

Mad Folk News

Kick Off 2010 with Madfolk and David Francey

♪ Mad Folk is absolutely thrilled to be bringing back to town David Francey, an unbelievably gifted songwriter and captivating singer whom many are calling the Woody Guthrie of Canada.

The Times Colonist of Victoria BC says that David Francey is “Hands-down the best songwriter working in Canada today.” Dave Humphreys of Chicago’s famed Two Way Street Coffee House says that Francey’s performance there was “One of the best shows in our 32 year history!” Canada’s revered songwriter James Keelaghan says “David Francey is the best Canadian folk writer that I have heard in 20 years.” The astonished and awed quotes about Francey keep rolling in, and for very good reason.

Born in Scotland in 1954, David moved with his family to Canada when he was twelve. He worked at many occupations and though he wrote songs all along, he did not become a full time musician until 1999, at which time his amazing first CD, Torn Screen Door, boosted him immediately into international acclaim. He has released an incredible eight CDs since then, and has won, among many other accolades, three JUNO awards (Canada’s highest music award) over a period of five years.

As a writer and as a performer he is strong but humble, with a charismatic and friendly ambiance. His unadorned and straightforward delivery make the haunting poetry of his songs totally accessible and all the more striking. Browse his website (www.david-francey.com); watch him on YouTube; have a look at some of his online lyrics. You will NOT want to miss this very special show at the Brink Lounge, on Saturday, January 22, at 8:00. \$14 in advance and \$16 day of show.

Michael Bryant at Cambridge Food Pantry Benefit Concert



On Saturday December 4th the Cambridge Historic Old School Museum <http://www.cambridgehistoricmuseum.org/> in partnership with the Oscar Hanson House Bed and Breakfast <http://www.ohhanson.com/> will present a concert of acoustic music in benefit for the Cambridge Food Pantry. Music will be provided by Michael Bryant (www.michaelbryantmusic.com), a singer songwriter from Madison. A gifted song writer and past winner of the American International song contest as well as multiple Addy awards for music for radio and television, Michael will present an evening of his original music and celebrate the release of his new CD, *Finest Feather*.

The concert will start at 5PM and will take place in the main hall of the Cambridge Historic Old School Museum, 213 South Street Cambridge WI. 53523. Tickets will be \$5 at the door and all proceeds from concert tickets and CD sales will go to benefit the Cambridge Food Pantry.

MIREPOIX AND SMOKE

BEN WEAVER ~ 2010 BLOODSHOT RECORDS



Review by Kiki Schueler

"It's always been about the words; I'm not quite sure when the music became a part of it," Ben Weaver admitted after reading a handful of his poems during his first show at the House of Righteous Music. On *Mirepoix and Smoke*, his second Bloodshot release and seventh overall, the songs are essentially poems and the music an afterthought. And spare music it is. He claims he "wanted them (the songs) to feel like unbroken horses. That's how I left them. Wild." But the end result is gentler than that, a whisper instead of a stampede. Weaver has done away with a traditional band lineup in favor of playing nearly all the instruments himself. He's credited with banjo, guitar, piano, bass and drums, but only the first three are obvious, the others insignificant. The banjo is his best tool; its jangle powers the majority of the record's nine songs, from the gentle "City Girl" to the haunted "While I'm Gone." The random images of "The Rooster's Wife" come over the simplest, yet still powerful, of guitar lines. The guitar also provides the walking melody of the seemingly autobiographical "Split Ends." As evidence—"behind a six burner stove in a dirty

white coat smelling of mirepoix and smoke" and "wandering through another town between sound check and the show." Erica Froman's straightforward backing vocals are yet another example of simple equaling strength.

