Volume 41 No. 5 May 2015

Mad Folk News

Celebrate May Day with Johnsmith

A benefit concert to help the homeless

When I was a young child growing up in lowa, one of my favorite holidays was May Day. There was excitement of filling little Dixie cups with dandelions and candy. Then the thrill of ringing the doorbell after we would carefully lay our treasures down and then, the best part - running away from the house before the person could catch you. It is a tradition we still enjoy sharing with our own kids.

Being kind — that is really what this event is all about. The difference in this story is that the people who we are trying to help don't have a home. They don't have a door to leave that little treasure on. They have struggled with the challenges of our economy to the point where there is no place they can call home.

Last year, when the winter was deathly cold – we had as many as 5 families living in either tents or their cars – many with young children. Even one person who is homeless is one person too many.

So – we are hoping to make some changes with this community. We have followed the guidelines of a National Organization called Family Promise. This organization helps low income and homeless families to become self- sufficient again.

This involves many people in the process, from fundraising, to finding churches that are willing to host families and provide them with temporary housing to prevent them from being homeless. Once the family has moved in to their space in the churches — volunteers will help bring meals, help with childcare, provide transportation, and assist in helping families get back their independence. There is also a day center where they can access computers, cook their own meals,

and utilize laundry and kitchen facilities.

In steps Johnsmith. We have been fortunate enough to be able to host Johnsmith for several house concerts over the years in Platteville which have all been wonderful experiences for everyone involved.

This time – when I asked John is he would be willing to help us out with our fundraiser – he absolutely said YES - that is just the kind of man John is.

John has a big heart, and his heart is in the right place. Not only is he a wonderful musician, but he is an amazing storyteller. He sings the kind of songs about real people with real life issues. He seems to be the perfect person to help bring our message home, and support such a worthy event.

John sings about pain, and loss, joy, tenderness, love, and most of all – the sacredness of life itself. How fitting for him to be sharing his music and his soul to help folks who just need to get a break in life

Even if you have seen John before — make this event part of your May Day celebration. You won't regret it. Living in the small town of Platteville, Wisconsin has taught me that we are all here to help each other out. We are all real, we all have our own struggles, but we don't have to deal with these struggles alone.

Come be a part of the solution — we have met 1/3 of our goal to becoming fully established, and are hoping that this event can help us get even closer to our goal.

So – head to Platteville, enjoy a meal of brats and hamburgers for a small donation, and bid on various auction items from our silent auction. And sit back

and be ready to enjoy the soulful music of Johnsmith as he enlightens us to be kind to each other through his stories and songs.

John usually ends every concert with the song "Safe Home" — which most of his audience helps him to sing — leaving you with a feeling of connection, love, and hope — that we are all in this world together. John words support the value of our organization and the right we all have to be having a safe home.

"Safe home, safe home, safe home will you go. May the light of the moon smile down on your road? Safe home, safe home, safe home, will you go. Until I next see you, safe home will you go." Johnsmith "Safe Home" http://www.johnsmithmusic.com/index/

http://familypromise.org/

We promise you it will help make May Day a rewarding day for the families who will be touched by your support.

First English Lutheran Church in Platteville, Wisconsin Call for tickets (608)348-3022 Meal: 5:30-7 (suggested donation for meal) Silent Auction

Johnsmith concert: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Adults: \$20 Children \$10

Are you a fan of our local folk music scene? Then you may already know that Jim Schwall is leaving "For The Sake Of The Song" at the end of April, so WORT is now seeking a "folk music fanatic" to host Tuesday mornings from 9 am till noon. Look for applications you can fill out online or download and print under the Pitch In! tab at wortfm.org.

The host of this show is responsible for putting together a program every week, picking out music, making onair announcements and running the technical end of things. We're looking for people with a strong knowledge of — and a passion for — music outside of the mainstream. Familiarity with the

artists, events and venues that make up Madison's wonderful folk community is essential! We'd really like you to be excited about sharing lots of new music and having local and touring acts live in the studio, too.

