

OK, So Far... New Lou and Peter CD

Lou and Peter Berryman's very first recording, Lou & Peter Berryman (No Relation), was released in 1980, so they're just a little ahead of 20 recordings in 40 years. They ARE slowing down a bit, though, since their last CD, I DON'T GET IT, was released in 2014.

When they stopped touring in 2017 and decided to only play a few local shows a year, they weren't quite sure how they'd adjust. Lou says, "We're happy to report that we both still love playing music, and we've had as much fun writing and recording this album as ever. Maybe more."

As with their previous recordings, this is an album of oddly philosophical questions and answers, with social comment, reflections on aging and curiosity about the future. The world being what it is today, and with Father Time hot on Lou and Peter's heels, the album Is called "OK So Far...," with a cover picture of Lou and Peter grinning foolishly as a generic monster mouth looms not far in the background.

Lou and Peter are using their annual free performance at the historic Olin Park Pavilion as their first ever totally free album release show, starting at 6pm and going until 8 on Wednesday, May 29th. These spring concerts are sponsored by the Friends Of Olin-Turville (FOOT), established in 2010 through the joint efforts of the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association and the South Madison Police District.

Lou and Peter will be playing quite a few songs from the CD, of course, plus maybe a few old favorites. Meanwhile, the album is now available through their website (LOŬANDPETER. COM) as a download (\$10) or as a CD (\$15). But do come on out for a lovely spring evening of live music at Olin

Park and maybe score an autographed copy!



New Music Festival May 26

There is a new Madison area music festival, Irish Fest in the Barn. This volunteer run event was started in the hope of having another relaxed fest with great live music for the Madison area, and one where rain could not affect the music. The site is Sugarland Barn, just a little west of Middleton in Arena. The main stage is in an enormous airy barn fit with a large stage. There is a pub on site, across a wide lawn from the barn. The pub will have live music also. Picnic baskets are welcome to be brought in, food can also be purchased on site. The lovely large lawn, between the pub and the barn, can be used for picnicking. There will be full bar service in the

barn and the pub. Alcohol can not be brought in.

Please visit Irishfestinthebarn.com to see the music line-up and videos. The schedule will be added soon. Music highlights include the Trad music giants, Trian with Liz Carroll, the Rattlin Bog Sisters from Ireland, whose video last year at one of the sister's weddings garnered over 50 million views, Rising Gael, the bluegrass playing lads from Ireland, JigJam, Chicago's Baal Tinne and Sheila Shigley with the Currach. The date of the festival is Sunday, May 26th, which is the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend. Festival hours will be noon-10 pm. **Mad Folk Concert Tickets** When you see this symbol – M – you'll know that you're reading about a Mad Folk sponsored event. Advance tickets for Mad Folk shows are available online at

Purchase tickets ONLINE for Mad Folk concerts via Brown Paper Tickets (with \$1.62 service charge):

www.madfolk.org

https://www.brownpapertickets. com/producer/10879 You can also purchase advance tickets by mail. Send a stamped selfaddressed envelope with your check payable to Mad Folk, PO Box 665, Madison, WI 53701. If all else fails, call 608-225-0710 for information.

Can You Hear The Whispering Tree?

The Whispering Tree is blowing up a storm. The New York duo's latest CD, Invisible Forces, was rated the No. 1 album by the International DJ Chart; the French-American duo was also voted the No. 1 Artist with the No. 2 song in 2018. They will be performing a house concert at our home on Friday, May 10 starting at 7:30.

Eleanor Kleiner has a gorgeous voice and plays keyboards, while Elie Brangbour is a major multi-instrumental talent. They combine traditional folk with Indie pop and a touch of rock to create an original and compelling sound. American UK magazine calls their latest album "a musically diverse take on classic Midwest Americana sung with the soul of gospel." In the past few years they've toured all over the US and Europe, played at the Kerrville Folk Festival in Texas, and at the Southwest Regional Folk Alliance. When not on the road, they call Beacon, NY in the Hudson Valley home.

Their first CD was called Go Call The Captain, followed by The Escape a few years later. One New York critic recently called them "one of the most talented duos in New York City." They've been compared to the Cowboy Junkies, Over The Rhine, and Aimee Mann for their musical style. Although most of their songs are originals, like Remember Waiting, the satirically biting Fat Cat and the lovely Bells, they also do covers by people like David Bowie (Space Odyssey) and Pink Floyd (Mother).

