
Mad Folk NEWS

Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

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Rod MacDonald in concert at Wil-Mar center April 3

Rod MacDonald has a new release, *Recognition*. Considered to be his finest work yet, the recording is a dynamic and diverse compilation of well-crafted songs that possess thoughtful, intelligent, and insightful lyrics highlighting social and political conditions, interspersed with lighter reflections on life, love, and living.

With 17 songs, *Recognition* includes both solo and band tracks written by Rod, Steve Eriksson, and Hoyt Axton, who wrote and recorded "Willie Jean," the lone non-original song on the CD.



Regarded as a pre-eminent performing artist of contemporary folk music, Rod is well-known for songwriting that reflects his love for music and his reverence for life. His willingness to take chances and ask tough questions, plus his firm conviction that we must preserve the many gifts in our universe, is evident in his thought-provoking and reflective commentaries.

The song, "My Neighbors in Delray," prompts thoughtful contemplation about the motives of the 9/11 terrorists—whom it was later discovered lived unobtrusively only blocks away from Rod's home in Delray Beach, Florida, planning their terrorist activities. In "137 Executions,"

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PERFORMERS & VENUES

Cafe' Carpe has established itself as an intimate Midwest stopping ground for singer/songwriters. When someone says, "I played the Carpe last weekend," anyone who knows about venues in the Madison/Milwaukee area recognizes the reference to this sought-after listening room.

Owned by Bill Camplin and Kitty Welch since 1985, Cafe' Carpe has attracted the full gamut of folk musicians from locals such as Roxanne Neat or Satchel Welch to other midwest notables like Alastair Mook and Greg Brown. What makes this venue even *more* attractive is the variety of performances. There could be a bluegrass band, a jazz combo, a cellist, a poetry reading, a folk artist, or a play on any given night.

Cafe' Carpe is really the one-stop place to drop for a lunch or dinner because of its varied restaurant menu. "You actually make a living off of this by going into the restaurant business," Bill Camplin states. "You can insist on music being a part of it, and that's what Kitty and I did...that's what Cafe' Carpe is all about."

Even though the size of the kitchen is small, the food that is offered (along with nightly specials) is largely delicious: from corned beef or

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Mad Folk says "Thanks" with Martyn Joseph / Li'l Rev concert

The Madison Folk Music Society is proud to welcome Martyn Joseph and Lil Rev who will perform at the Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer Street on Thursday, April 29 at 7 p.m. There will be no charge for this concert. This is our annual "thank you" to all you who support the Madison Folk Music Society.

One concert attendee, after seeing Martyn Joseph perform, likened the experience and content to "the beautiful business of being alive with all its jokes, absurdity and sadness, seared

by music for the heart and head."

Martyn Joseph's 20-year career has evolved from starting out as a protest-singer, a balladeer, and a Celtic rock star into a widely respected, charismatic, and passionate singer/songwriter.

His touring work and appearances over the years, on both sides of the Atlantic, have helped to establish this gifted and gracious Welshman as one of the foremost singer/songwriters of his generation. As Janis Ian said of him, "I'd work with him again, any-

time, anyplace." Martyn's particular strength is in the lyrical narrative of his songs, be they contemporary protests against injustice and inhumanity, a musical psalm to the fulfillment and fragilities of love, or a piercing observation of social history. "It's the song that can soothe, explain, and even in a small way save us," Joseph contends.

Martyn Joseph has embraced some notable achievements including five

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Rod MacDonald

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Rod takes issue with the position of Texas' former governor regarding the high number of death row executions, and the lyrics were published in the Summer 2003 issue of *Sing Out!* in which Rod is featured.

Rod's love for music and his reverence for life are evident in his music and live performances. A prolific songwriter and a seasoned entertainer, he is especially known for his insightful commentaries on a variety of political and social issues. He is a mod-

ern-day troubadour whose lyrics are intelligent and humorous, passionate and poignant. His unique style of music, showcased in a richly textured tenor, is infectious and inspiring, often humorous, sometimes reckless, frequently evocative, usually thought provoking—and always compelling.

Rod brings his considerable talent to Madison on Saturday, April 3 at the Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jennifer Street. Admission is \$12 advance and \$14 day of show.

