

# MadFolk News

## MadFolk keeps the music flowing for over 50 years

A few fun facts:

1974 - Founding members – Jeff Olson & Erica Gruen – The early years, there were no board members, just folks that one day decided to formalize some of the things they were doing at the time. In the next couple months, we will be mentioning more about the past leaders of MadFolk and maybe an update on – where are they now....

First newsletter was October 1974

We still have a few of the first newsletters – parts of them were typed, parts had handwritten info on them, to set the information off from the one size font of the typewriter. Also hand drawn pictures of instruments – We will be putting

these up on the website under the archived newsletters this year – these are history and they are great!

The original newsletter was called the Madison Folk Music Society Newsletter, after a year with this name a contest was held on what to call the newsletter, first prize was a 1 year subscription to the newsletter, and second place was a two year subscription! The winning name was Mad Folk News and the name remains the same to this day .

Were you there for the Dulcimer building workshop with Jean Ritchie in November of 1974? The cost was only \$50 for class and it included a kit to build your own Dulcimer – I know someone who still has

their Dulcimer!

May 1976 newsletter took a break until August 1976 - that summer, not enough people or funds to do much that summer – we sure are glad they pushed through that time period, or where would we be today?

November 3rd, 1976 – Concert with Michael Cooney AND Rosalie Sorrels in the Great Music Hall on campus – the cost you ask?? \$3.00!!

October 1976 - who attended the Banjo Workshop – I know Mac Robertson was there – through out my research of MadFolk Mac's name has come up a few times as a song leader too!

.... More history morsels in the next issue .... Stay tuned!

## January 3rd! Come Celebrate 50 years and Going Strong!

Come ring in the new year by celebrating our 50 years of bringing and supporting Folk Music in the greater Madsion area.

The Madison-based John Prine tribute band Bruised Orange will perform at 7 pm (doors open at 6) on January 3 at the North Street Cabaret in recognition of the Madison

Folk Music Society's 50th Celebration.

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 Bazsali and Jeff Burkhart.

So come for a night of good

music, good friends and good times!

Friday, January 3, 2025

North Street Cabaret

Tickets will be sold at the door for \$15 for non-madfolk members

And Free to current members of The Madison Folk Music Society



# David Francey Returns to the Mad-Folk stage on February 9th!

Pure excitement is all I can say for this show!

David Francey is a Scottish-born Canadian carpenter-turned-songwriter, who has become known as “one of Canada’s most revered folk poets and singers” (Toronto Star). Born in Ayrshire, Scotland to parents who were factory workers, he moved to Canada when he was twelve. For decades, he worked across Canada in rail yards, construction sites, and in the Yukon bush, all the while writing poetry, setting it to melodies in his head and singing it to himself as he worked.

A truly authentic folk singer, Francey is a documentarian of the working person who never imagined earning a living from his music. But when he was in his 40s, his wife, artist Beth Girdler, encouraged him to share his songs and sing in public. The reaction was instant. His first album *Torn Screen Door* came out in 1999 and was a hit in Canada.

Since then, David has released thirteen albums, won four Juno Awards, Francey also had the honor of receiving the prestigious SOCAN Folk Music Award as well as taking home the Grand Prize in both the International Acoustic Music Award and in the Folk category for the John Lennon Songwriting Award.

“David’s straightforward songs tell honest stories of real people and real places. Poetic perception and a keen eye for the heart of the matter are trademarks of the man and his music. His songs and stories are a direct connection for audiences seeking depth and meaning in the day-to-day.” Shelter Valley Folk Festival

David Francey was born in Ayrshire, Scotland where he got his first taste of the working life as a paperboy. At age 10 he was devouring the newspapers he deliv-

ered, establishing a life-long interest in politics and world events while developing the social conscience that forms the backdrop of his songs, you will hear a little of this in his song *Paper Boy*.

He was twelve when his family immigrated to Toronto. He says he can trace his love of the land, the history, and the people of his adopted country to weekend family drives exploring southern Ontario. Music played a large part in these family outings. They sang traditional Scottish tunes as they drove through the Canadian countryside. Dad and sister Muriel sang melody, while mother and David sang harmonies.

His attachment to Canada grew with travel. He hitched across the country three times, then thumbed his way to the Yukon. This attachment surfaces in his songs of rail lines, farms, and the St. Lawrence Seaway. He grew to understand the people while working in Toronto train yards, the Yukon bush, and as a carpenter in the Eastern Townships. These experiences colour his first CD, *Torn Screen Door*, with songs like *Hard Steel Mill*, *Gypsy Boys*, and *Working Poor* and his

second, *Far End of Summer*, with *Highway*, *Flowers of Saskatchewan* and *February Morning Drive*.

In concert David is a singer and a storyteller. His wry humor and astute observations combined with his openhearted singing style have earned him a loyal following.

We are going to do this as an afternoon show so that everyone can still make it home to watch the Superbowl if so inclined! You can find a link for tickets on our website [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org). This show will be at The North Street Cabaret, 3:00 – 5:00, tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 day of show. Please feel free to bring a non-perishable donation of food to be donated to our local food pantry.



