

## **Gandy Dancer Bluegrass Festival 2023:** A Celebration of Community and Bluegrass Music

The Gandy Dancer Festival is a family-friendly Bluegrass festival held in Mazomanie, Wisconsin. The festival takes place on August 19, 2023, and features a lineup of talented musicians from across the country.

The festival is named after the gandy dancers, who were the railroad workers who maintained the tracks. The gandy dancers were a tough and resilient bunch, and the festival is a celebration of their spirit.

The Gandy Dancer Bluegrass Festival is a great way to spend a day with your family and friends. There is something for everyone at the festival, from live music to children's activities.

The music lineup for the 2023 festival is stacked. Headliners include Armchair Boogie, Art Stevenson & High Water, and Fox Crossing Stringband. There are also plenty of other great bands on the lineup, including The Mark Hembree Band, and Hand-Picked Bluegrass Band.

In addition to the music, there are also a variety of other free activities at the festival. There is a children's area with games and activities, a food court with a variety of food vendors, and the Potosi Rolling Bar.

The Gandy Dancer Festival is a great way to enjoy a day of music, food, and family fun. Tickets are on sale now, so don't miss out!

Here are some of the reasons why you should attend the Gandy Dancer Festival in 2023:

Great music: The festival features a lineup of talented musicians from across the country.

Family-friendly: The festival is a great place to bring your family and friends. There are plenty of activities for kids, and the atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming. We've added a lactation room this year to provide a comfortable place to nurse your child.

Affordable: Tickets are reasonably priced; you won't find a better deal for this quality of music.

Community-oriented: The festival is a fundraiser for the Mazomanie Charitable Alliance, which supports local organizations.

Beautiful setting: The festival is held in the scenic town of Mazomanie,

Wisconsin. The festival grounds are located downtown Mazomanie on the Westland Promenade.

If you're looking for a fun and family-friendly way to spend a day in Wisconsin, then be sure to check out the Gandy Dancer Festival. You won't be disappointed!

Here are some additional details about the festival:

Date: Saturday August 19, 2023

Time: 11am to 9pm

Location: Westland Promenade, Mazomanie, WI

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate. Free for children under 12.

Website: https://gandydancerfes-

I hope to see you there!

### **Folk Festival**

The Shawano Folk Festival, nestled in a small wooded park with eagles, is celebrating its 45th year. This year we are excited to host the talented, funny, and versatile Susan Werner, a Madison favorite. Also featured are Art Stevenson & High Water, The Cris Plata Trio, Oak Apple Morris Dancers, Matt Watroba, Copper Box, John Stano, and many more. Tents are scattered throughout the park and music fills the air. Crafters offer their beautiful wares, and Door County Sound makes everyone sound their best. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to watch the eagles and hear great folk music in the woods.

The festival runs from August 11th to the 13th. Friday night, the festival starts with a workshop with the musicians at 6pm, followed by a concert at 7pm. More workshops are held on Saturday and Sunday starting at 10:00am and running until 5pm. The Saturday night concert begins at 7pm. It's all only 30 minutes from Green Bay at Mielke County Park in Shawano. It's well worth the trip! Hope to see at the

For more information and ticket prices see: www.shawanofestival.org





### On Nah-ROAD-No!

By Emily & Chris Beebe

When our kids were small, our family would go on road trips. The last time one of those adventures involved air travel was a one-way flight to San Francisco with our infant son and young daughters, aged 3 and 9. Because we are cheap, we didn't buy an extra airline seat for the baby, thinking we could just hold him for the two-and-a-half-hour flight.

We were those people: the ones oaring the other passengers into the underworld accompanied by a shrieking, three-headed baby. Our son screamed, pushed, kicked, flopped, and whined for the ENTIRE flight. The last ten minutes were spent gliding in endless circles over the SFO airport, as if the craft had become a vulture, deciding on the best approach to a beached whale on Half Moon Bay. I felt my chin throbbing from head butts and imagined small, foot-shaped bruises forming on my thighs as I gazed blankly at a motionless cherub, finally sound asleep in my arms.

