
Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

Volume 33, No. 9 / September 2007

Folk on State's final Saturday: Sept. 1

Saturday, September 1 brings our final Saturday for Folk on State. After month of planning and organizing and after 13 Saturdays of great music with remarkable performers and volunteers we will be presenting our final show this season with two equally great singer-songwriters.

We will be welcoming back to our stage again, Justin Roth. Justin currently lives in Minnesota, but if not playing some where else in the country is always willing to make a trip to Madison when we ask. Justin's music takes audiences on a journey, covering ground from intricate solo guitar instrumentals to gut-busting humor songs, to heartfelt ballads. Justin has also opened for some of the most wellknown singer/songwriters of today including John Gorka, David Wilcox, Martin Sexton, and Shawn Colvin. "One of the best singer/songwriter/guitarists I've heard in ages...rivals a young Willy Porter...His vocal delivery is smooth. His guitar playing is extraordinary."—*The Journal Times*, Racine, WI. For more info, go to justin@justinroth.com.

Making his debut appearance on our stage this year will be John Flynn. John made his first appearances in Madison a few years back as part of the Phil Ochs song night. It was from this



Justin Roth



John Flynn

appearance that one our members remembered how strong his performance was and requested we bring him back for Folk on State. John is currently making his traveling journey in support of his newest release, *Two Wolves* (2006), a MettaFour Record produced by Ben Wisch. Here are songs of faith, songs of hope, and songs that measure our tolerance for hypocrisy and our capacity for savoring the pleasures of love. With subtle metaphor and the plain poetry of common speech, with

simple incantation and snapshot imagery, these songs convey essential messages, wrapped like gifts in the colors of music. *Two Wolves* is receiving excellent reviews. It was on several 2006 individual DJ top 10 lists and was number 30 overall for 2006 on the Folk DJ List.

So, come on down and lets show these guys what a great audience Madison has, and let them experience why performers want to come back over and over to play here.

Future Mad Folk events

October 20—Karen Savoca

November 10—Pete Morton

w/Lou & Peter Berryman

November 17—Mustard's Retreat

December 7—Bittersweet (Xmas concert)

March 1—Bill Staines

April 5—Nathan Rogers

April 11—Steve Gillette & Cindy Mangsen

w/ Lou & Peter Berryman

May 3—David Francey

Madison hosts World Music Festival

The Wisconsin Union Theater, in collaboration with other campus departments and community groups, takes on Madison's World Music Festival September 13–15.

In its fourth year the festival again brings extraordinary artists from all over the world for free performances on the Terrace, in the Wisconsin Union Theater, at the Willy St. Fair, and possibly in other venues. This year, we present a Rom (Gypsy) showcase with three bands (NY Gypsy All-Stars,

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World Music Fest

(continued from page 1)

Romano Drom and Dhoad Gypsies) presenting three different styles of Romani music. The showcase will also

include workshops by the artists and a lecture by professor Margaret Beissingner.

The roster of international per-

formers includes Ilgi [Latvia], New York Gypsy All-Stars, Huong Thanh & Nguyen Le Quartet [Vietnam], Puerto Plata [Dominican Republic], Romano Drom [Hungary], Chirgilchin [Tuva], Haale [Iran], Estrella Acosta [Cuba, Netherlands], Dhoad Gypsies [Rajasthan], Louis Mhlanga [Zimbabwe], Robertto Rodriguez and Maurice El Medioni Trio [Cuba, Algeria], The Gerard Edery Trio [Sephardic Jewish].



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Flooding cancels Fox Valley Folk Fest

With six feet of water in Geneva, Illinois' Island Park due to record rain-falls, organizers have decided to cancel the 31st Fox Valley Folk Music, Dance, and Storytelling Festival. It would have been held Labor Day weekend, September 2-3.

"We have desperately tried to relocate, but all viable options are flooded, unavailable at short notice, or don't have parking," a message on the festival web site noted.

So, the decision was made August 24 to pull the plug on the festival for this year.

Madison Folk Music Society

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Newsletter Published Monthly

Membership Form: **Madison Folk Music Society**
 c/o Tracy Comer, P.O. Box 930446, Verona, WI 53593-0446
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CD REVIEWS

Kydd & Byrd, *Almost Live*

Dale Kidd and Larry Bird met in high school in Richland Center and were originally inspired to form a band because of their common love of Peter, Paul, and Mary. They have been through a few different incarnations and have now been playing as Kydd & Byrd for 14 years. They are called the "house band" at Fyfe's Corner Bistro where they play once a month and also do 80–100 shows a year in Wisconsin Dells, Lake Geneva, and the Chicago area.

