

# MadFolk News

## Sugar Maple Music Festival August 1st and 2nd

This year's Sugar Maple Music Festival will be held on Friday, August 1 and Saturday, August 2 at the beautiful W.G Lunney Lake Farm County Park. Presented by the Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective, this will be the 22nd annual music festival and this year's line-up of musicians is one all Mad Folk fans will not want to miss!

Friday's performances, beginning at 5pm, will include Brennan Edwards, Katie and the Honky Tonks, Kristin Andreassen & Chris Eldridge and the newly formed Jason Carter Band!

Saturday starts off at 10:30am at the Roots & Reasons stage with the Bloody Mary Jam led by Down From The Hills. The main stage line-up begins at noon with Madison's own MadFiddle, led by MadFiddle creator and director, Shauncey Ali. Later in the afternoon and throughout the day, there will be bluegrass, Cajun, old-time, classic country, and more! Grammy award-winner John Reischman will per-

form with his band the Jaybirds later in the evening! Other bands on Saturday include Ironstill, The Cody Sisters, Lizzie No, The Cajun Snowshoes and The Deslondes.

There will be jamming! Bring your instruments and attend organized and spontaneous jams throughout the two-day festival. Beginner, Old-time, Cajun and Bluegrass jams are all on the Saturday schedule.

The Sugar Maple Music Festival has built a reputation for introducing audiences to performers they may not have heard about, yet. Many of these performers eventually become household names in the music community and go on to win awards and perform at much larger venues.

Tent and no hook-up RV camping are available as well as food and beverage vendors and activities for the kids. Free admission to kids 17 and under with a ticketed adult.

Tickets are available on-line or at outlets around Madison,

including all Willy St. Co-op locations, Spruce Tree Music, Orange Tree Imports and Zip Dang. For more information, to donate, volunteer or purchase tickets, check out [sugarmaplefest.org](http://sugarmaplefest.org).

When it's not festival season, Sugar Maple Music Festival organizers do not rest. They produce a concert series of shows at the North Street Cabaret, Olbrich Biergarten and the Sugar Maple Stage at Atwood Fest.

The Sugar Maple Stage at Atwood Fest the weekend before Sugar Maple Music Festival will have some great music to enjoy. And come down to The Memorial Union Terrace on Thursday, July 31 at 7pm for a preview of Katie and The Honky Tonks, who will be playing Sugar Maple Music Fest on Friday evening.

You can find performance schedules and additional information on the Sugar Maple website.

See you at The Sugar Maple Music Festival!!

## Folk Music Lessons Scholarships Available

Were you inspired by folk musicians you heard at a summer festival to learn to play a folk instrument? Fall is a good time to get serious about lessons, and a Helen Schneyer scholarship can help to make it happen. Madison Folk Music

Society offers scholarships up to \$300 for folk music lessons, paid directly to your teacher.

Once you have identified a teacher who offers lessons on the instrument you wish to learn, go to [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org) and complete a brief applica-

tion. The MadFolk board will make a decision at its next meeting, and you'll be on the way!

MadFolk hopes to inspire the next generation of folk musicians, to replace those who have gone before, including Helen Schneyer, after whom the scholarship is named. It is now funded by contributions deposited at MadFolk concerts into a designated fretless guitar. MadFolk also accepts non-perishable donations for food pantries at each concert.





Review by Kiki Schueler

If to err is human, then Will Varley has identified the reason artificial intelligence will never replace people. On *Machines Will Never Learn to Make Mistakes Like Me*, his first for MNRK and seventh release overall, Varley explores what it means to not be a machine. Out of curiosity, I asked Google's AI Assist what's being said about the record and got a strangely satisfying answer, "In essence, the reviews suggest that "Machines Will Never Learn To Make Mistakes Like Me" explores the complexities of human existence in an increasingly automated world, offering both introspective reflections and engaging musical compositions." In other words, it's smart, accessible, and likeable. It's no surprise that he's been building a following since his first release *Advert Soundtracks* in 2011. One of those fans is fellow Brit Frank Turner, who covered Varley's "King for a King." Turner raised his profile even further by bringing Varley on tour several times in the past decade and guesting on "Seize the Night" from 2015's *Postcards from Ursa Minor*. Given Turner's popularity, it is probably no surprise those two tracks are Varley's top streams on Spotify.

