

SOME FILK TERMS EVERY FAN SHOULD KNOW

Erwin S. (Filky Pierre) Strauss
TO Hill St. by Pierre -
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 242-5999
ESS22L@AOL.COM

file C:\F\FILKTERM.WK1
August 13, 2009
revised April 13, 2019

BARDIC CIRCLE: A CIRCLE in which everyone takes turns at being the performer, going consecutively around the CIRCLE.

BFA: Short for "Banned from Argo," a humorous Star Trek song by Leslie FISH, probably the best-known FILK(song) there is (though her "Hope Cycle," a serious song about the Moon landings, is about as well-known, and is the unofficial anthem of the FILK community). It's fashionable to express disdain for BFA (much as one would for a pun). THE FISH says she'll sing it only once a year at a con.

CHAOS: A CIRCLE in which everyone jumps in whenever they feel like it. Works best with experienced FILK(sing)ers who know each other, and have finely developed FILK etiquette. Obviously, this is open to FILKHOGGING.

CIRCLE: Performance FILK(singing) (compare with HYMNAL FILK(ing), below) is customarily done by people seated in a circle facing the center ("The FILKers are attacking! Form the chairs into a circle!"), taking turns performing.

C-JAM: The instrumental form of FILK(sing) -- or, if you prefer, the FILK version of jazz. Popularized by Heather Alexander. The performer who's up names a tune, or demonstrates a chord progression. Each member of the CIRCLE, in turn, performs a solo riff on it, while the others back them up with the chords.

DANDELION: A button often worn by FILK(sing)ers, to signal their identity as FILK(sing)ers to others. The weed invokes the days when FILK(sing)ers were a persecuted minority at cons (and they aren't now?), & had to FILK wherever they could.

EOFILK: Jack Speer published an early (the earliest?) collection of FILK(song)s for the 1940 Chicago WorldCon (the second ever held). If 1950s stuff is PALEOFILK, for his he favors the term EOFILK ("The Dawn of FILK" -- cue the tympani).

FILK: derives from "folk," and dates from the 1950s (the songs themselves go back to at least 1940). Beyond that, accounts of its origin differ. A FILK(song) is a science-fictional folksong. Has been extended to cover any song adopted by FILK(sing)ers. Also, a FILK can be such a song, or a session at which such songs are sung. To FILK can be to participate in such a session; or as a transitive verb to parody (an existing song), or to serenade (an -- often unwilling -- group with FILKsongs).

FILKHOGGING: The practice of monopolizing more than one's share of performance time. Many FILK(sing)ers wear buttons with the interogational red circle and slash superimposed on a pig's face: "No FILKhogging!"

FILKMEISTER: A moderator at a FILK(sing), who determines who performs when. One solution to FILKHOGGING.

FISH, THE: Leslie Fish, generally regarded as the most professional of FILK(sing)ers

FOLLOW: A song that fits particularly well after another song. E.g., if someone does Jeff Duntmann's "Outer Space Marines," a good follow might be Filky Pierre's "Space Navy Song," which ends, "Just think -- we could be stuck in the Marines."

FOUND FILK: a song not originally created as a FILK(song), but meeting someone's definition of FILK. Weird Al Yankovic's stuff is the classic example. Also Bastard King of England, Teddy Bear's Picnic, Lord of the Dance, Engineers' Song, etc.

FRANK HAYES DISEASE: The tendency to forget the words to a song you've written while performing it. Reverse of Tom Smith, who makes up the words as he goes along

HYMNAL: An omnibus collection of FILKsongs, typically sung in unison by an entire group, in the manner of hymns in church. The organizers of such a session will typically provide everyone with a loaner copy (as to church). When a hymnal exists in 2 volumes (like the NESFA Hymnal, or the WesterFILK, or the HOPSFA Hymnal), the first volume is referred to as the "Old Testament" (Let's sing page 56 in the Old Testament, next!), and the second as the New. It may be done CHAOS style, or there may be a leader who resolves disputes as to what to sing next; but nobody is a featured performer on any number.

MICROFILK: A collection of 552 FILKs, printed in extremely small type, by Erwin S. (Filky Pierre) Strauss. A total of 666 copies were produced, and it went out of print in 1983. It's available for download at: www.floatingfilk.com/mp3/microfilk.pdf.

OSE: Term derived from "morose": "Some songs are more 'ose' than others." Refers to particularly sad, tragic, maudlin FILK(song)s, in which everything ends badly.

PALEOFILK: Usually refers to FILK dating back to the 1950s and 1960s.

PICK PASS OR PLAY: When it's your turn, you typically have the options of playing (performing a number), picking (asking someone else to perform) or passing (letting the turn pass to the next person).

