
Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

Volume 34, No. 6/ June 2008

Folk On State Begins 6th Season Of Free Concerts On June 7 At Peace Park

With five years, 70 Saturdays and 140 sets of music under their belt, with performers from as close as Madison to as far away as Australia, The Madison Folk Music Society and The Greater State Street Business Association will for the 6th year bring music to State Street.

It is a truly amazing event that will be unfolding each Saturday at Peace Park from 1:00 to 3:00 starting on June 7th and going through August 30th. The event does not even get rained out, should skies open with rain, the music simply moves indoors to The Rathskeller at the Memorial Union.

This summer the event opens on June 7th bringing back Peter Mulvey to our stage for his 6th appearance at Folk on State, Peter will be playing two full sets. Mulvey has become quite a draw with all his Madison fans and although he plays much bigger venues in this town, he continues to come and play on our stage in the heartbeat of downtown Madison. Those who saw Mulvey last year will remember his long bike ride to get here as he practiced for his green tour.

June 14th brings to our stage Ken Lonquist (pictured above) and Round the Bend. Ken Lonquist brings laughter and song to audiences of all ages, singing about nature, Wisconsin, and current events. His kid's songs are simply terrific --- they've been the soundtrack of childhood for a generation of Madisonians!

Based in Madison since 2000, Round the Bend blends Bluegrass, Old-Timey, and Western Swing in captivating versions of traditional songs that evoke nostalgia, love lost and found, and barn-dancing fun. Spirited vocals, tight harmonies, inventive instrumentals and down-home humor have delighted audiences of all ages at parties, festivals, community concerts, weddings, and senior centers. Tailoring selection of tunes to hosts' requests, the band offers concert-style shows or low-profile background music. Round the Bend loves to have a good time with audiences. Released in September, 2007, their CD 'Round the Bend' was reviewed by country music historian Bill Malone, who concluded, "The diversity of styles is one of the most appealing aspects of the music heard here...original pieces, old-time hoedowns, bluegrass standards, vintage blues and jazz tunes...You're going to love what you hear."

June 21st brings Allison Downey with John Austin (pictured on next page) and Bob Westfall. Allison has been described as a "masterful performer with a commanding, yet genuine and open, stage presence". Her face literally lights up as she sings with a voice reminiscent of the stylistic range and quality of Natalie Merchant. With an MFA in Theatre, Allison is a natural storyteller who creates scenes on stage. This native Washingtonian (DC) honed her craft in Austin, TX before bringing her style of music to her current home of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Since 2004, Allison has been performing with her partner in music and life, John Austin. Allison's "Midwestern Urban Folk" originals are complimented by the dynamic grooves of John's six-string bass. Songs from Allison's newest recording, *Across the Sea* (2008), produced by Michael Crittenden of Mackinaw Harvest Records, have already produced accolades for Allison, including the People's Choice Award for Texas' 2007 Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival Performing Songwriter Contest. Allison's debut CD, *Wind at Your Back* (Little Ditty Records, 2002), produced by veteran performers Christine Albert & Chris Gage, has been heard on radio stations around the country. Both CD's are available at a variety of stores, on her website www.allisondowney.com, itunes and CDBaby.com.

Part jazzier, part folkie, part "newgrass" picker, Bob Westfall is anything but a typical (continued on Page 2)



Folk on State (continued) singer-songwriter. Where many of his peers fiddle about with down-on-the-farm humor and familiar folk-rock progressions, Westfall has set his sites squarely on the adult acoustic market. His tunes about love, regret and life-altering reflection are warm enough for mature romantics, and his musicianship allows him to tweak the hook-obsessed consciousness of Triple A programmers. --Tom Laskin, The Isthmus.

June 28th brings Robert Johnson and Lou & Peter Berryman. Robert 'One-Man' Johnson sings and plays guitar, harmonica, cymbal and a home-made foot piano...simultaneously. Mixing original folk-blues-oriented material with respectful re-workings of classics, Johnson's songs have a mid-western humor and flavor in spite of his living overseas for the past 25 years. Finally returning to his current Iowa City home, Robert hopes to rediscover his mid-western roots while enlivening the concert and club scene with stories and songs of life in China, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Turkey as viewed through the eyes of a guy from Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

"With great wordplay, gentle, self-deprecating, socially relevant, humorous songwriting, Lou & Peter Berryman invite comparisons to Tom Lehrer and the Smothers Brothers, Jacques Brel and Gilbert and Sullivan. Their unique style and energetic and friendly performances on 12-string guitar and accordion have earned them legions of fans and regular appearances at top venues around the country, including NPR's A Prairie Home Companion. They remain rooted in their native Wisconsin, discovering a long time ago that the Midwestern human condition is not particularly different from the human condition elsewhere: their affectionate observations make us all laugh until our cheeks hurt, and care, for ourselves and for each other."

