

# Mad Folk News

## Phil Ochs Song Night Friday October 26th

♪ Join us as we sponsor a Song Night celebrating the songs and legacy of Phil Ochs. Phil Ochs was a singer-songwriter who died tragically in 1976. Since 1983 his sister, Sonny, has been keeping his memory and songs alive with a series of song nights comprised of a group of accomplished folk artists assembled for concert tours around the country. These song nights commemorate the life and music of the late folksinger while also highlighting new talents who make music in the spirit that Ochs made his. We are in for a treat as Sonny Ochs brings in another set of great performers for an evening of music, sharing the songs of her late brother Phil. Some of the musicians you will know and some may be new to you, but trust me when all put together it will be one of those evenings of music you will long remember, sung by folks you will want to hear more of. We'll give you short bios of the musicians here, but it is really the live performance you will want to see and hear.

For nearly four decades, Magpie (Greg Artzner & Terry Leonino) have toured the folk music circuit all over North America and abroad. Hailing from the northern Catskills, Magpie is famous for the humanist message in their performances of hard-hitting songs, and for dedicating themselves through their work as musicians to the causes of justice, peace, freedom and protection of the earth. The sound that Terry & Greg produce is far bigger than you would expect from just two people. Both have strong, beautiful voices and excel as soloists, but together the result is greater than

the sum of the two parts. Their harmonies and arrangements are nothing less than transcendent, taking the listener into deep realms of emotion. With the stirring themes of their songs, the result of this powerful delivery is a provocative and moving experience. With Greg's brilliant, versatile and driving guitar work and Terry's excellent playing of the harmonica, mandolin, dulcimer and rhythm guitar, their instrumental arrangements are the perfect vehicle to carry the songs.

Magpie's 12th recording entitled "The Civil War: Songs and Stories Untold" was just released in late summer 2012. Their 35th anniversary CD "In This World" joins a list of excellent CDs not only including the 10 others of their own, but also two recorded with Kim & Reggie Harris. It also includes track contributions to numerous compilations and tributes, including being the only artists featured on all three of Applesseed's tributes to Pete Seeger, as well as a tribute CD to Phil Ochs on Sliced Bread Records, tracks on CCNC's documentary CD "Freedom is a Constant Struggle," music for several film documentaries including "Nashoba" the story of the four Civil Rights Workers' disappearance in Mississippi, the Harper's Ferry National Park Visitor's Center film music and ADDY Award-winning song "Take Me Back to Harper's Ferry," and in Smithsonian's monumental collection, "Folk Song America."

Joe Jencks, Greg Greenway and Pat Wictor have formed the dynamic male trio called Brother Sun. Their harmonies and lyrics tell what they are about: warm as a campfire, stirring as a gospel church,

rousing as a call to arms. Through contemporary songwriting, informed by the deep roots of gospel, blues and folk, the trio weaves a tapestry of harmony that is brilliantly fresh and yet familiar. Imagine Crosby, Stills, and Nash with hints of the Dixie Hummingbirds. In less than two years of touring nationally, Brother Sun's debut CD reached #2 on Folk-DJ, and they've played to standing ovations at Falcon Ridge, Kerrville, Old Songs, Philly Folk and numerous other venues. With Grammy-winning producer Ben Wisch, they are working on their 2nd CD, scheduled for release in early 2013. From three major points on the map -- New York, Boston, and Chicago -- Pat, Greg and Joe have truly blended themselves into Brother Sun, a unique celebration of the amazing power of singing together.

Jen Cass was born to unusually hip parents in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan where the singer-songwriter was raised on a healthy mix of folk music, homegrown vegetables, spontaneous dancing, black licorice and Motown. When asked about her childhood, Jen muses, "I remember my mom doing pirouettes around the living room, with Joan Baez and Simon & Garfunkel blasting in the background. Then dad would pull out his guitar and we'd all sing Tom Paxton songs. My sister and I weren't allowed to watch TV, so we sang, danced and read every book we could get our hands on. By the age of five, I was a miniature troubadour in bad seventies clothing, quoting Jack London and belting out Jim Croce tunes. I love my parents for that." In the eighth grade, after a Josh White Jr. concert

## Phil Ochs Cont.

in Ann Arbor, Jen found Phil Ochs' "All The News That's Fit To Sing" in the Folk bin at Schoolkids Records. She has been a rabid Phil Ochs fan ever since, writing her popular song "Standing In Your Memory (For Phil Ochs)" in tribute to her hero.

