

# Mad Folk News

## Summer Sing-alongs in Blue Mounds State Park

The Summer Folk Music Sing-alongs at Blue Mounds State Park are back! Once again, banjo player extraordinaire Mac Robertson will lead the singing at the first of the summer



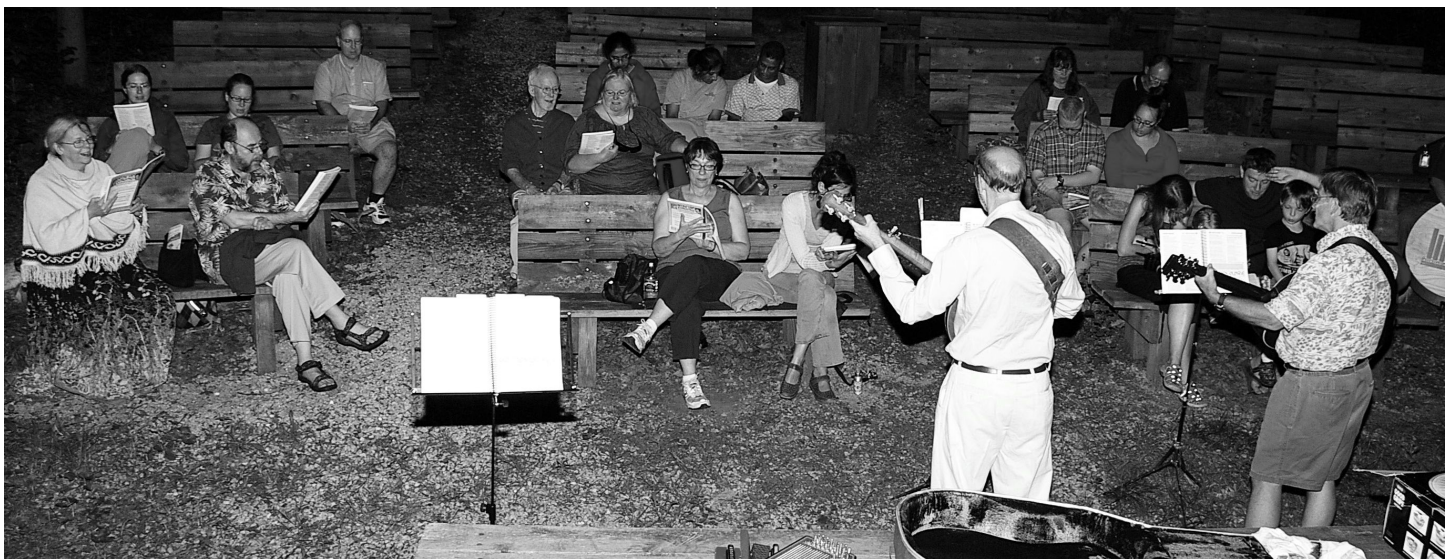
sessions which will begin at 8 pm at the Main Shelter on Friday, June 28. Rise Up Singing songbooks will be provided, but attenders are encouraged to bring your favorite instruments, especially your voices. All ages are encouraged to attend – past regulars range from young children to 90 somethings, and Mac is particularly gifted at responding to any and all song requests. [He once was part of the singing crew of Pete Seeger's Hudson River sloop the Clearwater.]

Guitar strumming David Eagan will join Mac to add harmonies for the July 19 and August 16 Sing-alongs, also scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Main Shelter at the top of the hill at Blue Mounds. In case of inclement weather, the Sing-alongs will be held in the new park building near the pool area, fully enclosed, so the show will go on, rain or shine. The rangers at the en-

trance gate, where park stickers are checked, should be able to direct you to the correct location.

The sunsets from Blue Mounds – the highest point in southern Wisconsin – are spectacular from the fire towers, so pack a picnic and plan to enjoy the view as well as the singing.

To get to Blue Mounds State Park from Madison, take Highway 18-151 west past Mount Horeb, and take the exit marked highway F. Turn left on ID, then follow signs for the park, turning right by the Citgo station and continuing past the trailer park on your left. Although the Sing-alongs are free and open to campers and the general public, you must have State Park daily or season sticker to enter the park.



# MAMAs Celebrate Ten Years on June 23

Ten years is a long time and quite a milestone. The Madison Area Music Association will celebrate a decade of presenting the Madison Area Music Awards on Sunday, June 23 at the Capitol Theater in the Overture Center. Tickets are on sale now at the Overture Center Box Office and are \$15 (\$10 for teachers and students). Doors and Red Carpet are at 6 p.m. and the ceremony begins at 7 p.m.


