

# Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

Volume 32, No. 2 / February 2006

## Trickett headlines Feb. 4 concert; Comer opens

Ed Trickett will be appearing in concert on Saturday, February 4, 2006 at 8:00 pm at the WilMar Center, 953 Jenifer St. Ed has been collecting and interpreting traditional and traditional-based folk songs for over 30 years and has appeared on over 40 recordings and on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* and other public radio broadcasts. His repertoire includes a wide range of ballads, sea songs, songs of love and protest, and an occasional song of no consequence whatsoever. Ed Trickett is well known to New England audiences, primarily due to his singing with New



Englander Gordon Bok and Ann Mayo Muir. He accompanies himself on 6- and 12-string guitar and hammered dulcimer, an instrument that he helped popularize. Ed has a beautiful unaffected tenor voice that lulls you into enjoying a marvelous evening of music, as if joining him in his living room. Ed Trickett demonstrates his ability to find little known but extraordinarily beautiful songs and presents them with



masterful accompaniment to his gentle tenor voice.

A favored figure in the U.S. folk scene for 30 years, Ed has the reputation as a musician with whom other musicians love to play. Ed was one of the original members of the Golden Ring, a rather transient community of musicians who have gathered since the 1960s to share songs and tunes and record them. The sense of community, as well as a love and respect for traditional music highlights Ed's repertoire and style. Even as a solo performer, Ed's early choral training comes out as he uses his guitar and hammered dulcimer as distinct voices to achieve texture and counterpoint. Yet, he still puts the song in front of the singer, delivering it with emotion and honesty. He is a wonderful finder and sharer of songs, and many owe to him their first hearing of some of their favorites. A native of Washington, D.C., and a professor of community psychology, Ed is known mostly in the

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### Folk Ball kicks off March 3

Rustle up those dancing shoes, mark those calendars, alert kith and kin: all you Mad Folk are cordially invited to enjoy a weekend of fun and frolic at the 18th annual Folk Ball Festival, March 3-5 at the Memorial Union! Join hundreds of folk enthusiasts from across the Midwest and beyond for a full bill of workshops, jam sessions, live music dance parties, performances, and other hijinks. Just how many folks take part in Folk Ball is a guess since we don't do registrations and don't take money at the door— this unique festival is 90-percent supported by your voluntary

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### Wild Hog to host benefit for homeless

The Wild Hog in the Woods Coffeehouse and several local performers will join forces to put on a benefit concert for homeless persons in the Madison area. The concert will take place at the Wild Hog in the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, 953 Jenifer St. on Friday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door. All proceeds will go to Porchlight, Inc. and the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Performers, who are donating their time and talents, are Bill and Bobbie Malone, Frank Simpson, Dave Fallow, and Shauna Wells. The Malones' repertoire includes classic country songs (Bill is an eminent country music historian and hosts "Back to the Country" Wednesdays at 9 a.m. on WORT.) Frank Simpson's mellow baritone and fine guitar playing make it a joy to listen to him perform a variety of songs from gospel to Guthrie. Dave Fallow is well known as one of Madison's best-picking players of guitar and mandolin. Shauna Wells is a singer-songwriter whose compositions range from quiet and meditative to fast-paced and high-energy.

Porchlight, Inc. and the Interfaith Hospitality Network both have strong histories of providing services to homeless persons in the Madison area. Both agencies will have representatives on hand to tell concert-goers about their work, and literature will be available. Please come down to the Wild Hog on February 17 at 7:30 p.m. for an enjoyable evening in a very good cause.

# Scholarship program in the works! Member input needed

Thanks to some generous members/donors, the Madison Folk Music Society is planning to start a music scholarship program. We would like YOUR input on what this program

would be and how it would be implemented. The program should reflect the aims of the society (i.e., to promote folk music) and thus might be used to

cover music lessons for a period of time to get someone started, or help with an instrument purchase, or help with tuition for a music camp, etc. The program would be open to Mad Folk members of all ages. The amount of the scholarship is not yet determined but would probably be in the range of \$400 to \$500 and will hopefully be available each year, funds permitting.

Please give us your feedback! We welcome your thoughts on what the application procedure should be, what types of music activities would be eligible, time of year for the applications/awards, etc.

