# Jason Wilber set to play Madison House Show November 10th

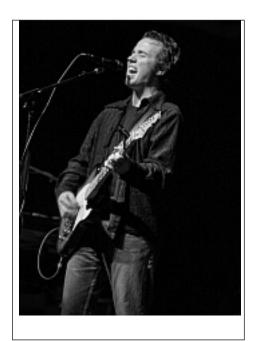
Jason Wilber gives a great house concert. At ease in front of an audience, and very personable, he is a pleasure to watch perform. Bloomington, Indiana you'll notice a soft hint of a Southern accent, but just a hint. His songs range from very funny to sad and introspective. But he definitely has a talent for songwriting that you will notice.

For many years he has been John Prine's guitarist, and if you already like that folk music / Americana genre, you will like his repertoire. You may have seen him on David Letterman and more recently on The Colbert Report. His "In Her Veins" is a soulful song about loving his wife and loving his music and sometimes having to leave one for the other. Another touching song of his talks about visiting his family in Southern Indiana and discovering that His great uncle had owned a fiddle. This was surprising to Jason as no one in his immediate family has a musical talent like he does. "My great Uncle Jim had a fiddle that I never did hear him play..."

"Down In Russell Square" was inspired by touring the English Gardens while in London. "Watching Picasso" details having the night off from John Prine in St. John's Bay, Newfoundland. They went to see this folk singer and were amazed at what a talented man this was on this tiny little stage in an equally tiny pub.

Jason has some very funny songs "The Ballad of Amazing Grace and Sideshow Dan" recounts a society of circus freaks and their romantic connections. "King For A Day" has Jason telling what he would do if he was Elvis Presley for 24 hours including a shout out to Hamburger James. He says he got his inspiration for "The Quakertown Optimists Club" from a newspaper article whose headline read simply "Optimists Club calls it quits."

A favorite is "You Don't Know What You're Getting' Into." It's very upbeat, and the clever wordsmithing make this song very catchy and fun to listen to. If you go see Jason, you are



guaranteed to enjoy yourself. Don't miss it! Show will start at 6:00, doors open at 5:15, feel free to bring an appetizer to pass. We request a donation of \$15 to \$20 per person. Please contact Darlene at dbuhler@charter. net to reserve a seat.

### **Mad Folk Concert Tickets**

When you see this symbol - ee you'll know that you're reading about a Mad Folk sponsored event. Advance tickets for Man Folk shows are available online at 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.

### Madison Folk Music Society Show Hosts Discuss Having Shows in their Homes

**Dave Wallner** 

For years my wife Anne and I debated hosting folk music house concerts. How do we find musicians to perform? How much work would it be? Would anyone show up? Would we lose our shirts financially? Finally, two years ago, we took the plunge and never looked back. Eighteen months and nine shows later, we are in the groove. It's a blast.

Our very first performers were singer-songwriter Josh Harty and Sims Delaney-Potthoff, the main man and mandolin whiz with well-known Madison group Harmonious Wail. We had a full house, and an enthusiastic crowd, that night. That successful beginning set us on the search for more old and new favorites and more concerts. We followed up with western Wisconsin's fine folk duo, Patchouli, guitar master Harvey Reid from Maine, Chicago jazz singer Typhonie Monique with pianist Ben Lewis, Vance Gilbert from Boston, Joe Jencks from Chicago, Madison's own Mark Croft and Jon Vriesacker. Garnet Rogers from Canada and Brother Sun, a marvelous folk trio with Jencks. Greg Greenway from Boston and Pat Wictor from New York. In November, Randy Sabien, a Wisconsin legend on the violin and mandolin, and Café Carp owner Bill Camplin, will play to another full house, followed by the wonderful Ann Reed from the Twin Cities. Our search continues for more great music later this winter and into the spring.

Listening to live music in an intimate house-concert setting is a true joy. People show up eager to listen and the musicians can feel the love and attention. For each show we've hosted, the performers stay late, sign CDs, answer questions about their music, and even give impromptu lessons for budding musicians. After his January 2013 concert ended, Joe Jencks stayed to talk with Eric, our elementary school music teacher neighbor. While Anne and I did the dishes in the kitchen, the boys chatted about fret techniques and

other musical stuff. Minutes later, the two broke into a lovely verse in Latin! That's a moment you wouldn't get at some huge arena show.

