
Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

Volume 34, No. 8/ Aug 2008

Folk on State closes the season with familiar faces and new voices

August brings us to the final month for this year for Folk on State. After 8 weeks of some of the best talent to play on State Street, and just when you think it can't get any better, we close out the season with another 4 Saturdays of unbeatable talent.

August 2nd Tracy Jane Comer & Michael Bryant with Randy Green AND Small Potatoes: Come kick off the month with our North Carolina transplant Tracy Jane Comer, who has become such a fixture on the Madison music scene that you would think she was a native Madisonian, that is until you hear her talk, you can't miss her accent. Tracy will be collaborating on this show with Michael Bryant and Randy Green. These diverse, award-winning musicians will offer collaborative acoustic performances covering a variety of styles, using harmonies and varied instrumentation (guitars, cello, keyboard, bass, mandolin). One of Madison's most notable singer-songwriters and multi-instrumentalists, Tracy Jane Comer has been called "North Carolina's gift to Wisconsin" and is often likened to greats such as Joan Baez, Patty Larkin and Joni Mitchell. She was named Instrumentalist of the Year at this year's MAMAs. Michael Bryant, known previously in Madison as the front man of acoustic trio Sticky Fingers, has been writing and performing and producing music in various capacities for more than 30 years. Michael combines an effortless, smooth baritone with memorable, engaging songs. Randy Green is most known these days as proprietor of the renowned Randy's Recording studio (est. 1985) and as sideman/collaborator with Tracy, but Randy has also been writing and performing music himself in various entities for almost 40 years. His song "Home Movies," recorded/released by Robert J, won Folk/Americana Song of the Year at this year's MAMAs.



Also sharing this weekend will be Small Potatoes, (pictured) who will be making a return to our stage for their 6 year! Sixteen years ago, Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso, the Chicago-area duo known as Small Potatoes, decided to hit the road. "In one year, we quit our jobs, bought a house, bought a car, and became full-time folk singers. Not exactly the best combination, financially speaking. It wasn't the best business plan, we didn't exactly throw darts at a map, but we might as well have." What they did have were great songs and musicianship, and the ability to put on a show. Sixteen years, a million miles, 3000 shows, and four Dodge Caravans later, they are listed as a "favorite act" by many coffeehouses, clubs and house concerts across the U.S. They have made repeat appearances at major folk festivals, including the Kerrville Folk Festival, the Walnut Valley Folk Festival, and Philadelphia Folk Festival.

August 9: Jason Wilber and Tracy Beck. Come down this weekend and see these two performers who will playing Folk On State for their first time. Jason Wilber has not only been pleasing audiences in the United States and Europe with the alternately witty and insightful songs featured on his 5 solo CDs *Lost In Your Hometown*, *Behind The Midway*, *King For A Day*, *Live and Otherwise Volume 1*, and *Lazy Afternoon*, Jason Wilber has played lead guitar for notable folk, rock, and country artists John Prine, Hal Ketchum, Greg Brown, Iris DeMent, Todd Snider, and Carrie Newcomer. Highlights of Jason's work with John Prine include two Grammy nominated albums: *Live On Tour* and *In Spite of Ourselves* (which spent 32 weeks on the Billboard Country Charts) and the 2006 Grammy Award winning album *Fair & Square*. Jason Wilber's TV and radio appearances include *Late Night with Conan* (continued on page 2)

Folk on State (continued) O'Brien, Sessions At West 54th Street, Austin City Limits, Live with Regis and Kathy Lee, CNN's Entertainment Week, The Road, Mountain Stage, E-Town, and The Grand Ole Opry.

Sharing the weekend will be Tracy Beck. "Tracy's music is about true meaning, life, and the spirit." (Gary Goldberg, host of WPRI radio N.Y.) "Big string rhythm guitar chops on a vintage Martin along with a combination of gritty and romantically lush songwriting, and a voice that echoes hints of Ricky Lee Jones." (Ed & Joes, Tinley Park IL)

August 16 Dave Stoddard and April Verch Dave will be returning to our stage for a 2nd time, since Dave used to live in the Madison area and has been a performer at a past Madfolk Festival, it is like we are welcoming an old friend back to town. With six full-length releases and countless other projects, he's gathered kudos as a veteran of the Midwest's music and theater scenes. He's known widely for getting to the point, lyrically, and has been compared to Loudon Wainwright III and Randy Newman. Never self obsessed or even self-conscious, Dave creates a community from the stage with an energy that's infectious, and that's hard to find among today's crop of singer/songwriters. Whether playing guitar or piano, Dave's attention to economy and showmanship has been respected by his peers for many years. His unique shows are filled with the warmth and energy of someone who is earnestly devoted to his audience. His wide-ranging performances are not to be missed. He is the present and future of the American singer/songwriter.