The fascinating thing about Weaver's songs is his refusal to make lines rhyme, even as his hypnotic voice and poet's sense keep you from realizing it. There are two near rhymes and three non-rhymes for every true one, and those just seem incidental, as if that word was his only choice. That may explain why these songs are so catchy despite their quiet nature. The banjo-driven "Maiden Cliff" is the best example. Its "Hey little bird, hey little dog, don't tell anyone about me" chorus sticks in your head long after the record's too-short thirty minutes. "Drag the Hills" provides the most resounding and obvious message, "I'd rather have scars from the life I've lived, than have none from the one that I missed." Repeated several times after each verse, by the end of the song it's become a mantra, and one worth taking to heart. The record's best line, courtesy of "While I'm Gone," only comes once, but it is no less poignant, "You know how it is; you lose your head your heart comes shooting out through your neck." Not only does the very graphic image stick with you, but the literal and figurative meanings are endlessly intriguing.

The title stems from his time spent working in the kitchen of a Minneapolis restaurant. Despite the fact that Weaver credits his second job with inspiring these songs and breaking a brief writer's block, the record is surprisingly devoid of culinary imagery. Instead, the predominant theme seems to be winter. "While I'm gone, snow will fall" opens "While I'm Gone," while "East Jefferson" perfectly captures those first real days when fall

turns, "Cold wind blew through the swings in the park, by dinner time it was already dark, the rain had turned to snow, everything whiter than a hundred ghosts." "City Girl" begins, "You were never a city girl, making your way through the snow," and later the simile "standing there in your grandmother's coat like a mitten lost in the snow" paints the isolation of the title character. The words snow, ice, cold, winter and wind jump out of nearly every song (if the record had the lyrics, I'd be tempted to count). Instead of leaving you shivering, the songs feel cozy, like a warm blanket or a roaring fire. Which makes its October release perfect timing. This isn't one that you blast from open car windows—no, it's a dark-too-early, pull-your-scarf-tight record.

MadFolk Concert Tickets

When you see this symbol —♪— you'll know that you're reading about a Mad Folk sponsored event. Advance tickets for Mad Folk shows are available online at www.madfolk.org and at these outlets:

- Borders Books West, 3416 University Ave.
- Orange Tree Imports, 1721 Monroe Street
- Spruce Tree Music, 851 East Johnson

Purchase tickets ONLINE for Mad Folk concerts via Brown Paper Tickets:

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/10879>

You can also purchase advance tickets by mail. Send a stamped self-addressed envelope with your check payable to Mad Folk, PO Box 665, Madison, WI 53701. If all else fails, call 608-846-9214 for information.

Red Tail Ring Live at the Chandelier Shack

Friday, December 3rd

Tickets: \$10 suggested donation

*Please email to reserve a seat, get directions or find out more information

Hailing from the directional extremes of Michigan's two peninsulas (lower and upper), Michael Beauchamp and Laurel Premo come together to form Red Tail Ring, a duo with roots firmly planted in Appalachian old-time and folk music, and branches reaching out to forge new arrangements complete with haunting harmonies and an expansive dynamic range. Beauchamp, a native of Kalamazoo, MI, first cut his folk teeth writing, playing, and recording in The Dumb and Ugly Club and The Ambitious Brothers while attending the University of Michigan. Beauchamp writes songs that hearken back to old time, bluegrass, and the 60s folk revival. Laurel Premo plays a variety of instruments, including claw hammer banjo, guitar, violin, cittern and voice, with an emphasis on rhythm and a connection to traditional folk dance. Both artists have released unique solo albums, and are now touring in support of their collaborative album, August Roads.

Red Tail Ring will be appearing live at one of Madison's newest, and most unique venues: The Chandelier Shack, Spaight Street's premier house concert venue.

Come by at 7:00 for a home-style potluck dinner, and bring a dish to pass. The music will begin around 8:00 and keep going until the landlord makes us stop!

Curious about house concerts? Thinking of hosting one?

See www.madfolk.org/EventsHC.htm for info including some great links to "how-to" articles and resources!

MadFolkNews is published monthly by the Madison Folk Music Society, a non-profit, volunteer-led society dedicated to fostering folk music in the Madison area. Contact us at madfolk@charter.net. Learn about concerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at www.madfolk.org.