Prior radio experience is not necessary; we'll provide any training you may need. You can apply online, or call 608-256-2001 to have one sent to you, or stop by the station at 118 South Bedford St. to get an application and more information. Please submit materials to Sybil Augustine, Music Director by Wednesday, April Johnson 29th to ensure consideration.

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.

Make Music Madison 2015!

Performed by Anyone, Enjoyed by Everyone

Make Music Madison is an annual one-day citywide, free, outdoor music festival to be held on the Summer Solstice, June 21. The goal is to generate a continuous wall of music as people walk around participating spaces. "Music" is whatever live sound an individual or group wishes to produce, and whatever the hosting space accepts. The festival will be inclusionary in terms of genres, ethnicities, styles of music, skill levels of musicians, and in the use of public and private spaces throughout our community. There now are over 700 communities around the world celebrating the Summer Solstice with a music festival.

When and where will Make Music Madison take place?

Make Music Madison will take place on the summer solstice, Sunday, June 21, 2015. Some performances may start early or go late, or take advantage of natural commuter times, but public spaces throughout Madison — sidewalks, parks, and more — become impromptu musical stages, dance

floors, and social meeting points. Last year we saw oodles of amateur musicians and every ilk of professional musician to pop up all over Madison to perform for new audiences and neighbors alike, and we're sure 2015 will only be better.

Participate

Join the Music Making merriment. Make Music Madison is a city-wide, street level music making celebration. The more music made, the more merriment. There is a role for everyone and every organization in this DIY celebration — musicians, social media makers, businesses, restaurants, bars, neighborhood organizations, and non-profits. If you have an idea about how to add to the Make Music Madison merriment, and you have the time and skills to make your vision happen, we want to hear from you. Sign up or find more information at www.makemusicmadison.org.

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.

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835

Bob Dylan shadows in the night columbia ~ 2015



Review by Kiki Schueler

Although it seems bizarre, it shouldn't really come as a surprise that Bob Dylan's newest release is a collection of ballads first popularized by Frank Sinatra. After all, Dylan's entire career has been one of doing exactly what he wants, from revolutionizing the Greenwich Village folk scene, to going electric at Newport, to, well, Masked & Anonymous. This isn't the first time he's released an entire album of covers: both Good as I Been to You (1992) and World Gone Wrong (1993) are collections of traditional folk songs. They were followed by some of his strongest original material in decades. Not to mention helping people forget the 80s (though I'll admit I find those over-produced, over-performed records a guilty pleasure). Shadows comes as much more of a surprise than that pair; whereas he is known as a folk singer, no one will ever mistake Dylan's croon for Sinatra's. But as with his strangely addictive Christmas in the Heart, once you get used to the idea, it's a pretty great record.

The songs are drawn from Sinatra's late 50's/early 60's releases, and four come from 1957's Where Are You? (the first recorded without Nelson Riddle). As compared with the lighthearted material with Riddle, these records ache with melancholy, loneliness and regret. Dylan tried to recapture that feeling by recording the album in studio B at Capitol Studios,

where Sinatra recorded many a record. The songs were recorded with his ace, longtime touring band in only two or three takes, with everyone in the same According to the engineer, Dylan didn't want to see any microphones other than his vocal, so they were often placed several feet from the instruments. Drummer George Receli (listed as "percussionist") and guitarists Charlie Sexton and Stu Kimball are barely heard from here, while pedal steel player Donny Heron, and to a lesser extent bassist Tony Garnier, heroically carries the record. A very subdued horn section comes in for three of the tracks, only really making their mark on "That Lucky Old Sun." The emphasis here is on Dylan's voice, which is as strong as it's been on record in years. This may actually be a Dylan record my mother will listen

