

Mad Folk News

SMALL POTATOES – BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Small Potatoes is composed of acoustic musicians Jacquie Manning and Rich Prezioso, who are married to one another and have toured together on the folk circuit since 1993. They describe their repertoire as Celtic, cowboy, folk, Irish, country, Cajun, jazz, and Latin and call themselves “eclecto-maniacs.” They perform their own, as well as other musicians’, compositions.

The seed for Small Potatoes was planted in 1988 when Manning and Prezioso first met. They were both playing music, but it took them a little while before they started playing music together, because they came from such different musical backgrounds. Each had been pursuing a solo career for several years. Prezioso had studied classical guitar, loves 30's and 40's swing, and has played both acoustic and electric guitar in a host of blues country, folk, and rock groups. Manning's resume also features blues, folk, and a little country but is heavy into the Irish, Celtic, and traditional end. They created a new sound when they came together as a duo.

Manning describes her rich alto voice as "my favorite instrument" and uses it to belt out a blues number, yodel an old cowboy tune, or sing a somber minor-key Celtic ballad. She adds her tight rhythm guitar, and a host of percussion toys, whistles, flutes, and the bodhran she plays. Prezioso also sings and plays lead guitar and mandolin.

They tour continually and have performed at the Philadelphia Folk Music Festival, the Kerrville Folk Festival, the Walnut Valley Folk Festival, and Summerfolk Festival in Ontario, Canada. They were one of the “most requested” acts at the 1999 Falcon Ridge New Artist Showcase. Manning is a winner of the 1998 Kerrville New Folk Songwriting Contest. They have produced a cassette, titled “Raw,” and three CDs, “Time Flies”, “Waltz of the Wallflowers.” And in 2007, a live album, called “Alive”, containing 72 minutes of old favorites, previously unrecorded material, stories and bad jokes... a real “spud” experience!

Join us for this fabulous show on February 7th at 7:00 The show will be at The Brink Lounge Advance tickets cost \$13 and can be purchased at Orange Tree Imports, Spruce Tree Music, and onl at Brown Paper Tickets. Tickets can also be purchased for \$16 at the door.



Bryan Bowers to play Madison Show in February

“His towering six foot four inch frame can be wild and zany on stage while playing a song like ‘Dixie’ and five minutes later he can have the same audience singing ‘Will The Circle Be Unbroken’ in quiet reverence and delight.” -- Madfolk News, 2011

Yes, you’re right, Madison folk fans, that’s a quote about the outrageously entertaining Bryan Bowers. Bryan is coming to town again! I think you can hear the very snow trembling in anticipation. As many of us have found, very few people can drive into our bones the feeling that folk songs -- by pretty much any definition -- are truly there for all of us to claim as our own. Bryan Bowers can do that, concert after concert, all across the country and beyond.

And he does it by throwing his big self emotionally, physically, intellectually, and of course, musically, into each song as he sings it. Bryan completely owns a song, and in doing so, explains by example how completely possible it is for all of us to own these songs. He is a large fellow with a large voice and a vast range of happinesses and sadnesses, depth and lightness, and is not afraid in the least to show us every facet of his makeup in the service of a given song or story.

Born in rural Virginia, as a child Bowers would tag along with the field workers and gandy dancers in the area and learned to sing old call-and-response songs. Bowers recalls, "I just thought that music was something that everyone did. It was years later that I realized what I'd been raised around." He often uses this call-and-response technique to involve his audiences in what he transforms from what could have been a staid one-directional show into an exuberant participatory experience.

“A national treasure.” -- The Houston Post

“He uses a five-finger picking technique across 36 tightly wound strings, bathing the listener in ethereal, joyously resonant major chords in the folk idiom.” -- Dirty Linen

“...This man makes more music from an Autoharp than you can imagine from a 12-string guitar and a harp-sichord combined. He has more stage presence and charisma than any stage performer in recent memory.” -- Washington Times

This is a show not to be missed. Details:

WHO: Bryan Bowers WHAT: In concert WHEN: Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, 7pm (Doors open at 6:30)

WHERE: Brink Nightclub, 701 E. Washington, Madison WI, 608-661-8599 HOW: Tickets \$14 in advance, \$16 day of show.

