

Mad Folk News

Common Chord to present holiday show benefitting Little John's on December 8

Start your holidays on a high note on December 8! Folk/Americana group Common Chord will present a program of classic and original holiday music while raising funds for Little John's. The show will start at 7pm at The Brink Lounge, 701 East Washington Avenue.

Little John's Restaurant is a non-profit headquartered in Verona. Little John's partners with farmers, producers, suppliers, and grocery stores to transform food excess into accessible,

chef-quality meals for everyone, producing around 15,000 meals per week for schools, senior centers, shelters, Meals on Wheels, and others. Little John's hope is to eliminate shame around food access, creating a consumer experience that is the same for everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status. (For more see <https://www.littlejohnskitchens.org/>)

Common Chord, a five-piece group based here in Madison, performs originals from three writers in the

group plus their acoustic spin on covers drawn from folk, America, country, rock, and pop. Their unique harmony-packed arrangements are backed by guitars, bass, mandolin, fiddle, clarinets, and percussion and sometimes banjo, keyboard, cello and more.

The show is open to the public and admission is simply a donation, of any amount, to Little John's.

See <https://www.commonchord.us> for instructions on how to make a donation and for full details on the show.



Hunting Season

By Emily Beebe

Gauging from the sounds of rifles and the occasional cannon at dawn, I'm getting that vibe that it is high hunting season. This is the time of year where garishly-attired, fully-armed people squat in trees quietly enjoying nature most of the time. Elmer Fudd cartoons had me believe that there was only one hunting season, blunderbuss wabbit. Actually, in Wisconsin you can shoot at many things that breathe, scurry, float, or fly throughout the year. I have always had a hard time keeping track of all the hunting seasons, except every Spring my dentist seems to be out of the office. I imagine him off idly gobbling Laffy Taffys in a field somewhere, waiting for a rafter of turkeys to stumble out of a thicket.

As a kid, I knew of four hunting seasons: chocolate eggs (Spring), sidewalk Bazooka (Summer), bobbing apples (Fall), and sappy candy canes (Winter). Now that I am older, I spend a lot of time hunting my new favorite quarry, folk songs. Folk song season lasts from January 1st through December 31st. (Don't look at me that way. Of course I have a license). The DNR doesn't care much about these game as they are full of bones, are as common as house mice, and are not palatable to most people over the age of 12. For those who have acquired a taste for folk songs, they are more addictive than good old mountain dew or savory truffles. I have been compelled to indulge in them for days on end and have stashes of them in my car, in the root cellar, the kitchen counter, and my mandolin case at all times. If they start to get a little

gamy, it is easy to freshen them up with a shiny new key or a side of fiddleheads.

On Spring evenings there's nothing more relaxing than to sit on the porch with a guitar and wait for folksongs to lurch out of their dens. Some years there are so many out there that it's child's play to shoot a few off the porch as they clamber up looking for cooling hot corn cold corn or a homegrown tomato. The first ones to emerge almost invariably have ear tags imprinted with serial numbers, the phone number for ASCAP, and their nicknames - Pete, Bob, Joan, Bill, or Arlo. Those tags tell the hunter, 'yes, this one sure is beautiful and would make a great trophy, but it's part of the King's herd - you poach, you pay.'

In June and July when we get really busy attending graduations and holding garage sales, it can be harder to find wild folk songs. In those times, one may consider using a decoy to lure them out. Long hikes through prairies and woods or a visit to the Great Lakes are effective. For bigger game, a road trip to the Rockies or the Pacific islands may be needed. The serious hunter will also pack a folk song call. These can vary, depending on what type you are after. Kazoos are inexpensive and will draw out parodies and cakewalks. Flutes are also portable and good for flushing out jigs and Romanian horas. I knew a traditional folk song hunter who once squeezed out a melody using only his hands and startled three polkas, a Mexican two-step, and a Shaker hymn. When all else fails, try a

tuneless whistle. You'd be surprised what is attracted to those.

Winter is the easiest time find folk songs as they leave little footprints in the snow.

Folk song hunting has broad appeal even amongst people who can't stomach the thought of sacrificing the creatures for nourishment or decoration. There's no need for high powered rifles or cross-bows to bag your prey. The most reliable weapons are the imagination, unbridled emotion, tedium, and shared experiences. A good sense of humor does wonders for accuracy. If you have one of those, you are unlikely to bag a smelly dirge. Those can be very unpleasant to release from live traps. Once you have captured your prey, be sure to keep it cool or it may develop sticky earworms. Although an occasional big one might be stuffed and mounted on the wall of some Nashville barroom, it will soon be passed over by the ears no matter how its perfect glass eyes shine under the neon lights.

