

# Mad Folk News

## THE 49 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

This festival is returning to Madison again, and what a lineup of woman!

Madfolk's audience all know and love **SONiA disappear fear** – She has played Folk on State, Willy Street Fair, Phil Ochs Song Nights and solo shows including her final tour before she took some time off from the road for awhile. SONiA has also played from the Sydney Opera House to the Kerrville Folk Festival and a bomb shelter in the Negev, SONiA has shared stages and caves with many of her heroes; Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, Nickel Creek, Green Day, Emmylou Harris, GEORGE, John Fullbright, Sheryl Crow, Lucinda Williams, Joan Jett, and Bruce Springsteen at the Light of Day Benefit concert (2014).

**Melanie DeMore** - Nothing is closer to her heart than bringing people together wherever she is to experience the healing power of music. **Vickie Shaw** has performed on Comedy Central, in four comedy specials for the LOGO channel, and more. **Kristen Ford Trio** She navigates life as a biracial, queer girl and tours globally in pursuit of the perfect show. Nedra Johnson She is unapologetically queer and graciously thankful to the women's music scene.

**Lisa Koch** - "Tina Fey meets Randy Rainbow with Joan Jett guitar chops" — that's singer-comedian Lisa Koch. **Hanne Kah** – The VOICE OF FOLK AND FREEDOM, **Jeannie Tanner** is an award winning composer with 7 Grammy-considered albums and 5 ASCAP composer awards. This is just a few of the performers that will be playing – for a full lineup check <https://nwmf.info/>

The festival has workshops, musicians, awards, comedians, a marketplace, awards, community sing, silent auction, food, dancing..... this festival has it all!

## THE NEWSLETTER SAGA PART II

Let us take the opportunity to apologize that the June newsletter was so late. Once we realized that Neil's computer was not going to be working while out of the country, we jumped in and gave you our best shot at creating something, although it was quite late. Hopefully, you are all ready this July newsletter much closer to the beginning of July and like you we are all excited that Neil will be back in August and the newsletter will go back to its much better look and content! But for one more month, please bear with us as we do a lot of cut and pasting.

## Cloud Sourcing

By Emily Beebe

The earworm of the week award goes to Joni Mitchell's 'Both Sides Now':  
Rows and flows of angel hair And ice cream castles in the air And feather canyons everywhere I've  
looked at clouds that way  
But now they only block the sun, they rain and snow on everyone, so many things I would have  
done, But clouds got in my way  
I've looked at clouds from both sides now from up and down and still somehow it's cloud illusions I  
recall I really don't know clouds at all

It is good news that the earworm of the week award does not come with a trophy. An annelid  
oozing across the turntable of a golden gramophone would not look good on a knick knack shelf.  
The music and the lyrics of Both Sides Now are equally sticky, like the fore and aft parts of an  
ear(th)worm.

The best part of having this song looping on repeat for days on end is that it forces one to look  
upwards and to really consider the sky. When you find yourself particularly stuck on the part about  
clouds blocking the sun and raining and snowing on everyone, then perhaps it is time to unplug  
from current events and to stop wallowing in all the ways you are missing out on the fulfilling lives  
everyone else is having.

Instead, consider substituting your daily doomscroll with a visit to the Cloud Appreciation Society  
website (<https://cloudappreciationsociety.org/>). The Cloud Appreciation Society (C'IApSo, for  
those who like a good music acronym) is an international group of cloud lovers who educate and  
inspire with a vast library of photos and videos depicting rare and common cloud types, formations,  
and related sky phenomena. This is not a cult, it is a water vapor fan club. Founded 2005 by Gavin  
Pretor-Pinney in the United Kingdom, it has been credited with the discovery and classification of  
the Asperitas cloud type (*Undulatus asperatus*) which has officially been added to THE International  
Cloud Atlas. You have all undoubtedly seen the Asperitas clouds undulating over Madison on days  
with unsettled weather, like a ripply harbinger of an Alert Day traffic snarl. (Con't on page 3).