Kim & Reggie Harris' performances are characterized by rich harmonies, percussive guitar and a warm, upbeat presence. In 20 years of working together, they have written and sung in styles ranging from traditional to adult-contemporary. Their first CD, "In the Heat of the Summer," (title song by Phil Ochs) showcases the depth and passion of their songwriting. Their first album, "Music and the Underground Railroad," has been praised in musical, cultural and historical circles. A large part of this album has been recreated on a new CD titled "Steal Away" which is getting heavy airplay nationwide. Originally from Philadelphia, Kim and Reggie live in upstate New York.

In praising John Flynn's songwriting, Kris Kristofferson writes, "The truth is in the details; his gifts are an ear for accurate dialogue, an eye for powerful imagery and anything funny, and a heart open to

surprises and the possibilities of moving the emotions." As a young father, Flynn left a Nashville staff writing gig and began writing songs for his kids and about his life. These songs yielded CDs that are informed by the trademark humanity and humor that Flynn sees as the essential tools for parenthood and living. Recently, the 51 year-old Delaware resident has turned his attention -- and his songwriting -- to the world his four children will one day inherit.

**Mark your calendars for a return of a Phil Ochs Song Night on October 26th @ 7:00. We will again be presenting an evening of musicians bringing you the music of Phil Ochs. This years line-up will be: Kim & Reggie Harris, Magpie, John Flynn, Brother Sun and Jen Cass. We'll give you a description of all these performers in next months newsletter, but we wanted to make sure you got this on your calendars, as it is going to be an amazing night of music, with the opportunity to see many performers in one night. These nights always turn out to be magical and for a different reason everytime.**

## 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](http://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:

<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.

# Wisconsin Native John McCutcheon in Concert

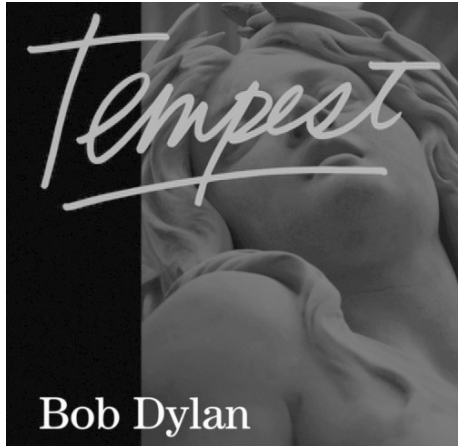
Join us as we welcome John back to Madison on Saturday, November 3 for a concert at the Barrymore Theatre. John McCutcheon has emerged as one of our most respected and loved folksingers. As an instrumentalist, he is master of a dozen different traditional instruments, most notably the rare and beautiful hammered dulcimer. His songwriting has been hailed by critics and singers around the globe. His thirty recordings have garnered every imaginable honor, including seven Grammy nominations. He

has produced over twenty albums of other artists, from traditional fiddlers to contemporary singer-songwriters to educational and documentary works. His books and instructional materials have introduced budding players to the joys of their own musicality. And his commitment to grassroots political organizations has put him on the front lines of many of the issues important to communities and workers. But it is in live performance that John feels most at home. It is what has brought his

music into the lives and homes of one of the broadest audiences any folk musician has ever enjoyed. People of every generation and background seem to feel at home in a concert hall when John McCutcheon takes the stage, with what critics describe as "little feats of magic, breathtaking in their ease and grace ... like a conversation with an illuminating old friend." Whether in print, on record or on stage, few people communicate with the versatility, charm, wit or pure talent of John McCutcheon.

