

Mad Folk News

David Francey coming Feb 18th At the Brink lounge



Join us for what is sure to be a magical evening of songs and stories as we welcome back David Francey to The Brink!

David's show last year was one of our most talked about performances. David left construction work to record *Torn Screen Door* in 1999, and is now recognized as one of today's finest singer-songwriters.

"Scottish born, Francey is a two-time Juno Award winner whose straightforward songs tell honest stories of real people and real places. Poetic perception and a keen eye for the heart of the matter are trademarks of the man and his music. His songs and stories are a direct connection for audiences seeking depth and meaning in the day-to-day" --Shelter Valley Folk Festival

Touring with David is American ballad maker and multi-instrumentalist Craig Werth.

Francey has released 8 CDs to date. His most recent is "Seaway" - a collaboration with Mike Ford of Moxy Fruvous fame with songs based on their voyage

on the M.V. *Algoville*. Francey's CD, *Right of Passage*, earned him his third JUNO (Canada's top music award) in less than 5 years. Francey also had the honour of receiving the prestigious SOCAN Folk Music Award.

David Francey was born in 1954 in Ayrshire, Scotland, where as a paper boy he got his first taste of the working life. He learned to read at an early

age, and by age eleven was devouring the newspapers he delivered. This helped establish his interest in politics and world events while developing the social conscience that forms the backdrop of his songs.

He was twelve when his family immigrated to Toronto. He says he can trace his love of the land, the history, and the people of his adopted country to weekend family drives exploring southern Ontario. Music played a large part in these family outings. They sang traditional Scottish tunes as they drove through the Canadian countryside. Dad and sister Muriel sang melody, while mother and David sang harmonies.

His attachment to Canada grew with travel. He hitched across the country three times, then thumbed his way to the Yukon. This attachment surfaces in his songs of rail lines, farms, and the St. Lawrence Seaway. He grew to understand the people while working in Toronto train yards, the Yukon bush, and as a carpenter in the Eastern Townships. These experiences colour his first CD, *Torn Screen Door*, with songs like *Hard Steel Mill*, *Gypsy Boys*, and *Working Poor* and his second, *Far End of Summer*, with *Highway*, *Flowers of Saskatchewan* and *February Morning*

Drive.

In concert David is a singer and a sto-

"David Francey is the best Canadian folk writer that I have heard in 20 years. I think that he is going to be a voice in this country for a long time and that his songs will be sung by my great, great, great grandchildren."

--James Keelaghan, Winnipeg, Manitoba

ryteller. His wry humour and astute observations combined with his openhearted singing style have earned him a loyal following. David's songs have been performed by artists worldwide. Del McCoury, James Keelaghan, Raylene Rankin and Harvey Reid, among others, have each recorded Francey tunes. Four choirs, Toronto's Common Thread, Kingston's Open Voices, Vancouver's Solidarity Notes and the Seattle Labor Chorus have performed works by David and his songs are being taught to school children in classrooms across Canada.

"he's the closest thing this country has to Woody Guthrie"

--The George Strait, Vancouver

Due to the Weather Our February show with Tim Grimm was cancelled.

We hope to have Tim back in the future. If you are currently a ticket holder for this show and paid cash, please send your tickets to:

Darlene Buhler
813 Woods Glen Ct
DeForest, WI 53532

and a refund will be sent to you.

If you paid by check, your check will be cancelled.

Brother Sun returns to Madison!



©2010 Neale Eckstein

The powerful new harmony trio Brother Sun, comprised of Joe Jencks, Greg Greenway, and Pat Wictor, will be performing in Madison on Sunday, February 12 at 7pm, at the Center for Conscious Living.

Joe, Greg and Pat have made their mark as veteran touring singer-songwriters, but Brother Sun is no songwriter's round. The trio's harmonies, as much as their lyrics, tell what they are about: warm as a campfire, stirring as a gospel church, rousing as a call to arms. Fusing folk, Americana, blues, pop, jazz, rock, and a cappella singing, Brother Sun is an explosion of musical diversity and harmony, in the finest of male singing traditions.

The response has been tremendous. Kerrville and Falcon Ridge Folk Festivals put them on their main stages this past summer, to standing ovations. The trio performed widely throughout the United States in 2011, and their eponymous debut recording "Brother Sun," rose to the top of of the Folk DJ chart. Brother Sun made the "Best of 2011" list for over a dozen radio stations in the US, including WUMB- Boston, WFUV - NYC, and WFMT - The Midnight Special - Chicago. The trio has already booked nearly 100 dates for 2012 and beyond, and is in the process of working on their next recording.

