

# MadFolk News

## March 2nd brings to the MadFolk stage – Bienemann, Bieneman, Wagoner and Gaines

Making their debut appearance, not only on the MadFolk stage, but also in Madison will be Robin & Jenny Bienemann. Although both are accomplished solo performers or joining and touring with their musical friends, for this show the husband/wife duo will be teaming their music together! Robin's songs are sometimes funny, sometimes poignant writing both on contemporary, educational and historical themes. Just read the titles of his albums and you're going to want to know what the songs on them are.

When I read this line about Jenny - "Jenny's voice and guitar playing evokes comparisons to Joni Mitchell and Ricke Lee Jones", made me jump right over to the videos and take a listen. The first one I listened to was "The Piper and the Devil" with a duet with the late great Michael Smith. I will be very excited to sit in the audience amongst my folky peers and listen to this duo at their first Madison performance.

Joining Jenny & Robin will be Madison's own Chris Wagoner and Mary Gaines.

Chris & Mary have been an iconic part of Madison music scene for years. They have racked up so many music awards that I don't have room to list them all! They have played in many

of their own bands or lent their music skills backing up other bands and even in the studio for other musician's albums. To write about what style of music they play is hard, as they cross genres so easily and do it so well. Chris on too many instruments to list, and Mary mostly found on bass or cello, and if when she lends her voice to harmonies, you won't be able to stop from saying, "that voice is so beautiful". If you have seen Mary & Chris perform, you understand when I say they can play in all the genres of music. If you have not heard them perform before, get your first taste of them on the MadFolk stage where their sound will be a little more on the folk side and then when you see their name out there playing somewhere either their own shows or with other musicians, go see them, you may not know what style you're going to get, but I can tell

you what you will get is going to be wonderful. I have never seen a show that does not leave me wanting more.

Here are a few names our folk fans may know – Dan Hicks, Christine Lavine, Carrie Newcomer, Willy Porter, Josh Harty, Jim Schwall, Peter Mulvey, Beth Kille, Katie Dahl – why you ask are these names in this article? These are just a few of the musicians that the musicians you will see at this show have played with. There is going to be a lot of talent and a lot of fun happening at this show!

The show will be March 2nd at the North Street Cabaret – doors open at 7:30 and show is at 8:00. Tickets are available from the link on the MadFolk website [www.madfork.org](http://www.madfork.org) **We also encourage everyone to bring a non-perishable item for the food pantry.**

### 🎵 Upcoming MadFolk Shows!

**March 2nd Jenny & Robin Bienemann with Chris Wagner & Mary Gaines**

**May 9th - Luch Kaplansky**

**May 19th - Joe Jenks and Deirdre McCalla**

**August 30th - Connie Kaldor**

**November 4th - Garnet Rogers**



# The Only Glossary You Will Ever Need

By Emily Beebe

I have a bad habit of looking up random and completely true facts on the wide world web. The other day I ran across the Clarke's Music Company Glossary of Folk Musical Instruments from around the world. Accordion was at the top of the list: a free reed instrument with keyboard. Thirteen entries later I arrived at bagpipes: reed instrument with an air reservoir in an animal skin bag. (Several public figures who fit this definition instantly came to mind). Pondering the concept of musical taxidermy, my mind rapidly expanded like a clap of thunder on a muggy day.

The glossary listed fourteen types of bagpipes including Gaida, Gaita, Biniou, Union, Uilleann, Northumbrian, Piob Mhor, Scottish smallpipes, Dudelsack, Zampogna, Cornemuse, Musette, Cabrette, and Cimpoi. I imagined being introduced to the family of Johann Sebastian Bach. "Hi, I'm Johann and this is my wife, Anna. These are our kids, Johann, Carl, Wilhelm, Maria, Christiana, Johann, Johann, Johann, Elisabeth, Catherine, Gottfried, Regina, Christiana, Leopold, Regina, Christiana, Johanna, Ernestus, Christian...and THIS is my little Dudelsack!"

Bagpipes have been interrupting sleep and scaring enemies since at least 1000 BC. They evolved out of early reed instruments like the Greek double-piped aulos, which required a lot of cheek wind to play and did unattractive things to the aesthetics of the piper. The Greeks invented a head girdle to keep the face from puffing out like a September chipmunk, although it made the player look and sound more like a muzzled rabid dog. The skin bag was invented to allow pipers to look handsome while generating loud sounds with their armpits, like a musical whoopie cushion. (Curiously, there isn't a lot of historical evidence of women playing bagpipes in ancient Rome.) This innovation allowed one to add extra pipes on the bag in case one or two just wasn't enough.