The pair of more familiar tracks are the ones that jump out on first listen, and the aforementioned classic "Sun" seems the most appropriate choice. The narrator envies the responsibility-free cycle of the natural world, which contrasts with his own life of toil and trouble. While Dylan's take holds up next to those of Sinatra and Louis Armstrong, it's harder to picture him as the French ex-pat Emile in love with Nellie Forbush in South Pacific as he sings "Some Enchanted Evening." Perhaps the key is not to try. The record never accelerates beyond mid-tempo, and the languid tracks occasionally blend into a long, dreamy lament. The cover art of the albums that these songs are drawn from shows Sinatra alone at a bar with a drink, or solo with a cigarette, so it's no surprise that there isn't a happy or upbeat song in the bunch. "The Night We Called It a Day" reflects on the end of a relationship that seems as inevitable as it was unexpected. "Full Moon and Empty Arms" could be the next chapter as he wonders, "The moon is there for us to share, but where are you?" Twenty-three tracks were recorded during the sessions, so releasing only ten here seems a bit miserly. Perhaps Shadows in the Night Volume 2 isn't far behind.

Bob Dylan will not be appearing at Kiki's House of Righteous Music any time in the foreseeable future.

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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A Thwarted Romance (part 1 of 2)

When night was glamorous, a fellow amorous • Went out to woo a pretty little maid • Beneath her window, far, he tuned his gay guitar • And sang beneath a star this serenade:

Lady Romantical, list to my canticle • Slip from your coverlet, fleecy and white • My heart's a-flutter now, open your shutter now • Here how I utter now, sighs in the night

Back in January of 2009, I used part of this column to ask for reader help in tracking down the origins of the above goofy song (only the first half of which is quoted here) whose authorship I could not find anywhere on the web or in the library. Six years later, thanks to a very recent e-mail out of the blue, I have been given an answer. But it's a complex answer, and the quest for it has been complicated, too.

My bandmate Lou and I both learned the song in fifth or sixth grade from a school songbook, loved it, and memorized the lyrics. Fifty years later, after the 2009 Whither Zither came out, a few other fans of the song began to help me look for it, cruising bookstores both virtual and real. The only new piece of information we ended up with was that someone remembered the title of the song as *A Thwarted Romance*.

Moving ahead to 2014, Lou and I were working on putting together songs for another blockbuster CD. I decided to risk copyright infringement and write a new beginning and end verse to the song, and in these verses, ask again for information regarding the song's author. When I was a boy I really liked the song's humor and tumbling wordplay, but later on, when I drifted into lyric writing myself, I realized this song was truly well crafted, with a dizzy collection of cleverly constructed rhymes. When you come upon something like this, it's only natural to try to find out who wrote it, in hopes of locating other writings by the same author. as well as for giving credit where it's

due. So part of our intro verse goes like this:

Although we quote the thing, don't know who wrote the thing • But we are confident somebody knows • To fix this oversight, and at the risk we might • Infringe a copyright, here's how it goes...

Then we sing the song, and end with another added verse soliciting authorship information. We put out the CD in the fall of 2014, and began performing the extended song at gigs. We called it *Lady Romantical*. More people joined in the search as a result of our singing this extended version. But through the winter, no luck.

Then suddenly BAM! Just three days before I sat down to write this column, a glorious email out of the blue arrived from Carol Achtman of Palo Alto, California, with two scans attached, one of each facing page of a songbook, and THERE it WAS!

I asked her how she had found out about my quest. Curious about the song, Carol had searched on Google using a few words from the lyrics, and up popped Whither Zither from January 2009. She went on to say, "It was so gratifying to discover that I am not the only person in the world who knows and loves this song... I learned it in fifth grade in 1950 and have sung it to myself many times since then." Many people have expressed similar feelings toward the song.

