

Mad Folk News

Common Chord and special guests Annual holiday show benefiting Felicia's Donation Closet

Start the holiday season on a festive note! Local Americana group Common Chord continues their annual tradition of hosting a benefit concert of classic and original holiday tunes while raising funds for a local charity. This year's show will benefit Felicia's Donation Closet and will be held at Rex's Innkeeper (Waunakee) on Monday, December 4, starting at 7:00 pm. Guest acts will include Top Shelf as well as husband-wife duo Ivory and Brass. Acts will perform separately and collaboratively throughout the evening. Admission is simply a donation (at the show, or show receipt from recent donation) to Felicia's Donation Closet; see <https://www.commonchord.us> for full details on ways to donate.

Felicia's Donation Closet is a non-profit organization that serves survivors of domestic abuse in the greater Madison area. Working with various shelters and organizations throughout Dane County, they provide much-needed items for families who are moving from shelters into their own apartments. Felicia's Donation Closet accepts monetary gifts as well as in-kind donations (new or gently used) and also has a vehicle donation program. More information: <https://feliciasdonationcloset.com/>

Folk/Americana ensemble Com-



mon Chord performs originals from three writers in the group plus their spin on tunes from the likes of The Grateful Dead, Traveling Wilburys, Paul Simon, Gershwin, Tom Waits, Bonnie Raitt, The Beatles, and more. Their unique harmony-packed arrangements are backed by a soundscape that includes a variety of instruments. Regular group members are Michael Bryant, Tracy Jane Comer, Bruce Buttel, Delores Jenison, and Faye Bruggink. The group has published two full-length albums; a self-titled release in 2017 and a follow-up in 2020 entitled Dig A Little Deeper, plus a Christmas EP released in 2022. For more about Common Chord see <https://www.commonchord.us>

Guest act Top Shelf has been hailed as "Madison's most versatile duo." Mad Folk's own Tracy Jane Comer, a well-established local artist who is also co-director of host group Common Chord, sings and plays both keyboard and guitar, joined by Alan Maslowski (also of band Universal Sound) on additional vocals plus drums/percussion. See <https://www.topshelfmadison.com>

Guest act Ivory and Brass is a husband-wife duo, Paul (trumpet) and Ruth Heinecke (piano). Paul is currently the director of All That Jazz Big Band (in which Common Chord's Michael Bryant is a frequent vocalist).



The concert will start at 7 pm on Monday, December 4 at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee. Full details and instructions for donating can be found at <https://www.commonchord.us>.

Upcoming MadFolk Events 🎵

- February 10th - Tim Grimm
- May 9th - Hold the Date!
- Name to be released soon
- October 4th - Garnet Rogers

Mad Folk Annual Meeting December 10th @6:30pm

We are looking for some additional people to join our board of directors, if you're interested, please reach out to any of the board members, and also please join in the annual meeting!

Please join us virtually using the link below or you may call in, using the phone number below.

Meeting ID:

meet.google.com/apw-wsmb-rdp

Phone Numbers (US):

+1 406-686-2842

PIN: 947 724 928#

Put a Sonnet On It

By Emily Beebe

We know December can be tough (sufficient time, there's not enough), here is some light poesy, to read when you're cozy and eating a bag of cheese puffs...

For Carol

In darkness dawns the Winter holiday
Demanding chipp-ed plastic Visa tithe
We stroll along a bright retail highway
Our savings it does reap as with a scythe

But hark! I hear an ancient holy hymn
First played upon the sackbut and the shawm
Now saccharine, a jingle bellsy whim
Of Santa's sleigh ride 'cross a night so calm

But who recalls the bay-wreathed head
of boar?
What color may the holly berry be?
Who sails three ships above the breaker's roar?
Who gathers fruit beneath the cherry tree?

