

Mad Folk News

Matt Watroba and Rev. Robert Jones Nov 11th

♪ We are VERY excited to report that we have finally booked the fabulous team of Robert Jones and Matt Watroba, whom we have been courting for years. Michigan's veteran performer, song leader, folk music educator and songwriter Matt Watroba has charmed Madison audiences many times as a dynamic solo, but has yet to bring along his amazing musical and educational partner, Detroit's legendary blues singing preacher Rev. Robert Jones Jr. They are bringing their beloved music and message to Madison on **Saturday, November 11 at the Wil-Mar Center at 7pm** as part of the Madison Folk Music Society's concert series.

Matt and Robert met doing back to back public radio shows in Detroit in 1986. Their friendship and musical collaboration has blossomed to include hundreds of performances throughout the country, on concert stages and in every imaginable community setting. Their message is both simple and profound: the sharing of diverse cultures created what we think of as American roots music.

Robert B Jones, Sr. is a Detroit Musician, Educator, and Pastor and is a 2018 Kresge Fellow. Robert has presented his American Roots Music In Education (ARMIE) presentations for over 250,000 students over the past 30 years. In 2007 he was presented with a Keeping The Blues Award for Education, by the National Blues Society.

Rev. Robert Jones performs

throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. An award-winning multi-instrumentalist, he is accomplished on guitar, harmonica, mandolin, banjo, fiddle and ukulele. He has recorded six albums of original and tradition songs. Robert is the former host of the award-winning radio programs Blues from the Lowlands and Deep River broadcast on Detroit Public Radio's WDET-FM Detroit. He has taught music history courses at Wayne State University in Detroit, and he serves as a member of the affiliate faculty at Boston's Berklee School of Music. Jones has taught and performed for a number of folk music organizations including the Ashokan Center, Summer Acoustic Music Week, Fiddle Hell, the Houston Folklore Society and more. In recent years Robert wrote, performed and recorded a one man show entitled An Evening With Lead Belly and in recent years Robert has been a featured artist at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum (Springfield, IL), Rutherford B. Hayes Library (Fremont, OH) and Gerald R. Ford Library (Grand Rapids, MI). Robert is also a frequent performer and presenter for The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village (Dearborn, MI). In 2018 Robert received a Kresge Arts Fellowship for Music Composition and Performance.

In 2017 Robert and Matt co-founded Common Chords, a non-profit educational organization designed to create community, cultural and historical connections through music and

the arts. He also teaches traditional instrumental music online a Truefire.com. It was for Truefire that Robert wrote and produced 30 YouTube segments on traditional blues artists, entitled Blues Chronicles. He has also developed a number of special presentations including a musical survey of early African American music called, Before The Blues and a multi-part musical lecture entitled, The Secret Life of Black Music.

Matt Watroba is first and foremost a community singer. He has the knack for picking the perfect songs and stories for the audience in front of him. In concert, at a festival, in a library, in a school, or in the park, you can count on a performance that will get you singing, make you laugh, and leave you feeling a little bit better about the world we live in. He was inducted into the Folk DJ Hall Of Fame in 2019 at The Folk Alliance International conference in Montreal.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University, majoring in English, Language & Literature with a minor in Theatre Arts and Communication.

As a teacher, Matt worked for twelve years in the Plymouth Canton school system. His classes in the areas of English, Journalism and Speech always focused on innovative ways of cross-curricular learning. This experience translated directly to the hundreds of school assemblies and workshops he's performed with Robert Jones and the Music That Matters programs. He is also a regular instructor at the Swannanoa Gathering near Asheville, NC teaching classes on performance and community singing. His powerful stage presence and strategy-packed presentations are evidence of someone who understands how to connect with audiences to create a

Continued on next page...



Child's Play (#74)

By Emily Beebe

Sweet William rose out of the damp Earth as a column of mist one fine Friday evening. Yawning, he stretched his lower protoplasm, pondering what to haunt that night. There are a couple of fresh graves; perhaps he could don a long black veil and traipse through the cemetery. Or flash a green light at the end of County Road PQ after the Homecoming Dance. Peep through a mirror in a dimly lit room of the old Victorian fixer-upper on Division Street. Remove Patricia Dahle's favorite reading glasses from the parlor, and then return them an hour later.