Rich Warren, host of "The Midnight Special" and "Folkstage" on Chicago's WFMT said, "What happens when you unite three of the best male singers in the folk realm who already revel in harmony singing? Brother Sun. While numerous delightful female trios harmonize, few men bond that way these days (unlike the days of the folk revival when they were the norm). Added to great voices, energy and sincerity are worthy compositions in three distinct styles that bring to mind a modern day gospel."

From three major points on the map - New York, Boston, and Chicago - Joe, Greg and Pat have truly blended themselves into Brother Sun; a unique celebration of the amazing power of singing together. As they will tell you, the music of Brother Sun is not resident in any one of them - but rather it exists in the spaces between them. Audiences feel this intimacy immediately, as three rich voices blend on a well-crafted foundation of guitar, slide guitar, bouzouki, and piano.

The Center for Conscious Living is located at 849 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 118, Madison, WI 53703.
More information at www.mylovingspirit.com

Admission at the door is \$20, and advance tickets are \$16.
Purchase tickets <http://shop.mylovingspirit.com/>
or call 608-843-7740.



Review by Kiki Schueler

Glen Campbell announced last year that he has Alzheimer's and that *Ghost on the Canvas* would be his last studio record. Talk about putting the pressure on. Many mainstream musicians retire as often as Brett Favre, but in light of his diagnosis, his has a finality to it. Despite that, he still has time to embark on a current goodbye tour. Obviously, his timeline isn't as tight as others who've announced a final recording, such as Warren Zevon, who began recording *The Wind* after he was diagnosed with terminal cancer not knowing if he would live to finish it. It's hard not to be a little skeptical of *Ghost* and the associated tour simply because Campbell sounds so damn good on this record. Johnny Cash's final record, *American Recordings IV*, sounds like a man who has reached the end, but Campbell is in strong voice and surprisingly upbeat.

The record is roughly half original songs and half covers, along with a handful of short throwaway instrumentals. The record serves as a companion to 2008's *Meet Glen Campbell*, which features him tackling unexpected artists like Green Day and the Foo Fighters, though there isn't anything quite as extreme this time around. *Guided by Voices* seems out there, until you note that he's chosen "Hold on Hope," perfect as much for its message as for its reference to "the cowboy." A *Rhinestone Cowboy* per-

haps? Much of the record features his trademark lush production, occasionally to excess. The title track, a nonsensical Paul Westerberg composition ("In between here and there, there's a place we can go. The spirits make love in a wheat field with crows," um, huh?), is the worst offender, the chorus swells on a wave of strings when it should hold back. A better choice for the namesake would have been the opener, "A Better Place," penned by Campbell and Julian Raymond, on which minimal instrumentation backs the acoustic guitar. The lyrics are more honest and heartfelt here than anywhere else on the record—"Some days I'm so confused Lord, the past gets in my way. I need the ones I love Lord, more and more each day." For just a second as the song starts, it sounds like a lost American Recording.

The other standout original is "It's Your Amazing Grace," which incorporates an unexpected earthy banjo to great effect. As with all his songs on the record, it is reflective and sweetly sentimental without being sappy. "Strong," which features appropriately muscular vocals, is candid: "As I look into these eyes I've known for all these years, I see for the first time in my life . . . fear." While the final track says it all, "There's No Me . . . Without You." The choice for best cover comes down to a tough decision between Jakob Dylan's "Nothing but the Whole Wide World" and Teddy Thompson's "In My Arms." Here Campbell captures the essence of young Dylan's beyond-his-years song better than the original. Another case of less is more in terms of production, it is flat out gorgeous. But Thompson's tune gets the nod, not just because I am a huge fan of his, but because of its best use of guest stars. With backing vocals from the incomparable Chris Isaak, and guitars from Brian Setzer and Dick Dale, the king of surf punk himself, it's no contest.

The list of contributing musicians is as varied as the contributing songwriters, and many times longer—Cheap Trick's Rick Nielsen, Billy Corgan, Jellyfish's Jason Falkner, and the Dandy Warhols, to name just a few. Even if Campbell's influence isn't obvious in their music, you realize how far reaching his inspiration is. It's sad news that *Ghost* will be Campbell's last release, but it's good news that it doesn't feel like it.