The best way to hunt folk songs are by catch and release. A good folk song is generally a little vain, and allows itself to be held wriggling in the hands, showing off its beauty and cleverness, basking in the glow of appreciation. A conscientious hunter will return it to the wild to fly free and replenish itself, spinning yarns about its abduction, and spawning the next generation of one of our most precious natural resources.

Nationally Acclaimed Songwriter Katie Dahl makes her MadFolk Debut!

🎵 On January 27th Madfolk is excited to present a concert by nationally acclaimed singer/songwriter Katie Dahl at The North Street Cabaret Room. Ever since seeing a show with Katie and Peter Mulvey we have been trying to make a date work with Katie so we are very excited to start the music year of 2023 doing just that!

Known for writing evocative, intelligent songs with a strong sense of place, Katie Dahl is an internationally touring playwright and songwriter whose work Wisconsin Public Radio calls "the real deal." Though she's particularly well-re-

spected on her home turf of Door County, Wisconsin, Katie has earned accolades across the country and beyond for the depth and power of her alto voice, the literate candor of her songs, and the easy humor of her live performances.

Dar Williams says, "Katie Dahl's songs aren't just melodies and words, they're journeys that are firmly grounded in a sense of place—beautiful, real landscapes that help you feel places that you may have never been before. That's the very best kind of songwriting."

Katie's last album "Wildwood" spent

three months in the Top 15 of the international folk radio charts. "Wildwood" was produced by JT Nero (Birds of Chicago) and features Allison Russell (Birds of Chicago, Our Native Daughters, Po' Girl) on backing vocals. And she just released "Seven Stones" !

More information about Katie is available at katedahlmusic.com.

Tickets for the show can be found at www.madfolk.org

My Highway Home

© 2022 Joe Jencks, Turtle Bear Music

Ballast in the Keel, Wind in the Sails

Another year is spinning down, and we take stock of where we have been. What we have done, what we have seen, heard, lived through, experienced, mourned, and celebrated. For many people, measuring time is different now. Different than it was even a few years ago. There is an awareness of what we have lost in the last three years, and how we have grown. For some people, the Pandemic is the most wide reaching and personally touching global event they have transcended. In 10 years, people will still be asking each other, "Where were you when we went into lockdown?"

As many of us move through our first cycle of holidays since before the Pandemic, in which we will be able to gather with larger groups of family and friends, there will be mixed emotions. Joy at seeing people we have not seen in too long! And an awareness of who is missing from the table. Both emotions are valid and walk hand in hand. But my hope is that we might all find some peace and comfort in connecting with community, making music, and moving forward with the many other aspects of life that bring us joy.

As I think about what I missed most for two years while on the Great Basement Studio Tour of the Pandemic, it was not the music. I was making music every day. It was the people I really missed. And 2022 has been a remarkable year for reconnecting with community and remembering why I log long hours on the road, sleep in strange beds night after night, and carry substantive amounts of instruments and gear, multiple times a day. It is good people who are at the center. And it is good to be back in the process of connecting with communities in person and connecting communities again, to each other. This is what I have missed the most. And it is a substantive portion of what brings me joy.

I also missed hearing people sing together. Hearing all of you raise your voices again in song has been one of the

great highlights of this year. Returning to concert halls from New England to Ontario, from Arizona and New Mexico, to Texas and Florida. From North Carolina to Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and to so many points in between. I am grateful for community, for music, and for the stalwart efforts of so many people to keep stitching the quilt of community together by hosting concerts and holding space for magic to happen. Through festivals, camps, concerts, community centers, and conferences, spanning 2 continents, 3 countries, and 37 states ~ it has been a year of gratitude and reconnection. And it continues.

As 2022 winds down, my greatest emotion is gratitude. Grateful for kindness and hospitality given in so many ways great and small. Grateful to concert producers and promoters all over North America and beyond for venturing back into live events. Grateful to fans and friends who trudged through all manner of obstacles and some over great distances to make it to concerts and clubs and festivals. Grateful for the support of the Folk DJ community in lifting up my new album, *The Coming of the Years*. And I am grateful to all of you for helping me put the new music into the world. I am grateful for making music with friends and colleagues, for countless volunteer hours spent by so many people who keep the music happening, and for helping hands in so many ways witnessed and unknown.

You are the backbone of the Folk Music world. You are the ballast in the keel and the wind in the sails. You are the reason concerts happen. By your efforts and for the love of community, you stalwart music lovers and music makers are why we are as a Folk community, back in motion. Thank you!

May your holidays be filled with an awareness of how much there is to be grateful for, even as we hold an awareness of so many losses in the last few years. May gratitude be the greater of our emotions and may it direct our actions and interactions moving forward.