The reason for this one-way trip was to pick up a 1984 Chevrolet Tioga camper van we purchased from California and which we optimistically drove back to Wisconsin from Redwood City. We spent our first week getting to know our 6 mile-per-gallon homeaway-from-home. The girls colored everything there was to color with crayons and scented 'washable' markers, including their own faces and the windows. Our son stood up by himself for the first time out of sheer boredom and taught himself the fundamentals of calculus while imprisoned in his playpen. That was before his Nebraska jail break incident. We slept alongside Idaho potato fields. We visited every playground within ten miles of I-90. When the kids finally fell asleep one long flat afternoon, Chris and I wrote a sea shanty about our terrestrial journey. (If you ask us, we'll sing it with you.)

We patronized a Wyoming Super Walmart desperate to fix a fuel leak and left with fuel filter, fuel hose, hardware and a set of sturdy plastic Coca Colabranded plates and cups. We needed kitchen supplies that wouldn't fly out of cupboards and shatter when Chris,

a sports car mechanic and race driver, always tried for the perfect 'corner' on roads with 90 degree turns. Hours were spent changing that fuel line in a hot parking lot. There, between the front captain chairs was where access to the rear of the fuel-sucking engine, covered by a miserably small 'doghouse'. This heavily-insulated, clumsy cover was battened down by a series of hardto-reach clasps and screws to keep the extreme heat from the living quarters. Once the cover was managed up, off & away, the fireball of heat blew into the cab. There, tucked in with the hot headers, was the leaking fuel filter. It was like we were seated around the campfire, kids with hotdogs or marshmallows on sticks huddled around the embers of the big V-8.

Chris had convinced me that the camper guaranteed our family would have a comfortable spot to relax while he was racing his Lotus Super Seven at Road America, outside of Elkhart Lake, WI. We parked the camper in a shadeless paddock on July race weekends. The earthy smell of ancient mice wafted up from the scratchy oatmeal-colored seats. The ice in the cooler melted faster than a Greenland glacier. Using the camper to pull a trailer with a race car lowered our feet-per-gallon into the negative range. As luck would have it, we made our own gas, made possible by eating at roadside diners.

We weren't quite ready to abandon the camper after that first Summer because the kids loved that we were driving around in a trashy little playhouse. The following August, we went on a new adventure: taking the Badger Car Ferry across Lake Michigan, merrily chanting the 'Happy Schnapps Combo's' version of 'The Badger', ( heave-ho, heaveho) then driving up through the Upper Peninsula and back through Wisconsin, stopping at the Shawano Old Time Music & Craft Festival. Chris and I were performing with Narodno! International Dancers and the troupe had happily committed to performing there.

Narodno (pronounced Na-ROAD-No) was a troupe of twenty singers and dancers who enjoyed Balkan and Central European ethnic dance and put on energetic shows in traditional folk costume all around Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest. The fun of performing as an ensemble greatly outshone what we went through to prepare for shows: grueling rehearsals, attempts to perfect flawed and somewhat dangerous choreography, un-mangling vowels during segments incorporating folk songs in languages we didn't fully understand, and sewing coins onto headdresses until our fingers bled. The performances were sometimes riddled with very public errors: fake braids flying off into the second row, couples spinning haphazardly across the stage due to the unexpected heft of heavy petticoats, pants falling off because the elastic finally rotted away. The life lessons learned in front of an audience were, step out of your skirt, acknowledge the audience's laughter with a big smile, and just keep dancing. Also, wear respectable underwear.

