

# Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

Volume 32, No. 11 / November 2006

## Fruit appears in Nov. 4 house concert

Fruit returns to North America for a six-week tour that includes a November 4 stop in Madison for a house concert! The location is Darlene Buhler's House (please call 608-846-9214 for reservations and directions). For the past seven years, Mel Watson (horns), Susie Keynes (electric/acoustic guitars), and Sam Lohs (acoustic guitar) have made a tireless habit of flying across the Pacific from their home in Australia and presenting their highly applauded and hugely popular brand of harmony-heavy, horn-infused acoustic-pop.

Having met in 1995, Fruit began as a collaboration of songwriters with the right instrumentation to be a band; 11 years later they still are. They boast having played in 36 States of the U.S. and are regulars on the North American festival circuit where they reliably bring home the accolade of being the highest CD-selling act!

Their music stretches across genres from bluesy belts to scorching torch, from plaintive ballad to anthemic rock.

They are known for the power of their performance and their passion to deliver their music in a dynamic, involving, and heart-stopping way. With the *Anchorage Daily News* claiming them as "...three KD Langs in a row" and Edinburgh's *The Scotsman* calling them "...absolute all-round entertainment," Fruit is in the habit of giving it all. And records aside, you will be charmed by the remarkable talents and the compelling natural performance of these three instrumental divas. The group is on tour in support of their latest Philadelphia-produced album, *BURN*.

The November 4 house concert starts at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30. A \$15 donation is requested, with all proceeds going to the performers.



## Prairie Coffeehouse in second season

We thought you might like to know about a new listening room in the Madison area. It's a once-a-month event called Prairie Coffeehouse held downstairs at Spring Prairie Lutheran Church in Keyeser, a country crossroads about eight miles north of Sun Prairie near Madison.

There's no cover, but during the evening free-will contributions are gratefully accepted. Coffeehouse events are usually on the third Saturday of the month, September through May, with no event the third Saturday in December.

There are supervised activities for children age 2-8 so that parents can

more attentively enjoy the music. There's a suggested contribution of \$5 per child for the evening for this. The contributions that come in during the evening go toward the expenses of future events and toward compensating the artist. Coffee, decaf, tea, lemonade and homemade desserts and snacks are complimentary.

Prairie Coffeehouse will present Cris Plata on Saturday, November 18 at 7 p.m. The rest of the 2006-07 season includes Bill Isles, Nelson Graham, Dave Potts, and James Travis; with Special Event Buddy Mondlock on December 2. For schedule and directions: [www.prairiecoffeehouse.com](http://www.prairiecoffeehouse.com).

## FOCUS ON FOLK

### A Look at songwriting with Christine Costanzo

Q: How did you get started writing songs?

A: I started writing songs in medical school (of all places). I had been dabbling in poetry and began writing in earnest in medical school. I also got my first guitar soon after I started. Between learning Bob Dylan, Neil Young, and Grateful Dead covers I was also furiously writing poetry. I was rather tormented at this point in my life as to whether I wanted to continue on the science path or do something more creative (like be on tour with the Grateful Dead, for example). I took a year off from medical school, moved to Madison, and "explored" my

creative side—along with working doubles daily at Gino's as well as another job—so it made it a bit difficult. I did, however, "discover" Joni Mitchell during that year, which was completely earth shattering for me.

It took me a couple more years to actually write a complete song—upon moving to Madison again. I do think there is a powerful muse energy here—as much as we all like to complain about Madison at times. Even though I had been writing all the time,

(continued on back page)



# FOCUS ON FOLK

(continued from front page)

writing a SONG felt like something that was out of my grasp. When I first started

playing my songs for people it was both terrifying and exhilarating.

**Q:** What is your process of songwriting?

**A:** I can say that it stills feel like a

new process when I write a song—it is always surprising to see where the musical form and emotional tone end up. The decision process can be quite hard for me at this point in time. I used to feel so enamored that anything came out that I was quite content to leave things as they were. Now I feel more aware of the “choices” I’m making.

Mostly my poetic mind, if you will, is somehow activated and I start to think in terms of a poetic motif with a more subconscious musical motif. I will write my words down and eventually—hopefully—come back to them and “find” the music on the guitar.

I have recently realized I do have some musical idea in my mind from the start, rather than starting from a blank canvas. I have struggled with a schedule or getting a writing routine, trying many different things. I still hope to someday.

I do have the superstition—though it may be true—that I can only write if I chain smoke. So now that I am, once again, a non-smoker, I’ll never write a song. I do find traveling, camping, getting out of a goal-oriented mindspace is essential—but I tend to want to smoke when I’m in that space. Yikes!



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Membership Form: **Madison Folk Music Society**

c/o Tracy Comer, P.O. Box 930446, Verona, WI 53593-0446

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