The Folk/Americana categories have been some of the strongest over the years and are second only to the rock categories in the number of artists who register for awards consideration. Many of these artists also enter into non-genre categories for vocalists and instrumentalists.

Winners are selected by the MAMA membership which consists of the artists who register and fans from around the city, state and even other states. This year, MAMA introduced a weighted voting system whereby artist votes are given more credence in determining the finalists and the eventual winners. This system has proven to have excellent results.

The awards show is patterned after the Grammys and the VH-1 Awards with local musicians getting celebrity treatment. The program features several performances across many genres of music with performers being drawn from participating artists. This year's lineup includes Mitch Henck, the Daze, Anna Vogelzang, Kicksville, Tefman, Anthony Lamarr, Ladies Must Swing, Last Crack, Mikko Utevsy and a performance from the critically-acclaimed Dracula ballet with music written by Mike Massey.

The show also serves to highlight the MAMA mission to put musical instruments in kids' hands and to provide funds for music education programs for Madison-area youths. The organization has donated over \$50,000 in funds and instruments to Madison-area recipients. Visit the MAMAs at [www.themamas.org](http://www.themamas.org) for more information.

## Mad Folk Concert Tickets

When you see this symbol –  – you'll know that you're reading about a Mad Folk sponsored event. Advance tickets for Mad Folk shows are available online at [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org) and at these outlets:

- Orange Tree Imports, 1721 Monroe Street
- Spruce Tree Music, 851 East Johnson

Purchase tickets ONLINE for Mad Folk concerts via Brown Paper Tickets:

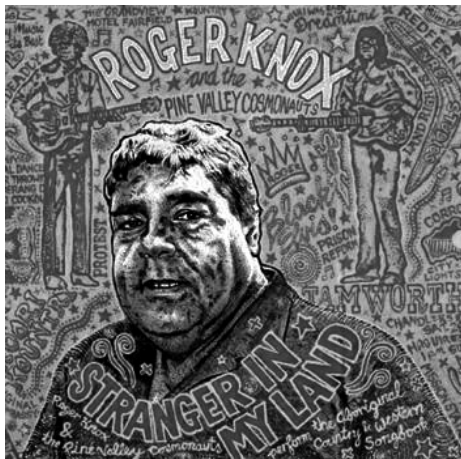
<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/10879>

You can also purchase advance tickets by mail. Send a stamped self-addressed envelope with your check payable to Mad Folk, PO Box 665, Madison, WI 53701. If all else fails, call 608-846-9214 for information.



## STRANGER IN MY LAND

ROGER KNOX & THE PINE VALLEY COSMONAUTS ~ 2013 BLOODSHOT



Review by Kiki Schueler

It would be hard to find a record this year more socially conscious than *Stranger in My Land*. So it should come as no surprise that this collection of aboriginal country songs was masterminded by Jon Langford, who previously released three discs' worth of musical contributions in protest of the death penalty called *The Executioner's Last Song Vol 1-3*. Langford traveled to Australia (along with Bloodshot co-owner Rob Miller, who shows up as part of the choir on "Scobie's Dream") to record Roger Knox, known as "the King of Koori Country" and "the Black Elvis." Though admittedly Knox owes more to Hank Williams than he does to Elvis, his voice does have that comforting croon of the King. Their mission was to preserve these country songs originating from the 1960s through the 90s. All but three of these songs were part of an out-of-print compilation called *Buried Country*, which chronicles the aboriginal country music phenomenon. The trio includes the aforementioned hilarious alcohol-fueled hallucinations of Dougie Young's "Scobie's Dream," as well as his "The Land Where the Crow Flies Backward," which was discovered on an obscure field recording (think Alan Lomax) at the National Library of Australia. The last, "Warrior in Chains," was, surprisingly, written by Canadian Daniel Beatty, who demonstrates that problems like alcoholism and racism

are universal.

