

Mad Folk News

Summer Sing-alongs at Blue Mounds State Park Shelter Begins 8pm, June 20

♪ A long-standing Madfolk tradition, the Summer Sing-alongs will begin again Friday June 20, at the main shelter at the top of the hill at Blue Mounds State Park. An all-



ages event, the singing will be led by Madison musician Mac Robertson on banjo and guitar. Rise Up Singing books with song lyrics will be provided, though Mac has a gift for teaching new songs, or leading familiar songs everyone knows. Bring instruments if you play them, but especially your vocal chords.

The sing-alongs happen rain or shine; in case of inclement weather, they will be held in the new Friends shelter, where you can see the paving brick at the entrance thanking Mac for his many years of devotion to the Sing-along.

Mark your calendars for the rest of the summer, note that July's sing-along will be held on the fourth Friday, July 25, (not the usual third Friday), and August 15. The sing-alongs are free, but

a state park sticker is required to enter the park, located west of Mount Horeb. From Madison, take 18-151 west to county Highway F, following the brown signs for Blue Mounds State Park. The gate attendant will direct you to the exact location within the park.

Mad Folk Concert Tickets

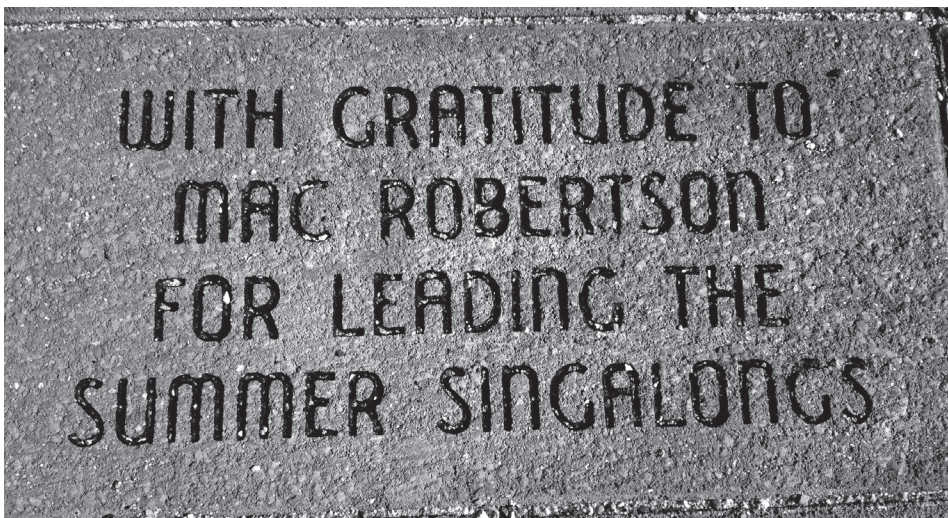
When you see this symbol – ♪ – you'll know that you're reading about a Mad Folk sponsored event. Advance tickets for Mad Folk shows are available online at www.madfolk.org and at these outlets:

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

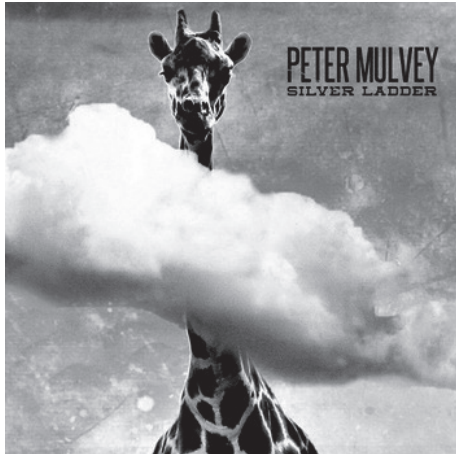
Purchase tickets ONLINE for Mad Folk concerts via Brown Paper Tickets (with \$1.62 service charge):

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

You can also purchase advance tickets by mail. Send a stamped 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.



SILVER LADDER - PETER MULVEY
SIGNATURE SOUNDS ~ 2014



Review by Kiki Schueler

Every review that you will see of Peter Mulvey's new Silver Ladder is going to start by mentioning that it's his first record of new songs in five years. Obviously I'm not going to try something different; though I am not sure exactly why it is so significant. It's not like he's disappeared from the public for the last half decade. Since the excellent Letters from a Flying Machine in 2009, which interspersed thoughtful letters to his nieces and nephews between live favorites like "Some People" and "Dynamite Bill," he's released a live Redbird record, an instrumentals record with David Goodrich, and a collection of favorite covers appropriately titled The Good Stuff. All that on top of an exhausting touring schedule, the man's been keeping busy. Five years seems pretty quick.

