

MadFolk News

MadFolk Member Appreciation Concert Thursday August 10th at The Brink

Madfolk will be hosting a concert that will be free to all members. Start time is 7:00PM at the Brink Lounge. We invite you to join your fellow Madfolk members to enjoy an evening of beautiful music with Anne Hills. It has been a few years since Anne has been on the MadFolk stage either solo or with her trio Voices of Winter, so we were very excited when she agreed to come. Many of our members already know about Anne's music, but perhaps you don't know where she started. Anne was born in Moradabad, India, the third daughter of educational missionaries. Raised in Michigan, she attended Interlochen Arts Academy where she formed her first folk trio. She was also the female vocalist with the Big Band that turned out future jazz greats Peter Erskine, Bob Mintzer and Chris Brubeck. She moved to Chicago's fertile folk scene in 1976 and co-founded the folklore center Hogeeye Music, still a force in the Chicago music scene.

Besides music, Anne has also always had a commitment to social justice (receiving a Masters Degree in Social Work with honors on Mother's Day and recipient of the 2005 **Polizzi Award for Dedication and Service in the Field of Social Work**) and to children keeps her busy with benefit concerts and community service projects. In September of 1997, **The Carole Robertson Center for Learning** gave her its **Award for Outstanding Service and Loyalty**. Located in Chicago, the Center aids families and children in need and is named for the four girls killed in the 1963 Birmingham, Alabama Baptist church bombing. Earlier that year Anne had produced **Part of the Village**, the second in a series of benefit recordings (**That Kind of Grace**, released in 1995, being the first and done with friend David Roth). Both enlisted the help of a variety of fellow artists performing and contributing royalties and profits to the Center's Vision Fund.

But it is Anne's music that will be bringing her to Madison, she has recorded over 22 cd's both as a solo artist or in collaboration with other artists, she is one of the chosen to sing on both compilations of **Where Have All the Flowers Gone? (The Songs**

of Pete Seeger) and **What's That I Hear? (The Songs of Phil Ochs)**. She is currently working on a CD of Train Songs, hmmm, perhaps she will have it done by the times she visits Madison. Anne has racked up numerous music awards on the years, too many to count or mention here.

We will have more about this concert in our August newsletter, we just wanted to make sure you had this "save the date" on your calendar.

I will close this article with a poem by Anne...

Raking Leaves By Moonlight

There must be a confident moon, or the leaves won't begin to glow.

A clear night, or the last fire in their veins will remain diminished.

The scattered stars that shine past the moon will begin the conversation between silver poplar and light.

The white stems will move like letters, trembling.

Take a bit of your precious time.

This will not require headphones or batteries.

Without pressing a play button ...

the music will come singing from the ground.

The distant suns will answer in Morse code, assembling.

A miracle like everything else you are caught up in.

A faulty dance with the rake, lank and unsteady partner.

Taken lightly, or not, the leaves will give scruffy applause ...


beg you to fall down and gather them in your arms, too.

Breathe in, breathe out.

Give up every dream you ever had.

Trust this silly, weary-less world.

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.

THE SECRET SISTERS *You Don't Own Me Anymore*
2017 New West Records

The Secret Sisters story starts like a fairy tale. Discovered at an open audition, real sisters Laura and Lydia Rogers were given a contract with Universal Republic Records, and caught the ear of

T Bone Burnett (perhaps best known for making bluegrass cool again with the *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* soundtrack) who executive produced their first two records. Tours with Bob Dylan, Paul Simon and Willie Nelson followed, as well as several late night appearances. But, as is all too common these days, the label was quick to drop them when their second album didn't perform up to expectations. They were forced to claim bankruptcy and thought their days of recording music were over. Along came long-time friend and collaborator Brandi Carlile who volunteered to produce, and a wildly successful Pledge music campaign that supplied the means. Their third album *You Don't Own Me Anymore* released on New West Records is a triumphant return. The title may declare their new found independence, but it's the twelve tracks that confirm they are stronger than ever.

The songs that make up their third effort are an equal mix of co-writes (three with Carlile, one with Cheyenne Medders and one with Matthew Perryman Jones) and those credited to just the sisters, in addition to two intriguing covers. The first of those is an even gentler reading of Paul Simon's "Kathy's Song." It's sweet and gorgeous, but tends to get lost among the album's showier tunes. Several listens go by before you think "wait a minute, I know that song." The record closes with "Flee as a Bird," a song written in 1840 by Mary Schindler. A nearly a capella showcase for the sisters' always infectious harmonies, it does a great job of hiding its age. The record opens on a rowdier note. "Tennessee River Runs Low" starts slow, but picks up steam as it goes. Guitar and banjo and "o dee odee odee o" choruses ornament this rollicking ode to the river that runs through their home state of Alabama. It wouldn't be a folk record without a proper murder ballad, and boy do things get dark fast. Second track "Mississippi" refers to the state not the river, and tells the tale of a father who would rather kill his daughter than let her run off to the titular state with a rich man's son. "Brought you in to this world, and I can take you from it just the same," he threatens, and all it takes is a whiskey bender for him to carry through on it.