Bagpipes had quite the following in ancient civilization. Emperor Nero was said to have commissioned his image on a coin holding a suckling pig with tubes and he may have been piping, not fiddling when Rome burned. Aristophanes nailed it in his play 'The Acharnians' in 425 BC when he wrote, "You pipers who are here from Thebes, with bone pipes blow the posterior of a dog."

Eventually, people moved out of coliseums and battlefields and realized that early bagpipes did not have indoor voices. With the invention of drywall and drop ceilings came the evolution of quieter, gentler bagpipes such as the Irish Uilleann pipes and the Scottish smallpipes. These instruments use a bellows instead of the lungs and cheeks to fill the bag, thus further improving the appearance of the piper, and rewarding them with free admission to steampunk soirees.

I have been fascinated with bagpipes since I first heard Uilleann piper Paddy Keenan playing Pipe on the Hob/Hag at the Churn with the Bothy Band and the Alan MacLeod's rendition of Lucy Cassidy on the Scottish highland pipes with the Tannahill Weavers. It's rare to run across an Uilleann pipe player at a Madison Irish session; typically, they are seen and heard on stage with touring groups.

You can imagine my surprise when Chris presented me with a practice set of Uilleann pipes last Christmas. I was excited to give this instrument a go, knowing that it was warm enough for the cats to be outside for a few

hours.

What stars could have aligned so he could find a set so easily? Turns out that one of those stars was a satellite linking our home to Amazon.com, which will overnight ship Uilleann pipes anywhere...from Pakistan. The bag of these pipes was lined with a crinkly plastic inner slipcover and had the size, shape, and pliability of a large Canada Goose with rigor mortis. To achieve certain notes from an Uilleann chanter, the end hole must be closed on the player's leg while allowing the bag under the left arm to fill and empty evenly from the bellows strapped to the right arm. The goose would not bend its neck to support the chanter position without sealing itself off. The goose's body was so long that her body traveled past my left armpit around to my lower back. A few good flaps of the right arm could fill the bag, which at least offered lumbar support. Squeezing the left arm didn't do a lot of good except squeeze the base of the goose's neck (just in case it wasn't dead). The reed looked correct but would not elicit a squawk unless Chris forcefully squeezed the goose at my rear.

So, I guess you now have the first historical record of a woman using a whoopie cushion to make music. But please note, a man was actively involved.

There is so much more going on in the Glossary of Folk Musical Instruments, but you will have to wait for another issue to continue this scholarly discourse.

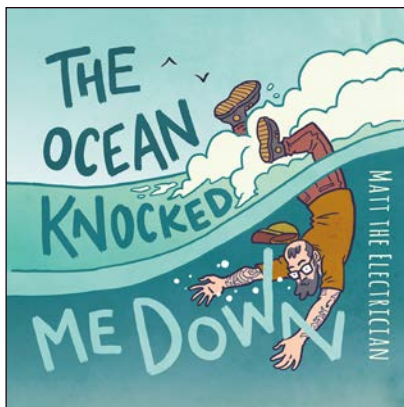
## **Lucy Kaplansky plays her first MadFolk concert on May 9th**

For those of you who know Lucy, I know you'll be buying tickets right now – go to the website [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org) for a link to purchase them. Lucy has already announced the show on her site and fans have already been contacting us for tickets! This is going to be a super intimate concert with her.

For those who are not familiar with Lucy, we will have much more in the newsletter next month, we just wanted to give our MadFolk family first chance at the tickets.

# THE OCEAN KNOCKED ME DOWN - MATT THE ELECTRICIAN

2024 - MATTHEW SEVER



Review by Kiki Schueler

Matt Sever, known by the stage name Matt the Electrician, has produced an impressive catalog of recordings. *The Ocean Knocked Me Down* is his fourteenth release with sixteen, often-brief, doses of his unique style of whimsy. On first listen many of his songs seem simple, but there's always a little more going on under the surface. As in the title track which also opens the record, "I went swimming in the ocean, but the ocean knocked me down. I thought I could walk through waves, but the ocean knocked me down." Two lines in and I am instantly transported to a beach on Oahu on my first visit to Hawaii. My cousin and his wife watched from the beach as I repeatedly tried to remain upright as wave after wave toppled me. Each time I would flail, thinking I was drowning for sure, only to be deposited on the sand as the water rolled back out. Now I know I am not the only one. Turns out that is exactly what the song is about, the chorus an ode to commonality and community. "Let's feel sad together, let's stay mad together," and "Let's all help to carry when it's big and scary."