Every evening morphed into the next. Eternity was starting to get old, and William frequently forgot what night it was. He knew there was something undone that he had to be careful about, but his brains were addled like foam churning at the base of a waterfall, and he couldn't put his bony finger on it. He wasn't even sure why he was condemned to roam a lonely limbo as a specter. He scooted around the woodlot, kicking up oak leaves and melting through trees when he ran smack into a brick wall. "Odds Bodkins!" he exclaimed.

He hadn't felt resistance in centuries. What a sensation, like dipping a pewter spoon into a bowl of aspic studded with currants and electric eels! He tried to pinch himself but ended up driving his thumb and forefinger straight through his upper arm.

Standing in front of him was his Lady Margaret in the flesh, as if she ever had any. Memories came flooding back into his spongy brain. The last time he saw her alive, she was flaxen-haired, bony, and extraordinarily prone to sunburn. In fact, the only colors she ever exhibited were two dots of cherry red on her cheeks that emerged after ruthlessly grooming her blonde mane with that ivory comb she loved. She was almost beautiful then, especially when she laughed at his dad jokes. In retrospect, she was so delicate that he believed she really did die of a broken heart when William went through with his arranged wedding to Cousin Elspeth. He really had meant to tell Margaret, but he just didn't have the heart after that last groggy night of woo.

Margaret stared at him for a moment, taking him in. She was wearing a linen winding sheet, and her thin lips were set in

a disapproving frown.

"William! It's about time you turned up, you old fool. You look just as rumpled as always. Your raiment may be back in fashion again, but there is no point in trying to wriggle out of your responsibilities this time."

"Fair Margaret! It's been so long. The last time I saw you you were lying in your bower with your face turned toward the wall, before your brothers drove me out with pitchforks. I must say, the years on this side of the veil are treating you kindly! You haven't aged a bit!"

A little smile rippled across Margaret's lips before she resumed her scowl. William thought he could see a rosy blush blooming on her cheeks. "Let's get down to business. Now that that goodie-two-shoes brunette you spent your life two-timing me with has flown up to Heaven, we are free to marry. I took the liberty to arrange our wedding. I made a deal with Iggy and got a bargain price at Ichabod's Screaming Barn and Wedding Venue. Only problem is I haven't been able to track down the GROOM for three hundred and twenty-six years! Dear Willie, I meant what I said that I would love you until the rocks melt in the sun. I'm getting the feeling that you aren't so into me."

"Margaret dear, I do love you, but we've both grown, and marriage isn't what it used to be. I've been on my own so long that I've developed some bad habits, I'm afraid. I don't think I would be the wonderful husband you are expecting. Apologies **Watroba & Jones continued from front page** thoroughly worthwhile experience.

Matt is a founding member of the National Folk Alliance and a charter member of the Board of Directors for Ann Arbor's The Ark, both non-profit organizations formed to promote and preserve folk music. He is a published writer, having penned dozens of articles and reviews for Sing Out!, the national magazine of American folk and roots music founded by Pete Seeger in 1950.

His love of folk music led him to his position as the host and creator of the popular Folks Like Us program, a position he held for over 20 years on WDET-FM in Detroit. He also produced and hosted the syndicated Sing

for ghosting you for so long, but I needed my space."

Margaret sighed and sat down through a boulder. "Willie, if this is about that little dream I cast on you two on your wedding night...the one where your honeymoon suite was filled with those stinky swine and one of them had a nosebleed all over the bed, I'm sorry. You must admit though, you were a two-timing scoundrel and had some growing up to do. I suppose I did as well. I'm a lot calmer now, and I'd make you a good wife. Truly! Plus, my family all went to Heaven or that other place and won't be around judging you until the end of time."

Sweet William considered spending the remaining days of his unlife celestially married to this woman. He really did love her once, but that was so long ago. He wasn't sure what would be worse, living with one person until the universe collapsed into itself, or slowly losing his mind living on his own. At least Margaret would be an anchor for him (a ball and chain?) who would daily remind him who he was. Who knows, maybe they would in time redeem each other so they could move on to another realm and start over.

