

MadFolk News

WHAT! MADFOLK HAS BEEN AROUND FOR OVER 50 YEARS?

As we close out celebrating the fact that MadFolk has been around for over 50 years. We will continue to celebrate and share some of the history. In this issue is the cover of a newsletter from our early years. We have a few more which we will be sharing over the next months. We were scheduled to have our final anniversary/birthday event in January with cake and a free show.

However, Covid got in the way and we had to reschedule.

We have a new date in May. See details in the flyer in this newsletter and we will write more about the show in upcoming newsletters.

Thank you for members who continue to send in membership fees to keep us going, and even bigger thanks to those who make

YE contributions/donations or the anonymous person who stopped at our last show and said they could not stay, but wanted to donate \$100 -

It does not matter if it is \$1 or \$500, we thank you for your donations and we thank everyone for being a part of this music community.

A Night of Music with Legendary Singer-Songwriter John Gorka

The intimate atmosphere of a live performance is something that connects both the artist and the audience on a personal level, and few performers are better at fostering that connection than John Gorka. Known for his poetic lyrics, heartfelt delivery, and resonating melodies, Gorka never disappoints, and in the small intimate room of the North Street Cabaret it is going to be an amazing night!

Most of you probably know about John, but for

those of you new to him, he has

been a staple in the folk music scene for decades. Since the early 1980s, the New Jersey native has been captivating listeners with his distinct voice, rich with emotion and depth. His songs cover a range of topics—from love and heartbreak to reflections on life and society.

You know from the moment he strums his first chord the room will go quiet and you will be ready for

his stories, waiting to see if he has a new song and loving the songs that seem like old friends and then laughing when he sings "I'm From New Jersey." John always does an excellent job of playing the old favorites and bringing in a few new songs. He has a talent for weaving stories and songs together. He not only is a master of writing, but his guitar laying is impeccable, and if he takes the piano on this evening it too will be masterfully played.

Pure magic is all I can say. Get your tickets early, as you know this will be a sell out show. Please remember to bring a donation for the food pantry. All ticket details can be found at www.madfolk.org.



THE

Madison Folk Music Society NEWSLETTER



March 1976

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NUMBER 5

EDITOR: Ricki Gruen, 1117 Erin St., Madison, 255-1345
SECRETARY: Jeff Olson, 118 S. Hancock, Madison, 251-9575

THE MADISON FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS:

MIKE SEEGER

**member of Seeger family (Peggy, Pete)
**singer and performer
**on all the Appalachian instruments
**bluegrass/old-timey authority

in concert with SQUARE DANCE following!

with "The Arkansas Travellers" and
Vern Weisensel, Caller

Saturday, March 13
Great Hall 8 p.m.

\$3.00

the best of
British
entertainment!

** in concert **

JOHN ROBERTS & TONY BARRAND

Tuesday, March 30 Great Hall 8 p.m.

#1.50

from Sing Out!, national
folk music magazine:

"BARRAGE OF BALLADS BY BRASH BEARDED BRITONS BEYUSE BEWILDERED

BEHOLDERS... John and Tony draw hundreds of traditional English folksongs,
including sea songs and chanteys, love songs, old and even ancient ballads...
they sing, recite, talk, rant, roar, cajole, and charm their way through an
evening which is outrageously fun, musically exciting and, above all, entertaining."

***TICKETS FOR BOTH CONCERTS AVAILABLE AT: Union Box Office, Discount Records,
A Room of One's Own, the Williamson St. Co-op, and at the door
Mail-orders: send payment with self-addressed stamped envelope to Wisconsin
Union Theatre, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., Madison, WI. 53706

MIKE SEEGER ON: "OLD-TIME FIDDLE AND BANJO STYLES"

---a demonstration and explanation from an expert on mountain music
Saturday afternoon, March 13 (3-5 pm) at the Brooks St. YMCA, main lounge
BRING YOUR FRIENDS & YOUR INSTRUMENTS!!

JOHN ROBERTS & TONY BARRAND ON: "RITUAL SONGS AND DANCES OF ENGLAND"

---accompanying themselves on a variety of instruments, John and Tony
will explain, perform, and answer questions about the ancient British
rituals for heralding in the spring
Tuesday afternoon, March 30 (2:30-4:00 pm)
Union Terrace (if it's nice outside)
Great Hall (if it isn't)

rare sketch
of ancient Briton
heralding in the spring



AND COMING ON APRIL 13: "THE BOYS OF THE LOUGH" (more in next issue)

WORK
SHOPS:
free
to the
Public

Once again... It's the Baraboo String Gathering!