# TEMPEST

## BOB DYLAN ~ 2012 COLUMBIA RECORDS



Review by Kiki Schueler

“His First Album of New Music in OVER Three Years!” the sticker on Bob Dylan’s new record, *Tempest*, brags, like it’s been an eternity and we’ve all been sitting around eagerly waiting. The truth is, three years seems awfully quick; there are much younger folk taking much, much longer between records (yes, I’m talking to you, Wrens), and they don’t have Dylan’s laurels to rest on. There’s been plenty to keep a fan occupied since his 2009 CD *Together Through Life*, including a 1963 concert record, Volume 9 in the Bootleg series (the excellent Witmark demos), a surprisingly weirdly enjoyable Christmas record, and the complete mono recordings. Yep, three years have flown by.

Like all of his releases since 1997’s *Time Out of Mind*, *Tempest* (his 35th studio record) is a good, solid record, immensely listenable, and impressive for its musicianship and Dylan’s still strong at age 71 voice. By this point you’ve made your decision on how you feel about that voice: either you’re the one doing the bad Dylan impression or you want to punch the people who do. In fact, enjoying that voice is the key to this record because there’s a lot of it. There are only ten songs, but the running time tops an hour and he’s singing almost all of it. Only two tracks

slip in under five minutes, the pretty slow dance “Soon after Midnight” and the talky “Long and Wasted Years,” which actually feels longer than 3:47.

In contrast, the album’s title track, which chronicles the sinking of the Titanic (maybe you’ve heard of it), flies by despite its countless verses. Dylan keeps it interesting for fourteen minutes, though I am pretty sure that in reality the ship sank faster than that. He somewhat puzzlingly name checks Leonardo DiCaprio, “Leo took his sketchbook. He was often so inclined. He closed his eyes and painted the scenery in his mind,” as though the movie and the tragedy were the same. Honestly, it is far less distracting than his head-scratchingly weird Alicia Keys verse from *Modern Times*’ “Thunder on the Mountain.” I chalk these moments up to the fact that he’s Bob Dylan, and he can write whatever the hell he wants. In comparison, “Early Roman Kings” is the only song I wish would wrap it up sooner. Too often, especially live, his blues songs become monotonous drudges.

Other than that they are all winners. Album opener “Duquesne Whistle” is a lighthearted romp, while “Pay in Blood” isn’t near as dark as the title would suggest. “I’ll pay in blood,” he chuckles slyly, “but not my own.” And that winking seriousness is what makes it my favorite. “Roll on John,” his “Candle in the Wind” memorial to John Lennon, is sweet and touching. He incorporates the lyrics from “A Day in the Life” effectively, “I heard the news today oh boy, they hauled your ship up on the shore. The city went dark, there is no more joy.” The Highway 61-esque “Narrow Way” jokes, “If I can’t work up to you, you’ll surely have to work down to me someday,” though you don’t want to think about the line “Take my head and bury it between your breasts” too much, um, if at all.

*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](mailto:madfolk@charter.net). Learnaboutconcerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org).

### Madison Folk Music Society Board

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- Vicky Jones .....  
215-7621 ~ [mail@vickyjones.com](mailto:mail@vickyjones.com)

Dylan is backed on the record by his excellent touring band, with the addition of Los Lobos’ David Hidalgo on guitar, accordion and violin. It has been a mostly consistent membership of late, with the rhythm section going back a dozen years. The return of Charlie Sexton on guitar in particular seems to have revitalized him (not to mention making me really happy). *Tempest* is a worthy addition to Dylan’s remarkable catalog, continuing a string of winners in the fifth (!) decade of his career. Roll on, Bob.

**Crankies**

When you start obsessing about something, suddenly reminders of it are everywhere. You muse about green hats and everywhere there are green hats. From above, the human race is transformed into a bowl of peas.

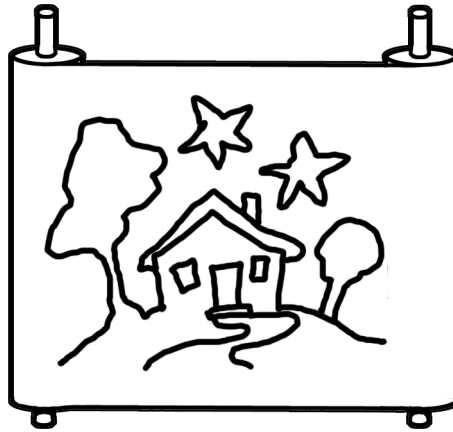
This happened to me recently regarding song illustration. I wrote about that subject the month before last, and now I can't get it out of my sights. But that's okay. I'm glad I hadn't obsessed about the sound of diesel trucks.

