

# Mad Folk News

## Holiday Shows That Help Our Community

Madison is so lucky to have such great musicians, they are not just musically talented, but also giving of their music. There are two shows coming up and we hope you too will show your support by attending one of these shows. Being in a community of music is so good for the soul, and knowing that by attending one of these shows you are helping your community. Bring family and friends and start the season with help giving back to our community.

Get ready for **“A Very Harty & Chip Holiday Trip”!** Join Madison Folk Music Society and Americana artists Josh Harty and Chip Cruz for a heartwarming concert at the Wilmar Center (504 Brearly St) on Saturday, December 7th at 7pm. This festive evening of music is a fundraiser with 100% of proceeds benefiting the Wilmar Center and Commonwealth Development. Come for the tunes, stay for the fun – we’re talking a bake sale with delicious treats, a bad sweater contest with fabulous prizes, and a raffle with exciting goodies up for grabs. A suggested donation of \$20 is recommended to support these fantastic organizations. Don’t miss this chance

to spread some holiday cheer while enjoying a fantastic night of music and community!

**Common Chord Annual Holiday Fundraiser** to Benefit Arbor Good Neighbor House as they continue their annual tradition of offering a holiday concert in support of a local nonprofit. This year’s show will benefit and be held at Arbor Good Neighbor House (2509 McDivitt Road, Madison), on Sat., Dec. 7, starting at 7pm. Light food and snacks will be available for purchase at 6:30 pm. Admission is simply a donation to Arbor Good Neighbor House at the door.

Arbor Good Neighbor Housef (AGNH) offers a welcome space where neighbors gather to create a supportive community. Since 2013, Arbor Good Neighbor House has operated the Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry for cleaning products and personal care items, serving over 550 local families annually, and a host of other services for the community.

Host group Common Chord (co-directed by Mad Folk members Tracy Jane Comer and Michael Bryant) performs originals plus their spin on an eclectic mix of covers. Their harmony-packed arrange-

ments are backed by a variety of acoustic instruments, creating a magical soundscape. They have a new Christmas CD; all proceeds will go to AGNH. For more see [commonchord.us](http://commonchord.us)



# HAVE YOUR MUSIC AND EAT YOUR CAKE TOO!

On January 3, 2025, not only will MadFolk be having their first concert of the year, but they will be celebrating their 50th anniversary/birthday by giving back to the Madison community a gift.

They will be hosting a concert and for all current MadFolk members Madfolk will pay for your ticket! That's right, that means you get in for FREE! For those who are not a member, you may purchase a ticket and your gift will be a FREE membership to MadFolk for a year! We will have cake and the music we have chosen for this event is local musicians **Bruised Orange**.

The Madison-based John Prine tribute band Bruised Orange will perform at 7 pm on January 3 at the North Street Cabaret in recognition of the Madison Folk Music Society's 50th anniversary.

John Prine's music has inspired generations of musicians for more than 50 years, including the bandmates in Bruised Orange, Liz Stattelmann-Scanlan, Tina Thompson, Colin Bazzali and Jeff Burkhart. Liz and Tina played together for many years in the Oak Street Ramblers; Colin and Jeff played together in the Barley Brothers, Cajun Strangers, and the Dirty Shirts, who Liz joined in 2019 to perform two classic Gram Parsons records at several live shows. Now, the four long-time friends perform together for the first time in celebration of the musical legacy of one of the best songwriters of our time, John Prine.

