

Mad Folk News

Jason Wilber House Concert July 15!

There is a real treat in store for those of you who favor a house concert. An intimate look at a musician we usually only see from afar, Jason Wilber will be playing Friday night, July 15th in Madison. For those not immediately familiar with him, you may have seen him playing guitar next to John Prine for the last twenty years from the stages of Carnegie Hall to London Palladium and all across the US, Canada and Europe. He may be Prine's right hand man, but he has songs and a voice of his own too. Fresh faced with a friendly attitude, his voice gives a slight clue that he is from the southern Midwest. Bloomington, Indiana to be specific. If you ask him, he might tell you how he came to meet John Prine there one evening.

His songs just entice you into enjoying all his different styles. One of my faves is "You Don't Know What You're Getting' Into" – very upbeat with some clever word smithing. He has a wide range of styles, with a ballad about his great-Uncle Jim that just makes you feel the sadness of the hard times, and "Ghost Light" expounding the lonely tradition of always leaving one light on in the theater.


You can hear and enjoy Jason when he stops in Madison on his tour in support of his 9th and newest CD "Echos", which is his first album that covers songs of others, such as Leon Russell, David Bowie, Joni Mitchell, John Prine, Pink Floyd, Stevie Wonder, the Rolling Stones, Graffiti6, and others."

Friday night, July 15th at 8:00pm. A \$15.00 - \$20.00 donation is requested. For location of concert and reservation, please contact Darlene Buhler at Darlene@blettner.com.

Hope to see you there, it will be a great time! Love this guy's music.

Darlene Buhler
The Blettner Group
608-819-8791

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:

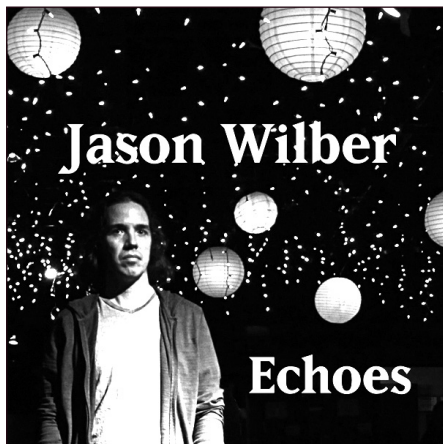
- Orange Tree Imports, 1721 Monroe Street
- Spruce Tree Music, 851 East Johnson

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.





Review by Kiki Schueler

Jason Wilber has been John Prine's right-hand man for a long time; he's spent twenty years playing guitar with the legend. It turns out he's been listening to a lot of other artists too. For his ninth solo release, he tapped a wide array of songwriters for an all-covers record. There's classic rock and classic soul, a totally Eighties band and a band only a half dozen years old, a legendary female songwriter that everyone has heard of and one only a handful have, and of course John Prine. These are eleven songs you would never, ever hear on the same Pandora station, let alone a traditional radio station, so it's a testament to Wilber's adaptations that this record fits so seamlessly together. He makes each of these songs his own, sometimes sticking close to the original, more often straying.

Prine has to be proud of Wilber's version of "Paradise." The sad truth of strip mining is treated with respect and heavy heart. Familiarity has bred comfort in this case, and he inhabits the song. Opening track Leon Russell's "A Song for You" loses a little in the translation from piano to acoustic guitar. It's easy enough to believe Russell as he pounds the keys and growls, "I've been so many places in my life and time. I've sung a lot of songs, I've made some bad rhymes," but Wilber's sincere acoustic guitar and aching vocals

aren't as convincing. Surprisingly, the transition to guitar for David Bowie's piano ballad "Oh You Pretty Things" works brilliantly. It's the only time on the record that Wilber overdubs backing vocals, an effective decision. It's a haunting tribute to a great artist. Chris Bell's underrated "I Am the Cosmos" was an inspired choice, a chance to linger over the song's beautiful melody and insightful lyrics. There's not much added to Joni Mitchell's "Edith and the Kingpin," but it's a pretty turn on one of her lesser known (at least to me) songs—one that subtly emphasizes the graceful poetry of her lyrics. On the other end of the spectrum is relative newcomer Angel Snow and her affecting tune "Coals and Water." Wilber says the first time he heard it he had to pull over and figure out who sang it. With a chorus that asks "Tell me how you gonna walk on coals and water too?" it's easy to understand the attraction.

Like "Coals and Water," the best songs here are the most unexpected ones. Graffiti6's "Annie You Save Me" gets a complete makeover, or, more accurately, has its makeup washed off. Underneath the trippy beats and Euro-soul of the original version is a pretty good looking folk song. Turns out all it took to update "The Game," from Echo and the Bunnymen's debut record, was to strip it of its synth-y excesses and reimagine it as a guitar, bass and drum ramblin' tune. It just may be the best song on the record. Who knew such bright Americana could come from such dark Brits? Apparently Wilber saw right through them, and half the songs on the record find him reworking UK classics. The Rolling Stones' "As Tears Go By" doesn't stray far from

the meditative acoustic guitar of its source material. The sounds of children playing midway through feels a little forced, but it's a trippy take on a classic. Speaking of trippy, Pink Floyd's original version of title track "Echoes" was nearly 24 minutes long. Here Wilber pulls out the meat of the song and captures its essence in under five minutes. It's the perfect title, his echoes of other's songs.