The real story here is that after a long association with Goodrich on production, Mulvey worked with Chuck Prophet for this record. Mulvey had seen Prophet play only once, but was so impressed he knew that was who he wanted. Prophet is a live wire, an energetic and outrageous entertainer, and a clever songwriter himself. From all accounts the recording process was an enjoyable and productive one, with Prophet's enthusiasm showing in the finished product. He introduced Mulvey to a whole new band. The biggest switch was replacing Goodrich on electric guitar with James DePrato from Prophet's Mission Express band. Where-

as the former can be a bit extravagant, DePrato is a force of nature. The rest of the band is just as well-pedigreed: bassist Tom Freund plays with Ben Harper, while drummer David Kemper played on Dylan's Time Out of Mind and Love and Theft. Nickel Creek's Sara Watkins adds violin and vocals. Perhaps the sweetest touch is Phil Parlapiano on accordion, notably on the rocking "Sympathies."

It seems strange to label this record a rocker, but for its first half it most certainly is. The record kicks off with the slick "Lies You Forgot You Told," a smart, sexy strut of a song that also provides the rather cryptic record title, "I gave you faith when it deserted you, kisses till it hurt, climbed the silver ladder to the very top rung." Jangly follow-up "You Don't Have to Tell Me" features yelped backing vocals from Prophet and a sweet guitar lick from DePrato. Despite head-scratching lyrics like "in the middle of the ocean, there is a dolphin with a head cold, and you probably think about him as often as he thinks of you," it's still the record's strongest track. Prophet again makes his presence known on the aforementioned "Sympathies," which rounds out the opening trio of under-three-minute hits nicely. "Remember the Milkman," a sweet duet with Watkins, returns Mulvey to more familiar territory, much like "Where Did You Go?" does later in the record. The latter had been written for Anita Suhanin to sing on her record, but Mulvey decided to cut it here with Suhanin, whose sweet, sultry voice complements Mulvey's nicely.

There are some experiments that don't quite work. The trippy "Copenhagen Airport" is decidedly not a follow-up to Kitchen Radio's "Denver, 6 a.m.," also set in an airport. Instead, there is only one lyric, "Sweet bearded Jesus, the girls in the Copenhagen airport are so good looking, and not a one of them is going to

London," repeated over the swirling background. The darkly wordy "If You Shoot at a King You Must Kill Him" fares better; disconcerting on first listen, it becomes addictive after several. While Ladder is still quite definitely a Mulvey record, it's nice to hear him taking some chances. Bringing in Prophet was absolutely one that paid off.

Mulvey will be playing the Mad Folk stage this year at the Willy Street Fair. It will be a great chance to hear these new songs, as well as old favorites, live.

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.

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The Tuba Skinny

Once upon a time I had it in mind to write a song inspired by the Christmas standard, **Little Drummer Boy**, and to call it **Little Tuba Girl**. I love tubas; I even love the name *tuba*. I think I'll start calling my guitar a *boxa*. And BTW, I thought that years ago the government of Wisconsin chose the tuba as the Official State Instrument, but in Googling about this, I find otherwise. The Wisconsin State Instrument has yet to be chosen, as of March 2014, though the accordion and the tuba are running neck and neck, or should I say horn and bellows. Wisconsin's State Dance is the Polka so it only seems reasonable that one of these peculiar instruments eventually will be chosen, as they are both fairly common in the oompa-style polka bands of Wisconsin.

Many people probably don't consider the tuba a folk instrument. There are those who don't consider the accordion a folk instrument either. Which is odd, because most everyone would consider the Polka a folk genre of music and dance. Though I think it's interesting that polka bands are usually not included in standard folk festivals, from our experience. As with blues and bluegrass, this sub genre of folk usually holds its own blow-outs and hoedowns and dustups.



My music partner Lou and I have had the opportunity to have tubists join in our similarly unpopular music. Tom Martin-Ericson, folk DJ for many years with Wisconsin Public Radio's Simply Folk,

plays tuba, and has joined us various times over the years (*photo at bottom left of Tom and Lou in 2010*). John Stevens, world famous UW-Wisconsin tubist, arranger, professor, and tuba music composer, arranged our Wisconsin songs for a brass quintet and was the featured tubist for our resulting concerts and recording, released way back in 1988. And there have been others.

My own experience playing the tuba has yet to occur, though for a while in the mid-sixties I played the jug (*photo at left, me with jug, 1965*) in our jug band. People may argue that tubas are not folk instruments, but the jug is unarguably the folkier of folk tubas.



