

Mad Folk News

TOM PAXTON & THE DONJUANS THE ONLY WISCONSIN SHOW

♪ Tom Paxton. Need I say more? I would guess that there is no one, except maybe for Bob Dylan, whose songs have been recorded by a lineup like this: Pete Seeger, Rick Danko, The Dillards, Jose Feliciano, Flatt & Scruggs, Bob Gibson, Arlo Guthrie, The Kingston Trio, The Irish Rovers, The Weavers, Anne Hills, Eric Anderson, Chet Atkins, Harry Belafonte, Pat Boone, Glen Campbell, The Carter Family, Johnny Cash, Donovan, Willie Nelson, Neil Diamond, Dolly Parton; Bobby Darin, Judy Collins, John Denver, Joan Baez, Peter, Paul and Mary, Placido Domingo, Princess Christina of the Netherlands, and even Bob Dylan himself. And that's only a very partial listing.

This great enthusiasm on the part of so many performers to record Paxton's songs is due not only to the easily beautiful musicality of the works, but just as much to the clarity and substance of their lyrics. Paxton's songs can be absolutely hilarious and they can be deeply serious, and often can be both at the same time.

Somehow Paxton found his "voice" early in his musical life, writing songs that seem ageless -- like "Bottle of Wine" and "Ramblin' Boy" -- way back in the 1960s, when Tom was in his twenties. And the quality of his songwriting has never weakened. His lyrics are as natural as conversation, and his melodies are instant ear-worms, in the nicest possible way.

Greatly influenced by the accessible and socially provocative songwriting of Woody Guthrie, Paxton has written hundreds of timeless songs that follow in this tradition, but also writes what he calls "Short Shelf-Life Songs" that are made up around a spe-

cific current situation that he feels needs attention. Astonishingly, these quick songs exhibit the same craftsmanship as his less ephemeral works.

But even if Tom Paxton had never written a song, his obvious love of folk and folk-like music comes through brilliantly due to his charismatic stage presence and simple, friendly, but subtly passionate singing and understated, straightforward, and superbly appropriate guitar accompaniment.

Born in 1937, Paxton has declared himself in "semi-retirement," so this concert for Madison audiences is a rare offering not to be missed.

Joining Tom in this concert are the seasoned and renowned GRAMMY Award-winning songwriters, Don Henry and Jon Vezner, either of whom on their own would be more than worth the ticket. As a duo known as the DonJuans, they have made a name for themselves as wonderfully gifted singers and instrumentalists as well as being known internationally for their songwriting skills. Their work has been recorded by everyone from John Hartford to David Crosby to Ray Charles to Janis Ian. Sharing the night with Tom Paxton, they will help make this an impossibly exciting few hours of song.

This show is on Sunday, February 11 at 7pm-- It's at The Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood Ave., Madison. Tickets are \$27 advance and \$30 at the door and are available at The Barrymore or online at <http://www.barrymorelive.com/tickets/1802111.htm> Please remember to bring an item to drop off for the local food pantry.

Cosy Sheridan returns to Mad Folk stage March 11

♪ Described as "frank, feisty, sublimely and devilishly funny (Cornell Folksong Society), national award-winning Cosy Sheridan has an instant magnetism on stage, owing to the mix of her brilliant songwriting, sharp wit, magical voice and beautifully textured guitar work. West Side Folk dubbed her "one of the era's finest and most thoughtful songwriters."

Cosy first caught the attention of folk audiences in 1992 by winning songwriting contests at both Kerrville and Telluride.

Since then she has been extensively performing, touring, recording (10 CDs), and teaching across the country. She has written a one-woman-show, had music placed in books and film, taught extensively at workshops and camps, and co-founded the Moab Folk Camp (Moab, Utah) in 2008.

Sheridan is currently touring in support of her latest CD, *Sometimes I Feel Too Much* (2017). Her previous release, *Pretty Bird* (2014), was chosen as one of *Sing Out Magazine's* "Great CDs of 2014."

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 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 (with \$1.62 service charge):

<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.

The show will take place at The Brink Lounge on Sunday, March 11, 2018, starting at 7:00 pm. Doors will open at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 on the day of the show; see www.madfolk.org for information on how to purchase tickets in advance. For more about the artist, see www.cosysheridan.com

Congratulations, Scholarship Recipients!

by Meg Skinner

The Madison Folk Music Society is continuing its collaboration with the former Madison Music Makers, which this summer merged with the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra to become WYSO Music Makers, to identify promising students with a special interest in folk music, to receive scholarships for private lessons. The scholarships, provided by funds donated at MadFolk concerts into the stringless guitar, and contributions made with member-

ship renewals, honor the memory of Helen Schneyer, the late folk singing sister of Mad Folker Mona Wasow.

Through these scholarships for music lessons, Mad Folk hopes to encourage the next generation of folk singers to fill the shoes of those who have gone on to join the angel band. The more donations the Madison Folk Music Society receives, the more students with an interest in folk music Mad Folk can support to become the folk singers of the future.

