

# Mad Folk News

## Concerts You Ask???

Yes, we are still producing concerts, but focused our energy on our Annual Meeting concert and the great line-up of Willy Street Fair! But keeps your eyes open... we have concerts coming soon, with names like: Tom Paxton... Don Juans.... Garnet Rogers.... Christine Lavin.... Bryan Bowers... And let's hope we get Archie Fisher back on his fair well tour, plus more. All the Details will be in November Newsletter and on our website soon.

## We miss you, Wither Zither!

The MadFolk Board would like to give a BIG SALUTE to Peter Berryman for all the years of writing WitherZither for our newsletter. I know it is often the page people go to first, kind of like reading the comics first and then the news, dessert before dinner. It has been a joy reading these each month, but as they say, all good things must come to an end. So for this end, we will no longer have a monthly WitherZither in our newsletter, however, we invite Peter to write a guest WitherZither contribution anytime he would like.


## October at Kiki's House of Righteous Music

Fall may be the time when the TV networks roll out all the new shows, but here at KHoRM I am all about the reruns. The four acts playing in the month of October are all frequent visitors who have logged an impressive amount of basement appearances. On October 14 Curtis McMurtry will make his third appearance. While three may not seem like a lot, it might have something to do with him being the youngest person to have played here. His first appearance came shortly after the release of his debut record *Respectable Enemy* in 2015. Between faith in his booking agent at Comboplate, and trust in genetics, I took a chance on an artist I hadn't seen before (having seen them play is my usual prerequisite). In that first appearance, the son of musician James and grandson of novelist Larry impressed everyone with solid songwriting and an endearing stage presence. McMurtry returned earlier this year with his sophomore effort *Hornet's Nest* which bests *Enemy* both musically and lyrically. Adventurous and addictive, the record relies on trumpet and cello instead of a traditional rhythm section. Which obviously makes them perfect for solo acoustic ver-

sions in the basement. During his shows McMurtry claims he only has had sad songs and mean songs, but I say he only has great songs. I'm delighted I only had to wait six months to have him back, two years was far too long.

The third weekend in October features a pair of artists who will each reach the half dozen appearance mark. Walter Salas-Humara, who returns October 21, actually played my third house concert ever with his band the Silos ten years ago. That was the probably moment I decided I wanted to do this as often as I can. And Salas-Humara has been coming back ever since. This time around he is touring with Jonathan Rundman, a multi-instrumentalist who will be opening as well as accompanying. Rundman just released the epic 22 song *Reservoir*, and still stands as the only person to bring a harmonium to the basement. The next night (October 22) marks the return of Peter Case, whose long and varied career has seen him play everything from new wave to delta blues. Amazingly, he remembers every show and everyone he's ever played with, and has the wealth of stories to prove it. His most re-

### 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](http://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.

cent show here in October of 2016 may have been my favorite yet, a perfect sampling of songs from throughout his career, and the sometimes unbelievable tales that go with them.

For more information or to RSVP for any shows at Kiki's House of Righteous Music e-mail me at [righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com](mailto:righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com). Hope to see you in the basement! (And yes I know that's only three shows, but the October 10 show with Jon Langford's *Four Lost Souls* is full, so it didn't seem polite to mention it.)



Review by Kiki Schueler

One could be forgiven for thinking Conor Oberst's new album *Salutations* sounds a lot like last year's *Ruminations*... because it does. In fact, it's the exact same set of ten songs, plus seven more for good luck. This time around, instead of solo Oberst on piano, guitar and harmonica, he's joined by superstar drummer Jim Keltner (who also co-produced), the majority of the Felice Brothers, and a host of ringers on backing vocals. Last year's release was gorgeous- a dark, meditative collection that reminds you exactly what's so great about Oberst's songwriting. In case you don't know, with other lyricists you can almost guess what's coming next, but with him it's a surprise. I was delighted that he tapped the Felice Brothers, who frequently join him during his annual stage takeover at *Hardly Strictly Bluegrass*, as his backing band on this record. A superior choice to the overrated Dawes (who backed him on *Upside Down Mountain* and too often fancied themselves *The Band*), the Brothers inject these songs with the same joyful, rollicking, singalong quality of their best tunes. Suddenly these dark songs seem a whole lot lighter, no longer a burden to be bourn alone.

The unexpected winner in the roulette of backing vocalists is Gillian Welch, who does her best Emmy Lou Harris on "You All Loved Him Once" and "Mamah Borthwick (a Sketch)." The cryptic former could be referring to Jesus just as easily as to a fallen

teen idol, while the latter uses the tragic story of Frank Lloyd Wright's lover as a subtle cautionary tale, while also listing off some of Wright's most famous buildings. Azure Ray's Maria Taylor acquits herself nicely on the lovely "Barbary Coast (Later)," one of three tracks with a graceful string section. His Monsters of Folk bandmate Jim James reprises some of the vocal magic that made their MoF debut outing so memorable. His wavering baritone underscores the middle of each verse of the deceptively chorusless "Gossamer Thin." A moody, introspective waltz, the track was also the highlight of the last record in its previous stripped-down incarnation. "Rings round his eyes, tracks down his arm, his fans are confused, his friends are alarmed," begins the first verse, though it doesn't seem genuinely troubling until later when the perspective switches to the first person. "I don't want to eat or get out of bed, I try to recall what the therapist said, Ego and Id the essential self, you are who you are and you are someone else."