And looking ahead to the first Saturday of July, will be Lee Murdock and Patchouli.

Folk on State is a joint collaboration between The Madison Folk Music Society and The Greater State Street Business Association. It is funded by Madison Arts Council, Greater State Street Business Association, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from the Overture Foundation and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation, and local businesses in the State Street area.

CD Reviews by Judy Robinson

Greg Greenway Standing On The Side Of Love

Anyone who has attended one of Greg Greenway's Madison area performances knows that he is one of folk music's most charming ambassadors. His low-key demeanor, wry humor, ready smile and desire to connect with his audience make his concerts truly gratifying experiences. He has been performing and recording since 1992 and his work has grown continually more contemplative over the years. He definitely doesn't shy away from addressing difficult topics such as racism and economic injustice but his innate optimism always comes through no matter what subject he is singing about. 'Standing On The Side of Love' is his 7th cd and although it doesn't quite capture the warmth of his live performances, it does capture his sublime musical talent. The opening track 'Highway 4am (Driving) is a love poem to his wife. There are countless songs written about returning home to one's sweetheart and this is one of the most touching that I've ever heard. He sings of his wife showing him 'the equal and opposite force of found girls who want to save lost boys.' The title track is a declaration to be a positive force in this increasingly unsettled world. In the liner notes, Greenway writes that the song was inspired after listening to NAACP Chairman Professor Julian Bond talk about 'Cafeteria Christians' (people who pick and choose which religious doctrines they'll follow and more importantly, which ones they won't.) 'Sick and Tired' is a battle cry; he co wrote it with Kate Campbell. The song is based on a phrase by civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer who co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Greenway comes through Madison on a fairly regular basis and will hopefully return before too long. Until you have a chance to see him live, you can go to greggreenway.com to order his cd's and find out more about this winsome modern day troubadour.

Ben Bedford Lincoln's Man

It is somewhat unusual for young songwriters to draw inspiration from the Civil War so I was intrigued by Ben Bedford's choice of subject matter on 'Lincoln's Man'. Bedford is from Springfield IL and has a degree in history which helps explain why that period would be of personal interest to him. He sings about two very different aspects of the war. 'Virginia Girls' is about a woman waiting for her husband to return home from his stint as a Confederate soldier. The title track is the story of a young man from Charlottesville who joins the Union Army (continued on Page 6)



Folk on State 2008 schedule

June 7 - Peter Mulvey

June 14 - Ken Lonquist & Round the Bend

June 21 - Allison Downey w/ John Austin & Bob Westfall

June 28 - Robert 'One Man' Johnson & Lou and Peter Berryman

July 5 - Lee Murdock & Patchouli

July 12 - Matt Watroba & Tret Fure

July 19 - Randall Williams & William (Chico) Schwall

July 26 - Tim Grimm & LJ Booth

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

Join MadFolk For Summer Folk Sing-alongs

At Blue Mounds State Park

Madisonian banjo picking, guitar-strumming, silver-voiced **Mac Robertson** will again lead Summer Folk Sing-alongs in the shelter at the top of the hill of Blue Mounds State Park on the third Friday of June and July, and the fourth Friday in August. The singing begins at 8 p.m., time to sneak a peak at the sun setting in the west from the highest point in southern Wisconsin. This is a family-oriented event, and the audience is invited not only to sing along, but bring and play any instruments they can strum, shake, rattle or blow.

Mac Robertson developed a loyal multi-generational following in the past two years of leading the summer sing-alongs. Families camping at the park, and from the area join Madison Folk Music Society members amid the mists that often settle into the park after sundown. *Rise Up Singing* books will be available for those who need the words, but Mac is sensitive to his audience, and usually chooses well-loved favorites suggested by young and old.

Blue Mound State Park 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 half mile to Mounds Road. Turn right (north) and follow Mounds Road north through town. (Mounds Road becomes Mounds Park Road once you leave the village.) The park entrance is one mile north of the intersection of Highway ID and Mounds Road. You will need a state park sticker to drive into the park, but once there, the sing-alongs are free!

By foot or bicycle, you can reach the park by way of the Military Ridge State Trail. The park access trail is about .7 mile west of Mounds Park Road on the Military Ridge Trail.

These are the dates for the three sing-alongs this year: **Fri June 20, Fri July 18 and Fri Aug 22.** The sing-alongs will start at 8:00 p.m. in the Blue Mounds State Park Shelter

CD Reviews (continued) against his family’s wishes. It is quite a remarkable song; not only is it a short lesson in Civil War history, it also conveys the fear and pride of fighting for such an important principle. Bedford clearly has an appreciation for irony; the cd was recorded and mixed at Robert E. Lee Studios in Tennessee. He sings about another, more recent war in ‘Harley Albright’; a deeply unsettling song that reminds us of the price that many veterans have paid to defend our country. Bedford also chooses unconventional topics for other songs; ‘Goodbye Jack’ is a tribute to author Jack London and ‘Migrant Mother’ is the story of a woman who travels from job to job with her seven children.

