

# MadFolk News

## Connie Caldor Returns to the MadFolk Stage August 30th!

### A Melodic Journey Through Folk Roots

In the rich tapestry of Canadian folk music, Connie Caldor is a name that resonates with authenticity, depth, and a profound connection to the human experience. Born and raised in Saskatchewan, Caldor's musical journey is a testament to the power of storytelling through song, drawing from the landscapes of her upbringing and the emotions woven into the fabric of everyday life.

### Early Beginnings

Caldor's musical roots trace back to her childhood, where she was exposed to the vibrant folk scene of the 1960s and 70s. Inspired by artists like Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, and Neil Young, she found solace and inspiration in the raw honesty and poetic lyricism of their music. It was during these formative years that Caldor first picked up a guitar and began to craft her own songs, channeling her observations of the world around her into melodies that would soon capture the hearts of listeners far and wide.

### Rise to Prominence

Caldor's rise to prominence in the Canadian music scene came in the 1980s, with the release of her

debut album, "Crossing the Water," in 1982. The album showcased Caldor's exceptional songwriting skills, as well as her ability to infuse her music with a sense of intimacy and warmth that resonated deeply with audiences. Tracks like "Love Is a Truck" and "God Bless the Gorditas" showcased Caldor's unique blend of wit, humor, and introspection, establishing her as a formidable talent in the folk music landscape.

### Exploration and Evolution

Throughout her career, Caldor has continued to evolve as an artist, exploring new sounds and themes while staying true to her folk roots. Her discography spans a diverse range of albums, each offering a glimpse into different facets of her musical identity. From the hauntingly beautiful melodies of "Sky with Nothing to Get in the Way" to the rollicking energy of "Pivot Point," Caldor's music defies easy categorization, drawing from influences as varied as country, blues, and traditional folk.

### Legacy and Influence

Beyond her own prolific career, Caldor's influence extends far beyond the confines of the recording studio. As a mentor and advo-

cate for emerging artists, she has played a vital role in nurturing the next generation of Canadian folk musicians, offering guidance and support to those following in her footsteps. Her contributions to the Canadian music scene have been recognized with numerous awards and accolades, including multiple Juno nominations and a Western Canadian Music Hall of Fame induction in 2020.

### A Timeless Voice

Today, Connie Caldor continues to enchant audiences with her soulful voice and captivating storytelling. Whether performing in intimate coffeehouses or on festival stages, she possesses a rare ability to forge a deep connection with her listeners, inviting them into her world with each strum of the guitar and every heartfelt lyric. In an age of constant change and uncertainty, Caldor's music serves as a beacon of hope and resilience, reminding us of the enduring power of song to heal, inspire, and unite us all. As she continues to chart her own musical course, one thing remains certain: Connie Caldor's timeless voice will continue to echo through the annals of Canadian folk music for generations to come.



# IT IS FESTIVAL SEASON!

We will be updating this each month, so please mark your calendar and keep checking back. These are all in Madison, unless noted. **If you know of a festival not on this list, please feel free to send it to [Darlene@blettner.com](mailto:Darlene@blettner.com) and we will add it.** Get out there and enjoy the music!

July 4 - 6 - Catfish River Music Festival - Stoughton, WI

July 11 - 14 - La Fête De Marquette

July 13 - Black Hawk Folk Society Music Festival – Mt Morris, WI

July 20 - 21 - Woodstock Folk Festival - Woodstock, IL

July 27 - 28 - Atwoodfest

August 2 - 3 - Sugar Maple Music Festival

August 8 - 11 - Pursuit of Happiness

August 9 - 11 - Shawano Folk Music Festival – Shawano, WI

August 17 - Gandy Dancer Bluegrass Festival - Mazomanie, WI

August 17 - Schenck's Corner Festival

August 17 - Eken Park Festival

August 23 - 24 - Orton Park Festival

August 23 - 24 - Great River Folk Festival - LaCrosse WI

August 30 - Connie Kaldor @ North St Cabaret not a festival, but you don't want to miss it!