Available in person at Orange Tree Imports, 1721 Monroe St, or Spruce Tree Music, 851 E. Johnson St
Available online. You can now purchase tickets online for most Mad Folk events through Brown Paper Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/10879 (This will take you to a listing of all mad folk concerts; click on the Bryan Bowers link). (A small convenience fee is added to the cost.) Your tickets will be held as “will-call” at the ticket desk under your name.

Available by mail: Send a stamped self-addressed envelope with your check payable to: Mad Folk, PO Box 665, Madison, WI 53701.

BROKEN FILM

DISAPPEAR FEAR 2013 DISAPPEAR RECORDS



Review by Darcy Greder

Longtime listeners have long responded to SONiA's call to love out loud and to confront the difficult issues of our times—from the political struggle against censorship to those for human rights to the turmoil and triumph of the heart. Broken Film will no doubt buoy those already in the fold, and bring new listeners to an appreciation for a singer-songwriter clearly at the top of her game. SONiA succinctly describes the genesis of Broken Film as being, "...dedication and perspiration. My life inspired this new CD, the window of my heart, mind and body that I look, love and live through. My songs develop like the process of the irritating sand that become pearls in oysters, grinding them through my craft and vision of what they ultimately sound like on the recording. Pearls they are—Broken Film is being favorably compared to the eponymous, disappear fear CD from 1997. One of the reasons for this return to a more acoustic-driven sound is the engineer for both projects, Grammy-nominated Mike Poole. Of working with Mike, SONiA observes, "he has a way of minimizing the techy stuff and letting the true acoustic soul rise loud and clear and somehow get the best performance out of me and the band."

It has been said that Broken Film can be viewed as the movie soundtrack of SONiA's life—the songs move from personal to political in poetic fashion. There is angst, heartbreak, a lot of

promise, hope and inspiration in this body of music. The first cut of the CD is, "Start," a song drawn from the true experience of her nephew who saved the life of a fellow Marine in Afghanistan. Heroism is evident on both sides—her cousin who risked all in the rescue, and the everyday grace and courage summoned as the survivor thrives in a life faced without an arm and both of his legs. "The Banker" confronts what SONiA describes as, "questioning invisible justice" which is rooted in the greed of financial institutions that ruined lives without regret or apology. Several of the songs are co-written, most notably, "The Princess and the Honey Bee" which is a beautiful ballad of love, loss and what might have been. Another co-write, "Perfect Shade," is a collaboration with Nashville singer-songwriter, Jane Snyder. In "Perfect Shade," SONiA laments having the blues in an ironic upbeat tempo that underscores the temporary nature of her malaise. "Love Out Loud" is a rousing anthem—long a disappear fear credo—and now finding resonance since the Supreme Court overturned the Defense of Marriage Act. The last song on the CD is called, "Ari, Ari," a reggae inflected tune about her travels in Israel.

Released on SONiA's own disappear records, Broken Film is widely available online and through her website. The track list includes:

1. Start
2. American Artist
3. Farmland and the Sky
4. Love out Loud
5. Broken Film
6. L Kol L Vavcha
7. Be Like You
8. The Banker
9. Princess and the Honey Bee
10. Perfect Shade (Blue)
11. Ari Ari

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. Learnaboutconcerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at www.madfolk.org.

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"...leading virtuoso on the autoharp...distinct gifts as a singer and songwriter."

People Magazine



**Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

Bryan Bowers

Friday, January 17, 2014

7:00 pm

THE BRINK LOUNGE, 701 E. Washington, Suite 105

Tickets \$14 advance, \$16 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.