# Switzky and Kieler to Play The Bur Oak Jan. 22

Wisconsin singer-songwriters Bryant Switzky and Melissa Kieler are sharing the stage at The Bur Oak January 22 (doors at 6, show at 7) for an evening of songs, stories, and banter. They're both fantastic songwriters and will trade off performing their own songs and collaborate on a few numbers too.

Switzky played MadFolk's stage at the Willy Street Fair in 2023 and Kieler played it in 2024. "I've gotten to know Melissa a bit over the past couple years," Switzky said. "I helped emcee the MadFolk stage in September, and Melissa's show blew me away. Afterward, I suggested we book a gig together."

Switzky is based in Verona and performs soulful acoustic music that blends folk, blues, Americana, and pop. He worked as a newspaper reporter for many years and

is known for writing clever lyrics about life, love, parenthood, and loss. His melodies come with big hooks and he sings them like he means it. He's got a percussive guitar style and uses live-triggered harmonies to give his solo shows a big sound.

Kieler is based in Monroe and blends folk, rock, and pop. She plays piano, guitar, and bass, but the real story is her stand-out voice. She's a powerhouse singer who has been compared to Melissa Etheridge, Adele, and Amy Winehouse. Her voice grabs you, moving between genres with grace and style. She's played in a variety of bands in the area, has been a long time instructor at the Girls Rock Camp of Madison, and owns a wellness and massage business in Monroe called Healing Notes.

"I've been working up to this

Bur Oak show for a couple years," said Switzky, who rejoined the Madison-area music scene in 2023 after 20 years away in the Twin Cities and Washington, D.C. "I play about 20 shows a year, but most of them are free for the audience. It takes time to build a base of fans who will buy tickets for a sit-down, listening room show. And that's what this January 22 show will be."

Switzky's songs have been recognized more than a dozen times in national and international songwriting contests, and his latest album (his third) and songs from it were finalists for four Madison Area Music Awards in 2023.

Tickets are \$18 day-of-show, \$15 in advance at <https://the-buroakmadison.com/shows/bryantwitzky-melissakieler>.

## Folk Ball Ready to Roll!

The Folk Ball Festival invites you to kick cabin fever to the curb at Memorial Union on January 24-25, 2025. This is the 35th time around for Madison's largest and liveliest participatory folkdance festival, featuring huge evening-long dance parties Friday and Saturday (eight bands in all!), workshops and a Hungarian tanchaz during the day Saturday, and a fine dinner (optional) Saturday evening. Workshops include sessions on Balkan, Carpathian, and Rueda (Cuban salsa) dance styles, as well as Bulgarian Singing and Folk Ball 101, a quickstart introduction to live music line dancing. The Balkan Dance workshops will be presented by Featured Teacher Michael Ginsburg who so inspired us at the 2020 festival.

Folk Ball highlights Eastern European line dances (once a year is not too often!) but Wisconsin Polka and Cuban Rueda are also on offer this time around. Get in, give it a try!

Friday bands are: DB POLKA EXPRESS (Madison), ORKESTAR SLOBODA (Milwaukee), YID VICIOUS KLEZMER (Madison).

Saturday bands are: ORKESTAR BEZ IME (Twin Cities), CHERVEN TRAKTOR (New York), BLACK BEAR COMBO (Chicago), IZVOR ORCHESTRA (Milwaukee), SZASZKA (Twin Cities).

All events are at Memorial Union, centered on the Great Hall ballroom on fourth floor where you'll find the Festival Info Table for welcome, registration, and donation. Folk Ball

welcomes everyone with open doors, but this amazing, free-flowing community celebration is funded entirely by voluntary donations, so please stop at the Info Table, check in, and contribute as you are able. Thanks!

Up-to-date details including band schedules, online registration & dinner reservations (no money down!), suggested donation amounts, and all such are at [madfolkball.org](http://madfolkball.org) and Michael ([mk@mailbag.com](mailto:mk@mailbag.com)) can answer your questions.

Come, learn, celebrate, dance in community!

Thanks to sponsors: Wisconsin Folk Arts Association, Madison Folk Dance Club, UW Center for Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures, WORT 89.9FM Community Radio, The Nancy Yugo Memorial Fund.





Review by Kiki Schueler

This could be subtitled “the strange case of Buckingham Nicks.” Recorded by Stevie Nicks and Lindsey Buckingham in 1973, it wasn’t commercially successful and was ignored by their label Polydor. However, Mick Fleetwood heard one of the songs while touring Sound City where it was recorded, and that led directly to the invitation to join Fleetwood Mac. Here’s where it gets weird. Despite becoming household names, Buckingham Nicks has never been reissued. Unopened copies go for hundreds of dollars on eBay, and where it has been unofficially ripped to YouTube there are millions of listens and thousands of comments, most a variation on “I will never sell my copy.” For music lovers who weren’t buying albums in the Seventies, you know, because they were eight years old and hopelessly uncool (or maybe that’s just me), there is now a way to own a physical copy of these songs. Though not the original versions. The prodigiously talented and unpredictable Andrew Bird has teamed up with singer/songwriter Madison Cunningham for a track-by-track cover of Buckingham Nicks. Cunningham, who has been called “a new spin on West Coast folk-rock” by Rolling Stone, and is nearly the same age Nicks was at the time of recording, is a natural for the part. She and Bird have an unmistakable chemistry, her airy vocals weaving in and out of his gently plucked or bowed violin, and his voice pairing

well with hers.

