

MadFolk News



It's Easy being Green! MadFolk goes electronic!



Mad Folk is going another shade of green. Just let us know if you'd like to receive Mad Folk News electronically in the future! This is a new service we will be starting in July. Send email to info@madfolk.org to make the request, and just be sure to include your name as it appears in our membership records (see your membership label). You'll receive future issues, starting in July, as a PDF by email. (You can change your mind at any time and go back to the print version.)

Summer Sing-Alongs resume June 15

Are you concerned because the MadFolk season ended with the May 30th Berryman-Cooney concert? Not to worry – the summer season just gets more participatory. Join song facilitators Mac Robertson (on banjo and guitar) and David Eagan (on guitar) at Blue Mounds State Park at 8 pm on the third Friday of June, July and August. Rise Up Singing books of lyrics will be provided, though Mac and Dave are equally adept at teaching new songs or playing familiar songs that everyone knows. Young and old, with or without instruments are invited to come to sing along, rain or shine. Although the June 15th Sing-along will be in the Amphitheatre, the July 20th and August 17th gatherings will be in the covered main shelter.

Spectacular sunsets from the highest point in southern Wisconsin are a frequent added bonus. The sing-alongs are free, but a state park sticker is required to enter the park, located west of Mount Horeb. From Madison, take 18-151 west to County Highway F, following the brown signs for Blue Mounds State Park. The Amphitheater for the June Sing-along is to the east (left) of the circular drive at the top of the hill; the Main Shelter for July and August is NW within the circle. Bring your instruments, especially your voice box, and join the joyful chorus.



2012 MidWest Folk Music Festivals

June 8-10 -- Nor-East'r Music & Art Festival
Mio, MI
www.noreastr.net

June 9-10 -- Gebhard Woods Dulcimer Festival
Morris, IL
www.gwdf.org

June 27- July 1 -- National Women's Music Festival
Middleton, WI
www.wiaonline.org

July 14 -- Blackhawk Folk Festival
Mount Morris, WI
www.blackhawkfolk.org

July 20-22 -- Hiawatha Traditional Music Festival
Marquette, MI
www.hiawathamusic.org

July 15 -- Woodstock Folk Festival
Woodstock, IL
www.woodstockfolkmusic.com

August 1-5 -- Greatful Garcia Gathering
Black river Falls, WI
www.gratefulgarciaconcert.com

August 3-4 -- Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival
Madison, WI
www.fourlakesmusic.org

National Women's Music Festival June 28 – July 1:

Open to All. Madison Marriott West, Middleton. Tickets available for evening concerts, individual days, or the entire festival. www.wiaonline.org

Friday June 29

Day Stage

Chris Collier: Award winning folk vocalist from Cincinnati with a unique voice and polished songwriting skills has been creating music for over 20 years.

Leela and Ellie Grace: They grew up traveling across North America

performing with their parents as The Grace Family. Leela (banjo, guitar) and Ellie (mandolin, guitar, fiddle) have been acclaimed by audiences and fellow musicians alike for their powerful voices, close sisterly harmonies, clogging, warm stage presence, and driving old-time instrumentals.

Summer Osborne : Imagine if Adele, Carole King, and Joss Stone had a love child... Her music can loosely be described as folk soul, acoustic rock, and piano pop... but you will hear glimpses of jazz, blues, and comedy.

August 10-12 -- Shawano Folk Music Festival
Shawano, WI
www.shawanofestival.com

August 16-18 -- Irish Fest
Milwaukee, WI
www.irishfest.com

August 17-18 -- Larryfest (Bluegrass)
Rockton, WI
www.kvama.org/larryfest.php

August 18 -- Gandy Dancer Festival
Mazomanie, WI
www.midcontinent.org

August 24-26 -- Great River Folk Festival
La Crosse, WI
www.greatriverfolkfest.org

September 2-3 -- Fox Valley Folk Music Festival
Geneva, IL
www.foxvalleyfolk.com

November 2-4 -- Stringalong Weekend
Olympia Resort, WI
www.uwm.edu/Dept/Folk

Evening Concert

Holly Near: Is well known for years in Madison as a unique combination of entertainer, teacher, activist, and immense vocal talent.

Emma's Revolution: On the edge of folk and pop and inspired by the legacy of music for social change, Pat Humphries and Sandy O's dynamic harmonies and passionate songs imbued with hope are motivating audiences, including those at the Capitol demonstrations last year.

Melanie DeMore: With her remarkable voice that reminds us of Odetta, this singer-songwriter weaves the fibers of African American folk music with soulful ballads, spirituals and her own original music.