This would be a pretty amazing record just based on the material, but the list of contributors makes it even more vital. The band is always stellar, but it's the voices that stand out—especially the women, who are all frequent Langford conspirators. The sweet-voiced Sally Timms belies her punk rock beginnings in the Mekons for a gorgeous duet with Knox on Maisie Kelly's "Home in the Valley," while Tawny Newsome (sounding more than a little like Timms) belts a stunning lead vocal on the Mills Sisters' "Arafura Pearl," an ode to their Northern hometown of Darwin. Kelly Hogan's beautiful voice graces two tracks, the homesick "Blue Gums Calling Me Back Home" by Harry and Wilga Williams, and the heartbreaking "The Children Came Back." The latter may be the most powerful song on a record full of emotion. It documents the attempt of the government to integrate aboriginal children by forcibly removing them from their families and placing them in foster homes. "This story's right, this story's true, I would not tell lies to you," Archie Roach's unbelievable tale begins, before going on to detail how "they snatched us from our mother's breast, saying it was for the best" and then attempted to brainwash them in the white man's ways. You realize how personal this story is to Roach on the last line, where "the children came back" becomes "yes I came back."

The gentlemen also get their turn. Bonnie Prince Billy joyfully joins the party on "Scobie's Dream," while the timeless Andre Williams ("The Black Godfather") totally owns his verse on the title track, growling "They say that black is beautiful, I've heard it far and wide man" with conviction. Dave Alvin's expressive guitar has just as much to

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say on "Crow." The great Charlie Louvin graces a verse on the lazy, loping "Ticket to Nowhere," written by Joan Fairbridge. Canadians the Sadies have released several records of their own material, but they have also served as an overqualified backing band for folks like Neko Case, Langford and Williams, and they pull the same duty on several songs here. Pay attention to Travis Good's fiddle on "Warrior" and his and brother Dallas's interwoven guitars on "Blue Gums." Even if you knew nothing of the record's origins or its roster of amazing musicians, you couldn't help but find *Stranger in My Land* an intriguing and addictive listen. I know I have.



## Our Friend, The Folding Chair

"For weeding we have a reversible folding chair, light, and easily carried; attached to the top is a broad parachute, which is opened and closed with a spring, operating with the opening and closing of the chair. When you desire to hoe or weed your garden, you approach the bed and touching a spring with your foot, the chair opens out and the parachute unfolds, and seating yourself you begin the task of plucking weeds, with grateful feeling in your spinal column." — from an ad in *The Star and Sentinel*, Gettysburg PA, May 21, 1875.

What has six legs and twelve strings? Me, sitting in my folding chair, playing my guitar. My music partner Lou and I have been helped by many an inanimate object over our almost fifty years of performing, as you might suspect. We are in debt to the capo, the hat for passing, the hat for wearing, the thumb pick, the water glass holder, the music stand, the duct tape, the podium light, the accordion monopod, the microphone, the tranquilizer, the clamp light, the extension cord, the PA speaker, the guitar tuner, not to mention the shoe, the eyeglass, the accordion, the luggage cart, the airsick bag, the computer, the automobile, and in the beginning, the typewriter, the rubber cement, the ditto machine, the tape recorder, and the gin bottle. But of all these things, except maybe the guitar and accordion, the most consistent helper and has been the lowly folding chair.

Probably 70% of our shows feature audiences perched on folding chairs. In fact, the only situations I can think of at the moment where this isn't the case are some of the nicer cabarets, those churches with fixed, non-folding pews, and those venues that use stackable but not foldable chairs. Oh, and also those coffee houses with funky couches and scrounged kitchen chairs. House concerts often have a mix of folding and fixed seating. But even grand auditoriums almost always have seats that fold

at least partially, making it easier to replace the chewing gum.

Folk festivals are like test campuses for folding chair technology; they're more like *Fold Festivals*. You see vast pastures of canvas or nylon and metal-rod folding chairs with armrests and cup holders, folding aluminum-tube and nylon webbing lawn chairs and chaise lounges popularized in the early 1950s, X-legged folding camp stools, three legged metal and cloth teepee-style stools, X-legged captain's chairs, the similar director's chairs (which as far as I can tell are captain's chairs that say "director" on the backrest) and so on and so forth.

They are made of polyethylene, polypropylene, PVC, flat steel, aluminum, titanium, carbon fiber, canvas, nylon, leather, bamboo, teak, mahogany, oak, etc. They have weight ratings of from 250 to 1000 pounds. You've seen 'em all. They range from like eight bucks apiece to, for example, the set of two Anderson Teak Folding Arm Chairs, now only \$715 ("You save \$184.99") from the *Home and Patio Decor Center*. And I'm sure you can spend way more than this if you shop around.

Lou and I have rented folding chairs, sat on 'em, folded and unfolded 'em, dragged 'em across floors, stacked them in piles or racked them in wheeled racks, hauled them with us for our own comfort to outdoor concerts and festivals. In fact, at home when songwriting and/or playing the guitar, I sit exclusively on an old Samsonite all-steel with padded back and seat model that is holding up better than I am. I have been so taken with the allure and mystique of the humble folding chair that five years ago or so, when I was asked to make an "art chair" for a local benefit auction, I invented a padlocking system to prevent unauthorized unfolding of a wooden folding chair and painted *RESERVED SEATING* on the backrest. I never found out if anyone bid on this grumpy piece of art but had great fun making it.

