

MadFolk News

Folk on State returns for its seventh season



Lil Rev plays the first set at Folk on State 6/6

by Darlene Buhler

MadFolk joins the Greater State Street Business Association to bring Folk on State (FOS) to Francis Street Park, beginning June 6 and running through September 5.

June 6 -- We will kick off the first weekend at 1:00 with a past FOS performer, 'Lil Rev. Playing the 2:00 slot will be a trio who is appearing for the first time on our stage: **Laurel Premo, Anna Ash, and Andrew Kratzat.**

Lil Rev is an award-winning eclectic folk singer and storyteller who tours nationally performing on ukulele, mandolin, banjo, harmonica and guitar. His many one-man shows include such themes as the immigrant era, Yiddish folksongs, novelty blues, and Woody-esq originals. His many awards include: Best Folksinger in 2004 and 1996 National Blues Harmonica Champion. Lil Rev has been called "the Jewish Pete Seeger" (Rabbi Larry Milder), and "A Wisconsin Treasure" (UWM Folk Center.)

Laurel Premo, Anna Ash, and Andrew Kratzat are a trio of musicians hailing from Ann Arbor, intertwined with collaboration, that will leave a dance in your step and a peace in your heart. Laurel Premo shares a music full of life that draws from Appalachian, Scandinavian, and Blues roots. From haunting old ballads to feverish instrumental compositions, her music is made for all ears. Stomping out the strength of tradition and the passion of contemporary, Laurel shares a rich sound with voice, guitar, banjo, violin, and cittern. Anna Ash is a not far off cousin of the yellowbird, with a lullaby of a voice, her and her friends take stringed instruments and mingle them with a smidgen of soul and a tad pinch of a shimmy and a twang. Andrew Kratzat has dipped his bass playing fingers into almost every cookie jar there is in the state of Michigan and beyond. As the regular acoustic bassists for such groups as Millish, the Jeremy Kittel Band, the Jesse Palter Quartet, and the Hot Club of Detroit, he has toured all over the world including such countries as Tunisia, Scotland, and South Korea. In addition, Andrew brings intricate songwriting skill to his collaborations. This concert is part of their

Routes and Roots tour, a sharing of music around the borders of Lake Michigan in June 2009. (please note: if it is raining this weekend we will not be at the Rathskeller, but at the Overture Center Rotunda.)

June 13 -- will bring **Tom Kastle** and the duo **Patchouli** to our stage.

Tom Kastle has spent over two decades on the road and on the water as a singer, tall ship sailor and captain, songwriter, and teller of tales, both personal and those steeped in long tradition.

Famous for that smiling voice that instantly turns a bad day into a good one, **Julie Patchouli's** down-to-earth, hopeful, vibrant songwriting is new American folk music, inspired by worldwide folk styles. Using elements of folk, flamenco, jazz and world beat rhythms Patchouli's sound has been described as "Joni Mitchell meets the Acoustic Santana". If you've listened to Wisconsin Public Radio you've probably heard "The Woods" Patchouli's award winning trademark song, which has earned them a permanent place in the hearts of their fans. Thier music embodies the positive music movement, leaving the listener uplifted, inspired and smiling. With 1700 shows in 11 years, having toured over half a million miles, in almost all 50 states, they just released their 12th album, *The Woodlands*.

June 20 -- our stage welcomes **Dustin Welch** and **Mark Dvorak**.

Dustin Welch will be making his Madison debut, arriving from Austin. Some of you may be familiar with the music of his father, Kevin Welch. Come out and check out what the next generation is up to.

Mark Dvorak is a charismatic performer with a gentle spark of passion that lights every performance space where he lifts his voice in celebration of the old songs. He has been called a "folk singer's folk singer who follows unerringly in the footsteps of Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie," and his song writing has been called "wondrous" and "profound." Long-time teacher at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music, Mark's music captures the innocence, determination, and beauty of American folklor this weekend. *(continued on page 3)*

Folk on State at a glance

Where: Francis Street Park (intersection of Francis and State) – Rain location is the Rathskeller at the Memorial Union (800 Langdon Street)

When: Saturdays from 1:00-1:00pm, 6/6-9/5

Price: Free

Lineup: 6/06 Lil Rev; Laurel Premo, Anna Ash, Andrew Kratzat (rain location is Overture Rotunda)
6/13 Tom Kastle; Patchouli
6/20 Dustin Welch; Mark Dvorak
6/27 Blake Thomas; Peter Mulvey

Check out www.MadFolk.org for the entire season's lineup.

