

# MAD FOLK NEWS

## LET'S GIVE A BIG ROUND OF APPPLAUSE!

We need to say thank you for the past years to people who have volunteered for us and first and foremost let's thank our Editor, Neil Morris who has been putting this newsletter together for more years than I remember! He has moved out of state and still continues to help. This month due to internet being spotty and a few other issues with being out of the country he was unable to getting the newsletter to the printers, so instead of his beautiful newsletter – you are getting this makeshift copy until he gets back to use next month! After trying to get some type of a newsletter together, I am extra thankful for all he does!

We also want to thank the board of directors who have helped us get to our 50<sup>th</sup> year! - Our concert committee who continues to look for music we think you would enjoy that may be new to you, while still bringing in some of your old favorites. AND YOU, our members and readers. We would have not made it this far without your membership fees, your donations and your attendance at our concerts – you are the very reason we keep going.

Madison Folk Music Society Board	
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# MUSIC IS IN THE AIR!

Although MadFolk takes a break from booking any concert during the summer – there is many opportunities for you to check out some of the local venues and events that Madison is soooooo lucky to have! See the page of Festivals elsewhere in the newsletter for upcoming festivals in Madison and some of the Folk Festivals in the region too! The following locations are all within a couple miles and some cases a couple blocks of each other. They are locally owned, that means a ticket fee is very reasonable, using just enough to cover the ticketing company fees – NOT those big fees that are sometimes almost the price of the ticket that is charge by those unnamed national conglomerates.

**The North Street Cabaret** – A great well-established venue that opened in 2017 and is currently homebase for the MadFolk concerts, and the Sugar Maple Festival concert series, but all year long they host many events – please get on their email list so you're notified of upcoming events. This is a smaller that holds about 99 people, you are never too far from the stage. The sound system was specifically created for this room and it always sounds great. Including that baby grand piano on the stage that musicians love having the opportunity to play! You can sign up to get on that email list on their website at [www.northstreetcabaret.com](http://www.northstreetcabaret.com)

**The Barrymore Theatre** – One of Madison's longest independent rooms. This venue can hold over 900 folks – mostly seated. It is the place where MadFolk has used for the likes of Tom Paxton, John McCutcheon, and Christine Lavin, to name a few – and also they were so wonderful to open their doors for a benefit show for Utah Phillips before he passed. You can find out more this venue at [www.barrymorelive.com](http://www.barrymorelive.com)

**The Bur Oak** has been in Madison for a few years now. This room holds approx. 130 people and has many shows of different genres. Even a few of the folks we bring in 😊 please check them out at [www.theburoakmadison.com](http://www.theburoakmadison.com)

**The Atwood Music Hall** – Is making their debut this month. This venue can go from 375 for a seated show to 700 for a standing room only show. They have an impressive line-up of music almost every night of the week! We welcome this new independent venue to Madison. [www.theatwoodmusicalhall.com](http://www.theatwoodmusicalhall.com).

**The Café Carpe** – Although not in Madison, it is just such a quick drive there, I thought I would include it. This venue has been treating us to music since 1985 and maxes out around 65 seats in the music room. You will want to get there early in order to eat some might fine food. I think everyone I talk to has a different favorite item they like to order. Find more out at [www.cafecarpe.com](http://www.cafecarpe.com)

**Stoughton Opera House** – Also, not in Madison, we mention them as they bring in many folk acts. This venue has a capacity of 475, with views from the main floor or the balcony above. MadFolk actually co-produced a show with them, remember the final tour of Garnet Rogers and Archie Fisher – if you saw our production, it was at this location. You can find more on them at [www.stoughtonoperahouse.com](http://www.stoughtonoperahouse.com)

We could probably write about 5 pages of information if we mentioned all the other music venues in Madison. But for the purpose of this article, we want to keep to ones that had a more folk music vibe. We know there are house concerts, open mics, coffee houses and other venues that are locally owned, we hope you go out and check them.



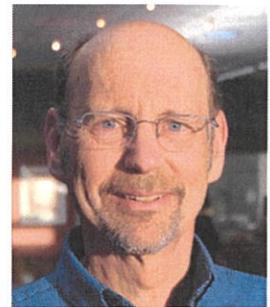
# MAKE MUSIC MADISON!

**Make Music Madison** is a free, citywide day of music every June 21. We are part of [Make Music Day](#), a celebration that occurs in 1,000+ cities across the globe. Madison began participating in 2013 and now boasts one of the largest events in the country. Parks, porches, restaurants, shops, worship spaces and more fill with music for all to enjoy!