The first weekend of April we meet

In Baraboo on West Pine Street

To go twangy-twang twing

At the String Gathering

If you join us we'll save you a seat

The annual Baraboo String Gathering will be held April 3-6, 2025 at the AmericInn and Suites by Wyndham Baraboo Event Center and Hotel (formerly, the Clarion). Still located at 636 W. Pine Street but with a new very, very long and slightly patriotic-sound-

ing name and a remodel. The event is run by musicians, for musicians who want to play folk music and traditional tunes together and share ideas. It is open to acoustic stringed instrument players as well as other folk instruments that blend well with strings (Irish flutes, harmonicas, concertinas, etc.) There are no performances or evening dances, just music sessions covering the gamut of old-time, bluegrass, Irish, Quebecois, Scandinavian-American, ragtime, as well as songwriting circles, gospel, yodeling, and whatever else people

want to play. Participants are encouraged to stay at the hotel for the best experience. Call the AmericInn directly during business hours at (608) 356-6422 and mention 'String Fling' to get a special (cheap) room rate. Registration for the event itself is free, but donations are encouraged at the event to keep it going. Register at the website: www.stringgathering.com. A tentative and non-comprehensive list of facilitated sessions is also on the website. Open to all levels. One more thing... Mike's Italian Restaurant, adjoining the Event Center, has the best New York-style pizza in Wisconsin so you don't even have to go outside for three days to find food. East-coast expats, I highly recommend it!

-Emily B.



String Gathering
April 3-6, 2025

Edie Carey and Sarah Sample Concert in Platteville

@ Badger Brothers

10 East Main St. Platteville, WI

Saturday, March 15 - @7pm - \$20 adv / \$25 d.o.s.

Bruised Orange presents a concert of John Prine's music, which has inspired generations of musicians for more than 50 years, including the bandmates in Bruised Orange: Liz Stattelman-Scanlan, Tina Thompson, Colin Bazsali and Jeff Burkhart. Now, the four long-time friends perform together for the first time in celebration of the musical legacy of one of the best songwriters of our time.



 **Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

Bruised Orange

Celebrating Mad Folk's 50th Birthday!

Friday, May 2, 2025

7:00 pm

THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI

Tickets: FREE for MadFolk Members or \$15 online/at the door

<https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/1565094>

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





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

John Gorka

Friday, April 18th at 7pm (doors @6) - North Street Cabaret, Madison

\$27 advance / \$30 day of show

Bruised Orange - MadFolk 50th Birthday Party

Friday, May 2nd

@6:30pm at North Street Cabaret, 610 North Street, Madison, WI - Free for Members!

\$15 for non-members includes membership!



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



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

• Sun 3pm - 5pm - On the Horizon (international, world, ethnic music) w/ Ford Blackwell, Paul Novak, Gloria Hays & Helena White

• Mon 9am to noon - Global Revolutions (folk music from the world over) w/ Dan Talmo & Martin Alvarado & Helena White

• Tue 9am to noon - Green Morning Radio (indie, folk, rock, alt, country, acoustic blues & singer-songwriters) w/ Brian Hirsh - Except Last Tuesday of the month - One Fine Morning w/ P.C. 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/ Jeff Spitzer-Resnick

• 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

Misc

.....
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

Al Wilson, adwilson@pediatrics.wisc.edu

Madison Area Ukulele Initiative -- Singalongs

3rd Sunday 11am - 1:30pm

- for location visit www.MAUImadison.com

Venues



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

Cafe Carpe

- Sat, Mar 8th - Lonesome Bill Camplin - @8pm - \$15
- Fri, Mar 14th - Paul Cebal / John Stano - @8:30pm - \$20
- Fri, Mar 21st - Sarah Morris / Kelley Smith - @8:30pm - \$20
- Sat, Mar 22nd - Chip Duncan & Willy Porter - @8pm - \$30
- Sat, Mar 29th - My Politic - @8:30pm - \$20



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

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday, March 7 at 7:30pm- Song Swap With Sarah Fiske and Charles Oxbow
- Friday, March 14 at 7:30pm- Britton Rea and Sarah Krahn
- Saturday, March 15 at 2:00pm- Hootenanny
- Friday, March 21 at 7:30pm- Noise of the Boys
- Friday, March 28 at 7:30pm- Mike McDougal

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

Folklore Village

- Tue, Mar 4th - Online Open Mic
- Mon, Mar 17th - Switchback in Concert
- Tue, Mar 18th - In-Person Open Mic
- Mar 21st-23rd - Spring Norwegian Music & Dance Weekend
- Tue, Mar 25th - Alash Ensemble in Concert
- Tue, Apr 1st - Online Open Mic

NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St
Madison, WI
northstreetcabaret.com

- Sun, Mar 16th - Slipjig w Sheila Shigley, Ruthie McQuinn & Sláinte Irish Dancers
\$20 - @5pm
- Thu, Mar 20th - Open Mic @7pm



Our House

Invitation & Advance RSVP required. (located in Madison)

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

- Saturday, March 1st @7:30pm - Willy Porter - \$20
- Friday, March 21st @7:30pm - Claudia Schmidt - \$20
- Friday, April 25th @7:30pm - Cassie and Maggie - \$20

