

MadFolk News

Ellis Paul returns to Madison April 24th!

♪ It has been a few years since Ellis has been on a MadFolk stage and we are eagerly awaiting to hear this show!

Ellis Paul's songwriting credentials are unassailable. They are as genuine as the 14 Boston Music Awards he has earned, as indelible as the tattoo of Woody Guthrie that adorns his arm, and as authentic as the musical roots he draws upon with every note he plays.

Since emerging from the Boston music scene, Ellis Paul's music has been consistently recognized and celebrated worldwide. His 16 releases and loyal, enthusiastic audiences reinforce this acclaim and have since cemented his place as one of America's most talented songwriters. With 16 CDs, a concert DVD, and a book of poems and short stories to his credit, Ellis' songs have been featured on the soundtracks to documentaries, TV shows and big Hollywood films such as The Farrelly Brother's 'Hall Pass', 'Me, Myself & Irene', and 'Shallow Hal'. Ellis is a true American troubadour, performing over 150 tour dates a year, for over 20 years all around the world. He has shared

the stage with some of the top names in the music world including: Pete Seeger, John Mayer, Arlo Guthrie, Richie Havens, Dar Williams, Shawn Colvin, and multi-platinum band Sugarland, among others.

His 2011 Release "The Day After Everything Changed" was recorded in Nashville and 100% funded by his fans. The album features five songs co-written by his good friend, Kristian Bush of Sugarland, and several of the Sugarland band members served as Ellis' backing band for the recording. Throughout the past couple of years, to keep the collaboration alive, Paul opened numerous sold-out arena dates for Sugarland on their Incredible Machine Tour.

Recently, Ellis has been extremely busy, releasing his second family album, entitled, "The Hero in You", that features 12 American heroes such as: Rosa Parks, Woody Guthrie, Jackie Robinson, Thomas Edison and more. This release won the Gold Parents' Choice Award, the top honor awarded in family music. "The Hero in You" serves as a follow up to "The Dragonfly Races", Ellis' first family album,

and a Silver Parents' Choice Award winner which was honored by being National Public Radio's "Top 10" pick for Children's music. Additionally, in December of 2012, Ellis released his very first holiday album, "City of Silver Dreams", featuring 9 original tracks and one cover, with one song co-written by Ellis, Kristian Bush and Jennifer Nettles of Sugarland. The release is a 'fan release only' (commercial release in late 2013), as a part of his fan-supported fundraiser that is currently being held to support Ellis' upcoming new studio album, set to be released in the first half of 2013. The new studio release has Sugarland's Kristian Bush as producer. "Ellis has a voice that is so powerful that you know who it is the second he comes through your radio. His music and songs are a new birth in American sound that makes me want to go see concerts again." Kristian Bush / Sugarland

Woody Guthrie's daughter, Nora, says of Ellis, "A singer songwriter is only as good as the times he reflects. Wise, tender, brilliant and biting, Ellis is one of our best human compasses, marking in melodies and poems where we've been and where we might go if we so choose to. Personally Ellis, I'm goin' where you're goin'!"

So mark your calendar for April 24th, 7:00 at The Brink Lounge (doors open at 6:30), tickets are \$15 advance and \$17 day of show. PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A FOOD ITEM FOR THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRY.





Review by Darcy Greder

Truly, a not-to-be-missed opportunity to hear and see one of the leading singer-songwriters on the folk scene today happens on April 24 with the return of Ellis Paul! Whether you prefer folk, new folk or the moniker of urban acoustic folk, undeniably one of the most accomplished artists in the genre today is Ellis Paul. He is touring in support of his new release, *Chasing Beauty*—the most recent of 19 recordings. Ellis is the winner of over 15 Boston Music awards, and despite his 25 years in the business still tours over 200 dates a year. When the recession hit and began to affect the number of clubs booking shows, Ellis branched out and developed a new fan base by penning two children’s albums comprised, in part, of songs that he wrote for the delight of his own two daughters. Accolades for his children’s work followed, and Ellis’ career has always included music used in numerous commercials, documentaries, TV shows and in the soundtracks. But at the center of it all, Ellis is a songsmith, modern day troubadour and story-teller. His new CD, *Chasing Beauty*, showcases the strength of this singer songwriter in the fullness of his talent. Fans have eagerly awaited the release of the CD, a disc nearly two years in the making but well worth the wait. Not only did fans anticipate this offering but they crowd funded it to the tune of \$100,000. Fourteen tracks containing a mix of bal-