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LOU & PETER BERRYMAN'S ANNUAL EARLY NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW AND FUNDRAISER FOR THE GOODMAN COMMUNITY CENTER

149 Waubesa St.

8pm till 10:30pm, Fri., Dec 31

Tickets \$16 adv., \$20 day of show

Available at the Community Center, Orange Tree Imports, B-side Records,
or online at

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/138540 (\$1.99 surcharge)

Questions: 257-7750 or 241-1574



This ad paid for out of Peter's fedora fund.

One of Canada's best-loved troubadours. - *Greg Quill, Toronto Star*



**Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

David Francey

Saturday, January 22, 2011

8:00 pm

The Brink Lounge

701 E. Washington, Suite 105

Tickets \$14 advance, \$16 day of show

Available at: www.madfolk.org, Borders Bookshop West,
Spruce Tree Music, Orange Tree Imports

Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.

WORT 89.9 FM

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

December 2010

Mad Folk Events



- David Francey
Sat, 1/22 -- 8:00pm at the Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington
- Claudia Schmidt w/ Carrie Elkin
Sat, 3/12 -- 8:00pm at the Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington

Cambridge Food Pantry Benefit Concert Feat Michael Bryant
• Sat 12/04 -- Feat Michael Bryant -- 5:00pm -- \$5

The concert will start at 5PM and will take place in the main hall of the Cambridge Historic Old School Museum, 213 South Street Cambridge WI. 53523. Tickets will be \$5 at the door and all proceeds from concert tickets and CD sales will go to benefit the Cambridge Food Pantry.

Venues



701 E. Washington
thebrinklounge.com
608-661-8599

The Brink Lounge

- Wed, 12/01 -- Aaron Williams and the Hoo Doo -- 8:00pm
- Fri, 12/03 -- Charles Walker Band -- 9:00pm

Folklore Village
3210 Cty Hwy BB
Dodgeville, WI
folklorevillage.org
608-924-4000

Folklore Village

- Sat, 12/04 -- Old Time Barn Dance -- 6:30pm -- potluck -- \$6 Adults -- \$4 Seniors & Teens -- \$3 Kids
- Tue, 12/07 -- First Tuesday Open Mic & Jam Session -- 7:00pm -- Donations Appreciated
- Sat, 12/11 -- Scandanavian Activities for kids & Families -- 3pm -- \$4/person
- Sat, 12/11 -- St. Lucia Evenings Program -- 6:30pm -- potluck -- \$6 Adults -- \$4 Seniors & Teens -- \$3 Kids
- Fri, 12/17 -- Holiday Concert and Tree Lighting, Feat. The Monroe Swiss Singers -- 7pm -- \$6 Adults -- \$4 Seniors & Teens -- \$3 Kids
- Sat, 12/18 -- German Tree Lighting & Social -- 6:30pm -- potluck -- \$6 Adults -- \$4 Seniors & Teens -- \$3 Kids
- Dec 28 - Jan 1 -- 63rd Festival of Christmas & Midwinter Traditions -- Reservations Required. Full and Part Time Options.

On the Air



Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/Tom Martin-Erickson
Sun 5:00-8:00pm

Concerts recorded in Wisconsin, music and dance of people the world over. For playlists, calendars, station listings, and more, visit www.wpr.org/simplyfolk.



WORT 89.9 FM community radio
Sun -- 3:00-5:00pm

- On the Horizon (world music) w/Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak & Dan Talmo
Weekdays 9:00am-noon
- Sun -- World Book of Records (folk from the world over) w/Tracy Doreen
- Tue -- Pastures of Plenty (traditional American folk) w/John Fabke
- Wed -- Back to the County (country music on a theme) w/Bill Malone
- Thur -- Diaspora (folk and international) w/Terry O'
- Fri -- Mud Acres (bluegrass and acoustic) w/Chris Powers