Opening the show will be Sara Pace. Presently, Sara resides in Madison and performs with guitarist Doug Milks and pedal steel guitarist Adam

Davis. In the fall of 2002, Sara released her debut album entitled, *Sara Pace: 'self-titled.'*

Draped in pure acoustic arrangements that span a breadth of styles, this album is a lyrical heavy-hitter. Incorporating both fictional storytelling and poetic personal reckonings, *'self-titled'* gracefully tips its hat to topics such as growing better (not older), politeness, and the carousel ride of love.

'Self-titled' was selected as one of *Performing Songwriter's* top 12 DIY (Do-It-Yourself) releases for the June 2003 issue. Pace has also received critical acclaim as a songwriter from national songwriting competitions such as the "Songs Inspired By Literature" competition, where her "Ballad of Calamity Jane" was chosen as a semi-finalist in 2001.

Her songwriting has been lauded by many and compared to that of John Prine, Greg Brown, Nanci Griffith, and Gillian Welch.

Martyn Joseph / Li'l Rev

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Top 50 UK chart positions, with such songs as "Dolphins Make Me Cry," "Working Mother," and "Let's Talk About It In The Morning." He has appeared and/or toured with such notable artists like Suzanne Vega,

to his grandfather play the harmonica and tell old tales. This early influence along with being taken "under the wing" by experienced folk musicians at Milwaukee's 19th Street Coffeehouse as a teenager, helped mold Lil' Rev

into one of the most accomplished multi-instrumentalists and storytellers in the Midwest.

Lil' Rev's repertoire includes blues; American folk; Tin Pan Alley; Irish; labor history; and songs, waltzes, polkas, and Jewish and Yiddish folk songs. His diversified background allows him a wide variety of job opportunities: schools, libraries, nursing homes, music stores, and teaching in instrument workshops, along with the many small and large concert venues that are



Martyn Joseph

Clannad, Art Garfunkel, and Celine Dion.

Tom Robinson calls Martyn Joseph "one of the most charismatic and electrifying performers in Britain today...tough and passionate."

"A depth, resonance, and emotional punch, which belies comparison. One of acoustic music's most original voices and most forward looking of his generation of singer/songwriters."—Q Magazine

Martyn downplays these accomplishments and comments, "Really what I do is try and write songs that might make a difference."

When he was a little boy, Lil' Rev (Marc Revenson) would sit and listen

welcoming him.

Lil' Rev tries to connect his desire to share music with the meaning/symbolism of tapestry. "I get to hold this tapestry and revel it and then I hold it up for people and I say, 'look at this'...then when they look at it closer they realize that it's *them*—it's *their* picture...we're all kind of interwoven into that—the fabric of what creates this music—we *all* contributed to this."

By the end of the evening, you will be debating about which of the many instruments Lil' Rev plays the best—harmonica, ukulele, guitar, mandolin, or banjo. What you will agree on is the depth of his message, communicated through storytelling and song.

Café Carpe

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tomato reuben sandwiches served on freshly baked kaiser rolls to vegetarian stuffed pizza or chicken/ham jambalaya. Combined with an array of domestic and imported brews and "esteemed" homemade desserts, the Carpe's menu gives you no excuse if you leave with a displeased or empty palate.

In 2003, a back porch was added off the listening room, overlooking the Rock River. Building enhancements are a concern for Bill Camplin: "When we're gone I hope we leave something of value behind here that can be used by somebody...we have this wonderful building that's 100 years old and we've managed to not do any real interior changes to the business part."

The relaxed atmosphere, the friendly staff, and the listening room envied by musicians all contribute to making Café Carpe a necessary venue stop. Bill adds, "We are going to have this great vibe of a place where the vibe will only get better."

Catch the vibe—particularly the performance schedule, menu, and more at www.cafecarpe.com.

Café Carpe
18 S. Water Street W.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
Phone: (920) 563-9391
E-mail: carpe@ticon.net

"Almost Tartan Day" gathers performers

Middleton High School drama students have been selected to represent the United States at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, in August 2004.

A benefit concert for the excursion will be held on Friday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the Middleton-Cross Plains Performing Arts Center, 2100 Bristol St., Middleton.

Entitled "Almost Tartan Day," the performance will feature Stone Ring,

NAVAN, harpist Turner Collins, and Madison Pipe and Drums. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Students are fund raising as a group, individually and earning money to sponsor the trip and the play production.

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