Also, we will need the services of a couple of members to assist on the Scholarship Committee, whose main function would be to meet once or twice to review applications and make award decisions. A member of the board of directors will facilitate that committee.

Send your comments and ideas or let us know if you can serve on the committee by e-mailing [webmaster@madfolk.org](mailto:webmaster@madfolk.org) or by sending "snail mail" to PO Box 930446, Verona, WI 53593. Thank you!



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Darlene Buhler, president..... 846-9214  
 dbuhler@charter.net  
 Norbert Wodke, secretary..... 836-8422  
 nfwodke@chorus.net  
 Dede Goldberg..... 246-4332  
 drgoldbe@wisc.edu  
 Bill Fiore.....256-4687  
 fiore@charter.net  
 Tracy Comer.....276-8192  
 tracy@tracycomer.com  
 Ron Dennis.....226-9472  
 rondenpho@aol.com  
 Meg Skinner..... 238-6950  
 askinner@wisc.edu  
 Vicky Jones..... 238-4661  
 vickyjones@aol.com

### Committee contacts:

**Concert:** Darlene Buhler, 846-9214  
**Festival:** Bill & Mary Fiore, 256-4687  
 Perry Baird, Newsletter, 258-4386  
 Dede Goldberg, Newsletter 246-4332  
 Mary Schranz, Calendar, 273-2515  
 Darlene Buhler, advertising, 846-9214  
 Tracy Comer, membership, 276-8192  
**Mad Folk e-mail:** [Madfolk@charter.net](mailto:Madfolk@charter.net)  
**Mad Folk web site:** [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org)

## Madison Folk Music Society

P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701

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Newsletter Published Monthly

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

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<p><b>Membership Categories</b></p> <p>Student     \$10 _____</p> <p>Senior       \$8 _____</p> <p>Regular      \$12 _____</p> <p>Family       \$15 _____</p> <p>Friend       \$25 _____</p> <p>Contributing \$50 _____</p> <p>Life           \$500 _____</p> <p><b>Total     \$ _____</b></p>	<p><b>Check One</b></p> <p>I would like to help with:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Concerts</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Festival</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Housing performers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Publicity</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</p>
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Time to renew? Don't want to cut up your newsletter? Just be sure your name is on your check and mail it to the address shown. Enclose a note if there are changes needed to your information. Or, you can print a form from the Mad Folk web site: [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org).

# Folk Ball

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donations at the various events, for which we warmly thank you!

Centerpieces of the weekend are the legendary live music dance parties Friday (7:30–midnight) and Saturday (7 p.m.–1 a.m.) nights in Great Hall, featuring four dance bands each evening, plus the kickin' kickoff contra with Last Gaspé and caller Steve Pike in Tripp Commons, 7:30 Friday. Dance bands featured Friday night are Spatter Dash (Int'l), Yid Vicious (klezmer), Izvor Orchestra (Milwaukee ethnic), Dave Kantor and Yuli Yordanov (Balkan bagpipe and drum). Saturday's band lineup is Finn Hall Band (Finnish-American), Orkestar Bezime (Int'l), Reptile Palace Orchestra (high-octane eclectic), and Orkestar Slobodas (Int'l). Look for brief dance performances early Saturday evening by Zaibas Lithuanian Dancers, Sumadija Serbian Folk Dance Ensemble, and Ensemble Narodno.

Saturday workshop highlights as we go to press (schedule details in development) include Romanian folkdance with featured guest teachers Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion, Argentine tango with Marek Szotkowski, Lithuanian dance with Nijole Etwiler, Serbian dance with Michael Malich, and Finnish-American dances with Ralph Tuttila. Nijole Etwiler presents Lithuanian traditions at a brown-bag lunch culture session. KG and The Ranger team with Tri Bratovchedki for a singing workshop to de-mystify the art of yodeling and teach a Lithuanian song.

There will be additional workshop and review sessions with featured teachers Sunday afternoon in Great Hall (details TBA). Note location change from past years! Finally, a Survivors Party of request dancing and general mellowness Sunday 7:30–11 a.m. at The Crossing, 1127 University Avenue.

Hope to see you at the Ball!