Seeking a new host for Tuesday morning folk

WORT Radio show is very sad to be losing Peter Allen and all of his talents as he moves on to a new endeavor. With his departure WORT now has an opening for a volunteer morning host for our indie/folk/acoustic/singer songwriter show on Tuesdays from 9 am-noon.

It is radio show that does well with a mix of traditional folk and singer-songwriters, but includes some of modern young "indie" bands and artists blurring the lines between folk, rock and blues, along with plenty of classic folk and roots music and bringing live bands into the studio, is the kind of format that makes this show so great. No prior radio experience is necessary, just a knowledge of and passion for the music, and the availability to be here on Tuesday mornings.

So if you, or if you know of anyone who may be interested, you can have them contact Sybil Augustine at WORT.



MadFolk Music scholarship recipients Franco Morales Solari, Freddy Vicuna-Moreno, Thanya Vicuna-Moreno, and Isiah Valdes perform under the direction of their guitar teacher Louka Patenaude during the break in the Member Appreciation concert by Anne Hill on August 10. Photo credit: Ron Dennis



HANDCRAFTED - JOSH HARTY
CONTINENTAL SONG CITY - 2017



Review by Kiki Schueler

At first I couldn't pinpoint the reason why despite the fact that all the songs on Josh Harty's record *Handcrafted* are familiar, they are also somehow not familiar. Then it occurred to me that I've never really heard these songs this way. Up until this point all of Harty's recorded output has featured a band, while the majority of shows I've seen him play have been solo, in bars, clubs, and coffeehouses. The loudest of those- especially too many Tuesday nights to count at Mickey's Tavern- often found Harty struggling to be heard over the increasingly loud and inattentive bar patrons, to the point where he would occasionally express his frustration. The quietest of those- which includes a recent show at 702 WI (where I picked up this CD)- still had some background noise, the inevitable clatter of glasses, whispered conversations, or even just the rustle of folks shifting in their seats. Which is why it is almost disconcerting to hear nothing but voice and guitar here. At times it seems strangely hollow, like some energy was lost in playing for no one, and I miss the stories that are part of every show. However, it's hard to argue with the crystal clear recording that allows you to hear every note from his worn Gibson J-50. The guitar and voice shine over the course of thirteen songs, drawn from a nearly decade and a half recording career.

The oldest song here is "Minna Mill-

er," a simple guide to life he found written in a thrift store bible, from his first record *Three Days Notice* (which is exactly how long he had to write it). It's a sweet lullaby with a comforting chorus, "And if you find yourself out there, just remember, you can always come home."

Four of the tracks were originally featured on 2008's *A Long List of Lies*, an appropriately titled record mapping the end of a relationship. The haunted "December" is heavy with allusions to loneliness and isolation, while the propulsive "Long Time Coming Down" accepts the inevitable, "What can I do? I know I can't get through to you." Here the addictive "Which Way I Go Tonight" lacks the crackling electricity it has in front of an audience, but there's still no denying its musical strength. All the songs are Harty originals, except "Whiskey & Morphine," a co-write with (sometime) local musician Jeremiah Nelson. It's as dark as this collection gets, a suicidal sounding missive from the bottom of a glass. Almost half of the record consists of tracks from *Holding On*, his most recent release. The self-realized "Wired" is marginally hopeful, an honest assessment of what lies ahead, and "English Rain" follows the same path of acceptance, foretelling "What will be will be." These songs all seem more elusively ambiguous and less specifically emotional than the earlier material.

It had to be a fairly nerve-racking recording session. There were no second takes, no dub-overs, no stops. But if he makes any mistakes they certainly aren't obvious (I think I hear a slip in one song, but I'm not telling you which one). As he describes it in the liner notes, "It's a live show really, but just performed in a studio on the west side of Milwaukee." It's an indicator of his success as a touring musician abroad

that although the record was recorded in Wisconsin, it was released by a record company in Holland. While Harty hopes to be able to release it stateside eventually, it's only available as an "import" for now.

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>

**Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner and folk icon, Tom Paxton,
teams up with the Grammy winning singer/songwriter duo
The Don Juans - Don Henry & Jon Vezner.**



**Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

Tom Paxton and The Don Juans

Sunday, February 11

7:00 pm

BARRYMORE THEATRE, 2090 Atwood Ave

**BARRYMORE
THEATRE**

Tickets \$27 advance, \$30 day of show

Tickets on sale on line at www.barrymorelive.com, by phone at
(608) 241-8633, and at all the regular Barrymore ticket outlets.

This is a General Admission - All Seated Show.

WORT
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ISTHMUS

**“A Buddhist monk in a 12-step program trapped in the body
of a singer/songwriter.” -The Albuquerque Journal**



**Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

Cosy Sheridan

Sunday, March 11, 2018

7:00 pm

THE BRINK LOUNGE, 701 E. Washington, Suite 105

Tickets \$12 advance, \$15 day of show

Available at: 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

Feb 2018

Mad Folk Events



Tom Paxton

and The DonJuans

Sunday February 11th - \$27 adv / \$30 d.o.s. --
7pm (doors @6:30) - Barrymore Theater 2090 Atwood Ave.

