Volume 40 No. 3 March 2014

Come see April Verch at The Brink April 4

Some of you may have had the opportunity to catch April Verch when she played Folk on State a few years back, and if you did, I know you are not going to miss this show, and if you have not had a change to see April live in concert, this is your chance. April is a Canadian fiddler and step dancer born and raised in Ontario, She attended Berklee College of Music in Boston before embarking on her professional career. While she is best known for playing traditional Ottawa Valley style fiddle tunes, Verch's repertoire branches into many other fiddle styles.

Practically from birth she was immersed in folk music and dance from her native Ottawa Valley, a melting pot of Franco-Celtic flavors brought by the hard-working loggers who settled the area. Ferried to dance-filled oldtime gatherings and country & western jamborees by her music-loving parents, she followed her older sister into step dancing at age 3, and picked

up the fiddle at age 6. She was lucky to have the chance to start studying, performing and competing in both so early, but there's no question that she also made the most of it.

The April Verch Band is rounded out by bassist and clawhammer banjo player Cody Walters and guitarist Hayes Griffin, who has a Masters in jazz improv from the New England Conservatory—is an energetic, virtuosic, tradition-celebrating outfit, not to mention one that's not soon forgotten when they depart the stage. It doesn't hurt that the thrilling grand finale involves Verch fiddling and step dancing—and often executing two entirely different intricate rhythmic patternsat once.

Some of the many awards April has racked up over the years include 1997 Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Champion, 1998 Canadian Open Fiddle Champion and in 2010 performed at the opening ceremony of the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.[1]

"The accolades are important and noteworthy and special to me," she says, "but what I think is most impressive to me is that I've been doing this full time since 2000. We make a living playing music that we love and it touches other people. I feel like we're extremely lucky to do that, but also I work really hard, not just at the music, but at every aspect of our career, to make that happen. That we find a way to make it work, and have had that kind of longevity, that's impressive to me."

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 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 (with \$1.62 service charge):

https://www.brownpapertickets. com/producer/10879 You can also purchase advance tickets by mail. Send a stamped selfaddressed envelope with your check payable to Mad Folk, PO Box 665, Madison, WI 53701. If all else fails, call 608-846-9214 for information.



Peggy Seeger is coming back to Madison!



The last time Peggy was here she was on a farewell tour. Come join us as we welcome here back to town for her I Can't Stay Away Tour. This promises to be a night to remember, both wonderful and tinged

with bittersweet at the passing of her half-brother Pete.

" must be one of the most complete artists around today." (The Belfast Review)

"Seeger's greatest asset is her uncanny ability to dissolve the gap between artist and audience." (The Irish Times)

"From the moment she stepped on stage, Peggy held every person in that packed auditorium spellbound". (Tradition Magazine)

Born in 1935 into one of North America's foremost folkmusic families, Peggy was well schooled in the classic European music traditions. Between the ages of 12 and 35 she learned to play piano, guitar, five-string banjo, autoharp, Appalachian dulcimer and Eng-

lish concertina. She cut her first record when she was 18 and in her early twenties she became a professional touring performer. Her travels took her to the Soviet Union, China, Poland, Belgium, France, Holland and the Scandinavian countries. In 1959 she settled in London with Ewan MacColl, to whom she bore three children. She has nine grandchildren. The MacColl/Seeger duo was at the forefront of the British folksong revival for the ensuing three decades. Their innovative work in that revival incorporated folk techniques in songwriting and strengthened the ties between traditional and political music. The Radio Ballads, created for the BBC, were a turning point in her life, when music and politics melded together, when she learned to arrange music for radio scripts and to direct musicians and singers in the studio. She and Mac-Coll carried the lessons learned into work with Critics Group, when she began to write songs and train singers and instrumentalists.

Considered to be one of N. America's finest revival singers of traditional songs, she has also written music for films, television and radio. She has col-

laborated on books of folksongs with Edith Fowke, Alan Lomax and Ewan MacColl. She has made 23 solo LPs and collaborated with other performers (Tom Paley, Mike Seeger, Guy Carawan, Ewan MacColl) on more records than she can count. In the mid-1970s she began to concentrate on feminist and ecological issues. Her best-known songs are The Ballad of Springhill and I'm Gonna Be an Engineer.

After Ewan's death in 1989, she joined with Irene Pyper-Scott to form the singing duo No Spring Chickens. In 1995 she and Jim Lloyd (producer of the BBC programme Folk on 2) won the Sony Silver award for a 6-part series of half-hour shows dedicated to Peggy's life. In 1994 she moved back to the USA. She lived in Asheville, North Carolina until 2006, when she moved to Boston to take up a teaching position at Northeastern University. In 2010 she moved back to England (Oxford) and tours chiefly in the UK. That's why we are so fortunate to have her with us!

