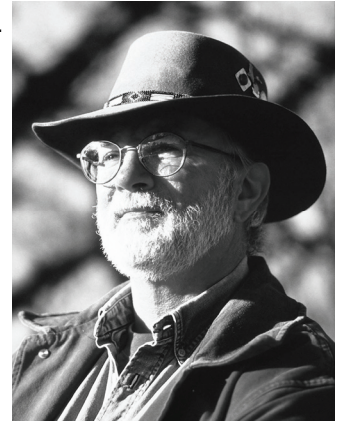

MadFolk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

Volume 34, No. 3/ March 2008

March brings promise of spring and Bill Staines

As you know from the article from last month, Bill Staines has a lot of history with folk music and a lot of miles on his car from driving to perform live concerts across the United States. For many of our readers, this show will feel like coming out to hear music by an old friend. For those of us who have been listening to Bill for awhile, if we all requested our favorite song and he played it, the show would last for 3 days. Bill has been touring across the U.S. performing hundreds of concerts a year, and it will be a joy to have him back for his bi-annual visit to the MadFolk stage. For those who may not know Bill's music, you'll hear his warm voice and just cozy down in on a cold evening and listen. You'll quickly become a fan as he sings his songs of the road, songs that blend warmth, wit and his gentle humor. I last saw Bill in Michigan in January of 2007 and the memory of some of the stories he told still bring a smile to my face. There are so many great words written about Bill, but one of my favorites quotes that hits it so on the head is from Nanci Griffith who says "Bill Staines has been my hero since 1977. He carries on where Woody left off--- carrying on the tradition of stories and characters you wish you knew."



MadFolk will be presenting Bill Staine on March 1 in one of our most favorite, intimate settings of the Wil-Mar Center. Opening the show will be Bill Isles. Isles' voice will be a nice compliment with Staines voice and songs. Isles' songs are described as poetic reflections of life experiences and often explore adventurous spiritual course. I have been listening to Isles for several years now, I think I could almost write his set list and it would contain some of my favorite songs he has written. Show time is at 8:00 and tickets are available at all six of the MadFolk outlets. **Please remember to bring a donation for the food pantry.**

Nathan Rogers makes Wisconsin debut with MadFolk, April 5th.

Every show that Madfolk presents brings a different level of excitement. I love our old favorites, I love when our members introduce me to new music, and I also love when I can introduce the MadFolk audience to new music. Nathan Rogers is one of those show. We will get this out of the way right off the bat; yes, he is the son of the late Stan Rogers, and yes, Garnet is his uncle.

I always find it fun to catch the next generation of some of my favorite performers and Nathan did not disappoint me. The first time I saw Nathan was in Canada at a program honoring his father, he got up and sang the Northwest Passage, and it left everyone silent with a lot of goose bumps. I found out that Nathan had recorded a CD, so I was able to obtain a copy and it has been on my regular play list ever since. Although Nathan has been touring across Canada for several years he is just starting to make his way in the states. So please save the date on your calendar, and watch next months newsletter to learn more about his music and what others are saying about him.



Opening the show will be Tracy Jane Comer, who is no stranger to our Madison audience, her beautiful voice will compliment the deeper voice of Nathan.

Gaelic Storm in concert at Barrymore Theater on March 5

Weather forecast for the Barrymore on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 7:30 P.M.: flurries of bouzouki, spoons, accordions, and Irish bagpipes developing into some severe weather of acoustic guitar, mandolin, fiddle and some songs about drinking at good ol' Irish pubs.

Internationally launched onto the popular music scene in the late 1990s by their appearance as the "steerage" band in the movie 'Titanic', GAELIC STORM have used this cameo in the immensely popular film to boost the popularity of their particularly energetic and exuberant fusion of traditional Celtic music and rockin' pub tunes. Gaelic Storm's presence near the top of the Billboard World Music Albums chart has been steadfast: five out of six of their albums have peaked in the top 5. Ireland native singer/songwriter Patrick Murphy (the name doesn't get more Irish than that!) belts out traditional Irish pub songs with gusto backed by the band's hyper-Celtic spirited jams. With the power and energy to get a jam-packed pub on their feet and shouting along to the music, Gaelic Storm have also become legendary performers at several cultural festivals throughout the U.S., including Milwaukee Irish Fest and Gaelic Park in Chicago. Gaelic Storm's releases include their self-titled 1998 debut; 'Herding Cats' (1999); 'Tree' (2001); the compilation album 'Special Reserve' (2003); 'How are We Getting Home?' (2004); and their latest, 'Bring Yer Wellies' 2006. Their aggressive tour schedule of over 100 dates per year has helped them build an ardent fan base who can't help but move and sing along to the rollicking performances of songs about drinkers, ramblers, sailors, and neer-do-wells.

Get your Irish up with GAELIC STORM at the Barrymore!

Peter and Lou Berryman join Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen April 11

Some combinations of musicians don't work as well for a joint show as others. You probably wouldn't want to book a double bill with, say, Tom Waits and Barry Manilow. But sometimes two acts fit together so well that their combined performance is more of a treat than either of their individual shows. Such is the case when Lou and Peter Berryman team up with Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen, who are sharing a MadFolk concert on the night of Friday, April 11 at 8pm at the WilMar Center.

Lou and Peter have been fans and close friends of Steve and Cindy for decades, and have joined them in shows and festivals from coast to coast. Steve and Cindy have managed to tolerate Lou and Peter for all this time, and have been known to sing a number of their songs, some say even better than Lou and Peter themselves. Keep your eyes peeled for more info about the show in the next Mad Folk News.

Nominate Pete Seeger for 2008 Nobel Peace Prize!

In recognition of Pete Seeger's countless contributions to the peace movement, a petition to nominate Pete for the Nobel Peace Prize has been started by Eleanor Walden, a San Francisco Bay Area cultural activist.