lads, acoustic and band-driven compositions are contained herein, produced by Kristian Bush of the Grammy-award winning duo Sugarland and his brother, Brandon formerly of the San Francisco based band Train. Both brothers play on a number of the tracks with beautiful backing vocals supplied by Red Molly and Rebecca Loebe. Additional instrumental backing comes from Travis McNabb on drums, Tim Smith on bass and guitar, and Megan Lovell on slide and dobro. Rounding out the band are Gray Griggs on bass, Megan Lovell on lap steel with touches here and there from Tim Smith (bass), Ben Torres (trombone), Michael Snell (trumpet) and Brandyn Taylor (baritone sax). Listeners will enjoy the mix of arrangements and instrumentations that provide support but never overshadow what is at the heart of Ellis’ work whether in the studio or onstage—the clarity of his voice and the richness of his language. He is a keen observer of life, able to tell a story—his own or another’s—with authenticity and intimacy. In *Hold Me, Scold Me*, Ellis writes a deeply personal ode to his daughter, telling her how she has changed him, “You are the best love/I’ve ever had.” *Waiting on a Break* may or may not be autobiographical as it offers the yearning of every aspiring musician to leave the day job for a life of making music as the means of making way in the world. The world-weary *Wasted* offers up a barstool next to his as lost love makes way for a lost night or weekend as drinking to forget unfolds. The nearly 15-second banjo intro to *Wasted* is worth price of admission to his sorrow. *Plastic Soldiers* moves the listener from observing a young boy wagging war with his plastic soldiers to his resolve to live life after losing limbs in Afghanistan. Never op-

posed to collaboration, *Chasing Beauty* contains several songs in which Ellis shares writing credits including *Drive In Movie* (Nashville based husband/wife duo Dave and Julia Carlson and both Bush brothers), *UK Girl* (Kristian Bush and Radosly Lorkovic), and *One Kiss Could Do Me In* (Red Molly’s Laurie MacAllister) among several others. *Chasing Beauty* is a richly textured CD that showcases one of the real talents working today—listen to the CD, and plan to attend Ellis’ Madison show on April 24 at the Brink.

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.

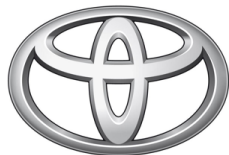
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836-8422 ~ nfwodke@chorus.net
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distribution
246-4332 ~ speedydd99@yahoo.com
- Neil Morris.....Newsletter
editor
358-5855 ~ madfolk@wiscomfort.com
- Meg Skinner..... Scholarships
238-6950 ~ askinner@wisc.edu
- David Eagan.....
249-0409 ~ djeagan@gmail.com
- Ron Dennis
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Mad Folk Logo

The other day my sister Mary asked me my opinion on cars. She drives a VW and likes it but it's getting old, and she's looking around. I asked her what she thought of Hondas and Toyotas. She said she'd never buy a Toyota. I asked her why and she said



because she hates the Toyota logo (left). Since then I've asked around and found that some people like this logo and others agree vehemently with my sister. It's clever, containing (if you work at it) all the letters in the word TOYOTA, but you have to admit it doesn't seem to suggest anything desirable about the car, unless I'm missing something.

But I wondered if an unappealing logo is enough of a reason to not buy a particular car. It took me about two seconds to decide: Yes! And corporations know the importance of a good logo all too well. The website graphicdesign.com lists the world's five most expensive logos. The winner is Symantec's black check mark in a yellow circle (right), for the designing of which Symantec reportedly paid one billion, two hundred eighty million dollars.