Great memories abound. Patchouli's Bruce Hecksel's fingers move on his guitar like lightning, and his wife Julie has a voice that reminds listeners of Joanie Mitchell. Vance Gilbert's wild and crazy stories and stage patter had us in stitches one moment, and his voice soared like an angel the next. Nobody does it better than Garnet Rogers, with his powerful voice, haunting lyrics and stunning guitar work. And I doubt there was a dry eye in the house during Brother Sun's beautiful songs.

Speaking of work, how tough is it to do a house concert? Once you get a system down, it's not as much work as you might think. We start by selecting a musician or group we like, and make a phone call to the performer or send a message to an agent offering dates and a financial commitment. We pledge that all the money we take in on ticket sales goes to the performers and we always set up a table for CDs, T-shirts, etc.

Once the date and details are set. we send out a promo message to our email list of contacts (we are up to about 125 friends, neighbors and music lovers who have shown up at past shows). The artists will put up word about the house concerts on their websites and that helps us sell a few more tickets. Ditto with the Madfolk website. We've also had some shows announced on Simply Folk on public radio. Our policy is to require advance notice and payment so we can monitor the size of the crowd and make sure we have enough money raised to pay the performers. During the colder months our home holds 45 people, and we can squeeze about 10 more onto our screened front porch for summer shows.

On the day of a concert we move the furniture around, set up the folding chairs we've scrounged from friends, clean up a bit, get the beer and soda on ice and the snacks prepared, and we're ready to roll. The process takes about two hours. (No doubt about it, hosting a party is always a good excuse to vacuum up the dust balls and pick up the dirty socks.)

We have a tradition of inviting the performers to our home for a meal prior to the concert. We usually order carry-out Chinese, Cajun or pizza to keep it simple. And we've offered a free bed to a couple of our musical guests if they don't mind a bit of spartan living.

We get asked questions like, "do you worry about strangers coming into your home?" and "do people ever get drunk and obnoxious at your concerts?" And the answer is an emphatic no, we have never had trouble with our guests. No complaints from neighbors, no unannounced visits from the police or fire marshals. Every concert has gone smoothly and easily, and each has been a real joy.

So why do house concerts? For Anne and I it's a pretty simple answer: we love live music; we enjoy building community through our concerts and sharing a beer with our friends; and we want to keep the Garnett Rogers and Vance Gilberts and Josh Hartys of the world alive and on the road doing their wonderful thing. Yes indeed, music makes the world go around. Come join us.

### **Michael Tuten**

Carol and I have been doing house concerts on a sporadic basis for over ten years now. We started when we lived down town on Johnson Street and have continued the tradition in our home on Madison's South Side.

The performers we host are, for the most part, ones that we have heard before and are delighted to welcome into our home. We also consider requests from friends to host performers who are unfamiliar to us and have from time to time agreed to host them as well. Usually they are looking for something to bridge the time between gigs in the larger cities outside of Madison.

We find this type of performance to be the most intimate and rewarding not only for us but also for those attending. We don't have any set schedule for these so do them when "the time seems right." To enhance the friendship that accompanies these performances we invite those coming to bring a snack, appetizer or dessert to share. But, by no means is this required.

Like most that do these concerts we do not sell tickets or advertise them to the general public. Instead, we maintain an email list of friends who are interested in coming to these shows and invite them to attend if it suits them. We negotiate with the artist on a suggested donation that is collected at the door and then given to the artist(s) at the end of the performance.

### Kiki Schueler

It's a busy month at the House of Righteous Music with four shows coming up before Thanksgiving. The first show is Monday, November 4 at 8pm (doors at 7) as I'll be welcoming Matt the Electrician with special guest Gerald Dowd. For his third appearance at the House of Righteous Music, Matt the Electrician will be touring behind new record It's a Beacon, It's a Bell, which showcases his smart songs about home, heart and family. Engaging and authentic, a Matt the Electrician show is always a treat. Madison should recognize drummer Gerald Dowd from his many visits here with Robbie Fulks

and with children's musician Justin Roberts as part of the Not Ready for Naptime Players. He's a great drummer, but surprisingly he's also a ridiculously good songwriter. You don't get many chances to see him do a whole set of his own music, and it usually happens in my basement.