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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Googabouts and Those Darlins

It's not difficult to spot articles written by Google addicts these days:

Woman Sculpts Idol in Lint: Myrna Mplpaplpr of Omro, Wisconsin -- a town 58.3 miles southwest of Green Bay, and named after Charles Omereau, the French trader and blacksmith who started a fur trading business there in 1639 -- has developed a form of soft sculpture to represent her idol, Pinky Lee, born Pincus Leffon May 2, 1907 in St Paul, MN. Myrna -- a name of Irish and Gaelic origin meaning beloved -- tried many mediums before settling on lint, that fluffy raveling issuing from the dryer vents of Omro homes, of which there were 1,236 in the 2000 census.

I'm guilty as a major abuser of this style. But few things are more captivating at my age than a midnight Googabout -- named (by me) after the Australian walkabout, defined online (questionably) as: *A short period of wandering bush life engaged in by an Australian aborigine as an occasional interruption of regular work.* I think Googabout implies a reasonable adaptation of the definition, even though I've had no *regular work* since the Club de Wash went electric in 1986.

Sometimes there are amazing disappointments on these finger-trudges. In the 60s I learned a song from the Burl Ives album **Australian Folk Songs**, with the title of *Across The Western Plains I Must Wander*. My guess is Ives used this title instead of the more usual *All For Me Grog*, which would have been too wild for 1958. Then again, aspirin and naps were too wild for 1958.

Anyway, in a recent Googabout in search of versions of the lyrics, I came across one that finishes with the lines: *Graftin' humour I am in, and I'll stick the peg right in / And I'll settle down again and back to yakka.*

Turns out *yakka* is Australian slang for *work*. But thinking first it was a place name, I Google-Earthed and found an

Australian settlement named Yacka. One street view features the General Store there, and -- though the picture has changed since my first visit -- the snapshot was intriguing.

I thought, hm, maybe I (a frustrated artiste) should do a series of paintings from Google Earth images. I'd call myself *Vincent Van Google*. With a hunch that this name might be taken, I Googled. Boom! The web page of **Vincent Van Google**, promoting a series of paintings based on Google-Earth images! Amazing disappointment! So either my whole idea, complete with name, had been taken well before I came up with it, or I had found a way to Google the future. Google *Vincent Van Google* and see for yourself.

When I'm tired of the iBook screen, I pivot toward the TV screen. I'm drawn to screens like a June bug. A while ago, my wife **Kristi** and I were mesmerized by a TV spot for a Kia Sorento. In the video, human sized puppets are on a goofy road trip. The song in the background is *Red Light Love* by **Those Darlins**, a female trio plus a guy on drums. A few more Googles and trips to YouTube got me hooked on this band.

They have two CDs. The first one, just called *Those Darlins*, is my favorite. The selection has a mixture of old country and old folk, but is mostly original and rocky, all catchy. On YouTube I watched a few interviews with **Jessi Darlin**, whose nasal but powerful voice reminds some, including me, of the great **Wanda Jackson**, *Queen of Rock and Roll*. **Jessi** mentioned some of their influences, which include the **Carter Family**, the **Ramones**, **Loretta Lynn**, and the **Beach Boys!!!** Wow! I think the only thing these have in common is that they all influenced **Those Darlins**.

This launched me on yet another Googabout, tramping back and forth mainly on the path between YouTube and Wikipedia, researching the **Carter Family**, the **Ramones**, **Loretta Lynn**, watching **Wanda Jackson**, seeing a clip of her on **Letterman**, listening to the horns backing her up, YouTubing **James Brown** to listen to HIS horns, etc. It's an endless journey, hooray!

But getting back to **Those Darlins**, I would assume that for most ancient lyricists like me, their rock accompaniment is so loud it is unfortunate, because you can't hear the lyrics, particularly on their second album. But on the first album, their folk, country, and rockabilly roots are very evident. They sing a marvelous version of **Uncle Dave Macon's** *Keep my Skillet Good n Greasy*, made popular by and maybe written by him long ago.

