

Mad Folk News

MAKE MUSIC MADISON - 2026

Music Madison is a free, citywide day of music every June 21. It is part of Make Music Day, a celebration that occurs in 1,000+ cities across the globe. Madison began participating in 2013 and now boasts the largest event in the country. Parks, porches, restaurants, shops, worship spaces and more fill with music for all to enjoy!

Who Can Participate?

Musicians

All ages, skill levels, and genres. Play one show or as many as you'd like.

Venues

Hosting can be a simple space on your porch or as complex as a stage with sound system. Hosts control the location, times, and available equipment.

What is Matchmaking?

Matchmaking connects venues and musicians. After creating an account, venues and musicians can browse each other's profiles to request a booking. If you already have your event planned and do not need matchmaking, list your event by following this video.

Registration Dates

Registration Opens: 8am, April 1

Registration Closes: 11:59pm, June 1

Venue Material Pick Up: 10am – 2pm, June 6

All Details and links are at MakeMusicMadison.org

2026 Madison Area Music Awards

June 7 @ 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

It's the main event, the 2026 MAMA Awards! We're so excited to be returning to the beautiful Atwood Music Hall for our annual awards show, to honor the outstanding work of those in our music community and to celebrate all things local music.

MAMA's giving history shows how our programs and scholar-

ships make a big impact in the music community. Thanks to our generous donors, we support young talent and create valuable opportunities.

Our funds help us:

- Provide scholarships for aspiring musicians who need financial help.
- Create programs that introduce children to music, fostering a

lifelong love and skill for it.

- Support community events and workshops that bring music to underserved areas.

Some of the winners in the past few years in the Folk Category – wonder who will win this year?

Performer of the Year -Folk -Dana Perry 2025,2024

Performer of the Year Folk - Americana Mackenzie Moore 2023, 2022

Performer of the Year - Folk - Americana Harmonious Wail 2021

See themamas.org for more information.





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

Check back soon for upcoming events

 **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

Misc

Stuart Stotts

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

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

MICAH SCHNABEL & VANESSA JEAN SPECKMAN PRESENT: THE GREAT DEGRADATION

2026 - SELF-RELEASED



Review by Kiki Schueler

I first saw Micah Schnabel over twenty years ago at a Euclid Records instore performance during the annual St Louis institution Twangfest. His trio Two Cow Garage quietly played beautiful acoustic songs, both smart and snarky. The next night was a true Jekyll and Hyde moment as these same musicians snarled, spit, and sweat their way through an intense, physical set. Schnabel's style has changed a lot over the years, going from power trio roots punk to socially conscious folk duo poetry, but he hasn't lost that ability to mine the extremes. He screams one moment and whispers the next as he muses on the inequality and insecurities of life today. "These songs are not for everyone," he writes in a post, "They are not made to be played or sung in arenas or stadiums or heard at restaurants by passive listeners. These songs are intimate and sincere snapshots of lives lived in the United States of America during The Great Degradation." In other words, these songs demand your attention. He is aided and abetted in this effort by his partner Vanessa Jean Speckman, who over the years has gone from part-time collaborator to bandmate. Her artistry inhabits every part of this project, both as muse and as musician.

On tour they present these songs as a duo, but during the making of this record, which was "recorded in a 48-hour artistic anxiety driven moment back in October of last year," they employed a full band. Their good friend Frank Turner, who has

taken the duo on tour, mixed and mastered the record, as well as playing piano, organ and tambourine. Jason Winner drums, and the talented Todd May (of Lydia Loveless's band) plays bass and adds backing vocals. That's him growling "I don't believe you" behind Schnabel on the track of the same name. Like every song here, it's honest to a fault. After all, it's hard to worry about the planet when the rent is due and you're making ten dollars an hour. "I'll be paying rent until the day I'm d.e.a.d. DEAD," he bemoans, "I ain't recycling nothing, throw my Capri Suns in the ocean when I'm done with them." It's the final nail in the Great Degradation coffin that unspools over eleven songs and just under thirty minutes. It's a record that asks hard questions and gives no easy answer. "Hands up," they ask on the opening track, "who's had enough?" Among their list of indignities are the obsolescence of cursive, the social criminalization of cigarettes, and transphobia, "If the very existence of trans people angers you, that's a war between you and your underdeveloped county fair brain."

"C.I.Hey!" finds him listing simple needs that don't seem to be too much to ask, "I want an apartment that doesn't have bars on the windows and a car that doesn't require any tricks to get it started." But the proposed way out is unexpected, "I recently read that Jackson Pollock was funded by the CIA. Is that true? Is that something I could do to lift myself beyond the means I was born into?" (Google it, the story is surprising.) It's a fascinating stream of consciousness over a meandering acoustic guitar line. The melancholy "Patient Boy" uses the first word as both a noun and an adjective, and Speckman unravels a tale of a Friday night in a radiology lab and the very real people who exist there. The haunted "Omaha" takes on a

persona very different than Schnabel's own, where violence is a way of life. "I don't mind blood and death, as long as it isn't mine." Many thanks to the pair for including the lyrics to the Great Degradation on Bandcamp, because they are an amazing read. Seriously, check it out, and while you are there maybe download the record, because it is terrific listen.

