

MadFolk News

Folk shows coming to Stoughton this Feb!

Folk Music celebrates the traditions and cultures of communities throughout the world, and in February at the Stoughton Opera House traditional music forms with a twist abound!

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus offers harmony in music to inspire harmony in community and exists to provide a visible presence and a positive voice in and for the Wisconsin LGBT communities and beyond. They'll be performing on February 6th – if choral music is your thing then you might just find yourself singing along.

Chitravina N. Ravikiran, one of the most inspiring ambassadors of Indian music and culture, will be performing with the Madison Bach Musicians on February 12th. Expect Ravikiran to explore his concept of Melharmony, which has been defined as "harmony and vertical layers of music with an emphasis on the rules and principles of highly evolved melodic systems". It was initially seen as a unique classi-

cal fusion engaging Western and Indian Classical systems, though it has subsequently also been a synthesis of melodic rules of India's classical music with jazz, Brazilian and other world cultures - proving once again that music is a universal language we can all understand.

On February 20th Sierra Hull - recognized from age 11 as a virtuoso mandolin-player, and now a seasoned touring musician in her mid-20s, will perform in support of her new album *Weighted Mind*. The new record has been heralded as a landmark achievement in the world of folk-pop, bluegrass, and acoustic music overall. Produced by Béla Fleck and special harmony vocal guests Alison Krauss, Abigail Washburn, and Rhiannon Giddens, Hull speaks eloquently, in her challenging and sensitive originals and once again breaks new ground on the mandolin.

Madison band Graminy fuses clas-

sical and grassroots traditions—from Bach to bluegrass, Copland to Celtic, Gershwin to Native American, Kodaly to Klezmer. Graminy's music focuses on themes of ecology and place, and just as its botanical namesake *Gramineae* encompasses the entire grass family, Graminy draws on the entire family of grassroots traditions, from all places and ecologies, to develop its refreshing, surprising, ever-captivating sound. Stop out to the Opera House on February 26th to have a listen!

Robin Puer with Mrs. Fun will perform on February 27th. Robin Puer, a perennial WAMI winner, has been performing and composing music for more than 20 years. Her engaging talent has afforded her opportunities from Garrison Keeler's "Prairie Home Companion" and NPR's "World Cafe" to touring in Europe. Her passionate mélange of vintage French chansons with a twist of *je ne sais quoi* is sure to warm your winter weary heart.

The Joys and Benefits of Singing in Groups

Those who attend Madison's monthly Music Night (the first Friday of every month) and MadFolk's summer Singalongs know what scientists are just beginning to document – singing in groups is good for you. The movie *Alive Inside*, research by the late Oliver Sachs in *Musicophilia*, and a recent 4 month study in an East coast retirement center confirmed that singing in groups has healthful benefits beyond the sociability and harmony. In the latter study, Alzheimer's patients showed marked improvement by singing showtunes. Folks who sing together, have to breathe together.

And since an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, MadFolk recommends getting together with family and friends and singing together. One useful tool: the recently published *Rise Again Songbook*, which builds on the earlier *Rise Up Singing: The Group Singing Songbook* & contains the words and chords to 1200 songs. Compilers Peter Blood and Annie Patterson have added several new sections, including *Rock Around the Clock* (early rock and roll from 1950 to 1963), *Motown and R&B*, *Musicals*, *Surfin' USA* (1963-95), and *Millennial Songs* (1995-present). Music Night singers on New Years night happily

went between Book 1 & 2 in calling out requests of songs to sing. One is tempted to say if a song isn't in either book, it isn't worth singing, but of course great new songs are being written every day by singer-songwriters, including Madison's own Peter and Lou Berryman, who only have 5 of their gems between the two books. And there are hundreds more in their own songbook and its supplement.