At Shawano, we had a little closet in the camper where we could hang our woolen Bulgarian and Hungarian costumes so they could get nice and warm before we each burned 800 calories in them in just under 20 minutes. Our costume change for that show required several pairs of colored tights, a couple pairs of shoes with tiny buckles, beaded head pieces, thick wool knee socks, and an assortment of embroidered jackets and aprons. After the first suite of dances everything was hopelessly sweaty, and we had just under 9 minutes to completely change our costumes - including high leather boots, shoes, heavy vests, tights, jangly necklaces, and headdresses - silently and in the dark, before serenely prancing on stage for the next set of dances. The exercise was not unlike donning a three-piece suit while brushing your teeth and shifting a Morris Mini through London rush hour traffic.

That year, we got to know some fun musicians backstage including Christine Lavin, Tom Pease, and Sile Shigley (performing then with Navan). This was our first time at Shawano and we delighted in this intimate event held in a beautiful setting. Happily, the Shawano Folk Festival remains alive and well. This year's festival also features folk dance performance, this time by the Oak Apple Morris Dancers, still going strong after more than 40 years.

# Come on over to concerts in the backyard and in Our House!

We love the music and musicians, and we know you will, too. See you at Our House!

#### ONE MORE STELLAR OUTDOOR CONCERTS THIS SUMMER!

To round out the summer, JOE CROOKSTON from Ithaca, NY, will roll in at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, August 11.

Joe is one of America's top singer/songwriters. He plays violin, guitar, dobro and has an amazing array of stories and songs to share.

Don't miss this Americana/roots all-star! www.joecrookston.com

#### WE'RE BACK INDOORS IN NOVEMBER:

The great CLAUDIA SCHMIDT will be up close and working her magic in our living room on Friday, November 3, 7:30 pm. www. claudiaschmidt.com



**CONCERT DETAILS:** The price is \$20 each for all concerts. All proceeds go to our musicians, and we ask that you pay in advance so we know we have the funds we've promised the performers. To reserve your seat(s), send via snail mail or drop off your cash or check – email us at annedave@chorus.net for our address.

You can also use PayPal (annedave@chorus.net) or Venmo @Anne-Katz-4. We hold checks to be cashed after the concert date, and we'll send out a reminder/logistics message to all attendees right before the concert.

Please note that indoor concerts take place in our living room, an enclosed space without a lot of room to physically distance. We expect indoor concert attendees to be fully COVID-vaccinated. Masks are optional.

Questions? Contact us at annedave@chorus.net.

See you soon at Our House! David Wallner and Anne Katz

### **White Oak Folk Festival August 11th-13th**

White Oak Savanna is proud to present the 4th annual White Oak Folk Festival Aug 11th -13th in Dodgeville, WI. This family-friendly music festival is designed to be a restorative and enriching event where music and nature lovers can gather for a weekend away from the hustle. Think of it as a mini vacation with a fantastic soundtrack.

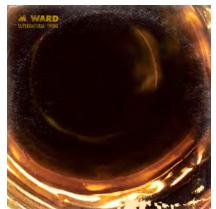
Located in Southern Wisconsin's picturesque Driftless Region, 40 minutes west of Madison, White Oak Savanna is a one-of-a-kind events venue featuring the beautifully restored

Mright's cousin, Charles Lloyd Jones. The festival performances happen in the barn and this year's lineup features Hubby Jenkins, Sons of the Never Wrong, The Allard Brothers, The Emily Knott Trio, Cielito Lindo, Mark Dvorak and more. In addition to performances there will be a Cajun Dance with the Le Gran Fromage Cajun Band and a Barn Dance with Chirps Smith, Steve Rosen and Fred Campeau playing the music. For folks looking to play as well as listen, there are jams and workshops all day long.

Festival attendees can learn to clog, sing harmony and play fiddle tunes! Other activities include a campfire singalong, camping, hiking and fishing on the 88 acres of farmland and organically restored oak savanna prairie.

White Oak Savanna is located at 4352 State Rd 23, Dodgeville, WI. Full weekend passes are just \$55 and Saturday passes are only \$35. Camoing and RV Parking passes are sold separately. More information about the White Oak Folk Festival can be found at www.whiteoakfolkfest.com.