Next up is another Austin resident, David Dondero, who will be joined by Madison's Marty Finkel on Tuesday, November 12 at 8pm (doors at 7). In 2006, NPR's All Songs Considered named Dondero one of the "best living songwriters" alongside Bob Dylan, Paul McCartney and Tom Waits. What else do vou need to know? Dondero just released the great Golden Hits Vol. 1, a collection of songs spanning from 1998 to 2011 that he rerecorded live with no overdubs (see review this issue), and a record of all new songs entitled This Guitar. The Duluth-born singer has toured with many great acts, including the Mountain Goats, David Bazan and Bright Eyes, and has released several records on the latter's Team Love Marty Finkel also knows his way around a well-written pop song. He just released his fifth album, Might Be Found, and it's his best yet. It reflects the influence of his idols Harry Nilsson and Elliott Smith while being something all its own.

Friday, November 15 will mark German-born singer-songwriter Jann Klose's first visit to Madison, at least in person. Klose's voice can be heard in the new movie Greetings from Tim Buckley. Additionally, he recently appeared on Entertainment Tonight Online as "an artist you should know." His new release, Mosaic, has been drawing rave reviews, like this from Blurt

magazine, "Mosaic represents his most promising effort yet, an album chock full of instantly accessible melodies and, by turns, genuine pop appeal." If you've lived here for any time at all, then you already know local music luminaries Annelies Howell & Danny Hicks, who have played in bands together (The Back 40's, Centime) and separately (German Art Students, BingBong). This will be their debut as a duo and they couldn't be more excited.

On the very next night, Saturday, November 16, at 8pm Will Johnson returns to the House of Righteous Music. It is always a pleasure to have Centromatic's charming yet enigmatic Will Johnson in the house, and this will be his fourth visit (which I think gives him gold status, or at least silver). He will be doing one of his intimate and engaging unplugged shows featuring both band and solo songs from his entire catalog, as well as those from his new solo release, Scorpion. Despite all his years in a rock band, Johnson is surprisingly comfortable in the unplugged setting. Opener Paul Otteson describes himself as singer-songwriter, "Wisconsinite, unemployed lion tamer, unqualified-snow-slinging quality control inspector, proud house plant owner." He forgot to mention owner of Madison's most gorgeous voice. His new record is Robin Red, which overflows with talent and sharp songwriting.

I just celebrated my one hundredth show in September, but at this rate the next milestone, number two hundred, will arrive pretty quickly.

### Golden Hits Vol. 1 David Dondero



Review by Kiki Schueler

The title of David Dondero's newest release might be a little misleading. Instead of collecting the original versions of his best tunes, Golden Hits Vol. 1 contains new versions of songs from his first four solo releases re-recorded live in the studio with no additional overdubs. Dondero is the only musician on the record, singing and playing guitar. Since Dondero never did engage in studio excess. some of the songs don't sound that much different, but they are more folk than their original versions; they are also more urgent, intense, and demanding. Most of the songs are drawn from the records released between 1995 and 2003—Pity Party, Spider West Mishkin and the City Bus. South of the South, and Shooting at the Sun with a Water Gun-which predate Dondero's association with Conor Oberst's Team Love imprint. It's easy to see what Oberst saw in his songs: there's an echo of Bright Eyes in many of them, not to mention the occasional uncanny vocal similarity.