September 21 - 22 - Willy Street Fair - Watch for the MadFolk Stage

## Shawano Festival August 9th and 10th

The 46th Annual Shawano Folk Music Festival is nestled within the wooded Mielke Park in Shawano, about 40 miles northwest of Green Bay. Mark your calendars for August 9-11, aim your car towards Mielke Park in Shawano and get ready for a great weekend at one of the best small folk music festivals anywhere. Enjoy Friday and Saturday evening concerts inside air-

conditioned Mielke Arts Center, and outdoor daytime music performances on Saturday and Sunday, a dance workshop Sunday afternoon, a quilt raffle, crafters, great food, friends and our gloriously eclectic mix of great music. It's Music Under the Trees at its best!

The 2024 line-up includes John Stano, Gaines and Wagoner, Emma's

Revolution, Ken Lonnquist and the O'Darby Irish Pub Band, Mark Dvorak, Heather Styka, South for Winter, and Lil' Rev. The Rusty Nails, Dorothy and Julia Zerbe, Synchronicity and Julie Grieves, (dance leader) fill out the line-up. Crafters line the park paths all weekend.

**Ticket info on next page**

# Falling Through the Craic

By Emily Beebe

Craic: (pronounced 'krak') Irish for 'a good time'

It's early on a Saturday evening in January. There isn't much snow, but the Capitol building shines prominently down the line of sight from the train tracks as you open the door to the coffeehouse. The smell of old grounds and wood hits you as you enter through the back door and walk across the creaky floor through the empty back room. Although it is not even 7, the front room is filled with people of all ages crowded around tables sipping wine, craft beer, and sparkling water. The proprietors put a sign on the front door directing people around back in part to keep the chill out, but also so they could cram in an extra table or two; it was going to be a busy night. The large front windows are clouded with condensation. Water runs in rivulets down the plate glass in response to the cold west wind blowing down the sidewalk.

A long table sits in the middle of the room across from the bar. There are already nine people chatting at the table and three more pull in another small table to make more room. Bags and cases are propped up against the wall and an assortment of whistles, bows, tuners, plectrums, bones, and pint glasses, rest on the table. A pair of fiddlers walk in and position themselves at the middle of the long table. 'This feels like the Last Supper,' one remarks. After a minute or so of tuning, a fiddler begins to play Lark of the Morning. In no time there are more than a dozen musicians playing in unison with a full spectrum of traditional Irish instruments. After only three times through the melody, the tune seamlessly changes to Cliffs of Moher. The fiddlers don't miss a note.

A few others near the ends of the table who entirely sat out the first tune join in, confident that they can play this one at speed. The bodhrán (Irish frame drum) player, particularly fond of jigs, raises the energy even higher as the fiddlers shift into Mug of Brown Ale to end the set.

Unlike other jams, there are pre-requisites for joining an Irish Session. First, second, and third: participants must be excellent and careful listeners. This extends to beyond the Session: a good player will spend a lot of time listening to Irish music performed by traditional musicians. A close fourth: one must know how to play some Irish tunes and understand the basic rhythms of Irish music. There is a vast ocean of Irish music, and no one can learn it all, but there is an approachable body of music that most players learn. It is expected that if you don't know the tune at all, you sit it out and listen. Rhythm instruments have the important job of rooting the ornate melody into the ground like gardeners tending a rose bush. Guitar and percussion may alternate sets, so they don't overwhelm the music. Melody players rule the roost at an Irish Session and lead the way through each set from beginning to end.

Ever the overachievers and seekers of the most beautiful set arrangement, traditional Irish musicians may learn multiple instruments to fill in holes in the timbre as needed like trees filling a canopy (or they do it simply to punish themselves). Irish Sessions feature instruments not seen at most other jam sessions: wooden Irish flutes, tin whistles, concertinas, bones, octave mandolins (8- or 10-string), citterns, bouzoukis, uilleann pipes. There are also the more usual fiddles, mandolins, banjos

(4-string tenor), and guitars.

Some public sessions are open, where others are invite-only and it's not always evident which one you have encountered which can add to the intimidation factor. Some are very traditional and others more relaxed about convention, but all require that the tunes played are from the Irish canon of folk music. For those looking to break in, there has been a recent renaissance of local Irish music in Southern Wisconsin with multiple slow and intermediate sessions held in libraries, cafes, community centers, and private homes. These are intended to build repertoire, to practice playing with others, and to test out those second and third instruments. The brand-new Madison Muso music space already hosts both an Irish slow session and an Irish beginner/intermediate session. The Jefferson County Craic (currently based in Walworth County) is another open group of Irish musicians who enthusiastically encourage and support new players.

