

Mad Folk News

John Gorka and Amilia K Spicer at The Brink May 5

♪ On May 5, MadFolk is very proud to present the extraordinary songwriter and singer, John Gorka.


Originally from New Jersey and for years now a Minnesotan, John Gorka is a world-renowned singer songwriter, a standout in the seminal group which was formed in New York City during the 70's and early 80's. John's stunningly soulful baritone voice and original songwriting have gone on to inspire budding songwriters around the country. Those who had at one time inspired him, Suzanne Vega, Bill Morrissey, Nanci Griffith, Christine Lavin, Shawn Colvin, have become his peers.

All these years later, a reference to fine wine is apt, as John's songs and stories just get richer with the years. His self-effacing stage presence and humorous stories balance with keen social commentary and thoughtful observations.

Join us in welcoming John Gorka back to Madison, to witness a fine musician, songwriter and entertainer at the peak of his powers.

The concert at The Brink Lounge, 701 E. Washington at 7pm on May 5. Buy tickets online at MADFOLK.ORG, Orange Tree Imports and Spruce Tree Music.

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.



SAVE THE DATES!

**WATERFRONT
JUNE 9 & 10**

**LA FETE DE MARQUETTE
JULY 12-15**

**ATWOODFEST
JULY 28 & 29**

**ORTON PARK
AUG 23-26**

**WILLY ST. FAIR
SEP 15 & 16**

A Taste of Bluegrass: Instrument Workshop

Instructor: Jonathan Peik

If you've ever wanted to try out bluegrass but weren't sure where to start, here's your chance. Learn about bluegrass fundamentals and try your hand at playing banjo, guitar, mandolin, bass, and fiddle. All participants will get a chance to try out each instrument and even play some songs. Complete beginners welcome, instruments provided. Low pressure, big fun!

Tuesday, July 31, 6:30-9pm

Cost: \$45

Location: James Reeb Unitarian, 2146 E. Johnson St., Madison WI

Registration / information: <https://continuingstudies.wisc.edu/classes/bluegrass-instrument-workshop/>

Question? Jessica Courtier: 608-890-3626 / jessica.courtier@wisc.edu

SUBTERRANE - CASEY NEILL & THE NORWAY RATS

INCIDENT RECORDINGS - 2018



Review by Kiki Schueler

I debated whether or not Casey Neill & the Norway Rats were folk enough for the Mad Folk Newsletter. Eventually I did what any good reviewer would do; I looked Neill up on Wikipedia. There it was—“genre: folk-punk.” And that was good enough for me, especially since I haven’t been able to listen to anything else since I picked up the CD at SXSW, where he had it a week ahead of the release date. Neill’s earlier work, going all the way back to the rollicking, Pogues-channeling 1995 release RiffRaff (whose title track’s chorus “Hurray for the Riff Raff!” had to be the inspiration for the band of the same name), leaned heavily on Celtic music as well as folk and punk, but Subterrene finds him moving on. From the sweeping orchestral beauty of opening track “My Beloved Accomplice” to the trippy techno flourishes of the immortal closer “Deathless,” the record is instantly memorable, immediately likeable, and immensely satisfying. Neill doesn’t do it on his own, his band is an important part of what makes these songs work. Norway rat is another name for the brown or sewer rat, but these musicians are anything but common. They include drummer Joe Mengis, bassist Jesse Emerson, Jenny Conlee Drizos of the Decemberists on keyboards, and Chet Lyster of the Eels on guitar.

On first listen, two tracks immediately stand out. The first of these is the addictive “Savages,” a master’s class in tune-smithery, an intoxicating elixir of swirling

melody, clever wordplay and perfect backing vocals. “In a railroad apartment in the summer heat, you were drunk, strung out on another guy, you tasted sweet, I died a little more, I died.” It’s hard to describe, but somehow like “Tainted Love” reborn in fascinating, heartbreaking fashion. The second is “In the Swim,” featuring Scott McCaughey. It’s McCaughey’s backing vocals that elevate this song from excellent to transcendent, and it was surely this contribution that earned him a co-write credit alongside Neill and Lyster. Half the time he’s echoing Neill, the other half he’s having a conversation with him. “If I lose myself come find me,” Neill sings in the chorus, “stop and listen” replies McCaughey the first time, “my mission is clear,” the next. Neill continues “And if I stray off course remind me.” The answers come back, “of course I listen,” and then later, “there’s someone still here.” It’s been awhile since I’ve been that affected by a vocal pairing, I get serious shivers every time I hear it. (I should also mention that REM’s Peter Dinklage lends his guitar stylings to the tune.)

The spell of those two songs is reason enough to check out Subterrene, but that’s certainly not the only one. There’s the desolate “Darken Down,” which perfectly captures the hypnotic effect of late night driving on deserted highways. “I’m wide awake,” he claims, “on the surface of the moon... I’m wide awake, on a two lane blacktop, can’t drive fast enough.” Cigarettes and Red Bull, manic DJs and brimstone broadcast preachers are all part of the trip. The unlikely, but also gorgeous and epic, “The Murderers Show Mercy” finds assassins turning over a new leaf. The equally haunted “Moving Through the Trees” asks repeatedly “was there ever a blood so red, as the blood on my right shoulder?” Though you never know if the blood is his or someone else’s. The

futuristic “Siphoners” paints a Mad Max-esque, post-apocalyptic scene which also feels oddly contemporary. Sigh, it’s just all so good. Hopefully by next month I will have been able to put this CD aside long enough to listen to at least one other record, but I can’t make any promises.