Volunteers make Folk on State possible!

It's easy too -- setting up chairs, selling CDs for the performers, passing out flyers. To sign up, Darlene Buhler at dbuhler@charter.net.

2009 Midwest Folk Festivals

June 12-14

No-East'r Music & Art Festival
Mio, MI
www.noreastr.net

June 13-14

Gebhard Woods Dulcimer Festival
Morris, IL
www.gwdf.org

July 11

Blackhawk Folk Festival
Mount Morris, WI
www.blackhawkfolk.org

July 17-19

Hiawatha Music Festival
Marquette, MI
www.hiawathamusic.org

July 17-19

RiverSong Festival
Hutchinson, MN
http://www.riversongfestival.org

July 19

Woodstock Folk Festival
Woodstock, IL
www.woodstockfolkmusic.com

July 31-Aug 1

Sugar Maple Trad'l Music Festival
Lake Farm Co. Park, Madison, WI
www.fourlakesmusic.org

August 7-9

Shawano Folk Music Festival
Shawano, WI
www.shawanofestival.com

August 13-16

Irish Fest -- Milwaukee, WI
www.irishfest.com

August 15

Gandy Dancer Festival
Mazomanie, WI
www.midcontinent.org

August 28-30

Great River Folk Festival
La Crosse, WI
www.greatriverfolkfest.org

September 5-7

Fox Valley Folk Music Festival
Geneva, IL
www.foxvalleyfolk.com


October 23-25

Stringalong Weekend
Olympia Resort, WI
www.uwm.edu/Dept/Folk

Summer Sing-Alongs

Madison's Mac Robertson will again be leading Summer Sing-Alongs at the main shelter of Blue Mounds State Park, in Blue Mounds, WI, on the third Fridays of June, July, and August at 8 p.m. Bring the kids, their grandparents, your instruments – especially your voice box – and join in the family fun at the highest point in southern Wisconsin. *Rise Up Singing* lyric books will be available. Mac is a great song leader and teacher. He has co-written two *Hal Leonard Banjo Method* books, plays the guitar, and has a great voice.

You will be required to have a daily or seasonal State Park sticker to get into the park, but the Sing-Along itself is free. So are the spectacular sunsets.



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Attn: Article writers! *Mad Folk News* welcomes your music/show reviews and stories about upcoming performers. If you have a story for next month's newsletter, email it to mail@vickyjones.com by the 15th, and we'll see if we can fit it in.

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.

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FOS June line-up

Continued from page 1

June 27 will see **Blake Thomas** and **Peter Mulvey** both returning to the FOS stage.

If you have not had a chance to catch singer-songwriter **Blake Thomas** yet, then you want to be sure to catch this show. This is not just my advice but the same suggestion you will hear from many folks in Madison including his musician peer group. *Isthmus* calls his third studio release, *Flatlands* (2008) “a must for country and folk fans” and picked it as “country album of the year.” The *Village Voice* says the title track “ought to become the Midwest’s national anthem.” It rides on the heels of Thomas’ two previous releases: *40 Minutes* (2006) “a near-flawless balance of excellent musicianship, his gorgeous, occasionally shiver-inducing voice and smart songwriting, according to *Rick’s Cafe*; and *Real Like Theater* (2005), the winner of Best Folk/Bluegrass/Americana Album at the 2006 MAMA awards. Thomas, born in Minnesota, literally worked his way up from the bottom when, at 19, he moved east and began his career busking in the subways of Boston. He spent the following years grinding through the club circuit and honing his craft while playing opening slots for Leon Russell, Greg Brown, The Honeydogs, Holly Golightly, Ben Taylor, Tom Russell, Jon Dee Graham & others. He currently lives, tours and teaches out of Madison.