Fiddlers Three Awarded MadFolk's Helen Schneyer Music Lesson Scholarships



Three young aspiring fiddlers were awarded scholarships for folk violin lessons during the recently concluded competition for the combined Madison Folk Music Society and Wild Hog in the Woods Helen B. Schneyer Memorial Scholarships. Nine year old Liam Kantor and 16 year old Anna Farkas, shown above left, were presented with certificates by scholarship committee chair Meg Skinner at the March 31 MadFolk concert. Liam has been studying violin for four years, and will be continuing lessons in fiddling and violin technique with Shauncey Ali. Anna began studying with Janet Chisholm nine months ago, and is making good progress. She particularly wants to play dance tunes, and with a guitar-playing friend.



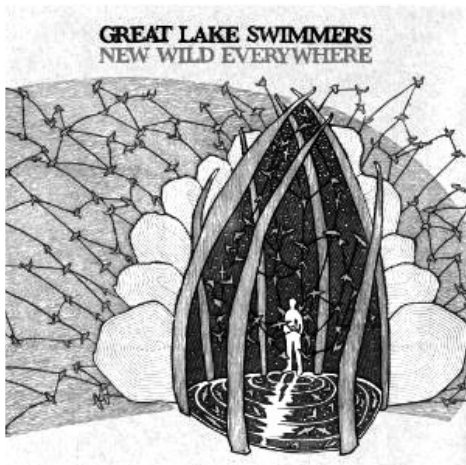
Mikaela Robertson receiving her Helen B Schneyer Memorial Scholarship from scholarship committee chair Meg Skinner.

Mad Folk News 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. Learnaboutconcerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at www.madfolk.org.

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distribution
246-4332 ~ speedydd99@yahoo.com
Neil Morris.....Newsletter
editor
358-5855 ~ nwmorris@wisc.edu
Meg Skinner.....Scholarship
238-6950 ~ askinner@wisc.edu
David Eagan.....
249-0409 ~ djeagan@gmail.com
Ron Dennis
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215-7621 ~ mail@vickyjones.com

GREAT LAKE SWIMMERS NEW WILD EVERYWHERE ~ 2012 NETTWERK RECORDS



Review by Kiki Schueler

In music, quiet and serene often translate into boring. The band that can embody these characteristics and still be interesting and entertaining is rare. No one does this better than Toronto's Great Lake Swimmers, who have been a favorite of Madison's recent summer festivals. With GLS—much like the Pernice Brothers, who have also mastered this rare combination—it's all about the voice, and lead singer Tony Dekker has a killer one. Calling to mind "Helpless" by Neil Young, that voice has always been the focus over the course of five records. While their first couple of releases maintained the hushed tone for the whole record, recent releases have seen them waking up a little bit, including a few more catchy songs with each record.

On *New Wild Everywhere*, the catchiest of those is the first single, "Easy Come, Easy Go." Quoting every gambler who's ever lost it all, the song opens, "Easy come, easy go, that's what they say when they're about to go broke." Guest musician Michael Boguski provides a bouncy piano line that buoys the lighthearted tune. The title track also induces

some toe tapping and head nodding courtesy of Erik Arnesen's subtle electric guitar. Arnesen is excellent throughout, especially when he pulls out the banjo. The best of these is the environmentally conscious "Ballad of a Fisherman's Wife," written for the Waterkeeper Alliance, whose worldwide mission is to protect the earth's water. "Ballad" is one of the most literal songs from a band whose lyrics are often inscrutable. Written specifically with the Gulf Coast disaster in mind, the song makes the issue universal, "What if it was in your backyard, what if it was your way of life. I bet you'd go crazy too, I bet you'd lose your mind too." Another bonus is the addition of a perfect but unexpected accordion (courtesy of Boguski again).

Other notable tracks featuring Arnesen's banjo are the absolutely gorgeous "Cornflower Blue" and the graceful "Fields of Progeny." The longest-tenured member of a band that has seen a revolving cast of musicians, Arnesen has worked with Dekker since 2004 and is essential to their sound. I have often said, wished actually, that the band could be pared down to just Dekker and Arnesen and I would be happy. No offense to the excellent rhythm section—especially inventive drummer Greg Millson, who would be missed—but this band has always been about Dekker's voice. Which brings up the matter of violinist/backing vocalist Miranda Mulholland, who surprisingly just may be the most disposable. Don't get me wrong; she is a terrific violin player and she has a lovely voice. I just don't want to hear anyone sing in this group other than Dekker. Too often she is a distraction, especially live.

The track that perhaps best highlights his voice is "The Great Exhale." Mulholland's violin provides a stage for the spine-tingling exclamation, "And the world stops spinning when you stop spinning, and sighs when you sigh, when you sigh." I swoon every time. The track isn't quite upbeat, nor would I call it serene. In fact, it may be the best example of what the Great Lake Swimmers do so perfectly: mellow without being boring. It's harder than they make it sound.

