

Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

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Folk at 4 keeps on bringing it

Folk at 4 continues during July starting with Wisconsin's own Tracy Jane Comer and LJ Booth on July 3.

Tracy Jane Comer is a singer/songwriter who grew up in North Carolina but resides here in Madison. Tracy boasts a diversified musical background, playing guitar, piano, cello, hammered dulcimer, and fiddle. Eric Hester, who reviewed Tracy's debut CD, *Second Wind*, writes, "Her voice may be the best instrument...always well-toned and sharing a nice melisma that isn't overused."



Clockwise from top left: Comer, Booth, Harvey, Mulvey.

Nominated in both the Best Acoustic Artist and Best Acoustic Album categories by the 2004 Madison Area Music Awards, Comer is already showing signs of future success as a multi-flavored contemporary acoustic talent.

Sharing the bill with Tracy on July 3 is **L.J. Booth**. Winner of three prestigious

songwriting competitions (Kerrville, Telluride, and Falcon Ridge), L.J. is riding high while promoting his new CD, *The Ox that Pulls the Cart*. John McCutcheon states, "Few writers I know are as musical, literate, and elegant" as L.J. Booth. Come see for yourself why artists such as David Wilcox, Anne Hills, Sally Rogers, and Carrie Newcomer have included L.J.'s songs in their sets and recordings.

On Saturday, July 10, **Peter Mulvey** will be playing both sets at Folk at 4. With nine CDs under his belt, filling time with song will be no problem for Peter Mulvey. Peter currently resides in Milwaukee and has just released a new CD entitled *Kitchen Radio*. Mulvey spends much of his time on the road touring from Anchorage to Dublin and all points between. *Harp* magazine writes of Peter Mulvey, "Peter has an uncanny knack for creating a shivering ambiance with his expansive musical talents and a gift for lyrical intimacy that immediately connects the listener to his songs." Come see what Peter has to offer on July 10.

Lis Harvey and Joe Jencks take the Folk at 4 stage on July 17. **Lis Harvey** is a 25-year-old folk artist who has already "been around." More specifically, Lis set the Guinness World Record two years ago for extreme touring with a solo tour that spanned 52 shows in all 50 states in just 60 days. To commemorate this marathon, Lis released the 2002 CD, *Topography*, and has since recorded another CD entitled *Something on You*. *Dirty Linen* magazine describes Lis Harvey's voice as that of a "little girl's—edgy and with a start and stop vocal delivery." Lis started a benefit tour called Will Folk For Food. The tour features her and other independent artists and raises community awareness and support for domestic violence shelters nationwide. Stop by and ask Lis

(continued on inside page)

PERFORMERS & VENUES

Miller's Country Stage opens in Vilas County

Nestled on the northern border of Vilas County, seven miles west of Land O' Lakes, is the brand new venue of Miller's Country Stage. This 135-seat garden amphitheater promises to be a musician and spectator acoustic paradise. The stage overlooks a European-style three-tier perennial garden and has the natural reverb of a 30-acre lake in the background.

Proprietors Bret and Frisk Miller opened Miller's Country Store LLC in January of 2003. Being musicians themselves, they decided that the addition of an amphitheater to their store would be a welcome addition to the community as well as a great destination for tourists. The fully hand-scribed covered log stage will be a host to some fantastic acts this summer.

Scheduled to play in the inaugural season are Tom Pease, Small Potatoes, Joe Jencks, Lou and Peter Berryman, and LJ Booth. In addition Bret and Frisk will be playing regular shows. Tickets may be purchased at Miller's Country Store or by calling (715)547-8222. Food and drink will be available at the venue as it is a full service restaurant and coffee shop as well. Specialty wines and beer will be available at most shows. This is also a non-smoking venue. Bret and Frisk look forward to seeing you soon.

Schedule:

Sunday, July 4, 3-5 p.m., Bret & Frisk, free admission

Sunday, July 11, 3-5 p.m., Lou & Peter Berryman, \$12 reserve seating/\$10 general admission

Sunday, July 18, 3-5 p.m., Joe Jencks, \$12 reserve seating/\$10 general admission

Sunday, July 25, 3-5 p.m., LJ Booth, \$12 reserve seating/\$10 general admission

Sunday, August 15, 3-5 p.m., Small Potatoes, \$12 reserve seating/\$10 general admission

Meetings

Concert Committee: July 22, 7 p.m.
Mad Folk Board: August 3, 6:30 p.m.
at 813 Woods Glen Court



Folk at Four performers for July include (from left) Joe Jencks, Erin O'Brien, Cris Plata, Shauna Wells, Tom Prasada-Rao.