In the liner notes, Bedford writes that he is “living proof that one needn’t experience something firsthand in order to write about it.” He adds that his “cumulative life experiences could have just as easily added up to a career in teaching as songwriting. Based on this cd, I’m happy he chose songwriting. Bedford will be performing at Folk on State on Aug 23. So mark your calendars now and come down to see his show. Go to benbedford.com if you’d like to order his cd or learn more about him before he comes to town.



2008 MIDWEST FOLK MUSIC FESTIVALS

June 14-15	Gebhard Woods Dulcimer Festival www.gwdf.org	Morris, IL
July 12	Blackhawk Folk Festival www.blackhawkfolk.org	Mount Morris, W
July 18-20	Hiawatha Traditional Music Festival www.hiawathamusic.org	Marquette, MI
July 20	Woodstock Folk Festival www.woodstockfolkmusic.com	Woodstock, IL
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

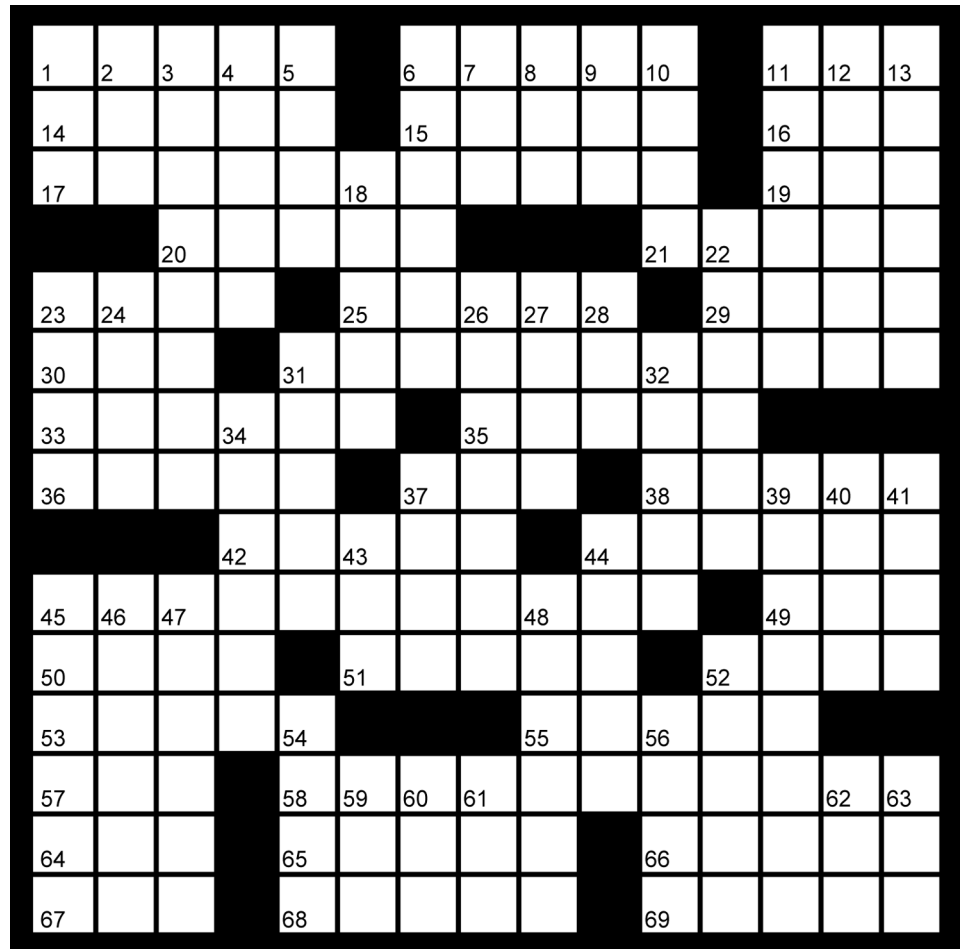
Music, Anon. and Non

This one's a few sizes less complex than last year's. Also a bit easier, I think. Sorry in advance for mistakes I am bound to have made.

The quotes indicate song lyrics. I have noted where alternate spellings and abbreviations are used ("alt. sp." and "alt. abbr."). An author or two are named when the song quote seems too obscure.