All this reminds me of a recent personal coincidence with the Wisconsin Blue Fist union logo (left). On the WI AFL-CIO page there's a short article about it. Inspired by earlier union-fist logos, it was designed by Carrie Worthen of Third Thing in Los Angeles. It was mentioned that Carrie is from Appleton. I grew up in Appleton around the corner from a family

named Worthen. Our family cat, who lived with us for twenty years, was one of the Worthen family cat's offspring. I wrote to her out of curiosity, and to thank her for creating this rallying graphic. Turns out Carrie was indeed my neighbor, as she explained in a very cordial reply. That logo was a powerful unifying force in the recent populist uprising, and now I like to think our cat Tippy had something to do with Carrie's inspiration.

But what can all this logo-talk possibly have to do with folk music? Well, a few months ago, knowing that one of my stints in this weird life was as a graphic artist, Madison Folk Music Society's head cheese Darlene Buhler mentioned that Mad Folk was looking for a new logo, and wondered if I'd like to give it some thought. The current logo (left) is friendly and informative,



but maybe something a bit less complicated might be more convenient and memorable.

You can divide logos into two groups: Those that are based upon the organization's name or initials (called *logotypes*), like the logos of Ford, Coca Cola, and IBM, and those that aren't, like Nike, Apple, and Starbucks. Most folk music society logos are a sort of combo. I tried playing with a few of the second type -- a design only -- but decided this wouldn't mean much to anyone who wasn't already familiar with Mad Folk. After goofing around on many a napkin and envelope, and noodling with my cut rate graphics software, I've come up with a combo idea that is far from perfect, but may serve as a starting point for discussion.

Obviously, there are many considerations in logo design. For the Mad Folk logo, you wonder if the nickname "Mad Folk" should be included, or just the full society name, or neither. You wonder if the Capitol dome should be included, or the state outline, or some other indication of the club's location. You wonder if a musical symbol or musical instrument should be shown, to hint at the nature of the group. You consider if color should come into it, or if it should be a single, black and white

design, easy to make into a rubber stamp.

After trying a few ideas that incorporated the Capitol, I kept feeling queasy about associating the club with the state government, so gave up that idea, though it was tempting to use the dome and its reflection in the lake as the head of a banjo, with the neck being the shoreline, and the tuning pegs doubling as MG&E smokestacks.

So anyway, and this is just a suggestion, I have come up with the following, with one possible variation. It's a banjo-like thing, with the name AND the nickname of the club, very rubber-stamp-able and easy to put on a T-shirt or guitar case sticker. It has no reference to locality, and that's where the variation comes in. By adding the suggestion of a reflection, as shown below, it gives the idea (I hope) of a frozen lake, and what more represents Madison than a frozen lake?

I propose the use of both versions of the logo, with the reflection-less version used for incidences where reproducing the reflection's gradient would be difficult (rubber stamp, T-shirt) and also where a more stark logo is desirable. The one with the reflection could be used on stationary, on the web site, etc.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it. This all falls smack dab in the center of the "just a suggestion" inbox; would love to hear any thoughts on the matter. Meanwhile I'm trying to decide what to do with my one billion, two hundred eighty million dollars.

Here it is. Whatcha think? No banjo jokes, please:



“...a national treasure. In the world of acoustic-based songwriting, there’s Ellis Paul and then there’s everybody else.”

- Gregory Robson, Absolute Punk



photo by Jack Looney

**Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

Ellis Paul

Friday, April 24

7:00 pm

THE BRINK LOUNGE, 701 E. Washington, Suite 105

Tickets \$15 advance, \$17 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.

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

April 2015

Mad Folk Events



Ellis Paul

Friday April 24 -- 7pm
The Brink Lounge 701 E. Washington Ave. Suite 105
\$15 adv, \$17 d.o.s.