Peter Mulvey has played FOS every year and his crowds just continue to grow, both here and across the U.S. and Europe. No matter how popular he becomes, he has promised to make himself available for FOS and we are holding him to it for another year. Peter Mulvey began as

a self-described “city kid” from Milwaukee. He played, wrote, and sang in bands while studying theatre at Marquette University. After graduating he traveled to Ireland, where he learned the trade of busker on the streets of Dublin. Returning to the U.S. a few years later, he settled in Boston, and built an audience through street and subway performing, while also immersing himself in the thriving musical community. Since 2000, he has found a home with the venerable indie label Signature Sounds, and released his most recent album, *The Knuckleball Suite*, with that label in the Spring of 2006. The CD is a collection of thirteen new songs that aptly display why Mulvey has, over the length of his extensive career, been compared to such heavyweights as Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen, Randy Newman, and others. Collaborating once again with longtime writing partner and producer David “Goody” Goodrich, the album is vibrant, surprising, and in many ways, like a notch falling perfectly into a groove for a musician with a history as rich and diverse as Mulvey’s. What Peter’s bio does not include is that he has ridden his bike the last two years from Milwaukee to play FOS, last year having to hold off part of his ride home due to the tornados! Join Peter this weekend and ride your bike to this show.

We would not be able to continue have this music series without the help of: WORT; a grant from the Madison Arts Commission; funding from the State of Wisconsin, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, and the Overture Foundation and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation; plus many of the businesses of State Street.



Mark Dvorak 6/20



Peter Mulvey 6/27

KG & The Ranger -- 20 Years Down The Trail

Once upon a time...isn't that how all good stories start? This story began over twenty years ago in Madison with a weekend string band called Stone Soup and two members of that band who loved classic cowboy songs. As their duo spun off from Stone Soup in 1989, Karen Gogolick and Rick Roltgen named themselves “KG & The Ranger” and headed out along the trail performing together. That same year they formed another kind of duo: husband and wife. Their career was launched in a modest way with 3 shows that first year, and no thoughts of ever quitting their “day jobs”. Now, 20 years later, they are full-time professionals performing over 100 shows per year, with 5 albums and numerous awards to their credit. Three-time winners of the Western Music Association’s harmony yodeling contest, they also have received other awards for their harmony singing and showmanship.

Their love of classic cowboy music brought them together, but some good old “cowboy ingenuity”

has led them down a few unexpected trails. The Ranger’s alter ego “Shortcut Curly” is an eight-foot-tall, stilt-walking, lariat-twirling cowpoke! This performance sideline began as a short routine to kick off school programs and get kids involved. Pretty soon it took off with a life of its own with invitations to appear in parades and county fairs. Today, a miniature covered wagon, pulled by a giant armadillo (driven by KG) accompanies Shortcut Curly on his “long walks.” They have participated in John Wayne’s 100th birthday parade in Winterset, IA, the Annie Oakley Days parade in Greenville, OH, and many others throughout Wisconsin.

The spirit of the music and the “cowboy way” is a passion for KG & the Ranger. Preserving these old western gems is as important as contributing fresh new songs to the genre. Bringing back memories for small audiences of nursing home residents or introducing school children to this great music is as important as filling a beautiful



theater with fans. The music’s wholesome quality acts as an antidote to many of today’s problems. It has also brought them opportunities to meet and share a stage with their musical heroes, including Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. They have learned from the best, sharing shows with the Riders in the Sky, the Sons of the San Joaquin, Michael Martin Murphey and too many others to name.

Concerts coming up include a busy local Wisconsin schedule in June, July and August, plus fall appearances from Nebraska to New Mexico.

Wasn't That a Time – Pete Seeger at 90

by Meg Skinner

Mad Folkers joined in the celebration of Pete Seeger's 90th birthday in early May. One of our 2008-2009 folk music lesson scholarship winners, Isaac Stafstrom, normally a shy 15 year old, so wanted to honor his folk music hero, that he took his banjo, his repertoire from the Seeger songbook, and went busking at the Farmers Market May 2. His banjo case take was \$40, which he promptly sent off to Seeger's Clearwater Project.

Meanwhile, two Eagle School eighth graders, Nate Smith and Jeffrey Zhao's 10 minute documentary "We Shall Overcome: The Impact of Pete Seeger and His Music" won the state competition, and has advanced to the National History Day Finals in College Park, MD June 14-18. In the May 13-19 *Cap Times*, Jane Burns wrote a fine piece about their effort – which included an interview with Pete Seeger himself, at the annual corn festival which raises funds for the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. Pete put them to work shucking corn before the interview! You can see a clip from their video at captimes.com/news/450595.

