
Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

Volume 30, No. 3 / March 2004

Rod MacDonald to perform in Madison on April 2

In a musical career spanning almost three decades, Rod MacDonald remains an audience favorite at many



of the world's finest clubs, concert halls, and festivals in the U.S., Europe, and Canada. A singer-songwriter who has transcended the typical folk genre into a progressive, contemporary eclectic style of blues, jazz, rock 'n' roll, pop, and folk, Rod is an international touring and recording artist with seven critically lauded solo recordings to his credit.

Rod was a pivotal figure in the Greenwich Village '80s folk revival, appeared alongside Emmylou Harris, Shawn Colvin, Tom Paxton, Doc Watson, and many others. Many well-known folk performers, including Dave Van Ronk, Garnet Rogers, Four Bitchin' Babes, and Happy Traum have performed his works. Rod's classic "Sailor's Prayer," which he performs a cappella, has itself been recorded by more than two-dozen artists.

A resident of Delray Beach, Florida, since the mid-'90s, Rod is a frequent performer in Florida venues, and is credited with igniting the very active

Florida folk music scene. He has been labeled by the press as "singer-songwriter extraordinaire," and is considered one of contemporary music's most gifted singer-songwriters.

Rod's love for music and his reverence for life is very evident in his music and live performances. A prolific songwriter and a seasoned entertainer, he is especially known for his insightful commentaries on a variety of political and social issues.

He is a modern-day troubadour whose lyrics are intelligent and humorous, passionate and poignant. His unique style of music, showcased in a richly textured tenor, is infectious and inspiring, often humorous, sometimes reckless, frequently evocative, usually thought provoking—and always compelling.

Rod brings his considerable talent to Madison on Saturday, April 3 at the Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer Street. Admission is \$12 advance and \$14 day of show.

Mad Folk hosts Bill Staines in bi-annual concert

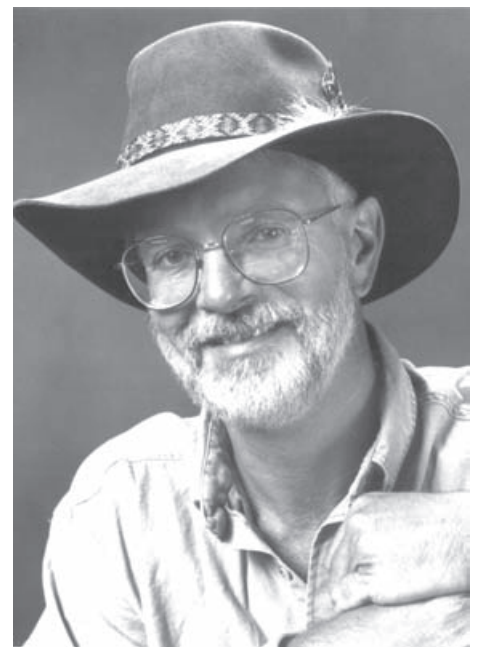
Every other March since at least since 1996 (and many other concerts prior) Bill Staines has been gracing Madison with his warm voice and gentle wit. This year he will be bringing his songs to First United Methodist Church on March 6 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$16 the day of the show. Opening the show will be Midwest transplant Alastair Moock.

If you are not familiar with Bill Staines' music, you will be in for a special treat. His fan base here in Madison is strong; the last time he played here was during a huge snowstorm, and it did not keep folks away. We actually had people who skied to the show! With fans that dedicated, you know you can't miss attending this show.

For over 35 years, Bill has criss-crossed the United States touring, doing more than 200 shows each year, which is over 65,000 miles annually. He will bring you his songs of the road. In minutes, you can feel the chill of the Montana night air and hear his thoughts about the people of the Midwest or the adventurers of the Yukon. Bill and his music represent a true slice of Americana.

Opener Alastair Moock may not have as many years or miles that Staines has, but you will find he has the voice of a seasoned traveler. "The first thing you notice is the voice. It sounds older than the still-boyish face from which it comes, a weathered, whiskey voice full of fine gravel, smoke and soft

(continued on inside page)



One On One CD debuts with concert kickoff

We wrote up the recording last month; now comes the official CD release event!

Spiritone Records presents... the *One on One* CD release concert featuring Ralston Bowles, Bill Camplin, Tracy Jane Comer and Randy Green, Bill Reuter, Fred and Ethel, Mare Edstrom and Kenn Fox, Tim Angsten, and Jeff Hickey

The concert will be March 20, 8:30 p.m. at the Café Carpe, 18 S. Water St.

Schooner Fare Concert April 24

Chuck and Steve Romanoff will bring Yankee folk music back to Milwaukee on Saturday, April 24, when Maine's Schooner Fare performs at Alverno College's Pitman Theater, 3401 S. 39th St., at 8 p.m. The Romanoff brothers will be missing their friend and bandmate Tom Rowe, who died unexpectedly Jan. 17 from complications while undergoing treatment for throat cancer.