The seven additional songs aren't any lighter thematically- there's still plenty of drugs, alcohol and mental illness- but they are strangely more upbeat. Opening track "Too Late to Fixate" meditates on the advantages of hiring an escort, "No I don't mind the money, it beats betting on sports, and though it might get expensive, it's cheaper than divorce." It's one of four featuring Now It's Overhead lead vocalist Andy LeMaster, who adds his voice to some or all of the Felice choir. They range from the namedropping firestorm of "Napalm" to the mysterious manhunt of the mellow "Empty Hotel by the Sea." The final track unites the two volumes, as well as providing this one's title and, most importantly, an explanation of the disquieting cover photo of Oberst facedown in a

pool. "Salutations" the first verse begins, while the second parallels with "Ruminations," and eventually he thanks his savior. "You could have left me in the water, but you made me live again." Things may sound hopeless at times, but apparently Oberst will get by with a little help from his friends, musical and otherwise.

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](mailto:madfolk@charter.net). Learn about concerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org). [www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835)

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



# The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

Oct 2017

Mad Folk Events .....



Stay tuned for more folk!

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

- Oct 8th @ 7pm (doors at 6:30) John Van Orman and Adam Helwin -- \$15
- Oct 10th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Jon Langford's Four Lost Souls -- \$15

## Mike and Carol's House

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

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

- Oct 8th @ 7pm (doors 6:30) -John Van Orman & Adam Helwin
- Oct 10th @ 7pm (doors 6:30) - Susanne Salem-Shantz & Martin Grosswendt

## Dave & Anne Host Folk

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Dave & Anne at annedave@chorus.net - 608-256-2958

- Oct 21st @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Chastity Brown - \$20 / \$17 under 18
- Nov 17th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Claudia Schmidt - \$20 / \$17 under 18

## Blair's Outdoor Adventure

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Blair Feltham at Blair.feltham@gmail.com - 914-417-7316

- Oct 11th @ 7pm (doors at 6) Robert Sarazin Blake - \$15

## The Holden Home

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Karen Holden at kholden@wisc.edu - 608-238-6039

- Nov 17th @ 7:30pm (doors at 7) David Greely - \$15

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, Oct 5th, Caitlin Canty w/ Eric Heywood - \$15 - @8pm
- Fri, Oct 6th, Karen Johnson - \$6 - @8pm
- Fri, Sept 8th, Bill Camplin Band - \$12
- Sat, Oct 7th, Open Stage - @7:30pm
- Wed, Oct 11th, Irish Session - @7pm
- Thu, Oct 12th, Song Circle w/ Tricia Alexander - \$5 - @7pm
- Fri, Oct 13th, Kira Hooks - \$15
- Sat Oct 14th, Lonesome Bill Camplin - \$10
- Fri, Oct 20th, Bing Bong - \$7
- Sat, Oct 21st, Small Potatoes
- Wed, Oct 25th, Irish Session - @7pm
- Fri, Oct 27th, Ernie Hendrickson - \$8
- Sat, Oct 28th, Peter and Lou Berryman - \$15

## Folklore Village

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

- Tue, Oct 3rd - Open Mic @7pm
- Thu, Oct 5th - Free Senior Concert: The Trippers @2pm
- Sat, Oct 7th - Healthy Hoedown - @6pm
- Sat, Oct 14th - "Folk Songs of Another America" afternoon workshops and evening concert & polka dance
- Thu, Oct 19th - Free Senior Concert: Mad City Jug Band - @2pm
- Fri-Sun, Oct 27th-29th - Fall Swedish Music & Dance Weekend

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

- Fri, Oct, 6 @ 6:30 pm - Tracy Jane Comer with Alan Maslowski - Fisher King Winery, Verona
- Sat, Oct, 7 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - Lakeside St. Coffee House, Madison
- Thu, Oct, 26 @ 6:00 pm - Tracy Jane Comer with Alan Maslowski - Babe's, Madison
- Fri, Nov, 3 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - Crossroads Coffeehouse, Cross Plains
- Thu, Nov, 9 @ 6:00 pm - Tracy Jane Comer with Alan Maslowski - Babe's, Madison
- Sat, Dec, 9 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - Lakeside St. Coffee House, Madison
- Sat, Dec, 16 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - Chocolaterian Middleton, Middleton
- Thu, Dec, 21 @ 7:00 pm - Tracy Jane Comer & Friends - The Brink Lounge, Madison
- Thu, Jan, 18 @ 7:00 pm - Tracy Jane Comer and special guest Dave Schindele - 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](http://www.MAUMadison.com)

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](http://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](http://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. -- 358-4478

# 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](http://www.madfolk.org) and click on "Join MFMS"

## Way #2 – unplugged

Complete, clip, and mail this form

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Choose membership category: \_\_\_\_\_

Senior / 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

Tracy Comer, P.O. Box 930446 Verona, WI 53593-0446