Gigs

Jim Schwall

- CD Release Party -- Jim Schwall's "Short Stories" on Waterbug Records Sunday, December 5, 6:30 -- 9:30
Harmony Bar & Grill, 2201 Atwood Avenue
\$5.00 cover, \$5.00 discount on CD purchase
Jim will be joined by most of the musicians who appear on the CD -- The Stellanovas, The Bar-time Lovers with Chris Courville on drums, and Cajun Strangers' fiddle player Brian O'Donnell.
The phone number at the Harmony is 249-4333.
For further information, or a review copy, contact Jim at 772-1881 or jschwall@sbcglobal.net
- WeD, 12/8, Alchemy, 8:30 PM -- Song-Of-The-Year Song Showdown.
- Mon, 12/13, Crystal Corner, 9:30 PM -- SoDangYang.
- Tue, 12/21, Talula, 6:30 PM -- Jim solo.
- Mon, 12/27, Crystal Corner, 9:30 PM -- Jim solo.

Red Tail Ring

- Fri, 12/3 -- The Chandelier Shack -- \$10 suggested donation
Red Tail Ring will be appearing live at one of Madison's newest, and most unique venues: The Chandelier Shack, Spaight Street's premier house concert venue.
Come by at 7:00 for a home-style potluck dinner, and bring a dish to pass. The music will begin around 8:00 and keep going until the landlord makes us stop!

Lou & Peter Berryman's Annual Early New Year's Eve Show and Fundraiser for the Goodman Community Center

- Fri, 12/31 -- 8pm til 10:30pm at 149 Waubesa St.
Tickets \$16 adv., \$20 day of show. Available at the Community Center, Orange Tree Imports, B-side REcords, or online at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/138540\(\\$1.99 surcharge\)](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/138540($1.99 surcharge))
Questions: 257-7750 or 241-1574

Madison Dance

African/African-American Dance classes with live drumming -- Sun, 7:00-9:00pm -- Metro Dance, 3009 University Ave. -- 255-3677 / 251-4311

English Country Dance taught -- 1st and 3rd Mon, 7:30-9:30pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 238-9951 or 238-9951

Cajun Dance taught -- Sun 5/09 -- instruction at 6:15pm, dance 7:00-10:00pm -- Harmony Bar & Grill, 2201 Atwood Ave -- 249-4333

International Dancing -- Wed and Sun; classes 7:30-8:30pm, request dancing 8:30-11:00pm -- The Crossing, 1127 University Ave. -- 241-3655

Irish Dancing -- Monthly Ceili and set dance events are posted at celticmadison.org/dance

Italian Dancing -- Tue, 7:00-9:00pm, no experience or partner necessary -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 838-9403 (Philana)

Madison Contra Dance Cooperative -- Tue; 7:30 jam band practice, intermediate level dancing 7:45-9:40pm -- \$5 for non-members -- Gates of Heaven, 302 E. Gorham -- 238-3394 (Steve)