Kiki's Righteous House of Music

Invitation & Advance RSVP required. (located in Madison)

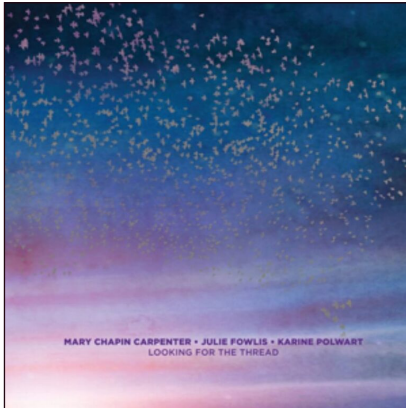
For full details or to request an invitation, contact Kiki at

righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com

- Sat, Mar 8th - @8pm (doors at 7) Nora O'Connor - \$20
- Fri, Mar 28th - @8pm (doors at 7) The Low Czars - \$10
- Thu, Apr 3rd - @8pm (doors at 7) Ben Sollee - \$20

LOOKING FOR THE THREAD - MARY CHAPIN CARPENTER, JULIE FOWLIS, KARINE POLWART

2025 - LAMBENT LIGHT RECORDS



Review by Kiki Schueler

Many decades ago I was living in Dallas, Texas and listening to a lot of country music on the radio, you do when that is what the people you are with listen to. I didn't like it all, I'm more a Johnny and Willie kind of girl, but I'll admit a certain fondness for some of the stuff that was popular at the time, George Strait and Randy Travis, and especially the oddly hyphenated Mary-Chapin Carpenter. I couldn't get enough her sassy, folk-leaning, feminist songwriting- so much smarter than her male counterparts- and her terrific covers of Dire Straits and Lucinda Williams. I moved to Madison and stopped listening to country, Carpenter dropped the hyphen and kept recording. Finding this record while casting about for something to review this month was like running into the cool girl from high school at a reunion and finding out that while she might have mellowed, she also got even cooler. On *Looking for a Thread*, Carpenter teams with Scottish artists Julie Fowlis and Karine Polwart for a record that is both gorgeous and adventurous. While they had each had individual connections, the trio didn't officially get together until a festival in Glasgow in 2023, after which they retreated to a remote house in Northern Scotland to write. The next year they met in Box, England to record *Looking for the Thread* with producer Josh Kaufman, who is a member of another folk supergroup, Bonny Light Horseman.

The three women, each born almost a

decade apart, share complementary voices and writing instincts. While each sings the songs they contributed, the result is a cohesive listen. Perhaps the biggest surprise on the record may be the two Gaelic language songs, both sung by Fowlis. The opening track "Gradh Geal Mo Chridhe," which translates to "fair love of my heart," is a traditional arranged by the entire studio band even though the instrumentation is minimal. There isn't a harmonium credited, so it must be Rob Burger's accordion creating that mournful sound, while the intriguing ten string fiddle (known as a hardanger d'amore) is played by Caoimhin O'Raghallaig. Later, the second "Buidheann Mo Chridhe Clann Ualrig" gives another dose of her lovely voice. The third Fowlis contribution is the exquisite "Silver in the Blue," an ode to the River Clyde which flows through Glasgow, and the fish that call it home. Polwart's trio of tunes includes the record's powerful first single "Hold Everything," named for John Berger's book *Hold Everything Dear*. As the lyrics enumerate the many ways to shuffle off, "Could you hear the car coming? Did you stumble and fall? Did you sleep without waking? Were you ready to go?", they also remind us to live for today. Meanwhile, "Rebecca" is the name carved on an old oak that also bears "the scars where the cold, steel blade tried to cut me down." There is hope here, because despite the fact that "they will never truly heal... I am still growing."

Carpenter indulges in her own anthropomorphism on "Satellite." The sentient orbiter's days seem to be numbered, "Lift off August '78, no malfunctions to relate, 30 billion miles I've come, all those trips around the sun," but we can't be so sure. Fowlis's whistle adds a charm that's both folky and otherworldly. The reflective "A Heart that Never Closes" features both whistle and accordion while

musing over a life's worth of memories and mementos, and wondering where the time went. The title track also muses on mortality, "I made a prayer from what you said, that no one is ever dead, because time and love remember," while piano, fiddle and drums make an epic statement. While she may have been speaking to the more existential, this track truly takes all the instruments and voices and "ties them all together." Having rediscovered Carpenter, I look forward to hearing more from her, and her new friends.

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

Madison Folk Music Society Board

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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>

“Listening to John Gorka sing, one can get goose bumps all over. There are many reasons: fresh lyrics, a stunning emotional baritone, and his twisted humor.” —New York Times



**Madison Folk Music
Society PRESENTS**

John Gorka

Special opener by Joe Gorka

Friday, April 18

7:00 pm

THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI

Tickets \$27 advance, \$30 day of show

Available at: <https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/1545282>

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.

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

Address Service Requested

Renew your membership today at
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