

MadFolk News

John Gorka returns to MadFolk Stage April 18

As we go to print, there are only 10 tickets available to this show. For those who got your tickets early, thank you! It will be an amazing intimate night. Our last newsletter we reminded everyone about John's music, but this month I would like to spotlight a little on his son, Joe Gorka, who will be opening the show.

It is such a joy to watch the next generation of singer-song-

writers hit the music scene, especially when their parents are some of the folks we have loved seeing over the years and Joe Gorka is no exception. Like his father he accompanies himself on both guitar and piano.

Joe who went to school at UW-Madison (think Elec. Engineer) is now based in Chicago, currently playing in the well-known clubs there, such as Schubas, City Winery, and Uncommon

Ground. A recently released EP features spare but powerful "one voice one instrument" tracks that earn a listener's attention both lyrically and musically. Two singles from the EP, "Wallflowers" and "Shiver" are out now.

We are looking forward to seeing you in a room of community and music. **Please remember to bring a donation for the food pantry.** All ticket details can be found at www.madfolk.org.

JOHN PRINE TRIBUTE WITH "BRUSIED ORANGE" May 2nd

This show is a reschedule of our birthday celebration that was to happen in January, however, due to Covid issues we needed to reschedule. We are so excited about our birthday that we just keep celebrating it!!! So for our members our birthday gift to you is to attend this show, we will have your name on a list and all you have to do is show up with ID. If you're not a member, please still come, you can buy tickets at the door or in advance (See www.madfolk.org for ticket info) or you may buy them in advance, and we still want to give you a gift, and that will be a year membership

with MadFolk!

In September 2019 at the Willy Street Fair we did our first set of music existing entirely of John Prine music, little did we know that we would lose John just a few months later in April 2020 to Covid. Ever since we have had a set of John Prine music with various Madison performers. This past summer one of those individuals, Chuck Bayuk, was unable to play due to illness and we lost Chuck shortly later. However, he had a tremendous knowledge of John's music and some of those songs will be played as we pay homage to him too. Also out of all

these John Prine tribute practices and shows where Jeff Burkhart who played at every set of Prine's music at Willy Street Fair came up with a group who is known as Bruised Orange. They have agreed to play for our birthday party, it will be great fun to celebrate all these years of MadFolk with our music friends.

As we mentioned last month in the newsletter, we will continue throughout the summer to share some information and stories about MadFolk, included in this issue is another page from the newsletter in the early years, this was wrote by Jeff Olson, who was one of the founding members of MadFolk while he was going to UW Madison - who went on to be a wonderful attorney here in Madison.





Review by Kiki Schueler

A title like Exploding Trees and Airplane Screams doesn't exactly portend folk music, but Patterson Hood's fourth solo record, and first in thirteen years, is decidedly that. As you would expect from the Drive By Truckers co-leader, these tales are all rooted in the south, stories of coming of age and lost loves. What is unexpected is that instead of the multi-guitar attack of his main gig, this gothic noir collection is dominated by piano and strings. Hood is joined by a host of musicians, including his Trucker bandmates drummer Brad Morgan and keyboardist Jay Gonzalez. Also of note are Eau Claire's own Phil and Brad Cook, David Barbe of Sugar, Chris Funk and Nate Query from the Decemberists, and guitarist Kevin Morby. The most evident guests here are his duet partners, Lydia Loveless, fellow Alabaman Katie Crutchfield of Waxahatchee, and alt-rockers Wednesday, who lend youthful energy to the record's most animated track. All are part of the next generation of musicians influenced by DBT.

"The Van Pelt Parties" revisits the revelries of his childhood, the adult kind of gatherings where the grownups all get drunk and don't notice that the kids are also helping themselves to the punchbowl. The mysteries of childhood- dirty jokes and love affairs- are clearer in reflection now that he's the one hosting. "Now I am grown with kids all my own, and the sins of my youth are making me atone. Those hands of time they kill and cut, I miss those Van Pelt Parties so much." Current tourmate Loveless brings a brutal clarity to "A Werewolf and a Girl." Hood pinpoints a moment in time with just two lines,

"Picked you up at the Trailways and you kissed me on the mouth. Saw a movie set in London about a werewolf and a girl, Tattoo You was on my stereo." Though in this story it's the girl who's in charge. "But I'm warning in the morning

"I'll be gone before you do," is her response. I'm imagining seeing this live will be a nightly showstopper. The Forks of Cypress, a real Alabama slave labor plantation complete with Greek revival house, is the perfect setting for the ghost story of the same name. Though the indiscretion is only hinted at, "My secret shame that haunts me in my dream, stalking like the panther in the soybean. Ghosts that haunt me still as my bones rest in the field, just past the Forks of Cypress," it's still chilling. Crutchfield's vocals and Morby's guitar are perfect complements.