## 2025 BLACK HAWK FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Black Hawk Folk Society's 37th annual day-long Folk Music Festival will be held Saturday, July 12 in  
Mt. Morris Town Park, N3847 County Road G, just west of Mt. Morris (northeast of Wautoma).  
The musical line-up runs from noon till 6, featuring two sets by *Weary Ramblers*, along with a set each  
by *Fendrick & Peck*, *Johnsmith*, and *Pat Wiley & Sugar John Wilson*. An open mic begins the day's music  
at 10:30. The festival also includes a juried arts and crafts fair, and concessions by the Mt. Morris  
Pioneers 4-H Club. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for comfortable seating. Park amenities include a  
swimming beach, playground, lots of shade, and a user-friendly shelter. The site is handicap friendly,  
with free, on-site parking. General admission tickets at the park entrance (\$25 for 19 years and  
older—all others free; because wi-fi is iffy, cash and checks, please). Festival rain site is Mountain  
View Community Center on Highway 152 just outside of Mt. Morris. Please visit [blackhawkfolk.org](http://blackhawkfolk.org)  
to purchase advance tickets, or for additional information, including how to sign up for the open  
mic or to reserve a vendor site. Rain site: Mountain View Community Center.

(Continued from page 2 – **Cloud Sourcing** )Much of the content is cloud-sourced by the members of the Society (C'IApSocialites). Naturally there is also plenty of cloud poetry and music (sky shanties) created by these dreamers. They offer educational resources, blog posts, and a handy Cloud Spotting app.

Members are assigned a number that reflects how recently they joined the Society. No, I don't know if Joni Mitchell has joined or what her number is. Several years back, our daughter Allison (member 54,580) joined the international Cloud Appreciation Society and has since impressed up with her expansive knowledge and excitement over cloud formations as well as some spectacular pictures. Although the Cloud Appreciation Society is not a cult (really!), it does have a manifesto:

The Cloud Appreciation Society Manifesto

WE BELIEVE that clouds are unjustly maligned and that life would be immeasurably poorer without them.

We think that clouds are Nature's poetry and the most egalitarian of her displays, since everyone can have a fantastic view of them.

We pledge to fight 'blue-sky thinking' wherever we find it. Life would be dull if we had to look up at cloudless monotony day after day.

We seek to remind people that clouds are expressions of the atmosphere's moods and can be read like those of a person's countenance.

We believe that clouds are for dreamers, and their contemplation benefits the soul. Indeed, all who consider the shapes they see in them will save money on psychoanalysis bills.

And so, we say to all who'll listen:

Look up, marvel at the ephemeral beauty, and always remember to live life with your head in the clouds!

May your days be filled with interesting skies.

-Emily (member 65,365)

### **Pat Byrne + Band at Kiki's House of Righteous Music on July 30**

For a dozen years Mile of Music has been flooding Appleton's downtown with a diverse assortment of original music. It's an amazing free festival, but there is a less obvious benefit to it that you don't even have to leave town for. It draws band from all over the country, and those bands need places to play on their way. Winner of the first season of the Voice of Ireland in 2012, Pat Byrne moved to Austin TX in 2018 and became enmeshed in the music scene there. He has a weekly gig at the venerable Saxon Pub, frequently heads down to Houston to play McGonigal's Mucky Duck, and regularly hits other towns around the state. As you know, Texas is a pretty big state that some musicians never leave, so thanks to Mile of Music for giving him a reason to head north again this summer.

I first saw Byrne as a guest on fellow Austinite Betty Soo's Zoom show Nobody's Happy Hour, hands down the best online music happening during the pandemic. His smart songs, entrancing voice and effortless charm won me over instantly, and I jumped at a chance to host him solo in 2023. There wasn't a huge crowd, but the response was unanimous. He featured songs from his first Austin record Rituals (2018) and the follow up Into the Light (2021), in addition to inspired covers by John Prine and Bob Dylan (his "Boots of Spanish Leather" was stunning). As he heads north this year, he's bringing the band with him. It's going to be a great show. I can't wait.

Pat Byrne + Band at Kiki's House of Righteous Music, July 30, show at 8 pm (doors at 7), suggested donation \$20 (all money to the band). Email me at [righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com](mailto:righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com) for more info or to RSVP.