Joining us for her first FOS performance will be April Verch (pictured). Come out and see April, hers is a show you will not want to miss. She is so multi-talented with dance, singing and playing that you will sit back and be amazed how one person can do all of this in one show! An April Verch show is like hopping a train in northern Ontario, crossing the open prairie, through the Appalachians, down the Mississippi to the Louisiana Bayou, crossing the sea to Brazil, France, the Scottish Highlands and back. April is a world-class fiddler, an electrifying stepdancer, and an expressive vocalist.

August 23rd Ben Bedford and Jack Williams Ben Bedford after only three and a half years as a full time musician, Bedford has already gained praise from acclaimed singer songwriter Diana Jones, played Izzy Young's famed Folklore Centrum in Stockholm, Sweden and seen his debut album reach the top ten of the Folk-DJ charts. Calling himself an "American Portrait Songwriter" after his photographic style of writing, he is currently finishing work on his second release, due out tentatively at the beginning of 2009. Once you have attended a Jack Williams concert, you'll be hooked. Jack Williams, a South Carolina-born artist, is now recognized by the contemporary U.S. folk community as a singer/songwriter of national stature and an uncommonly unique guitarist about whom Sing Out! said: "Jack is one of the strongest guitarists in contemporary folk". He continues to tour the U.S. constantly, as he has for the past 40-plus years, out of the sheer love of music. In addition to his successful solo career, Jack's credits include guitar work with legendary singer/songwriters Mickey Newbury, Harry Nilsson, Tom Paxton, Peter Yarrow, and Steve Gillette, among others. His is music born at the meeting ground of the traditional and the contemporary – original Southern-American songwriting and performance at its best, drawing deeply from the eclectic well of our musical heritage. Jack's fusion of guitar, voice and songs – which are loaded with delightful influences from a career in jazz, classical, rock, blues, country and folk – should not be missed.

August 30th, brings us Macyn Taylor and Jeremy Goodman for our final show. This is a special show, as we are highlighting the next generation of performers, and it is great to see at a young age how good and hard working these performers are. Macyn Taylor has been busking on State Street for a number of years; she knows more songs than most folks, and not just the choruses, she will have you singing along to your favorites in no time. Jeremy Goodman has been playing and taking lessons with John Fabke for a few years now, he was also the recipient of the Helen Schneyer Memorial Scholarship in 2007. This show will also be a fundraiser for the Helen Schneyer Memorial Scholarship. Any funds collected in the guitar on this weekend will be donated to the scholarship program. You can find more about the scholarship program on our website at www.madfolk.org.

We would like to thank many folks, without whose participation we would not have this music series. We thank the joint participation between the Madison Folk Music Society and The Greater State Street Business Association. We thank the volunteers that come out each Saturday from the bottom of our hearts, they are the core of everything and they have been some of the best volunteers I've had the honor of working with. We want to thank the businesses on State Street for their continued support, especially Hawks, Subway, State St. Brats and Potbelly's, who graciously fed (continued on page 3)



Folk on State (continued) every volunteer and performer each week. We also need to recognize WORT radio for continuing to support and play the music when other commercial radio stations don't. WORT has produced some of the best announcements on the radio each week for us; they have a great group of volunteers that have helped us out immensely. Thank you for the support from the Madison Arts commission and the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with the additional funds from the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation.

Our last thank you is to everyone who attended our shows so the performers could see how many people in the Madison area support independent artists and their music. Your support is the reason we continue to produce this unique series. We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming shows !

