

Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

Volume 30, No. 1 / January 2004

16th Folk Ball Festival!

The Folk Ball, the Midwest's largest and liveliest folkdance festival, is slated for January 23–25 at the UW Memorial Union and downtown venues. You are invited to mix it up with playful folkdance aficionados of every stripe in this community celebration.

The weekend kicks off Friday night with double-bill dance parties. Grace Guildhall (W. Washington at the Square) is hopping with the Folk Ball Contra with caller Steve Pike and music by outstanding Illinois fiddler Colin McCoy and Roger Diggle. Teaching 7:30–8, dancing 8–11, suggested donation \$6. Info: Roger, 242-0373.

Friday night's International Dance at Great Hall (7:30-midnight) offers something for everyone with music by Maritza, Malo Selo, Sloboda, & the Cajun Strangers.

Daytime dance workshops Saturday include featured teacher Joe Graziosi (Greek), Penny Brichta (Israeli), Oak Apple (English morris dancing), Jeanette Watts & Mary Gorman (Wisconsin polka), and Dan Talmo (Transylvanian men's dances). Mila Vocal Ensemble of Twin Cities & Tri Bratovchedki offer a Balkan singing workshop and Reid Miller a storytelling session. All workshops are in the Union and nearby Pres House, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The legendary Folk Ball Dance Party (Saturday 7 p.m.–12:30 a.m. in Great Hall) features Yid Vicious, Izvor Orchestra, & Reptile Palace Orchestra. There will also be dance performances by Oak Apple Morris Team, Narodno!, and perhaps the Hellenic Greek Dancers of Milwaukee.

Sunday Greek dance workshop and review session with Joe Graziosi are at Grace Guildhall 1–5 p.m.

As schedule details are finalized they will be posted on the Folk Ball website <http://plantpath.wisc.edu/~td/FB2004.htm>.

Cathy Barton & Dave Para

Songs passed down through generations

Be sure not to miss our first concert of the new year, Cathy Barton and Dave Para, on January 10 at Immanuel Lutheran Church. If you have yet to discover why folk music isn't boring, you need only discover Cathy and Dave.

Cathy Barton is an academically-trained folklorist and she and her husband/partner Dave Para have done extensive field collecting of old songs and tunes in the Ozarks and the midwest. But rather than a dry, scholarly record, they create dynamic performances acclaimed for their variety and expertise in vocal and instrumental styles.

They keep alive the musical traditions and folklife of Missouri and the Ozarks, and have special expertise in songs of the civil war in the midwest, and most recently, the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804–6. Their latest album, *Most Perfect Harmony*, uses the Lewis and Clark Expedition as its subject base, and was recorded with fellow Missourians Paul & Win Grace and Bob Dyer.

A versatile duo, Dave and Cathy play numerous stringed instruments, including hammered and fretted dulcimers, banjo, guitar, and autoharp, as well as "found" instruments like bones, spoons, mouthbow, and leaf. Their concerts range from the lively dance tunes they have collected in their home region to old ballads as well as new songs.

Dave is best known for his guitar

wizardry and his quick wit on stage. He began his music career by taking guitar lessons at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music. Cathy holds college and graduate degrees in humanities and folklore and has worked as a folklorist at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, AR.

They have performed in festivals, clubs, concert halls, schools and studios across the US and Europe. Their audiences are as diverse as their repertoire.

Barton and Para's music is rooted in the rolling hills of the Ozarks and the flat Midwestern prairies, and their music, like the land itself, has a beauty all its own.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to see some of the best in folk music.

Opening the concert will be Madison's own Tracy Jane Comer. Formerly a classical musician, Tracy is now enjoying a focus on her songwriting and performing. You may check out Tracy at her website at www.tracycomer.com.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$14 day of show: Saturday, January 10, at 8 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1021 Spaight Street (across the street from the Wil-Mar Center). Tickets are available at B-side Records, Borders bookshops East & West, Spruce Tree Music, Orange Tree Imports, Canterbury Booksellers, and Steep & Brew (Odana Road).

Check out Mad Folk web site

www.Madfolk.org <<http://www.Madfolk.org>> is our website, it was not working for awhile, but it is up and running again! Please check it out and let us know what you think.



Meetings

Mad Folk Board: Jan. 7

7 p.m. at 813 Woods Glen Court

Mad Folk brings Mustard's Retreat February 21

Mark your calendars now so you won't miss our February 21 concert with Mustard's Retreat! For more than a quarter of a century Mustard's Retreat has been entertaining audiences with its special brand of folk music, full of enthusiasm, good humor, and fine musicianship. The duo, made up of David Tamulevich and Michael Hough, entertains with an eclectic selection of their own material, tradi-

tional songs and tunes, and works from other songwriters. You can count on some storytelling, excellent harmonies, and songs with choruses to join in on. These are good folks, and theirs

are songs that celebrate. "Music to cure what ails you," is a line that has followed them.

Definitely a cure for the midwinter blues!

Music Fest entries sought

The Fondy Acoustic Music Alliance will again be sponsoring a songwriting contest as part of its second annual Fondy Acoustic Music Fest held on February 7. The top prizes will be \$100, \$60, and \$40 with the first place winner opening for the concert that night. All submissions must be postmarked by January 14 and the top 10 songwriters will be notified the week of January 18.

More information, contest rules and entry blanks can be found at www.fondyacoustic.org <<http://www.fondyacoustic.org/>> or by contacting Dick Weinberger 920-923-0662.

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Madison Folk Music Society

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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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

<p>Membership Categories</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>Total \$ _____</p>	<p><i>Check One</i></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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