

## FILK

FiestaCon will have Filk. Filk has been given the exclusive use of the Dolores Room on the inner courtyard. We have it 24 hours a day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday until at least 6:00 p.m. Filk will be in the middle of things with easy access to all function space. There will be *Filk Circle* on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 9 p.m. These circles will start with 90 minutes of themed circle followed by Open Bardic Filking.

There will be 15 or more individual day time concerts spread over the four day Con. Six are all ready scheduled. There will be a *Filk Jam* at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday lasting until exhaustion or the hotel throws us out whichever comes first.

In addition to panel discussions planned for Friday and Saturday, there will be audience participation and demonstration events. Panel discussions will include *Courting Our Muses*, *Filk Spawn*, and *Filk as a Pressure Valve*.

On Friday, you can attend a workshop, *Radio Script Writing*, on how to write a short (10-15 minute) Radio Drama based on an assigned theme or maybe a well-known filksong, then to perform and record the drama onto a digital recorder (as an uncompressed WAV file, 16bit/44.1KHz). Your production will be edited with sound effects and music. We might even keep your finished production on various filksites for downloads by the community. Friday is writing the script and we'll record it on Saturday.

On Thursday evening, plan to join Reale Medieval Music for an overview of Bardic arts and storytelling at the *History of Bardic Music & Storytelling*. There will be demonstrations and a Q&A session if time allows. Enjoy the music and improv poetry in traditional bardic style. The melodic and comedic tones of Darren Reale will charm listeners with modern and historical content including love songs, story-filled ballads and delightful filk.

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On Friday evening, turn off your Ipods and turn up your ears so you can hear the wonderful sounds of futuristic filk music and poetry. Darren Reale, folk guitarist and space poet, returns for *The Reale Future of Music*, a unique musical presentation of original and filk music of space plus filk music-composing workshop. His music will entertain and amuse you with comedy, wit, and anti-matter brain antics. A workshop on composing filk music in the folk music style will follow.

Remember doing mad-libs as a kid? Where you take a story or whatever, take out some of the words, and replace them with words suggested by people who don't know what they're replacing. Well, as Tom Smith proved, you can do them for filk songs, too. On Sunday afternoon, come join our panelists at *Fill In the Blank Filk*. They are bringing ready-to-mad-lib songs, or bring your own to throw into the fray.

These are just a sample of the filk choices available to you. Be sure to check our website (<http://www.fiestacon.org/FilkPanels.pdf>) for the latest information on programs and participants. See you there!

— Gary Swaty, *Music Liaison*