Folk on State 2008 schedule

August 2 - Tracy Jane Comer and Michael Bryant w/ Randy Green & Small Potatoes

August 9 - Tracy Beck and Jason Wilber

August 16 - Dave Stoddard & April Verch Band

August 23 - Ben Bedford & Jack Williams

August 30 - The Next Generation - Macyn Taylor & Jeremy Goodman w/ John Fabke

2008 Music Festivals

August 1-2	Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival www.fourlakesmusic.org	Lake Farm County Park, Madison, WI
August 8-10	Shawano Folk Music Festival www.shawanofestival.com	Shawano, WI
August 14-17	Irish Fest www.irishfest.com	Maier Festival Park, Milwaukee, WI
August 22-24	Great River Folk Festival www.greatriverfolkfest.org	La Crosse, WI
August 31, Sep 1	Fox Valley Folk Music Festival www.foxvalleyfolk.com	Geneva, IL
October 24-26	Stringalong Weekend www.uwm.edu/Dept/Folk	Olympia Resort, WI

Last Summer Sing-Along at Blue Mounds Park on Aug 22

This year's final Summer Folk Sing-Along is at 8 p.m on August.22. It will be held at Blue Mound State Park which is just north of the Village of Blue Mounds, about 25 miles west of Madison via US Highway 18/151. From Highway 18/151, go north on County Highway F and turn left on County Highway ID into Blue Mounds. Go west on Highway ID about a 1/2 mile to Mounds Rd. Turn right (north) and follow Mounds Rd north thru town. (Mounds Rd becomes Mounds Park Rd once you leave the village.) The park entrance is one mile north of the intersection of Highway ID and Mounds Rd

Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival Offers Learning Opportunities In Intimate Setting On Aug 1-2

MADISON, WI - The fifth annual Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival is one of Madison's most cozy educational events, encouraging close interaction between artists and attendees.

"We started the festival to encourage people to learn from the artists and from each other," said Evan Murdoch, president of the non-profit Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective.

The festival will feature a wide variety of workshops that enable traditional music fans to learn directly from the artists in a relaxed atmosphere. Workshops include: banjo instruction by one of traditional music's legendary performers, Mike Seeger. Also, Grammy-award winning mandolin player Mike Compton will conduct a workshop on the mandolin styles of Bill Monroe. Fans of the great Hazel Dickens will also enjoy stories and songs from her long career in folk and country music, brought out by country music historian Bill Malone. "This year's workshops are the best we've had yet," □ said workshop coordinator Bob Batyko.

The workshop stage will also feature children's artists Dave Landau on both Friday and Saturday and the Chickadees on Saturday. Kids 12 and under are admitted free. As always, there is space for musicians to get together and jam.

Those interested in volunteering at the festival should contact Chris Schlutt at schlutt@tds.net or by calling 608-242-9631.

Tickets are available online at www.sugarmaplefest.org, and in Madison at Exclusive Company State Street, Whole Foods, Spruce Tree Music, and Willy Street Co-op.

The festival will be held on Aug 1-2 at Lake Farm Park which is located at 4330 Libby Road, just four miles from Monona Terrace, and is conveniently located along the Capital City Bike Trail.

More info is available at <http://sugarmaplefest.org/>

Tentative Workshop Schedule:

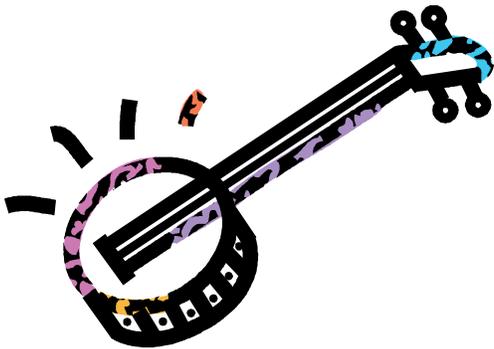
Friday August 1

- 6:00 Dave Landau (children's)
- 6:45 Mike Seeger (banjo)
- 7:45 Dot Kent (square and contra dance)



Saturday August 2

- 1:30 The Chickadees (children's)
- 2:45 Goose Island Ramblers (stories)
- 3:30 Dave Landau (children's)
- 4:15 Mike Compton (mandolin)
- 5:00 Bluegrass Boys (stories)
- 5:00 Charlie Parr and Adam Tanner (string band blues)
- 6:00 Dave Landau (children's)



Stringalong Weekend

A Folk Arts Vacation Weekend with Classes

OCTOBER 24 - 26, 2008

Oconomowoc, Wisconsin (1 hour east of Madison)

www.StringalongWeekend.com

Escape to a long weekend of music, dance and the arts at Olympia Resort. Enjoy the concerts and teaching of 30 nationally known performing artists from all over the U.S. Sing, dance, play an instrument, woodwork, drum, shoot photos, craft and jam with other folks who share your interests. Relax in Olympia's spa, swimming pool, hot tub. Exercise in their extensive indoor sports complex or 18-hole golf course. Enjoy a family reunion with lots of choices ... where no one has to clean or cook!