POKER CHIP CIRCLE: Invented by Lee and Barry Gold. Everyone gets a poker chip at the start of a round, and when they want a turn, they throw their chip in the center. When all chips have been thrown in, a new round begins. This allows people to jump in when they want to (eg, when they have a good FOLLOW) without waiting for their turn; while at the same time insuring against FILKHOGGING.

RISE UP SINGING: An omnibus collection of folksongs, generally showing chordings. Many FILK(song)s use these tunes, so it's a nearly-indispensable item for FILK(sing)ers. Sometimes for a change of pace, FILK(sing)ers may forsake FILK, and do a HYMNAL-style sing of the (straight) folksongs.

ROTR: "Real Old Time Religion," a parody of "Old Time Religion" singing the praises of Greco-Roman, Norse and other gods, typically pre-dating Christianity.

SHOW-STOPPER: A very brief FILK(song), typically inserted during the process of assembling a HYMNAL to fill a blank space at the end of a page. E.g., (to the tune of Exodus, and presented here in its entirety): There are some things man was not meant to know, and songs man was not meant to sing. And this is one of them.

Key: F = Filksong Manual, parts 1-4

New York, NY 10011

August 28, 200

Hops & Hymns, 4th volume (978-0-42-593402) revised February 26, 2014
M = Filthy Pierre & Microfilk (download at floatingfilk.com/mp3/microfilk.pdf)