Mad Folk 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:

- 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.



Small Town Songs

Recently I was asked for the lyrics to our song, **Belle of Boscobel**. Very flattering, because it's a nice song, but it was written by Chuck Schacht. We've been mistakenly identified as its authors often, probably because we've written so many goofy songs about small towns. At the risk of being a pompous bore, I'm going to mention a few of them here. It's fun to write such songs, and in my questionable role as folk lyricist mentor wannabe, you might say I'm doing this to encourage others to hop over the low bar that I have set and consider writing a small town song of their own.

Our first such song was the **Squirrelly Valley 2-Step**, written in the late 70s:

Me and my girl went up to Kaukauna, up by Kimberly and Darboy too / She said honey don't look so funny that Squirrelly Valley gotta grow on you...

The focus of this song was Wisconsin grammar and pronunciation (*Oh yah hey, get me a beer once*), and led one reviewer to write that we had a good grasp of Wisconsin "patios." I think he meant "patois," but on second thought maybe he did mean "patios."

The song **Oh Wonderful Madison** followed soon:

Oh Wonderful Madison, mother of cities / Queen of all Dairyland, waiting for me / Oh Wonderful Madison, jewel of Wisconsin / With more than one high school & cable TV.

The verses change often, depending on the shifting Madison scene.

We then branched way out and wrote a song about Waunakee:

Pack up a picnic; pick up a kayak / Take a boat ride out along the shores of Waunakee And if you say so we'll let the boat go / Hold each others' hands & drift completely out to sea

I won't go into it here, but starting in Waunakee's Six Mile Creek, you really could drift out to sea. Eventually.

Soon thereafter we wrote a romantic little ditty called **Weyauwega Moon**, because my wife Kristi and I vacation in the vicinity. Not a funny or a sad

song, just a song:

Kiki, walk with me, up by Weyauwega soon / I'm a fan, of the man, in the Weyauwega moon / When he shines, through the pines, on our Weyauwega farm / Yes when he's, in the trees, won't you please, take my arm

This year we wrote another moon song: **Mazomanian Moon**, written for a concert in Mazomanie. It was written from the standpoint of someone who has moved away and is homesick:

Well my nostalgia tends to drag me down / I miss the old architecture downtown / I miss the color of the autumn leaves / I miss the depot with the big wide eaves / I wanna see Lake Marion soon / Reflect the big Mazomanian Moon

Not a showstopper, but a joy to write and sing. Throwing in actual details -- like *the depot with the big wide eaves* -- is fun.

But we've gone overboard sometimes and have mashed too much into a town-song. We wrote one for Stoughton, about how the coffee break was invented there. It had eight complex verses like the following, for a total of almost 500 grueling words:

Now Coffee Street really was only the nickname that came from its pungent bouquet / For there for their fam'lies the women were all roasting coffee beans during the day / As budgets were meager in spite of their husbands employment they bought the bean green / And thus they were frugal but kept up their full Scandinavian dose of caffeine

Much easier to digest was one we wrote for Evansville, which was originally called The Grove. We had been asked to write the song by a passionate Evansville booster, so we included her presence in the song as though she was explaining the town to us:

Pretty soon the trees were planks / The planks became new homes & banks / And when the grove was gone, she said / They craved a second name instead / Right then when the times were lean / Young Doc Evans hit the scene / He said either pay my bill / Or call this village Evansville

Evansville, Evansville, she said I love Evansville / You can have Blueberry Hill, I found my thrill in Evansville

We did write a complex song about Limburger cheese, Monroe WI where it's made, and the village of Independence, IA. It continues to go over well, largely because the actual story is quite funny.

Here's one of the 13 verses:

In the Iowa village they call Independence a farmer named Kaiser took sick / The year 35 had been slow to arrive and the snow fell unusually thick / The rare diagnosis by Dr. McGready was chronic dyspeptic unease / Prognosis was fine if the farmer would dine on a smidgen of Limburger cheese

We wrote an alphabetic Rhubarb song for the Rhubarb Festival over in Lanesboro, MN:

...K is for the kidney stones that rhubarb helps to grow / L of course is rhubarb love in lovely Lanesboro...

...and a Pie Day song for the big pie town of Braham Minnesota:

...Raspb'ry pie and cherry-fudge pie / Eat-so-much pie it's hard-to-budge pie / I think I know where I am / I must be in Braham

There's our song **Poniatowski**, which is a tiny town on the confluence of 90° west longitude and 45° north latitude:

Exactly half the way from the equator to the pole / A quarter of the way around the planet as a whole / It's very hard to find it on a map of county roads / Ridiculously easy on a four inch globe / Poniatowski...