During our seven-plus years of hosting house concerts, we've brought in many performers well-known to Madison folk fans. It's fairly easy to fill the house with people like Peter Mulvey, Garnett Rogers, Vance Gilbert, Brother Sun, The Birds of Chicago and Ellis Paul. But doing the same thing for musicians who have never played in this area, like Lipbone Redding from North Carolina, Ryanhood from Tucson, and The Whispering Tree, that's another thing. We hope music lovers will come out to give a warm Madison welcome to this wonderful duo. Contact us at annedave@chorus.net or at 256-2958 to reserve a seat.

- Dave Wallner and Anne Katz

May at Kiki's House of Righteous Music

They say April showers bring May flowers, but in this case, they seem to have also brought a bounty of house concerts. The first show of the month, Jon Langford with Jean Cook and John Szymanski on May 5, is full, but there is still plenty of room at the four remaining shows. Next on the calendar is Langford's Waco Brother bandmate Deano Schlabowske who will be appearing with Mike Nicolai on May 11. Under the name Ramblin' Deano, Schlabowske released America's Favorite Folk Singer in 2018, and it is honestly one of the funniest, smartest and most genuine folk records I've heard in a long time. In March he released a second, equally clever, collection, Soundtrack to the Next IPO. They are both free to download at deanschlabowskemusic.com. Nicolai has visited the basement several times over the last half dozen years, and I'm always happy to see him. His quirky songs and intriguing melodies make for an engaging live show. His most recent release is A Line Cook's Guide to New

Satanic Empires. Makes you want to listen, doesn't it?

Sam Baker follows on May 14. Baker first played the basement with Gurf Morlix way back in 2008 for show number fifteen. I hadn't heard of him before, but, like most of the audience, I was completely enamored of him by the end of the night. He just may be the best storyteller I know, not to mention an amazing songwriter and charming performer. Prepare to fall under his spell. Here's what you need to know about the Heartland Songwriters Review who play KHoRM on May 24. It's made up of four songwriters, Steve Dawson (Dolly Varden) from Chicago, in addition to three Missourians, Ădam Reichmann (Nadine), and Andy Ploof and John Wendland (Rough Shop, The Wilhelms, BAJA), all from St Louis. Songs will be performed in the round, and will be mainly originals with some well-chosen covers. Sometimes the songs will be performed solo, but often harmonies and other instruments will be added by the other songwriters. They guarantee "a splendid time for all."

In my dozen years hosting house concerts, I've had surprisingly few disappointments. But one of those was never getting to host the Ohio-based band Southeast Engine. Their 2011 release Canary still stands as one of my favorite records ever. Lucky for me l'm kinda getting a second chance on May 31. SEE's lead singer Adam Remnant is heading out on a solo tour with his own band behind the uniformly excellent record Sourwood (see review this issue). A worthy follow-up to Canary, the record's Appalachian heart is rooted in Ohio, but dreams of California. Opening will be terrific local band BingBong, who I can't say enough nice things about. Their 2018 release Pop Restoration was a master class in old school recording techniques, you know the kind that make classic rock "classic." See them here and then see them again at Kiki's Second Righteous Session at McPike Park on August 8!

Ken Lonnquist / "Hippie Hour" - Saturday May 4

KEN LONNQUIST has dusted off a trove of folk-rock songs written in the 1980s for various albums he recorded in that decade, including the albums "In The Birchwood", "Reasons", and "Davey and Other Songs". Many songs remained "in the vault", never making it onto any formal release

May 4th you can hear some of the songs Ken left behind. He's joined with the Boehm brothers - Henry on bass and Raphi on percussion,- along with multiinstrumentalist/vocalist Chris Wagoner to bring these songs to life at The Brink Lounge. Ranging from folk and softcountry to folk-rock, they address themes of peace, love and understanding... and laughter. So the show is called "Hippie Hour". Come to The Brink Lounge on May 4 from 8 - 11 pm for a musical high! No cover!

"Ken Lonnquist is one hell of a good songwriter and singer!"

- PETE SEEGER

"Excellent songwriting! Wonderful humor!"

- SI KAHN

"Ken Lonnquist has written a whole slew of great songs."

- SING OUT! MAGAZINE

"Energetic, warm, inspirational... a must to be experienced." - WINNIPEG FOLK FESTIVAL

"Wild and fun, thoughtful and provocative!"