There's also more than a little Bob Dylan in these songs. The six-and-a-half-minute epic "I Had to Get Back East" is an updated version of the storytelling, talking-blues style that Dylan appropriated from Woody Guthrie. It takes the bulk of the song for him to actually reach his destination after many stops and many interesting characters, but once he finally reaches Athens, Georgia, all

he can think about is how it's time "to get back west." His Greyhound bus trip is perhaps the most memorable, narrated through a series of short, often funny statements indicative of talking blues. "I fell asleep, I woke up, this drunk guy passed out next to me, you know he peed his pants, yuck, so I moved my seat to the front of that bus, and I fell asleep, I woke up, in Winter Park Colorado, it was minus five, I had my spring jacket on, I couldn't find my friend, so I found a job." Like Dylan, he also uses music to explore timely social issues, most notably in "Pity Party," which was one of the songs to get some updates for the remake. Instead shooting the Columbine referenced in the original, the new version explores the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy.

The tempo varies considerably among the seventeen songs in this collection. While some of the songs, like the pretty "Twenty Years" and the gentle "Rubber Cane," Tree drift along on a comforting roll of quiet fingerpicking, others, like opener "The Real Tina Turner," are almost danceable, and the frenetic tale of "The Waiter" verges on manic. The latter is an engagingly infectious, high-speed tale of a waiter who manages to avoid a mugging by using what he has handy as a weapon. In the aftermath he wonders if maybe he "should call the cops and report this vicious awful crime, they could check the hospital, maybe they would find an injury of the corkscrew kind." The moral of the story is "watch out who you jump, you know you get a bit more than you planned, when you mess around with a hard working waiter with a wine key in his hand." "Call Me D" updates the potato (long a)/potato (long o) debate with a lesson in pronunciation and terminology, and features some of Dondero's

most impressive guitar picking. And his playing is surprisingly dark for its lighthearted material. Wisconsin even gets a mention in the whole bubbler/water fountain debate.

If you are new to Dondero's music, Golden Hits Vol. 1 is a good place to start. Not only does it serve as a sampler of his early records, it also gives a good idea of what his live show would be like. And I'm thinking it would be pretty awesome. (Dondero plays Kiki's House of Righteous Music with Marty Finkel on November 12.)

Mad Folk News is published monthly by the Madison Folk Music Society, a non-profit, volunteer-led society dedicated to fostering folk music in the Madison area. Contact us at madfolk@charter.net. Learnaboutconcerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at www.madfolk.org.

Madison Folk Music Society Board

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### **Folding Chair**

Back in June's Whither Zither, I talked about the

major non-living friend of folk music societies around the world, the Folding Chair. I mentioned that the column was something of an overflow of the information I had gathered for a song I was writing on the subject. While sitting on the subject, I might add.

Well, a number of people have asked me about that song, which we actually have performed a few times to appropriately seated audiences. It has suffered through a vew variations; it had a chorus at one time, consisting of the phrase "folding chair" sung six times.

Though I have printed one or two of my songs in previous Whither Zithers, I always feel a little funny about it, but hope you'll forgive me for this one. Its subject really does pertain to acoustic music scenarios. Here it is, in a version without the questionably interesting chorus:



Our insignificant old itinerant Limited means low echelon band Sang for eventually one half a century Gazing at the music on a music stand

While for the maintenance of our audience We found the furniture everywhere Known as the practical portable stackable Borderline comf'terble folding chair In antiquity their ubiquity
Began with an appearance in the opulent room
King Tut knew of 'em, he had two of 'em,
Discovered in a chamber of the burial tomb

Then Scandinavians, Mesopotamians
Whether in the parlor or the public square
Sat on a practical portable stackable
Borderline comf'terble folding chair

Way be-fore the wheel, the fork or the bookmobile Way before invention of the chopstick too Prior to the catapult, the kite, & the paddle boat Papyrus and pajamas and the tin kazoo

Way before the first, version of the liverwurst Way before the prototype spiral stair Came the practical portable stackable Borderline comf'terble folding chair

Can be made o' green tough polypropylene Mounted on a tubular aluminum frame Can be specialized, custom made, customized, Embroiderd on the cushion with a company name

Can be hickory, steel or mahogany Bamboo enameled or bamboo bare Here's to the practical, portable, stackable, Borderline comf'terble folding chair

Ask an auctioneer, long time puppeteer
Any motivational speaker you see
A sentimental jazz group, geezer in a dance troupe
A prestidigitator or a ham like me

A time worn hypnotist, an old ventriloquist Ask 'em what it took to keep the audience there They'll say the practical portable stackable Borderline comf'terble folding chair