MadFolk member Kathy Miner attended the gala celebration for Pete Seeger at Madison Square Garden and shared her thoughts:

"I may have finally redeemed myself for not making it to Woodstock. On May 3, 2009, there was another "concert for the ages" in the state of New York, and this time I was lucky enough to be there.

"My older son and daughter-in-law and I took the train to New York City for the weekend for the concert honoring Pete Seeger's 90th birthday. And what a show it was!

"As you may have read in the New York Times and elsewhere, a laundry list of performers – some expected (Joan Baez, Arlo Guthrie, Tom Paxton) and others not, at least by me (Tom Morello of "Rage Against the Machine", Ben Bridwell of "Band of Horses", and blues artist Taj Mahal) – offered songs written by Pete, inspired by him, or in some other way relevant to his life and politics.

"I have to admit that the beginning of the concert seemed a little lukewarm. I'm not sure why – Pete himself opened things with a solo played on the Native American flute – but the crowd just wasn't into it. Yet. There were also more than a few empty seats, though we'd been under the impression the concert was sold out. Was it fear of swine flu, we wondered? Surely it wasn't the weather – a little drizzle wouldn't keep people away from this show, would it?

"All that changed about halfway into the first

half. Might have been Ani DiFranco and Bruce Cockburn teaming up on "Which Side are You On?" – and then Tom Paxton, along with a handful of younger musicians, giving us "John Henry". By the time Billy Bragg and company sang "Union Maid", there was a whole lot of singing and clapping going on. And it kept on going on for about 4 more hours.

"Not to worry – all of the empty seats had filled in by then as well.

"For my money the best numbers before the intermission were Emmylou Harris and friends with "The Water is Wide"; Bela Fleck and Tony Trischka's dynamite banjo medley that snuck in a bit of "Happy Birthday" right at the end; and Joan Baez's simple, stunning rendering of "Where Have All the Flowers Gone". By the time they ended the first half with (what else?) "We Shall Overcome", Madison Square Garden was a great big circle of friends.

"It just got better and better. Film producer Norman Lear opened the second half of the concert by reading a letter of congratulations from President Barack Obama. Then Pete came back onstage to lead an "Amazing Grace" singalong, replete with his usual schtick about "we'll take it nice and slow, so if you hit a wrong note, well, just slide around until you find a right one". There was harmony in the house, for sure.

"Next Kris Kristofferson and Ani DiFranco shamelessly mugged their way through "There's a Hole in the Bucket", after which Tommy Sands and his Irish Band took the stage. I would venture to say that we witnessed the first and only time anyone has ever Irish-danced to "Little Boxes"!

"Traditional numbers abounded in the second half – "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore", "Oh, Mary Don't You Weep", and "Jacob's Ladder", along with "Worried Man Blues", and the incomparable Roger McGuinn singing "Turn, Turn, Turn". Richie Havens lit up the stage with his blending of "Freedom" and "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" (for how many years, now, has he been doing that?) A young man of whose music I was ignorant until now, Ben Harper, offered his poignant song "Gather 'Round the Stone". And before singing "Rye Whiskey", Dave Matthews revealed that the first concert he was taken to as a youngster was one of Pete's.

"I have to say a few words about the people who weren't there. Neither Ronnie Gilbert nor Fred Hellerman, the other surviving members of the Weavers, were at the show, unless they were there incognito. We were also surprised not to see anyone from Peter, Paul and Mary – but I've since learned that they were playing that night at



the American Music Theater in Lancaster, PA.

"I also have to correct a common misquoting of Bruce Springsteen's remark toward the end of the show. What he said, in obvious admiration, was, "Pete, you outlasted the bastards, man!" Several sources have quoted it as "you outLIVED the bastards", which doesn't have the rhyme, rhythm or overall sassiness of the original. I was there – I heard the man – I know.

"It would not have been a Pete Seeger concert without him leading Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land". After that, and 18,000 people singing "Happy Birthday", the show was supposedly over. But my son looked over at me and said, "How can they end it without 'Goodnight, Irene'?"

