

# The Santa Monica Traditional Folk Music Club — Mission & Membership



The **Santa Monica Traditional Folk Music Club** has been meeting every month for over 46 years, bringing members and friends together for enjoyment of, and participation in, folk and traditional style music. We welcome everyone who's interested—singers, musicians and “just listeners”—to join our gatherings!

The Club started as a small group of friends in 1978. Over the decades, we've met wonderful people and terrific musicians as they've come through our doors. We've entertained the public, too, at “Sea Shanty Days” and other concerts and events. And always, we've been there sharing music and thoughts with good company, through good times and hard times, the first weekend of every month.

So, what do we do at our meetings? Well, of course, we do like to sing! Singalongs are great, where we can get the whole group going, often with multi-part harmony on the choruses. Sure, we like to hear good solo tunes, and we'll greet someone's new composition with attention and appreciation, but we relish participation as well as performance.

We like to give everyone a chance to present their favorites. We try to make sure no one is left out. If you have a song in mind, please say so loudly enough for the group to hear. If two or more people volunteer at once, it's usually sorted out quickly and amicably. Remember, you don't have to sing or play unless you want to; but we encourage joining in. (When you do join in, though, please “follow the leader”; no song is improved by competing tempos and harmonies.) If you are the song leader, please let people know whether you prefer to do your song solo or with the group—and please keep introductions on the short side, so we can get in more music!

We include the word “traditional” in our name, and we do try to highlight traditional-*style* music more than, say, rock-n-roll or musical comedy numbers. Of course, “traditional” music is pretty inclusive—we welcome bluegrass, gospel, blues, love songs, sea songs, cowboy songs, topical songs, and more with equal gusto! Several song “themes” are provided for each meeting to provide inspiration for song choices, but you may choose any song (or tune) you like.

If you haven't been here before, you may want to listen for a while to see what kinds of music we share. You may have songs in mind already, or you may want to browse through a songbook such as *Rise Up Singing* (<https://www.riseupandsing.org/songbooks/rise-up-singing>).

Pick something you're familiar with, and don't be afraid of being “hokey”—old favorites are quite popular! We need a balance of fast and slow, serious and fun, old and new, easy and difficult. If you decide to lead a song that the group may not know, it might be helpful to take a moment to go over the chorus with the rest of us. If you print and bring copies of the song, we'll all sing along.

Partway through each meeting we take a break. First we have announcements, so if you have some information concerning folk music events or performances, this is the time to share it. You are also welcome to leave flyers about folk music and dance events on our literature table near the entrance. When announcements are over, we share refreshments. We do encourage everyone attending to contribute to this feast! (folks bring small paper plates if they have 'em, crunchy and sweet snacks including cut-up fruit and toothpicks, chips and dips, cheese plates, cookies, nuts, and non-alcoholic drinks.) After our break, we gather for more singing and playing until it's time to go.

***We've built a solid tradition of music and fun in our years together. Come on in and be part of it!***

*For more information about the Club, please visit our website at [www.santamonicafolkmusicclub.org](http://www.santamonicafolkmusicclub.org)*

We encourage you to become a Club member, or renew your membership! Please use the application form below.

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## **Santa Monica Traditional Folk Music Club — Membership Application**

Club membership runs for the calendar year. Send this form with your check to: Santa Monica Traditional Folk Music Club, 1642 Voorhees Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266.

\$50/yr or more admission, emails, & folk community gratitude for supporting us!

*Member Information (please print):*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Member information is for Club business only. Personal data will not be sold, traded or otherwise used for commercial purposes.*

\* The Santa Monica Traditional Folk Music Club is an IRS 501c3 tax-exempt organization. Our FEIN is 33-0335698. \*