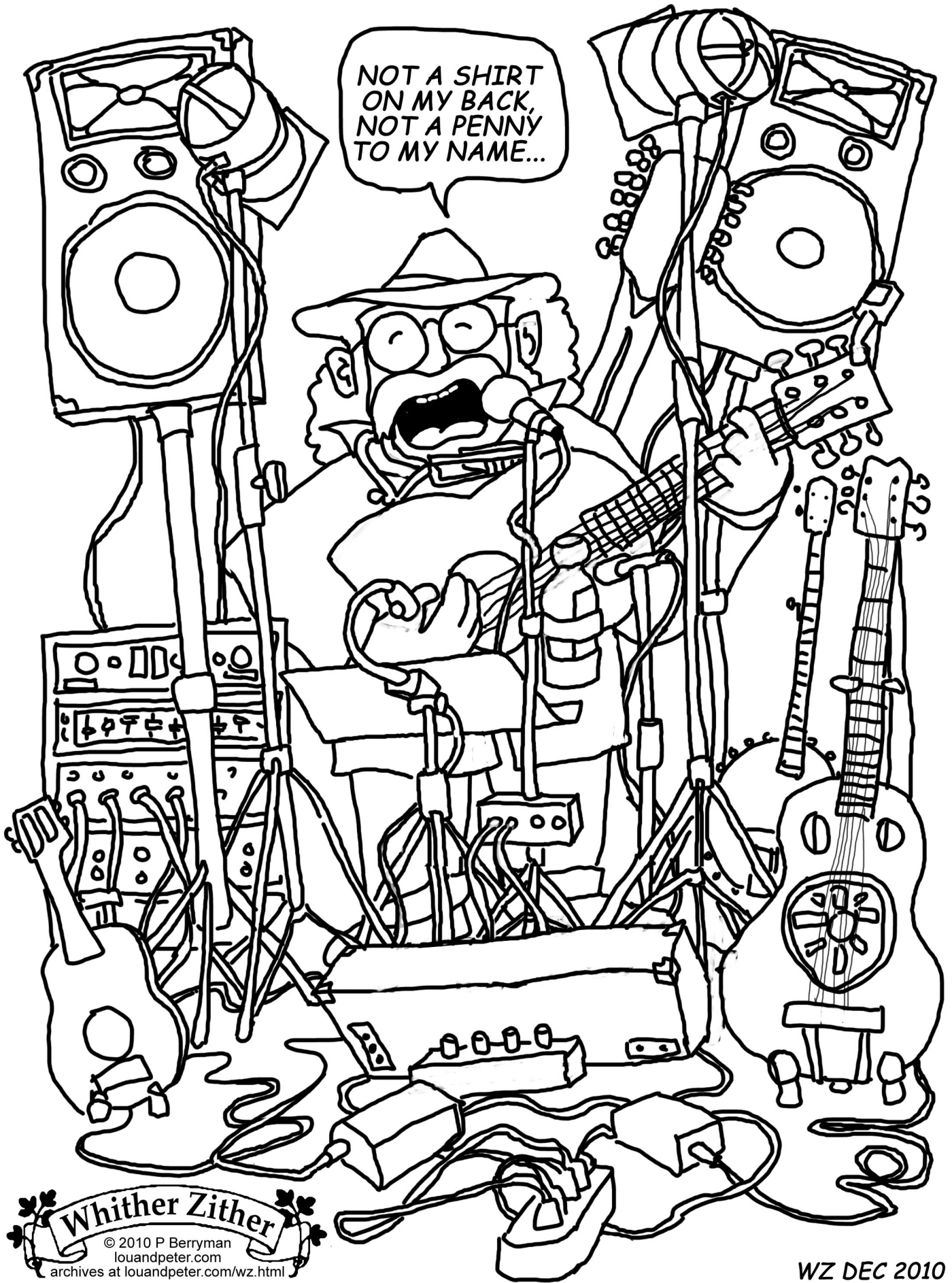
Morris Dancing -- Wed, 7:00pm -- call for location -- 238-9951

Ecstatic Dance -- Sat, 8:00pm -- The Center for Conscious Living -- 843-7740

Scottish Country Dancing -- Sun, 7:00pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 835-0914

Misc

Madison Ukulele Club -- Singalongs 1st and 3rd Weds 7:00-9:00pm -- call for location -- 246-8205 (Andrew)



Is this your last copy of Mad Folk News?

There are two ways to renew your tax-deductible membership

Way #1 – online

Visit www.madfolk.org and click on "Join MFMS"

Way #2 – unplugged

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Choose membership category: Senior \$8 _____

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Friend \$25 _____

Contributing \$50 _____

Life \$500 _____

Scholarship fund donation (optional) _____

Total \$ _____

Send your check, payable to MFMS to: Mad Folk c/o Tracy Corner, P.O. Box 930446, Verona, WI 53593-0446

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Family \$15 _____

Friend \$25 _____

Contributing \$50 _____

Life \$500 _____

Scholarship fund donation (optional) _____

Total \$ _____

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