

Friends of Folkways Terms and Conditions (Updated August 2, 2023)

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings is the non-profit record label of the Smithsonian Institution, the US national museum. We support cultural diversity and increased understanding among peoples by documenting and preserving “people’s music,” spoken word, instruction, and sounds from around the world. We support the livelihoods of thousands of artists, composers, and communities who have created the music in our catalog by paying royalties from sales of CDs, LPs, digital downloads, streaming, and licensing.

[You can show your support of the mission of Smithsonian Folkways and the thousands of musicians who have contributed to our collection by becoming a Friend of Folkways.](#)

BECOME A FRIEND OF FOLKWAYS

Becoming a Friend of Folkways is easy! [Simply visit the Friends of Folkways donation page](#) and select your preferred monthly contribution. The minimum contribution is \$5 per month but you are encouraged to give in larger increments as provided on the product page. Once your contribution is selected, navigate to the shopping cart, and proceed to check out using your preferred payment method. You may also sign up by calling us at (202) 633-6450. All gifts made online or by phone will be charged immediately, and you will receive an email from us confirming the amount of your monthly gift and the start date. You will be automatically charged on the monthly anniversary of your sign-up date, and a record of each transaction will appear on your bank or credit card statement.

RECEIVE UNLIMITED ACCESS TO OUR AVAILABLE AUDIO COLLECTION

Every Friend of Folkways will be given full access to stream all available audio recordings in our collection (Visit our tutorial for required equipment, recommended computer/mobile/browser settings, and instructions on how to stream our recordings). To access streaming, you’ll need an internet connection and an email address to create an account on the Smithsonian Folkways Recordings website. Your monthly contribution will allow streaming access for exactly one month and will automatically renew on the day of your monthly sign-up anniversary for as long as you are a Friend of Folkways. Access to streaming will begin after you complete your transaction. If you decide to cancel your contribution before your next monthly payment is charged, you will retain streaming access until the date of your monthly sign-up anniversary in the following month.

AGE AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

While people anywhere in the world are welcome to become a Friend of Folkways, the streaming feature is only accessible to users located in the United States and its territories. By registering to become a Friend of Folkways, you affirm that you are 18 years or older to enter into these terms.

TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT

The full amount of your contribution is tax deductible! We will send you a gift acknowledgement letter by email each January that summarizes your total giving from the previous year. Under U.S. tax regulations, the value of streaming access to the Smithsonian Folkways collection is considered insubstantial, therefore the fair market value of streaming access will not be included in your gift acknowledgement letter. Friends of Folkways participants should consult their professional tax advisors for further information.

PAYMENT METHODS

Payment methods we accept include all major credit and debit cards, as well as Apple Pay, and Google Pay (we are unable to accept PayPal for Friends of Folkways transactions at this time). If you wish to contribute via phone, only major credit and debit cards can be accepted. By becoming a Friend of Folkways, you agree that the payment method provided will be charged monthly for the selected amount on the monthly sign-up anniversary date. This charge will continue every month until you cancel your monthly contributions. A valid payment method is required for auto-renewal. In the event the payment method is declined, we will make every effort to contact you using the contact information you provide during the sign-up process. Until payment is reestablished, we reserve the right to suspend access to streaming. No refunds will be given after a payment is initiated. You may sign up or cancel at any time by contacting our customer service department at smithsonianfolkways@si.edu, or (202) 633-6450.

CANCELLATIONS

If at any time you wish to discontinue your monthly contributions, please contact the Smithsonian Folkways customer service department at smithsonianfolkways@si.edu or (202) 633-6450, and we will process your cancellation request. You do not need to notify your bank or credit card company. If you cancel your contribution before your next monthly payment is charged, you will retain streaming access until the date of your sign-up anniversary in the following month.

BILLING QUESTIONS

If you have questions about a Smithsonian Folkways charge on your bank or credit card statement, contact our customer service department immediately at smithsonianfolkways@si.edu, or (202) 633-6450.

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

New Friends of Folkways will receive an email confirmation of their order. A second email will also be received that includes a welcome letter from the Smithsonian Folkways Director, details about being a Friend of Folkways, and instructions on how to access our available catalog via streaming.

Friends of Folkways will receive an e-mail notification on the monthly sign-up anniversary date that your monthly charge has been completed. It is important to note that you will not receive a notification beforehand that your account will be charged.

If you decide to cancel, you will receive an email notification that your account has been cancelled, along with a written confirmation that your account will no longer be charged.

By signing up for Friends of Folkways, you consent and opt-in to receiving occasional email communication from Smithsonian Folkways Recordings about new developments in the Friends of Folkways program, new products, and other news from Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. You may opt-out of the emails at any time by following the instructions provided on the email.

DISCLAIMERS

Becoming a Friend of Folkways does not constitute a membership of any sort. Any benefits received when participating are provided on an "as is" and "as available" basis without a warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular use, and/or non-infringement. The Smithsonian does not warrant that access to its digital platforms or certain recordings will be uninterrupted or error-free. The Smithsonian reserves

the right to cancel, amend or change the Friends of Folkways program from time to time as it deems necessary and will inform you about any changes. The Smithsonian shall not be responsible or liable for any injury or damage that may occur due to your participation in this program, including your acceptance or use of any benefit. Failure of the Smithsonian to enforce any term or condition shall not constitute a waiver of such terms. Use of these digital platforms is entirely at your own risk.

SMITHSONIAN TERMS OF USE

By becoming a Friend of Folkways and using the Smithsonian Folkways Recordings website or any other Smithsonian website, you accept and agree to comply with the above terms and the [Smithsonian Institution's Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#), which the Smithsonian may change at any time. Subject to your compliance with these Terms (including any other applicable terms and conditions), we grant to you limited, non-exclusive, revocable permission to make personal, non-commercial use of Folkways streaming, which will remain in effect unless and until terminated by you or Folkways.

QUESTIONS

For further information about the Friends of Folkways program, customer service, or technical questions about the streaming features provided to Friends of Folkways, please email us at smithsonianfolkways@si.edu or call at (202) 633-6450.