MadFolk has a limited number of copies of the new *Rise Again Songbooks*, which will be sold at the CD table at MadFolk concerts, until the supply runs out. Books can also be ...continued on next page

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obtained on line (google Rise Again Songbook) in regular and large format. If you have had enough of election politics, and need to lower your blood pressure, get together with a group of your friends, and sing songs of Dignity and Diversity, or Hope and Strength, or Healing and Letting Go, all new sections in Rise Again. You will sleep better that night!

February at Kiki's House of Righteous Music


Last year was a remarkable one in the basement. I crossed Darren Hanlon and Jim White off my wish list, and I moved Matt Pond and Mike Doughty from the "never gonna happen" list to the "I can't believe that happened" list. The year 2016 is starting off strong with a longtime favorite making his first visit, and the return of a trio that played one of my favorite house concerts ever back in 2012.

On February 6 Adam Levy of Minneapolis band the Honeydogs will be making his first appearance. I've been a fan since 1997's near-perfect record *Seen a Ghost*, the third in a string of greats stretching from 1995 to 2012, and a fantastic show that same year at the long-gone Mango Grill. Last year, Levy released a solo record, *Naubinway* (which you can listen to in its entirety on Bandcamp), that made all kinds of Minnesota 2015 top-ten lists. It's an intensely personal record dealing with the grief of his son's suicide, but it's also a beautiful and moving listen. A new Honeydogs record is also in the works to be released later this year. The band used to play Madison fairly regularly, but in recent years they haven't been as visible, often skipping Madison on

their way to Chicago. Hopefully this show will remind Levy that Madison still cares. Opening will be Oedipus Tex, the alter ego of El Valiente's Eric Caldera. As a solo artist Caldera creates beautiful guitar melodies that carry his engaging vocals. I'm embarrassed to admit I just saw Oedipus Tex for the first time a couple of months ago. A friend had told me he should be opening all of my shows. She was right.

The Not Ready for Naptime Players will be entertaining Madison's children on February 28 at the High Noon, but Justin Roberts, Liam Davis and Gerald Dowd, the "Up Past Their Bedtime Players" (as I like to call them), will be playing for a slightly older crowd in the basement the night before. Dowd is a frequent visitor to the basement, drumming with Chris Mills and Kelly Hogan, opening for Matt the Electrician and Sam Baker, and most recently sharing the stage with Robbie Fulks last month. His first solo full-length album, *Home Now*, was one of my favorite records of 2014. He's also one of my favorite people in the whole world. Liam Davis is one of the founding members and distinctive voices of Chicago power-pop geniuses Frisbie. He's an awesome guitar

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 (with \$1.62 service charge):

<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.

player and a talented producer--just ask him, he'll tell you. Roberts is a two-time Grammy nominee for Best Children's Album who writes pop songs that are every bit as infectious as his kids songs. Though I'd be lying if I said I didn't enjoy them both equally. All three know their way around a killer tune. This is a show you simply can't see anywhere else.

February 6, 9 pm (doors at 8), Adam Levy/Oedipus Tex, suggested donation \$12

February 27, 9 pm (doors at 8), Justin Roberts, Liam Davis and Gerald Dowd, suggested donation \$10

Email me at righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com for more info, to make a reservation, or to be added to my email list.

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/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835>



Review by Kiki Schueler

In July 2014 the Hideout, Chicago's most loved small venue (if you believe the website), and Lagunitas Brewery sent Robbie Fulks and an assortment of Mekons to Scotland for a curious series of shows in remote, and often barely populated, locations. Fulks has spent much of the last half dozen years' worth of Mondays on stage at the Hideout, regularly bringing in a crowd on what would normally be a slow night. And the Mekons drink a lot of Lagunitas beer. Still, it's hard to know exactly what the motivation was for its sponsorship of the excursion. The clan came home with tales of drunkenness, complaints of a lack of modern conveniences (mostly from Fulks), and this record. Jura takes its name from the Scottish island on which it was recorded, which, despite having a population of 200, has a recording studio (though apparently no soap or toilet paper). The Mekons were part of the first wave of British punk rock bands, while Fulks is best known as a bluegrass and traditional country artist. Together they made a surprisingly folky record. The limitations of location, instrumentation, and personnel yielded a product that while at times is sloppy and shambolic is never less than charming.