"Dear Margaret, I forgive you and won't ask to be released from the empty promises I made to you in my youth. Yes, let's fly over the broomstick together!"

Margaret glided over and kissed him once, twice, three times on his cold, cold lips. "Oh, William!" She laid her pale head on his shoulder. "Tell me a joke!"

Out! Radio Magazine heard on the XM Satellite network as well as the internet service Folk Alley. He is currently the host of Folk With Matt Watroba on WKAR Michigan State Public Media.

Separately, these two folks put on incredible shows. Together they are a phenomenon you don't want to miss!!!

"Anyone who has ever heard Robert Jones and Matt Watroba perform knows that they can keep an audience spellbound with their music and their wit. It's not until one sees them teach that the breadth of their knowledge and their ability to inspire an audience becomes apparent." **Judy Gardner, Project Manager, Henry Ford Community College**



Review by Kiki Schueler

After twenty years the Midwest born Jeff Plankenhorn has left Austin, Texas. His new home on Vancouver Island, BC certainly informed the cover art for his new record Alone at Sea, though its influence on his music is more subtle. On the front he is silhouetted looking out at the Pacific, hands in pockets, leaning to one side as if he is hearing the music of the ocean. The inner jacket finds him with pants rolled up, taking what has to be a very cold wade in the water. Prior to officially launching his solo career seven years ago (when he was in his forties) with the release of Soulslide, he was known around "the live music Capital of the world" as a sideman for the likes of Joe Ely, Eliza Gilkyson, and Ray Wylie Hubbard. Working with such notable songwriters was excellent training for his foray into crafting his own music. Alone at Sea taps into the blues vein that colored his earlier releases, but adds healthy doses of funk, soul, and folk into an infectious and uplifting blend. It is easy to see what made him so engaging as the de facto leader of Austin's Purgatory Players, whose shifting personnel gathered every Sunday to play pseudo-gospel and raise money for good causes.

All of the guitars on the record are played either by Plankenhorn or producer Colin Linden (Bruce Cockburn, Keb Mo), while the rhythm section consists of John Dymond on bass and George Receli (Bob Dylan's drummer for 18 years). Plankenhorn utilizes his trademark steel, known

as "the plank" and played standing up, on only one track, instead opting for acoustic guitar and acoustic lap steel. The title track takes advantage of the latter's swooning sound in capturing the vast newness of British Columbia. "Tug boat, fisher boat, sail boat," he lists, before reeling off a series of queries, "Where are you going, where have you been, can I hitch a ride, see my story begin?" The epic chorus is pleasantly reminiscent of Todd Snider's similarly inquiring "Horseshoe Lake." After taking in the album version, I highly recommend heading to the internet to stream the Spanish and French versions he recorded. He freely admits he doesn't speak either language, but worked really hard on translations and pronunciations. It shows.

The irresistibly groovy "Do a Little Dancing" guarantees you will do just that. The funky shoulder shaker features cymbal forward drums and joyous horns courtesy of Jim Hoke. They take a second bow on the New Orleans meets "can I get a witness" gospel of "Maybe Too Late." Another toe tapper, it's the perfect stage for "the plank" and its expressive sound. The song of salvation asks important questions like, "How was I to know which way to go between the narrow and the straight?" "The Mess" is a clever extended metaphor where the narrator compares himself to a crumbling house, "The cellar that stinks, rot and mold. It's dark and dingy and a sight to behold. Well the window's broken so every one can see, the mess that is me." Growling backing vocals and Janice Powers' B3 organ make for a deliciously haunted romp. The jaunty "Juggling Sand" finds Plankenhorn at the piano, belting the high notes, while the final track "Keep Me on Your Mind" is a Randy Newman style tune perfect for playing over the credits of a Pixar movie.

While Plankenhorn will be missed

in the Austin Music scene, if moving away was what it took to produce the excellent Alone at Sea, it was worth it. And maybe the move north means he will find himself in Wisconsin more often. Fingers crossed.