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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MUSIC TO THE RESCUE

WHEN you can't be cheerful in a world that's too bizarre
PLUS you're way too cynical to wish upon a star
OR you feel rejected and completely disconnected,
Not to mention unprotected, you can always play guitar

OR if not guitar and you're too blue to give a hoot
PLUS there is a chipmunk storing chestnuts in your boot
WHEN you're spirit's flagging and your dog's tail isn't wagging
And your disposition's dragging, you can always play the flute

OR if not the flute and your demeanor's Windex blue
PLUS you feel you'll never find the oomph to pull you thru
WHEN the world's in trouble and your housing taxes double
And your dreams have turned to rubble, you can always play kazoo

OR if not kazoo and all the walls are closing in
PLUS you don't know where you're bound or even where you've been
WHEN the furnace crumbles and your sweetie trips and tumbles
And your stomach rolls and rumbles, you can still play violin

OR if not the fiddle and you're going round the bend
PLUS you feel the thundercloud commencing to descend
WHEN your cats are sickly and humanity seems prickly
You should not forget too quickly, that the banjo is your friend

OR if not the banjo and your friends don't get along
PLUS you try diplomacy but always get it wrong
WHEN you feel deflated 'cause you're overmedicated
And the pills are overrated, you can always sing a song

OR if you can't sing and both your legs are growing numb
PLUS you hit a hammer on the hangnail of your thumb
WHEN you feel you're losing all the choices of your choosing
And your therapist is snoozing, you can always beat a drum

OR if not a drum and you are feeling all forlorn
PLUS your soul is tattered and your ethics old and torn
WHEN you're at the junction of compulsion and compunction
If your Chevy still can function, you can always blow the horn

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

July 2015

Venues

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

Folklore Village

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

- Tue, July 5th -- Open Mic @7pm
- Fri 15th - Sun 17th -- Founder's Centennial Summer Festival (and Reunion 1967-2017)
- Thu 21st - Sun 24th -- Hardanger Fiddle Association of America Festival (HFAA)

Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Fri, July 1, Adrian + Meredith - @8pm
- Sat, July 2, Bill Camplin w/ Randy Sabien - \$12
- Fri, July 8, Katie Burns / Satchel Paige
- Sat, July 9, Bill Camplin Band - \$10
- Wed, July 13, Jack Williams - @7pm - \$12
- Fri, July 15, Bill Staines - \$15
- Sat, July 16, Howard Levy & Corky Siegel - \$30
- Thu, July 21, Song Circle w/ Tricia Alexander - @7pm - \$5
- Fri, July 22, Tom Cook & Jeff Mason & Perry Baird + Erica Flyte
- Sat, July 23, Jim & Vivian Craig / Fred Campeau / Mitch Thomas @8pm
- Fri, July 29, Simon Balto - \$10
- Sat, July 30, Matthew Francis Andersen / Josh Harty - \$10

Wild Hog in the Woods

All events listed start at 8am and go All Day

- Aug 5 - Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival
- Aug 20 - Gandy Dancer Festival



Wil-Mar Center
953 Jenifer St.
wildhoginthewoods.org
608-233-5687

Gigs

Dave & Anne Host Folk

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Dave & Anne at annedave@chorus.net

- July 22nd @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Garnet Rogers - \$18 / \$15 under 18

Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

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

- July 8th @ 9 pm (doors at 8) Jon Dee Graham & The Fighting Cocks -- \$15
- July 29th @ 9 pm (doors at 8) The Figgs -- \$15

The Home of Mike & Carol

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

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

- August 16 Carolyn Carter 7:30 pm doors open at 7
- August 28 Gloria Hayes & Heather Innes 7:30 pm doors open at 7
- October 1 Sarah McQuaid 8:00 doors open at 7:30
- October 23 Anne Hills 7:00 doors open at 6:30
- November 6 Sparky & Rhonda Rucker 7:00 doors open at 6:30

Middleton Fairyland

Potluck at 6:00pm, music 7:30ish to 10pm Suggested donation \$15-20, less for children.

- Sat July 30 - Robby Hecht
- Sat Aug 27 - Peter Mulvey
- Fri Sept 9 - Count This Penny

KG & The Ranger

• Sat, July 9 - @2:30pm and @4pm Wa Du Shuda Days Festival.
Riverside Park, New Lisbon WI - (608)562-3555 - www.wadushuda.com

• Thu, July 28 - @7pm Dean House Back Porch Concerts
4718 Monona Drive, Monona WI - www.bloominggrovehistory.org

• Thu July 7 - @7pm Acoustic Alloy show (TC Peart & Tracy Jane Comer)
Babe's - 5614 Shroeder Road, Madison, WI 53711 - (608)274-7300 - FREE - on the patio (or indoors in case of rain)

• Thu July 14 - @7pm Common Chord (Michael Bryant and Tracy Jane Comer and friends)
The Brink Lounge 701 E Washington Ave., Madison, WI 53703 - 608-770-2640
<http://www.thebrinklounge.com> - FREE

Misc

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 jams are on hold until a new location is found. Email
www.prairiebayoucajun.com with suggestions.

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

On the Air



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

Sun 5:00-8:00pm

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



WORT 89.9 FM community radio

Sun -- 3:00-5:00pm

• "On the Horizon" w/ Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Helena White

Weekdays 9:00am-noon

• Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over)

w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado

• Tue -- One Fine Morning w/ P.C. Allen

• 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. -- 233-2956

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

Way #1 – online

Visit www.madfolk.org and click on "Join MFMS"

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Complete, clip, and mail this form

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Life \$500 _____

Scholarship fund donation (optional) \$ _____

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