Pre-Stringalong: Come early! Come early for a smaller, more intimate Pre-Stringalong. Join us Thursday, Oct. 23, for dinner and a Surprise Evening Event. Staff Concerts & In-Depth Classes all day Friday. Or come for just Friday, all day & eve, and lunch: just \$89!

5 Guitar Teachers Muriel Anderson is back!, Joel Mabus, Justin Carbone (Special Consensus), Dave Para, and Bruce Emery.

6 Dulcimer Teachers Karen Ashbrook, Neal Walters, Cathy Barton, Karen Mueller, Katie Waldren, and Mary Park.

3 Banjo Teachers, 2 Songwriting Teachers

Sing, Sing, Sing — all Weekend Long! Sing Bill's songs w/ Bill Staines, join a Gospel choir, sing harmony w/Cathy Barton & Dave Para. Pre-Stringalong: sing harmonies with Will & Ann Schmid.

Make an Instrument Build a cherry or walnut instrument from a kit with help from a master craftsman (photos on Stringalong website). Irish Bodhran \$69 (retail \$99), Mtn. Dulcimer \$100 (retail \$190), Teal Banjo \$149 (retail \$239), or 22-string Eve Harp \$359 (retail \$659).

Special Consensus Bluegrass Band, Jug Band, Ukulele, Fiddle, Folk Harp, Tinwhistle... Handbells; African Drums Handbells and drums provided!

Stop the Music! Sore fingers? Need to get up and move? Try dance classes. Learn about ecology or photography. Take calligraphy, paint watercolor greeting cards, make jewelry, chocolate, or wooden toys. Beat a drum. Or just spend a few minutes relaxing in the pool/spa.

New to us? Coming alone? Meet other newcomers at a Welcome at 6:00 – 6:45 pm Friday. Get the Stringalong "inside story!"

Private Lessons with Staff of Your Choice Sign up with staff (*especially* at Pre-Stringalong!) About \$30+/half hour.

Absolute Beginner? We provide a supportive atmosphere. NO past music experience or note-reading are needed (unless indicated).

Rent an Instrument for the Weekend Help a newcomer by renting your extra instruments for \$30 per instrument/weekend (good condition only)! Sign up on registration form: to offer, or to rent.

Guests and Children Bring a guest to share your room. Guests ages 8+ may attend staff concerts & evening program. Children ages 0-3: free; ages 5-11: \$79; 12+: \$129 (Fri/Sat). We have a list of local babysitters to come to your room. Ask Ann: annschmid@mac.com 414.339.3655.

MUCH more on the web! www.StringalongWeekend.com

www.StringalongWeekend.com

Stringalong Teachers/Artists

Learn more on the website



Anderson

MURIEL ANDERSON (Fingerstyle Guitar) From Nashville, National Fingerpicking Guitar Champion; host TV's All-Star Guitar Night, Japan, Malaysia, Paris.



Ashbrook

KAREN ASHBROOK (Hammered Dulcimer) From Wash. DC, featured on cover of Dulcimer Player News; Irish TV, Smithsonian, the White House, Kennedy Center



Lipshutz

BRETT LIPSHUTZ (Tinwhistle/Flute) Played at All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil, tour -Trinity Dance Co., Old Town School



Mabus

JOEL MABUS (Songwriting, Fingerstyle Guitar), played w/ Doc Watson, Mark O'Connor, Joan Baez, G. Keillor, John Prine, great humor, picker, songwriter.