Madison favorite Garnet Rogers is bringing his musical collaborator back to Madison.

This concert brings original songwriters who work within deep traditions of place and song. Scottish folk master Archie Fisher is well known all over the British Isles as host of his own BBC radio show, but his appearances stateside are to be cherished. Archie's most recent collection of songs "Windward Away," on which he worked for more than ten vears. It's a gem—a haunting collection of introspective ballads, evoking the wild and rough beauty of the Scottish Border country. One of a pair of brothers who spearheaded a tremendous renaissance in Canadian songwriting in the 1970s and 1980s, Garnet Rogers tells detailed stories of people from all walks of life and their small, everyday victories. He can shift from seriousness to razor-sharp wit in

a heartbeat, and no two of his shows are the same. Says Dirty Linen: "He knows and captures what is real and lasting—the joyous, contradictory poetry of living," and Canada's Kitchener Record praises his "visionary songs of haunting and mysterious power."

It has been many years since we have had the privilege of hearing these two together. It promises to be a night to remem-

ber. Garnet Archie toured across Canada and America the summer of 1985, early in Garnet's career as a solo singersongwriter. Archie had worked with





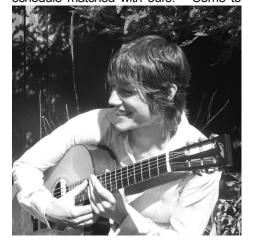
Garnet and his brother Stan before Stan's death, Remember his song "Witch of the Westmorland"? That tour was a huge success. A wonderful recording "Off The Map" features tracks recorded from that tour.

Garnet is a Madison favorite, and we are thrilled to welcome him back to the Brink! In addition to the treat of seeing him perform with his old friend Archie, we get a chance to get his new CD! "Summer's End" was just released, it is Garnet's first studio album since "Shining Thing" was released in 2004. Sample a few songs on Garnet's website at www.garnetrogers.com/site/?page id=497.

Ellis Makes Debut MadFolk Appearance

Show time is 7:00, Doors open at 6:30, Tickets are \$15 and \$17. As always, PLEASE BRING A FOOD ITEM TO DONATE TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY.

Ellis has had quite a buzz going about her for awhile, and this is the first opportunity we have been able to get her schedule matched with ours! Come to



The Brink Lounge when Ellis will hit the stage at 7:00 on April10th (doors open at 6:30). Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$17 day of show.

There's just something about Ellis. She is at once funny and wise, thoughtful and uninhibited, and her captivating voice is matched by her uplifting lyrics. Her smile alone will have you smiling. After her February 2013 appearance on A Prairie Home Companion, Ellis' music charted in the Folk Top 100 in iTunes and Folk Top 20 on Amazon.com. She also received hundreds of messages from strangers including, "you exude pure joy", "I heard you and fell in love" and "I was stopped in my tracks by your music and captivating laugh" as well as "Yours is a voice we all need to hear." Ellis' performances are transformational; she leaves her audiences better than she finds them, with softened edges & opened hearts.

A winner of several awards and honors, Ellis has been recognized both for her songwriting skills as well as her engaging performances. Many folk festivals have "audience choice" awards, and Ellis has claimed those honors at Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, Moab Folk Festival, and Sisters Folk Festival. She also won the Grassy Hill Kerrville New Folk Contest in 2013, the Midwest Mountain Stage New Song Contest (US) in 2011 and the award for the Just Plain Folks (International) Best Female Singer Songwriter Album in 2009.

To catch a couple of videos of her playing go to http://www.ellis-music.com/news/

And as always, please bring a food item for donation to the local food pantry.

Charlie King & Karen Brandow coming to Madison March 6

March 6 @ 7 pm Mike & Carol's home for a House Concert doors at 6:30, suggested donation is \$10.

For more information and directs to their home contact Mike at maddog-210@ charter. net or give him a call at 274-6340.

March shows at Kiki's Righteous House of Music

March 21 @ 9 pm (doors @ 8) Jon Langford & Skull Orchard, suggested donation \$15

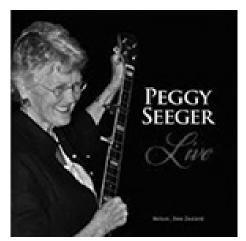
Fresh off what is sure to be another triumphant week at SXSW, Jon Langford returns to the basement with the handsome and talented Jim Elkington on guitar and the fantastic Jean Cook on violin- the latter always the perfect straight man to Langford's hilarious nonsense. He'll also be well stocked with his iconic artwork, so bring wads of cash, or a credit card. It's gonna be awesome.

