

MadFolk News

Join Madfolk as we celebrate our 16th year hosting a stage at Willy Street Fair (WSF) September 20th and 21st, 2025

This year we will add an extra set of music! We are welcoming back some old favorites, some who have not played there in a decade. We have people coming back from last year who did not get to play due to rain, and we have some new faces too! It is going to be a GREAT weekend.

Here (in no particular order) is a little about what your ears will be enjoying, but don't just read about it, come down and give your ears a treat!

After several attempts to get him to the WSF, we have **David HB Drake** performing songs from the days of "Make Love, Not War" Sing along with the best songs of love and peace from the 1960's. David reminds us of the powerful anthems and timeless songs that resonate in today's world from when the times, they were a' changing.

Long-time Madison performer of both music for adults and kids, **Ken Lonnquist** will be doing two sets of music, but both very different! He will play the twisted, tuneful, topsy-turvy hits of KENLAND! He has written thousands of songs for kids aged 4-13 years old... lots of them focused on environmental education, lots of them just-for-fun, and

most of them entertaining to adult listeners, too. He has differentiated his kid's material from his adult music by dubbing it "KENLAND" - the crossroads of music and laughter! He is happy to be bringing a kids-family set to the Willy St. Fair again, 'cause it's been a long time... and we think the fun of this particular branch of the folk music tree is not available enough for listeners to enjoy.

A Tribute to GORDON LIGHTFOOT - Ken Lonnquist & Doug Brown Ken and Doug met 48 summers ago, when Ken was doing a solo show in downtown Madison. Doug asked if he could join in - that very night - with his guitar and banjo. Completely unrehearsed, they played together the rest of the night and through nearly 5 decades since.

That July night, Gordon Lightfoot songs were among the first they ever played together. Since his passing a few years ago, Ken and Doug have done three "tribute" concerts to the beloved Canadian songwriter with bassist Pete Olig rounding out the trio. This set will include both "hits" and lesser-known Lightfoot songs.

Bruised Orange performs

songs of John Prine This Madison-based John Prine tribute band will perform some of the best of Prine's songs. John Prine's music has inspired generations of musicians for more than 50 years, including the bandmates in Bruised Orange, Liz Stattelmann-Scanlan, Brian O'Donnell, Colin Bazsali and Jeff Burkhart. Now, the four long-time friends perform together in celebration of the musical legacy of one of the best songwriters of our time.

Last year we were so excited to bring **The Zippity-Do-Das** to WSF, and then so sad when they got rained out, so we are back to excited because they agreed to come to the WSF again! The Zippity-Do-Das are Sage, Esperé, and Ami Eckard-Lee, a sibling trio bringing 1920s and '30s vintage jazz and vaudeville to life with vocal harmonies, skilled musicianship, and onstage hijinks. The trio debuted in 2020 in Madison, but this is their first time on the MadFolk stage, and they're excited to showcase more of their folk influences and childhood favorites for this performance! Come hear them sing and play obscure and classic jazz tunes, rip-roaring 20's classics, and maybe a few folk songs in style!

Nelson Graham is a gifted songwriter, acoustic guitarist and true entertainer with a knack for turning everyday life into poignancy, beauty, and humor. With an honest and effortless charisma, he instantly connects with audiences
Continued...



Continued from front page of all types and will leave you smiling and wanting more! "His songs naturally reflect a love of life, pursuit of social justice, hope for the future, and a wry sense of humor." His set was also rained out last year, which was going to be his debut at WSF, so we are excited he agreed to come back this year. If you have heard the song Moon over Monona on the radio, well this is the guy who wrote that!

Whitney Mann is an award-winning singer-songwriter who will be making her second appearance at the Willy Street Fair, the first being more than a decade ago. At the age of four, she began writing her own songs, and years later she realized her version of success by opening shows for legends like Willie Nelson, George Jones, and Loretta Lynn on big country stages and in theaters throughout the Midwest. Whitney put down her guitar for a handful of years to raise a family. But songwriting is in her bones and she knew she couldn't put it away forever. Her old songs are about

love and truth and heartbreak. And to listen to her new material, you'll realize that she's stayed true to form – except now she's looking for a fight.

