

Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

Volume 32, No. 10 / October 2006

Oct. 22 annual meeting/concert

It is the time of year again for our annual meeting. This year the meeting will be held on Sunday, October 22 at the First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. The annual meeting will start at 6 p.m. and is expected to last one-half hour. This meeting is open to all members; we will let you know what the board has been working on for the last year and what we have started to look at for the next year.

Current board members have agreed to come back and assist the direction of our organization for another year; however, we still have room on the board for more members, so if you would like to join for the next year please let us know at the annual meeting. It is a fun group, and the time commitment is minimal. We meet only six times a year and volunteer when we are able on various committees.

For members who attend the annual meeting, you are also invited to stay for the evening concert by Ellis Paul at no charge. The concert is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. and for members who do not attend the annual meeting and the general public the cost is \$15.

Ellis Paul's folk credentials are unassailable. They are as genuine as the 13 Boston Music Awards he has earned and as authentic as the musical roots he draws upon. His songs merge big ideas with incidental moments. As a rising star in the songwriting world, Ellis is well known for passionate yet literate character sketches that strike at the heart of the human condition.

Ellis, who has put out 14 albums, will be releasing a new album called *Ellis Paul Essentials*, due in stores on October 10, 2006. The 34 tracks on two CDs include "Sweet Mistakes," "The

World Ain't Slowin' Down," and "Conversations with a Ghost," plus five previously unreleased live tracks and three new songs.

Opening the show will be Tracy Jane Comer. Tracy made her Madison debut in 2000 and is now a full-time musician, touring in the Midwest and beginning to tour nationally, with numerous awards and honors to her credit. Recently she won four awards from Songwriters of Wisconsin International including top honors in Folk and Adult Contemporary categories.

More info can be found for both performers at www.ellispaul.com and www.tracyjanecomer.com.

Holly Near in Oct. 29 concert

Holly Near along with pianist John Bucchino will perform in concert at the Orpheum Theatre in Madison, October 29 at 7 p.m. The show is being sponsored by local non-profit community-based organizations, including Mad Folk, Madison Area Peace Coalition, WYOU Community Television, Wild Hog in the Woods, and ISO.

As a prominent talent in American Folk Music for more than 35 years, Holly Near has maintained

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Jason Wilber house concert Oct 15

In an ironic turn of events, Canadian songwriter Ron Hynes has found himself the subject of someone else's song. Jason Wilber, who is the protégé of singer-songwriter John Prine, penned the song "Watching Picasso" after seeing Hynes perform at the Ship Inn in St. John's, Newfoundland.

"Once Ron started singing, I couldn't believe what I was hearing. After about 20 minutes I noticed that my mouth had been hanging open since he'd started singing! I was just completely blown away by Ron's artistry and the depth of his songwriting. It was such an inspiring experience that I went back to my hotel room that night and started writing about it."

In the song "Watching Picasso," which appears on Wilber's new CD *Lazy Afternoon*, he describes the scene at the Ship Inn that night and compares Hynes to some of the great masters of fine art, while lamenting the obliviousness of the audience to the masterpieces before them. A clip of the song can be heard at: <http://www.jasonwilber.com/picasso>.

In addition to releasing five CDs featuring his own songs, Wilber has also played lead guitar for other notable artists like Hal Ketchum, Greg Brown, Iris DeMent, Todd Snider, and Carrie Newcomer. His work with John Prine includes the 2006 Grammy Award-winning album *Fair & Square*.

Jason Wilber will be playing a short opening set for Greg Brown at the Barrymore Theater in Madison on Friday October 13, and then playing a complete solo house concert on Sunday October 15 in DeForest. Don't miss out on your chance to see and hear Jason up-close and personal at this special solo concert. To get more information and make reservations, contact Darlene Buhler at 608-846-9214 or dbuhler@charter.net. If you'd like a preview, you can get a free five-song Jason Wilber CD, featuring a special duet with John Prine, at: www.jasonwilber.com/free-cd.html.



Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 22

Meeting and special concert!

First Unitarian Society, 900 Univ. Bay Dr.
6 p.m.

Holly Near

(continued from front page)

her commitment to progressive political change and peace at a time when war and reaction dominate the political agenda.

Her songs and her message give voice and hope to the deepest yearnings of a nation at war, for an end to the bloodshed as she extends a challenge to all of us to show up and be counted. *Show Up* is also the title of her latest album. Like Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, and Phil Ochs, Holly carries on the tradition of making music that is relevant to our lives and times and appeals in lyric tones to the better side of our nature. Holly's stop in Madison is a part of a nationwide tour to take her message to the people.

North Carolina transplant Tracy Jane Comer will open the show. She received three honorable mentions from the Peacedriven Songwriting Contest earlier this year, and has been honored four times by VH1's Song of the Year contest including being named finalist for "In This New Year (Instruments of Peace)." She was also featured by the

International Acoustic Music Awards in 2005 for her song "Goodnight Moon (This Losing Game)." See www.tracyjanecomer.com for more.

Tickets are \$25 at the door and \$22

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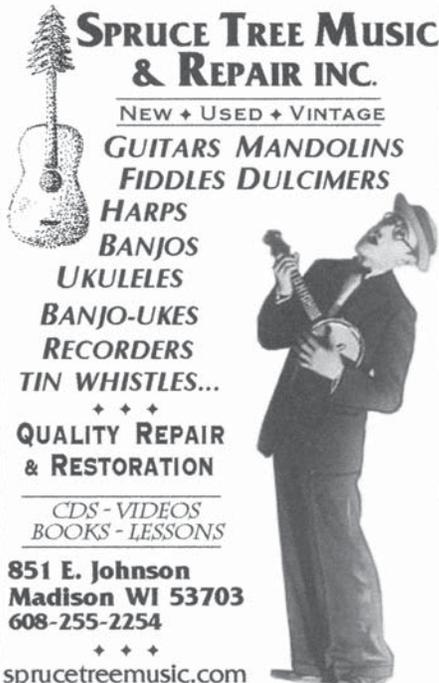
Darlene Buhler, advertising, 846-9214

Tracy Comer, membership, 276-8192

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Mad Folk web site: www.madfolk.org

in advance and will be available for sale from the local sponsoring organizations along with Borders Bookstores (East and West), Orange Tree Imports, Spruce Tree Music and Repair, B-Side Records, and Steep and Brew on Odana Road.



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