Sure enough, according to the scan, it was called *A Thwarted Romance*. I had wrongly remembered that the song was in the *American Singer* series. It turned out to be in *New Music Horizons* for grade 5, Silver, Burdett Company, 1946. And now things became a bit more interesting. The very first thing I looked for was the author's name. But the credits read as follows:

A Thwarted Romance (Incognito) Paraphrased from the original Spanish by Phyllis McGinley; Popular throughout Latin America.

"Paraphrased from the original Spanish"? I have NEVER seen a song credited in that way. Not *translated*, but *paraphrased*. McGinley obviously tweaked it, and quite nicely.

The name Phyllis McGinley sounded familiar. It turns out that Phyllis McGinley won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1964 for her light verse collection *Times Three: Selected Verse from Three Decades.* More about her strange poetry in next month's column, but this helped explain why the lyrics felt so well crafted.

Searching further, I found a version of the original folk song translated (not "paraphrased") in the 1917 Memoirs of the American Folklore Society, in the chapter Spanish American Folk Songs. A footnote gives credit to the book Folk Songs of Mexico and South America, H.W. Gray Co. There is this note: "Very familiar in all parts of Spanish America." The melody, notated in the Memoirs, is definitely the melody to A Thwarted Romance. The lyrics to the original song, called El Galan Incognito, has the following first verse. Compare this translation to the "paraphrase" at the beginning of this column. There are interesting parallels but wild differences:

One cloudy evening a gallant incognito • Passed through the crowded streets and public square • Then at the base of the carved Doric window • He leaned and played his guitar, and sang this air:

O, here me, lovely sylph! The moon so pale and wan • Sends down no rays to me through veils of mist • Now from the face of Heav'n rain falls in tears like mine • I am drenched through and through, singing to thee

Next month: It gets crazier. There was a comic opera called *El Galan Incognito* written by Cristobal Oudrid in 1862. According to Wikipedia, *It was "a complete fiasco."* Was this opera based on the folk song? Was the song written by Oudrid for the opera? I'm looking into it. Meanwhile, I will put the second halves of the "paraphrased" song and the "translated" song in next week's column, and more about Oudrid and McGinley.

Many and deep thanks to Carol Achtman for tracking me down and sending me the treasured scans that started me a-delving so. Stay tuned for part two. WZ May 2015

Springtime Brunch on Mothers' Day

Sunday, May 10, 2015

Honoring mothers & remarkable women in our lives

FUNDRAISER FOR FOLKLORE VILLAGE

- Choose Seating #1—10 am (brunch followed by program) or Seating #2—11:30 am (program followed by brunch)
- Adults \$35, Teens (13-17) \$15, Children (5-12) \$10
- Delicious cuisine, music by Promising Sky (Marli Johnson & Mac Robertson), quilt show, plant sale, more
- Folk costume display (feel free to wear a folk costume)
- Limited seating Reserve by May 5 with payment to "Friends of Folklore Village"
- More details on "calendar" at www.folklorevillage.com

Can't attend? Honor your Mother with a \$50 donation for iris and tulip gardens

Advance registration required by May 5

please mail, email or phone your registration with payment to:

Friends of

F@LKLORE VILLAGE

3210 Co Hwy BB Dodgeville, WI 53533

608-770-4643 (Ma	rli Johnson, FFV Treasurer)	
FriendsofFolkloreV	Village@gmail.com	PAYMENT: Total amount enclosed
•	10 am brunch followed by program 11:30 am program followed by brunch	I cannot attend but enclose a gift of \$ in honor of Check enclosed
Name/s	Adult Teen Child = \$ = \$ = \$ = \$ = \$	Please bill my credit card: OVisa OMastercard ODiscover Name on Card: Card Number: Expiration Date: Security Code: Signature:
	Total = \$	
Address: Street		
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or note of interest.



