



PASSIM FOLK MUSIC & CULTURAL CENTER

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www.passimcenter.org

Passim Folk Music and Cultural Center is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to the cultivation and preservation of folk music. Through its diverse programming – Club Passim, the Passim School of Music, Archive Project, and *Culture for Kids* – the Passim Center reaches out to people of all ages, backgrounds, and communities. For more than 40 years in the heart of Harvard Square, the Passim Center has been a cornerstone of the arts community of New England, fostering both performers and audiences alike.

CURRENT PROGRAMMING

Club Passim The legendary nonprofit folk music venue in Harvard Square first opened in 1958 as Club 47. Having launched the careers of such stars as Joan Baez, Ritchie Havens, Taj Mahal, Suzanne Vega, and Ellis Paul, Club Passim continues to bring in the best of established and emerging acoustic and roots musicians in an intimate setting. Named "**Best Spot for Live Music**" in Cambridge by City Weekly (2004), Club Passim produces more than 400 concerts a year and several summer concert series throughout the greater Boston area.

Culture for Kids Recently nominated for a **Gold Star Award** by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, *Culture for Kids* is a free educational program targeted to low-income youth that brings children from all backgrounds together to learn about world cultures and the diversity of the music world. Through music, dance, cooking, and art, this program supplements the cutbacks in music education in public schools and is free to after-school programs and the public.

Passim School of Music One of the only schools in New England to focus explicitly on folk music, the School offers classes for all levels in guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, voice, songwriting techniques, and world music instruments. The Passim School of Music also offers workshops by nationally known musicians and music business professionals.

The Archive Project With hundreds of photos, recordings, and pieces of memorabilia, the Passim Archive is creating a permanent record of the folk music scene centered in Harvard Square from 1958 to the present.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Patronage of over 450 active Passim Center members
- Partnership with the Boston Children's Museum to create two outdoor summer concert series
- Nomination for a **Gold Star Award** from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for *Culture for Kids*
- Productions of the Roots and Children's Stages at the Newport Folk Festival for two years running
- Outdoor music series at the Prudential Center in Boston for summer 2004
- Children's stages at the WBOS EarthFest and the Central Square World's Fair

CURRENT GROWTH NEEDS

- **Space and resources** to increase the frequency of children's programs
- **Classroom space** that is child- and handicapped-accessible for the Passim School of Music
- **Storage and display space** for the Archive Project
- **Volunteers** for Club Passim and Passim Center committees

LONG-TERM GROWTH GOALS

- To set up an **endowment** to ensure the Passim Center's financial sustainability
- To acquire a **dedicated building** for the center with classroom space, offices, storage, research and display space for the archive, and a venue space with expandable seating and performance space