Anyway, what I'm leading up to in such a roundabout way is this. So I was Googling for **Little Tuba Girl**, which I never found, to my relief. These days I always Google when I get a song idea, to make

sure it hasn't been written already. One of the hits I got was a band called **Tuba Skinny** (*photo at right*). I had to have a gander at a band with a name like that, so headed over to YouTube. There I found my current top favorite band.

Tuba Skinny is a New Orleans street-style traditional jazz band, though they also travel the world to perform. There are over a hundred YouTube videos of them at various venues -- often on the streets of New Orleans -- and in various incarnations over the past five years or so.

Their music is based on the blues and jazz of the 20s and 30s, with songs from the likes of JellyRoll Morton, Victoria Spivey, and Merline Johnson, with a good number of traditional and a few original songs thrown in.

Instrumentation varies somewhat but usually is something like the instrumentation on their latest CD (one of five), **Pyramid Strut**: Todd Burdick, tuba; Erika Lewis, vocals & bass drum; Shaye Cohn, coronet & fiddle; Barnabus Jones, trombone; Jon Doyle, clarinet; Westen Borghesi, tenor banjo; and Robin Rapuzzi, washboard.

The washboard, and the choice of material, gives the group a jug-band component which I absolutely love. There are certainly other New Orleans street bands with similar makeups, but Tuba Skinny is the absolute best I have ever heard. Please have a look and listen. Go to YouTube and search for Tuba Skinny; they are phenomenal.



In thinking about why I like this band, aside from their being hypnotically good at what they do, it's partly because I like polyphony in music. Wikipedia describes polyphony as "...a texture consisting of two or more simultaneous lines of independent melody, as opposed to music with just one voice or music with one dominant melodic voice accompanied by chords."

This describes the kind of guitar playing I like to listen to, and try to play: a finger-picking style where there is a distinct bass voice, a melody voice, and maybe some incidental harmony voices thrown in. This in contrast to a strumming style, where the chord is the important unit, and not the interweaving "independent melody" lines. I'm not a fanatic in my feelings about this, so there are plenty of exceptions. But I am drawn more readily to polyphonic stuff.

Why? Well, as someone who has a hunch that the brain works largely by analogy, one of my guesses is that listening to and playing this kind of music shows the brain how to align its many overlapping thoughts and processes into a coherent whole, without blurring its individual yammering voices. And I'm the poster boy for overlapping incoherent yammerings of the brain. As my mind's cornet is writing this sentence, my inner tuba is oomping for dinner.

*Photos: Tom and Lou, by Steve Agard.
Me and Jug, by Roy Noffke.
Tuba Skinny, by
guntherhang.com*

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

June 2014

Mad Folk events



Marquette Waterfront Festival

- Saturday, June 7, 1800 Yahara Place, Madison
- Acoustic Alloy 1:00 – 2:00
- Jim Schwall 2:30 – 3:30
- Joseph Huber 4:00 – 5:00
- Brother Rye 5:30 – 6:30

Summer Sing-Along w/ Mac Robertson & David Eagan

- Friday, June 20
- Blue Mounds Main shelter, top of the hill – 8pm
- Free! (State Park sticker req. for entry)

Brothers Sun AND Joe Crookston

- Thursday, August 7 – 7pm
- The Brink Lounge – \$15 adv, \$18 d.o.s.

Venues



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

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

The Brink Lounge

- Thursday, June 5, Aaron Williams and the Hoodoo, 8pm, no cover
- Friday, June 6, Graminy @ lounge, 8pm, \$10
- Thursday, June 19, Aaron Williams and the Hoodoo, 8pm, no cover

Mother Fool's

- Fri, June 13, The Falderals, 8pm, \$6

FOLKLORE VILLAGE Folklore Village

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

- June 3, Open Mic
- June 7, Old-Time Music Jam before Barn Dance with Chuck Horneman
- June 7 - Barn Dance with callers Jesse Downs & Liz Voz and The Pie City Ramblers and 5:30 Old-time jam
- June 27-29, Midsummer Festival with Ellinor & Leonor, Sanna & Mars Longden, Anne Marie Kraus and



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

Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Thursday, June 5, The Hitonauts, Sabien Camplin, Mulvey Porter -- \$30 @ 8pm
- Friday, June 6, The Hitonauts, Sabien Camplin, Mulvey Porter \$30
- Saturday, June 7, The Hitonauts, Sabien Camplin, Mulvey Porter \$30
- Thursday, June 12, Ellis Paul \$20 @ 8pm
- Friday, June 13, Phil Lee
- Saturday, June 14, Jim and Vivian Craig w/ Fred Campeau and Mitch Thomas
- Thursday, June 19, The New Pioneers \$9 @ 7pm
- Friday, June 20, Hayward Williams opening Jeffrey Foucault \$9 @ 7pm -- \$15 adv.
- Saturday, June 1, Bill Camplin & the Soulstickers \$9