Sever seems to be forever young with his turned-up baseball cap and his skateboard obsession, but it turns out that cap is covering a receding hairline and there's gray in his beard. His lyrics also reflect this inevitability. "I got old," he says plainly in the title track. In "Holiday Inn Express" he is even more blunt, "Cause my eyesight's worse than it was last year, and we're all

going to die someday." The toe tapping melody, featuring Farfisa organ, ukulele, and cajon drum, belies the litany of everything that's gone wrong on this particular stay- from a broken AC to burnt sausage. I hope he filled out an online review. In "Numbed" he opens with the observation "they say that my shoulders are frozen, just because I'm old as I am." The synth marimba and vibes give a funky backbone to a song that's as much about emotional numbness as it is about physical. And only an old man would make the gym mis-step in "My Arms," which is literally about doing too many curls on a device he did not understand, and now he can't move his arms. "Old Newspaper" brings back memories of junior high trauma, while "Original Condition" thinks about all the things he had as kid that might be valuable today. Though he's not sure because "the internet is confusing." OK, grandpa.

In true pandemic style, most of the tracks feature only Sever and producer Mark Addison playing all manner of instruments, more than a dozen between the two of them. Notably, the stately "Royal Favor" blends the former on trumpet and the latter on reed organ. However they do bring in a few guests. Carrie Rodriguez (a name I haven't heard in years) showcases her fiddle and vocals on the off-beat "Tiger Song," as the narrator tries to get out of watching the Tiger Woods documentary. As with most songs here, it's about more than that. Stream of conscious lyrics confess "I'm scared that tigers might eat me." Luke Jacobs's pedal steel gives the tune an unexpected, but welcome, country flavor. It makes sense that the jazzy drums and the solo that ends "Delicate Metal" come courtesy of frequent collaborator John Greene, while another old friend Seela adds backing vocals. With Sever and Addison playing only banjo and mellotron, it's literally one of the least

instrumented songs here.

Sixteen tracks may seem like a weighty load, but with an average run time short of two and half minutes, they are easily digested. And your day will be better for having spent a part of it with Matt the Electrician, guaranteed to leave you smiling.

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). Learn about concerts, membership, scholarships, and volunteer opportunities at [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org). [www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Madison-Folk-Music-Society/34497984835)

## Madison Folk Music Society Board

DarleneBuhler.....President,Concerts,  
Advertising  
225-0710~ [darlene@blettner.com](mailto:darlene@blettner.com)  
PegMichel.....Treasurer  
831-1876 ~ [pegm@chorus.net](mailto:pegm@chorus.net)  
Tracy Comer .....Membership & Web Site  
729-4498 ~ [tracy@tracycomer.com](mailto:tracy@tracycomer.com)  
NorbertWodke.....Secretary  
849-3510 ~ [nfwodke@chorus.net](mailto:nfwodke@chorus.net)  
DedeGoldberg.....Newsletter  
distribution  
246-4332 ~ [speedydd99@yahoo.com](mailto:speedydd99@yahoo.com)  
Neil Morris.....Newsletter  
editor  
358-5855 ~ [madfolk@wiscomfort.com](mailto:madfolk@wiscomfort.com)  
Meg Skinner..... Scholarships  
238-6950 ~ [meggskinner@gmail.com](mailto:meggskinner@gmail.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/madisonfolkmusicsociety>



• See [madfolk.org](http://madfolk.org) or our facebook page for latest show postings

## ♪ **Gaines & Wagoner and Robin & Jenny Bienemann**

Saturday March 2nd at 8pm - North Street Cabaret, Madison

\$15 advance / \$20 day of show



**Don't forget!**

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

*On the Air*

.....  
**Simply Folk** on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Síle Shigley, Jeff Durkey & Steve Gotcher



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](http://www.wpr.org/simplyfolk)



**WORT 89.9 FM** community radio visit <https://wortfm.org> for more info!

• Sundays 3pm - 5pm - "On the Horizon" w/ Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Helena White

• Mon 9am to noon - Global Revolutions w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado

• Tue 9am to noon - Green Morning Radio w/ Brian Hirsch - Except Last Tuesday of the month - One Fine Morning w/ Peter Allen

• Wed 9am to noon - Back to the Country (country music on a theme) w/ Steven & Marianne, Nate Gibson, Art Stevenson & Bill Malone

• Thur 9am to noon - 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

*Misc*

### **Stuart Stotts**

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

.....  
**Sea Shanty Sing @Roxy's Restobar** -- 208 W. Main St, Stoughton

No experience necessary. Songbooks provided and songs taught. 7pm every second Tuesday.