Micah Schnabel and Vanessa Jean Speckman play Kiki's House of Righteous Music on June 5 at 8 pm. Email righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com for more info.

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

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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>

IT IS FESTIVAL SEASON!

We will be updating this each month, so please mark your calendar and keep checking back. These are all in Madison, unless noted. If you know of a festival not on this list, please feel free to send it to Darlene@blettner.com and we will add it. Get out there and enjoy the music!

- June 13th – 14th Marquette Waterfront Festival
- June 12th – 13th – Polka Fest – New Galrus, WI
- June 27th - The Final Session @ Garver Mill
- June 21st -Make Music Madison
- July 2nd – 5th – National Women’s Music Festival @ Marriott West
- July 3rd – 6th Catfish River Festival – Stoughton, WI
- July 9th – 12th La Fete De Marquette
- July 11th -Black Hawk Folk Festival - Mt. Morris, WI
- July 19th Woodstock Folk Festival – Woodstock, IL
- July 25th -267th AtwoodFest
- July 31st - August 1st Sugar Maple Festival

.....more to come.....

Gigs

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, June 5th @6:30pm - Kray van Kirk - \$20
- Saturday, August 15th @6:30pm - The Rough and Tumble / Flagship Romance - \$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, June 5th - @8pm (doors at 7) Micah Schnabel & Vanessa Jean Speckman - \$15
- Sunday, June 6th - @7pm (doors at 6) Bobby Bare Jr - \$20
- Friday, June 20th - @7pm (doors at 6) Scott McCaughey - \$20
- Saturday, June 21st - @6pm (doors at 5) Tommy Sintson & Friends - SOLD OUT
- Saturday, June 26th - @8pm (doors at 7) Deke Dickerson - \$20

Venues

muso
2040 Winnebago Street
Madison WI
musomadison.com

muso

- Wednesdays 5 pm Madison Song Circle
- 2nd & 4th Saturdays, June 13 & 27, 2-4 pm Muso Bluegrass Jam with Davey Harrison
- 3rd Tuesdays, June 16, 7pm Sea Shanty Sing
- Friday July, 24th - @7pm Dark Gazebo in Concert (Steve Sanborn, Valerie Stromquist, Mac Robertson & Tim Sharpe)

The Bur Oak
2262 Winnebago Street
Madison, WI
theburoakmadison.com

The Bur Oak

- Friday, June 12th, Griffin House
- Wednesday, June 17th, Dylan LeBlanc w/ Carlyle Griffin
- Thursday, June 18th, Paul Otteson, Bright Arcana
- Tuesday, June 30, The Wildwoods

The Malt House
2609 E. Washington Ave
Madison, WI
malthousetavern.com

The Malt House

- 1st Monday - Grandpa's Elixir
- 2nd Monday - The Kissers
- 3rd Monday - Material boys
- 4th Monday - Barley Brothers
- 1st Tuesday - Cajun Strangers
- 2nd Tuesday- Birds, Birds, Birds
- 3rd Tuesday - Onadara
- 4th Tuesday - Dollar Bill and The Bucks
- 1st Wednesday - The North Westerners
- 3rd Wednesday - Don't spook the horse

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on
3210 Cty Hwy BB
Dodgeville, WI
folkloreillage.org
608-924-4000

Folklore Village

- Tuesday, June 9, 6-8 pm Free Open Mic Night
- Wednesday, June 17, 1:30-2:30 pm Old Grey Cats (Free Senior outreach program)



'More Barn!'

The Bridle Barn
9736 Blue Valley Rd
Mount Horeb, WI
bridlebarnandgardens.com

The Bridle Barn

- Sat, June 13th - An Evening with Nick Andrew Staver - @7pm (doors at 6)
- Sat, July 11th - Down From The Hills - @7pm (doors at 6)
- Sat, July 18th - Strangebyrds w/ Josh Harty - @7pm (doors at 6)



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

Cafe Carpe

- Saturday, May 6th - @8pm - Piper Road Spring Band - \$25
- Friday, May 12th - @8:30pm - Andrea Fleming - \$20
- Saturday, May 13th - @8pm - Parry Lamont / Crowes Pasture - \$20
- Friday, May 19th - @8:30pm - Liv Lafluv / Summoning Circle - \$15
- Saturday, May 20th - @8pm - Stone Oak Reunion Concert - \$15
- Sunday, May 21st - @7pm - Corky Siegel and Randy Sabien - \$35 - \$40
- Wednesday, May 24th - @6:30 - Round Robin w/ Tricia Alexander
- Thursday, May 25th - @8pm - Frank Viele - \$15
- Friday, May 26th - @8:15pm - Ad Hoc Trio
- Saturday, May 27th - @8pm Lonesome Bill Camplin - \$15

"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

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Renew your membership today at
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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