This information has been circulating for several weeks and some of you may have already been copied on an e-mail indicating that the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) needed to receive letters and petitions by Feb 1, 2008. I spoke with Walden just before this issue went to press and she explained that **the effort is still going strong and that they definitely need people to continue to sign the petition.** When I spoke with Walden, the petition had 15,346 signatures, you can go to www.nobelprize4pete.org to sign the petition. The nomination will not be made thru the AFSC after all, she is currently looking for another group or individual to formally submit the nomination for 2009.

The nobelprizefor4pete website states that 'Culture, in essence, means to honor our forbears. In the words of the Eastern European writer Milan Kundera: "the struggle for people's power is the struggle for memory and against forgetting". Pete's talent, sense of decency, and inalterable belief in, as Anne Franke said, that, "at heart, people are basically good", were uniquely his, but he has never been alone in his work; the support of his wife Toshi and his family gave him the opportunity to be all he could be. We all stand on Pete Seeger's shoulders in a manner of speaking. We share Pete Seeger as a "father" of cultural, social, and political movements, as much as we share our parental DNA. It is time that cultural work receives the recognition that the arts have great influence and global reach, that it is not only a medium of entertainment but of education, compassion and action. It is the desire of the committee that Pete Seeger be recognized as a beacon of integrity and principle in a time, and in a country, more defined by the absence of those qualities than by their honor.'

If you would like more information on the effort you can contact Walden at Eleanor@nobelprize4pete.org, 2951 Derby #140, Berkeley CA, 94705 or 510-848-6397

Madison Area Music Awards presented on May 10

The 2008 Madison Area Music Awards (MAMAs) will be presented on May 10 at the Barrymore Theater. Stephanie Rearick of Mother Fool's Coffeehouse will be one of the featured performers at the show.

The MAMAs ceremony was started with the purpose of raising public awareness of the need to preserve and support the existence of music education in our public schools and other community institutions, to encourage and promote the advancement of musicians and others in the Madison area by recognizing their musical achievements as well as the achievements of outstanding music students and music educators and provide promotional support for the Madison music economy as a whole.

Go to themamas.org for more information.

CD Reviews by Judy Robinson

Harvey Reid and Joyce Andersen The Song Train

This 4 cd set is subtitled '56 Great Two-Chord Songs Anyone Can Play.' I certainly agree with the assertion that they're great songs but I'm not entirely convinced *anyone* can play them. Reid and Anderson definitely provide ample info for aspiring musicians; the cd's are part of a book that includes tips, diagrams and historical notes. They even compiled a list of artists who have recorded each song so musicians can listen to the different technique. For a non-musician like me, it was interesting to see artists I wouldn't have guessed that have recorded standards such as 'John Henry' (Taj Mahal) and 'Tom Dooley' (The Grateful Dead.)

The majority of the songs are traditional folk tunes but they also included some more contemporary selections including Hank Williams' 'Jambalaya' and Chuck Berry's 'Memphis'. Even though this collection was compiled by musicians for musicians, anyone with an interest in traditional music should definitely consider adding it to their collection. The price is \$49.95 + \$5 shipping which is very reasonable for 4 superb cd's and an extensively and lovingly researched book.

Reid has been teaching, performing and recording for 35 years. He wrote the first college textbook on folk music in 1984 and has won numerous awards for his playing and songwriting. Joyce Andersen is Reid's wife. She is a New Hampshire native who started performing as a fiddle player for other bands in the early 90's before going solo in 2000. You can order 'The Song Train' at songtrain.net and the site also has quite a few essays by Reid that provide a unique perspective on learning how to play guitar. In one of the essays, he compares songs to sandwiches and notes that a similar hunger draws us to both. He maintains that "your first day of sandwich-making can satisfy your hunger, and so can your first day of guitar." It's enough to inspire even those of us whose musical talents consist solely of reading liner notes and pushing 'Play'.

Go to woodpecker.com for more information on Reid's solo recordings, career and his other collaborations with Andersen. Joyce Andersen's website is joyscream.com.

Kieran Kane, Kevin Welch & Fats Kaplin Kane Welch Kaplin

Kieran Kane, Kevin Welch & Fats Kaplin have been performing together since 2003 and this is their 3rd cd together. The publicity bulletin quotes Kevin Welch as saying that they self titled this album because "we want people to finally understand that we're a band, not just three solo artists playing together for the hell of it." Their desire for clarification is understandable since there are quite a few artists who play together from time to time but also pursue solo careers. These three had already achieved varying degrees of success as solo performers when they joined together. The results of their collaborations have been truly stunning. Kaplin's observation that "there's kind of a simpatico, almost telepathic way that we can play together that's unlike anything else" is a very concise description of the musical force field they create. Welch and Kane trade off on the vocals; Welch has a growl of a baritone, Kane's voice is more of a drawl and they both instantly get your attention. Kaplin plays electric, steel and acoustic guitar, fiddle and electric sitar. The arrangements are almost hypnotic in their simplicity. There are no complicated chords and Kaplin's virtuosity stands out but never eclipses the vocals. Kane's son Lucas joined the group as a drummer for this record and his contribution adds another layer that enhances the synergy between his father, Welch and Kaplin. The percussion arrangements are also very simple, Lucas uses a minimal set up of a floor tom, hi hat and cymbal. The cd is on the bluesy/country end of the folk spectrum but some of the songs are pretty up-tempo. All of the songs were written by members of the group except for the closing track 'What Are They Doing In Heaven Today?' which was published by Philadelphia minister Charles Albert Tindley in 1901. Go to kanewelchkaplin.com to order the cd or for information on their collective and individual recordings and other accomplishments.



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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!

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