

Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

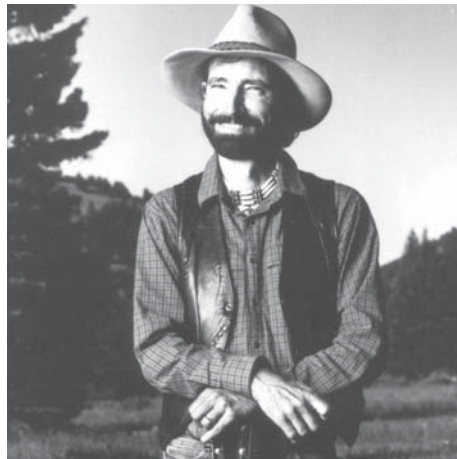
Volume 32, No. 9 / September 2006

Tales, tunes, photos from wilderness walking

Meet the man who has covered North America by boot, sharing his vision to save the wild in a free multimedia show Saturday, September 16 at the EF Schwan Performing Arts Center in Monona, Wisconsin

Madison will have a rare opportunity to meet America's one-of-a-kind wilderness troubadour when *Forever Wild—2006* comes to the EF Schwan Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 16. The performing arts center is located at 4400 Monona Drive, Monona, Wisconsin. This event is free and open to the public.

Walkin' Jim Stoltz has trekked from coast to coast, Mexico to Canada, Yellowstone to the Yukon, from high



in the Arctic to deep in the Utah canyons. All those years in the wild places and 26,000 miles of walking have given

him a great love and respect for America's natural beauty. He shares that appreciation in his celebratory show, *Forever Wild—2006*. Walkin' Jim sings in a deep bass voice, plays guitar, and tells stories about his travels while projecting spectacular images of the wilderness he has photographed on his travels.

Though Walkin' Jim has been taking long-distance hikes since 1974, this is his 20th anniversary year of touring America with *Forever Wild*.

(continued on inside page)

Last '06 Folk on State Saturday

The final show of our '06 Folk on State series will be this Saturday, September 2, with two hours in the round featuring three of Madison's leading female performers, Amy Curl, Erin O'Brien, and Kellie Lin Knott.

The music will flow from 1–3 p.m. and will be located in the 500 block of State Street at the Francis/State St. Park—better known as Concrete Park. Park across State Street at the Francis Street ramp. If Mother Nature decides to rain on us, we will move to the Memorial Union Rathskeller.

Amy Curl entertains with musings on office dress codes, ill-behaving attorneys, the conundrum of disappearing pants, and the fine art of surviving relationships. Amy earned two nominations—Best Acoustic Artist and Best Acoustic Album for *Mixed Bag*—at the 2005 Madison Area Music Awards,

while her song “ready to wear” placed second in the pop/rock category of the 2005 Midwest Song Contest. Amy's music delights and engages listeners as they lounge with a latte or a lemon



Curl



O'Brien

shot. Her two independently released solo CDs, *Mixed Bag* and *Twenty Different Tries*, showcase her lovely voice and thoughtful lyrics. She has also recently recorded a collection of hymns, *Thy Fire Divine*.

Erin O'Brien performs story-driven roots-folk music punctuated by innovative rhythms and vocals that morph effortlessly in range and style. Her songs tell stories that transport the

(continued on inside page)



FOCUS ON FOLK

A Look at songwriting with Nancy Rost

Q: How did you get started writing music?

A: In high school, I got started writing music in a theory class. I used that learning to improvise and play keyboards in various bands. Even longer before that, I got started writing fiction, though...I kept music and writing separate for several decades.

Then a couple of years ago, Urban Market and Coffeehouse was my neighborhood hangout, and Stephen Lee Rich started hosting an open mic there...One night Aaron [Nathans] introduced a song by saying it came from an assignment to write a song about the prairie. I realized that giving myself a songwriting assignment was a place I could start... I got a lot of encouragement from the open mic crowd, which led to my joining the Madison Songwriters Group and pursuing songwriting further.

(continued on back page)

Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 21

Meeting and special concert!

(Location, time TBA)

FOCUS ON FOLK

(continued from front page)

Q: Why are you passionate about songwriting?