# Supernatural Thing - m ward 2023 - anti- records



Review by Kiki Schueler

M Ward has an amazing voice: hypnotic, secretive, and full of emotion. It engages on the slowest of ballads and the most frenzied of rockers. Perhaps the most intriguing thing is how much it enriches the collaborations he chooses. As part of the Monsters of Folk, he routinely stole the show from his arguably better-known bandmates Conor Oberst and Jim James. And only Ward could have gotten me to buy an album featuring Zooey Deschanel. The She & Him records would benefit from more him and less her. but still, they are worth a listen. He uses this superpower to great advantage on his new release Supernatural Thing, sharing verses with friends new and old. Longtime associates James and Neko Case make appearances, and there's a delightful three way with Sweden's First Aid Kit. The sunny sisters Johanna and Klara Söderberg are a perfect counterpoint to the often-curmudgeonly Ward, and their songs are the highlight of the record.

In fact, both "Too Young to Die" and "Engine 5" feel more like First Aid Kit featuring M Ward instead of the converse. In the case of the former, in a song packed with great lyrics, gentleman that he is, he gives all the best lines to the ladies. All of them variations on the idea that no matter what age, it will always be too soon. From "picking up transmissions in a code from a host of foreign satellites it said 'teach a kid guitar, he'll be broke for the rest of his life, but too young to die," to the somewhat surprising King Kong reference, the sisters do the ma-

terial justice. Ward is there for the bridge and the chorus, inserting himself perfectly into the narrative. The gentle acoustic quitar and soft percussion know just when to pause, making sure you are paying attention. "Engine 5" starts quiet, building steam on a track made of clacking drum sticks and ethereal synth swells, making it obvious this isn't the Amtrak we're waiting for. In truth it seems to land somewhere between an alien abduction and divine intervention, "When you're blown out on the freeway, and your wheels have rolled away, and you're crawling from the wreckage, and your worlds have gone up in flames, signal out the station, signal out to me." It's catchy as hell, and would lend itself nicely to a dance remix.

In comparison, the melancholic piano ballad "In Dedication" plays out like a languorous valentine, complete with string section. "This one goes straight to my head," he croons in a strange admission of devotion, while the lovely Neko Case lays on a torch song breathiness. The lush strings were arranged by Brooklyn musician Gabriel Kahane. On the David Bowie cover "I Can't Give Everything Away," My Morning Jacket's James is featured in an unexpected role, on the saxophone. Which eventually makes sense, because Ward has chosen to do this deep cut from Blackstar, the Thin White Duke's final album, as an instrumental. Even without words, it's a moving tribute. The Shovels and Rope collaboration "Mr. Dixon" doesn't fare as well, its sharp edges abrasive. On the other hand, Dr. Dog's Scott McMicken renders the "New Kerrang" an utter joy. Who would have thought a cautionary tale of trading in cymbals could be so delightful?

With all the noteworthy guests, the songs where Ward goes solo might be overlooked. That would be a shame. The title track lives up to its otherworldly name, bringing a message from beyond, "Last night a supernatural thing,

a smoke with Elvis. You wanna say it was a dream, well I think I would have known. So I bring a message from the king on this new morning, "You can go anywhere you please." The tranquil "For Good" is textbook Ward, with more sax. The record closes with Ward's second take on Daniel Johnston's "Story of an Artist." No doubt he sees himself in its words, "Listen up and I'll tell a story about an artist growing old. Some would try for fame and glory, others aren't so bold." He may not be seeking the limelight, but I wouldn't call Ward timid.

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

### → Mad Folk stage at the Willy Street Fair

Saturday September 17th and Sunday September 18th More details coming soon!

Correct dates: Saturday September 16 & Sunday September 17

#### ♪♪ Tret Fure

Sunday October 8th More details coming soon!

