

MadFolk News

Garnet Rogers Returns to Madison January 22



by Lou Berryman

Garnet Rogers is one of our great troubadours, a performer whom coffeehouses around North America consistently choose as one of their favorites and ask back again and again, and each time we know that he'll be there to provide a wonderful show.

We at MadFolk are gearing up for another visit from Garnet, on January 22, this time at the Brink Lounge. We know that beautiful room will be a great showcase for him, and hope that you all will turn out to give him a warm welcome.

UW-Madison Offers Folk Music Classes

The University of Wisconsin-Madison offers an array of classes of interest to folk music enthusiasts every semester through its Continuing Education in Music program. These music skills and enrichment classes are designed especially for adult learners, regardless of skill or experience level. The classes are non-credit offerings, so enrollment is easy, and students earn Continuing Education Units at no extra cost.

Learn to play the piano in the Beginning Piano Class or violin in the Beginning Strings Class – get the basics for moving to any style. If you've always wanted to read music, sign up for the low-stress Music Theory Basics class.

A special offering in the spring are three World Music Informances, in which artists not only perform traditional music, but explain the music and discuss its home culture and survival in resettlement. Presenting are the Serbian (continued on last page ...)

Garnet began experimenting with various musical instruments at the age of five, starting off with the guitar and graduating to the fiddle and flute.

In the early 1970s, when Garnet was only 18, he joined his brother Stan in a life of music on the road, serving as accompanist and arranger. The Rogers' songs dealt with the lore and life of Canadian working folk and struck a chord across that nation. Involvement with two documentaries for the Canadian Broadcasting Company led to the material that went into Garnet and Stan's first album, *Fogarty's Cove*. Several albums followed, including *Turnaround* and *Northwest Passage*.

In 1983, Stan died in a tragic plane accident. Garnet had little time to grieve for Stan before striking out on his own, fulfilling a number of previously booked New England folk club dates and recording his self-titled debut album a year later. Before long, Garnet had established himself as a first-class interpreter, setting the wheels in motion for his eventual emergence as a profound lyricist and respected composer. He's recorded 11 other albums.

Garnet's performances creatively meld old and new sounds. He displays knowledge of traditional music while also showing his interest in rock as well as jazz. His story songs are marked by wit, sensitivity, and commitment to ordinary people living with extraordinary courage, sorrow, and joy in a large landscape.

The Boston Globe calls Garnet "a brilliant songwriter, one of the major talents of our time," and *Sing Out!* dubs him "the greatest male interpreter and vocalist on the contemporary folk scene." Greg Brown, who tours with Garnet, declares, "I have found strength and comfort in his songs. This is good and rich and big music."

Garnet Rogers will appear at 7:00pm on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington Ave. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 day of show. Purchase advance tickets at: Borders Bookshops East & West, Spruce Tree Music, or Orange Tree Imports Non-perishable donations of food will be collected at the door for local food banks. For additional information, visit www.madfolk.org.

Two Scholarships Awarded at Annual Meeting – President Darlene Buhler Ugraded to Queen –



Bill Fiore introduces Isaac Stafstrom as a recipient of one of two Helen Schneyer Memorial Scholarships for folk music lessons. (photo credit: Ron Dennis)

At the October 27 Annual Meeting of the Madison Folk Music Society, Scholarship Committee chair Bill Fiore presented Isaac Stafstrom with a certificate as one of two recipients of the Helen Schneyer Memorial Scholarship for folk music lessons in banjo. A second winner, Mary Helmke, will also study banjo. The scholarships, for lessons on acoustic folk instruments, honor the memory of folk-singer Helen Schneyer, the late sister of MadFolk member Mona Wasow.

(continued on last page ...)

Dance Away the Cold at the Weekend-Long Folk Ball

by Michael Kuharski

In this season of renewed hope and serious weather the folkdance community of Madison celebrates how we all manage to hold on to the one and survive the other!

Do it at home, do it in the streets, do it with hundreds of enthusiasts from across the Midwest and beyond at the 21st annual FOLK BALL FESTIVAL, January 23-25 at the UW-Memorial Union, where you will find dance, music, singing, storytelling, old friends, new acquaintances, old forms, new inspiration. Bring your friends, especially the crazy ones.

At the heart of the festival are the live music dance parties – four of them this year in four different rooms. Friday night features a contra with Duck for the Oyster, Hungarian Tanchaz with music by Szaszka, and an International Dance with Cajun Strangers, Yid Vicious, and Izvor Orchestra.

Saturday night's six-hour extravaganza is powered by the music of Orkestar Bez Ime, Veseliyka, Sloboda, and Reptile Palace

Orchestra, plus brief dance performances by SUMADIJA Serbian ensemble of Bulgarian troupes Nashencheta & Mitroniya.