So I Googled him, of course. **Uncle Dave Macon** (October 7, 1870–March 22, 1952), among many other things, ran a mule-based shipping company from about 1900 until 1920 (*The Macon Midway Mule and Wagon Transportation Company*) out of Murfreesboro, TN. He would sing and play banjo for the people at the various stops along the route. Murfreesboro, which holds an *Uncle Dave Macon Days* festival every July, is also home of the *Southern Girls Rock and Roll Camp* (sgrrc.com/) where the **Darlins** met and started their band a half dozen years ago. I don't know if this geography had anything to do with the **Darlins** recording *Skillet*, but they do a swell job of it, as can be heard on YouTube at a little live show in St Louis, and on their CD.

The lyrics of **Those Darlins** are often enchantingly evocative. In the *Red Light Love* song, still my favorite, the rhymes are a stretch sometimes, but this adds a relaxed mood to the song whose last verse ends with "...we ain't that hard to please / All we need is a couple o' bucks / And a can of gasoline." (Rhymes can't get stretched much further than *please* and *gasoline*.) But the master touch of saying "can of gasoline" instead of "tank of gasoline" is thrilling to me, as this one word calls up so viscerally the mechanics of being young, broke, and in love.

There's a lot of bad music out there (a fluctuating percentage of my own stuff qualifies). But there's great music too, all along the billabong. And anyone who, under the influence of the **Carter Family**, the **Beach Boys**, **Loretta Lynn**, and the **Ramones**, sings *Skillet Good and Greasy* by **Uncle Dave Macon**, deserves at least a second glance on the Googabout.

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

February 2012

Mad Folk Events



David Francey

Saturday Feb 18 (New Date!)
The Brink Lounge -- 701 E. Washington Ave -- 7pm
\$15adv/\$17d.o.s.

Story Hill

Wednesday May 2
The Brink Lounge -- 701 E. Washington Ave -- 7pm
\$15adv/\$17d.o.s.

Michael Cooney / Lou & Peter Berryman

Wednesday, May 30 -- 7pm
The Brink Lounge -- 701 E. Washington Ave -- 7pm

Venues



Wil-Mar Center
953 Jenifer St.
wildhoginthewoods.org
608-233-5687

Wild Hog in the Woods

Weekly Friday night folk music in intimate setting
All shows at 8pm unless indicated otherwise.
\$2 for members, \$3 for non-members

- Graminy
Friday, February 3
- Rich Baumann/Songwriter's night
Friday, February 10
- The Elm Duo/Mike Bell and his daughter
Friday, February 17
- Daylight in the Swamp
Friday, February 24



18 S. Water St.
Ft. Atkinson, WI
cafecarpe.com
920-563-9391

Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Cliff Eberhardt / Tim Fast
Friday, February 10 -- 8:30
\$15 reservations recommended
- Sammy Llanas
Saturday, February 11 -- 8:30
\$25 advance
- Small Potatoes
Friday, February 17 -- 8:30
- Garnet Rogers
Thursday, February 23 -- 8:30
\$15 advance
- Bill Camplin Band
Friday, February 24 -- 8:30
\$8
- Steve Forbert
Saturday, February 25 -- 8:30
\$24 advance

Stoughton Opera House
381 E. Main Street
Stoughton, WI
stoughtonoperahouse.com
608-877-4400

- Jeffrey Foucault w/ John Statz-- Saturday,
Feb 25 -- 7:30pm --\$25
- Albuquerque trio Holy Water and Whiskey
w/ KG & The Ranger -- Sunday, Feb 19 -- 3pm
--\$12 -- Yahara River Coop Fundraiser

Irish Cultural & Heritage Center
2133 W Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI -- ichc.net
414-345-8800

- Bua -- Saturday, Feb 4 -- 7:30pm --\$12
- Liz Carroll -- Saturday Feb 11 -- 7:30pm
\$19 adv

Misc

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

Bob's BBQ Emporium's Open Mic - Thu, Feb 16 -- 7pm
-- 8164 Hwy. 14 Arena, WI

Living River Music!