Josh Harty will return to the MadFolk Stage at the Willy Street fair this year for the first time since 2018 and after getting rained out last year. "Josh Harty is a mid-West singer-songwriter with a keen eye, observant lyrics and a fine, driving guitar-style that pulses with feeling and fire. Harty's fretwork is crisp, zingy and always compelling, catching you unawares almost with hints of traditional country in the mix; Chet seems to hang in the background balance at times, followed by ole Doc Watson before he twists the tail, snapping free with a trace of Knopfler at his best and a clear grip of the very fundamentals of good quality modern Americana/country music.--Iain Patience, Elmore Magazine

Rooted in the heartland and seasoned with the soul of Americana, Josh Harty's music paints a vivid portrait of life's joys and struggles.

With a voice that resonates with honesty and melodies that linger like old memories, he stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of American music.

The Schedule for our stage this year is

MADFOLK WILLY STREET STAGE

SATURDAY September 20

12 – 1:15 – Nelson Gramh
2:00 – 3:30 Whitney Mann
4:15 – 5:30 – Josh Harty
6:15 – 7:30 – David HB Drake – Blowin in the Wind
8:00 -9:30 Moon House

SUNDAY – September 21

12:15 – 1:30 – Bruised Orange – Performs the songs of John Prine
1:45 – 2:45 – Ken Lonquist – bring the kids! Topsy-turvy hits from KENLAND!
3:15 – 4:30 – Zippity-Do-Das
5:00 – 6:00 – Gordon Lightfoot Tribute: Ken Lonquist & Doug Brown



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, 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

righteousmusicmgmt@gmail.com

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

David Rovics and Kamala Emanuel

Muso Madison, 2040 Winnebago St, Madison, WI

- Thursday, September 4th - @7pm - \$20 donation

Festivals

September 6th - GreekFest

September 20th-21st -Willy Street Fair -Watch for the MadFolk Stage

September 27th – The True North Music & Food Festival

Save the Date - Details TBA

- March 6th James Keelaghan
- May 7th Ganet Rogers - last U.S. tour



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

Willy Street Fair

Saturday (12pm-9:30pm) and Sunday (12:15pm-6pm) September 20th - 21st
Schedule on 2nd page



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



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

- Fri, Sep 5th - Mike Dowling w/ Randy Sabien — Friday - @8pm
- Sat, Sep 6th - Mike Dowling w/ Randy Sabien — Saturday - @8pm
- Fri, Sep 12th - An Evening of Simon & Garfunkel w/ Phil Angotti & Tommi Zender - @8:30pm - \$28
- Sat, Sep 13th - Lonesome Bill Camplin - @8pm - \$15
- Thu, Sep 18th - Erik Koskinen - @8pm - \$20
- Fri, Sep 19th - Joe Policastro Trio — jazz - @8:15pm - \$15 / \$20 d.o.s.
- Wed, Sep 24th - Round Robin w/ Tricia Alexander - @6:30pm - 8:30pm - \$5

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

Folklore Village

- Tue, Sep 2nd - Online Open Mic - @7pm - Free
- Wed, Sep 3rd - Lynx Lynx in Concert - @7pm - \$20 advance; \$25 door
- Sat, Sep 6th - Schoolhouse Social - Potluck @6pm; Dancing @7:15pm - \$10 adults; \$8 seniors & teens; \$5 kids; under 5 free; family cap \$25
- Tue, Sep 9th - Senior Program – The Trippers Band
- Fri–Sun, Sep 12–14 - Folk School Session 4
- Sat, Sep 13th - Barn Dance w/ The Old Grey Cats + Chirps Smith & Dot Kent - Potluck @6pm; Dancing @7:15pm - \$10 adults; \$8 seniors & teens; \$5 kids; under 5 free; family cap \$25
- Sun, Sep 14th - Community Sing with Alyssa Zasada
- Tue, Sep 16th - Online Open Mic - @7pm - Free
- Fri–Sun, Sep 19–21 - Squirrel Moon Contra Dance Weekend
- Wed, Sep 24th - Senior Program – KG & The Ranger



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

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday, Sept. 5- Rich Baumann - 7:30pm
- Friday, Sept. 12-John Duggleby - 7:30pm
- Friday, Sept. 19- Sarah Fiske - 7:30pm
- Friday, Sept. 26- Mary Waitrovich - 7:30pm



"More Barn!"
The Bridle Barn
9736 Blue Valley Rd
Mount Horeb, WI
bridlebarnandgardens.com