Saturday folk arts workshop opportunities as we go to press include Balkan (especially Bulgarian) folkdance with featured guest teacher Yves Moreau, traditional Metis dancing with Dennis Grove, multi-part a cappella singing with Tri Bratovchedki, storytelling with Reid Miller, and Serbian folkdance with Mike Malich. The West African dance troupe Atimevu Drum & Dance offer both a high-energy dance workshop with master Abu Muhammed and a drumming session with Eku Emmanuel. Duck for the Oyster hosts and plays for an afternoon Family Dance for folks of all ages. The recent "Car-Free Klezmer" documentary film, in which Yid Vicious handily one-ups "Hard Day's Night", will be screened. Yves Moreau hosts a brownbag lunch Culture Corner at midday featuring a magical animated short based on the heritage of French Canada.

Sunday will bring more workshops & review

(details TBA). Finally, a Survivors Party of request dancing and general mellowness Sunday 8:00-11:00pm.

Thanks to organizers Madison Folk Dance Club, sponsors Global Connections, Students for WORT, Department of Slavic Languages.



Hope to see you at the Ball! Visit our website to find out everything we couldn't fit on this page: <http://plantpath.wisc.edu/~tdd/folkball.htm>

Mad Folk News is published monthly by the Madison Folk Music Society, a non-profit, volunteer-led society dedicated to fostering folk music in the Madison area. Learn about concerts, dances, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at www.madfolk.org. Contact us at madfolk@charter.net.

Madison Folk Music Society Board of Directors

Darlene Buhler President, Concerts, Advertising
846-9214 ~ dbuhler@charter.net

Tracy Comer Treasurer, Membership
276-8192 ~ tracy@tracycomer.com

Norbert Wodke Secretary
836-8422 ~ nfwodke@chorus.net

Dede Goldberg Newsletter
246-4332 ~ speedydd99@yahoo.com

Vicky Jones Newsletter
238-4661 ~ vicky@vickyjones.com

Bill Fiore Scholarship, Festival
256-4687 ~ fior@charter.net

Meg Skinner
238-6950 ~ askinner@wisc.edu

Ron Dennis
226-9472 ~ rondenpho@aol.com

Is this your last copy of *Mad Folk News*?

There are two ways to renew your **tax-deductible** membership

Way #1 – Old School

Complete, clip, and mail this form

Madison Folk Music Society

join renew

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Choose membership category: Senior \$8 _____

Student \$10 _____

Regular \$12 _____

Family \$15 _____

Friend \$25 _____

Contributing \$50 _____

Life \$500 _____

Scholarship fund donation (optional) _____

Total \$ _____

Send your check, payable to MFMS to: Mad Folk c/o Tracy Comer, P.O. Box 930446, Verona, WI 53593-0446

Way #2 – 21st Century

Visit www.madfolk.org and click on "Join MFMS"



Ukulele Lady and Beyond

I suppose it's because I'm a songwriter that I like to hear stories about how certain songs were written. Had I been a plumber, not only would I have a nice car and bigger TV, but I'd probably be more interested in the theory behind the water hammer or the history of the P-trap than in finding out who wrote the lyrics to **Ukulele Lady**.

Turns out Gus Kahn wrote the lyrics to **Ukulele Lady**, and Richard Whiting wrote the music. I first heard the song performed by the Jim Kweskin Jug Band back in the sixties, but it had been a big hit many years before:

*If you like Ukulele Lady,
Ukulele Lady like-a you.
If you like to linger where it's shady,
Ukulele Lady linger too.*

What often interests me about finding the names of a song's creators is in discovering what other songs they wrote. Sometimes it's quite surprising. Richard Whiting, born in 1891, also wrote the music for a great number of popular songs, including **Ain't We Got Fun** and **On The Good Ship Lollipop**. **Ain't We Got Fun** also had lyrics by Gus Kahn, who wrote the words for such great songs as **Side By Side** (eventually the title song of a wonderful Jim Kweskin solo album), **Makin' Whoopee**, **Dream a Little Dream of Me** (in later years a mega-hit for the Mamas and Papas) and **Toot Toot Tootsie Good-Bye**. This last song has a special spot in my heart because when I was a tot in Louisiana, my parents performed it in some sort of town-wide talent show, dad on the four string banjo and mom on the piano.

The song **River Stay Way From My Door**, which I mentioned in my WZ about flood and fire songs, has lyrics written by Mort Dixon who also wrote the words for **Bye Bye Blackbird** and **I'm Looking Over A Four Leaf Clover**.