"They couldn't. Sustained rhythmic clapping, cheers, and whistles called the performers back to the stage – first a trickle, then just about everybody. Someone started "Well May the World Go", and after that ended, a voice said "Bernice!", whereupon Bernice Johnson Reagon led "This Little Light of Mine". After that, there was nothing to sing but "Goodnight, Irene", and finally it was time to leave the Garden.

"As we moved out of our row, a young woman caught at my sleeve. "Excuse me," she said in a lightly-accented voice. "How much were the tickets for this show?"

"I was a little surprised at the question, but told her that the least-expensive seats were \$19.19 (to match the year of Pete's birth), most of them were \$90 (his age), and some were around \$250.

"She looked relieved. "I bought mine outside," she said. "Someone told me they were going for \$500, but I paid \$60." "You got a bargain," I said, and we went out into the New York night. The glow is going to last awhile, and I'm not talking about the lights in Times Square."

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

June 2009

Folk on Stage



Free open-air performances Saturdays at Frances Street Park in downtown Madison. Chairs provided! First set 1:00; second set 3:00. (See feature story on page one.)

- 6/06 -- Lil Rev/Laurel Premo, Anna Ash, Andrew Kratzat
- 6/13 -- Tom Kastle / Patchouli
- 6/20 -- Dustin Welch / MarkDvorak
- 6/27 -- Blake Thomas / Peter Mulvey
- 7/04 -- SONiA / Andina & Rich
- 7/11 -- Christine Costanzo / Small Potatoes
- 7/18 -- Carrie Elkin / John Statz
- 7/25 -- Jeremiah Nelson / Scott & Michelle Dalziel
- 8/01 -- Tim Grimm / Jason Wilbur
- 8/08 -- Chad Elliott / Joe Jencks
- 8/15 -- Gina Forsyth / Lou & Peter Berryman
- 8/22 -- Josh Harty / LJ Booth
- 8/29 -- Richard Wiegel / Ken Lonnquist

Venues



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



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

Capital Brewery
7734 Terrace Ave.
Middleton, WI
capital-brewery.com
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18 S. Water St.
Ft. Atkinson, WI
cafe-carpe.com
920-563-9391



Wil-Mar Center
953 Jenifer St.
wildhoginthewoods.org
608-233-5687

Gigs

Stacy Earle & Mark Stuart

- Thur, 6/04 -- House concert at 813 Woods Glen Court, DeForest -- 7:00pm -- \$17 donation -- RSVP Darlene Buhler at 608-225-0710 or dbuhler@charter.net

Calico Drifters

- Wed, 6/06 -- Live on WORT 89.9 FM at 11:00am

Jim Schwall

- Sat, 6/13 -- Cajun Strangers in Prairie du Chein -- 7:00pm
- Sun, 6/14 -- SoDangYang at Waterfront Festival, Madison -- 2:45pm -- free



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

Concerts recorded in Wisconsin, music and dance of people the world over. For playlists, calendars, station listings, and more, visit www.wpr.org/simplyfolk.



WORT 89.9 FM community radio
Sun -- 3:00-5:00pm

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

Madison Dance

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

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

International Dancing -- Wed and Sun; 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 -- Tue, 7:00-9:00pm, no experience or partner necessary -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 838-9403 (Philana)

Madison Contra Dance Cooperative -- Tue; 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 -- Wed, 7:00pm -- UW Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St. -- 238-9951

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

Attn: Venue Managers & Gig Players!

To have your folk music concert information included in *Mad Folk News*: By the 15th of the month, send the following info to vicky@vickyjones.com: (1) Folk performer or event name, (2) Date, time, venue and its address, (3) Ticket prices, and (4) Contact information. *Please don't merely send us a link to your web site. We'll distribute your information at no charge, but you must help!*

The Ditty Bops (Ruth Barrett to open)

- Wed, 6/17 -- Barrymore Theater, 2090 Atwood Ave. -- 7:30pm -- \$16 advance, \$18 day of show

KG & The Ranger

- Sun, 6/21 -- Veterans Memorial Park, 12th St. and Hwy 11, Brodhead, WI -- 6:30pm
- Wed, 6/24 -- Swan Park, Beaver Dam -- 7:00pm