The Bridle Barn

- Sat, Sep 6th - Erin Krebs & Jeff Johnston - @7pm - Doors @6pm - \$15–\$20
- Thu, Sep 18th - A Fall Evening with Corey Mathew Hart - @7pm - Doors @6pm

Stoughton Opera House
9736 Main Street
Stoughton, WI
stoughtonoperahouse.com

Stoughton Opera House

- Sat, Sep 6th - The Milk Carton Kids - @7:30pm - \$45
- Fri, Sep 19th - Mipso w/ Courtney Hartman & Shane Leonard - 7:30pm - \$27

I Went To Look For Joy



Wednesday September 17 at 7:30 pm

**Madison Friends Meetinghouse
1704 Roberts Court
Madison, WI 53711**

Join soprano Quanda Johnson and pianist Stephen Self in a benefit concert of ebullient art songs, Negro spirituals, and hymns in celebration of the joy in human existence.

“Quanda is an interdisciplinary, intersectional, ethnographic scholar dedicated to social justice whose theory and practice center global Black “being.”

She is an extraordinary singer, actor and artist who uses her creative and activist vision to promote community building and disrupt stale, cyclical conversations about racism and “racialized” populations

Optional donations will support Quanda’s two-year postdoctoral research position from Durham University, UK.

Likely due to the current politicization of DEI efforts, her Fulbright scholarship, for which she was a semifinalist, was not approved to support this work.

**For more information see the Madison Friends Website at
<https://madisonfriends.org/>**

Banjour!

By Emily Beebe

Oh, Mr. Scruggs! So kind of you to call on me today.

I think it's time we had a little talk about something that you may find uncomfortable. Why don't we sit down in the parlor? Would you like some tea, or perhaps a glass of gin? I know you want me to hear the new Foggy Mountain Boys blue grass recording, but let's not play the phonograph just yet. I have something to discuss with you first. Instead, why don't we savor the peace and quiet of a Sunday afternoon and the gentle breeze coming in the window for a moment before we have our chat.

I don't know the right way to begin, so I'll just come out with it. Earl, I'm in love with other...banjos. Now don't get me wrong, I love three finger picking and those cute little metal fingernails you wear. It's not that your banjo is too loud. I adore loud banjos! But I find that 5th string partway up the neck...confusing. And that thing you do with the tuning pegs during that Broke Down melody you wrote? I can't understand why you don't tune before you play the song and not during it. It's more civilized. And all that rolling about with your fingers, forward, backward, inside out. Sometimes it sounds like a barrel full of cats tumbling off a wagon and down a cobblestone street.

Also, please don't take this the wrong way, but there's something about the way you dress to play your banjo that I can't get used to. For example, that Western bow tie with the flappy ends that you are so fond of makes you look like Colonel Sanders. A regular bow tie is much spiffier, especially if you pair it with some shiny wingtips instead of cowboy boots.

Here. Let me pour you some more gin.

I didn't mean any personal affronts. I like you very well, just

not your banjo styling. I know jazz is not your cup of tea, but have you ever really given it a chance? Take that nice banjoist we know from Wisconsin, Mr. Richelieu. Did you know he also built his instrument? What a clever man, and a snappy dresser with his three-piece suit and proper necktie! Clyde's banjo has an elegant long neck and best of all, only four strings!

He insisted I call him Clyde, that's why. I was just trying to be polite.

Remember that time you accompanied me to the North American International Banjo Convention in Dearborn? You may remember that Clyde was the second from the left banjo in the Saturday night ensemble. He made the sweetest glissando with his plectrum during Alexander's Ragtime Band. It made me light-headed to see his left hand gliding all the way up the neck so smoothly, with his right hand strumming so rapidly!

Your face is looking rather flushed. How about a cup of tea? No, Earl, I think you have had enough gin.

I know you are friends with that fellow we met in North Carolina, Kyle Creed. You shared a ticket with his band, the Camp Creek Boys, a few years back. Well, I find he also has a pleasant style of playing and doesn't use any picks at all! I have a fond spot in my heart for Kyle's rather quiet music, even though like you he uses that odd 5th string. He is so secure in his abilities he doesn't feel a need to amplify himself over the fiddlers by clamping a pie plate over the back of his banjo. He just gets in there near the microphone, nice and close, leaning in ever so slightly to the delight of the square dancers. Did you know that Kyle is also a fiddler? So talented. No one trick pony in Mr. Creed! Clyde tells me that he admires Kyle's banjo

building and was inspired to start building himself, even though Clyde's musical tastes are much more sophisticated than Kyle's.