Venues

FOLKLORE VILLAGE

Folklore Village

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

- Wed, April 1 -- Memory Cafe - @12:30pm
- Tue, April 7 -- Open Mic - @7pm
- Sat, April 11 -- Healthy Hoe Down Dance - @6:30pm
- Fri - Sun, April 24-26 -- English Country Dance weekend w/ The Bare Necessities



Wild Hog in the Woods

- All shows at 8pm
- April 3 Mad City Jug Band
 - April 10 Madison Songwriters Night
 - April 17 Special Event -- Lee Murdock
 - April 24 Polkalamity Pleasure Society / Leaves of Green
 - May 8 Jason Moon

Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Thursday, April 2, Bobby Long - @8pm - \$15
- Friday, April 3, Open Stage - @7:30pm
- Saturday, April 4, Brothers Quinn - \$10
- Thursday, April 9, The New Pioneers - @7pm - \$10
- Friday, April 10, Curtis & Loretta
- Saturday, April 11, TBA
- Sunday, April 12, Tim Grimm & Jan Lucas - @7pm - \$10
- Friday, April 17, Tricia Alexander / Pete Johnson / Bill Camplin
- Saturday, April 18, JP Cyr & his Radio Wranglers - \$15
- Friday, April 24, Katie Burns Band
- Saturday, April 25, Ryan Joseph Anderson / Matthew Frances Andersen - \$7



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

Irish Cultural & Heritage Center
2133 W Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI -- ichc.net
414-345-8800

- Saturday, April 11, Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas - 7:30pm
\$21 adv / \$25 d.o.s. - \$10 for students w/ ID

Gigs

Dave & Anne Host Folk

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Dave & Anne at annedave@chorus.net

- April 17th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Dave McGraw and Mandy Fer -- \$18 / \$15 under 18
- June 5th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Kelly McCrae & Matt Castlelein -- \$18 / \$15 under 18
- July 18th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Kim and Reggie Harris -- \$18 / \$15 under 18
- August 5th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Claudia Schmidt & Sally Rogers-- \$18 / \$17 under 18

Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Kiki at righteousmusicgmt@gmail.com

- April 3rd @ 9 pm (doors at 8) Brennen Leigh & Noel McKay / Evan Murdock -- \$10
- April 10th @ 9 pm (doors at 8) Sam Baker / Gerald Dowd -- \$15
- April 18th @ 9 pm (doors at 8) Micah Schnabel -- \$8
- April 28th @ 8 pm (doors at 7) Anders Parker -- \$20
- May 7th @ 8 pm (doors at 7) Leo & Anto -- \$25

The Home of Mike & Carol

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Mike at maddog-210@charter.net

- April 26th @ 7 pm (doors at 6:30) Zoe Mulford -- \$15

April 28th - Chris Vallilo - The Wisconsin Historical Museum 30 N. Carrol St, Madison -- @5pm

Old Blind Dogs / Socks in the Frying Pan - traditional Irish music from County Clare, Ireland
Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 4 pm
Larry's on Loreto Ridge (Hillpoint), WI
\$20 suggested offering at the door
RSVP essential...first come, first served
RSVP and more info at: www.McCluskeyBros.com
all RSVPs confirmed by email

Misc

Old Time Jam

Monthly - 2nd Sunday of every month, 4 to 6pm
EVP West 3809 Mineral Point Road
Coodinator: Al Wilson
cell: 608-572-0634
adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu

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.-4 p.m. At Cargo Coffee 750 East Washington Ave, Madison We welcome all levels of experience with instruments and Cajun music.
Call Karen at 608-238-6039 for more info. www.prairiebayoucajun.com

On the Air



wpr.org

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-fm.org

WORT 89.9 FM community radio

Sun -- 3:00-5:00pm
• "On the Horizon" w/ Ford Blackwell, Tracy Lawrence, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Jason Rowe
Weekdays 9:00am-noon
• Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over) w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado
• 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. -- 233-2956



Friday, April 17th, 2015
8 pm
Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center
953 Jenifer St.
Wild Hog in the Woods Presents
Lee Murdock
Tickets: \$10.00 in advance

Advance tickets available 4/2/15 at: Orange Tree Imports,
BSide Records, Spruce Tree Music, and Willy Street Co-op-- East

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

Complete, clip, and mail this form

Madison Folk Music Society
P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701
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Renew your membership today at
www.madfolk.org

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Madison, WI
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Madison Folk Music Society

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Name _____

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City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Choose membership category:

Senior	\$8	_____
Student	\$10	_____
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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