

Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

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Weekly Folk On State series kicks off June 3

Beginning June 3 and continuing for the next 14 weeks, Mad Folk will again be cosponsoring the Folk On State Series. This summer the music will flow from 1–3 p.m. and will be located in the 500 block of State Street at the Francis/State St. Park—better known as Concrete Park. Park across State Street at the Francis Street ramp.



Flemming



Thomas

For the first two Saturdays, PotBelly's (the sandwich shop next door) will be donating 10 percent of its proceeds back to this program for all the purchases made between 1 and 3 p.m., so make sure to have a sandwich while listening to the music. If the Mother Nature decides to rain on us, we will move to the Memorial Union Rathskeller.

The music should be great! For the month of June we have the following line-up.

Starting off June 3 will be **Marianne Flemming and Blake Thomas**. We mentioned last month that Flemming is a vet at our State Street series and we are excited to have her back to open the series



Greenway



The Dreamsicles

this year. Marianne has a decidedly left-of-center perspective to her songwriting. Described as “textured,



Mook

expressive, sensual and zany,” she has many hues on her songwriting palette. Born and raised in South Florida, Marianne got the music bug early due to an influ-

ence from her father, a nightclub singer in the '40s and '50s. Upon graduating college, Marianne hit the road, and through her travels she gathered the many influences that would become her unique style. Years spent performing in the

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Lonquist



KG & The Ranger



Wishing Chair

FOCUS ON FOLK

A Look at songwriting with Kris Adams

The Beginning: I began writing music during a solo cross-country road trip in 2000. Tunes and melodies had been rattling around in my brain for months; I would sing them walking down the street or in my car. I had only been playing guitar for two years, starting right around the time I graduated from college in the spring of 1998. After a couple of years of playing Dylan, Crosby Stills & Nash, and Bob Marley, it occurred to me that if I could play other people's songs knowing only a handful of chords, I could write my own.

The Passion: Since that time, writing songs for me has become not just a creative outlet, but an introduction to a way of looking at the world that relieves, inspires, and delights me. By viewing the world as an artist, I am inclined to perceive the deeper meaning and the bigger picture of life experiences and to view people more objectively, searching for their inherent beauty.

The Process: I usually begin writing a song by humming a tune. I record the tune on a hand-held digital recorder I carry in my purse. Wherever I go, it goes. I usually record several versions of the same melody,

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Summer Sing-alongs in Blue Mound State Park

Mad Folk will again host summer folk sing-alongs at Blue Mound State Park, starting at 8:30 p.m. on the third Friday of every month. They will begin June 16 and continue on July 21 and August 18. Bring your instruments and your voice and join campers from the park in rousing folk/camp songs. Copies of *Rise Up Singing* will be available.

June's sing-along will be at the amphitheater, just to the left at the top of the hill, because the shelter will be in use for distribution of packets for the Horribly Hilly bike rally the next day. But July and August sing-alongs will be in the lighted, roofed main shelter at the top of the hill.

To get to Blue Mound State Park from Madison, take Highway 18-151 west past Mount Horeb and take the exit marked highway F. Turn left on ID, then follow signs for the park, turning right by the Citgo station and continuing past the trailer park on your left.

Although the designated Mad Folk song leaders will be admitted to the park for free (by identifying yourself

at the gate), all others coming to join in the singing will be required to have a

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State Park daily or season sticker.

If you can help lead the singing on one of the three third Fridays, please contact Meg Skinner at 798-4291.



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Folk On State

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Caribbean, busking in Europe, or jamming in a bar in Venezuela have all been synthesized into a musical style that lifts your soul and moves your feet. From Blues to Rock, Jazz to Reggae, her original material is truly a musical evolution. She is considered a musician's musician. "Marianne carries the total package. Strong songwriting, accomplished guitar technique, charismatic and alluring vocals, and an endearing, self effacing sense of humor permeate every show." She is someone to watch, someone to be around, and always someone to be heard. **Blake Thomas** can be found many nights playing at the Brocach Irish Pub, we are excited to bring him out in to the light for his debut performance for Folk on State. Come and hear the music that won him two awards at the Madison Area Music Awards this past spring.