**KEN POMEROY Cruel Joke**  
**2025 Rounder Records – Review By Kiki Schueler**



There is something hauntingly familiar, but ultimately unpindownable, about Ken Pomeroy and Cruel Joke, her second release and first for Rounder Records. Fans of FX's Reservation Dogs might pick out the two tracks here that appear in the show, and think 'aha that's it.' Or maybe it's that song in Twisters, or didn't she open for Iron & Wine, or American Aquarium, or John Moreland that one time? She did do all those things, but that isn't necessarily what makes the songs here so memorable. It's the way they draw you in, her clear, comforting soprano making every word heard while the rich instrumentation cradles them. There's a ghost of Nanci Griffith in her delivery, a quiet power that's somehow relatable. Which is exactly what she was hoping for when she and her musical partner Dakota McDaniel decided to leave behind unsatisfying projects to work together. "That's what I want," Pomeroy says, "people not feeling alone." A native Cherokee and lifelong resident of Oklahoma, she says it's no coincidence that chose songwriting as her profession, "Storytelling in music is such a traditional root of so many native cultures... but I never try to force it." Indeed, her music effortlessly incorporates animal imagery and elements of nature. Her grandmother gave her a name meaning "Little Wolf," but took to calling her Coyote instead, despite its negative connotations in their culture. The coyote represents a trickster, known for its cunning and mischievousness. She leans into this myth on a track of the same name, scoring a righteous duet partner in Moreland. "Meet him with a stare, don't dare turn away. If you don't, he'll be back again," she sings, while he sees it from the other perspective, "Cryin' coyote, look me in the eyes." His baritone anchors and echoes her soprano on the third verse as she admits, "I know I'm the coyote, I bite just 'cause I'm scared." The maligned canid makes another appearance in opening track "Pareidolia," a term referring to the brain's tendency to see patterns in random stimuli ("Counting the faces you see in the sky," she sings). A languid pedal steel swoops and sways as the truth of the album's title is revealed, "I guess a cruel joke is all we can afford." The song is one that was featured on Reservation Dogs, and its likeability is obvious even though it barely makes it to mid-tempo. Cello and acoustic guitar reflect the dual meaning in the waltz "Days Getting Darker." There's the literal darker, "The first of November, I know we'll be losing to frost," as well as the figurative, "The devil's hiding in the Bible Belt." And of course, the coyote is the harbinger of both, "With the days getting darker, coyotes are nigh."

She claims the gentle "Wolf in Sheep's Clothes" is the only love song she's ever written. Don't let the title fool you, it's the one protecting her from deception who is the hero, "You'd talk circles around any wolf that's wearing sheep's clothes." The bright "Wrango," which features nimble acoustic guitar and evocative lyrics, is either about a stray dog or a lover who reminds her of one. The oldest track here is "Grey Skies" which she wrote when she was thirteen, and remembers as "the first song I was ever proud of." A surprisingly light pedal steel (courtesy of one of three steel players credited on the album) gives it a timelessness. If she was writing tracks like that a decade ago, it's no surprise that everything on Cruel Joke reflects a knowing maturity. Pomeroy is definitely one to keep an eye on, or, more literally, an ear.

## 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 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

## July 2025

### Café Carpe -

Fri11

July 11 @ 8:30 pm \$15

[WEARY RAMBLERS](#)

July 17 @ 7:30 pm \$20

[GRANT PEEPLES](#)

July 19 @ 8:00 pm \$20

[Jim CRAIG/ Mark DVORAK/ Bill CAMPLIN](#)

Wed23

July 23 @ 7:30 pm - \$25

[THIRD COAST BLUEGRASS](#)

July 26 @ 8:30 pm - \$20

[PIERCE PETTIS](#)

July 30 @ 6:30 pm \$5

[ROUND ROBIN w/ TRICIA ALEXANDER](#)

### Wild Hog In The Woods

Closed for the Summer

### Kiki's Righteous House of Music

July 25, 8 pm (doors at 7) Emma Swift, suggested donation \$25, tickets available here-

July 30, 8 pm (doors at 7) Pat Byrne Band, suggested donation \$20

### Area Festivals FOR JULY

July 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> - National Women's Music Festival - Madison

July 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Catfish River Festival - Stoughton

July 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> La Fete De Marquette - Madison

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 -Madison

*On the Air*

**Simply Folk** on Wisconsin Public Radio w/ Sile 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



**WVM** 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.MAUImadison.com](http://www.MAUImadison.com)

**(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  
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**Madison Folk Music Society**

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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