I'll be taking reservations for all shows. Once I have confirmed there is space available you can guarantee your spot by sending a check to Kiki Schueler, 1326 MacArthur Rd, Madison WI 53714.

If you are on Facebook, please consider (if you have not already) "friending" or is it "liking" this page. Then when you are on this page you can invite others to "like" this page.

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Peggy Seeger Live Apple Seed Records



Review by Darcy Greder

On Sunday, March 23, Madfolk proudly presents a legend and pioneer in folk music, Peggy Seeger. To have an opportunity in one's own backyard to hear and see an artist whose life and art has such congruence is both a rare opportunity and a gift. To underscore this assertion one needs only to revisit the remarkable life and career of Ms. Seeger. She is, of course, born to that Seeger family—the beloved half-sister of the late, great Pete Seeger. Like Pete, Peggy has dedicated her life to social causes and activism, paying the price that such commitment too often exacts. From non-violence to civil rights, the women's movement to issues of class and social justice, Seeger has lent her voice and dedicated her life's work in support of her beliefs and passions. Following trips to China and the Soviet Union, she began a nearly 30-year exile from the US to avoid falling victim to McCarthyism of the '50s and to having her passport seized by the State Department. She was, in fact, placed on a blacklist which was distributed to European governments. Relocating to England, she met and eventually married Ewon MacColl, with whom she had three children. MacColl was himself a folk singer, songwriter, labor activist, actor, poet, playwright and record producer. Together, they would release several albums on Folkways Records (now maintained by the Smithsonian)—the groundbreaking label with almost 2200 albums in its catalog, including works by Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger and the Seeger Family and

Lead Belly, among others.

A little more history will follow, but for now, let the music take center stage—Peggy Seeger Live was recorded live in New Zealand at a benefit concert in support of a women's center that was damaged by arson. Despite a career that spans 55 years, this is only the second live recording that Seeger has released—and what a bounty it gives the listener! The CD's 23 tracks are divided between music and spoken word pieces that reflect Seeger's skills as both songwriter and poet. Her voice is clear and strong, and diction is flawless. With grace and humor, she deftly introduces a song here and gives social

insight and commentary there. For those interested in traditional American folk music. "I've Been a Bad Girl." is a cover of a song recorded by legendary musicologist, Alan Lomax, in the 1920s at a Florida prison. Seeger's beautiful rendition of "Loving Hannah," is made all the more lush with a breath-taking accompaniment by harpist Bob Bickerton. Listeners can also delight in hearing some of Seeger's best original compositions. including "Everything Changes, a song she wrote for her late mother. Ruth Crawford Seeger who is roundly considered the foremost American female composer of modernistic music in the early to mid-1900s. A standout for this review is Seeger's "Missing," written in the voice of a Chilean woman lamenting the disappearance of her still-missing daughter at the hands of the junta years ago. Suffice to say, there is no fluff or filler on this disc-each song and spoken piece has merit and vibrancy, and underscores the contemporary talent of a legendary multi-instrumentalist-concert-goers will also have an opportunity to hear and see Seeger perform demonstrating her formidable skills with guitar, banjo, piano, concertina or autoharp. Seeger led in the introduction of the concertina to the English folk music revival and is roundly regarded as an esteemed interpreter or Anglo-American folk music.

The accolades for Peggy Seeger Live could go on and on—but this review will end where it began...with a sincere urging that you do not let this opportunity to hear and see Peggy Seeger in concert pass you by. After two farewell tours in the US, Peggy indicates that this is the final tour, and Madfolk has made it possible to experience her performance on March 23, at The Brink Lounge at 7:00 pm (Doors at 6:30pm). The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington Ave. Ste 105 Madison, WI 53701. \$17 in advance \$19 at the door.

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.Learn about concerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at www.madfolk.org.

Madison Folk Music Society Board

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Ukulele Miscellany

It's another winter day as I type this. Sunny, but snow everywhere and it's cold out there too. Nice weather to sit in a cozy room and play tropical tunes on my big warm guitar. Though it would be nicer, I'm thinking, if I still had my original baritone ukulele to strum with that old grey felt flat pick of yore. Only Dick Dale's surf guitar could equal the uke's evocation of waves on sunny beaches.