The pair of tunes that make up the title are equally evocative. Opening track "Exploding Trees" has the eerie calm that follows a violent storm, fitting since that's its subject matter. Hood took himself out of his comfort zone by writing many of these songs on piano instead of guitar. "Trees" rewards that approach. Piano and moody synth frame his memories of a history making ice storm told in effect laden vocals, "Like fireworks in the ice storm, I still hear the sound, like Vietnam descending upon Walnut Street, like a movie in Sensurround." It's powerful and affecting. Penultimate track "Airplane Screams" was written forty years ago, but didn't find a home until now. The soaring strings, fuzzy guitar, and eldritch synthesizer paired with lyrics referencing open graves and roads to hell, prove this is where it belongs. Final track "Pinocchio" posits that life's mundane, everyday experiences are what transforms one from a block of wood to a real live boy. It's honest and moving in its simplicity. Don't let the album's title or Frances Thrasher's bloody and unsettling (but definitely cool) cover art scare you away, these are songs very much worth hearing.

Southern Wisconsin Dulcimer Festival!

Friday, April 4 Jam session from 6-8pm.
Hammered and Mountain dulcimer Workshops on Saturday, April 5.
First Lutheran Church
612 N. Randall Ave
Janesville, WI
Additional details and registration can be found at:
southernwisconsin dulcimerclub.com/events/festival

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

Madison Folk Music Society Board

Darlene Buhler.....President, Concerts, Advertising

225-0710 ~ darlene@blettner.com

Peg Michel.....Treasurer

831-1876 ~ pegm@chorus.net

Tracy ComerMembership & Web Site

729-4498 ~ tracy@tracycomer.com

Norbert Wodke.....Secretary

849-3510 ~ nfwodke@chorus.net

Dede Goldberg.....Newsletter distribution

246-4332 ~ speedydd99@yahoo.com

Neil Morris.....Newsletter editor

358-5855 ~ madfolk@wiscomcomfort.com

Meg Skinner.....Scholarships

238-6950 ~ meggskinner@gmail.com

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>

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

Celebrating Mad Folk's 50th Birthday!

Friday, May 2, 2025

7:00 pm

THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI

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

<https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/1565094>

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





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

John Gorka

Friday, April 18th at 7pm (doors @6) - North Street Cabaret, Madison

\$27 advance / \$30 day of show

Bruised Orange - MadFolk 50th Birthday Party

Friday, May 2nd

@6:30pm at North Street Cabaret, 610 North Street, Madison, WI - Free for Members!

\$15 for non-members includes membership!



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



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

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

Al Wilson, adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu

Madison Area Ukulele Initiative -- Singalongs

3rd Sunday 11am - 1:30pm

- for location visit www.MAUImadison.com

Venues



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

Cafe Carpe

- Thu, Apr 3rd - Beats Workin' - @7:30pm - \$15
- Fri, Apr 4th - Katie Dahl / Grace Morrison - @8:30pm - \$20
- Sat, Apr 5th - Lonesome Bill Camplin - @8pm - \$15
- Thu, Apr 10th - Caroline Cotter - @7:30pm - \$20
- Fri, Apr 11th - The Organgrinders - @8:30pm - \$20
- Sat, Apr 12th - Kyran Daniel - @8:30pm - \$25
- Thu, Apr 17th - Kray van Kirk - @8pm - \$15
- Sat, Apr 19th - Cheryl Wheeler w/ Kenny White - @8pm - \$30
- Fri, Apr 25th - Joshua Davis & Interlochen Students - @8:30pm - \$20
- Sat, Apr 26th - Michael Gulezian - @8pm - \$20
- Thu, Apr 30th - Round Robin w/ Tricia Alexander - @6:30pm - \$5



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

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday, April 4 at 7:30pm - February Sky
- Friday, April 11 at 7:30pm - Lynn Smith
- Friday, April 18 at 7:30pm - Tzusamen
- Saturday, April 19 at 2:00pm - Hootenanny
- Friday, April 25 at 7:30pm - Andina and Rich

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

Folklore Village

- Tue, Apr 1st - Online Open Mic
- Apr 5th & 6th - Black Ash Net Basket w/ Liandra Skenandore
- Apr 11th - 13th - Cajun Music & Dance Weekend
- Sat, Apr 26th - Maypole Social



