

Mad Folk News

A Trio of Harmony you don't want to miss!

♪♪ Join us as we have our first concert after a summer vacation! We will start the fall season on Wednesday October 26 when we bring in Brother Sun! National Touring Artists Greg Greenway, Pat Wictor, and Joe Jencks have made their mark as veteran touring singer-songwriters, but put them all together and you have Brother Sun. The trio's harmonies, as much as their lyrics, tell what they are about: warm as a campfire, stirring as a gospel church, rousing as a call to arms. Fusing folk, Americana, blues, pop, jazz, rock, and a cappella singing, Brother Sun is an explosion of musical diversity and harmony, in the finest of male singing traditions.

From three major points on the map Boston, New York, and Chicago - Greg, Pat, and Joe have blended themselves into Brother Sun: a unique celebration of the amazing power of singing together. As they will tell you, the music of Brother

Sun is not resident in any one of them - but rather it exists in the space between them. Audiences feel this sincerity immediately. Their combined musical skills make for an unforgettable experience - three rich voices blending on a well-crafted foundation of guitar, slide guitar, piano, ukulele, and bouzouki. Their performances are marked by outstanding original songs, ethereal harmonies, off-the-cuff humor, and standing ovations.

The trio has released their third CD, *Weights & Wings*, a collection that confirms the trio's dedication to extending its musical and artistic boundaries. The songs on *Weights & Wings* represent the evolution the group and its members have undergone. This is Brother Sun's most emotionally immediate and musically diverse work yet, and it affirms the power of song to accompany each of us from grief and

loss into new worlds of possibility, light and promise. Ranging from gospel and blues-inflected grooves through delicate ballads, with playful dips into zydeco and jazzy a cappella, the ensemble's muscular and precise harmonies provide the optimism and uplift in every song.

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.

Chad and Jeremy folk duo coming to The Brink October 19th

Go back to the days of the 60's first hand!

PRESENTED BY "Live at Rick's" & The Brink Lounge Chad Stuart and Jeremy Clyde are best known for such hits as "A Summer Song" and "Yesterday's Gone"

C&J are the 1960s British Invasion duo responsible for "A Summer Song", "Yesterday's Gone", "Willow Weep For Me", "Distant Shores", and many

others. They were also stars on TV including episodes of Batman, The Dick Van Dyke Show, and more. When he's not "...and Jeremy", Jeremy Clyde is a prominent English character actor, and has recently appeared in shows like Downton Abbey and films like The Iron Lady.

Oct 19th @7pm
\$25 Adv/ \$30 at the Door



Review by Kiki Schueler

Beaver Nelson is from Texas. He writes smart songs about life and love, growing up and growing old. But to call him a Texas songwriter would give the wrong impression. There's a lot more Tom Petty and Bob Dylan in his music than Jerry Jeff Walker, Robert Earl Keen or Townes Van Zandt. (OK, admittedly there is some of the latter.) His previous release, the stunning Macro/Micro, was an impressive project- a full length album paired to a movie, with each song given its own segment. Essentially an album length video. Coming four years later, Positive doesn't have the same bells and whistles, but the songs are every bit as good. He's aided and abetted by the usual suspects, bassist Matt Eskey, drummer Mark Patterson, and longtime collaborator Scrappy Jud Newcomb, who contributed guitars, mandolin and backing vocals to the record, as well as producing. Under his guidance, Positive comes together as a cohesive listen. Even more impressive given that the songs on it span decades.

Newcomb is most visible, er, audible, on the title track "Are You Positive?" "All right, yeah, sweep that back," he directs in a baritone growl before Nelson's addictively unusual tenor jumps in with the questions. "Are you sure that it won't end well? That it won't endure? That it will fall apart?" he asks before admitting that he also knows "it may go to hell." The point here is: how sure are you? With Newcomb echoing him, he sings, "Are you positive? I hope I am, long as I

live," cleverly flipping the meaning of the word from certainty to optimism. The inquiries continue on the next track "Willing and Able," a rocker that recalls those Petty influences. Trippy backing vocals and flourishes dress up the chorus, which wants to know if you are "willing and able? What did you bring to the table?" Newcomb's mandolin figures winningly into a cover of Little Steven's "Men without Women," a song that meshes so perfectly with the rest of the record I wouldn't have known it was a cover if I hadn't looked at the liner notes.

Occasionally you can't help but wish some of these songs had gotten the same video treatment as those on the last record, if only to see where they would have led. The slightly unstable "I Need a Line to the Underground" with all its paranoid hilarity would have been great filtered through a camera lens. There are back alleys, beards, and basement bars, as well as double backs, cab chases, and clandestine communications. There are revered spy movies with less intrigue, and definitely fewer "ooh oohs." Fortunately, the laid back and funky "Bad Movie" creates its own picture show in your head, despite the fact that it is surprisingly short on concrete details. "There was something I was listening for, I can't remember what it sounds like any more," he admits before concluding, "Now I'm circling something I wasn't supposed to see." Similarly the childhood recollections of "We Did!", equal parts spaced out synth and folky mandolin, are just as vivid. With references to TV's Batman and a hyper-catchy chorus, the song would fit right in on one of Justin Roberts' super smart kids records. If you are looking for a song to chase another stubborn tune out of your head, this is the one I recommend. In fact, every listen reveals more, one time through is never enough.