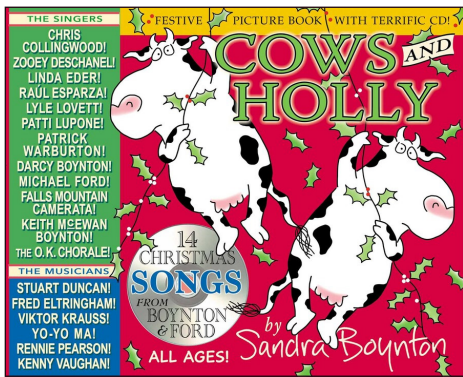
The band started last year as a collaboration between Jeff and Chuck Bayuk, who worked with Liz on a set of John Prine earlier this year. Sadly, Chuck passed away in October, and we never got to play these songs with him. The January show will honor Chuck by including the songs he selected but wasn't able to perform. "Chuck opened my eyes to a whole bunch of John's songs that I'd never considered playing, like Blue Umbrella

and Long Monday," said Jeff. "Chuck was an amazing singer and interpreter of John's songs, so our goal is to play them with the heart and soul that Chuck brought to them."

**Friday, January 3, 2025  
North Street Cabaret  
Tickets will be sold at the door for those that need them for \$15**



**COWS AND HOLLY - VARIOUS ARTISTS  
2024 - BOYNTON RECORDINGS**



Review by Kiki Schueler

Anyone who has read any of Sandra Boynton's books to a child knows how magical her writing and illustrations are (especially my favorite, the ridiculously entertaining Pajama Time!). After 85 books and six records of what she calls "renegade children's music" made with collaborator Michael Ford, she finally takes on the most magical time of the year. Cows and Holly proudly proclaims itself as all ages and for everyone everywhere, and it certainly does its best to live up to that promise. The result is fourteen tracks (words and music by Boynton, arranged by Ford) that run the gamut from spoken word to showtunes to surf to sleepy. The musical guest stars skew older, and are more likely to appeal to the parents, grandparents, and maybe even great grandparents, than to the children her work usually targets. There are several real gems in the collection, along with some filler. You know, just like any Christmas record not recorded by Bing Crosby.

The title track is the one most likely to engage the kids. The one case where Boynton did not write the music, it's sung to the tune of the traditional Welsh carol "Deck the Halls" with the parenthetical of (Cows and Holly). It's an evolution of her 2022 book Moo, Baa, Fa La La La La! Which itself evolved from Moo, Baa, La La La, one of the bestselling Boynton books of all time. The song is performed by the mysterious O.K. Chorale, which features Mark-Linn Baker (yep, Cousin Larry!). The song most likely to engage everyone is opening track "Sky Surfing," a brilliantly bizarre mash

up of a spaghetti western soundtrack and Patrick Warburton as Santa. The sardonically smug Warburton with his instantly recognizable voice is brilliant in this role. "They say it's eight tiny reindeer with one big sleigh, seems highly unlikely, but I know it's that way," he intones in that distinct baritone before explaining "That's right, I'm Santa Claus. Ho, ho, ho. Sky surfing. Let's ride." Even better is when he goes off script as he names the reindeer, getting stuck after Cupid, "On... Igor, maybe?" It's the kind of performance that would make William Shatner proud.

The CD is definitely front-loaded. Warburton's epic is followed by Broadway superstar Patti LuPone's catchy "Holiday Jazz Parade." Backed by a New Orleans style jazz band, the song builds and then fades as the parade moves on. Bring out your jazz hands. "Going Home Now" is a perfect fit for Lyle Lovett's laid-back delivery, always welcome even if it isn't especially Christmas-y. Zoëy Deschanel is no stranger to Christmas, having starred in perennial favorite Elf and recording two holiday records with M Ward as She & Him. Her "Dance with Santa Claus" bursts with 50's style charm. Best line- "We could deck the halls with... Buddy Holly!" From there it's a bit of a slog to get to Chris Collingwood (of Fountains of Wayne) and his delightful, and very inclusive, New Year's Eve party "Just a Few of My Friends." In between we have "Videmus Nivem" done in chant and churchy choir by Falls Mountain Camerata. It seems wildly out of place, even on a record for everyone, everywhere. Yo-Yo Ma is wasted backing Linda Eder on the dull "In December." Boynton's daughter Darcy does a fine, if unremarkable, job on "Bring It On" and "So Cold for So Long." Meanwhile, son Keith puts on an Irish accent for "Firelight Jig." Raul Esparza channels Frank Sinatra in the best way on "It's Got to Be Christmas." Even better is collaborator Michael Ford's finger snapping acapella turn

with the '53 Fords on "Snow, Snow, Snow." He closes the record with "Forever Christmas," a pleasant instrumental to send you on your way.