I just can't understand why you and your cronies don't welcome these other banjos to your blue grass jamborees. They walk in the door, and your nose wrinkles up like a perfumer who just found a box of baby skunks on the doorstep. Banjos are all kin – it's shameful that you don't get along. Why, if I was hosting a blue grass soiree, all banjos would be welcome, in fact, only banjos, except for maybe one fiddle holding down the melody line in the background. We'd start all quiet and then get a little closer to the microphone and have some gin and get good and loud with such a happy noise! And Earl, if you can find it in your heart to understand that I love your music despite its shortcomings and that my heart is too big to belong to only one banjo, you would be most welcome to join my little rag time round peak blue grass party. It's a week from Saturday at 7 pm sharp.

Oh, what a lovely afternoon! Thank you so much for letting me get that off my chest. Now, how about we have a listen to that new recording of yours.

THE BLACK DOG AND THE WANDERING BOY - JAMES MCMURTRY

2025 - NEW WEST RECORDS



Review by Kiki Schueler

At this point in his career it seems unnecessary to mention that James McMurtry is the son of Larry McMurtry, acclaimed novelist and winner of a Pulitzer and an Oscar. But on his twelfth studio album *The Black Dog and the Wandering Boy*, his father, who passed away in 2021, is definitely on his mind. The title track refers to the dementia-induced hallucinations that Larry experienced later in life, and the one in particular his widow said was his favorite. Their innocuous presence occupies the opening lines of this bluesy stomp, "The black dog and the wandering boy, come around every night. The wandering boy never gets any older, the black dog doesn't bite." He knows they aren't real, but it doesn't worry him, "They oughta both go away when I take my meds, but they don't." There are other signs of mental decline, a mother who has to be long gone calling him down for dinner and a Weird Al reference, but it's chalked up to old age. Perhaps the most surprising thing here is that Cornbread, McMurtry's bass player of the last dozen years, plays the blistering guitar solo, while longtime drummer Darren Hess pounds away behind him. The group is rounded out by guitar tech turned band member Tim Holt.

Frequent tourmate BettySoo is practically an honorary member as evidenced by her appearance on over half the album's tracks. Her backing vocals and accordion buoy the propulsive ambition of "Back to Coeur d'Alene," as in "never going back."

There's no shortage of songs about trying to make it in the music business, but these ambitious Idahoans are trying to make a movie, all the while knowing the chances are slim, "Tryin' to find me a director and a crew. Science documentary producer, prob'ly 'bout the best we're gonna do." Her gorgeous, clear voice shines again on "Sailing Away," an honest look at what it means to be a musician at this level, and at this age. For example, "Opening for Isbell in some cavernous room" (which he did in 2018), playing for the few folks who show up early, and things even more mundane, "I won't forget that chorus like I did the night before, when I was trying to remember, did I lock the front door?" To him, touring is like the sailors of old, "Sailing away, feeling faded, and I'm not okay. Sailing alone, steering by the stars, and I can't get home now."

Though he's only 63, age is definitely on his mind. On the surprisingly upbeat "Color of Night," a weary McMurtry sings, "Now I don't know if I got time left to get any good at the game." The song marks one of five appearances by cellist Diana Burgess, and each is noteworthy. On the jangly "Annie," set in the aftermath of 9-11, her graceful bowing is on display. While on "South Texas Lawman," a character who seems to have stepped from one of the elder McMurtry's books, her cello bounces and glides. Here again age is an issue, "I can't stand getting old it don't suit me." McMurtry bookends the record with two covers. The final track is Kris Kristopherson's poignant, and still relevant, "Broken Freedom Song." Thoughtful and emotional, it's the perfect closer. On the other end is Jon Dee Graham's "Laredo," a song that has been played many, many times in the basement. Usually I don't want to hear anyone else sing Graham's songs, but this is a revelation. McMurtry owns it, and

takes the opportunity to absolutely rock. He gets an assist from Wisconsinite Pat McAdonald, who sings and blows a fiery harmonica.

It can't be a coincidence that Black Dog pairs McMurtry with producer Don Dixon, who also plays multiple instruments and adds "little things here and there," for the first time since 1995's *Where'd You Hide the Body*. That used to be my favorite McMurtry record, but it's been replaced now. Not to argue, but getting old certainly seems to suit him.

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

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

"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

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