**Open Mic @Cargo Coffee** -- 750 E. Washington Ave.

Brave the stage or enjoy the show every first and third Sunday, 5-7pm. Sign-up starts at 4:30pm

**Open Mic @Java Cat** -- 4221 Lien Rd.

Check out local talent at the cafe's new location on the last two Sundays of each month.

### **Old Time Jam**

Monthly - 3rd Sunday of every month, 2 to 5pm

Location: Brix Cider, Mt Horeb

Coodinator: Greg Jones, [7771jones@gmail.com](mailto:7771jones@gmail.com)

Al Wilson, [adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu](mailto:adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu)

**Madison Area Ukulele Initiative** -- Singalongs 3rd Sunday 11am - 1:30pm

- for location visit [www.MAUImadison.com](http://www.MAUImadison.com)

## Venues

---



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

### Cafe Carpe

- Sat, March 1st - The Boston Imposters - @7:30pm - \$15
- Wed, March 6th - Chris Pureka - @7:30pm - \$25
- Thu, March 7th - Third Coast Bluegrass - @7:30pm - \$25
- Fri, March 8th - My Politic - @8:30pm - \$20
- Sat, March 9th - Steve Dawson / Tommi Zender - @8:30pm - \$20
- Fri, March 15th - John Stano / Paul Cebar - @8pm - \$20
- Sat, March 23rd - Lonesome Bill Camplin - @7:30pm - \$12
- Sat, March 30th - Rupert Wates - @8pm - \$20



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

### Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday, March 1st at 7:30pm - Caitlin Vitale-Sullivan
- Friday, March 8th at 7:30pm - Grandpa's Elixir
- Friday, March 15th at 7:30pm - The Soundbillies
- Saturday, March 16th at 2pm - Hootenanny Sing-Along!
- Friday, March 22nd at 7:30pm - Bob's Your Uncle
- Friday, March 29th at 7:30pm - Nancy Rost and Doug Hamilton

### FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

### Folklore Village

- Tues, March 5th - Online Open Mic
- Sat, March 9th - Maple Sugaring Basics w/ Bill Robichaud - \$45
- March 15-17 Spring Swedish Music & Dance Weekend
- Tues, March 19th - In-Person Open Mic

### NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St  
Madison, WI  
northstreetcabaret.com

- Sun, Mar 3rd - April Vech and Joe Newberry - @6pm - \$20 adv/\$27 d.o.s.
- Fri, Mar 22nd - Missy Raines & Allegheny - @7pm - \$22 adv/\$29 d.o.s.
- Sun, Apr 28th - Tall Poppy String Band and Northern Resonance - @6pm - \$20 adv/\$27 d.o.s.
- Aug 2nd to 3rd - 21st Annual Sugar Maple Music Fest  
Two-day outdoor festival at the William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park



### 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 - Admission for all concerts is \$20 entirely for musicians

- Friday, May 10th - The Rough and Tumble

### 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, March 3rd @ 7pm (doors at 6) Robbie Fulks - \$25
- Friday, March 29th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Jill Sobule - \$15

### O'DARBY Irish Pub Band

- Saturday, March 16th - @7pm - Essen Haus, 514 E. Wilson St, Madison - Reservations suggested
- Sunday, March 17th - @5pm - Harmony Bar, 2201 Atwood Ave, Madison - \$10

An Evening of Original Folk, Jazz, Blues, Haiku...and Other Misbehaviors



**Madison Folk Music  
Society PRESENTS**

**Robin & Jenny Bienemann - 8:00 pm**

**Gaines & Wagoner - 9:30 pm**

**Saturday, March 2**

**8:00 pm – 11:00 pm**

**THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI**

Tickets \$15 advance, \$20 day of show

Available at: <https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/1139557>

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



Lucy Kaplansky is an acclaimed singer-songwriter of rare talent, “a truly gifted performer with a bag full of enchanting songs” (The New Yorker) and “the troubadour laureate of modern city folk” (The Boston Globe).



**Madison Folk Music  
Society PRESENTS**

# Lucy Kaplansky

**Thursday, May 9**

**7:00 pm**

**THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI**

Tickets \$20 advance, \$25 day of show

Available at: <https://madfolk.org>

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

**"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](http://www.madfolk.org).

If you have questions about your membership in the meantime, send email to [info@madfolk.org](mailto:info@madfolk.org). Thanks for your membership and support of Mad Folk!

**Way #1 – online**

Visit [www.madfolk.org](http://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

Address Service Requested

Renew your membership today at  
[www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org)

Nonprofit Org

U.S. Postage

PAID

Madison, WI

Permit No. 2278

Madison Folk Music Society

join  renew

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Choose membership category:

Senior / Student \$12 \_\_\_\_\_

Regular \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

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