The incredible songwriter Yip Harburg's full name was Edgar Yipsel Harburg. What a wild name, Yipsel. You wonder if he ever was in Ypsilanti. According to his biography, he was named "Yipsel" after the phonetic pronunciation of the acronym YPSL for Young People's Socialist League. Harburg had a great and lifelong compassion for the common person and wrote lyrics for the amazing **Brother Can You Spare A Dime**, not to mention the beloved lyrics for all the **Wizard of Oz** songs. He won the Academy Award for **Somewhere Over The Rainbow**. In the official eye, he was controversial, from being blacklisted by McCarthy in the 50s to having his mug on a postage stamp in 2005.

There is a great deal of information available about the life and lyrics of writers like Yip Harburg. Then you come upon meager scraps like this, about the ever popular **Home On The Range**, which I found on the website bussongs.com:

"Home on the Range appears to have been written in 1885 by C.O. Swartz, Bill McCabe, Bingham Graves and other prospectors in a cabin near Leadville, Colorado."

And that's all I could find regarding that sweet song. "Appears to have been written..." is the odd part of that sentence.

Other songwriting tidbits: Willie Nelson wrote the song **Crazy** that Patsy Cline made into a hit. I saw an interview of Nelson on TV a while ago in which he said that the song originally, during its formative stages, was called **Stupid**. Just imagine Patsy Cline singing:

*Stupid; stupid for feeling so lonely
I'm stupid; stupid for feeling so blue*

Little Brown Church in the Vale was written by William Pitts, who lived in Wisconsin at the time. He happened upon a beautiful valley in Iowa and envisioned a church being built there. Incredibly, years after he had written the song, a church WAS built there and was painted brown. He dug out the song, which no one had heard at the time, and had it published; it was a hit.

The song **You Are My Sunshine** I had thought was written by Jimmie Davis, a governor of Louisiana. Turns out this is not the case. Jimmie Davis bought the rights to the song for \$35 from Paul Rice of a group called the Rice Brothers, who wrote the thing. Selling copyrights to songs was more common in years gone by than it is today. I have mentioned elsewhere that Stephen Foster sold the rights to "Oh Susannah" for \$100 before it became a hit.

Now, maybe a reader can help me find out more about two songs that have always intrigued me, and about which I've never been able to find details. The first was in one of the American Singer songbooks we used in elementary school. It begins like this:

*When night was glamorous / a fellow amorous / went out to woo a pretty little maid
Beneath her window far / he strummed his gay guitar / & sang beneath a star a serenade:*

Lady romantical, list to my canticle; Slip from your coverlet, fleecy and white. My heart's a-flutter now; open your shutter now; hear how I utter now, sighs in the night.

The other song is a country western piece that I learned from a compilation LP back in the sixties but I can't remember who wrote or performed it. I have even asked the country western expert Bill Malone and he has never heard of it. Some of the lyrics:

Don't reach 'neath the welcome mat and fumble for the key / All you'll find is dirty dirt, the kind you handed me / I'm gonna blow out the lamp in the window / And there's no need to knock upon my door

I've got your suitcase all packed on the curbstone / At the back door you'll find no sympathy / 'Cause there's four hundred dogs in the back yard / And they don't recognize a soul but me

Any help with any information about these songs would be greatly appreciated and duly acknowledged. I can then use the information to find OTHER accomplishments by their songwriters and presto! Another Whither Zither!

Annual Meeting (cont'd from page 1)

When Helen passed away in Vermont, Mona's colleagues in the UW School of Social Work took up a collection, which Mona then donated to MadFolk. The monies sponsored a concert by Ed Trickett, and the remainder was used as seed money for the annual scholarships. The scholarships are now sustained with contributions from members, and donations for cookies and coffee at MadFolk concerts. One of the 2008 winners performed Labor Day weekend at Folk on State, and donated his honorarium back to the scholarship fund. In this way, it is hoped that a new generation may be encouraged to learn the folk traditions that sustained and inspired Helen Schneyer and her sister for many years.

In other Annual Meeting business, the current Mad Folk Board of Directors was re-elected by acclamation, including "Queen" Darlene Buhler as president, and Norbert Wodke as secretary. Tracy Comer, who maintains both MadFolk's excellent web site, and membership list, would appreciate some assistance with the additional duties of treasurer, and would be willing to train in the system she uses. Other board members Dede Goldberg, Bill Fiore, Ron Dennis, Meg Skinner and Vicky Jones agreed to carry on with present responsibilities. Thanks were expressed to Judy Robinson for editing the newsletter for 2008; Vicky Jones will edit the *MadFolk News* for 2009.