Venues

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

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ... POSSING IT OF FOLKLORE VILLAGE

- Fri Sun, May 1-3 -- Cajun Music & Dance Weekend w/ Sheryl Cormier & Edward Poullard
- Tue, May 5 -- Open Mic @7pm
- Wed, May 6 -- Memory Cafe @1pm
- Sun, May 10 -- Seatings at 10am or 11:30am Mother's Day Springtime Brunch: Honoring Remarkable Women
- Fri, May 15 -- Kristian Bugge & Mette Jensen, Danish Traditional Music Concert & Social Dance in Wakefield School - @7:30pm
- Sat, May 16 -- Maypole Dance Social @7:30pm
- Mon, May 25 -- Gladdening The Garden Volunteer Work Bee

Wild Hog in the Woods

All shows at 8pm

- May 1 Dave Fallow & Tom Waselchuk
- May 8 The Harmonica Hour with DeWayne Keyes
- May 15 David Schindele
- May 16 Hootenanny! @2pm
- · May 29 Dustbunnies



Wil-Mar Center

953 Jenifer St.

wildhoginthewoods.

ora

608-233-5687

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

Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Friday, May 1, Big Bang String Thing \$10
- Saturday, May 2, Madison Malone \$6
- Friday, May 8, Open Stage @7:30pm
- Saturday, May 9, Simon Balto \$10 / \$8 adv
- Friday, May 13, The Suitcase Junket @8pm \$10
- Saturday, May 15, Bill Camplin Band \$10
- Sunday, May 22, Jenn Rawlings / Awna Teixeira / Huck Notari \$10
- Friday, May 23, Song swap w/ Jim Barnard / Dakotah Rose / Tim Caughlin Jr. - \$5
- Saturday, May 29, Strangled Darlings @8pm \$5
- Friday, May 30, Karen Johnson
- Saturday, June 6, Claudia Schmidt \$20

• June 5th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Kelly McCrae & Matt Castlelein -- \$18 / \$15 under 18

• July 18th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Kim and Reggie Harris -- \$18 / \$15 under 18

KG & The Ranger

Saturday May 16 - Wisconsin Music Arts Festival - Monroe Arts Center 1315 11th St., Monroe WI

1:00 PM: free concert the Arts Center

6:30 PM: in the lobby of the Monroe High School PAC before the Roy Rogers Jr. concert.

Info at www.monroeartscenter.com or call 608-325-5700



Old Time Jam

Monthly - 3rd Sunday of every month, 4 to 6pm

EVP West 3809 Mineral Point Road

Coodinator: Al Wilson cell: 608-572-0634

adwilson@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.-4 p.m. At Cargo Coffee 750 East Washington Ave, Madison We welcome all levels of experience with instruments and Cajun music.

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





Sun 5:00-8:00pm

Host

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

Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Stephanie Elkins,



WORT 89.9 FM community radio

Sun -- 3:00-5:00pm

- "On the Horizon" w/ Ford Blackwell, Tracy Lawrence, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Jason Rowe Weekdays 9:00am-noon
- Mon Global Revolutions (folk from the world over) w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado
- 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 • July 18th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Kim and Reggie Harris -- \$18 / \$15 under 18 • August 5th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Claudia Schmidt & Sally Rogers-- \$18 / \$17 under 18 Madison Dayce.

Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Dave & Anne Host Folk

annedave@chorus.net

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

Invitation & Advance RSVP required. For full details or to request an invitation, contact Kiki at righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com

- May 7th @ 8 pm (doors at 7) Leo & Anto -- \$25
- May 30th @ 9 pm (doors at 8) Adam Carroll w/ Chris Carroll -- \$10

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Dave & Anne at

• June 5th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Walter Salas-Humara -- \$18 / \$15 under 18

The Home of Mike & Carol

Invitation & Advance RSVP required. For full details or to request an invitation, contact Mike at maddog-210@charter.net

- June 7th @ 7 pm (doors at 6:30) KG and the Ranger -- \$10
- August 12th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Carolyn Carter -- \$15

- 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. -- 233-2956

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 Complete, clip, and mail this form

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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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