

Coffeehouse Goes “Virtual” For Monthly Gig on May 15

Kala Farnham will perform from her home

Larry Chase
Andover Community Hub

As the Beacon went to press, Andover Community Coffeehouse volunteers were completing arrangements to offer a public “virtual coffeehouse” as its May 15 “Third Friday” concert, beginning in your home, in front of your computer, at 7 PM.

Powered by a technology called Zoom, and using the “people skills” learned in a trial “virtual coffeehouse” held in April (see article on the right), the May 15 event can be viewed live by up to 100 “virtual attendees.” To register in advance (which is suggested), and for more information, contact TheAndoverHub@gmail.com.

Headliner for the event will be Kala Farnham, who, according to her website (KalaFarnham.com), “set out into the world with one vision: to inspire and heal through the transformative power of music.... Drawing from a classical education and a professional background in musical theater, Kala presents a hall-

mark reinvention of the folk tradition. Her passion for fairytales, ancient history, and storytelling draws audiences from around the country into the reinvented worlds of alternate times and places.”



Kala Farnham will perform for the May 15 Coffeehouse live via Zoom from her home in rural Connecticut.

She will be performing live from her rural Connecticut home.

Also appearing live will be up to a half-dozen open-mic local-area musicians and spoken-word performers. Those wishing to request a ten-minute (or two-song) time slot on a first-come first-served basis should contact The Hub at TheAndoverHub@gmail.com as

See Farnham on page 13



Kathy Lowe is shown in a computer screenshot as she plays for the first virtual Andover Community Coffeehouse event, using Zoom for performers and audience, held on April 17.

Zoom Brings Andover Coffeehouse into People’s Homes

Feedback indicates it was a success

Larry Chase
Andover Community Hub

With live audiences discouraged because of the coronavirus outbreak, Andover Community Coffeehouse volunteers are experimenting with a new technology to bring local musicians to your computer screen as they perform live from their own homes (or other locations of their choosing).

The technology being used is a video conferencing service called Zoom, and it enables most computer users to communicate with one another visually and audibly in real time. The basic version of the technology is free and easy to install.

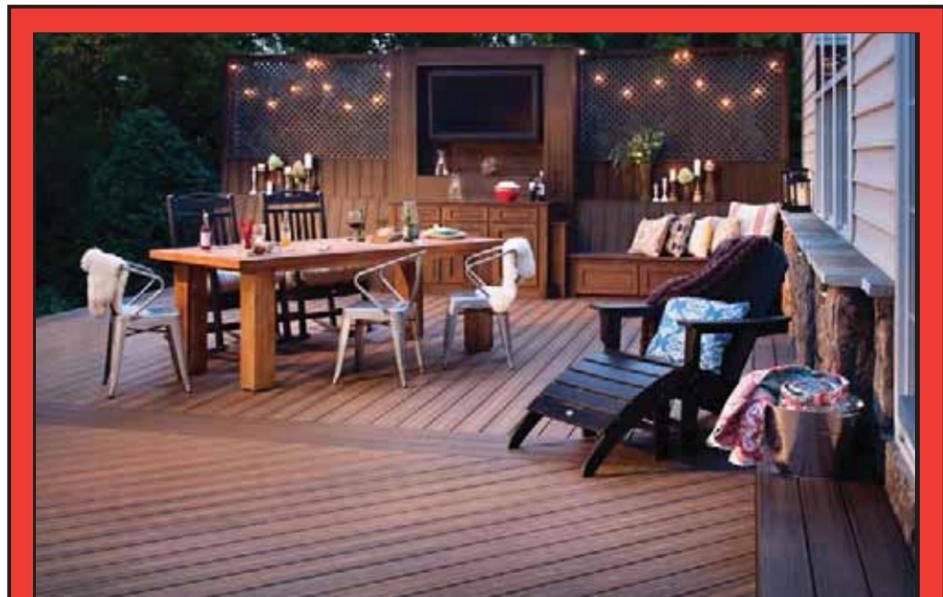
On Friday, April 17, the experiment’s featured performers were the folk duo Sferes and White (Jimmy Sferes and Jennifer White) and “open mic” participants Gary Cassidy, Kara Colvin, Paul Currier, Doug Farrell, Kathy Lowe, and Lindsey Schust. In the audience were some 50 viewers, mostly regular attend-

ees at the third-Friday Coffeehouse performances held at the Highland Lake Grange Hall. Asked to evaluate the performance after its conclusion, attendees responded enthusiastically.

“That was fun!”
“A total blast.”
“So good making music together.”
“This has been a gift in these challenging times.”
“What a fun evening.”
“Most wonderful.”
“Go for it again,” and more.

With live Community Coffeehouse concerts canceled until further notice, Coffeehouse volunteers hope to continue this new form of community outreach on a regular basis. Go to AndoverCoffeehouse.org for further information.

To learn more about the technology behind the performance, go to Zoom.us. And for information about installing and using Zoom for use by your organization, contact The Andover Community Hub at TheAndoverHub@gmail.org. The Coffeehouse operates under the umbrella of The Hub.



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