

CRITIC'S TIP

SUMMER MUSIC: GILMORE AND MORE

Tonight at 9:30, Texas honky-tonk master Jimmie Dale Gilmore brings his trio to Johnny D's in Davis Square with straight-ahead, kick-it-out local country heroes The Merles. Sunday at 8:30, that old Texas tumbleweed Townes Van Zandt, among country-folk's most respected songwriters, is there, and Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., Johnny D's welcomes soft, delicate guitarist Pierre Bensusan. Old Vienna, 22 South St. in Westboro, offers a blockbuster weekend with country blues giants John Hammond and Paul Geremia tomorrow, 7 and 10 p.m., and seminal British folk group Pentangle Saturday, also 7 and 10 p.m. The First Watch City Folk Festival fills Gore Place, 52 Gore St. in Waltham, Sunday from noon-6 p.m. Featured are Michael Cooney, Tony Bird, Boogaloo Swamis, Southern Rail, Cheryl Wheeler and children's activities with streetsinger-puppeteer Stephen Baird. Patty Larkin appears at the Museum of Fine Arts Courtyard tonight at 7:30. On Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., Passim hosts Bill Morrissey with John Jennings and old Silly Wizard, current Rain Dog Johnny Cunningham.

— SCOTT ALARIK