The 2nd weekend, June 10, brings us **Greg Greenway** and also **The Dreamsicles**, which is the a duo consisting of Tom Prasada-Rao and Cary Cooper. Greg last played the series in 2004 and was most recently in Madison for a Mad Folk event, The Phil Ochs Song Night. Greg returns this summer with his latest live recording—once you put this in you player you will want to leave it there. It is one you will want to take with you on your next road trip. Greg is a superb songwriter, with a warm voice to carry the songs to your ears. Playing that same weekend are good friends of Greg: Tom Prasada-Rao and Cary Cooper. You may remember their performance last year—good songs, good fun, and a little cheerleading on the side. This year you will find Tom & Cary on their honeymoon when they visit us, so come out and give them congratulations!

Up next on June 17 will be **Alastair Moock**, who also last played here in 2004. You may remember him as the one with the boyish face but a very whisky-sounding voice. With a writing style reminiscent of John Prine and a vocal sound two shades lighter than Tom Waits, Moock straddles the lines between folk, blues, and country. He has toured extensively in the U.S. and Europe, winning over audiences wherever he goes with performances that Americana Radio chart-topper Slaid Cleaves describes as "masterful." The *Boston Globe* and *Boston Herald* both call him "one of Boston's best

songwriters" and *The Washington Post* proclaims, "every song a gem." Following Alastair that Saturday will be Madison's own **KG & The Ranger**. After 3 years of trying to get these folks on this stage we are glad we have finally succeeded. KG & The Ranger's music will transport you back to the days of the dime matinees and heroes like Roy Rogers and Gene Autry. They yodel in harmony, sing classic cowboy songs, and even spin a lariat. KG & The Ranger will bring back fond memories—but also make you feel that you are hearing these songs for the first time!

Our final weekend in June will round out with another of Madison's favorite folk mavericks, **Ken Lonquist**, and back by popular demand from last year, **Wishing Chair**, a duo consisting of Miriam Davidson and Kiya Heartwood. Ken Lonquist has been a full-time singer-songwriter since 1978, performing around the U.S. and Canada solo or with his talented friends. He writes for listeners young and old—love and nature ballads, topical humor, musical-theater, and lots of category-defying weird stuff. Miriam and Kiya have been characterized as "a songwriting, accordion playing, harmony singing, storytelling, hand-drumming, banjo strumming, soul stirring, two woman tour-de-force." With award-winning songwriting and musicianship, Wishing Chair "never fails to create that exhilarating sense one gets when great melodies, strong harmonies, and superb execution come together," says *Performing Songwriter* magazine. "Wishing Chair serves up a lively batch of original songs that follow on to two of the oldest traditions of folk music: storytelling and political broadside," according to *Dirty Linen*.

Come enjoy the music!

FOCUS ON FOLK

(continued from page 1)

throwing out different ideas. Then later, I sit down with my guitar and the recorder and mold what I've recorded into a tune I can play chords to. Usually the lyrics come from the syllables I've made when humming the original tune. If I have some emotions rolling around or a particular story that I want to tell, I'll incorporate that into the music and work on it until I'm satisfied with it. Sometimes the process can take months, sometimes a couple hours. There are other times where I've just sat down with my guitar and a song will just roll out of me. Those times happen less often, but when they do, it makes me feel like by writing music I'm doing exactly what I'm supposed to be doing in my life.



Kris spent several years as a spoken word poet on the Madison scene and performing in venues across the U.S. including San Diego, Ann Arbor, and Chicago. In 1998, she began putting her poetry to music. Influenced by blues, rock, showtunes, funk, and folk, Kris' eclectic sound draws from many genres to create a memorable and unique acoustic experience.

Call for Folk On State volunteers!

Megan Christiansen is coordinating the volunteer corps for this year's Folk on State concert series, and she needs your help! We're again seeking volunteers to help set up and remove chairs and other stuff, sell CDs, pass the guitar for contributions, etc. The time commitment is from about noon until about 3:30. And, you get to hear some great music!

There will be concerts on 14 Saturday afternoons between June 3 and Sept. 2, from 1 to 3 p.m. (See schedule at www.madfolk.org.) Due to construction on the 400 Block of State Street, this year's venue has moved down State Street to Concrete Park (between Urban Outfitters and Potbelly's).

For those who volunteered last year, this year is much easier: no umbrellas, we are in the shade, and a very nice restaurant said it would have food certificates for all.

Please let Megan know which Saturday(s) you could volunteer, and if you'd be willing to be the lead volunteer. You can e-mail her at madknitter@earthlink.net.