Following the brief meeting, Wisconsin singer-songwriter Johnsmith gave a heartfelt concert of his songs, including two moving songs about his recently deceased father. He had just

returned from a trip to Guatemala, building school classrooms in a project started by a fellow musician.

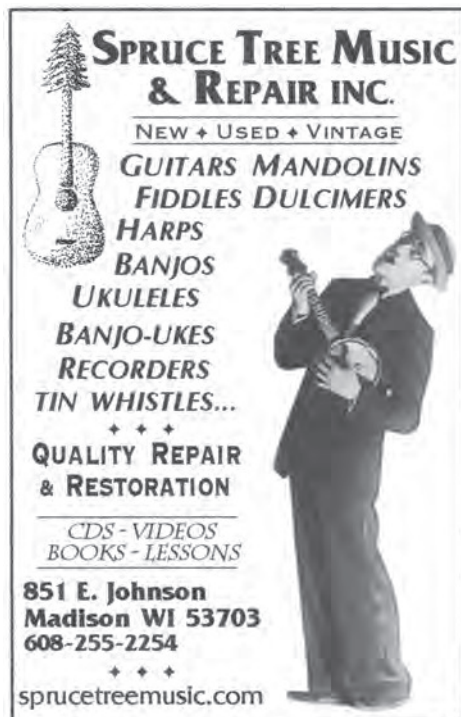
Folk Music Classes (cont'd from page 1)

combo Prazna Flasa, Hmong songstress Mai Zong Vue, and the Russian Folk Orchestra). To register for the Informances call 263-6670 or e-mail music@dcs.wisc.edu.

Here is a sampling of Spring 2009 music classes for adults that may be of interest to folk-music-lovers:

- *Beginning Banjo* with John Fabke
- *Instrumental Improvisation* with Sims Delaney-Potthoff
- *Playing Fiddle Styles of Southeast America* with Brian O'Donnell
- *Folk and Bluegrass Jam* with Chris Powers
- *Beginning Guitar, Intermediate Guitar, and Fingerstyle Guitar* with Chris Powers
- *Vocal Venture: Getting the Most Out of Your Voice* with Maggie Delaney-Potthoff
- *Vocal Recording Workshop* with Maggie Delaney-Potthoff and Philip Ryan
- *Becoming a Giggling Musician* with Sims Delaney-Potthoff

For a complete list and descriptions of Spring 2009 class offerings, call 263-6670 to receive a catalog or check out the website: <http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/classes/music.htm>. Register online or call 262-2451.



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

Madison Folk Music Society

P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701

Address Service Requested

.....
Renew your membership today at
www.madfolk.org

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

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

January 2009

Mad Folk Events



Garnet Rogers

Thursday, 1/22 -- 7:00pm at the Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington Ave -- tickets \$15 advance, \$17 day of show

Vance Gilbert

Friday 2/27 -- 8:00pm at the Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- tickets \$14 advance, \$16 day of show

Coffeehouses, pubs, clubs & the like



701 E. Washington
thebrinklounge.com
608-661-8599

The Brink Lounge

- Friday, 1/2 -- Harmonious Wail -- 7:00pm -- \$5
- Thursday, 1/8 -- Atimevu African Dance Party
- Friday, 1/9 -- Paul Stiegler -- 7:00pm
- Thursday, 1/22 -- John Statz -- 8:00pm
- Saturday, 1/31 -- Ryan Casey -- 6:30pm
- Saturday, 1/31 -- Jesse Goplen -- 9:00pm
- Tuesdays 7:00-10:00pm -- *Mad Toast Live!* music, talk and variety show hosted by Chris Wagener and Mary Gaines -- no cover -- this month's guests:
 - 1/6 -- Andy Moore, Greg Dierks
 - 1/13 -- Guy Fiortentini, Catfish Stevenson
 - 1/20 -- Reid Gromnick, Stephen Lee Rich, "Lefty" Frank James
 - 1/27 -- Jentri Colello and Josh Harty

7 W. Main St.
brocach.com
608-255-2015

Brocach Irish Pub

- Sundays -- Live Irish Music -- 5:00pm
- Tuesdays -- Open Mic w/Mark Croft -- 8:30pm
- Wednesdays -- Live Irish Music Sessions -- 8:30pm
- Thursdays -- Old Tin Can String Band (bluegrass) -- 9:00 pm



fort atkinson
18 S. Water St.
Ft. Atkinson, WI
cafecarpe.com
920-563-9391

Cafe Carpe

- Friday, 1/2 -- Bennett Cooke -- 8:30pm -- pass the hat
- Saturday, 1/3 -- Karen Johnson -- 8:00pm -- \$5
- Friday, 1/9 -- Bruce Holmes / Tricia Alexander -- 8:30pm -- ticket price TBD
- Saturday, 1/10 -- open stage -- 8:30pm
- Sunday, 1/11 -- John Gorka -- 6:00pm -- \$20
- Friday, 1/16 -- song swap with Jim Schwall / Pete Johnson / Jenny Bien -- 8:30 -- \$7.50