If you have never experienced a public Irish Session before, it is worth seeking out. The music is lively and infectious and easy to listen to. It is not amplified, although it can get loud. There is always room for conversation. At times, one can hear a pin drop in a crowded room as a quiet air is played on a lone Celtic harp or an ancient ballad is sung by someone's visiting cousin. During the Session, people in the room dwell in circle cast where time is a little distorted and there are no strangers. Even closed Sessions with invited musicians are not promoted events nor are they concerts where performer and audience occupy separate, defined spaces. An Irish Session is a true expression of community. An Irish Session is a gift.

## Shawano Festival Ticket Information

### Tickets:

\$28 evening concerts; \$15 daytime; \$80/weekend pass. (Children 12 and under free during the day.)

### Evening Concerts:

Box Office opens at 6:00 pm; concerts begin 7:00 pm in the Mielke Arts Center.

### Friday Aug. 9:

MC: Mark Dvorak. John Stano, Gaines and Wagoner, Heather Styka, Emma's Revolution

### Saturday Aug. 10:

MC: Heather Styka. Lil' Rev, South for Winter, Mark Dvorak, Ken Lonnquist and the O'Darby Irish Pub Band

### Before the Friday Concert:

6:00 pm - 6:45 pm, join some of the artists for some conversation under the Tent to talk about your Musical Heroes.

For more info, go to our website [shawanofestival.org](http://shawanofestival.org), call/text us at 715-701-8278, or email at [shawanofestival.org](mailto:shawanofestival.org)



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

## Connie Kaldor

Friday August 30th at 7pm (doors @6:30) - North Street Cabaret, Madison  
\$18 advance / \$24 day of show

## Garnet Rogers

Monday November 4th details TBD



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



**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



### 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 Saturday 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.MAULmadison.com](http://www.MAULmadison.com)



## Venues



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

### Cafe Carpe

- Fri, July 12th - Piper Road - @8:30pm - \$20
- Sat, July 13th - Driftless Revelers - @8:30pm - \$20
- Wed, July 17th - Les Oiseaux - @7:30pm - \$5
- Thu, July 18th - Ordinary Elephant - @8pm - \$20
- Sat, July 20th - Lonesome Bill Camplin - @8pm - \$12
- Thu, July 25th - Dave Hause / Tim Hause - @8pm - \$30
- Sat, July 27th - Yazmin & Beat Zero - @8:30pm - \$20
- Wed, July 31st - Danni Nicholls & Sarah Peacock - @8pm - \$15



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

### Wild Hog in the Woods

Closed for Summer Festivals. But we are booking for Fall 2024  
Check the website for available Fridays. [wildhoginthewoods.org/Calendar/index.html](http://wildhoginthewoods.org/Calendar/index.html)

### FOLKLORE VILLAGE...passing it on

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

### Folklore Village

- Tues, July 2nd - Online Open Mic
- Sat, July 6th - Finnish Dance with Lauluaiika - Workshop @4pm, Potluck @6pm
- July 12th-14th - Folk School Session 2
- Tue, July 16th - In-Person Open Mic
- July 18th-21st - Hardanger Fiddle Association of America Annual Workshop
- Sat, July 24th - KG & The Ranger @1PM - FREE!

### NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St  
Madison, WI  
northstreetcabaret.com

- 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](mailto:annedave@chorus.net) - 608-256-2958 or 335-7909 - Admission for all concerts is \$20 entirely for musicians

- Saturday, July 20th @6:30pm - Ruth Wyand
- Saturday, August 10th @6:30pm - Mike Vitale

### Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required.