They return to their home state on one of the record's catchiest tunes. "King Cotton" features earworm lyrics and riotous Dixieland barroom piano in a bid to be the next song to get stuck in your head "Try and stop me if you can, 'cause I'm looking for that man, King Cotton and Queen Anne's Lace," they declare before confessing "Alabama, I love you." The state pride is subtler in "He's Fine," but it's telling that the femme fatale who steals her beau Davy White is described only as a "Louisiana Girl." This feels like the record's most biographical song, "Strangers know the songs I write, they come to hear me sing at night, they don't know I've paid the cost, they don't know what I lost." Well, we didn't then, but now we do. Mr. White should have thought a little more carefully about the consequences before breaking this sister's heart. If anything, *You Don't Own Me Anymore* proves that despite all the hardships, the Secret Sisters are indeed just fine.



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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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835>



At My Window

I was standing in the kitchen the other night, staring out the window at the long shadows on the bike path, the red stoplights, the far traffic on the avenue, and the distant blinking red smokestack beacon on the night horizon. In a melancholy mood, I thought back over the many windows I have similarly stared out of in my moody old life. And as I was doing so, I suddenly realized I was singing a song to myself about staring out a window, that I had learned from some otherwise forgotten LP back in my high school years:

At my window sad and lonely • Oft times do I think of thee • And I wonder little darlin' • Do you ever think of me

Currently, I am happily married, my wife was in the next room, and my mood passed like a ghost in a gust. But in my high school years, of course, long dark moods were the norm, and there was quite a bit of "think [ing] of thee" that took place as I gazed nightly from our living room window at the heartbreaking sewage disposal plant lights reflected in the Fox River.

Anyway, Googling for the above lyrics, I found that it's a Woody Guthrie song, though the third line on the Guthrie site is "Sad and lonely and I wonder," with "darling" not coming along until the second verse. The song's title is **At My Window Sad and Lonely**.

But oh, the windows I have stared out of. I've written in a previous Whither Zither about my Homer Louisiana bedroom window which looked out upon the Coke Plant across the street featuring, on Saturday nights, on the second floor, "Teen Town," from whose windows I first heard **Rock Around The Clock**. In later years, as a young grownup, I would have before me a glass of gin on the rocks and a tuna can full of cigarette butts on a peeling window sill as I looked out upon bus stops, bar parking lots, mountains, flashing fried chicken signs, apartment complex swimming pools, traffic jams, and oh so many other evocative panoramas.

There must be more sorrowful songs with

windows in them, I thought. There must be many others who stare out windows and yearn, and sigh, and generally be corny and sentimental and dramatically stupid. And I started brainstorming and Googling, and sure enough.

But even before Googling, this Girl Scout song **Barges** (author unknown) came to me. Not exactly melancholy, but it has a mood, and it has a window:

Out of my window, looking in the night • I can see the barges' flickering light • Silently flows the river to the sea • And the barges too go silently

More to the point, here's a verse by Tom Campbell and Linda Albertabo from a song called **Two Ten Train**:

Well I looked out my window, Mmmm • And I couldn't keep from cryin'. • I saw the train a leavin', Mmmm • Take my baby down the line.

To cheer things up, here's a window-mention, in the good ol' song **Mockin' Bird Hill** by George Vaughn Horton:

When the sun in the morning peeps over the hill • And kisses the roses 'round my window sill • Then my heart fills with gladness when I hear the trill • Of the birds in the treetops on Mockin' Bird Hill.

And back down again with Randy Newman's **I Think It's Gonna Rain Today**:

Broken window, empty hallway • Pale dead moon in a sky streaked with grey • Human kindness overflowing • And I think it's gonna rain today

Here's a tear jerker about looking from the outside in, in the traditional **Green Grow the Lilacs**:

I passed my love's window, both early and late • The look that she gave me, it makes my heart ache • Oh, the look that she gave me was painful to see • For she loves another one better than me.

And of course there's Bob Dylan. Lots of windows in his songs. Here's one in **Don't Think Twice, It's All Right**:

When the rooster crows at the break of dawn • Look out your window and I'll be gone • You're the reason I'm traveling on

• *But don't think twice, it's all right*

Even the spirituals have windows. Here's from **Will The Circle Be Unbroken**:

I was standing by the window • On one cold and cloudy day • And I saw the hearse come rolling • For to carry my mother away.

Here's a real blubberer. The traditional **I'm A Little Orphan Girl**:

I'm a little orphan girl • My mother she is dead • My father is a drunkard • And won't buy me my bread • I leant upon the window-sill • To hear the organ play • And think of my dear mother • Who's dead and far away.