RARE BLEND OF GREAT VOICES, FINE GUITAR PLAYING



Small Potatoes

Friday, February 7, 2014

7:00 pm

THE BRINK LOUNGE, 701 E. Washington, Suite 105

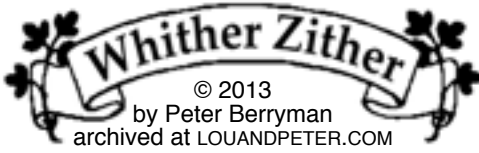
Tickets \$13 advance, \$16 day of show

Available at: www.madfolk.org,

Spruce Tree Music, Orange Tree Imports

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





Till the Lordly Hudson Seaward

Though I did win a second place ping pong ribbon in 8th grade, which I've probably bragged about in previous Whither Zithers, I've never been much of a sports guy, nor much of a school spirit guy.

But I have to admit I watch the occasional Packer game. My wife Kristi and I were watching one today as a matter of fact (Packers 37, Dallas 36), and I asked her a question that everyone in Wisconsin knows the answer to except us: Do the Packers have a *fight song*? I Googled and found that they do indeed. It's called **Gnaw Out Their Guts**. No it isn't; I'm kidding. It's **Tote Thy Spheroid Spritely**. Kid-ding again. It's **Go, You Packers, Go**.

This had me thinking about the fight song in general and the yang to its yin, the school song or as it's often called, the alma mater ("nourishing mother"). I suppose the true flip side of a fight song should be a *flight* song (*Cower, tremble, timid be; Flee, oh Grey Squirrels, up the tree*). But it's usually a lofty vintage-styled and romanticized lyric about school pride and honor and such spirited but vague emotions. I remember only a few of the school songs of my youth in Appleton WI, the earliest being the first two lines from Franklin Elementary's anthem:

Take off your hats to Franklin
Where safety is a rule...

That's all I remember. Then came Roosevelt Junior High, whose song I do not remember at all, if there was one. Those were the dark years of pimples and braces. I must have subconsciously decided not to memorize any song commemorating those dismal days. Then came Appleton High, with not one but at least TWO songs that I recall; I must have been feeling a little better. I think this first one was as close as they came to having a fight song, pretty mild even though the team was called the Terrors and had

as a logo the face of a devil. And note that oddly it features another mention of removing hats, just like the Franklin Elementary song:

*Appleton, our hats off to thee,
To our colors true we will ever be
Firm and strong, united are we,
Rah, rah, rah for Appleton,
Rah, rah, rah for Appleton,
Rah for our dear old high*

Then there was the school song:

*In the rolling river valley,
Where the Fox flows by,
A famous highschool rears the banner
Appleton on high (etc)*

CHORUS:
*Sing her praises through the valley
Send them ringing on,
Do great deeds for Alma Mater
Splendid Appleton*

As it turns out, this song is based on and uses the same melody as the alma mater of Cornell College in Ithaca NY. Appleton's is a valley song, Cornell's is a hill song. My music partner Lou and I have played on the Cornell campus, and it is indeed on a hill with a lovely view of Ithaca:

*Far above the busy humming
Of the bustling town,
Reared against the arch of heaven,
Looks she proudly down (etc.)*

CHORUS:
*Lift the chorus, speed it onward,
Loud her praises tell;
Hail to thee, our alma mater!
Hail, all hail, Cornell!*

According to Cornell's FAQ, Cornell's anthem was the first of many school songs to come, all based on the melody of a song called **Annie Lisle**, written in Boston by H.S. Thompson in the late 1850s, about a dying woman, a subject popular back then for some weird reason (see half of Steven Foster's songs). Another of Thompson's dying woman songs, **Down by the River Liv'd a Maiden**, is believed to have been the inspiration for **Oh My Darling Clementine**.