For full details or to request an invitation, contact Kiki at  
[righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com](mailto:righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com)

- Sunday, July 7th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Joe Pug - \$30
- Friday, July 19th @ 8pm (doors at 7) Steve Dawson and Diane Christiansen of Dolly Varden - \$15
- Sunday, July 21st @ 6pm (doors at 5) Kevin Gordon Trio - \$20



Review by Kiki Schueler

It may be true that you can't teach an old dog new tricks, but that doesn't mean you can't introduce him to a new dog. The old dog in this case is the 79-year-old Chris Smither, with twenty records and nearly six decades in the music business under his belt. The new dog is BettySoo, a relative newcomer barely twenty years into her own music career, whose vocals light up most every song on Smither's new record *All About the Bones*. At this point in his career, Smither's voice is as worn and comfortable as an old blanket, while BettySoo adds a warmth all her own. Longtime producer David "Goody" Goodrich expertly balances their vocals with the other musicians, as well as adding his own musical abilities. Also on board are jazz saxophonist Chris Cheek, who has appeared on over one hundred releases as a session musician (and very nearly steals this show from Smither), and drummer Zak Trojano, who is also a singer and multi-instrumentalist. Trojano had his work cut out for him filling in his percussion around Smither's trademark miked foot stomps. He also had to fill the big shoes of Billy Conway who passed away in 2021. Conway was known for his work with the rock band Morphine, as well as Jeffrey Foucault, and had played with Smither dating back to 2012's *Hundred Dollar Valentine*.

Perhaps it's the loss of Conway and other friends, or maybe it's a natural side effect of looking at eighty, but Smither doesn't hesitate to take on mortality. On the opening and title track he lays out a pretty convincing case that it is, indeed, all about the

bones. "Consider your high station, think about your fame, all of your creation depended on your frame," he observes in the first lines. By the third verse he's describing an encounter with death personified. "Grim Reaper comes a calling, says 'It's time to go.'" You say, "Ok, I'm coming." Yeah, you're moving mighty slow." BettySoo's vocals here show up in unexpected places, as if pointing us to the really important parts of the song. Cheek's sax is unexpectedly playful, telling us not to take life so seriously. The novel Lincoln in the Bardo haunted (pun intended) Smither enough that he took on the Buddhist idea of a place between death and rebirth for "In the Bardo." Backed by gentle finger-picking and the subtlest of percussion, the result may be the record's most profound, "No answers to the questions, no sense of direction, no, just a subtle indication, a whispered invitation to let go." "If Not for the Devil" argues there couldn't be God without his counterpart. "Lord knows he needs me, but he don't want to believe it's true," he sings in a wavering voice over a bluesy shuffle.

Smither faces another type of demon on "Close the Deal," which examines the very real threats to the country. "Two hundred years in the making, we could throw it all away," he muses after intoning "now it's easy to feel that the boogie man is real." BettySoo's other talent is on display here, as her melancholic accordion swoons over the melody. It has a lighthearted effect on the bouncy "Calm Before the Storm," where it neatly counters her and Smither's vocals. Though it sounds like vintage Smither, "Calm Before the Storm" was written by Texas songwriter Eliza Gilkyson. Surprisingly, the accordion is absent from the swampy, bayou stomper "Down in Thibodaux," jazzy saxophone fills the spaces instead. When a song begins with a knowing chuckle, you know it's going to be a good time. In the space of three and a half minutes, we get to know a character named

Boudreaux, who happened to be Smither's childhood neighbor, and whose name conveniently rhymes with "wicked bow" and "chapeau" (as in, "that's not a possum on his head, that's a chapeau").

While I still can't hear a Tom Petty cover without thinking "too soon," Smither's "Time to Move On" is a welcome one. He slows it down, while still keeping up a lively melody on the guitar, as if asking Petty "what's the hurry?" Perhaps Smither's laid-back approach is the key to his longevity.

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)

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DedeGoldberg.....Newsletter  
distribution

246-4332 ~ [speedydd99@yahoo.com](mailto:speedydd99@yahoo.com)

Neil Morris.....Newsletter  
editor

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<https://www.facebook.com/madisonfolkmusicsociety>

Dynamic delivery, excellent songs from the Canadian Prairie queen. "A masterful performer, wildly funny one moment, deeply personal the next." (*The Boston Globe*)



 **Madison Folk Music  
Society PRESENTS**

# Connie Kaldor

**Friday, August 30**

**7:00 pm**

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

Tickets \$18 advance, \$24 day of show

Available at: <https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/1199321>

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

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### Madison Folk Music Society

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Choose membership category:

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Contributing \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

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Scholarship fund donation (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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