127 E. Mifflin
themomo.com
608-255-5900

Cafe Montmartre

- Saturday, 1/3 -- Chris Pureka and Chris Koza Band -- 10:00pm -- \$7
- Tuesday, 1/6 -- Charlie Parr and The Rhythm Section -- 7:00pm -- \$10
- Saturday, 1/10 -- Josh Harty -- 9:00pm
- Saturday, 1/17 -- Paper Scissors Rocketpack, Josh Harty, and the Getrites -- 9:30pm -- \$5
- Thursday, 1/29 -- Chris Pureka -- 9:00pm -- \$10

On the Air



wpr.org

Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/Tom Martin-Erickson
Sunday 5:00-8:00pm

Concerts recorded in Wisconsin, music and dance of people the world over; the second Sunday of the month is Listener Request Night. For playlists, calendars, station listings, and more, visit www.wpr.org/simplyfolk.



wort-fm.org

WORT 89.9 FM community radio

Sunday -- 3:00-5:00pm

- **On the Horizon** (world music) w/Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak & Dan Talmo
- **Weekdays 9:00am-noon**
- Monday -- **World Book of Records** (folk from the world over) w/Tracy Doreen
- Tuesday -- **Pastures of Plenty** (traditional American folk) w/John Fabke
- Wednesday -- **Back to the County** (country music on a theme) w/Bill Malone & Jeff Hickey
- Thursday -- **Diaspora** (folk and international) w/Terry O'
- Friday -- **Mud Acres** (bluegrass and acoustic) w/Chris Powers

Buskers

Cajun Strangers

- 1/27 -- 4:30pm -- Concourse Hotel, 1 W. Dayton St.
- 1/31 -- 7:00pm -- Tyrana Brewery, 1025 Owen St., Lake Mills

Jim Schwall

- Thursdays 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29 -- 7:30pm -- Bab's French Quarter, 1353 Williamson Street

Jentri Colello

- Thursdays 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29 -- 7:30pm -- Bab's French Quarter, 1353 Williamson Street

Josh Harty

- Wednesday, 1/21 -- 9:00pm -- High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington Ave.

Madison Dance

21st Annual Folk Ball Festival -- dance, music, singing, story-telling and more -- 1/23-25 -- UW- Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St. -- 241-3655 (Michael)

African/African-American Dance classes with live drumming -- Sunday, 7:00-9:00pm -- Metro Dance, 3009 University Ave. -- 255-3677 / 251-4311

English Country Dance taught -- 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 238-9951

International Dancing -- Wednesday and Sunday; classes 7:30-8:30pm, request dancing 8:30-11:00pm -- The Crossing, 1127 University Ave. -- 241-3655

Irish Dancing -- Monthly Ceili and set dance events are posted at www.celticmadison.org/dance

Italian Dancing -- Tuesday, 7:00-9:00pm, no experience or partner necessary -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 838-9403 (Philana)

Madison Contra Dance Cooperative -- Tuesday; 7:30 jam band practice, intermediate level dancing 7:45-9:40pm -- \$5 for non-members -- Gates of Heaven, 302 E. Gorham -- 238-3394 (Steve)

Morris Dancing -- Wednesday, 7:00pm -- UW Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St. -- 238-9951

Scottish Country Dancing -- Sunday, 7:00pm -- UW Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St. -- 238-1227

Attention: Venue Managers & Gig Players!

The Madison Folk Music Society would be delighted to distribute your folk music concert information to hundreds of *Mad Folk News* subscribers every month at absolutely no cost to you. To up the odds of your dates getting listed:

- DO send the following info to vicky@vickyjones.com:
 - Folk performer or event name
 - Date, time, venue and its address
 - Ticket prices
 - Contact information
- DO this so that we receive your information by the 15th of the month prior to the month you want the info published. (We received the info for this January calendar on 12/15.)
- DON'T send us information farther ahead than the following month. (Note that all of the listings on this calendar are for January only, except for the Mad Folk events, but that's allowed because it's *our* newsletter.)
- DON'T send your entire calendar to us, expecting us to sort through which events are folk-related and which aren't. It will make us cranky and discline us to print your listings.

We look forward to helping you expand your audience! Email or call Vicky Jones with questions: 238-4661.