- SHAWANO FOLK FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 4, 8-11 PM The Brink Lounge 701 E. Washington Ave.

My Highway Home © 2019 Joe Jencks, Turtle Bear Music In Celebration of Pete Seeger: A Legacy of Love

I will remember the first time I performed with Pete Seeger until I draw my last breath. It was in a concert organized by AFM Local 1000 at the Folk Alliance Conference in Cleveland (2000). I was standing on a stage inside Cleveland City Hall, with Pete right beside me. We were singing songs to help close the School of The Americas. In the assembled crew of genuine folkies were John McCutcheon, Pat Humphries, Debra Van Kleef, Tao Rodriguez Seeger, John O'Connor, Charlie King, and many others. Time was moving in slow motion. I have never felt more alive, more in the moment. Nor have I ever felt more like I was exactly where I was supposed to be. I was with my people.

I was trying to contain my wonder at standing next to the musician I most admired, and still sing the songs. And I slowly realized that for all his accomplishments, Pete was also another human being, not a god come down from the Olympus of Folk. He was a guy who just woke up each day, followed his conscience, and gave his best for the people he loved and the ideas he held as truth. In one fell swoop, I took Pete off of the unrealistic pedestal on which I had placed him, and began to build a friendship with a mentor. In the 15 years that followed, I learned about his lifetime of efforts to lessen the distance between people. He both professed and lived out the idea that we are all in this together. I needed to have a hero, but Pete showed me that we can get so much more accomplished if we see each other as allies, partners, and peers in the greater work of the world.

Earlier in the evening, I sang a few solo songs in the concert. During one of my anti-war songs, I sang "We Cry Out..." and the audience replied "No More!" I was surprised that those assembled got it so quickly. And then I looked straight out in Cleveland City Hall, and there was Pete, throwing his fist into the air every time the words "No More!" came around. By the second chorus, he was motioning for others to do the same. By the fourth chorus, he had 500 people on their feet. I was at the front of the room, but Pete was in his truest element, rabble rousing and emboldening people to take a stand. I was humbled. My hero was literally "in the house," helping maximize the impact of the song.

What I learned that night almost 20 years ago is a lesson that stays with me still. And I'm sure I still get it wrong more often than I get it right. But through a dozen or more deep conversations and handful of performances over the years, Pete continued to show me that we are only ever as moral, as ethical, or as just as our ability to lend our talents and resources for the benefit of others. We are only ever as inclusive as the opportunities we create for others voices to be heard and their talents to shine. And in a world that is all about creating differences. Pete built bridges. In the face of competition, he chose cooperation. In the midst of success and abundance, he was generous with his time, attention, talent, and money.

I'm guessing some of those lessons were hard earned. I know he wasn't always that Zen-like. He learned it through a great deal of trial and error. But he continued to give as well as he was able, and to uplift at every opportunity. And his beloved Toshi was his clarity, conscience, and will, if ever his own faltered.

Always seeking to do better, Pete lived a life that was noteworthy in my opinion – not because he was famous – but because of how he chose to use that fame. From picket lines to Carnegie Hall, from church basements and summer camps to his Congressional Testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee, to receiving Grammy Awards and the National Medal for the Arts, he held onto his ideals. He never gave up on learning new things, musically or intellectually, and he had the courage of his convictions.

Another mentor of mine once said to me, "We all make mistakes. It's what we do next that matters more." On the occasion of his 100th birthday, I feel Pete Seeger – iconic troubadour, rabble-rouser, civil rights and labor organizer, and champion of the people asking me, "What's next?"

In this time of political contention and strife, when the Highlander Center – seminal in Pete's life and work - has been the victim of racially motivated arson, I look to many teachers for inspiration. I seek guidance from religious, political, and cultural luminaries, and from my own nieces and nephews who lead the way into tomorrow. How can we lessen the distance between people?

Music is a glorious way to heal what has been broken. Yes, we need activism. And yes we need to speak out in the face of racism, sexism, classism, and other injustices. But we also have a unique opportunity as musicians, presenters, activists, players and fans alike. We have the opportunity to use our art, skill, knowledge, power and privilege to break down barriers rather than create more of them. We have the unique possibility of framing ideas through music and culture in such a way as to help people see what's good in each other. We can help people see what they have in common, as being the greater part of the equation.