A: Songwriting has enriched my life in a lot of different ways. I feel like I've

found a medium that fits me well. I've been discovering abilities I didn't know I had, and finding I have something unique to contribute. I enjoy the performance aspect and the immediate feedback from

audiences. Also, I get to hang out with other songwriters and complain, which I love.

Q: What is your process of writing a song like?

A: I write words first. I'll start with an image, phrase or situation, and think or free-write about what angle to take on it. After I have a good chunk of the words, I'll experiment with chords on the piano while singing a melody. I'll keep playing to solidify it, making written notes as I go. Inspiration doesn't come to me before I start writing. I have to make an effort to find song ideas. I still give myself assignments and see where they take me. I got great practice during FAWM (February Album Writing Month: a challenge to write 14 songs in 28 days). In order to be prolific, I had to look everywhere for ideas—Google Image Search, my appointment calendar, advertising disclaimers—and work past the suspicion that those are stupid topics for songs. I can feel like I'm just slogging and slogging away, but if I keep at it, that's when inspiration shows up.



SPRUCE TREE MUSIC & REPAIR INC.
NEW + USED + VINTAGE
GUITARS MANDOLINS FIDDLES DULCIMERS
HARPS BANJOS UKULELES
BANJO-UKES RECORDERS TIN WHISTLES...
+ + +
QUALITY REPAIR & RESTORATION
+ + +
CDS - VIDEOS
BOOKS - LESSONS
851 E. Johnson
Madison WI 53703
608-255-2254
+ + +
sprucetreemusic.com

Mad Folk Board of Directors

Darlene Buhler, president..... 846-9214
dbuhler@charter.net
Norbert Wodke, secretary..... 836-8422
nfwodke@chorus.net
Dede Goldberg..... 246-4332
Speedydd99@yahoo.com
Bill Fiore.....256-4687
fior@charter.net
Tracy Comer.....276-8192
tracy@tracycomer.com
Ron Dennis.....226-9472
rondenpho@aol.com
Meg Skinner..... 238-6950
askinner@wisc.edu
Vicky Jones..... 238-4661
vickyjones@aol.com

Committee contacts:

Concert: Darlene Buhler, 846-9214
Festival: Bill & Mary Fiore, 256-4687
Perry Baird, Newsletter, 258-4386
Dede Goldberg, Newsletter 246-4332
Mary Schranz, Calendar, 273-2515
Darlene Buhler, advertising, 846-9214
Tracy Comer, membership, 276-8192
Mad Folk e-mail: Madfolk@charter.net
Mad Folk web site: www.madfolk.org

Madison Folk Music Society

P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701

Address Service Requested

Newsletter Published Monthly

Membership Form: **Madison Folk Music Society**
c/o Tracy Comer, P.O. Box 930446, Verona, WI 53593-0446
 Renewal New Member

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Membership Categories

Student \$10 _____
Senior \$8 _____
Regular \$12 _____
Family \$15 _____
Friend \$25 _____
Contributing \$50 _____
Life \$500 _____

Total \$ _____

Check One

I would like to help with:

- Newsletter
- Concerts
- Festival
- Housing performers
- Publicity
- Membership
- Transportation

Make checks payable to MFMS. Your contribution is tax-deductible and helps us defray the cost of event expenses. You may designate its use. Thank you.

Time to renew? Don't want to cut up your newsletter? Just be sure your name is on your check and mail it to the address shown. Enclose a note if there are changes needed to your information. Or, you can print a form from the Mad Folk web site: www.madfolk.org.

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 2278

Walkin' Jim

(continued from page 1)

He says he realized those many years ago that a great way to bring out the love of nature in everyone was to celebrate it. By sharing the beauty he's seen, in images, songs, and stories, he moves people to care for our land, rivers, and wildlife.

"The road less traveled is not a road," Walkin' Jim says. "And we ought to stop building any more roads through our wildlands." This year, his goal is to visit all 50 states, perform 100 free events, and encourage 100,000 calls and letters in his personal crusade to save these wild places for the future. He is being joined by hundreds of other musicians, speakers and community groups across the nation.