"Tom will be terribly missed but he will continue to be a presence both in our hearts and onstage," says Chuck Romanoff. "Our plans are to continue performing as a duo, hoping audiences will sing just a little bit louder from now on."

Proceeds from a raffle the night of the concert will benefit the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin. The association provides educational programs and support to individuals with Down Syndrome as well as to their families.

Schooner Fare is one of folk music's most popular and enduring acts. The band members celebrated their 28th anniversary last November and are widely regarded as Maine's musical ambassadors. Schooner Fare is well-known to Wisconsin audiences from frequent appearances at Milwaukee Irish Fest.

Reserved seat tickets are \$20 and \$17 with tickets for those ages 18 and under \$8. For tickets and information, call Kathy Schultz at (414) 332-8521.

Meetings

Mad Folk Board: March 31

7 p.m. at 813 Woods Glen Court

in Fort Atkinson. The cover charge is \$8, which can be used toward the purchase of a *One on One* CD at \$15

For more details contact the Café Carpe or check the Spiritone website: www.kennfox.com.



Bill Staines

(continued from front page)

leathers," observed Scott Alarik of *The Boston Globe*. Moock also sings original tunes that borrow heavily from the roots of American folk, with lyrics that are full of simple truths and warm wit. Moock's newest CD, his third, is called *A Life I Never Had*, which features Tracy Grammer, the late Dave Carter, Ellis Paul, and Mark Erelli. Moock has spent many years on the Boston Music scene, but Iowa is now home base when he is not zig-zagging across the U.S.

Additional information on these performers may be found at www.acousticmusic.com/staines and www.alastairmoock.com.

Johnsmith CD release house concert

Johnsmith returns to Madison for a house concert supporting his new release, *Kickin' This Stone*.

The concert will be at 3324 Birch Lane in Middleton on Sunday, March 28, at 5 p.m. A \$10 donation is requested at the door.

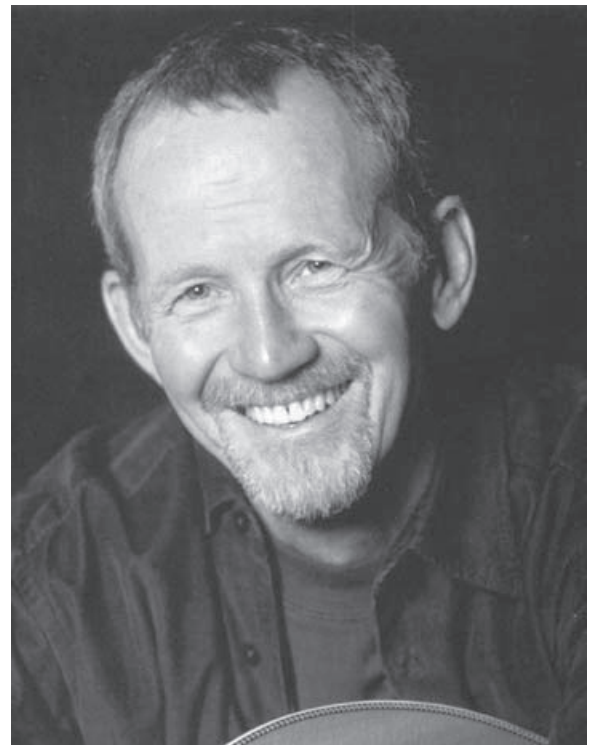
Johnsmith is one of the finest singer-songwriters touring across the U.S. and abroad. He has been touring for 20 years and currently plays over 150 dates each year. But to say that Johnsmith is one of the finest is not enough. Johnsmith possesses the rare gift of being able to share his soul. That gift is the foundation on which everything else about him is built, and it comes shining through in every song he sings.

This is especially true of the selections on his

new CD, *Kicking' This Stone*. Johnsmith's music causes the listener to get an indie look at the personal side of the songwriter, as well as challenging one to look inward at their own experiences and view of life in general.

In addition to being a past winner of the Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk award, Johnsmith has released four CDs to rave reviews from trade publications such as *Dirty Linen*, *Performing Songwriter*, and *Sing Out! Magazines*. He has also served as a staff songwriter for the WrenSong Music Group in Nashville. But again, accolades, competitions and quotas are not what motivate Johnsmith. Music is simply his gift, and he feels compelled to share it. That means more than all the hype, any day.

For directions or more information on this show, call Darlene at 846-9214. To learn more about Johnsmith, see www.johnsmithmusic.com.



Spotlighting area folk music performers, venues

Although our newsletter's emphasis is on Mad Folk's own shows, we want to spotlight other performers, too. So, we're putting together a series of columns about folk music venues

and Wisconsin folk musicians.

If you are interested in being featured in the newsletter, just write a short article about yourself. Make it as

long as you want; the editor will shorten as needed. Make sure to include website info. If you mail a photo, we will try and run it with the article. Mail to Darlene Buhler, 813 Woods Glen Ct., DeForest, WI 53532, or e-mail at dbuhler@charter.net. Thanks!



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