And for the record, yes, I am positive.

Beaver Nelson appears at Kiki's House of Righteous Music on October 7.

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

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Begone Listlessness

Two out of three people who regularly read Whither Zither have discovered that I like lists. And the third person is my wife Kristi, who knew it already.

I remember being annoyed in school by so-called comprehensive lists. There was one list presented by my Sociology professor, Ramzan Dossa, of the nine (I think) qualities something must possess in order to be currency. I can't remember most of them but I do remember *difficult to counterfeit*; *sturdy*; and *easy to carry*. But the list seemed arbitrary to me, and I went home and wrote a paper called *The Nine Kinds of Robins*. I think I still have it somewhere. It was just all bunkum; things like the Harbinger Robin, the Listening Robin, etc. And sometime around then I divided the world into two kinds of people: People who were swimming, and people who weren't. Ever since those days I've been skeptical of lists claiming to be definitive, but fascinated by lists in general.

I've written at least two WZ's about lists: In October of 2002 I talked about songs that contain lists, like *Old MacDonald Had A Farm*, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, and *My Favorite Things*, though there are so many examples out there, I didn't even mention these three.

And in May of 2006 I rambled on about how songwriting is a form of taxonomy ("a system for organizing similar things into groups"), in that it identifies and arranges rhyming words, and similarly metered phrases, while grouping related ideas into verses and choruses.

I'm far from being the only human intrigued by lists. There's an interview in **Spiegel Online** (November 11, 2009, by Susanne Beyer and Lothar Gorris) with Umberto Eco, who had an exhibition at the Louvre on *...the essential nature of lists, poets who list things in their works and painters who accumulate things in their paintings*. Umberto Eco,

who died early this year, was, among other things, a semiotician. Semiotics is "The study of the way in which people communicate through signs and symbols." It's a catch-all field that covers everything from linguistics to ambulance sirens to emojis to, well, lists. Umberto says, *How does one attempt to grasp the incomprehensible? Through lists, through catalogs, through collections...* He also says *We like lists because we don't want to die*, which I don't exactly understand, and *I like lists for the same reason other people like football...* which I do.

My fondness for lists is a facet of my makeup that has revealed in the invention of the internet. The web is a bottomless bucket of lists.

One reason for this is the internet use of lists as "clickbait," defined by Wikipedia as *...web content that is aimed at generating online advertising revenue, especially at the expense of quality or accuracy, relying on sensationalist headlines or eye-catching thumbnail pictures to attract click-throughs...* According to Emerson Spartz, "The King of Clickbait," lists make excellent Clickbait. In an article about him in **The New Yorker** by Andrew Marantz called "The Virologist" (Jan 5, 2015), Spartz advises: *Use lists whenever possible. Lists just hijack the brain's neural circuitry.*

Clickbait lists are on AOL, they're on YouTube, they're everywhere. You see them every day: *Ten Starlets Who Never Brush Their Teeth*. *Twelve Deadly Gases In Your Lipstick*. *5 Sock Habits That Shorten Your Life*.

One interesting phrase to Google for is "Top Ten." There are thousands of such lists. There are even quite a few *Top Ten Top Ten* lists. Unsurprisingly, there are subscription opportunities for lists. **www.toptenz.net** will send you a new Top Ten list every day, like *Top 10 Horrific Cases Of Hell On Earth*; *Top 10 Hats*; and *Top 10 Underworld Gangster Nicknames*.

One reason there are so many lists available is that though they have an air of authority, they are easy and fun to

create. Lists lend a truthiness to groupings that previously weren't necessarily thought of as noteworthy. A good number of these lists are really just opinion collections, like *Top 10 Most Beautiful Sink Stoppers* and *Top 10 Must-See Roadside Soap Factories*. Any one of us ordinary muggles can make up a perfectly suitable Top Ten List. I mean, who says we can't? *Top 10 Most Adorable Street Corners in Kaukauna*. *Top 10 Shirt Mistakes*. *Top 10 Overused Leg Movements*. *Top 10 Doghouse Weathervanes*.

And of course, appropriate to this column, there are Top Ten lists relating to music. Thousands of them, I would guess, and the possibility for countless more. Here are a few I found in minutes:

Top 10 Ocarina Facts. (Includes the fact that over 500,000 Ocarina iPhone apps were sold in November 2008. This app turns your iPhone into a functional 4-hole ocarina. It's true; I bought the 99 cent app myself; I'm a Clickbait patsy).