I'm also in the process of writing a song about folding chairs, which is how I got so sidetracked by the available information that it spilled over into *Whither Zither*. Bet you can't wait.

Uncle Google says the folding chair has been helping people take a load off since at least 4500 BC. The early models were what might be called *camp stools* today, with X-braced legs and a cloth or leather seat. These occasionally developed into something very much like the captain's chair of today, with arm and back rests.

King Tut was buried with two folding chairs, no doubt in the hopes of he and a friend being resurrected into the midst of a folk festival. The Mesopotamians, Scandinavians, and Germans had similar X-braced folding stools and chairs thousands of years BC. This style, almost unchanged, is still sold today (see photos). Also note that, with the minor substitution of a hard top, this is the basic X-design of the TV tray.

Some say this design was introduced to Earthlings by space aliens from Planet X, which, when you think about it, is the only way you can explain why people were making TV trays six thousand years before TVs were invented.



Folding stool frame from Denmark, circa 1,000 BC.



Folding stool from Meijer's, circa 2013 AD.

### Webliography:

- [thomasguild.blogspot.com/2011/12/medieval-folding-chairs.html](http://thomasguild.blogspot.com/2011/12/medieval-folding-chairs.html)
- [www.homeandpatiodecorcenter.com/](http://www.homeandpatiodecorcenter.com/)
- [www.meijer.com/](http://www.meijer.com/)
- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folding\\_chair](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folding_chair)
- Gettysburg Star and Sentinel, May 21, 1875, from the Newspaper Archive via the Madison Public Library. **WZ, June 2013**



# The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

June 2013

## Mad Folk Events



Summer Sing-Along w/ Mac Robertson & David Eagan

Friday, June 28  
Blue Mounds State Park Amphitheatre -- 8pm  
Free! (State Park sticker req. for entry)

## Venues



### The Brink Lounge

- Tue, June 4 -- 6:30pm -- Robert J  
Wed, June 5 -- 7pm -- Scott Wilcox  
Thur, June 6 -- 8pm -- Aaron Williams and the Hoodoo  
Tue, June 11-- 7:30pm -- Christine Costanzo & Steve Schad  
Sat, June 15 -- 9pm -- Daniel Anderson Trio  
Tue, June 18 -- 6:30pm -- Robert J

701 E. Washington  
thebrinklounge.com  
608-661-8599



### Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Sat, June 1 -- The Occasional Quartet -- \$25 adv
- Sun, June 2 -- The Occasional Quartet -- \$20 adv -- 7pm
- Fri, June 7 -- Meaghan Owens opens for Phil Lee -- \$8
- Sat, June 8 -- Bill Camplin Band & The Woot! Coots -- \$8
- Thu, June 13 -- The New Pioneers -- \$8
- Thu, June 20 -- Grass Food & Lodging -- \$15 -- 8pm
- Fri, June 21 -- Fowler Family Benefit w/ Peter Mulvey, Kaia Fowler, Perry Baird, & Jessica Kennedy -- \$25 donation -- 8pm
- Sat, June 22 -- Krause Family Band -- \$12
- Thu, June 27 -- Jeffrey Foucault -- \$15 adv -- 8pm
- Fri, June 28 -- Midwest Guitar Trio
- Sat, June 29 -- Richard Paul Thomas

18 S. Water St.  
Ft. Atkinson, WI  
cafecarpe.com  
920-563-9391

### Folklore Village

- June 1 -- Dragonboat Day with Chinese cooking workshop, The Blue Willow Dance Company & The Confucius Institute of UW-Platteville
- June 4 -- Open Mic
- June 29 -- Liz Carroll & Dáithí Sproule: Intermediate/advanced music workshops (afternoon) & evening concert

3210 Cty Hwy BB  
Dodgeville, WI  
folklorevillage.org  
608-924-4000

Mother Fool's  
Coffeeshouse

### Mother Fool's

- Fri., June 7 -- Brian Imig - \$6 -- 8pm
- Sat., June 15 -- Panther Sequoia & Biff Uranus Blumfumgagng - \$7 -- 8pm
- Sat., June 22 -- Tina & Her Pony - \$6 -- 8pm