When I die y'know, 'nyou go to sell the bungalow Mention with th purchase there's a big surprise It's not m' La-Z-Boy, it's not m' corduroy, Not my ukulele or my two silk ties,

Don't need to hurry, we, don't need to bury me, Drag me to the attic and comb my hair Leave me in a practical portable stackable Borderline comf'terble folding chair

WZ Nov 2013

## November 2013



### Acoustic Alloy

• Thursday, November 7, 7:00 to 10:00pm At the Brink Lounge-No Cover

### Tracy Jane Comer & Friends

Saturday, November 9, 7:00pm At Prairie Coffeehouse, N509 County Road C, De Forest, WI 53532-No cover, donations appreciated

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Venues



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

### The Brink Lounge

- Wed, Nov 6-8pm-Aaron Williams and the Hoodo-No Cover
- Fri, Nov 9-6pm-Two for the Road Lynette and Jane-\$5
- Tue, Nov 12-6pm-Robert J Acoustic Solo-No Cover
- Wed, Nov 20-8pm-Aaron Williams and the Hoodo-No Cover



### Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:00pm unless indicated otherwise

- Sat, Nov 2-Cathy Barton and Dave Parra-\$10
- Thu, Nov 7-Cliff Eberhardt/Tim Fast-\$10
- Fri, Nov 8-Claudia Schmidt and Dean Magraw-\$20
- Sat Nov 9-Jess Klein/ Savanah Smith-\$10
- Sun Nov 10-Darden Smith/ Freedy Johnston-7:00pm
- Thur. Nov 14-New Pioneers-7:00pm \$9
- Fri, Nov 15-Tom Kastle/ Andrew Calhoun \$8
- Fri, Nov 22-Larry Penn, John Sieger, Mark Dvorak
- Sat, Nov 22-Patty Larkin-\$22.50 pay in advance
- Sat, Nov 29-Small Potatoes
- •Sun, Nov 30-Hayward Williams/ Hugh Masterson

### F@LKLORE VILLAGE Folklore Village

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

- Sat, Nov 2- Southern Wisconsin Old-Time Fiddlers Luncheon & Dance with Rockwell Mills 4-H Club
- Sat, Nov 2- Barn Dance with Catherine Gorman-Baer & The Back Madison Dayce. Seat Serenaders-\$7 adults, \$6 Members, \$5 seniors & teens, \$4 kids (Children under 5 free)
- Sat, Nov 9- Southern Wisconsin's 27th Annual "All-Day" Shape Note Singing, Plum Grove Church 10:30-3:45pm

Mother Fool's Coffeehouse 1101 Williamson St. motherfools.com 608-259-1030

### Mother Fool's

• Fri. Nov 8-Matthew Frantz w/ Homer Marrs and the Excellent Adventure-8:00pm - \$6

Madison Folk Society house shows for November are listed on the back cover of the News letter, as well as information for

the Madison Folk Society annual meeting, and

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, November, 21st -- 7pm -- 8164 Hwy. 14 Arena, WI

subscription renewal information.

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.

kcholden@wisc.edu for more info. www.prairiebayoucajun.com

Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Stephanie Elkins,

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.



### 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'
- Fri -- Mud Acres (bluegrass and acoustic) w/Chris **Powers**

- African/African-American Dance classes with live drumming -- Sun, 7:00-9:00pm --Metro Dance, 3009 University Ave. -- 255-3677 / 251-4311
- 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
- 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 and click on "Join MFMS"

### Way #2 - unplugged

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Email		
Choose me	mbership category: Senior	\$8
	Student	\$10
	Regular	\$12
	Family	\$15
	Friend	\$25
Contributing		\$50
	Life	\$500
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Send your o	theck, payable to MFMS to: Ma	ad Folk c/o
Tracy Come	er, P.O. Box 930446 Verona, WI 5	53593-0446

Madison Folk Music Society ANNUAL MEETING ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED NOVEMBER 21, 2013 To be held at 6:00 3220 Deming Way, Suite 100 Middleton, Wisconsin

Please join us as we elect officers for the next year, if you would be intersted in helping direct the future of MadFolk, please Madison Folk Music Society P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701 Address Service Requested

Renew your membership today at www.madfolk.org

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Permit No. 2278

### Madfolk November House Shows

### Dave and Anne's House

• Saturday, November 2-Randy Sabien and Bill Camplin. Show starts

@ 7:30 (doors @ 7) \$18 suggested donation

Invitation required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact host(s)@ righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com ADVANCE RSVP REQUIRED.