Wishing you a safe and heartfelt holiday season.

I hope to see you on the road somewhere soon!

In Gratitude & Song,

~ Joe Jencks (11-20-22)

*Joe Jencks is 25-year veteran of the international Folk scene, an award winning songwriter and vocalist, and a contributing writer to numerous publications. For more info on live concerts, tours, broadcasts or Joe's new CD – *The Coming of the Years* - please visit: www.joejencks.com.*

*Joe Jencks also hosts a monthly radio show called **My Highway Home** on the new Folk Music network – **Folk Music Notebook**. **MHH** features interviews with people Joe meets in his travels and music by many artists from the big tent that is Folk Music. Tune in on the second Sunday of each month at 5:00 PM CT. Rebroadcast at 10:00 PM CT on the same night and again the following Wednesday at 11:00 AM CT.*

Listen in online via:
www.folkmusicnotebook.com

EVERYBODY KNOWS IT'S CHRISTMAS - CHRIS ISAAK

2022 - SUN RECORDS / VIRGIN UMG



Review by Kiki Schueler

On his second holiday collection, *Everybody Knows It's Christmas*, Chris Isaak follows the successful pattern he used on *Christmas*, his 2004 release. While most artists' holiday records consist of traditional with an original or two, eight of the tracks on *Everybody Knows It's Christmas* are Isaak's own, balanced with five covers of the generally rockabilly persuasion in the spirit of Sun Records. His "Run Rudolph Run" is a worthy successor to Chuck Berry's original. There's a duck walking guitar solo and fiery Jerry Lee Lewis style keyboard pounding. Those same ingredients make his surprisingly serious take on the 50's classic "Jingle Bell Rock" a winning one. The record opens with a loungey version of "Winter Wonderland," all brushed snare, walking guitar, and Hammond organ. His vibrant "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" conjures the ghost of Elvis past. The record closes with a subdued and reverent "O Holy Night," avoiding the excesses of many versions.

His originals run the gamut from sad to silly. Despite the fact that holidays are supposed to be merry, the depressing Christmas song is nothing new, from Bing Crosby's "I'll Be Home for Christmas" to Nick Lowe's "Christmas at the Airport." Isaak channels that emotion in "Holiday Blues," the lament of a broken, lonely heart with a Wicked Game twang. You can almost hear the

tears fall in "Wrapping Presents for Myself," with its opening lines, "I'm wondering will it always hurt this way, just another lonely empty holiday." It only gets sadder from there, "Christmas dinner on a paper plate, I can't remember what I ate, I stayed at home, I stayed alone." Despite a jangly melody that echoes "Jingle Bell Rock" and some sing-along moments, "Christmas Comes but Once a Year" completes the trifecta of holiday bummers. This is some kind of serious seasonal depression.

Never fear, they are not all downers. The most miserable thing about "Almost Christmas" is that he's left his gift buying till the last minute, again, while his girl got hers done early. A chugging beat and a jangly guitar give momentum to a doomed shopping trip. The voiceover announcing the store will be closing in five minutes lets you know how dire the situation is. The Keep Christ in Christmas people will be pleased to see "Help Me Baby Jesus" in the track listing, even if it isn't as reverent as one would expect. It turns out the Jesus he is searching for is the one missing from his front yard's nativity scene. I won't completely spoil the ending, but it's a happy one (whew). To wit "Here's your baby Jesus, showing us the way. He's the reason that we have this holiday." I've always considered myself a dog person, but the inane "Dogs Love Christmas Too" doesn't have much to love.

Overall, the traditional tunes are the better part of the record, but Isaak did pen two tunes that help balance the scales. He channels Bing Crosby on the cozy "I Believe in Santa Claus," complete with a crooning chorus of "bah bah bums." The propulsive title track would make Emmet Otter jeal-

ous. There's washboard, whistling, kazoo, and I have to assume somebody's blowing on a jug, even if you can't quite hear it. It's guaranteed to put you in the holiday mood.