This tradition started in France in 1982 as the Fête de la Musique, in which musicians of all ages, backgrounds and skill levels get together to make, perform, teach and learn music. The daylong, musical free-for-all celebrates music in all its forms, encouraging people to band together and play in free public concerts.

So far my research shows 265 musicians will be participating this year. A few of the venues will even be virtual for those who cannot make it out. They have a very easy to use interactive website at [www.makemusicmadison.org](http://www.makemusicmadison.org)

And please note that Mad Folk founding member Mac Robertson will perform and lead singing Sat. June 21st at Arboretum Co-housing 1137 Erin Street, Madison beginning at 7 pm rain or shine. Mac previously led sing-alongs at Blue Mounds State Park for a dozen years. He has shared the stage with Billy Ed Wheeler (Coming of The Roads) and authored a popular banjo method sold worldwide. Lyrics will be provided, bring your ideas and enthusiasm to co-create a unique musical event. See [singout.greennotes.com](http://singout.greennotes.com)



# Lots of Folkies are Making it to TV!

Well the Bob Dylan movie came out Xmas Eve last year on the big screen,..... but wait there is more music coming up on some really great folkies.... And you can watch all from your very own Livingroom.

Coming up this month on American Masters - PBS June 20<sup>th</sup>: **Janis Ian** – Breaking Silence. Explore the life of the singer – songwriter behind hits like “Society’s Child” and “At Seventeen” I bet this will bring back memories for you, I know for me I saw her in person for the first time at Pete Seeger’s Clearwater Festival, and the last time was her final tour at one of her shows at The Stoughton Opera house!

The Carolina Chocolate Drops Documentary “Don’t Get Trouble In Your Mind” is now available for free on Amazon Prime! This is must watch as you get a chance to see the real Carolina Chocolate Drops story. From busking on the street to winning a grammy, tune in and check it out!

If you are a fan of Bob Dylan, musical theater, or are just looking for something interesting to stream, check out [Great Performances | PBS](#)’ production of "Girl From the North Country," which features Dylan's music and is set in 1934 Minnesota when a group of travelers’ lives intersect at a guesthouse. Watch it on the PBS app!

Have you seen a music documentary that you think others in our music community would like to watch, saw a new performer? Read a new music related book? – please write a small article about it and submit it to our editor, we would love to hear what our readers are watching, reading, and listening to in the Folk World! Please share with us all!

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>

## BONNIE “PRINCE” BILLY The Purple Bird 2025 No Quarter Records – Review By Kiki Schueler

Will Oldham has been quite prolific in the three decades plus of his music career, though it hasn't all been released under the same name. In the 90's he put out several records under variations on the Palace name (Palace Brothers, Palace Music). Since 1999, he's mostly used the Bonnie “Prince” Billy moniker, with an occasional effort under his own name.

Other than his partnerships with folks like Bill Callahan and Matt Sweeney, his BPB albums have been strictly Oldham. He breaks that streak with *The Purple Bird*. An accessible and engaging collection that is all too tempting to label as his “country” record, *Bird* features co-writes, duets, and crack session musicians. It was produced in Nashville by David Ferguson, known for his work with Sturgill Simpson, Tyler Childress and John Prine, whom Oldham met 25 years ago when he sang with Johnny Cash on his cover of BPB's “I See a Darkness.” Ferguson and Oldham have teamed up several times over the years, but *Bird* represents a deeper connection. Seven of the twelve tracks were co-written by the pair.

The collaborations don't end there. Bluegrass legend Tim O'Brien cowrote and duets on the singalong album closer “Our Home.” The lighthearted number embraces home in a global sense, extending far beyond the four walls where you get your mail. The suggestions the duo make are a recipe for happiness, “Pull down the fences and pull up a chair, that's how we make it our home. Nobody's perfect and nobody cares, that's how we make it our home.” It's a perfect choice for a final song, hopefully folks are listening. O'Brien also plays mandolin and lends backing vocals on the jaunty “The Water's Fine,” which also features stellar classic country fiddle from Stuart Duncan, whose resume is a who's who of country. The water theme continues with the meditative “New Water” featuring fiddle and horns. Drawing from sea shanties and Irish folk songs, it contemplates the intoxicating effect of bodies of water. The H2O hat trick is completed with “Downstream.” The terrific John Anderson, who is so much more than the guy who wrote “Swingin’,” duets on this gorgeous co-write which lands a poignant message about the planet. “What's in the water, what's in the wind, the weather is wilder than it's ever been. The ocean's still blue but it ain't what it seems, it's time to remember, we all live downstream.”