At the recent 36th Annual Fox Valley Folk Music and Storytelling Festival in Geneva, IL, a few weeks ago, I saw a bunch of people, including my music partner Lou, crowding around a performance which I couldn't see because of the throng. Lou later described the scene for me: two young women from Kentucky telling a story while illustrating it by turning the crank on a frame containing a backlit scroll with cutout silhouetted illustrations. I wasn't quite sure I understood, so later when they performed on the main stage, I made sure and found a spot on the grass up front.

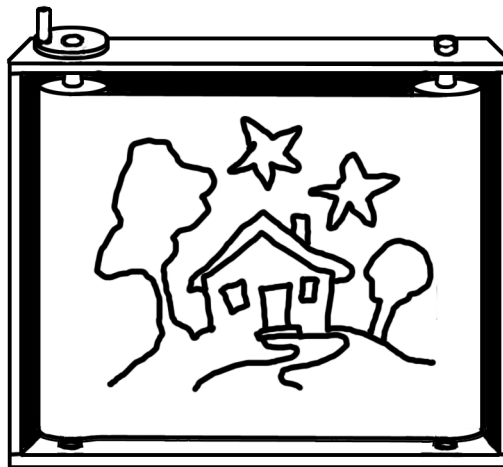
And I'm glad I did. What a spectacular old fashioned multi-media experience it turned out to be. Anna Roberts-Gevalt and Elizabeth LaPrelle of Southwest Virginia, both in their mid-20s but each already a veteran of countless festivals and venues across the country, met in 2010 and soon began collaborating. According to their website, Anna and Elizabeth are "trying to engage themselves and their audience with traditional art in all the forms it can take..." and from what we saw of them at the festival, they are wildly successful at it.

The device that Lou described and that I later witnessed is called a "crankie," because it has a crank. I couldn't exactly picture the gizmo as Lou described it, but that's only be-

cause though it's simple, it's hard to describe without an illustration. And going with my theme, I now need an illustration to illustrate a means of illustration.



Basically, the thing is a scroll, as in the top picture. The scroll material is usually paper or cloth. In the case of the one I saw, the scroll was backlit, which isn't always the case. But I like the backlighting; it gives the whole thing a nice glow. Lit this way, translucent paper or cloth is very effective, though many backlit crankies are mainly opaque silhouettes, cut out and affixed to the scroll.



The scroll is mounted in a frame, as in the above picture. Their particular frame measured about 3' wide by about 2' high, though you can find examples on the web of tiny crankies and huge crankies. Sometimes both rollers have cranks so the thing can be rewound. Sometimes the crank is made to be removed and fitted on the other roller for that reason. The spectacular variety of crankies is endless.

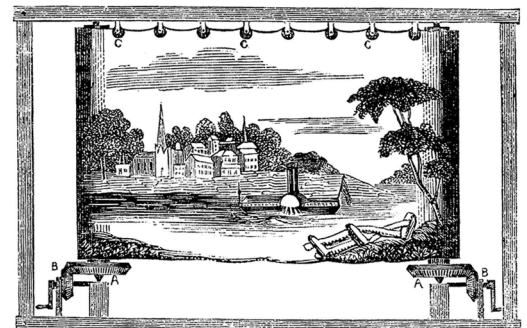
Sometimes, particularly with backlit crankies, extra figures can be made to appear and disappear by manipulating silhouetted cutouts behind the crankie. For example, you could have a story or song about a ball bouncing down a street; the street scene could scroll by on the crankie, and the ball, a circle of paper stuck on the end of a length of wire, could be made to move up and down while the street scene went from right to left, creating the appearance of a bouncing ball.

There are videos on the web of Anna and Elizabeth and a few of their amazing crankies. I also found that there was a whole "Banners and Crankies" festival in Chicago in 2010! Google it!

One thing I want to say before I get to the end of this episode. Anna and Elizabeth perform in a kind of sparse and raw traditional style that is one of my favorite kinds of music, and even without crankies they would have had me mesmerized. I hope we can bring them to town.