Pete commissions us on May 3rd and beyond, to keep up the good work. He made it look so easy to do. And, maybe it is that simple. He sang about the hammer of justice, and the bell of freedom. But he always ended with the song about love. We all have the opportunity to carry that song of love in our hearts and instrument cases, and sing it in a way that invites others to join in, rather than feeling left out.

Thanks for the memories and lessons, Pete. Happy 100th Birthday!

Joe Jencks is 20-year veteran of the international Folk scene, an award winning songwriter and vocalist, and a contributing writer to numerous publications. His column **My Highway Home** is a new addition to the MadFolk newsletter. For more information please visit: www.joejencks.com.

Sourwood - adam remnant anyway records - 2018



Review by Kiki Schueler

In my dozen years of hosting house concerts, I've had surprisingly few disappointments. But one of those was never getting to host the Ohio-based band Southeast Engine. Their 2011 release Canary still stands as one of my favorite records ever, an uplifting song cycle despite being rooted in the Great Depression. That record's coda was the traditional folk song "Sourwood Mountain," the fiddle and banjo hoedown the perfect signature on monumental work. It also provides the perfect link to Adam Remnant's Sourwood, as the former lead singer/songwriter of SEE returns to mine similar musical territory. The record's epic seven-and-a-half-minute centerpiece is a new "Sourwood Mountain," which borrows the name if not the tune from the traditional. A massive tale, with more words than this review, it flows with the same addictive propulsiveness of "Tangled Up in Blue" or even "American Pie." It's the chorus-less classic tale of boy meets girl, boy loses girl to the call of the road, boy finds girl but can't convince her to come home. Despite the fact that it doesn't seem to have a happy ending, "I'm outside the courthouse rendered so weak I've surrendered any chance to be with her. I fear I'll never bridge that river," the last line leaves a different impression, "don't worry, I'm not worried."

The title track's seven and a half minute running time is balanced by the effervescent "California," which clocks in under three. Following in the tradition of songs celebrating the Golden State, from Led Zeppelin's "Going to California" to Woody Guthrie by way of Wilco "California Stars," Remnant sees the state as the answer to all his prayers. His acoustic guitar and fiddle ode makes you believe in the land of milk and honey. Fiddle player Ryan Stolte-Sawa elevates every track he

graces, and he is transcendent on these two songs. Surprisingly for a record that shares much of the Appalachian feel of Canary, other classic rock artists are brought to mind in the course of Sourwood's nine tracks. "Carpenter's Daughter" is a love song with echoes of Van Morrison's "Tupelo Honey," while "Cross You Bear" channels the Beatles "You Never Give Me Your Money" with its guitar that sounds like a piano hook. However, Remnant's distinctive and addictive baritone keeps you from mistaking these songs as anything but original.

Ultimately, the resounding theme of this record is home and family. California may be a dream, but "Ohio" is real life. In the tune of the same name, he celebrates the place where he belongs. "Ohio, take these blues. Ohio, suffer no fools. I woke up on the west coast with the Midwest on my mind," he sings, concluding, "yes, I think that I can finally tell the flowers from the weeds." The melancholy "Giver of Life" is as honest a love song as any women could ever hope to be the subject of, "Amanda, I need you more than ever. Oh giver of life, won't you give it to me. I'm not worried 'cause I know you'll be there for me." That same Amanda contributes backing vocals to the final track, the equally sublime "Good Intentions." Its chorus couldn't be more simple or profound, "talk is cheap, and cheap love is easy, find it without looking, but the real thing is rare and oh so seldom, when you find it, find a way to keep it." I miss Southeast Engine, but Remnant's Sourwood is filling that hole.

By the way, "Sourwood Mountain" is 626 words long, I can't wait to see him do it live. Adam Remnant and his band will play Kiki's House of Righteous Music with BingBong on May 31.

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.

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Tickets at Irishfestinthebarn.com

May 2019

Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required. For full details or to request an invitation, contact Kiki at righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com

- Sunday, May 5th @ 5pm (doors at 4) Jon Langford and Jean cook -- \$15
- Friday, May 10th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Ramblin' Deano and Mike Nicolai -- \$10
- Tuesday, May 14th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Sam Baker -- \$20
- Saturday, June 22nd @ 8pm (doors at 7) The Minus 5 -- \$20

Dave & Anne Host Folk

Invitation & Advance RSVP required. For full details or to request an invitation, contact Dave & Anne at annedave@chorus.net - 608-256-2958 • Friday, May 10th @ 7:30 pm (doors at 7) The Whispering Tree - \$20 / \$17 under 18

Ken Lonnquist / "Hippie Hour"

Saturday, May 4 @8pm - The Brink Lounge 701 E Washington Ave. - No Cover!