The prefix "mini" indicates that the Mekons usual nine-person lineup had been trimmed to a relatively lean five for this trip. The drummer and the bass player were among those absent,

meaning that these songs were created from acoustic guitar, accordion, violin, banjo and electric saz. Fulks calls it "a dogged investigation into a narrow frequency range" in the liner notes. The elderly harmonium found in the studio also became a major player, its whistling and wheezing turns the traditional tune "Go from My Window" into something quite haunted. The sometimes audible sound of pumping on opening track "A Fearful Moment" is like an arrhythmic shaker behind Rico Bell's accordion and melodramatically soothing vocals. Bell takes lead again on "Getting on with It," an engagingly jaunty tune that puts Susie Honeyman's lovely violin on best display. The otherworldly beauty of Sally Timms's voice turns the dirge-like "I Am Come Home" into an ephemeral lullaby. The same goes for "Shine on Silver Seas," also featuring Honeyman. It's as if the women in the group felt it was their job to counter some of the ribaldry the men were putting on tape.

Jon Langford's winning Welsh accent seems made for songs of the sea, and he indulges heartily in them here. "An Incident off St. Kitt's" is shrouded in mystery and whiskey. Was it mutiny, murder, or just misdirection? "Land Ahoy" celebrates the joy of life at sea, while "The Last Fish in the Sea" tells the tale of the cod that went from the frying pan to being the one that got away. The tune is instantly familiar, reminiscent of another Langford song you can't put your finger on. Fulks's spoken-word interlude is a list of drunken fisherman's clichés that ends with a yodel. It's not the only time he pointedly reminds us of his American-ness. The jangly guitar-fueled "Refill" and its alcohol-fueled narrator is a fine example of redneck country. "I Say, Hang Him!" sounds like a parody of a Decemberists song, and Fulks fluctuates between

serious reading and struggling to keep a straight face. He has a ball taking over the role of absent member Tom Greenhalgh on the Mekons' classic "Beaten and Broken," belting out the verses with bombast.

Unsurprisingly, Jura is not the best record in either artist's catalog. It is an intriguing and ultimately successful experiment into what happens when you confine a handful of musicians to an island with a lot of whiskey and a mission to record an album. Now that's a season of "Survivor" I would watch.

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

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Ja-Da Ja-Da Jing Jing Jing

Every year for the past zillion years, my music partner Lou and I have put on an early New Year's Eve show. We auction off -- for a charitable cause -- a silly painting by yours truly, as an imitation self-portrait by Matisse, because his birthday is Dec. 31.

This year the subject was Matisse's birthday in 1940. He has painted himself as part of Carmen Miranda's trademark fruit-filled hat, because 1940 is the year Carmen swooned the US as the star of the movie *Down Argentine Way*. She is holding Jiminy Cricket who is disguised as Albert Einstein. Jiminy Cricket's debut was in 1940 with an appearance in the film *Pinocchio*. He is disguised because of Matisse's assumed fear of Disney copyright lawyers, and looks like Einstein because 1940 was the 75th anniversary of the publication of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. End of painting description.

In *Pinocchio*, the voice of Jiminy Cricket was performed by Cliff Edwards, also known as Ukulele Ike. Cliff Edwards and his uke enjoyed great popularity in the 20s and 30s, appearing on Broadway and in films and so forth. His latter years were not so fortunate -- he died flat broke in 1971 -- but he had quite a ride.

I was intrigued by this bit of info from Wikipedia: "[Cliff Edwards] got his first break in 1918 at the Arsonia Cafe in Chicago, Illinois, where he performed a song called "Ja-Da", written by the club's pianist, Bob Carleton. Edwards and Carleton made it a hit on the vaudeville circuit. "

That's what this Whither Zither is about, finally. The song Ja-Da. I had never heard of the song before, which I came to find out later put me in a distinct minority. I had to track it down on YouTube, where there reside plenty of examples of it. (To search for it on iTunes or the web, use the phrase "jada jada jing jing jing," because if you just use the word "jada," you'll

have too many unrelated hits, such as for the Journal of the American Dental Association). Though I couldn't find a version on YouTube sung by Cliff Edwards, I bought one for 99¢ on iTunes that Cliff recorded in 1956 with the great Wonderland Jazz Band.