Cosy Sheridan

Sunday March 11th - \$12 adv / \$15 d.o.s. -- 7pm (doors @6:30)
The Brink Lounge 701 E. Washington Ave. Ste 105

- Thu, Feb, 15, 2018 @ 7:00 pm - Tracy Jane Comer w/Alan Maslowski / Nelson Graham - The Brink Lounge, Madison
- Fri, Mar, 2, 2018 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - Crossroads Coffeehouse, Cross Plains
- Sat, Mar, 31, 2018 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - Lakeside St. Coffee House, Madison
- Sat, Apr, 7, 2018 @ 7:30 pm - Common Chord - Old Schoolhouse, Mount Horeb
- Sat, May, 19, 2018 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - Lakeside St. Coffee House, Madison
- Sat, Oct, 13, 2018 @ 7:00 pm - Common Chord - Lakeside St. Coffee House, Madison



Don't forget!

Non-perishable donations of food are collected for local food banks at all Mad Folk shows!

Jigs

Mike and Carol's House

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Mike at maddog210@icloud.com

- Sunday, Mar 4th @ 7pm (doors 6:30) - The Moxie Strings - \$15
- Friday, Mar 23rd @ 8pm (doors 7:30) - Vivian Leva & Riley Calcagno - \$15
- Thursday, Apr 12th @ 7pm (doors 6:30) - Charlie King - \$15
- Saturday, April 28th @ 8pm (doors 7:30) - Cindy Mangsen & Steve Gillette - \$15

East Side Acoustic Ensemble (ESAE)

For full details email ritt@rittdeitz.com

Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center - 953 Jenifer St, Madison

- Tuesday, Feb 27th @ 7pm - 10pm - OPEN AUDITIONS For Spring 2018 Season
Rehearsals weekly March 6th - April 24
- Sunday, April 29th @ 7:30pm - End of season Performance

Venues



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

Cafe Carpe

All shows at 8:30pm unless indicated otherwise.
Please call 920-563-9391 to reserve.

- Tue, Feb 6th, Albert Lee Band - \$35 - @8pm
- Thu, Feb 8th, Dan Navarro - \$15 - @8pm
- Sat, Feb 17th, Jerry Wicentowsky & the Unrelated Brothers - \$12
- Thu, Feb 22nd, Song Circle w/ Tricia Alexander - \$5 - @7pm
- Fri, Feb 23rd, Radio Wranglers - \$10 - @8pm
- Sat, Feb 24th, Chris Kasper - \$10

FOLKLORE VILLAGE

Folklore Village

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

- Tue, Feb 6 @7pm - First Tuesday Open Mic
- Sat, Feb 10 @7:30pm - "The Sweet Sheiks" in Concert
- Sat, Feb 24 @9am-5:30pm - Iroquois Raised Beadwork Course



Wild Hog in the Woods

- Fri, Feb 2 - Paul Stiegler
- Fri, Feb 9 - Teddy Davenport
- Fri, Feb 16 - Paint The Music - Music by Mark Adkins
Art by Sandra Kingbeil
- Fri, Feb 23 - David HB Drake and Dave Martin

Wil-Mar Center
953 Jenifer St.
wildhoginthewoods.org
608-233-5687

Misc

Old Time Jam

Monthly - 3rd Sunday of every month, 4 to 6pm

EVP West 3809 Mineral Point Road

Coodinator: Al Wilson

cell: 608-572-0634

adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu

Madison Area Ukulele Initiative -- Singalongs 3rd Sunday 11am - 1:30pm
- for location visit www.MAUImadison.com

On the Air



wpr.org

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-fm.org

WORT 89.9 FM community radio

Sun -- 3:00-5:00pm

• "On the Horizon" w/ Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Helena White

Weekdays 9:00am-noon

- Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over) w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado
- Tue -- One Fine Morning w/ P.C. Allen
- Wed -- Back to the Country (country music on a theme) w/Bill Malone
- Thur -- Diaspora (folk and international) w/Terry O'
- Fri -- Mud Acres (bluegrass and acoustic) w/Chris Powers



98.7 FM - THE VOICE OF MONONA

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

Madison Dance

- African/African-American Dance classes with live drumming -- Sun, 7:00-9:00pm -- Metro Dance, 3009 University Ave. -- 255-3677 / 251-4311
- 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, 3rd (and 5th) Mon7:30-9:30pm -- Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. -- 238-9951 or 231-1040
- International Dancing -- Wed; classes 7:30-8:30pm, request dancing 8:30-11:00pm -- The Crossing, 1127 University Ave. -- 241-3655 and Sun, 8-10pm
- 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 -- 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. -- 358-4478
- Israeli Folk Dancing -- Tues, 7:00pm -- Will-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St. Melissa Marver -- mdmarver@gmail.com

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 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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Life \$500 _____

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Total \$ _____

GOING GREEN - Send my newsletters electronically by email

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

Tracy Comer, P.O. Box 930446 Verona, WI 53593-0446