The CD comes in a "festive picture book" in two sections. The first half is "look while you listen," which makes even the dull songs more interesting when accompanied by adorable cats, dogs, pigs and cows. The second is "sing and play along" with complete lyrics and music. With a list price of \$19.99, it really is a bargain, perfect for the kids of any age on your list.

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](mailto:madfolk@charter.net). Learn about concerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org). [www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835)

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<https://www.facebook.com/madisonfolkmusicsociety>

# Fall Back

By Emily Beebe

Gerty emerged from sleep like a caterpillar chewing its way out of a fleece chrysalis. Her eyes registered the reluctant grey light of a November morning seeping into the bedroom through dirty windows. Dim remembrances stirred in her brain, snippets of last night's newscast. An extremely chipper blond girl wearing a hot pink business suit reminded her audience to 'set back your clocks, including the one on your VCR!' Clearly, the execs running the newscast were experts in demographics.

Elvis shoved a wet nose into Gerty's ear and for a moment, she imagined it was Glen. Her spouse lay on his back, snoring softly, head half under a pillow, oblivious to Elvis's tail thwacking him in the chin. Glen had been having trouble sleeping the last few years. He had a penchant for wandering around the house at all hours of the night before climbing into bed an hour before dawn. Male menopause had brought big changes to their home. The record collection is now sorted by color, the autoharp is in tune, and lately Glen has started building ukuleles. There are 16 of them hanging on the wall where Gerty's needlepoints were once displayed. (The needlepoints are now folded in the piano bench next to a tacklebox of guitar picks, sorted by color, point angle, material, and thickness).

Daylight's saving time has always been a poison arrow to Gerty's psyche. Elvis and Cyndi knew when breakfast was served, and which human made that happen. By the time she got the dog walked and the bird cage cleaned, and all the clocks changed, the hour saved had become an hour spent winding

little plastic hands the wrong way. Plus, when she made the stove beep beep beep beep beep, the parrot started beeping back, which she continued to do intermittently for the next two weeks. The coup de grâce was 4 pm rolling around and shoving her and the rest of the world into a well of darkness lit by phalanxes of halogen headlights.

Gerty was just setting back the last clock when a new thought sifted down from the rafters of her pre-coffee memory. What if Glen had already changed all the clocks in the middle of the night? It was drizzly and overcast - Gerty couldn't imagine what time it was supposed to be. Her computer's clock randomly reset itself to Pacific Daylight Savings Time when she plugged in her headphones charger and was not a reliable source of truth. Her smartphone had updated in the night and probably defaulted to Korean Standard Time like it always did. Maybe if she changed everything back - no wait, forward - she could ask Glen when he woke up.

'Peeb Peeb Peeb Peeb Peeb Peeb Peeb!' Cyndi warbled. Twilight roosted in the kitchen. Gerty fumbled around for the light switch, a sense of dread descending on her consciousness. Her fingers encountered wainscoting, but no switch plate.

A flickering light filled the room behind her. Glen descended the staircase, yawning with a pewter chamberstick in his hand. The light of a tallow candle quavered against the plaster stairwell wall. 'Egad!' Glen exclaimed, flipping the end of his stocking cap over his shoulder. 'What time is it, Goody?' Glen lit an oil lamp and

picked up an antique hand crank. He selected a rough-hewn spruce board from the worktable in the middle of their living room. Gerty could see the outline of six blocky violas leaning against wall. A set of bagpipes inexplicably hung on a peg. Gerty sat down hard on the harpsichord bench.