So. I was at a party (rare for me) a few days after coming upon this stellar ditty and mentioned never having heard it, whereupon about four people started right in, belting it out together. Such is the folk process; we're all left out of the processor now and then. But now I'm in the know.

Spurred on by this outburst of song at the party, my friend Sue Deneen went home and found for me (thank you Sue!), in an old Reader Digest music volume, the words and notation for Ja-Da, introduced in part by this: "*On the serious side, musicologist Sigmund Spaeth saw in this gibberish song 'a foretaste of modern Dadaism, Dali and Gertrude Stein.'*"

Gosh, who can say? But this melody did seem so crazy familiar to me that I knew I had been injected with its ear-worm somewhere in the vast past. I thrashed around the few remaining memory cells and, by golly, I found it.

My high school in Appleton WI, had and still has a sports team called the Terrors. Their fight song was, and probably still is (with a different fourth line than shown here; I can't remember the original):

*Terrors, Terrors, T-E-R-R-O-R, S.
Terrors, Terrors, T-E-R-R-O-R, S.
We're the team that can't be beat
Purple hair and stinky feet
Terrors, Terrors, T-E-R-R-O-R, S.*

And the melody of this song is the Ja-Da chorus melody! A few short days after I was struck with this epiphany, my wife Kristi -- who is also from Appleton -- was talking about her reckless youth, and how she and her brother used to drive 30 miles to Waupaca with their fake IDs to get drunk and watch a filthy band called Doug Clark and the Hot Nuts. She then sang the only song of theirs she could remember: "Hot nuts, hot nuts, get 'em from your peanut man." And -- you guessed it -- it was to the melody of the Ja-Da chorus! Now,

often when I tell people about this song and sing a little of it, the reaction is, "I'm sure I heard a commercial with this melody..." and I wouldn't be surprised if they had. It's catchy.

And that catchiness is why Ja-Da became a jazz standard, recorded by countless artists and bands such as Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, Al Hirt, The Pointer Sisters, The Four Seasons, Bob Crosby, etc. Suddenly, to me, it seems like it's everywhere. Where have I been? Here are the lyrics, as recorded from a YouTube video of a piano roll of the song, apparently produced in 1918, the year the song was written. The YouTube URL for this piano roll is:

<https://youtu.be/rrwCJXrsBL0>

And here's a recording of Arthur Fields singing it in 1918:

<https://youtu.be/1wMQb8QQzBs>

The lyrics are stupid which I think makes them catchier. At least that's the theory behind my own life's work:

Ja-Da ©1918 Bob Carleton

*You've heard all about your raggy melodies
Everything from opera down to harmony
But I've a little song that I will sing to you
It's going to win you thru and thru*

*There ain't much to the words but the music is grand
And you'll be singing it to beat the band
Now you've heard of your will-O'-the wisp,
But give a little listen to this; it goes*

Chorus:

*Ja-Da, Ja-Da, Ja-Da Ja-Da Jing Jing Jing
Ja-Da, Ja-Da, Ja-Da Ja-Da Jing Jing Jing*

*That's a funny little bit of melody,
It's so soothing and appealing to me; it goes
(Chorus)*

*Now everyone was singing a Hawaiian strain
Everyone seemed to have it on their brain
When Ya-ka-hicky-hoo-la-do was all the craze
Why, that's the one that had 'em dazed*

*The object now is for something new
Something that will appeal to you
And here's a little mel-o-dy
That you will find will linger, linger
There on your mind; it goes
(Chorus)*

*That's a funny little bit of melody,
It's so soothing and appealing to me; it goes
(Chorus)*

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This program is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.


