

EXPAND THAT VOCABULARY!

As has become painfully evident from some recent personal observations, the average session attendee, although doubtless rich in gifts of a musical nature, may be woefully short in the linguistic arts. The Zouki Research Labs (ZRL), ready as always (in spite of a total lack of funding) to assist their fellow musicians, herewith offers the following for possible use in session contexts. Pay close attention as there just MAY be a test on this material later.

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PLUDD, n. [from Navaho *pa-pa-ló-da*, "the female bison has just given birth"]

The sound made by a limp bodhrán, e.g. "What did you think of Jennifer's pludd at the session tonight?" "Yuck!"

FLUMKIN, n. [from Medieval Provençal *flaumequine*, "one who badly needs a life"]

Derogatory term for a person who worries a lot about fipple fungus and other diseases of the tin whistle.

ESVORTICATE, v. [cf. Slovenian *svórdék*, "bullshit artist"]

To manifest a pretense towards all forms of musical knowledge. [Note: applies to absolutely NO ONE personally known to the ZRL.]

QUEFFLY, adj. [standard US English: KWEF-lee; Kansas dialect IMZH-gor-fel; etymology uncertain but may be < Proto-Uzbek **kwef'li*, "stumbling yak"]

Characterized by an uncertainty in speed. "I thought Bob's version of that last jig was a little queffly."

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WOTTFELK, n. [from Low Udmurt *wott*, "panic", and *felk*, "fast tune in 4/4 time"]

The state of serious hesitation experienced by a young traditional musician on the cusp of abandoning slip jigs and taking up reels. May border on psychosis. "The way Timmy played 'The Butterfly' last night - sounds like a bad case of wottfelk to me." "Yeah - I never saw blood come out of anyone's ears like that before. Gross."

SPLEESH, n. [from Walloon *spliys'*, "dribble", "drool", "mother-in-law"]

The liquid that dribbles menacingly out of the end of flutes and whistles. Preliminary DNA analysis by the far-famed Biology and Culinary Science division of the ZRL has indicated that spleesh is a combination of human saliva, metal tarnish, and wolverine pee; the research continues (or will continue after the current lab director leaves to take a few refresher biology courses at the community college).

SHOGG, n. [cf. Babylonian **shaukk*, "earwax of Marduk"]

The blackish gunk that accumulates on the strings and frets of instruments possessing same. It has been speculated (by Zouki Research Lab employees anxious to make names for themselves) that the so-called "dark matter" of the universe is actually comprised of shogg, a few incautious neutrinos, and the odd mayonnaise molecule. As per the usual ZRL procedure, the research continues, but we don't expect to spend a lot of time on it.

BLARFULATE, v. (from the Middle Latin *blarfulus*, "little blarf" [whatever a "blarf" is - the research etc etc])

To attempt to play a poorly-known tune at an unsustainable speed.

The following pseudo-Catholic mini-drama may suffice for an example:

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"Bless me, Father, for I have sinned."

"Go ahead, my son. God's forgiveness awaits."

"I blarfulated three times last night at the pub..."

"Were there others present, my son?"

"Yes, Father..."

"Of the opposite sex?"

"Yes, Father."

"And did you take pleasure in your act, my son?"

"Hell, no. Father. I made a complete idiot of myself and reduced several kindly people to tears."

"Very good, my son. A firm purpose of amendment is evident. And now for your penance say..."

SNOAT, n. masc. / **SNEET**, n. fem. [from the Lappish *'sn'uh'ut*, "caribou foreskin"]

The tiny little cap that some bodhran players place on the tips of their clappers. Historically considered as evidence of a sensibility no longer acceptable in a crass society. (By the way, the correct form of the noun is determined by the gender of the goat, not the musician. Go figure!)

PLANXTY, n. [from *Cold Blow and a Rainy Night*, 1976]

The little eensy piece of skin next to your fingernail that hurts like mad when you pull at it.

Admit it - you feel smarter already! Now about that test . . .

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