Glen stopped his incessant motion and looked at her. 'You changed the time, didn't you?' 'Caw! Caw!' exclaimed Cyndi from her perch upon a bust of J.S. Bach. Glen approached a large grandfather clock in the corner Gerty had never seen before and stilled the pendulum, turned the hands clockwise several turns then restarting the weights in the opposite direction.

Darkness flashed. The room filled with sunlight. Gerty looked at Glen, who was busily entering code into a tablet. The 3D printer sitting on the dining room table began to purr, which made Elvis whine and walk to his food dish, toenails clacking. The house was so spacious without all those VHS tapes lining the wall! Gerty was getting up to feed the dog when she noticed all the carbon fiber theremins. Resignedly she thought, it's going to be a long, long Winter.



• See [madfolk.org](http://madfolk.org) or our facebook page for latest show postings

## 🎵 A Very Harty & Chip Holiday Trip Fundraiser Show

Saturday, December 7th

@7pm at the Wil-Mar Center, Madison



Don't forget!  
Non-perishable donations of food are collected for local food banks at all Mad Folk shows!

## 🎵 Bruised Orange FREE SHOW for MadFolk Members

Friday, January 3rd

@7pm at North Street Cabaret, 610 North Street, Madison, WI - \$15 for non-members will include membership to Mad Folk)

*On the Air*

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**Simply Folk** on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Síle Shigley, Jeff Durkey & Steve Gotcher



Sun 5:00-9:00pm

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



**WORT 89.9 FM** community radio visit <https://wortfm.org> for more info!

- Sun 3pm - 5pm - On the Horizon (international, world, ethnic music) w/ Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Helena White
- Mon 9am to noon - Global Revolutions (folk music from the world over) w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado & Helena White
- Tue 9am to noon - Green Morning Radio (indie, folk, rock, alt, country, acoustic blues & singer-songwriters) w/ Brian Hirsh - Except Last Tuesday of the month - One Fine Morning w/ P.C. Allen
- Wed 9am to noon - Back to the Country (country music on a theme) w/ Steven & Marianne, Nate Gibson, Art Stevenson & Bill Malone
- Thur 9am to noon - Hejira (folk and international) w/ Jeff Spitzer-Resnick
- Fri - Mud Acres (bluegrass and acoustic) w/ Chris Powers



**WVMO** The Voice of Monona - Promoting the best in Good Music - Roots Music - Americana Music

Plus Community Members Hosted Shows

Streaming Live and on your mobile device through tunein radio

### **Stuart Stotts**

Weekly new song Facebook Live event. Song Premiere on Tuesday (SPOT) at 11AM [facebook.com/stuart.stotts](https://facebook.com/stuart.stotts)

*Misc*

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**Sea Shanty Sing @Roxy's Restobar** -- 208 W. Main St, Stoughton

No experience necessary. Songbooks provided and songs taught. 7pm every second Tuesday.

**Open Mic @Cargo Coffee** -- 750 E. Washington Ave.

Brave the stage or enjoy the show every first and third Sunday, 5-7pm. Sign-up starts at 4:30pm

**Open Mic @Java Cat** -- 4221 Lien Rd.

Check out local talent at the cafe's new location on the last two Sundays of each month.

### **Old Time Jam**

Monthly - 3rd Saturday of every month, 2 to 5pm

Location: Brix Cider, Mt Horeb

Coodinator: Greg Jones, [7771jones@gmail.com](mailto:7771jones@gmail.com)

Al Wilson, [adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu](mailto:adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu)

**Madison Area Ukulele Initiative** -- Singalongs

3rd Sunday 11am - 1:30pm

- for location visit [www.MAUImadison.com](http://www.MAUImadison.com)