Simply Folk 40th Anniversary Show

 Saturday, June 7 @7pm - Dom Flemons and Mary Gauthier - \$30-\$75 Shannon Hall 800 Langdon St. See www.wpr.org/simply-folk-40th-anniversary-shindig for more details

27th Annual Gay Mills Folk Festival of Music and Dance

• Mother's Day Weekend - May 10th, 11th & 12th

Community Commerce Building at 16381 Highway 131, Gays Mills

\$7 for the Friday night dance (\$2 children), \$17 for the Saturday night concert (\$5 children). Saturday afternoon activities are by free will donation. More information may be obtained by calling 608-632-2720 or visiting the festival website at www.gaysmillsfolkfest.org.

Wil-Mar Center

953 Jenifer St.

wildhoginthewoods.

org

608-233-5687

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Fri, May 3rd Wattle and Daub @7:30pm
- Mon, May 6th Coordinators' meeting @7pm
- Fri, May 10th Kaia Fowler @7:30pm
- Fri, May 17th Bill and Bobbie Malone @7:30pm

Sat, May 18th - Hootenanny! - @2pm

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

Folklore Village

 Sat, May 4th - Family Maypole Evening @5:30pm - \$8 adults, \$6 seniors & teens, \$4 kids (kids under 5 free)

- Tue, May 7th Open Mic @7pm
- Sat, May 18th Fiddle Tunes from Norway w/ Vidar Skrede @2m - \$65; sign up by May 16

 Sat, May 18th - Saturday Night in the Schoolhouse - @6pm - \$8 adults, \$6 seniors & teens, \$4 kids (kids under 5 free)

Common Chord / Tracy Jane Comer & Friends

• Thu, May, 9 @ 6:00pm - Common Chord - The Hop Garden Tap Room/ Paoli Terrace and Park, Paoli • Sun, May, 12 @ 11:00 am - Tracy Jane Comer w/Alan Maslowski – Mother's Day brunch music @ Common Ground, Middleton

• Thu, May, 16 @ 7:00 pm - Tracy Jane Comer w/Alan Maslowski and special guest Nancy Rost - The Brink Lounge, Madison

• Fri, May, 17 @ 6:30 pm - Common Chord - Common Ground, Middleton

• Sun, May, 26 @ 12:00 pm - Tracy Jane Comer w/Alan Maslowski - New Glarus Community Festival, New Glarus

lise

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



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wpr.org

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Weekdays 9:00am-noon

- Mon Global Revolutions (folk from the world over)
- w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado
- Tue -- Another Green World with Katie & Tessa
- 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**



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- Wed, May 8th, Ray Bonneville \$18 @8pm
- Thu, May 9th, New Pioneers \$10 @7pm
- Sat, May 11th, Sam Llanas \$20
- Sun, May 12th, Session Americana @7pm
- Tue, May 14th, Peter Mulvey / Sista Strings / Paul Cebar / Bill Camplin - \$20 - @8pm
- Wed, May 15th, Peter Mulvey / Anna Tivel / Shane Leonard / Joe Jencks - \$20 - @8pm
- Thu, May 16th, Peter Mulvey / Simon Balto / Humbird / Satchel Paige - \$20 - @8pm
- Fri, May 17th, Peter Mulvey / Bill Camplin / Randy Sabien / Rose Cousins - \$20
- Sat, May 18th, Peter Mulvey / Randy Sabien / Chris Porterfield / Caley Conway - \$20
- Sun, May 19th, Peter Mulvey / Kaia Fowler / Katie Dahl / Randy Sabien - \$20 - @7:30pm
- Thu, May 23rd, Song Circle w/ Tricia Alexander \$5 @6:30pm • Fri, May 24th, Eccentric Accoustic - \$7 - @8pm
- Fri, May 31st, Karen Johnson \$8 @8pm

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 Neighborhood House 29 S Mills St. -

casey.garhart@tds.net or John at 238-3847

- 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

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