### Darlene's house

• Sunday, November 10-Jason Wilber. Show starts @ 6 (doors @ 5:30) \$15 to \$20 suggested donation

### Mike and Carol's house

• Saturday, November 9-Patrick Ball FULL - ALL SPACES RESERVED

•Saturday, November 16-Andrew Calhoun.

Show starts@8 (doors @7) \$10 to \$20 suggested donation Invitation required. For full details or to request an invitation, contact host(s) @ maddog-210@charter.net.

### Kiki's Righteous House of Music

ADVANCE RSVP REQUIRED

- Monday, November 4-Matt the Electrician w/ Gerald Dowd. Show starts @ 8 (doors @7) \$10 suggested donation
- •Tuesday, November 12-David Dondero w/ Marty Finkel. Show starts @ 8 (doors @7) \$10 suggested donation
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All shows are all ages and BYOB, I'll have coolers with ice available.

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Phone				
Email		_		
Choose me	mbership category: Senior	\$8		
	Student	\$10		
	Regular	\$12		
	Family	\$15		
	Friend			
	Contributing			
		\$500		
Scholorship 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				

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ADVANCE RSVP REQUIRED.

All shows are all ages and BYOB, I'll have coolers with ice available.

### Singer-Songwriter David Francey at the Irish Fest Center on Nov. 10

Celebrated for his musical storytelling, Scottish-born, Canadian carpenter-turned-songwriter David Francey, will bring his beautifully crafted songs, warm voice, engaging stories and wry humor to the Irish Fest Center, 1532 Wauwatosa Ave., Milwaukee, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 10.

Joining the three-time Juno Award-winning performer is a stellar touring band composed of guitarist Mark Westberg, banjo picker Chris Coole, and Cape Breton multi-instrumentalist Darren McMullen. Francey is touring in support of his 10th album, So Say We All, which was released in May by Red House Records. The 14 original songs about real people and places are so authentic they could be traditional, so perfectly poetic and singable with stick-in-your-head melodies that they are instant classics. Capturing both life's dark times as well as shining moments, Francey says that, "The lesson learned was to celebrate every day...to keep marching no matter what..."

Born in Ayershire, Scotland, Francey grew to love poetry while hearing his father recite the poems of native son Robert Burns. Emigrating to Canada with his family when he was 12, he hitchhiked across the country while still in his teens and later found work as a Yukon bush wacker, truck driver, and carpenter. Those experiences surfaced in lyrics and melodies he wrote in his head while hammering away on construction sites. Songs about rail lines, farms and the St. Lawrence Seaway colored his first album, Torn Screen Door, in 1999. As far as the music industry was concerned, Francy sprang out of nowhere 14 years ago at age 45 when he began a journey from carpenter to award-winning folk troubadour. Following his first Juno (the Canadian Grammy Award) in 2002 for a second album, Far End of Summer, he put down his hammer to work on becoming a full-time performer.

In addition to the Junos, Francey has won numerous prestigious awards including the 2010 John Lennon Songwriting Contest. His songs have been recorded by Del McCoury, the Barra MacNeils, James Keelaghan and Tracy Grammer, among other artists. A hockey fan who has been in goal during the annual Juno Cup which matches performers against National Hockey League alumni, his song Skating Ring is the theme song for Hockey Day in Canada. Francey tours regularly playing festivals and venues across North American, Europe and Australia.

"Words of eloquence, beauty and charm, hung on a jewel of a voice." - Kieran Kane, Nashville

Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door. Admission for students is \$10 and children younger than 12 are free. For tickets and more information, call (414) 332-8521 or e-mail kathy@turkeyhollow.com.