

Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

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England's Pete Morton comes to Madison

"Not only impressive but a revelation...totally original."—*The Guardian*

"This guy is amongst the best the British roots music scene has produced in living memory."—*Froots Magazine*, England

He has sung in Australia, in Israel, and on the West Bank, and he regularly tours Germany, Belgium, and Holland. On March 24, English singer Pete Morton makes his first appearance in Madison. The concert is at 8 p.m. at the Wil Mar Center, 953 Jenifer Street.

Pete travels the world with his eyes and heart wide open to war and injustice but also to the beauties of the natural world, the wonderful diversity of the human family.



His songs "The Post Office Queue" and "The Battle of Trafalgar," about a pub, give us dramas in miniature, characters quickly sketched; their scripts and their stories come from snatches of overheard conversation. In "Two Brothers," warring peoples are the intransigent, quarreling children of a saddened and exasperated parent.

Closer to home, Pete sings "Corruption Country with its spies and stealth runs amok through the fields of the good and it craves more wealth." Even in "The Shepherd's Song," a pastoral poet's tale, he sings, "I do not know where the wolves lie; they always take me by surprise with jealous unseen fury."

At the same time, Pete's sings of a "world of so many wonders." His pervasive sense of "Eden's grace" and the "glory of the day" is reminiscent of E. B. White when he said: "Every morning I awake torn between the need to save the world and the desire to savor it. "I walk the dream between God's love and life's despair" sings Pete in the recent song, "I'm In Love With Emily Dickinson."

Somehow, Pete Morton remains optimistic, as in the chorus of his best-known song, "There's another train, there always is, maybe the next one is yours, get up and climb aboard another train."

Opening for Pete will be Minnesota's Bill Isles, whose CD *The Shores of My Hometown* was named one of the best of 2006 by radio stations in Indiana and Michigan. Advance tickets are available for \$14 at Borders Bookstores, B-Side Records, Orange Tree Imports, Spruce Tree Music and Steep and Brew on Odana Road. Remaining tickets will be \$16 at the door on the evening of the concert. There will be a collection of non-perishable food items for area pantries.

Madison Harp Orchestra in March 15 benefit

"The Harp Weaver: Celtic Music with a Story to Tell," is the second annual benefit performance of the Madison Harp Orchestra.

Join over 30 harpers and harpists, Celtic musicians, and Irish dancers for this unique celebration of St. Patrick's week on Thursday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.,

at Monona Terrace. All proceeds from the program will benefit Dane County's Access Community Health Centers.

Tickets are available for a minimum donation of \$25. To buy tickets or make donations online, visit Access Community Health Centers' web site: www.accesscommunityhealthcenters.org.

Singing with every fiber...

The Madison Knitters' Guild and Madison Folk Music Society are joining for a concert featuring Wren Ross on Saturday March 23 at 7 p.m. in the

Bishop O'Connor Auditorium, 702 South High Point Road. Wren is a singer, actor, and knitwear designer from the Boston area. Her clear voice and clever



lyrics resonate with knitters and non-knitters alike. Wren combines the folk tradition with an intimate cabaret style. Her CD, *Wren Ross's Greatest Knits*, has gotten great reviews by both the music and craft press.

What is better than enjoying a first-rate performer while stitching away? Auditorium lighting will allow those who wish to to knit.

Along with co-author, Daena Giardella, Wren has written *Changing Patterns: Discovering The Fabric of Your Creativity*. She believes that using our hands puts us more in charge of the peace of the world. Wren also teaches knitting to troubled youth.

As always, please consider making a non-perishable donation to the Food Pantry or a donation of yarn or needles to Wren's work when you attend the concert. Tickets for the concert are available at the usual ticket outlets. Cost is \$10 advance, \$12 day of show. Questions: Carol Huber at 274-6340 or carol-huber@charter.net.

Next month...

Starting in April, we'll carry a column by Greg Linder in which he will be reviewing folk CDs. Greg, who currently lives in Minocqua, has a wealth of experience as a performer, composer, writer, editor, and radio-show host. We would like to thank Greg in advance for volunteering to do this.

Susan Werner returns April 7 for CD release

Circle April 7 on your calendars! Susan Werner returns to Madison as part of her tour in support of her newest recording. Come out and join us for

her CD release show. You might recall she sold out a Madison show a year

ago, so we eagerly anticipate another performance.

A clever songwriter and an engaging performer, Susan brings with her a remarkable ability with both piano and guitar. Those talents coupled with a songwriting language all her own and a sure command of the stage combine to make her one of the most riveting performers on the acoustic circuit.

In our next newsletter we will have a confirmed location for the show and also additional information on the newest CD! For more information about Susan, check out her website at: www.susanwerner.com.



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Madison Folk Music Society

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