So, if this episode of Whither Zither interests you at all, I STRONGLY recommend Googling Anna Roberts-Gevalt and Elizabeth LaPrelle, and, of course, "crankies." There is even a fledgling online museum of crankies.

I'll sign off this issue with a picture of a truly huge 1848 crankie (notice the cranks) of a trip up and down the Mississippi by John Banvard, which traveled the world and made Banvard rich and famous. These stage-sized scrolls were called in those days "Moving Panoramas," which you can read all about in Wikipedia. Oh, and expect more about song illustration in coming WZ's!



“John McCutcheon is not only one of the best musicians in the USA, but also a great singer, songwriter, and song leader.” – *Pete Seeger*



Photo by  
Irene Young

The Madison Folk Music Society &  
Wisconsin Public Radio - Simply Folk *present*  
AN EVENING WITH

# John McCutcheon

**Saturday, November 3**

**7:00 pm**

**Barrymore Theatre**

**2090 Atwood Avenue**

Tickets \$18 advance, \$20 day of show

Available at: [www.madfolk.org](http://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

October 2012

Mad Folk Events.....



## Phil Ochs Song Night

Friday, October 26  
First United Methodist Church -- 203 Wisconsin Ave -- 7pm  
\$15 adv / \$17 d.o.s.

## John McCutcheon

Saturday, November 3  
Barrymore Theatre -- 2090 Atwood Ave  
\$18 adv / \$20 d.o.s.

## Garnet Rogers

Friday, January 18  
The Brink Lounge -- 701 E. Washington Ave -- 7pm  
\$15 adv / \$17 d.o.s.



## Mad Folk ANNUAL SOCIAL

(The yearly meeting of the Madison Folk Music Society)  
Saturday, October 6, 2012  
7:00 – 9:00 pm at the WilMar Center, 953 Jenifer St., Madison  
**FREE!**

## Misc

Madison Ukulele Club -- Singalongs 1st and 3rd Weds 7:00-9:00pm  
-- call for location -- 246-8205 (Andrew)

Bob's BBQ Emporium's Open Mic - Thu, Oct 18 -- 7pm  
-- 8164 Hwy. 14 Arena, WI

Cajun jam held every first Sunday 2 p.m.-5 p.m.  
At the Froth House: 11 N. Allen St., Madison We welcome all levels of experience with instruments and Cajun music.  
kcholden@wisc.edu for more info. www.prairiebayoucajun.com

## Venues



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

## Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise

- Thu, Oct 4 -- The Pines-- 8pm
- Thu, Oct 11 -- New Pioneers -- \$8 -- 7pm
- Fri, Oct 12 -- Tret Fure -- \$15
- Sat, Oct 13 -- Bill Camplin & The Americans -- \$8
- Tue, Oct 16 -- Claude Bourbon -- \$10 -- 7:30pm
- Sat, Oct 20 -- Rayna Gellert
- Fri, Oct 12 -- Julie Macarus and Friends
- Sat, Oct 20 -- Larry Penn / John Sieger / Mark Dvorak -- \$10

## On the Air



Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Stephanie Elkins, Interim 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 (world music) w/Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak & Dan Talmo  
Weekdays 9:00am-noon  
• Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over) w/ David & Martin Alvarado & Eugenia Highland  
• Tue -- For the Sake of the Song (traditional American folk) w/Jim Schwall  
• Wed -- Back to the Country (country music on a theme) w/Bill Malone  
• Thur -- Diaspora (folk and international) w/Terry O' Powers  
• Fri -- Mud Acres (bluegrass and acoustic) w/Chris Powers

WSUM 91.7 student radio  
• Sun, 9am-10am -- Exiles Return w/ Elizabeth Delaquess



701 E. Washington  
thebrinklounge.com  
608-661-8599

## The Brink Lounge

- Tue, Oct 2 -- Robby Schiller 7pm  
Brandon Beebe 8pm -- \$10 donation
- Tue, Oct 16 -- Lil Rev 7pm  
Whiskey Farm 8pm -- \$10 donation
- Tue, Oct 30 Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman 7pm  
(2 sets) \$15 Tickets available at door or online at www.thebrinklounge.com



