

Mad Folk News

Always curious how a concert happens?

Join the madfolk concert committee!

We don't meet often, and there is not a lot of time commitment. We would really like to grow our committee, if you're interested, please email Darlene@bletner.com for additional information!

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 visit <https://wortfm.org> for more info!

- Weekdays 9:00am - noon - "On the Horizon" w/ Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Helena White
- Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over) w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado
- Tue - Another Green Morning w/ Brian Hirsch
- Wed - Back to the Country (country music on a theme) w/ Bill Malone
- Thur - Hejira (folk and international) w/ Gloria Hays, George Dreckmann, Jeff Spitzer-Resnick & Paul Novak
- 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

Stuart Stotts

Weekly new song Facebook Live event. Song Premiere on Tuesday (SPOT) at 11AM facebook.com/stuart.stotts

Gigs

Common Chord

- July 8 (Thu), 5:30-8pm: Common Chord @ Verona Concerts in the Park, Harriet Park, Verona WI (www.commonchord.us)
- July 11 (Sun), 2-4pm: Common Chord @ Brix Cider, Mt. Horeb, WI (www.commonchord.us)
- Aug 12 (Thu), 6pm: Common Chord @ Gazebo Musikk, Stoughton, WI (www.commonchord.us)
- Sep 4 (Sat), 5-8pm: Common Chord @ Paoli Mill Park, Paoli WI (www.commonchord.us)

Behind Our House

Reserve space required. Contact A&D at annedave@chorus.net with questions.

- Fri, July 16th, @7pm - The Rough and Tumble - \$20/person

Farley Center Concert with the Hicksville Debonairs

Contact 608-845-8724 or e-mail at programs@farleycenter.org with questions.

- Sat, July 17th, @5pm - Hicksville Debonairs - \$15/person (Pay at the door)

LAYSONGS - CHRIS THILE

2021 - NONESUCH



Review by Kiki Schueler

For all that the pandemic has taken away, it has given a few things back. The predicted baby boom never materialized, but there has been a boom of a different kind- the lockdown album. Whether recorded alone in a home studio, or by a band adding their parts via the internet, many artists have used the down time to complete a new project. Chris Thile's Laysongs is one of those records. If you are a public radio listener, you probably noticed that one of the things we lost was "Live from Here," his rebranding of Prairie Home Companion. Just over a year ago, Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media abruptly cancelled the show due to COVID related cost cutting measures. While Thile was disappointed, he saw it as not only understandable, but completely necessary. "(We) conceived of Live From Here as a celebration of live, collaborative audible art," he explained in his own statement, "and there's just no telling when it could be that again." Never one to take time off, Thile used the lull to record Laysongs. Nonesuch calls it "his first truly solo album," and rightly so. Thile and his mandolin are the only players. The inspiration was a nudge from the Chairman Emeritus of the label who encouraged him to "do a God-themed record." Thile was raised in a fundamentalist household, and spirituality has figured into all of his

endeavors going back to his early days in Nickel Creek, despite his current proclaimed status as agnostic. As such, there will be no confusing Laysongs with your traditional gospel records. This is heavy stuff, dense and daunting, and an oft challenging listen.

Throughout, Thile tests the limits of what one can do with just one voice and one instrument. His mandolin playing is stunning, expressive and virtuosic... of course. Emotions range from lighthearted to serious, angry to joyful, sometimes in the course of a song. The ambitious middle section of the record consists of the three part "Salt (in the Wounds) of the Earth," an imaginative revisiting of C.S. Lewis's "The Screwtape Letters." "Pt. 1" asks you to "choose now and forever who you're running from,

those savage nonbelievers or your Lord above." It's an intense trip from the mocking "ha, ha, ha" in the opening minute to the questioning "huh, huh, huh" at the end. "Pt. 2" is no less forgiving, taking aim at the wrongs done in the name of a god. By the time we reach "Pt. 3" we realize that no matter what we do, we're doomed, "When you've finished harvesting the fear we've sewn. We'll lay for you a famine like you've never known." Heavy stuff. His "Sonata for Solo Violin, Sz. 117: IV. Presto" takes its inspiration from Bach's "Partita for Solo Violin in E Major," and does it one better. It's an impressive fireworks display. The other kinda cover is "God is Alive, Magic is Afoot," a Buffy Sainte-Marie song based on a Leonard Cohen poem. It's even more mind-bending than the original, and seems to belie his supposed agnosticism.

After spending the first eight songs looking at religion in non-traditional ways, Thile closes the record with Hazel Dickens gor-

geous "Won't You Come and Sing for Me." It's the most straightforward song here, and he sings the words like a prayer, "I feel the shadows now upon me/And the angels beckon to me/ Before I go dear sisters and brothers/ Won't you come and sing for me." His take is quieter than the original (and the multitude of other versions out there), it feels like an appropriately solemn reflection on a year of suffering and loss. A time that seems to be finally, hopefully, coming to an end. Amen to that.

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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Out Along the Estuary

Riding on my dromedary
Out along the estuary
Came upon my doppelganger
Dawdling on a berm



With him his amanuensis
Took an unofficial census
Of the phylum annelida
Better known as worm



As befits this fishy story
Her pursuit was piscatory
Seemingly unhampered by her
Captives' tragic fate



For I watched my doppelganger
Nothing but a worm haranguer
Hook the phylum annelida
Better known as bait



I said to his sec'retary
Join me on my dromedary
She said I'm enamored of this
Godforsaken man



He calls me his enchilada
I am his inamorata
But I have a doppelganger
Better known as Ann



She pulled out a phone & rang her
Thus I met her doppelganger
Much like me a vintage vegan
Wouldn't harm a flea



Unopposed to advocating
Dopplegangers double dating
She arrived to meet the stranger
Better known as me



Thus in our romantic scrimmage
Not unlike a mirror image
Double-dating doppelgangers
Satisfied our needs



They with boiled walleye platter
Campfire songs and frisky chatter
Us with drugs and veggie dishes
Better known as weeds



From that point it all gets blurry
We left on my dromedary
Squinting at our dopplegangers
Waving as they sang



Wish they lived a little nearer
Then again we have a mirror
Where we daily simulate our
Doppleganger gang



"WHEN IS MY RENEWAL DUE?"

(Hint: It is NOT the date on the mailing label!)

The date shown on the mailing label is NOT your membership expiration date! There has been some confusion lately, and we apologize for that. The date is just the date the labels were printed, as new cost-saving postal procedures do not allow us to include expiration dates there anymore. When it is time to renew, we will send you a personal notice by mail or email. At that point you will be able to either mail a check or renew online at www.madfolk.org. If you have questions about your membership in the meantime, send email to info@madfolk.org. Thanks for your membership and support of Mad Folk!

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>

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

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