The spangled pagaentry which blinds the eye
Need not obscure the tales that underlie

F150

The three have crossed the desert, hill,
and plain
Following the day-bright Heaven'ly star
Surely but a few more miles remain
Before they reach their destination far

Sandalwood and saffron fragrance coils
Around the crowns of magi foreign born
More precious though the ewer full of oil
A swaddled child's cradle to adorn

But lo the star it swells and draws too near!
It's glow is hotter than the whitest sun
One king falls blinded down upon his rear -
'Tis but a pickup truck on a beer run

When Summer noon transforms from
Winter night
The wise men say those headlights are
too bright!

Sweet somethings

Butter boxes laying on the floor
Flour dusting face and countertop
Sixty chocolate kisses foiled no more
Baking marathoners roll and drop

What compels confectioners to churn
Great grosses of spritz windmills from
their stoves
Hold vigil so no pfeffernüsse burn
Gingerbread men mill about in droves

Be-ribboned weighty boxes fill the van
breakroom, basement, church, library,
hall
To trade in sweetmeat with one's fellow
man
And vow that one will cherish each and all

I see that you are snacking on those still
Here's your five bucks, you win, I feel too
ill.

Sugar Maple Concert Series 2024

NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St
Madison, WI
northstreetcabaret.com

- Thu, Jan 11th - Third Coast Bluegrass - @7pm - \$20 adv/\$27 d.o.s.
- Fri, Feb 6th - Western Flyers - @7pm - \$20 adv/\$27 d.o.s.
- Fri, Mar 3rd - April Vech and Joe Newberry - @6pm - \$20 adv/\$27 d.o.s.
- Fri, Mar 22nd - Missy Raines & Allegheny - @7pm - \$22 adv/\$29 d.o.s.
- Fri, Apr 28th - Tall Poppy String Band and Northern Resonance - @6pm - \$20 adv/\$27 d.o.s.
- Aug 2nd to 3rd - 21st Annual Sugar Maple Music Fest
Two-day outdoor festival at the William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park



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

Annual Meeting

Sunday December 10th (Virtual)

at 6:30pm Meeting ID: meet.google.com/apw-wsmb-rdp

Phone Numbers (US): +1 406-686-2842 PIN: 947 724 928#



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](https://www.tunein.com) radio

Stuart Stotts

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



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

- Fri, December 1st - Do Tell - Story Open Mic - @7pm
- Sat, December 2nd - Michael Hecht & Bill Camplin - @7:30pm - \$12
- Fri, December 8th - Lamplighter w/ Peter Mulvey/Katie Dahl/Carisa/Matthew Sanborn - @8:30pm - \$20 (Sold Out)
- Sat, December 9th - Mike Mangione/Nineteen Thirteen - @8pm - \$20
- Thu, December 14th - Shitunauts - @8pm - \$30
- Fri, December 15th - Shitunauts - @8:30pm - \$30
- Sat, December 16th - Shitunauts - @8:30pm - \$35 (Sold Out)
- Sun, December 17th - Shitunauts - @5:30pm - \$35 (Sold Out)
- Fri, December 22nd - Ernie Hendrickson - @8:30pm
- Sat, December 23rd - Cash Box Kings - @8pm - \$25
- Fri, December 29th - Driftless Revelers - @8:30pm - \$20



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

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday, December 1st at 6pm - Wild Hog 45th Party
- Friday, December 8th at 7:30pm - Leafy Greens and Greg & Casey
- Friday, December 15th at 7:30pm - Bittersweet Christmas Band
- Saturday, December 16th at 2pm - Hootenanny Sing-Along!

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

Folklore Village

- Tue, December 2nd - Healthy Hoedown Potluck & Dance - @6pm
- Wed, December 5th - Online Open Mic @7pm
- Sat, December 9th - Sankta Lucia Social - Workshops @3pm - Potluck @6pm
- Tue, December 16th - German Christmas Tree Lighting - Potluck @6pm
- Tue, December 19th - In-Person Open Mic Night @7pm
- December 28th to January 1st - 76th Annual Festival of Christmas & Midwinter Traditions



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 - Admission for all concerts is \$20 entirely for musicians

- Sunday, December 31st @7:30 pm - Chris Wagoner and Mary Gaines
- Friday, January 26th @7:30 pm - LVDY
- Saturday, February 17th @7:30 pm - Sarah Peacock and Danni Nichols

Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Kiki at

righteousmusicgmt@gmail.com

- Friday, December 1st @ 8pm (doors at 7) Jason Narducy with Strings - \$25 (Full)
- Sunday, December 17th @ 6pm (doors at 5) Jon Langford/Sally Timms/John Szymanski/Martin Billheimer special guest Gerald Dowd - \$20 (Full)
- Friday, December 29th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Bill Kirchen - \$20 (Full)
- Saturday, December 30th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Trapper Schoepp - \$15

THE MORE THE MERRIER - JOEL PATERSON
2023 - VENTRELLA RECORDS



Review by Kiki Schueler

The More the Merrier might be referring to the fact that this is Joel Paterson's second holiday record, a follow-up to his delightful 2018 release *Hi-Fi Christmas Guitar*, or he just might be talking about guitars. The new record's cover art has the always jauntily attired musician surrounded by them (three Gibsons, a Fender, and a steel guitar, if you are keeping score at home). And Paterson makes good use of the instruments at his disposal. Like his recent set of Beatles tributes, *Let It Be Guitar* and *Let It Be Acoustic Guitar*, Paterson's instrumental records are so appealing because much of the content is already cataloged in our brains, and we are filling in words without even thinking about it. Of course, that wouldn't make any difference if he weren't a world class guitar player with an enchanting and remarkably expressive style. He is joined here, as he so often is, by the rhythm section of Alex Hall on drums and Beau Sample on upright bass. The trio's supreme musicianship makes this an extremely listenable record, no mere background music here.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in the tempo-hopping twist of an unexpected "Oh Tannenbaum," far removed from its upright, uptight German roots. It starts off at a loping swing, before accelerating to a cowbell-dosed gallop, followed by a frantic finger-picked interlude, before settling back into a languid pace. Only to do it all over again. It's so engaging you almost forget what song he started with,

as his winking coda of "jingle all the way" makes clear. While the first collection avoided the traditional, Merrier embraces them, though not all get the radical treatment. He plays it straight on "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" and "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear." The former layers guitar parts like voices, while the latter contains flourishes that might just be the harps of angels (though I don't see them listed in the credits). Record closer "Silent Night" is equally reverential, the steel guitar singing like Bugs Bunny's sword. Speaking of cartoons, he doesn't forget the irresistible songs that lent their titles to the animated children's specials of our youth—the ubiquitous "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer," with its happiest of all endings, and the lighthearted origin story "Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town." Both stay close to their source material, lighthearted and entertaining.

By making it an instrumental, Paterson avoids the lecherous undertones of "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow." Though the wavering guitar notes do start to sound a little woozy by the end. His "Please Come Home for Christmas" has the bluesy charm it might have had if Elvis recorded it instead of the Eagles. The R&B standard "Merry Christmas Baby" is even sexier, though its placement between two of the churchier songs might dampen the mood. The oft covered, but lesser known, "Christmas Island" gets the tropical treatment, steel guitar and lively percussion giving it that island feel. "(Everybody's Waiting for) The Man with the Bag," first recorded by Kay Starr, kicks off like an early Bond movie theme before swinging into what turns out to be a vaguely familiar tune that I am pretty sure I have never heard before. "Christmas Guitar Boogie" has a similar effect, though in this case Paterson weaves snippets of very familiar, mostly traditional, songs seamlessly into a wholly

original tune Brian Setzer wishes he would have written.

Paired with *Hi-Fi Christmas Guitar*, this just might be all the holiday music you need. It's definitely what all the cool kids will be listening to.

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>

HOLIDAY SHOW



Common Chord



Ivory & Brass

MON.
DEC. 4
7PM

Top Shelf



Rex's Innkeeper

Waunakee - rexsinnkeeper.com

Admission: Donation of any amount to

Felicia's Donation Closet

Serving survivors of domestic abuse

feliciasdonationcloset.com



Details: commonchord.us



"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>

Madison Folk Music Society

P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701

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Regular \$15 _____

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Life \$500 _____

Scholarship fund donation (optional) \$ _____

Total \$ _____

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

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