## ICHC

- Sat., Oct 13 -- The Mairtin de Cogain Project -- 7:30pm -- \$19 adv. / \$23 d.o.s. -- Students \$10 w/ ID
- Sat., Oct. 27-- Mustard's Retreat Samhain Show -- 7:30pm -- \$12 d.o.s. -- Students \$10 w/ ID
- Sat., Nov. 10-- Paddy Keenan -- 7:30pm -- \$12 d.o.s. -- Students \$10 w/ ID
- Sat., Dec 1-- Irish Christmas in America -- 7:30pm -- \$21 adv. / \$25 d.o.s. -- Students \$10 w/ ID

## Madison Dance

- African/African-American Dance classes with live drumming -- Sun, 7:00-9:00pm -- Metro Dance, 3009 University Ave. -- 255-3677 / 251-4311
- Cajun Strangers- Sat 8/4 - Mt Horeb, WI -- Cajun Fest
- 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 and 3rd Mon, 7:30-9:30pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 238-9951 or 238-9951
- International Dancing -- Wed and Sun; classes 7:30-8:30pm, request dancing 8:30-11:00pm -- The Crossing, 1127 University Ave. -- 241-3655
- 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 -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 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 -- call for location -- 238-9951
- Scottish Country Dancing -- Sun, 7:00pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 835-0914

Irish Cultural & Heritage Center  
2133 W Wisconsin Ave  
Milwaukee, WI -- ichc.net  
414-345-8800

Commemorates Phil's life and music and highlights new talents making music in the spirit that Phil made his music.



**Madison Folk Music Society PRESENTS**

# Phil Ochs Song Night

*featuring*

• MAGPIE • KIM & REGGIE HARRIS •  
• JOHN FLYNN • BROTHER SUN • JEN CASS •

**Friday, October 26**

**7:00 pm**

**First United Methodist Church**

**203 Wisconsin Avenue**

Tickets \$15 advance, \$17 day of show

Available at: [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org),  
Spruce Tree Music, Orange Tree Imports

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



**Last STRINGALONG Musical Retreat  
November 2-4, 2012 (Friday – Sunday, with a Saturday-only option)  
Held at Camp Edwards near East Troy, Wisc.**

Turn off your cell phone and TV and get back in touch with life's simple pleasures. Does your artistic side need a little stimulation, or are you a musical novice ready to add a new hobby? Come soak in the quiet beauty of the woods and lake. Join the music-making or just sit back and listen by a roaring fire in the big stone fireplace. Take a two-hour class from nationally acclaimed guitarist Mike Dowling and/or Lil Rev on ukulele and harmonica, and enjoy their amazing concerts. Make new friends who share your interests, or spend time with a special friend. If you enjoy open mics, jams, singing, performing, teaching, or just listening and learning, then this Stringalong is for you. Since 1982, we've offered relaxing music/vacation retreats in two 8-bedroom lodges (with shared, single bathrooms) on beautiful Lake Beulah in southeast Wisconsin, 90 minutes NW of Chicago, 40 minutes SW of Milwaukee. Commuters are welcome, too. Come join us! For more info about schedule options, prices, and to see if space is still available, call Ann Schmid at (414) 339-3655 (sorry, no website)

**Mad Folk  
ANNUAL SOCIAL**

(The yearly meeting of the Madison Folk Music Society)  
**Saturday, October 6, 2012  
7:00 – 9:00 pm at the WilMar Center, 953 Jenifer St., Madison  
FREE!**

Join Mad Folk members, folk friends and prospective members for a fun evening of music performances and delicious treats. On stage will be a medley of local musicians to entertain and amuse. Mac Robertson and others will be featured (additional names to be announced later). There might be time for a couple of open mic numbers and sing-alongs (bring instruments). Please bring a healthy snack or beverage to share. At some point in the evening, we will also take a few minutes to introduce Mad Folk board members, tell about upcoming concerts, extoll the joys of membership and volunteering, and more. Hope to see you there...

Tracy Comer, P.O. Box 930446 Verona, WI 53593-0446  
Send your check, payable to MFMS to: Mad Folk c/o  
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Choose membership category: Senior \$8  
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Madison Folk Music Society

**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](http://www.madfolk.org) and click on "Join MFMS"  
**Way #2 – unplugged**  
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