The pair had been looking for a way to collaborate beyond their own music. Bird is effusive on the subject of Cunningham’s voice. “Her voice is goosebump inducing, nimble and emotive at any volume,” he says, “I just had to find the right project for us to go deep on.” Beyond the eponymous players, the only other musicians featured are drummer Griffin Goldsmith and producer Mike Viola, who added percussion, bass and keyboards. They strip down, re-imagine, and re-build without over embellishing. The running time comes in a few minutes short of the thirty-six minutes of the original. Opening track “Crying in the Night” sets the stage. The pair trade vocals while Bird’s violin plinks, swells, and even occasionally sounds theremin-esque. Instead of alternating leads vocals track by track, they treat every song like a duet. The original version of “Without a Leg to Stand On” sounds like pure Fleetwood Mac with jangly guitar and a sunny melody. Cunningham and Bird tone down the jangle, trading it for a dreamy wistfulness. Never one to adhere to the traditional violin technique, Bird coaxes a sound akin to a flute from his instrument. After its skronky opening, “Don’t Let Me Down Again” barely strays from its source material, other than replacing guitars with propulsive violin, resulting in the most upbeat track here.

“Races Are Run” here is lovely, but more serious than the original. “Lola” benefits from Cunningham’s thoughtful reading of Buckingham’s lascivious tune. The pair of instrumentals, “Stephanie” and “Django,” are made more interesting by Cunningham’s wordless vocalizing. In reworking “Frozen Love,” they echo a different Seventies supergroup. Blind Faith’s “Can’t Find My Way Home” provides a blueprint

for what turns out to be a powerful final track. It’s hard to know what exactly drew the duo to the project, but it must be something beyond the pleasing parallel structure of their names. Bird admits, “The best reason to cover anyone is that little part of you that thinks you might do it better.” On the other hand, I believe the best reason to cover someone is if you can make it your own, Cunningham and Bird do that. I wouldn’t say it’s better, but it is equally good in beautiful and creative ways.

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)

### Madison Folk Music Society Board

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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/madisonfolkmusicsociety>



• See madfolk.org or our facebook page for latest show postings

# 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)

## David Francey

Sunday, February 9th

@3pm at North Street Cabaret, 610 North Street, Madison, WI - \$25 adv / \$30 d.o.s.



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

*On the Air*

**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*

**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

- Sat, Dec 31st - Chris Hanson Band NY Eve Afternoon - @3pm - \$65
- Fri, Jan 31st - Corky Siegel & Ernie Watts - Kickin' in the New Year - @8:30pm - \$40
- Sat, Jan 31st - Corky Siegel & Ernie Watts - @8:15pm - \$40



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

### Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday Jan 10 at 7:30pm - Tom Wernigg and Jeanne Kuhns
- Friday Jan 17 at 7:30pm - Soundbillies
- Saturday Jan 18 at 2:30pm - Hootenanny Sing-Along
- Friday Jan 24 at 7:30pm - Hemlock 'N Key
- Friday Jan 31 at 7:30pm - Tom Waselchuk

### FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

### Folklore Village

- Dec 28th - January 1st - 77th Festival of Christmas & Midwinter Traditions
- Tues, Jan 7th - Online Open Mic
- Tues, Jan 18th - Jane Night
- Tues, Feb 2nd - Online Open Mic

### NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St  
Madison, WI  
northstreetcabaret.com

- 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.



### 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
- Friday, February 7th @7:30pm - Radoslav Lorković - \$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

righteousmusicgmt@gmail.com

- Sunday, December 29th - @4pm (doors at 3) / @7pm (doors at 6) Robbie Fulks & Shad Cobb - \$25



Poetic perception and a keen eye for the heart of the matter are trademarks of the man and his music. His songs and stories are a direct connection for audiences seeking depth and meaning in the day-to-day." *Shelter Valley Folk Festival.*



**Madison Folk Music  
Society PRESENTS**

# David Francey

**Sunday, February 9, 2025**

**3:00 – 5:00 pm**

**THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI**

Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 day of show

Available at: <https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/1471698>

Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.



In recognition of the Madison Folk Music Society's 50th anniversary, Bruised Orange presents a concert of John Prine's music, which has inspired generations of musicians for more than 50 years, including the bandmates in Bruised Orange, Liz Stattelman-Scanlan, Tina Thompson, Colin Bazsali and Jeff Burkhart. 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.



**Madison Folk Music  
Society PRESENTS**

# **Bruised Orange**

**Friday, January 3, 2025**

**7:00 pm**

**THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI**

Tickets: FREE for MadFolk Members or \$15 at the door

Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.



**"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

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

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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