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**Online Collections** [▶ view more](#)**Fiddle Tunes of the Old Frontier**

The Henry Reed Collection

184 original recordings of Henry Reed performing fiddle tunes that evoke the history and spirit of Appalachian frontier in Virginia. Recorded between 1966 and 1967 when Henry Reed was over eighty years old.

**BOTKIN LECTURE**

May 31: Joseph Palackal: Syriac Chants and Aramaic Christianity in India

**BOTKIN LECTURE**

June 7: Andrea Graham: The Art of the Hunt

**BOTKIN LECTURE**

June 12: Barry Jean Ancelet: Folklore in Cajun and Creole Louisiana

**FILM SCREENING**

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**HOMEGROWN CONCERT**

July 3: Onnik Dinkjian – The Soul of Dikranagerd

**FOLKLIFE & FIELDWORK**

Fourth Edition 2016: available for download online and in print by contacting AFC

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**Benjamin A. Botkin Folklife Lecture Series**

Through the Benjamin A. Botkin Folklife Lecture Series, the American Folklife Center (AFC) presents distinguished experts speaking about their research and current issues and best practices in folklore, folklife, ethnomusicology, and related fields. Lectures are recorded for the AFC archive and posted on the Library's website. (See below for list of speakers and topics.) The series honors [Benjamin A. Botkin \(1901-1975\)](#), a pioneering folklorist who headed the Library's Archive of American Folksong from 1942-1945.



Folklorist Benjamin A. Botkin, 1926. Photo courtesy of the Botkin family.

**2018 Botkin Lectures**

**Syriac Chants and Aramaic Christianity in India**, Joseph J. Palackal, ethnomusicologist and founder-president of the Christian Musicological Society of India

**May 31, 2018, Noon – 1:00 pm**  
**Whittall Pavilion, Ground floor**  
**Thomas Jefferson Building**

Aramaic Christianity is an essential component of India's religious diversity. Christian faith came to the shores of South India from its source in West Asia, through the medium of the mother tongue of Jesus and the apostles. Christian Aramaic came to be known as Syriac, and due to unusual historical circumstances its tradition survived in India. In spite of the Syriac churches' decision to translate the liturgies into the vernacular in the 1960s, both the Syriac language and the music associated with it continue to be a part of the cultural legacy of India. This presentation includes a brief lecture, a video and a performance of Syriac chants. It calls for a reconfiguration of the ways in which India has been historically imagined.



Joseph J. Palackal

Joseph J. Palackal is the founder and president of the Christian Musicological Society of India. He earned a doctorate in ethnomusicology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He has contributed articles on Christian music in India to several international publications, including *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* and *The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music*. He is principal vocalist for over forty releases in five languages, including Sanskrit and Syriac. He made his debut in New York in the off-Broadway show *Nonsense*. Currently he is working on a project to revive the sound, memories, and melodies of the Indian version of the Aramaic language.

Request ADA accommodations five days in advance at 202-707-6362 or [ADA@loc.gov](mailto:ADA@loc.gov)