### Robert Jones and Matt Watroba

Saturday November 11th More details coming soon!





#### Kiki's Righteous House of Music

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

- Thursday, August 10th @ 8pm (doors at 7) The Figgs \$20
- Friday, August 11th Kiki's Fifth Righteous Session at McPike Park feat. Sarah Borges (w/ Eric Ambel), Ben de la Cour and Trapper Schoepp
- Friday, August 25th @ 5:30pm (doors at 4:30) and @8:30pm (doors at 7:30) Robbie Fulks - \$25

#### Common Chord and Bob's Your Uncle

- Tuesday, August 8 @ 6pm: Bob's Your Uncle @ Benvenuto's Fitchburg, 2949 Tiverton Pike Dr., Fitchburg
- Saturday, August 26 @ 6pm: Bob's Your Uncle @ Cider Farm Tasting Room, 8216 Watts Rd, Madison
- Saturday, September 2 @ 1pm: Common Chord @ Hop Garden Evansville, 18 E. Main St, Evansville
- Monday September 4, time TBA: Common Chord @ Beatlefest, Spring Green General Store

#### 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

- Friday, August 11th @6:30 pm Joe Crookston \$20
- Friday, November 3rd @7:30 pm Claudia Schmidt \$20

#### KG & The Ranger: Vintage Cowboy Music

- Wednesday, August 2nd @1pm Folklore Village Senior Concert Series 3210 County Rd BB, Dodgeville - free
- August 19th 20th Viroqua Wild West Days 925 Nelson Parkway, Viroqua Various shows between 11am - 5pm both days
- Friday, August 25th@ 6pm Twining Park, Monroe



wildhoginthewoods.





Ft. Atkinson, WI cafecarpe.com 920-563-9391

#### Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday, September 8th at 7:30pm Lil' Rev
- Friday, October 6th at 7:30pm Stephen Lee Rich
- Friday, October 20th at 7:30pm Common Chord
- Friday, December 1st 45th Anniversary Celebration

#### Cafe Carpe

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

- Thu, Aug 3rd, Lilli lewis trio @8pm \$20
- Sat, Aug 5th, ANNA p.s. @8pm \$15
- Thu, Aug 10th, Dana Cooper @8pm \$15
- Sat, Aug 12th, Driftless Revelers @7:30pm \$15
- Sat, Aug 19th, Alex McMurray w/ Glenn Hartman@7:30pm \$15
- Wed, Aug 23st, An Evening w/ Daniel Champagne @7:30pm SOLD OUT
- Sat, Aug 22nd, Sarah the Red as part of Community Event Rhapsody @12pm

#### Old Time Jam

Monthly - 3rd Sunday of every month, 3 to 6pm Location is variable for now. Please email or call to get on the mailing list Coodinator: Al Wilson, adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu cell: 608-572-0634

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

Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Dan Robinson,

wpr.org

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.

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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



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

### FOLKLORE VILLAGE FOlklore Village

- Tue, August 1st Online Open Mic Night @7pm • Wed, August 2nd - KG & The Ranger @1pm
- August 11th 13th Folk School Session 3
- August 12th Ice cream social
- Tue, August 15th In-Person Open Mic Night @7pm
- Tue, September 5th Online Open Mic Night @7pm

#### **NORTH STREET CABARET**

610 North St, Madison, WI northstreetcabaret.com

#### Sugar Maple Concert Series

• Sun, August 6th - Kristin Andreassen & Chris Eldridge @7pm - \$20 adv / \$30 d.o.s.

 Fri, September 15th - Viv & Riley @8pm - \$15 adv / \$22 d.o.s.

#### "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

### Madison Folk Music Society P.O. Box 665, Madison, WI 53701 Address Service Requested Renew your membership today at www.madfolk.org

Nonprofit Org U.S. Postage **PAID** Madison, WI Permit No. 2278

Visit www.madfolk.org and click on "Join MFMS"

#### Way #2 - unplugged

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