Acts of Creation	Faber, Cat	byCF/Echoes Children's		
Alcoholics Anthem	ChristchurchU.Rev.	Men of Harlech	H,N1	
All of the Filkers (Are Singing)	Traditional	Banks of Sicily	N1	
Along the Grand Canal	Heintzlein, Robert A.	by Juanita Coulson		
Anacronistic Song, '98	Tomlinson, Ralph	Star Spangled Banner	N1	
And This is One of Them	Traditional	Theme from Exodus	N1	
Apes Drinking Song	Gilliland, Alexis	Whiffenpoof Song, The	N1	
Asteroid Light, The	Boardman, John	Eddystone Light, The	N1	
At the Worldcon	Hogew, Roberta	Bowery, The	W2	
Ballad of Orbital Hubris	Waldeman, Joe	Titanic (It Was Sad)		
Banned from Argo	Fish, Leslie	Irish Boston Burglar	N1	
Bastard King of England, The	Traditional	Traditional	N1	
Batteries	Kare, Jordan	Yesterday		
Send Over Greek Sailor	Traditional	Traditional		
Beware, the Sentient Chili	Weber, Chris	by Chris Weber	W2	
Towin' Up the Chase	Cohen, Eli	Blowin' in the Wind	N2	
Bouncing Potatoes	Anderson, Poul	Galizing Matilda	N1,F	
Bradbury Hate Song, The	Beam, R. & J. Hunter	Cattle Hymn	N1,F	
Caves of Steel, The	Garrett, Randall	Comin' Round the Mt.		
Chain Mail Mama	Longcor, Michael	by M. Longcor (blues)		
Chemists Drinking Song, The	Carroll, John A.	Irish Washerwoman	N2	
Childish Edda, The	Anderson, P. / Ellick	Ballad of Jesse James	N1,F	
Clone of My Own	Garrett/Heintzlein	Home on the Range		
Con-ordinator's Lament, The	Beetlem, Boris	Cattle Hymn		
Dairy Queen	Barbara L. Higgins	Red Queen	W2	
Demolished Map, The	Garrett, Randall	Turkey in the Straw	H	
Do It Yourself	Sutton, Bill	by Bill Sutton	Web	
Don't Push That Button	Films, Duane	by Duane Films	Web	
Drink Up the River	Mar, Kathy	by Kathy Mar	Web	
Drunken Spaceman/Hobbit/etc.	various people	Drunken Sailor		
Dying Robot	Spelzer, Jeff	Red River Valley	N1	
Elevator Song, The	Hal/Tomp/Kauf/Bush	Yesterday		
Engineers Song, The	Traditional	Underbeck,		
Fairford's Hangover	Asprilo, Bob	Teddy Bear's Picnic		
Fuel to Feed the Drive	McQuillen/Wayne	by Cynthia McQuillen	W2	
Give My Children Wings	Mar, Kathy	by Kathy Mar	W2	
God Lives on Terra	Ecklar, Julia	by Julia Ecklar	N2	
God Save the Queen (Up the Queue)	Corey, Henry	Thomas Augustine Arne	H,N1	
God Save the King (at the door)	Traditional	Thomas Augustine Arne		
Gordy Dickson, The Ballad of	Bova, Ben	Carling Clementine	H,N1	
Grazing Mace, A	Traditional	Maxine Grace		
Green Hills of Earth, The	Heintzlein, Robt. A.	by Coulson/GilligansI	H,F	
Green Hills of Harmony	Frank, Hal	Banks of Sicily	W2	
Greensleeves	Traditional	Traditional		
Home on LaGrange	Gehm, B./Higgins, B.	Home on the Range	H,N1,W2	
Horray for Frodo Baggins	Glasser, M./Camp, D.	Horray/Capt. Spaulding	H,N1	
Hope Eyrle	Fish, Leslie	by Leslie Fish	W1	
Horse Tamer's Daughter, The	Fish, Leslie	by Leslie Fish	Incomplete L.F.	
Maia <th>hu</th> (Oh! theHora!theHora!)	hu	Fesselmeyer, Bill	Avah Nagila	H
lobberwocky	Carroll, Lewis	greensleeves		
acquies Christian	Dickson, Gordon	by Gordon R. Dickson	N1	
John W. Campbell, The Ballad of	Ross, Joe	by Joe Ross		
ing of the Zines	Minneapolis fandom	ing of the Jews		
Johnson's Band	Anderson, Poul	MacNamara's Band	N1,F	
Kingdon Dip. Corps Marching Song	Smith, Paula	Cattle Hymn		
kydawe!	Ecklar, Julia	by Julia Ecklar	W2	
Little Teeny Eyes	Digby, Tom	by Tom Digby	N2,F	
Lord of the Dance	various people	Simple Gifts		
Lullaby for a Weary World	Burnside-Clapp, T.J	by T.J. Burnside-Clapp	W2	
Marcon Ballroom	Passovoy, Anne	Plastic Jesus	W2	
Marsupial/Monotreme Fandom	Kunfeldt/leg/Strauss	Temperance Union Song	H,N1	
Mary O Meara	Anderson, Poul	Diary - Mad Housewife	W2	
Men of Harlech	Welsh traditional	Welsh traditional	H,N1	
Military-Service Songs	Duntemann/Strauss	Usual, M.H.N1, ConCerto, 99	Web	
Morning Has Broken, (...Repairman)	Traditional	Morning Has Broken		
otie Engineers, The	Filty Pierre	Engineers / Underbeck	Web	
razzi King of Angmar, The	Boardman, John	Bastard King, England	H,N1,F	
ever Set the Cat on Fire	Hayes, Frank	by Frank Hayes	Web,F	
Oh No, John	Garrett, Randall	Traditional		
Old Rooster, The	Passovoy, Anne	by Anne Passovoy	Web,F	
One Way to Go	Wu, Diana Gallagher	by Diane Gallagher Wu	W2	
Onward Sauron's Soldiers	Tatge/Kuh./F. etch.	Onward Xtian Soldiers	N1	
orc's Marching Song, The	Various people	Jesse James	H,N1,F	
Real Old Time Religion	Various people	Old Time Religion	H,N1,F	
ebel Pilot's Lament	Baker, Greg	Salvation Army Song		
eminder (Stardrive)	Coulson, Robert	by Juanita Coulson		
rich Fantasy Lives	Balder, Rob	by Tom Smith	Web	
aga of Lime Jello Fandom	Weyfeld, Barney	Pop Goes the Weasel	N1W1	
eventy-six Genzines	Feder, Moshe	Seventy-six Trombones		
lan	Garrett, Randall	ghost Riders/ThunderRd		
low Elevators	Comerford, Sherna	Galizing Matilda	N1W1	
Smaug the Magic Dragon	Traditional	Puff the Magic Dragon	N1	
Soldier Ask Not	Dickson, Gordon	by Gordon R. Dickson		
Sounds of Science	Ward, Michael	Sounds of Silence	N1	
Space Is Dark	Roper, Bill	by Bill Roper	W1	
Spanish Inquisition, The	Lewis, Anthony R.	MacNamara's Band	H,N1	
Sunken R'lyeh Rose for Me	Fesselmeyer/Taylor	Rock of Ages		
Teddy Bear's Picnic	Bratton, John W.	by James B. Kennedy	Web	
Temperance Union Song, The	Traditional	Traditional	N1	
This Planet's My Land	Caridon, David	This Land is My Land	H,N1	
Turan's Marching Song	Ellik/J. Stone/Pelz	This Old Man	H,N1&2F	
Vulcan Academy Cheer	Smith, Paula	Give Em the Axe	Web	
When Giants Walked	Mar, Kathy	by Kathy Mar	Web	
When Harlie Played	Osband, Robert	This Old Man	H,N1	
When I Was a Boy (Computers)	Hayes, Frank	When I Was a Boy	Web	
Where Can the Matter Be?	Simp./Coch./Carr.	What Can the Matter Be?	H,N1,F	
With His Sketch Pad Underneath..	Asprin, Bob	The Bloody Lower		
Wood	London, satirist(s)	Men of Harlech	H,N1	
Worms of the Earth	Esty, Bob	by Bob Esty	Web	
You Bash the Balrog	Gold, Lee	Galizing Matilda	W2	
Young Man Mulligan	Various people	Bragg./GreathistorBum	M.H,N1,F	