Like “Our Home,” it's a powerful dispatch that will likely never reach the right ears. The same holds true for “Guns Are for Cowards,” a gun control message disguised as a polka. The oompah melody belies the graphic seriousness of the chorus, “Who would you shoot in the face? Who would you shoot in the brain? Who would you shoot in the back? And leave bleeding out in the rain?” On the other end of the spectrum is the wistful and very personal “Boise.” A lovely melody, featuring Russ Pahl's subdued electric guitar, pairs with the reason he won't be going back to Idaho. It's balanced by the piano ballad “One of these Days (I'm Going to Spend the Whole Night with You),” which finds a couple at the beginning of a relationship, perhaps. “Tonight with the Dogs I'm Sleeping” (tragically not co-written with Yoda) is a clever bit of wordplay matching the spirit of Hank's “Move It On Over” with Nilsson's “Coconut.” Best line- “I'm all bark and she's all bite.” Brit Taylor, here and elsewhere on *Bird*, adds the Emmy Lou touch.

If, like me, you haven't listened to much Bonnie “Prince” Billy, *The Purple Bird* is a fine place to start.



# 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!

June 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Waterfront Festival –  
June 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> – Polka Fest – New Galrus, WI  
June 21<sup>st</sup> -Make Music Madison  
19<sup>th</sup> – June 22<sup>nd</sup> The Sessions @ Garver Mill  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> – National Women’s Music Festival @ Marriott West  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Catfish River Festival – Stoughton, WI  
July 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> La Fete De Marquette  
July 12<sup>th</sup> -Black Hawk Folk Festival - Mt. Morris, WI  
July 20<sup>th</sup> Woodstock Folk Festival – Woodstock, IL  
July 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> AtwoodFest  
August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sugar Maple Festival  
August 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> – Shawano Folk Music Festival -Shawano, WI  
August 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – Schenks Corners Block Party  
August 16<sup>th</sup> - Ekin Park Festival  
August 16<sup>th</sup> – Gandy Dancer Bluegrass Festival – Mazomanie, WI  
August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> – Great River Folk Festival – LaCrosse, WI  
August 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Orton Park Festival  
August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup> – Fox Valley Folk Festival – Geneva, IL  
September 6<sup>th</sup> - GreekFest  
September 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> -Willy Street Fair -Watch for the MadFolk Stage  
September 27<sup>th</sup> – The True North Music & Food Festival

# THE MAD FOLK REFRIGERTOR COVER

## June 2025

### Café Carpe -

Jun 14 - 8:30 pm  
MOJOHAND

Jun 19 - 8:00 pm  
SHITUNAUTS- Thursday

Jun 20 - 8:30 pm  
SHITUNAUTS- Friday

Jun 21 - 8:30 pm  
SHITUNAUTS- Saturday

Jun 25 - 6:30  
ROUND ROBIN W/TRICIA ALEXANDER

June 26 - 8:00  
RESONANT ROGUES

June 27 - 8:30  
ANNE HEATON W/FRANK MAROTTA. JR.

### Area Festivals

June 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Waterfront Festival -  
June 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> - Polka Fest - New Galrus, WI  
June 19<sup>th</sup> - June 22<sup>nd</sup> The Sessions @ Garver Mill  
June 21<sup>st</sup> - Make Music Madison



### Wild Hog In The Woods Closed for the Summer



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

### Folklore Village

June 14: [Barn Dance](#)  
June 17: [In-Person Open Mic](#)  
June 21: [Aslak Lie House Ribbon Cutting, Open House and Celebration dance party!](#)  
June 28: [Magical Evening on the Prairie: A Fundraiser for Folklore Village \(Rain date: June 29\)](#)

### Kiki's Righteous House of Music

June 21, 7 pm (doors at 6) JOEL PATERSON TRIO with special guest ANNIE DOLAN, suggested donation \$20  
June 23, 7 pm (doors at 6) JON LANGFORD & JEAN COOK, with RAMBLIN' DEANO & THE REST OF THE WACOS, suggested donation \$20  
June 27, 8 pm (doors at 7) OWEN TEMPLE, suggested donation \$15  
June 28, 7 pm (doors at 6) MATT THE ELECTRICIAN, suggested donation \$20

### On the Air



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

Sun 5:00-9:00pm  
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!

- 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](https://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](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.MAUMadison.com](http://www.MAUMadison.com)