Special Consensus

SPECIAL CONSENSUS BLUEGRASS BAND (Greg Cahill, Banjo; Justin Carbone, Flatpick Guitar; Ashby Frank, Mandolin; David Thomas, String Bass) One of America's top bluegrass bands since 1975; international tours; Grand Ole Opry; Fire on the Mountain; school programs. Greg is President of International Bluegrass Music Assn. Justin featured in "Bluegrass Now." Ashby won Galax, VA and Merfest (NC) contests, David won band contests in AL



Barton & Para

CATHY BARTON AND DAVE PARA (Singing, Banjo, Flatpick Guitar) 25 years of performing vocal and instrumental Ozark traditional music; U.S., Europe



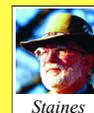
Mensah

SOWAH MENSAH (Afr. Drumming) Master Drummer from Ghana, West Africa; composer; Macalester College



Mueller

KAREN MUELLER (Autoharp, Mtn Dulcimer) International Autoharp & KS dulcimer champion; performs CA to NY



Staines

BILL STAINES (Singing, Songwriting) 22 albums, 4 songbooks, averages 200 performances a year; songs recorded by Peter Paul & Mary, Makem & Clancy, Nanci Griffith, Mason Williams, others



Stanfill-Mc

KIM STANFILL-MCMILLAN (Silver Clay, Fused Glass) Owner, 2 pottery studios; creator/teacher for 30 years, makes learning fearless, fun. See Jewelry in High Notes for photo.



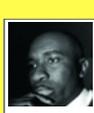
Brown

CARROLL BROWN (Calligraphy) Graphics, design and calligraphy for Pabst Brewing, Pick'n'Save, Super Valu.



Christensen

DONN CHRISTENSEN (Contra/Square Dancing) Calls dances—Ashland, WI area; your two left feet are welcome!



Nunley

DAVID NUNLEY (Gospel Singing) Director, UWM Gospel Choir; Minister of Music — All Peoples Congregation



Park

MARY PARK (Autoharp, Mountain Dulcimer) Regular columnist, Autoharp Quarterly; author mountain dulcimer book



Stone

GARY STONE (Instrument Building: Dulcimer, Banjo, Harp, Bodhran) Building folk instruments since 1984; kits are designed so beginners can make good sounding, beautiful instruments; see High Notes for photos, prices, how to reserve.



Wagner

PAUL WAGNER (International Folk Dance) Performing, teaching since 1975; conducts midwest workshops; dances w/ Bistra Voda Dance Troupe



Emery

BRUCE EMERY (Guitar) From NC; Owner of Skeptical Guitarist Publications; "Guitar From Scratch," books, CDs



Hedges

DIANA HEDGES (Wooden Toys, Greeting Cards) Director, Edina (MN) Art Center, born with a crayon in her mouth, well-known art educator



Plant

AMY PLANT (Digital Photography) web design; teaches, owns Web Etcetera



Lil' Rev

LIL' REV (Ukulele, Harmonica) Author Hal Leonard Uke Method, Blues Harmonica Champion, Old Time Hall of Fame.



Larson

JO LARSON (Handbells) From MN, handbell teacher and choir director; handbells provided; beginners welcome



Larson

KEN LEINBACH (Nature, Ecology) Award winning Director of Milwaukee's nationally known Urban Ecology Center.



Robertson

KIM ROBERTSON (Folk/Lap Harp) 20 albums, 11 volumes of harp arrangements, videos, international concert tours, instructional videos



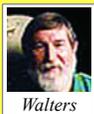
Sabien

RANDY SABIEN (Fiddle) Jazz violin, Austin City Limits, Red House & Flying Fish Records, Prairie Home Companion



Waldren

KATIE WALDREN (Mountain Dulcimer) 7 albums, 5 books; duo, Heartwood on PBS, Narada sampler



Walters

NEAL WALTERS (Autoharp, Mtn Dulcimer) Mill Run Dulcimer Band for 20 years; 8 albums, Boone, Augusta, Swannanoa, Black Swamp Mtn Dulcimer festivals; performs in "Doofus"

Josh Harty **A Long List of Lies**

North Dakota native Josh Harty is a relative newcomer to Madison and everyone who's heard him play knows why he's developed such a large fan base in the short time he's been in town. He is an absolutely riveting guitar player, he catches your attention instantly and soon has you totally enthralled. He is completely at ease while performing, one of the most natural and unaffected performers I've ever seen. This may be due to the fact that he's been performing since he was six years old, he and his father used to sing in nursing homes and on church tours. Over the years, he worked his way up to high profile gigs in the Fargo ND music scene, Harty has opened for B.B. King, Robert Cray, Roger McGuinn and Keb Mo.