His only local appearance is sponsored by the Four Lakes Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Madison Chapter of the Audubon Society, Enact, the Madison Folk Music Society, as well as WORT radio station. Joining Walkin' Jim for this special concert will be Madison's own Ken Lonquist and Judy Miner.

Walkin' Jim encourages people who hear about his tour to learn more about his "Call for Wild" program and how they can help by visiting www.foreverwild.info

Meeting Walkin' Jim is like coming face to face with a modern-day Johnny Appleseed. He tells stories of adventures from a near-death slide down a snow field, arrested only by

his guitar, to the solitude of playing his music in the woods with moose listening on. His shows transport audiences to the backcountry as only he knows it.

"He's truly a unique and impressive songwriter and performer," says Richard Stanley of Sierra Club-Greater Hartford, Conn. "His *Forever Wild* show generated an incredible amount of enthusiasm afterwards. For weeks people were telling me how much they admired him and enjoyed it. We all felt fortunate to have seen his show."

Walkin' Jim Stoltz has been recognized as an American treasure by the Environmental Protection Agency, which presented him its Outstanding Achievement Award for his sharing of nature and wilderness across the country.

"I've had amazing experiences on my travels in the woods," says Walkin' Jim. "This show is my chance to share them, and to celebrate all of America's lands, waters, and the critters who need them. It's my contribution to keeping our wild places wild forever."

Woody Guthrie meets Ansel Adams in Walkin' Jim's *Forever Wild*—2006 performance. The chance to experience his show is not to be missed. Walkin' Jim's recent book, *Walking With the Wild Wind*, and recorded CDs of his music will be available at the show. More information about him can be found at www.walkinjim.com.



Kellie Lin Knott

Folk On State

(continued from page 1)

listener through time, across landscapes and into the heart. Though she's played guitar for over 12 years and composed original songs since 1999, Erin waited until 2003 to share her original works before public audiences. Since then, she has accumulated an impressive set of credits in a very short time, including earning the Madison Songwriters Group "2004 Performing Songwriter of the Year" award and releasing her first recording project, *Georgia Nights*. Erin's songs have also been featured on two compilation CDs showcasing the work of southern Wisconsin musicians, and she makes regular guest appearances performing original back-up vocal arrangements on the recording projects of other local songwriters.

Describing the music of Midwestern songwriter/performer Kellie Lin Knott often leads listeners to interesting comparisons. Fans have suggested that her voice is a 'cross between Alanis Morissette's contralto bravada and Billie Holiday's subtle, sexy delivery,' that her harmonic, rhythmic and lyrical sensibilities are purely 'Joni Mitchell', and that her jazz-influenced, groove driven acoustic guitar parts are fueled with an early Ani DiFranco-like energy. Kellie Lin Knott was educated at the Berklee College of Music in Massachusetts. She has received numerous awards/honors and has played in venues all over the country. The young road warrior makes her living from performance and CD sales, and, for two full years, like pop-star Jewel before her, lived quite happily out of the back of her car.

Fall folk music classes for adults

The University of Wisconsin—Madison offers music skills and enrichment classes designed especially for adults. Many classes of interest to folk musicians/fans are offered this fall with excellent instructors who understand the excitement of making music and the special challenges of launching into a musical horizon as an adult learner. The classes are easy to enroll in, flexible, affordable, and provide a friendly and supportive learning environment.

Chris Powers will teach *Folk & Bluegrass Band*, *Fingerstyle Guitar*, and *Beginning and Intermediate Guitar Classes*. If you want to sing your own songs, join Sims Delaney-Potthoff for *Songwriting or Instrumental Improvisation*—or both (they're offered back-to-back)! And Maggie Delaney-Potthoff will help you develop your vocal skills in *Getting the Most Out of Your Voice*. If Celtic music sends you reeling, there are beginning and continuing classes in *Bodhran* and *Tin Whistle*, and Alan Ng will teach *Irish Fiddle*. "The pipes, the pipes are calling"? Try *Introduction to Highland Bagpipes*—or learn to accompany them on *Scottish Highland Drum*. For something completely different, enjoy surveying the *Music and Cultural Performances of Mali*.

For information about these and our many other Fall 2006 offerings, call 263-6670 to receive a catalog, or check out the website: <http://www.dcs.wisc.edu/classes/music.htm>.