And here's one of the many homesick-for-Ireland songs that gaze out a window. This is from **Roscommon of my Dreams**, by Larry Kilcommins. Roscommon is a county in Ireland. It's also the name of a village in the county, but I think this song is about the county:

As I gazed out of the window • Of this old apartment block • Across the concrete jungle • That's the City of New York • My thoughts go wandering slowly back • To those lovely woods and streams • That I left behind in Ireland • And Roscommon of my dreams.

It didn't take me long at all to come up with these few examples, and I would bet there is a rare songwriter who doesn't have one or two in his bag about gazing out a window. Here are just two more: **Nobody's Business** by Porter Grainger and Everett Robbins:

I got up this morning, looked out my window pane • I was looking for my love, but all I saw was rain.

There probably have been songs like this since the first Cro Magnon teen sang "I stared out the cave at the waterfall, and pined for my charming Neanderthal." Here's one final window song by the Girl Scouts, to the tune of **My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean**:

Last night as I lay on my pillow • Last night as I lay on my bed • I stuck my feet out of the window • In the morning the neighbors were dead

--WZ for July 2017

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

July 2017

Mad Folk Events



2017 Summer Sings!

Free! Family friendly. *Rise Up Singing* books provided!

At the Blue Mounds State Park - Main Shelter

- July 21st @ 8pm (potluck @6:30pm)
- August 18th @ 8pm (potluck @6:30pm)

The setting, as the sun sets over the highest point in southern Wisconsin, is stunning. On a clear evening, the forest fire towers provide views to the Baraboo Hills in the northwest, and back to the glow of Madison to the east. If you come early, there are well-marked nature trails traversing the mounds. To get to Blue Mounds State Park, take 18-151 west past Mount Horeb and Cave of the Mounds, then turn right (north) on County Highway F, and follow the brown state park signs for Blue Mounds State Park. Entrance to the Park requires a yearly park sticker or a daily pass, but once in the park, participation in the Sing-along is free to folkies and campers alike.

Common Chord (Michael Bryant & Tracy Jane Comer + friends)

- Sun, July 23, 2017, Time TBA - Common Chord - The Hop Garden - Verona, WI
- Sat, Aug 12, 2017 @ 7pm - Common Chord - Lakeside Street Coffee House, Madison
- Thu, Aug 17, 2017 @ 7pm - Tracy Jane Comer / Nelson Graham - The Brink Lounge, Madison
- Thu, Sep 7, 2017 @ 2pm - Tracy Jane Comer - The Heights at Evansville Manor, Evansville, WI
- Sat, Oct 7, 2017 @ 7pm - Common Chord - Lakeside Street Coffee House, Madison
- Thu, Oct 19, 2017 @ 7pm - Tracy Jane Comer & Friends - The Brink Lounge, Madison
- Sat, Dec 9, 2017 @ 7pm - Common Chord - Lakeside Street Coffee House, Madison
- Thu, Dec 21, 2017 @ 7pm - Tracy Jane Comer & Friends - The Brink Lounge, Madison

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

Madison Area Ukulele Initiative -- Singalongs 3rd Sunday 11am - 1:30pm
- for location visit www.MAUMadison.com

Gigs

Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

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

- July 7th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Jon Dee Graham & the Fighting Cocks -- \$15
- July 21st @ 8pm (doors at 7) The German Art Students -- \$10

Venues



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

Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise.
Please call 920-563-9391 to reserve.

- Thu, Jul 7, Mark Dvorak / Bill Camplin / Rick Harris - @8pm
- Fri, Jul 8, Krause Family Band
- Sat, Jul 13, New Pioneers - \$10 - @7pm
- Thu, Jul 14, Bill Camplin Band - \$12
- Fri, Jul 15, Macarus Family - \$10
- Sat, Jul 21, A Rose Among Thorns - \$7
- Wed, Jul 22, Corky Siegel & Howard Levy - \$30
- Thu, Jul 29, 100 String Symphony - \$15
- Fri, Aug 4, Harmonious Wail - \$10

Folklore Village

- Sat, Jul 8th -- Appalachian Singing in Sacred Places with Michael & Carrie Kline
10am - 2:30pm : Singing Workshop in Plum Grove Chapel
7pm-8pm : Concert
8:15pm : Barn Dance
- Tue, Jul 11th -- Open Mic @7pm
- Fri - Sun, Jul 20-23rd -- HFAA 2017
Fiddle Music and Dance Workshop
- Sat, Jul 29th -- Ice Cream Social @5:30pm

Mother Fool's

- Sat, Aug 5th - The Fremonts w/ Kendra Swanson - \$7 - @8pm

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

On the Air



wpr.org

Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Dan Robinson, 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, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Helena White

Weekdays 9:00am-noon

- 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

WMUU 102.9 FM

- Sat - Exiles Return with Elizabeth Delaquess
- 4-6am and again from 10am-noon

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

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

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