I know I've mentioned this before, but my first stringed instrument was a baritone uke, which I bought from one of my high school sweethearts for, I think, twenty dollars, a fortune in 1964 or so. According to the Google calculator, a dollar in 1964 was worth 7.67 in today's (2014) money. My gawd, that's \$150! Where did I get that kind of money? But it was worth every penny, and every day from then on it was in my arms, which is more than I can say for my high school sweetheart. I don't know what ever became of that instrument, but then I don't know what ever became of my high school sweetheart either.

The baritone uke, for me, was the perfect instrument for transitioning from NO instrument to my eventual guitar. Unlike the smaller and more common soprano ukulele, the baritone uke's four strings are tuned just like the top four strings of a guitar, so in learning baritone uke chords you are well on your way to learning guitar chords. And the strings are nylon, so are easy to squish down. You can make a working capo for it with a pencil and a rubber band. I even taught myself the finger-picking style of playing an alternating bass with the thumb, on the bottom two strings, while picking out the melody on the top two with various remaining fingers, a style I use almost exclusively to this day.

With cabin fever thoughts of warm ocean breezes, following are a few balmy tidbits about the ukulele.

Sometimes you'll see ukulele spelled "ukelele," and I've heard that referred to as the *British spelling*, just like I've heard

that "accordian" is the *British spelling* of "accordion." I think *British spelling* is a euphemism for *misspelling*.

The word is most commonly pronounced "you-kuh-LAY-lee" on the mainland, but the original Hawaiian is apparently more like "oo-ke le-le." Arthur Godfrey, famous uke player, pronounced it the Hawaiian way but spelled it the British way. Here's a YouTube (audio only) of Arthur playing "Ukelele Song:"

http://youtu.be/ANDENTpHGs0

Thanks to the *Everything Hawaiian* craze of the 1920's, I am quoting, below, supposed reminiscences of Hawaii's first ukulele player, Joao Fernandes, as printed in the ALPHA PHI Quarterly of January 1922. There are a number of versions of this story; this is purported to be Joao himself speaking:

"Forty-three years ago from Madeira I came to Hawaii on the good ship Ravenscraig on a voyage around Cape Horn. We sail four months and twenty- two days. The Ravenscraig brought 350 immigrants from Portugal to work in cane fields. I had with me a ukulele, my wife, and my six- months-old baby. On August 22, 1879, we land in Honolulu and on that day the ukulele I play in Hawaii for the first time. Everybody laugh at funny little fiddle and I must play it all the time to please curiosity. ... Often for King Kalakaua I played, for Queen Emma, and for Queen Liliuokalani. ...

"One such grand time that was! Everybody was happy in those days, everybody except my wife. She no like ukulele because I stay out all night, serenading or playing for dances and luaus. ...My wife and I had many hot words.

"To save us from fighting, at last I locked my ukulele in the bottom of a trunk. It stay locked ten years. Then my boy get it and break it to pieces. Too bad. I no play now. My fingers all stiff. ... Manuel Nunes, another Portuguese, then had a furniture factory on King Street near old fish mar-Manuel, he stop making furniture and made only ukuleles. I stop by his shop and he'd hand me a ukulele. Then I play and the Hawaiian boys would come from everywhere to listen. I play a bit, then somebody give Manuel five dollars for the ukulele and Manuel hand me another one until somebody buy that, and so on. He could not make them fast enough. Hawaiian boys forget everything when they hear ukulele. They rather play than eat. I no musician, but oh, how I did love to play. Do you think Hawaii liked my music?"

Many performers -- besides yours truly -- got their start on the ukulele.

"At age seven I was given a ukulele, and I've been into fretted instruments ever since then." -- Pete Seeger

"My dad had a four-string tenor guitar that he tuned like a ukulele and between that AND the ukulele I began to really pick up a chord sense because three notes make a chord and the fourth one adds a kind of a color and I think that's really sustained me through my musical life." --Noel Paul Stookey

"My first was this little plastic Arthur Godfrey ukulele, then I seem to remember a baritone 'uke', then I had a banjo." -- Neil Young

Wisconsin wasn't immune to the ukulele craze in the teens and 20s of the last century, 40 years before my ukulele debut. I have a 1920 ad from Junction Music Shop in Racine, advertising a ukulele and accessories, including case and instruction book, for \$6.00.

And in a column called **On The Spur of the Moment** by Roy K. Moulton, in the **Janesville Daily Gazette** of October 3, 1916, there appears this poem by "A.D.S." called **The Ukulele Band**:

When your feet begin a itchin'
And your shoulders start a twitchin'
And across the ballroom floor you
glide a feelin' gay and grand;
You begin to weave and totter
Like a boat upon the water
And you listen to the music of the
ukulele band.