Info: Michael 608-241-3655 / mk@mailbag.com. Housing requests/offers: Susan 608-577-5658 / shockrequest@yahoo.com. Website for the continuing story: <http://plantpath.wisc.edu/~td/folkball.htm>.

# Trickett, Feb. 4

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Northeast, but academia has brought him to Chicago, where the Golden Ring first congregated. Ed has also appeared as an accompanying musician for numerous other folk artists: Don McLean, Mark Spoelstra, Rosalie Sorrels, Bob Zentz, Harry Tuft, Joan Sprung, Sara Grey, and Sandy and Caroline Paton.

Opening the show will be Madison musician Tracy Jane Comer, a four-time nominee in the Madison Area Music Awards (Best Acoustic Artist and Best Acoustic Album). Tracy is now a full-time musician, touring mostly in the Midwest and Southeast, performing her multi-flavored contemporary folk music. While comparisons are often made to artists such as Joni Mitchell, Dar Williams, and Patty

Larkin, a recent article in *The Onion* sums up her music this way: "Tracy Jane Comer's sparkling acoustic folk is reminiscent of classic balladeers like Joan Baez, complete with lyrics that combines social consciousness with personal issues." She was a main stage showcase artist at Folk Alliance Region Midwest in October and has been honored three times by VH-1's "Song of the Year" contest in the Folk category. She was also featured last year in *Midwest Folk Magazine*. Tracy's guitar instrumental tune "Movin' in the Right Direction" was recently aired during MTV's reality show "Made." See [www.tracyjanecomer.com](http://www.tracyjanecomer.com) <http://www.tracyjanecomer.com> for more.

Tickets are available at Borders East and West, Orange Tree Imports, Spruce Tree Music, B-Side Records, and Steep & Brew Odana Rd. (\$14 in advance, \$16 day of show).

## Open mics: A four-year journey

In November 2001, Ira and Nancy McDonald made a temporary move from their farm in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan to the Willy St. neighborhood of Madison. Ira quickly discovered some weekly electric open mics (blues, country, rock) in Madison, but no weekly acoustic open mics. So late one night in December, Ira approached Stosh, the owner of Speed Jump Java Joint, suggesting, "How about a weekly acoustic open mic at Speed Jump with me hosting?" Stosh agreed and Speed Jump's acoustic open mic started the first week of January 2002.

In the spring of 2002, Ira and Nancy went home to their farm and Heidi Hakseth took over as host with help from Amy Curl and Jeremy O'Sullivan. In the fall, Ira again returned to Madison, hosting for another winter. In May 2003, Ira and Nancy again returned to Michigan and Stephen Lee Rich took over as host. Stephen has been performing music for over 35 years and encourages upcoming musicians.

In December 2003, Speed Jump closed and reopened later as In the Company of Thieves, but without an open mic. At the urging of open mic participant Ingrid Frances Stark, Suzanne Moertl, owner of the Urban Market and Coffeehouse on Sherman Ave., agreed to take on the event, commencing January 9, 2004.

Stephen added rotating hosts Aaron Nathans, Bowen Marvik, Julia McConahay, and Ron Dennis. This open

mic has developed a strong and regular following and has been a very welcoming venue for everyone. While primarily folk-type music, it is open to all styles, including spoken word. All performers receive a good round of applause and a lot of encouragement.

In December 2005, it was announced that Urban Market would close. Karen Darcy of *Isthmus* contacted Stephen, and Darlene Buhler of the Madison Folk Music Society contacted Ron, with both suggesting we look at a new coffee shop called Escape on Willy Street. Over a three-day period, it was checked out by Stephen and Ron and the venue nailed down for a weekly Saturday night open mic.

Escape Art Gallery and Java Joint is located at 916 Williamson St., adjoining the Star Photo building. Inside, there is a living-room-type space, library, game room, kids room with toys, study rooms, conference room and a large back room that is an art gallery and music space. There are plans to include a small stage and sound system. The entire space will develop as community input and finances allow.

Joining the rotating host list in February will be Nancy Rost. According to Stephen, "Open mics are where budding performers go to learn their craft... where parlor musicians go to share a few tunes." Come out on Saturday night and share a tune, story, poem, joke, or just sit, have some coffee, and listen. The fun starts at 8 p.m.—Ron Dennis