Turner isn't the only recognizable name Varley has befriended. A socialist first, musician second, Billy

Bragg guests here on the dystopian "End Times," though he doesn't chime in until the bridge. There's no mistaking his distinctive baritone intoning these apocalyptic words just before the three-minute mark, "She did not ask for your plastic oceans, or machines that feed on her mind. There'll be no place to buy more time when the wells run dry." It's a dark view of a world that arguably might already be here. In fact he says as much in the title track. "I heard the future is already here, that new morning is growing near," but this time he has ways to fight back, even if they are uniquely personal, "go out and write songs about the people I meet," and "gonna change the shape I'm in, start waking up early." The title becomes a mantra, repeated so many times it becomes a fight song, full of grit and determination, "I won't back down easily, ten thousand of them, one of me." The record's first single "Home Before the World Ends" may sound depressing, but it gets an unexpected boost from Brit popsters Bastille, whose layered harmonies give it a gorgeous and ethereal hope, leaving it somewhere between Jackson Browne's "The Load Out" and Bowie's "Space Oddity." (no, really)

The record pushes some very human buttons. The dreamy "Never Get Tired of Loving You" begs to be the first dance at every hip wedding this year. With flowery yet vivid language like "you were shining like the stars in Orion's arm," it's irresistible. The feather light, but infinitely infectious, "Everything Has a Heartbeat," which features pop/jazz/soul singer Eleni Drake, only serves to remind that ma-

chines don't. The stripped-down, acoustic guitar driven, "Venus Returns" verges on epic. Meanwhile, "Only Louise" is the kind of song that makes you want to change your name.

Despite being quite definitely human, Varley has made no mistakes here.

Will Varley plays Kiki's House of Righteous Music on November 16, email [righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com](mailto:righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com) for more info.

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

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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>



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

## Willy Street Fair

September 20th - 21st

Watch for the MadFolk Stage!



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 5:00-9:00pm

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

## Venues

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

### Cafe Carpe

- Sat, Aug 2nd - Rachel Drew & John Syzmanski - @8:30pm - \$20
- Fri, Aug 8th - The Son of West Branch, America's Great Humanitarian - @8pm - \$10
- Sat, Aug 9th - Lonesome Bill - @8pm - \$15
- Fri, Aug 15th - Piper Road - The Fiends of SpringBandMusic - @8:30pm - \$20
- Sat, Aug 16th - Ray Bonneville - @8:30pm - \$20
- Wed, Aug 20th - Jeffrey Foucault - @8pm - \$25
- Thu, Aug 21st - The Tillers - @8pm - \$20
- Sat, Aug 23rd - The Ramblin' Kind - @8pm
- Wed, Aug 27th - Round Robin w/ Tricia Alexander - @6:30pm - \$5
- Thu, Aug 28th - Deidre McCalla - @8pm - \$20
- Sat, Aug 30th - John Gorka - @8:15pm - \$35

### FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

### Folklore Village

- Fri, Aug 1st - Public Barn Dance at the Folk School Alliance Gathering
- Tue, Aug 5th - Online Open Mic
- Sat, Aug 9th - Ice Cream Social
- Tue, Aug 19th - In-Person Open Mic
- Thu, Aug 21st - The Old Grey Cats
- Sat, Aug 23rd - Finnish Dance w/ Lauluaika



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

### Wild Hog in the Woods

- The volunteers who run the Wild Hog in the Woods are taking a well-deserved summer break so folkies can attend summer festivals, but will resume weekly concerts at the WilMar Center starting Sept. 5.

## Gigs

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### 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

- Friday, August 2nd @6:30pm - Joe Nosak and Lee Kanehira - \$20
- Friday, October 24th @7:30pm - Randy Sabien, Jeff Laramie, and Dawn Ferris - \$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

righteousmusicgmt@gmail.com

- Friday, August 15th - @8pm (doors at 7) Ray Bonneville - \$20
- Friday, September 12th - @8pm (doors at 7) Michael McDermott - \$20

## 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!

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

**"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