Top 10 reasons your child should take music lessons, by the Dallas Academy of Music and Performing Arts (a strange list that includes "Leadership" and "Higher SAT Scores.").

Top 10 Music Instruction Sites in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

The 10 Most Often Butchered Lyrics.

Top 10 Banjo Interview Questions.

10 Stage Shows That Ended in Death.

10 Musicians Who Have Killed Someone.

Top 10 Rock 'n' Roll Bagpipe Songs.

10 Artists Who Hated Their Biggest Hit

Top Ten Most Handsome Nigeria Musicians

Ironically, there are ten reasons I have to end today's column at this point:

1. *I have run out of room.*

--ΩΖ, Οcγ. 2016

“...an explosion of musical diversity and harmony,
in the finest of male singing traditions.”



 **Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

Brother Sun

Wednesday, October 26

8:00 pm

THE BRINK LOUNGE, 701 E. Washington, Suite 105

Tickets \$15 advance, \$18 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.

CHAD & JEREMY



WED, OCTOBER 19
7PM

THE BRINK LOUNGE
701 E. Washington Ave, Madison WI

Presented by LIVE AT RICK'S & The Brink Lounge

Tickets available online:
rickleighbmusic.com -or- thebrinklounge.com
\$25 Advanced | \$30 Door

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

October 2016

Mad Folk Events



Brother Sun

Wednesday, October 26 @8pm - \$15 adv. / \$18 d.o.s.
The Brink Lounge 701 E. Washington Ave. Ste 105
608-661-8599

Venues



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

Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Sat, Oct 1, An Evening w/ Writer Isabel Abbott - @8pm - \$5
- Fri, Oct 7, Mike Dowling - \$20
- Sat, Oct 8, Claude Bourbon - \$15
- Thu, Oct 13, New Pioneers - @7pm - \$10
- Fri, Oct 14, CoreyMatthew Hart - \$5
- Sat, Oct 15, An Evening w/ Slaid Cleaves - \$25
- Wed, Oct 19, Anna Tivel & Jeffrey Martin - @7:30pm
- Thu, Oct 20, Song Circle w/ Tricia Alexander - @7pm - \$5
- Fri, Oct 21, Karen Johnson - @8pm - \$5
- Sat, Oct 22, Lucy Kaplansky - \$22.50
- Fri, Oct 28, The Pines
- Sat, Oct 29, The Pines

Live At Ricks @The Brink Lounge

- Wed, Oct 19, Chad and Jeremy: 60's British Duo - @7pm - \$25 adv. / \$30 d.o.s.
- Fri, Oct 28, Billy McLaughlin and Jeff Arundel - @8pm - \$12 adv. / \$15 d.o.s.



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



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

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Oct 2 - Guitar Workshop w/ Andy Cohen - @1pm - \$20
- Oct 22 - Sound Setup and Mixing Workshop - @1:30pm - sign up at <http://wildhoginthewoods.org/Members/SoundOperations/workshop.html>



701A E. Washington
www.high-noon.com

High Noon Saloon

- Thu, Oct 6, Dallahan & Open The Door For Three - 7pm - \$10 av. / \$15 d.o.s. - More info at www.madgael.com

Gigs

Dave & Anne Host Folk

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

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

- Oct 8th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Tim and Myles Thompson - \$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 righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com

- Oct 1st @ 8 pm (doors at 7) Peter Case -- \$20
- Oct 4th @ 8 pm (doors at 7) Justin Kinkel-Schuster -- \$20
- Oct 7th @ 9 pm (doors at 8) Beaver Nelson -- \$10
- Oct 18th @ 8 pm (doors at 7) Tommy Keene and His Band -- \$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

- 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

Common Chord (Michael Bryan & Tracy Jane Comer + friends)

- Wed, Oct 12 - Tracy Jane Comer (Solo) - @1:30pm - Behring Senior Center 1113 10th St, Monroe, 53566 - Free (donations) - (608) 325-3173
- Fri, Oct 21 - @7pm - Tuvalu Cafe - 300 S. Main St, Verona, 53593 - Free (donations) - (608) 845-6800
- Sat, Oct 29 - @7pm - Lakeside Street Coffee House - 402 W. Lakeside St, Madison 53593 - Free (donations) - (608) 441-7599
- Fri, Dec 16 - Wild Hog in the Woods - 953 Jenifer St, Madison, 53593 - Free (donations) - (608) 233-5687

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



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" 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

WMUU 102.9 FM

- Sat - Exiles Return with Elizabeth Delaquess - 4-6am and again from 10am-noon

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

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

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

Madison Folk Music Society

P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701

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Madison, WI

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Regular \$12 _____

Family \$15 _____

Friend \$25 _____

Contributing \$50 _____

Life \$500 _____

Scholarship 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