He starts his newly released cd 'A Long List Of Lies' with 'December', a pensive reflection on youthful expectations that don't come to fruition. Several of the songs are about relationships in varying degrees of dissolution. 'Which Way I Go' is about knowing that things probably won't work out but not being ready to give up yet. 'Long Time Coming Down' is about acknowledging the inevitable and deciding it's time to move on. In addition to his solo performances, Harty plays guitar with Jentri Colello's band. She sings on the cd and 'Country Song' is a particularly fine example of how their voices complement each other.

His cd has just been released and wasn't available on line yet at press time. But Harty performs around town on a regular basis so there'll be plenty of opportunity to purchase it at one of his shows. Go to joshharty.com or myspace.com/joshharty to see his schedule and find out more about Madison's new musical treasure.

Archie Fisher **Windward Away**

The press release for Archie Fisher's 'Windward Away' is subtitled '10 years in the making' and it really did take that long for the album to be completed. Red House Red House Records signed Fisher in the mid 1990's and he started work on the cd shortly afterwards. The cd is a masterpiece; not only is it a retrospective of a decade of Fisher's remarkable life but it contains seven songs that he recorded in the late '70's but had never been released. The recording had been lost and he had been looking for it for years. A copy was mailed to him while working on Windward Away with a note asking if it was the 'missing master.' He decided to include them on his new cd, he is quoted as saying "Songs are like friends, they revive memories of times and places. They come and go and it's always good to meet up again."

You'll enjoy meeting this particular group of 'friends'; they all have a unique perspective. 'Ontario Dust' is incredibly descriptive, you almost feel as though you're experiencing the song and not just hearing it. The title track is a love song...to a boat and to womankind. He celebrates women in several of his songs, 'Every Man's Heart' is about four different roles that women play in men's lives and 'Silver Coin' is about a woman who is wise beyond her years. As you may have guessed from the title, Fisher is equally passionate about boats; 'The Final Trawl' was inspired by a pair of rusting, decommissioned trawlers, perhaps the only song with that particular subject matter. He also loves his horses, 'Ride Through The Rainbow' is about his horse Tequila's Sunrise who is pictured in the liner notes. Fisher doesn't have a website of his own but you can order this cd and his previous release 'Sunsets I've Galloped Into' at redhouserecords.com or by calling 800-695-4687.

Celtic music performance at Café Carpe

Trillium (<http://www.trilliumtheband.com>) is an acoustic quartet from the Chicago area comprised of National Fingerstyle Guitar Champion Ed Hall (guitar, banjo), Mim Eichmann (hammered dulcimer, vocals), Doug Lofstrom (bass) and Paul Russell (fiddle, mandolin). Their eclectic repertoire ranges in style from Celtic to folk to ragtime to bluegrass, and appeals to all ages and most musical tastes. In the three years that Trillium has been performing, they've played community fairs & festivals, coffeehouses, pubs, house concerts, nightclubs, fundraising events, and weddings. They have been featured on The WFMT Midnight Special, CelticNet and Highlander Radio as well as live performance broadcasts on public radio stations. Trillium will be performing at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Aug 22 at Cafe Carpe in Ft. Atkinson. Visit them at <http://www.cafecarpe.com> or call 920.563.9391 for more info.



Fair and Windy

Recently my wife Kristi and I stole an afternoon, unhooked our diets, and wheeled a barrow of fivers to the Dane County Fair. We rode the ferris wheel, ate fried cheese and kettle popcorn, and watched horse competitions and alpaca judgings. We saw Fainting Goats, a nutty rooster named "Psyco" that we knew from last year, and a confluence of fashion: jodhpurs, overalls, spurs, mini skirts, flocked helmets, suspenders, stilts, chains, studs, bolos. And you should have seen the NEXT guy.