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The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

February 2015

Mad Folk Events



David Francey

Tuesday April 19th
The Brink Lounge 701 E. Washington Ave. Ste 105
608-661-8599

Venues

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

Folklore Village

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

- Tue, Feb 2 -- Open Mic @7pm
- Sat, Feb 6 -- Healthy Hoe-Down Dance w/ Galpaca Farm, The Firesides & Roger Diggle @6:30pm
- Sat, Feb 27 -- Pop Wagner Cinch Making Class 12-4pm
- Sat, Feb 27 -- Pop Wagner & Bob Bovee in Concert 7:30pm
- Sun, Feb 28 -- Day 2-Cinch Making Class 10am -2pm



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

Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Thu, Feb 4, New Pioneers - @7pm - \$10
- Thu, Feb 11, Albert Lee - @8pm - SOLD OUT
- Fri, Feb 12, Dan Navarro - @8pm - \$15
- Sat, Feb 13, Krause Family Band - @8pm - \$10
- Sun, Feb 14, Colin O'Brien/Mary Gaines/Chris Wagoner- @7pm
- Thu, Feb 18, Song Circle w/ Tricia Alexander - @7pm - \$5
- Fri, Feb 19, Anne Hills - @8pm - \$15
- Sat, Feb 20, Beth Kille - @8pm - \$7
- Fri, Feb 26, Perry Baird, Jeff Mason, Tom Cook - @8pm
- Sat, Feb 27, Kim Richey - \$18

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

Mother Fool's

- Fri, Feb 12, Leah Brooke - Royal Jelly album release w/ Karen Wheelock and Dana Perry - 8pm - \$6

Stoughton Opera House
381 E. Main Street
Stoughton, WI
stoughtonoperahouse.com
608-877-4400

- Sat, February 6, Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus - 3pm - \$12
- Fri, February 12, Melody, Harmony & Melharmony - 7:30pm - \$30
- Sat, February 20, Sierra Hull- 7:30pm - \$25
- Fri, February 26, Graminy - 7:30pm - \$20
- Sat, February 27, Robin Pluer w/ Mrs. Fun - 7:30pm - \$20
- Fri, March 4, Beau Soleil avec Michael Doucet - 7:30pm - \$30
- Sat, March 19, Count This Penny - 7:30pm - \$20

Gigs

Dave & Anne Host Folk

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

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

- February 28th @ 7 pm (doors at 6:30) Peter Mulvey - \$18 / \$15 under 18
- April 3rd @ 7 pm (doors at 6:30) Ellis Paul - \$20 / \$17 under 18
- May 20th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Harpeth Rising - \$20 / \$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

- February 6th @ 9 pm (doors at 8) Adam Levy / Oedipus Tex -- \$12
- February 27th @ 9 pm (doors at 7) Justin Roberts, Liam Davis & Gerald Dowd-- \$10

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 7th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Charlie King w/ Martha Leader

- Lou & Peter's Annual Old Berryman Songs Nite - Friday February 26 -- 7:30pm - The Brink Nightclub - 701 E. Washington Ave, Madison. 608-661-8599

- David HB Drake - Friday, February 19th -- 953 Jenifer St, Madison -- 8pm -- No cover charge!

- Kim Robertson, Celtic harp & Brett Lipshutz, flute & whistles - Saturday, February 27th -- Orchard Ridge UCC Church, 501 Gilbert Rd, Madison -- 4:30pm -- No cover charge!

Misc

Old Time Jam

Monthly - 3rd Sunday of every month, 4 to 6pm

EVP West 3809 Mineral Point Road

Coodinator: Al Wilson

cell: 608-572-0634

adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu

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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.

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On the Air



Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Stephanie Elkins, Host

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WORT 89.9 FM community radio

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• Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over)

w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado

• Tue -- One Fine Morning w/ P.C. Allen

• 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

Is this your last copy of *Mad Folk News*?

There are two ways to renew your **tax-deductible** membership

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