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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849-3510 ~ nfwodke@chorus.net

DedeGoldberg.....Newsletter
distribution

246-4332 ~ speedydd99@yahoo.com

Neil Morris.....Newsletter
editor

358-5855 ~ madfolk@wiscomfort.com

Meg Skinner..... Scholarships

238-6950 ~ meggskinner@gmail.com

Ron Dennis

(608)228-5472 ~ rondenpho@aol.com

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>

“Katie Dahl’s music combines a love for her rural midwestern roots, a droll wit, and a clear-eyed appraisal of modern life, all served up in a voice as rich as cream.” — Karen Impola, Iowa Public Radio



**Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

Katie Dahl

Friday, January 27

7:00 pm

THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI

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

Available at: www.eventbrite.com

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





Holiday Concert

Originals & unique covers
highlighting vocal harmonies
& varied instrumentation

By

**COMMON
CHORD**

Benefitting

LITTLE JOHN'S

**LITTLE
JOHN'S**

FEEL
GOOD
FOOD

Dec. 8 (Th), 7 PM

ADMISSION: Donation to Little John's
(details at www.commonchord.us)



commonchord.us



Brink Lounge
701 E. Washington St Ste 105
Madison, WI
www.thebrinklounge.com



Common Chord links



Donate to Little John's

The Mad Folk Refrigerator Cover

December 2022

Mad Folk Events



Katie Dahl

Friday January 27th - @7pm (doors at 6:30pm) - \$18 adv / \$20 d.o.s.
The North Street Cabaret
610 North Street

Joe Jencks with Kaia Fowler

Friday February 24th - @7pm (doors at 6:30pm) - \$18 adv / \$20 d.o.s.
The North Street Cabaret
610 North Street

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

Don't forget!
Non-perishable donations of food are collected for local food banks at all Mad Folk shows!

Gigs

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 2nd @ 8pm (doors at 7) David Huckfelt - \$15

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
• Saturday, December 31st @ 7:30 pm - Darren Sterud - \$25
• Saturday, February 4th @ 7:30 pm - Mark Croft and Jon Vriesaker - \$20

Common Chord

- Thursday, December 8th @7pm - Common Chord annual holiday show @The Brink Lounge, Madison
- Friday, January 6th @6pm - Tracy Jane Comer w/ Delores Jenison @ Hop Garden Loft, Paoli, WI
- Saturday, January 7th @1pm @Spring Green General Store, Spring Green, WI
- Sunday, January 22nd @3pm @Brix Cider, Mt. Horeb, WI

NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St, Madison, WI
northstreetcabaret.com

Sugar Maple Concert Series

- Thursday, Jan 12th - Third Coast Bluegrass - @8pm - \$15 adv/ \$22 d.o.s.



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

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Fri, Dec 2nd - Wild Hog 44th Birthday Party - @6pm
- Fri, Dec 9th - Steve Hazell - @7:30pm
- Fri, Dec 16th - Wattle and Daub - @7:30pm

WILD HOG IS BACK LIVE

During the COVID pandemic, many entertainment facilities shut down and that included the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center which the Wild Hog in the Woods Coffeehouse uses for live concerts. With hope and anticipation, we were able to open live the beginning of September. If all stays well, we anticipate our usual schedule of live music, most Fridays, through May. As we plan for our 44th anniversary party on December 2nd, keep up with details at www.wildhoginthewoods.org. The website also has an archive section where past video performances can be viewed. The Wil-Mar Center is located at 504 S Brearly (corner of Jenifer) in Madison with a parking lot across the street.

Misc

Old Time Jam
Monthly - 3rd Sunday of every month, 4 to 6pm
EVP West 3809 Mineral Point Road
Coordinator: 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.



wortfm.org

WORT 89.9 FM community radio

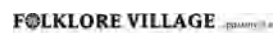
- Weekdays 9:00am - noon - "On the Horizon" w/ Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Helena White
- Mon - Global Revolutions (folk from the world over) w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado
- Tue - Green Morning Radio w/ Brian Hirsh
- Wed - Back to the Country (country music on a theme) w/ Bill Malone
- 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 radio

Stuart Stotts

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

Venues



Folklore Village

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

- Sat, Dec 3rd - Healthy Hoedown Barn Dance @7:15pm (potluck @6)
- Tue, Dec 6th - First Tuesday Online Open Mic - @7pm
- Sat, Dec 10th - Sankta Lucia



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.

- Fri, Dec 2nd, Johnsmith - \$20 - @8pm
- Sat, Dec 3rd, Chris Hanson Band
- Fri, Dec 8th, Randy Sabien Trio - \$20 - @8pm
- Sat, Dec 9th, Shitunauts - SOLD OUT
- Fri, Dec 11th, Shitunauts - SOLD OUT - @7pm
- Sat, Dec 16th, Krause Family Band - \$15 - @8pm
- Fri, Dec 17th, Trishmas Concert - \$10 - @7:30pm
- Sat, Dec 23rd, Cash Box Kings - \$20 - @8pm

"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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Madison Folk Music Society

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Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Choose membership category:

Senior / Student \$10 _____

Regular \$12 _____

Family \$15 _____

Friend \$25 _____

Contributing \$50 _____

Life \$500 _____

Scholarship fund donation (optional) \$ _____

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