Jigs

Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Kiki at righteousmusicgmt@gmail.com

- Sunday, June 1, Robbie Fulks w/ Jenny Scheinman - 8pm
- Suggested Donation \$15 (SOLD OUT)
- Thursday, June 6, Walter Salas-Humara w/ the Wooldrige Brothers - 8pm
- Suggested Donation \$10
- Saturday, June 14, Eef Barzelay w/ Trapper Schoepp - 9pm
- Suggested Donation \$15

Mike Tuten's Music House

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Mike at maddog-210@charter.net

- Sunday, June 8, Tom Kastle- 7pm - Suggested Donation \$10

Make Music Madison - June 21 -- Madison Folk Music Society and Madison Songwriters Guild are joining forces to host an event at Elizabeth Link Peace Park on State Street. Ron Dennis and Stephen Lee Rich will be selecting performers made up of folk musicians, songwriters and youth. The plan calls for continuous music from 9:00 am until 7:00 pm.

3 Rivers Old-Time Dulcimer and Fiddle Festival -- June 5-8
La Crosse, WI -- Register by Monday, May 12. To register, visit www.mhecopark.org/events2/2014-06

Misc

Old Time Jam

Monthly - 2nd Sunday of every month, 4 to 6pm
EVP West 3809 Mineral Point Road
Coordinator: 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 3 p.m.-5 p.m. There will be no jam in July.

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

Call Karen at 608-238-6039 for more info. www.prairiebayoucajun.com

On the Air



wpr.org

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.



wort-fm.org

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

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



MARQUETTE WATERFRONT FESTIVAL JUNE 7, 2014

In celebration of 25 years of the Marquette Waterfront Festival a second stage has been added for Saturday, with a rain date of Sunday, and when looking for good music, they came to MadFolk for assistance. So we are helping in putting music on a stage. Please join us in celebrating with music this festival that has been happening for 25 years!

Playing on the Folk Stage will be:

Acoustic Alloy, who is an acoustic duo based in Madison combining the vocal and instrumental talents of TC Peart and Tracy Jane Comer. Since their inception just two years ago (2012), Acoustic Alloy has performed for clubs, festivals, and even opened for national acts such as Love & Theft and Tyler Farr. TC and Tracy Jane are both part of long-time Madison area country band Wild Heart. Acoustic Alloy grew out of their enjoyment of singing together in harmony and their love of many styles of music. The duo draws material from many genres, including familiar tunes as well as originals. See www.acousticalloy.com for more information.

Jim Schwall is probably most well known as part of the national touring Siegel-Schwall Band, however, after the duo disbanded in 1974, Jim had continued to play in several iterations of the Jim Schwall Band, he continues to do Siegel-Schwall reunions shows and many other local bands. But on this day Jim will be bringing out his guitar and playing his own songs. We have it on good authority that Jim is working on his next solo album, let's hope he brings some of those new songs to the stage. See www.jimswall.com for more information

Joseph Huber, Singer/Songwriter/Multi-Instrumentalist, is a founding member of, and also has spent 6 years of playing banjo and heaving touring with the Milwaukee, WI based "streetgrass" group, the .357 String Band—a group that, despite its abrupt break-up, still continues to gain popularity, is known as one of the most influential groups in the recent insurgent underground country and bluegrass movements. Hard living put together with plenty of downtime has offered more than enough motivation and opportunity for his songwriting, and Huber has continued moving onward and upward captivating folks with his sincere and well crafted songs. Joseph has just released his newest CD "The Hanging Road" on the Muddy Roots Record Label. See www.josephhubermusic.com for more information.

The Madison based **Brother Rye Band** will close out the stage this year. The Brother Rye Band plays Americana driven by slide guitar and rock sensibility. They have found the perfect blend of Delta blues, country, and folk styles, leading them to their well-tailored sound. For a little of the sound of these guys, check out at http://www.reverbnation.com/play_now/20750176?utm_campaign=a_public_songs&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=page_object_news_item

The schedule for this stage on Saturday is:

Acoustic Alloy 1:00 – 2:00

Jim Schwall 2:30 – 3:30

Joseph Huber 4:00 -5:00

Brother Rye 5:30 – 6:30



**MUSICIANS FOR WORT
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Krause Family Band

No Name String Band

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Food carts by Bob's BBQ and Lao Laan-Xang!



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