Register by calling (608) 249-7714 or email ken@kenland.com.
Single sessions - \$15 , 12 sessions - \$120
www.livingrivermusic.com

Gigs

David Francey

Saturday, February 11 -- 730pm
Irish Fest Center, 1532 Wauwatosa Ave, Milwaukee

Jim Schwall

Monday, February 27 -- Crystal Corner Bar @ 930pm
1302 Williamson St, Madison

Charlie King and Karen Brandow

Thursday, March 8 -- Home of Mike and Carol @ 8pm -- \$10 donation
3013 Nottingham Way, Madison

On the Air



Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Stephanie Elkins,
Interim Host
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
• Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over)
w/ David & Martin Alvarado & Eugenia Highland
• Tue -- For the Sake of the Song (traditional American
folk) w/Jim Schwall
• Wed -- Back to the Country (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

Madison Dance

- African/African-American Dance classes with live drumming -- Sun, 7:00-9:00pm --
Metro Dance, 3009 University Ave. -- 255-3677 / 251-4311
- Cajun Dance - Sun 2/26 - dance instruction at 6:15 PM, dance 7:00 to 10:00 PM -
Harmony Bar & Grill, 2201 Atwood Ave, 249-4333
- SpiritMoves Ecstatic Dance 2nd and 4th Weds, 7:00-9:00 pm -- The Center for
Conscious Living, 849 East Washington Ave. -- \$7 min. donation
- English Country Dance taught -- 1st and 3rd Mon, 7:30-9:30pm -- Wil-Mar Center,
953 Jenifer St. -- 238-9951 or 238-9951
- 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, intermedi-ate
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
- Scottish Country Dancing -- Sun, 7:00pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 835-0914

Madfolk Announces Helen Schneyer Memorial Scholarship:

In an effort to encourage the next generation of folk musicians, the Madison Folk Music Society has established The Helen Schneyer Memorial Scholarship to fund lessons in the folk instrument of the applicant's choice. Two scholarships of \$300 in lessons per year will be awarded, to be paid directly to the folk music instructor of choice. Budding folk musicians of all ages are encouraged to apply.

The scholarship is named in honor of the late great folk singer Helen Schneyer, who has played memorable house concerts in Madison at the home of her sister, Madfolk member Mona Wasow. Upon Helen's death on July 16, 2005 in Vermont, Mona's colleagues from the U.W. School of Social Work took up a collection in her honor, which Mona contributed to the Madison Folk Music Society. The funds were initially used to bring Ed Trickett to Madison for a Spring, 2006 Memorial concert, at which contributions were added for an additional memorial.

Helen Schneyer was known for her renditions of lugubrious ballads, work songs, African American spirituals and Baptist hymns, which she sang, among other places, on Prairie Home Companion, at the White House at the request of Eleanor Roosevelt, and in Mona Wasow's living room. She shared the stage with many of America's best-known folk singers and songwriters, including Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, who urged her at an early age to sing.

A simple application form can be downloaded from the Madfolk web site:

<www.madfolk.org> , or by writing to Madfolk, P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701. Applications will also be available at Spruce Tree Music and Madison Music. Applicants should identify the folk

music teacher with whom they wish to study before applying; scholarships will be paid in advance, directly to the instructor. Deadline for applications is March 1. Winners will be notified March 15, and presented at a Madfolk concert.

Tax deductible contributions to continue this memorial scholarship may be made payable to Madison Folk Music Society, with "Helen Schneyer Scholarship Fund" noted in the memo portion, and sent to the address above. This can be done at any time, including when dues are remitted. In addition, there will be a donation box at Mad Folk events to allow for spontaneous generosity. In this way, Mad Folk hopes to ensure there is a new generation of folk musicians who will attempt to replace those who have gone on to sing in the "Angel Band".

Did you make a New Year's Resolution to learn to play a new folk musical instrument, or improve your mastery of an old one? Is a tight budget holding you back?

Wait no longer: Apply NOW for a Helen Schneyer Folk Music Scholarship, and we will pay your teacher for \$300 worth of lessons. Apply by March 1, and the scholarship committee will tell you by March 15 if you are a proud winner.

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Renew your membership today at
www.madfolk.org

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

Choose membership category: Senior \$8
Student \$10
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Family \$15
Friend \$25
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Life \$500
Scholarship fund donation (optional)
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Complete, clip, and mail this form

Way #2 – unplugged

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

Way #1 – online

There are two ways to renew your tax-deductible membership!

Is this your last copy of Mad Folk News?

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Madison Folk Music Society
 join renew

Name _____
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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 Comer, P.O. Box 930446, Verona, WI 53593-0446

Is this your last copy of Mad Folk News?
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Way #1 – online
 Visit www.madfolk.org and click on "Join MFMS"
Way #2 – unplugged
 Complete, clip, and mail this form

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