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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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>



• See madfolk.org or our facebook page for latest show postings

Rev. Robert Jones and Matt Watroba

Saturday November 11th at the Wil-Mar Center, 504 S. Brearly St, Madison
\$17 in advance / \$20 day of show - @7pm (doors at 6:30)

On the Air



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

Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Dan Robinson, H



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 Hirsh

• 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

Misc

Sea Shanty Sing @Roxy's Restobar -- 208 W. Main St, Stoughton

No experience necessary. Songbooks provided and songs taught. 7pm every second Tuesday.

Open Mic @Cargo Coffee -- 750 E. Washington Ave.

Brave the stage or enjoy the show every first and third Sunday, 5-7pm. Sign-up starts at 4:30pm

Open Mic @Java Cat -- 4221 Lien Rd.

Check out local talent at the cafe's new location on the last two Sundays of each month.

Old Time Jam

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

Location is variable for now. Please email or call to get on the mailing list

Coodinator: Al Wilson, adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu

cell: 608-572-0634

Madison Area Ukulele Initiative -- Singalongs 3rd Sunday 11am - 1:30pm

- for location visit www.MAUImadison.com

Venues



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

Cafe Carpe

- Thu, November 2nd - Ian George - @8pm - \$15
- Fri, November 3rd - James Lee Stanley - @8pm - \$20
- Sat, November 4th - Mark Dvorak / Jim Craig / Bill Camplin - @8pm - \$15
- Sun, November 5th - Beatles Singalong - @5pm - Fundraiser
- Fri, November 10st - Lucy Kaplansky - @8:30pm - \$22.50
- Wed, November 15th - Erik Kosikinen / Jeremy Moses Curtis - @8pm - \$20
- Thu, November 16th - The Von Carpe Family Singers - @7:30pm - \$15
- Fri & Sat, November 17th & 18th - Corky Siegel & Randy Sabien - @8pm - \$35
- Fri, November 24th - Lost Souls - @7:30pm - \$15
- Sat, November 25th - Johnsmith - @8pm - \$20



Wil-Mar Center
504 S. Brearly St.
wildhoginthewoods.org
608-233-5687

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday, November 3rd at 7:30pm - Acoustic Collective
- Friday, November 10th at 7:30pm - Steve Hazell
- Friday, November 17th at 7:30pm - David HB Drake presents "Shorelines"
- Saturday, November 18st at 2pm - Hootenanny Sing-Along!

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

Folklore Village

- Tue, November 7th - Online Open Mic @7pm
- Wed, November 8th - Kevin Henderson & Neil Pearlman @7pm - \$15 adv/\$20
- Sat, November 11th - Friends of Folklore Village Fun-Raiser - Adults \$20 / Children \$5 - Doors at 5pm
- Tue, November 14rd - In-Person Open Mic Night @7pm



Our House

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Dave & Anne at annedave@chorus.net - 608-256-2958 or 335-7909

- Friday, November 3rd @7:30 pm - Claudia Schmidt - \$20

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, November 2nd @ 7:30pm (doors at 7) Joe Pernice - \$25-\$30
- Sunday, November 5th @ 7pm (doors at 6) Charlie Parr - \$20
- Thursday, November 16th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Erik Koskinen / Jeremy Moses Curtis - \$15
- Sunday, November 26th @ 7pm (doors at 6) Jon Dee Graham - \$20

““This show delivers a wonderful and powerful message of love, friendship, tolerance: where we have been, where we are, and hopefully where we can go. It is a walk through the roots and history of American music that not only educates, but entertains. – Jennifer Tobin, Village Theater of Canton



**Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

Robert Jones & Matt Watroba

Saturday, November 11

7:00 pm

WIL-MAR CENTER, 504 South Brearly St, Madison WI

Tickets \$17 advance, \$20 day of show

Available at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/madisonfolkmusicsociety/1032997>

Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.

"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

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Madison Folk Music Society

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Madison Folk Music Society

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Choose membership category:

Senior / Student \$12 _____

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Family \$20 _____

Friend \$25 _____

Contributing \$50 _____

Life \$500 _____

Scholarship fund donation (optional) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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