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>

“With a tangle of songs that emotionally connect us all and leave a tender trace, John Gorka stimulates the cerebrum, keeps our smiles agile and fit and reconnects us with what really matters most in music: honesty.” —The Huffington Post



**Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

John Gorka

with opener by Amilia K Spicer

Saturday, May 5, 2018

7:00 pm

THE BRINK LOUNGE, 701 E. Washington, Suite 105

Tickets \$23 advance, \$25 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

May 2018

Mad Folk Events



John Gorka & Amilia K Spicer

Saturday May 5th - \$23 adv / \$25 d.o.s.
7pm (doors @6:30)
The Brink Lounge 701 E. Washington Ave. Ste 105
608-661-8599

Garnet Rogers & Archie Fisher

Saturday September 22nd

Don't forget!
Non-perishable donations of food are collected for local food banks at all Mad Folk shows!

Common Chord / Tracy Jane Comer & Friends

- Thu, May 17 @ 7:00 pm - Tracy Jane Comer w/Alan Maslowski with special guest Dandelion Wine - The Brink Lounge, Madison
- Sat, May 19 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - Lakeside St. Coffee House, Madison
- Sat, May 26 @ 11:45 am - Common Chord - Wurst Times Festival @ Brass Ring, Madison
- Sun, May 27 @ 1:00 pm - Common Chord - New Glarus Community Festival
- Sat, Jun 2 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - Chocolaterian Middleton, Middleton
- Fri, June, 15, 2018 @ 6:00 pm - Common Chord - The Hop Garden Tap Room/ Paoli Terrace and Park, Paoli
- Thu, Jun 21 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - The Brink Lounge, Madison
- Thu, Jul 19 @ 7:00 pm - Tracy Jane Comer w/Alan Maslowski with special guest singer-songwriter John Jacobs - The Brink Lounge, Madison

Jigs

Mike and Carol's House

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.
For full details or to request an invitation, contact Mike at maddog210@icloud.com

- Sunday May 6 @ 7pm (doors 6:30) Tom Kastle - \$15

Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.
For full details or to request an invitation, contact Kiki at righteousmusicgmt@gmail.com

- Thursday, May 10th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Salas-Humara & Dean Schlabowske -- \$15

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

- Friday, May 11th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) Harpeth Rising - \$20 / \$17 under 18

Pat and Mary Ellen McCluskey

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.
For full details or to request an invitation, contact Jenny at threeplygardens@gmail.com or 608-986-3760

- Sunday, May 27th @ 7pm (doors 6:15pm) JigJam - \$20-\$25

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, May 3rd, Humbird / Satchel Paige - @8pm - \$15
 - Fri, May 4th, Mark Erelli
 - Sat, May 5th, Zander Schloss - \$15
 - Thu, May 10th, New Pioneers - @7pm - \$10
 - Fri, May 11th, Ray Bonneville - \$20
 - Sat, May 12th, James Lee Stanley - \$20
 - Sun, May 13th, Hayward Williams / Zak Trojano - @7pm - \$10
 - Sat, May 19th, Von Strantz / Native Land - \$10
 - Sun, May 20th, Sistastrings / Bill Camplin - @7pm - \$15
 - Fri, May 25th, Radio Wranglers - \$10
 - Sat, May 26th, The Bindlestiffs - \$12
 - Mon, May 28th, Danny Schmidt / Sam Baker - \$20
 - Thu, May 31st, Song Circle - @7pm - \$5

FOLKLORE VILLAGE

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

Folklore Village

- Tue, May 1 @7pm - First Tuesday Open Mic
- Sat, May 5 - @5:30pm - English Maypole Dance Evening
- Tue, May 12 - @6pm - "Spring Hop"
Friends of Folklore Village Spring Fundraiser
w/ Ladies Must Swing (5-6pm Swing Dance Instruction)
- Mon, May 28 - @10am - "Gladdening the Gardens" Workbee



Wil-Mar Center
953 Jenifer St.
wildhuginthewoods.org
608-233-5687

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Fri, May 4 - Dangerous Folk - @7:30pm
- Mon, May 7 - Coordination Meeting - @7pm
- Fri, May 11 - Dan & Faith Senie w/ Sandy Andina - @7:30pm
- Fri, May 18 - Robinlee Garber - @7:30pm
- Sat, May 19 - Hootenanny - @2pm

Misc

Old Time Jam

Monthly - 3rd Sunday of every month, 4 to 6pm
EVP West 3809 Mineral Point Road
Coordinator: Al Wilson
cell: 608-572-0634
adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu

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

On the Air



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 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



WVMO The Voice of Monona - Promoting the best in Good Music - Roots Music - Americana Music Plus Community Members Hosted Shows Streaming Live and on your mobile device through tunein radio

- 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, 3rd (and 5th) Mon7:30-9:30pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 238-9951 or 231-1040

- International Dancing -- Wed; classes 7:30-8:30pm, request dancing 8:30-11:00pm -- The Crossing, 1127 University Ave. -- 241-3655 and Sun, 8-10pm

- 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 -- 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 - Neighborhood House 29 S Mills St. - casey.garhart@tds.net or John at 238-3847

- Scottish Country Dancing -- Sun, 7:00pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 358-4478

- Israeli Folk Dancing -- Tues, 7:00pm -- Will-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. Melissa Marver -- mdmarver@gmail.com

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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Madison Folk Music Society

join renew

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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 \$ _____

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Send your check, payable to MFMS to: Mad Folk c/o

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