Then we have a few songs with LOTS of town names. In **Forward Hey**, we have two verses of them. Here's one:

Ashwaubenon Aniwa Manawa Milton / Dakota Kaukauna Lac Court Orielles Wilton / Glen Beulah Glen Flora Fort Atkinson Chilton / Excelsior Pelican Pardeeville Blair.

And a song wholly made up of town names, to the tune of **Chopsticks** (called **Chapsticks**), about Minnesota towns:

Nisswa, Waseca, Wadena, Sebeka / Wayzata, Zumbrota, Moorehead, Minneota / Ceylon, Ely, Waverly, Sheridan, Shakopee / Sleepy Eye, Eveleth, Albert Lea...

For **Simply Folk's** 30th anniversary show we wrote a song with a whole slew of Wisconsin town names. Some bits:

...In Manawa the rodeo / The fire up in Peshtigo / The Norsky Nook in Osseo / The songs of yellow oleo / The fancy loam of Antigo...

So my advice is, have at it! You must have a small town or two in your past, or maybe one in your present, and there's no town that deserves to be songless. If you catch the bug like I have, maybe someday you'll be asked for the lyrics to your song **Belle of Boscobel**.

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

June 2012

Mad Folk Events



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

Summer Sing-Along w/ Mac Robertson & David Eagan

Friday June 15
Blue Mounds State Park Ampitheatre -- 8pm
Free! (State Park sticker req. for entry)

Venues



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

Cafe Carpe
All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Fri, June 1 -- James Lee Stanley
- Sat, June 2 -- Chad Elliott w/ Bonita Crowe -- \$10
- Thu, June 7 -- Folkadots (Peter Mulvey, Bill Camplin & Randy Sabien) -- \$22.50 pay in advance
- Fri, June 8 -- Folkadots (Peter Mulvey, Randy Sabien & Satchel Paige) -- \$22.50 pay in advance
- Sat, June 9 8:30pm & Sun, June 10 @8pm -- Folkadots (Peter Mulvey, Bill Camplin & Willy Porter) -- \$22.50 pay in advance
- Thur, June 14 -- New Pioneers -- 7pm \$7.50
- Fri, June 15 -- Big Bang String Thing
- Sat, June 16 -- John Sieger / Larry Penn / Mark Dvorak -- \$10
- Thur, June 21 -- Tish Hinojosa -- 8pm

FOLKLORE VILLAGE
3210 Cty Hwy BB
Dodgeville, WI
folklorevillage.org
608-924-4000

Folklore Village

- Sat, June 2 -- Barn Dance w/ Briar Pickers & Tim Jenkins -- 6:30 potluck
- Tue, June 5 -- First Tuesday Open Mic -- 7pm



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

The Brink Lounge

- Thur. June 7 -
-- Aaron Williams and the Hoo Doo 9pm
- Fri. June 15 -
-- The Sugar Daddies
- Thur. June 21 -
-- Aaron Williams and the Hoo Doo 9pm
- Sat. June 30 -
-- Caravan Gypsy Swing Ensemble 8pm

Mother Fool's Coffeehouse
1101 Williamson St.
motherfools.com
608-259-1030

Mother Fool's

- Sat., June 2 -- Boo Bradley w/ Poor Elvis -- 8pm -- \$6
- Fri., July 20 -- Stuart Davis CD Release Party -- 8pm -- \$10

Gigs

Jim Schwall
Monday, June 25 -- Crystal Corner Bar @ 930pm
1302 Williamson St, Madison
with special guest Tom Kastle
Tuesday, June 12 -- Bon Appetit Café @ 7pm
805 Williamson St, Madison

KG & The Ranger
Wednesday June 27 -- "Concerts at the Portage", Riverside Park, Portage WI -- 6:30 - 8:30 PM -- Free

Thursday June 28 -- Palmer Park "Noon Concerts", Janesville
12:30 - 1:30 PM -- Free

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, May 17 -- 7pm
-- 8164 Hwy. 14 Arena, WI

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

WSUM 91.7 student radio
• Sun, 9am-10am -- Exiles Return w/ Elizabeth Delaquess

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 Strangers- Sat 6/16 - 6pm -- Tyrannena Brewery -- 1025 Owen St, Lake Mills WI
- 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, 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
- Scottish Country Dancing -- Sun, 7:00pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 835-0914

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

Complete, clip, and mail this form

Madison Folk Music Society

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Student \$10 _____

Regular \$12 _____

Family \$15 _____

Friend \$25 _____

Contributing \$50 _____

Life \$500 _____

Scholarship fund donation (optional) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

GOING GREEN - Send my newsletters electronically by email

Send your check, payable to MFMS to: Mad Folk c/o
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