## Venues



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

### Cafe Carpe

- Thu, Dec 5th - Beats Workin' - @7:30pm - \$15
- Sat, Dec 7th - Whitney Mann/Hayward Williams - @8pm - \$20 adv. / \$25 d.o.s.
- Thu, Dec 12th - Shitunauts - @8pm - \$35
- Fri, Dec 13th - Shitunauts - @8:30pm - \$35
- Sat, Dec 14th - Shitunauts - @8:15pm - \$35
- Sun, Dec 15th - Shitunauts - @6pm - \$35
- Thu, Dec 19th - The DonJuans "Snow, Snow, Snow Show" - @8pm - \$25
- Fri, Dec 20th - Cash Box Kings - @8:15pm - \$25
- Sat, Dec 21st - Ernie Hendrickson - @8:30pm - \$15
- Fri, Dec 27th - Krause Family Band - @8:15pm - \$20
- Sat, Dec 28th - Still No Tomatoes/Chris Haise - @8pm - \$20



Wil-Mar Center  
504 S. Brearly St.  
wildhoginthewoods.org  
608-233-5687

### Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday Dec 6 at 6pm - Wild Hog's 46th Birthday Celebration
- Friday Dec 13 at 7:30pm - Michael Bell plus Chris Powers
- Friday Dec 20 at 7:30pm - Hog Wash!
- Saturday Dec 21 at 2pm - Hootenanny Sing-Along

### FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

### Folklore Village

- Tues, Dec 3rd - Online Open Mic
- Sat, Dec 7th - Sankta Lucia Workshops & Social
- Tue, Dec 13th - Madison Maennerchor Choral Concert & German Tree Lighting
- Tues, Dec 14th - German Christmas Tree Night
- Tue, Dec 17th - In-Person Open Mic
- Dec 28th - January 1st - 77th Festival of Christmas & Midwinter Traditions

### NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St  
Madison, WI  
northstreetcabaret.com

- Fri, Dec 6th - Ritt and Wilder Deitz w/ guests Host of Sparrows - @8pm - \$15
- Fri, Jan 15th - The Faux Paws - @7:30pm - \$20 adv / \$27 d.o.s.
- Fri, Jan 23rd - Third Coast Bluegrass - @7:30pm - \$20 adv / \$27 d.o.s.



### Nelson Graham - Folk / Americana originals

- Saturday, December 7th @7pm - Special Guest w/ Common Chord - Holiday Fundraiser Show @ Arbor Good Neighbor House - 2509 McDivitt Road, Madison
- Saturday, December 21st @6pm - @ Cider Farm Tasting Room, 8216 Watts Road, Madison

### Our House

Invitation & Advance RSVP required. (located in Madison)

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

annedave@chorus.net - 608-256-2958 or 335-7909 - Admission for all concerts is \$20 entirely for musicians

- Saturday, December 28th @7:30pm - Mark Croft and Jon Vriesaker - \$20

### Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required. (located in Madison)

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Kiki at

righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com

- Friday, December 13th @8pm (doors at 7) Trapper Schoepp (acoustic duo) - \$15
- Sunday, December 15th @4pm (doors at 3) Joel Paterson Holiday Show - \$15
- Sunday, December 29th - @4pm (doors at 3) / @7pm (doors at 6) Robbie Fulks & Shad Cobb - \$25

**"WHEN IS MY RENEWAL DUE?"**

**(Hint: It is NOT the date on the mailing label!)**

The date shown on the mailing label is NOT your membership expiration date! There has been some confusion lately, and we apologize for that.

The date is just the date the labels were printed, as new cost-saving postal procedures do not allow us to include expiration dates there anymore.

When it is time to renew, we will send you a personal notice by mail or email.

At that point you will be able to either mail a check or renew online at [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org).

If you have questions about your membership in the meantime, send email to [info@madfolk.org](mailto:info@madfolk.org). Thanks for your membership and support of Mad Folk!

**Way #1 – online**

Visit [www.madfolk.org](http://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  
Address Service Requested

.....  
.....  
Renew your membership today at  
[www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org)

Nonprofit Org  
U.S. Postage  
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Madison, WI  
Permit No. 2278

**Madison Folk Music Society**

join  renew

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Choose membership category:

Senior / Student \$12 \_\_\_\_\_

Regular \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

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