

Philadelphia Folk Festival - **Bio**

This annual event was inaugurated in 1962 by the Philadelphia Folksong Society, which at the time had 150 members. The Society had been formed four years earlier. The first four events took place at C. Colkett Wilson's estate in Paoli, Pennsylvania. The compere of the first event was local dj Gene Shay, and he has retained that role over the ensuing years. The next couple of years saw the festival presented at Upper Salford Township, Pa. including one year at Spring Mountain Ski Slope. In 1968 the festival finally found a permanent home, well till 2008 anyway when their current lease expires, at Old Pool Farm in Schwenksville, Pa. At Old Pool Farm festival goers were able to camp for the first time. Initially a two day long event of concerts and workshops, the festival moved to three days duration in 1966. Presented on the weekend after Labour Day for the year's 1962/63, since 1964 the event has taken place on the weekend before Labour Day weekend. From the outset the festival's booking policy was to merge ethnic genres of traditional music [acoustic blues, bluegrass, old-time country, world] with the burgeoning army of contemporary writers that the sixties folk and folk/rock explosions brought. In recent years that balanced policy appears to have given way to one of booking an increasing percentage of contemporary artists.

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