All your being seems to quiver
Like the ripples on a river,
And the perspiration oozes from
the hollow of your hand;
You can love most any girl
As you glide and dip and whirl,
If you're dancing to the music of
the ukulele band.

So let's hear some beach style plunking, you Ukers. Remind us that there are dunes below these drifts.

--WZ, Mar 2014

CRACK FIDDLING, ELECTRIC STEPDANCING, SWEET SINGING.





April Verh Band

Friday, April 4, 2014 7:00 pm

THE BRINK LOUNGE, 701 E. Washington, Suite 105

Tickets \$15 advance, \$17 day of show

Available at: www.madfolk.org,
Spruce Tree Music, Orange Tree Imports
Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.



"Sings her heart out every single time."

Dale Schiff, Just Out (Portland)



Thursday, April 10 7:00 pm

THE BRINK LOUNGE, 701 E. Washington, Suite 105

Tickets \$14 advance, \$17 day of show

Available at: www.madfolk.org,
Spruce Tree Music, Orange Tree Imports

Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.



March 2014

Society

Bill Staines روا

• Saturday, March 1, show starts at 7, doors at 6:30 At the Brink Lounge-\$15 advance, \$17 day of show

>> Peggy Seeger

• Sunday, March 23, show starts at 7, doors at 6:30 At the Brink Lounge, \$16 advance \$19 day of show

♪♪ April Verch

• Friday, April 4, show starts at 7, doors at 6:30 At the Brink Lounge-\$15 advance, \$17 day of show

• Thursday, April 10, show starts at 7, doors at 6:30 At the Brink Lounge, \$14 advance \$17 day of show

→ Garnet Rogers & Archie Fisher

 Saturday, April 11, show starts at 7, doors at 6:30 At the Brink Lounge-\$18 advance, \$20 day of show



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

The Brink Lounge

- Saturday, March 1, Benny K cd release celebration w/Ken Lonnquist and Solidarity Sing Along @ Lounge, 9 pm, \$5-10 donation
- Wednesday, March 5, Aaron Williams and the Hoodoo w/guest, Alison Margaret, 8pm, no cover
- Tuesday, March 11, Robert J acoustic solo, 6:30pm, no cover
- March 7 and 8-Annual Charity Jamboree Presented by The People Brothers Band and Music Can Beat M.S. @ Lounge and Nightclub. charityjamboree.com for tickets and details
- Saturday, March 15, Allison Merten CD Release Celebration Featuring Jimmy Murn @ Nightclub 7pm, \$7
- Wednesday, March 19, Aaron Williams and the Hoodoo 8pm, no cover

Irish Cultural & Heritage Center 2133 W Wisconsin Ave Milwaukee, WI -- ichc.net 414-345-8800

ICHC

7:30pm -- \$29 adv. / \$33 d.o.s. -- Students \$10 w/ ID

Fri, Apr 11-- Moya Brennan 7:30pm -- \$21 adv. / \$25 d.o.s. -- Students \$10 w/ ID

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

Mother Fool's

Saturday, March 1, Vedic Eden w/ Peasants Abroad -8pm, \$5

F@LKLORE VILLAGE Folklore Village

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

- Saturday, March 1- Barn Dance with "Ladies of the Lake", Amy McFarland & Maria Terres and caller Carol Ormand & Old-Time
- Tuesday, March 4-Open Mic
- March 21-23- Spring Swedish Weekend with Sven & Britt-Marie Olsson from Varmland and more



Ft. Atkinson, WI cafecarpe.com

920-563-9391

Cafe Carpe All shows at 8:00pm unless indicated otherwise

Saturday, March 1, Wade Fernandez/Patrick Klaybor \$8

•Thursday, March 6, The New Pioneers, 7pm \$9

Friday, March 7, Chad Elliot/ Bonita Crowe \$10

Saturday, March 8, Buddy Mondlock \$8

•Friday, March 14, The Wrong Omar \$7.50

•Saturday, March 15, Katie Burns, \$7.50

·Saturday, March 29, \$10



KG and The Ranger@ Prairie Coffeehouse Spring Prairie Lutheran Church Hwy DM Keyeser, WI 7:00 - 9:00 PM



Old Time Jam

Monthly - 2nd Sunday of every month, 4 to 6pm

EVP West 3809 Mineral Point Road

Coodinator: Al Wilson cell: 608-572-0634

afwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu

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

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

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



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• 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**

Madison Dance

- 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

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