Folk at 4

(continued from page 1)

about that tour and her upcoming CD due out this fall.

When you think of **Joe Jencks**, you think of three equally important assets: good guitar, good voice, and good songs. Joe, who currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio, feels deeply about carrying out a commitment to human rights, social justice, workers rights, and community building. His songs carry meaningful and sometimes powerful messages that "tap into the latent, nearly mystical beauty that a roomful of people can unleash by singing together." (Brad Warren, Seattle Folklore Society). *I Hear Your Voice* is Joe's 2003 CD and continues to be well received nationally as a significant work of modern folk music.

Folk at 4 welcomes Erin O'Brien and Cris Plata on July 24. A self-described "late bloomer" when it comes to music, **Erin O'Brien** wrote her first song at the age of 28 and waited four more years before sharing her songs onstage. Raised on the banks of the Chesapeake Bay in Annapolis, MD, Erin currently resides in Madison. In January 2004 Erin was named Songwriter of the Month at a monthly songwriting competition hosted by the Madison Songwriters Group. Though rela-

tively new to the stage, Erin's performances feel anything but green. With a powerful voice and intense delivery, Erin has mesmerized audiences throughout the Midwest. If you pride yourself in discovering new talent early, she's definitely an act you don't want to miss.

Born in South Texas, **Cris Plata** was the son of Mexican-American migrant workers. His early musical experience reflects his Mexican heritage. This heritage includes Norteno (Northern Mexico border music), Conjunto (elements of both European and Mexican music fused by residents of South Texas), and Ranchera (Mexican country) music. Today, Cris describes this as Mexican Roots Music. Cris Plata's latest CD, *Ziggy Dreams in Color*, reflects these influences and is rooted in his Texas and Mexican heritage. With all of these influences, Tex-Mex has been redefined by Cris.

Shauna Wells is an award winning songwriter who performs lyrical acoustic pop music with a jazz bent and a contemporary style. A Michigan native transplanted here, Wells writes songs on topics ranging from migrant farm workers to Ford Pinto cars. Songs from her first full-length release *Burn Up the Sun* have placed first at the 2003 Fondy Acoustic Music Alliance songwriting competition. Shauna Wells' live performances are playful and honest with humorous anecdotes

that endear her to her fans. Lyrical and intimate, Wells' voice is smooth with a touch of folk and jazz. In addition to guitar, she accompanies herself on the bass dulcimer. Shauna will be performing for Folk at 4 on July 31.

Following Shauna's performance, **Tom Prasada-Rao** will perform. Tom lives in Texas and produces CDs as well as writing songs with Cary Cooper. His songs are transcendent at times, and sometimes evocative of Sly and the Family Stone. Tom will be performing songs from his recently released CD, *What We Know Now*. When performing live, Tom is inclusive, provocative, and reverent—making his performance the perfect musical conclusion to the Folk at 4 July schedule.

As the series title suggests, all performances start at 4 p.m., and they are held at the Lisa Link Peace Park on State Street in Madison.

First Sugar Maple Traditional Music Fest slated

August 6 and 7, 2004, will mark the first annual Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival, hosted by Madison's Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective. The two-day festival will highlight the great depth and diversity of traditional American music and will be held at Lake Farm Park on the banks of Lake Waubesa.

The organization, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, is dedicated to building an ongoing, thriving partnership among musicians and the Madison community.

Tentative event timeline:

Friday August 6, 8–11p.m.: Foot-stompin' barn dance at the Lussier Heritage Center featuring Cajun Music by Sybil and Tally Miller of Sulphur, Louisiana, and much more.

Saturday August 7, Noon–7 p.m.: Five sets of music featuring blues, old-time traditional fiddle music, singer/songwriter styles, and more. We will feature a children's parade and workshops with artists for musicians of all levels. Confirmed artist: alt-country standout Robbie Fulks and Klezmer music by Madison favorites Yid Vicious. Additional confirmed artists will be posted on the Internet at www.fourlakesmusic.org.

Midwest Folk

www.midwestfolk.com




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articles about midwest
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for a sample copy:



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Third-Friday Sings continue at Brittingham

The second of Mad Folk's summer sings will be held July 16 at the Brittingham Park shelter, located on the near west side of Madison off West Washington Avenue. Our Third Friday Sings are made possible by the Madison Parks Department, which has offered Mad Folk the use of the park

shelter for our sings.

July 16, and August 20 will round out the summer schedule. We plan to start singing about 7 p.m. and will go

to about 10. All are welcome. We will again be using the *Rise Up Singing* books.

If you are interested in leading one of these sings, please let Mike Tuten know. He can be reached at 274-6340 or by email at mnchu2101@charter.net.

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