Bob's Your Uncle

- Fri, Apr 4th - @5pm - Hop Garden, 18 E. Main St, Evansville, WI
- Sun, Apr 6th - @3pm - Brix Cider, 119 S. @nd St, Mt. Horeb, WI
- Fri, Apr 18th - @5pm - Hop Garden, 6890 Paoli Rd, Paoli, WI
- Sat, Apr 26th - @11am - Middleton Community Church, 645 Schewe Rd, Middleton, WI
- Sun, Apr 27th - @1pm - Bailey's Run, N8523 Klitzke Rd, New Glarus, WI

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

- Friday, April 25th @7:30pm - Cassie and Maggie - \$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

- Thu, Apr 3rd - @8pm (doors at 7) Ben Sollee - \$20
- Sat, Apr 12th - @7pm (doors at 6) Pieta Brown - \$25
- Sat, Apr 26th - @8pm (doors at 7) The Silos - \$25

“Listening to John Gorka sing, one can get goose bumps all over. There are many reasons: fresh lyrics, a stunning emotional baritone, and his twisted humor.” —New York Times



**Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

John Gorka

Special opener by Joe Gorka

Friday, April 18

7:00 pm

THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI

Tickets \$27 advance, \$30 day of show

Available at: <https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/1545282>

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



COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, AND SQUAWKS Jeff Olson

People often ask how to become a member of the Mad Folk Soc. If we have a membership list, it is the newsletter mailing list, and one gets on that by request, for free, although a two-dollar donation helps grease the gears. By that measure we have close to four hundred members. People also wonder how decisions about meetings, concerts, etc. are made. Well, decisions about meetings are made at the meetings. Decisions about the concert program are made by a concert committee, which meets irregularly, but the date of at least the next concert committee meeting can usually be found out at the meetings. Certainly any member who would like to have some input into the concert program would be more than welcome on the concert committee. As a practical matter, decision-making power accrues to those who have preferences to express, and are willing to take the responsibility and do the work necessary to see their projects consummated, but consensus is the precondition, and co-operation is the engine of all projects. We have no elected officers -- the continuing responsibilities of keeping up the mailing list, keeping the purse, and editing the newsletter are rendered up by those who die, get tired, or move away to basically any fools who are willing to marry these jobs. . . It all seems to work rather well.

Hedy West and Primitive Music: a paragraph that didn't make the paper: "In a performer like this, who has been blessed with great talent, and who has looked at the whole world with open eyes and consciously chosen the music of the simple, rural hill country where she grew up, the essential strength of that music shines like a flame in the dark. These old melodies were not crafted by popular prodigies; one does not hear lush orchestral accompaniment -- the lyrics certainly don't cater to the current trend. But there is in this primitive music a universal appeal. Their songs are not flashy or complex, but they each have a unique quality that reaches out and takes hold of the listener below the level of thought. Presented in their pure form, they have the power to electrify, and that is the secret of their longevity. It takes an artist like Hedy West, who herself is open to the timeless, almost mystical effect of this music, to give it to an audience unadulterated."

I used to be a drummer, and I've always thought that the best drummer was not the flashy Ginger Baker with two grand of Ludwigs subject to his precise control (and more often than not, random whim), but the African tribesman, with a hollow log and two sticks, who understands the age-old rhythms that get under people's skins.

Keep those cards and letters coming in (with \$2 if possible).

NEW! IMPROVED! CLASSIFIED AD POLICY AND RATES!

- (1) FREE ADVERTISING AVAILABLE THROUGH "NEWS NOTES" TO: individuals who wish to buy, sell, or trade instruments, books, records, etc.; anyone who has lost or found an instrument, book, etc.; any non-profit or similar group looking for folk music talent, or an individual looking for lessons.
 - (2) PAID ADVERTISING AVAILABLE AT ANY SPOT IN THE NEWSLETTER TO: individuals offering a service for which they will receive pay (e.g., folk music teachers, performers, bookers, independent record distributors, etc.); commercial groups or businesses (coffeehouses, record stores, etc.).
- RATES: full page: \$40.00 1/8-page: \$5.00 (2 3/4" x 4 1/4")
1/2-page: \$20.00 (5 1/2" x 8 1/2") 1/16-page: \$2.50 (2 3/4" x 4 1/4")
1/4-page: \$10.00 (5 1/2" x 4 1/4")

This is all subject to revision as time goes on. To place ads or get more info, contact Ricki Gruen, 1117 Erin St., Madison 53715, 608-255-1345.

"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.

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

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

Address Service Requested

.....
.....
Renew your membership today at
www.madfolk.org

Nonprofit Org

U.S. Postage

PAID

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