ACROSS

- 1 British sailor scurvy-thwarters
- 6 Bevy
- 11 "Next stop is Viet _"
- 14 "...can you spare _ _"
- 15 "...like a big pizza pie, that's _"
- 16 Kerfluffle
- 17 Certain small squeezeboxes
- 19 Dave _ Ronk
- 20 Mr., in a mariachi
- 21 Old saw
- 23 Pre-bet poker expense
- 25 Hunky
- 29 #1 song
- 30 "...with _ Uncle Ike"
- 31 Aussie drone tubes
- 33 Fiddlers' Cape _
- 35 Former Box #
- 36 Improvise
- 37 Cold turkey shakes
- 38 Fabled fabler
- 42 _ _-B-Q (brand name)
- 44 "Somewhere out there _ _body"
(Reba McEntire)
- 45 Jangly percussion rings
- 49 "_ the sun shine in"
- 50 Swan
- 51 Rufous umber
- 52 Book, as a band
- 53 Sweethearts of the _
- 55 Facing a pitcher
- 57 "Wait ' _ the sun shines Nellie"
- 58 Bowed Crosscutters
- 64 "At the lemon_ springs"
- 65 Proto slipsticks
- 66 Talk show and magazine eponym
- 67 pa_ (flower)
- 68 Cow tummy one
- 69 Excite



DOWN

- 1 Fond du _ WI
- 2 Wedding mumble
- 3 Troubadour
- 4 Act introducer
- 5 "...knows the trouble I've _"
- 6 "...who was wounded in _" (Bob Dylan)
- 7 Bon _ (brand name)
- 8 "Da doo _"
- 9 Epoch
- 10 Flat-topped, cliff-sided hill
- 11 Native American Tribe (alt. sp.)
- 12 Play slowly
- 13 Works by Claude
- 18 Bob-Bob-Bobber
- 22 Rectangular grooves
- 23 "Contact today your _" (acronymic song title by Garth Brooks)
- 24 Dweeb
- 26 Self fest
- 27 _ Naptha (brand name)
- 28 3 feet (alt. abbr.)
- 31 Resonator guitar (brand name)
- 32 Land of Lincoln EZ-Pass
- 34 Quality of sound
- 37 "Back to my home, I _ not go."
- 39 Very private room
- 40 Augury
- 41 Fountain or Seeger
- 43 "...miss me at the back of the _"
- 44 "_ _ _ big breakfast and go back to bed."
- 45 Crisscross cloth
- 46 Sidesteps
- 47 Song pastiche
- 48 B vitamin
- 52 Winged insects; some make paper
- 54 _ Khayyam
- 56 Glob (onomatopoeic slang)
- 59 _ Roi: 1896 surrealist play
- 60 "...real live nephew of my Uncle _"
- 61 "_ cream castles in the sky"
- 62 Formerly, military female
- 63 Pipe down

Solution is on the Whither Zither web site; also I'll put it in next month's column. Happy Dairy Month, everybody! -- PB

<http://members.aol.com/wzither>



**SPRUCE TREE MUSIC
& REPAIR INC.**
NEW + USED + VINTAGE
**GUITARS MANDOLINS
FIDDLES DULCIMERS
HARPS
BANJOS
UKULELES
BANJO-UKES
RECORDERS
TIN WHISTLES...**
+ + +
**QUALITY REPAIR
& RESTORATION**
CDS - VIDEOS
BOOKS - LESSONS
**851 E. Johnson
Madison WI 53703
608-255-2254**
+ + +
sprucetreemusic.com



Did you know???

You can now renew your membership or print out a membership form ONLINE at www.MadFolk.org



Please check your mailing label and see if it's time to renew so you'll know about all the great music coming in 2008! THANK YOU!

Mad Folk Board of Directors
Darlene Buhler, president.....846-9214
dbuhler@charter.net
Norbert Wodke, secretary.....836-8422
nfwodke@chorus.net
Dede Goldberg.....246-4332
Speedydd99@yahoo.com
Bill Fiore.....256-4687
fior@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
Newsletter: Dede Goldberg, 246-4332
Newsletter/Calendar: Judy Robinson
Phone: 469-1218/ E-mail: jbella@merr.com
Advertising: Darlene Buhler, 846-9214
Membership: Tracy Comer, 276-8192
MadFolk e-mail: MadFolk@charter.net
MadFolk web site: www.MadFolk.org

Madison Folk Music Society

P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701

Address Service Requested
Newsletter Published Monthly

Nonprofit Org-
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 2278

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 _____

Membership Categories:	Check One:
Student \$10 _____	I would like to help with:
Senior \$8 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter
Regular \$12 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Concerts
Family \$15 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Festival
Friend \$25 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing performers
Contributing \$50 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity
Life \$500 _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
Scholarship Donation \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
Total \$ _____	

Please make checks payable to MFMS. Your contribution is tax-deductible and helps us defray the cost of event expenses. You may designate its use. Thank you.

Time to renew? Don't want to cut up your newsletter? Just be sure your name is on your check and mail it to address shown. Enclose a note if your info has changed.