Their most recent CD, *Almost Live*, is a well-matched assortment of covers and original songs. It doesn't include any Peter, Paul, and Mary but their version of James Taylor's "Wandering" is a tribute to the tight harmonies and vocal styling of that genre of folk music.

The CD also has several songs that will have classic rock aficionados grinning and turning up the volume: Dylan's "It Ain't Me, Babe," CCR's "Lodi" and "Have You Ever Seen the Rain?" plus Jonathan Edwards' "Sunshine."

Their original songs, "She's Got Soul" and "Rideaway," have a Calypso-inspired beat, while "Still Ann," "Rear View Mirror," and "Nothing That's Begun" will appeal to fans of The Eagles and (for those of us old enough to remember them) America.

They round out the CD with Radney Foster's "God's Speed/Sweet Dreams," a lovely paean to the joys of fatherhood.

Kydd & Byrd's new web site www.kyddandbyrd.com is under construction and should be up and running soon. You'll be able to see them in action at Fyfe's on Fri, Oct. 19; be sure to mark your calendars!

Eliza Gilkyson, *Your Town Tonight*

While listening to Eliza Gilkyson's new live CD, *Your Town Tonight*, I couldn't determine which had more impact, her lyrics or her voice. Her lyrics are enthralling, subtle, but yet sometimes almost overwhelming in their intensity. Her voice is nothing less than a true force of nature; once you've heard it, you won't forget it.

The songs cover quite an array of subject matter. The opening track, "Beauty Way," is about being a performer. This is a topic she has a unique

perspective on; she is the daughter of songwriter Terry Gilkyson and has been performing since she was a child. One of her father's best-known songs, "Green Fields," is on the CD. In the intro, she states that this would be a perfect song for Planet Earth to sing to her human inhabitants and her comments give the familiar lyrics a much deeper and more powerful meaning.

In "Jedidiah 1777" she sings letters from a soldier during the American Revolution to his family. It is not an anti-war song per se but it underscores the fact that combat has separated people from their loved ones literally since this country began. "Requiem" was inspired by the tsunami that devastated Southeast Asia in 2004 and is a plea for grace from a higher power.

If you are not familiar with Eliza Gilkyson's work, this CD is an ideal way to become acquainted with her artistic brilliance. If you are already a fan, this CD will become an instant favorite. At press time, it wasn't available at www.elizagilkyson.com but can be ordered from Red House Records at www.redhouserecords.com or by calling (800) 695-4687.—*Judy Robinson*

Baumann's Million Closets Project

Collecting instruments for the Gulf Coast

Restoring music to hurricane-ravaged areas of the Gulf Coast has been an ongoing project for Madison musician Rich Baumann. He just completed his second trip to Louisiana and Mississippi with instruments donated by Wisconsin and Illinois residents. The instruments go to schools and individuals who lost their instruments in Hurricane Katrina.

In the June trip, one very special cello went to New Orleans. Korinthia Klein, violin maker and violist, donated an instrument valued at \$8,000 that was hand delivered to student Jeffrey Wilson through the Steve Spring Foundation of New Orleans.

Jeffrey Wilson is a boy who had natural talent, and his music teacher, Jeanne Jaubert, saw that talent. Unfortunately, he came from a family who couldn't afford to buy him a cello. His teacher believed so strongly in his ability that she purchased a cello for him out of her own pocket. That young boy practiced that cello diligently as he

grew up. His hard work landed him a choice of scholarships to study music at the college level.

On public radio last year, Korinthia heard about the program matching donated instruments with Katrina victims. "It occurred to me that a decent cello would be particularly hard for someone to replace in that kind of circumstance and I wanted to help. I feel honored to be able to provide someone an instrument I've made that will truly impact his life and his career," Klein said.

Baumann started the Million Closets Project to collect and deliver musical instruments to Gulf Coast schools and individuals who lost instruments in Hurricane Katrina. The program is affiliated with the Steve Spring Foundation.

If you have an unused musical instrument in your closet and would like to donate it, contact Baumann at www.richbaumann.com or phone 608-241-2615. The value of your do-

nation is tax deductible.

On the last trip Baumann carried two cellos, five guitars, three trumpets, a trombone, a French horn, a flute, clarinets, a banjo, and an autoharp in a Prius.

"I have a couple violins and a hammered dulcimer that will have to wait for the next trip because I thought it would be prudent to be able to see out of my car," he observed.

Here is Baumann's contact info: Phone 608-241-2615, cell 608-698-3473, web site www.richbaumann.com or www.millionclosets.org.

Newsletter editor needed

Mad Folk will have need of a newsletter editor beginning with this November's edition. Longtime *Mad Folk News* Editor Perry Baird has taken on some monthly obligations that conflict with the newsletter deadlines.

Anyone interested in serving as editor should contact Darlene Buhler.