A few folk songs sprang to mind: WIDECOMBE FAIR, SCARBOROUGH FAIR, OH DEAR WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE (Johnny's so long at the fair), THE ANIMAL FAIR, Bill Staines' beautiful ROSEVILLE FAIR, and Ann Reed's MY MINNESOTA STATE FAIR. And of course the 1945 Rogers and Hammerstein musical film **State Fair**, featuring the cerebral and complicated song OUR STATE FAIR:

*Our state fair is a great state fair,
Don't miss it, don't even be late.
It's dollars to donuts
That our state fair
Is the best state fair in our state.*

Back home I Googled and found songs about fairs everywhere! I also used the great Mudcat Cafe at www.mudcat.org/ where I searched for "fair" in the Digital Tradition Database, and had hits like "The Fair Maiden's Anvil" but there were lot of trad songs about fairs there, too.

WIDECOMBE FAIR stars seven blokes who borrow an old horse to go to the fair. The horse dies, and its ghost proceeds to haunt the local moor.

There's AIKEY FAIR, with the recurring theme of drunken fighting, but it also covers the fair's used car market feature:

*Oh, the next come in was Jock Munro,
Wi' his aul' lorry that widna go,
He should o' sold it lang ago,
In bonny Aikey Fair.*

Another one that ends wretchedly is COPSHAWHOLME FAIR:

*This is the fashion they thus pass the day
Till the night coming they all hurry away
& some are so sick that they'll never go mair
With the fighting and dancing at
Copshawholme Fair.*

There's the BEGGARS OF COUDINGHAM FAIR, and even a murder in the FAIR AT TURLOUGHMORE:

*Come tell me, dearest mother, what makes
my father stay
Or what can be the reason that he's been so
long away?
Oh hold your tongue, my darling son, your
tears do grieve me sore,
I fear he has been murdered at the Fair of
Turloughmore.*

THE RAWTENSTALL ANNUAL FAIR is a precursor to LYDIA THE TATTOOED LADY and just as suggestive:

*"Roll up, roll up, see the tattooed lady,
See the lovely lady with the pictures on her
skin."
In went the lads and they began to cheer,
To see that on her back were all the towns o'
Lancashire.
There were Odsall Bottom, Manchester City,
The town hall standin' in the square.
Oldham, Bolton, Ashton-under-Lyne,
'Coal pit up at Burnley were lookin' mighty
fine,
Till someone shouted "Daddy, don't go
down the mine,"
At the Rawtenstall Annual Fair.*

STRAWBERRY FAIR is about romance on the way to the fair...

*As I was going to Strawberry Fair,
Singing, singing, buttercups and daisies,
I met a maiden taking her wares, fol-de-dee.
Her eyes were blue and golden her hair,
As she went on to Strawberry Fair.*

...BRIGG FAIR covers love at the fair...

*It was on the fifth of August
The weather fair and mild
Unto Brigg Fair I did repair
For a love I was inclined...*

*...I took hold of her lily-white hand
And merrily sang my heart
For now we are together
We never more shall part*

...and there's love on the way home, in THE FAIR O' BALAMINNA:

*As I was comin' hame frae the Fair o'
Balnaminna
I met a bonnie lass, she was fairer than Diana*

There are many modern fair songs, like COUNTY FAIR by Chris Ledoux...

*Well there's a full moon in the western sky,
And there's magic in the air.
Nothin' I know of, can make you fall in love,
Like a night at the county fair.*

COUNTY FAIR by the Beach Boys...

*This time each year in our hometown
The county fair comes our way...
...I soon decide that I'd take with me
The most specialest girl I knew
I had her pack us a lunch and on down the
dirt road we flew*

COUNTY FAIR by Bruce Springsteen...

*Every year when summer comes around
They stretch a banner 'cross the main street
in town
You can feel somethin's happenin' in the air
From Carol's house up on Telegraph Hill
You can see the lights going up out in Sol-
diers Field
Getting ready, for the county fair*

There's another COUNTY FAIR by John Mellencamp, and this COUNTRY FAIR by the band Lonestar...

*Down at the county fair
Big time, big top, big crowds, big hair
There's nothing bigger all around
The country anywhere
Than the county fair*

...there's STATE FAIR WOMAN by Larry Weaver...

*The moonlight reflected off the gold in her
front tooth
And guided me to love right by that polish
sausage booth.*

...and a fair farewell, the Roger Miller song TOM GREEN COUNTY FAIR:

*Time to go. The pickup truck,
It rattles down the gravel road
And all of us kids sit backwards, looking
through the dust cloud at the lights and the
laughter, at the Tom Green County Fair*



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- Festival:** Bill & Mary Fiore, 256-4687
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