of Hobart & William Smith Colleges



Beginning in 1800 Eliza Leet and her descendants wrote down tunes to popular songs so they would remember them.

Courtesy of Trinity Episcopal Church