1101 Williamson St.  
motherfools.com  
608-259-1030

## Misc

Garnet Rogers -- June 23rd, 7:30pm -- \$18 suggested donation-- House Concert Space is limited; contact us ASAP -- 608- 256-2958

KG & The Ranger -- June 23rd, 6:30pm -- Brodhead Twilight in the Park Concerts -- Veterans Memorial Park (rain location: UCC church, 204 E. 23rd St) Brodhead, WI

Count This Penny -- July 20th, 6:00 food 7:30 Music -- House Concert Space is limited; contact us ASAP -- 608-770-0778

Bardstock Music Festival -- Sept 27-29 -- \$45 full weekend, \$30 Sat. only -- tickets include lodging. featuring Andrew Heinrich, Tom Kastle, David HB Drake, February Sky, and Michael Longcor. Also playing will be Stephen Rodriguez, Rosaleen Dbu, Pat Kaping, and more. -- White Lake Beach Resort, N4785 19th Ave, Montello, WI. <http://www.whitelakebeachresort.com>

Madison Ukulele Club -- Singalongs 1st and 3rd Weds 7:00-9:00pm -- call for location -- 246-8205 (Andrew)

Bob's BBQ Emporium's Open Mic - Thu, June 21 -- 7pm -- 8164 Hwy. 14 Arena, WI

Cajun jam held every first Sunday 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

At the Froth House: 11 N. Allen St., Madison We welcome all levels of experience with instruments and Cajun music.

kholden@wisc.edu for more info. [www.prairiebayoucajun.com](http://www.prairiebayoucajun.com)

## On the Air



Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Stephanie Elkins, Host

Sun 5:00-8:00pm

Concerts recorded in Wisconsin, music and dance of people the world over. For playlists, calendars, station listings, and more, visit [www.wpr.org/simplyfolk](http://www.wpr.org/simplyfolk).



WORT 89.9 FM community radio

Sun -- 3:00-5:00pm

- On the Horizon (world music) w/Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak & Dan Talmo
- Weekdays 9:00am-noon
- Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over) w/ David & Martin Alvarado & Eugenia Highland
- Tue -- For the Sake of the Song (traditional American folk) w/Jim Schwall
- Wed -- Back to the Country (country music on a theme) w/Bill Malone
- Thur -- Diaspora (folk and international) w/Terry O' Powers
- Fri -- Mud Acres (bluegrass and acoustic) w/Chris Powers

## Madison Dance

- African/African-American Dance classes with live drumming -- Sun, 7:00-9:00pm -- Metro Dance, 3009 University Ave. -- 255-3677 / 251-4311
- Cajun Strangers- Thu 5/26 - UW Memorial Union, Terrace Madison
- SpiritMoves Ecstatic Dance 2nd and 4th Weds, 7:00-9:00 pm -- The Center for Conscious Living, 849 East Washington Ave. -- \$7 min. donation
- English Country Dance taught -- 1st and 3rd Mon, 7:30-9:30pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 238-9951 or 238-9951
- International Dancing -- Wed and Sun; classes 7:30-8:30pm, request dancing 8:30-11:00pm -- The Crossing, 1127 University Ave. -- 241-3655
- Irish Dancing -- Monthly Ceili and set dance events are posted at [celticmadison.org/dance](http://celticmadison.org/dance)
- Italian Dancing -- Tue, 7:00-9:00pm, no experience or partner necessary -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 838-9403 (Philana)
- Madison Contra Dance Cooperative -- Tue; 7:30 jam band practice, intermediate level dancing 7:45-9:40pm -- \$5 for non-members -- Gates of Heaven, 302 E. Gorham -- 238-3394 (Steve)
- Morris Dancing -- Wed, 7:00pm -- call for location -- 238-9951
- Scottish Country Dancing -- Sun, 7:00pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 835-0914

# Is this your last copy of *Mad Folk News*?

There are two ways to renew your **tax-deductible** membership

## Way #1 – online

Visit [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org) and click on “Join MFMS”

## Way #2 – unplugged

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### Madison Folk Music Society

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Choose membership category:

Senior	\$8	_____
Student	\$10	_____
Regular	\$12	_____
Family	\$15	_____
Friend	\$25	_____
Contributing	\$50	_____
Life	\$500	_____
Scholarship fund donation (optional)	\$	_____
Total	\$	_____

GOING GREEN - Send my newsletters electronically by email

Send your check, payable to MFMS to: Mad Folk c/o  
Tracy Comer, P.O. Box 930446 Verona, WI 53593-0446