In an incomplete list, Wikipedia shows dozens and dozens of schools and universities whose official songs use the **Annie Lisle** melody. I say "in-

complete" because Appleton Sr. High isn't mentioned, though Ripon College is. Anyway, here are some of the original **Annie Lisle** lyrics. If any of your schools had a song, you probably already know the tune:

*Sweet came the hallow'd chiming
Of the Sabbath bell,
Borne on the morning breezes
Down the woody dell*

*On a bed of pain and anguish
Lay dear Annie Lisle,
Chang'd were the lovely features,
Gone the happy smile (etc.)*

CHORUS:
*Wave willows, murmur waters,
Golden sunbeams, smile!
Earthy music cannot waken
Lovely Annie Lisle.*

The melody of **Annie Lisle**, and the style of language, is the template for school songs of pimpled and braced ping pongers the world over. And I love the strange phony-archaic language stylings. Here are snippets:

*Till the lordly Hudson seaward
Cease to roll his heaving tide,
Stand, Columbia! Alma Mater
Through the storms of Time abide
(Columbia)*

—
*Every student, man and maiden,
Swells the glad refrain,
Till the breezes music laden,
Waft it back again
(U of Missouri)*

—
*Whenever we're put to the test
We'll remember our spirits grand
Instructing, persuading and guiding
Throughout our Dixie Land
(Dixie State College)*

—
*Stuyvesant High School now and ever
Deep graven on each heart.
Shall be found unwavering true
When from life we part.
(Stuyvesant High School)*

So there you go. Countless other examples can be found online. I am fighting the urge to go back and write school songs more in line with my unfair memories of such institutions, but they'll have to wait for my next series, **Whither Zither: The Dark Side**.

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

December 2013

Mad Folk Events



Bryan Bowers

• Friday, January 17, show starts at 7, doors at 6:30
At the Brink Lounge-\$14 advance, \$16 day of show

Small Potatoes

• Friday, February 7, show starts at 7, doors at 6:30
At the Brink Lounge-\$13 advance, \$16 day of show

Bill Staines

• Saturday, March 1, show starts at 7, doors at 6:30
At the Brink Lounge-\$15 advance, \$17 day of show

April Verch

• Saturday, April 14, show starts at 7, doors at 6:30
At the Brink Lounge-\$15 advance, \$17 day of show

Venues



The Brink Lounge

See above

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



Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:00pm unless indicated otherwise

No shows currently listed for January and February.
Check cafecarpe.com for updates.

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

FOLKLORE VILLAGE Folklore Village

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

• Fri, Jan 7-Open Mic

Mother Fool's
Coffeeshouse
1101 Williamson St.
motherfools.com
608-259-1030


Mother Fool's

Fri Jan 17th-Brianna Lea Prueltt-8pm \$6

"Folk singer-songwriter from Gold Country, California, Brianna Lea Pruettt's sound reflects a mix of experience and influence. Born in the mountains of Northern California, her indie-minded folk and blues, informed by Appalachian roots and mixed heritage, strikes a unique chord.

With a voice that is fresh, raw, yet smooth and somehow familiar, Brianna Lea Pruettt sews several genres together seamlessly in her own classic crafted material. Pruettt has been compared to Gillian Welch, Ryan Adams, and Mazzy Star. She is accompanied by banjoist Wes Murphy."

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:

<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.

Misc

Madison Ukulele Club-- Singalongs 1st and 3rd Weds 7:00-9:00pm
-call for location- 246-8205 (Andrew)

Cajun jam held every first Sunday 2 p.m.-5 p.m.
At the Froth House: 11 N. Allen St., Madison We welcome all levels of experience with instruments and Cajun music.
kcholden@wisc.edu for more info. www.prairiebayoucajun.com

On the Air



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 89.9 FM community radio
Sun -- 3:00-5:00pm
• On the Horizon (world music) w/Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak & Dan Talmo
Weekdays 9:00am-noon
• Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over) w/ David & Martin Alvarado & Eugenia Highland
• Tue -- For the Sake of the Song (traditional American folk) w/Jim Schwall
• 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

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. -- 835-0914

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

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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
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