

Mad Folk News

Come Sing a Sea Shanty!

In 2024 a new small music venue opened – MUSO, located at 2040 Winnebago St. It is a gathering space for musicians and performances. On the Third Tuesday of each month, (so November 18th this month) they have a Sea Shanty Sing

Here is a little information from their website - Sing along each third Tuesday. Take a journey through human history via sea chanteys, Great Lakes songs, Wisconsin History and sea chanties from the world over as we discover our shared human experience. Song books are provided, and most of the evening

will be sung without accompaniment (a capella).

Our original leader Andreas' mission in life and music is to get folks together to sing. I found him leading a regular monthly sing out at Roxy Tavern in Stoughton two years ago and had such a great time that I was really hoping he'd be willing to bring his 50+ page songbooks up to Madison to share with us. We've been very excited to collaborate on this project. Going forward, we'll be taking turns sharing songs with each other and Andreas will continue to come when he can from his home in Southwest Wisconsin to sing with us. Please come join us!

Check out Musomadison.com for additional happenings.

Gigs

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, December 5th @7:30pm - The Lone Canary - \$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, November 14th - @8pm (doors at 7) Matt Pond PA / Anya Marina - \$20
- Sunday, November 16th - @6pm (doors at 5) Will Varley - \$20
- Saturday, November 22nd - @7pm (doors at 6) Jake La Botz - \$15
- Sunday, November 30th - @7pm (doors at 6) Steve Wynn
- Tuesday, October 28th - @8pm (doors at 7) John Wesley Harding - \$20 - ALMOST FULL





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



Save the Date - Details TBA

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

 **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/ 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



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

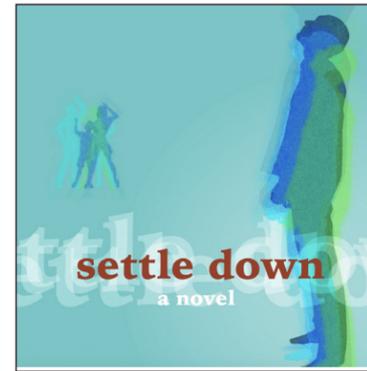
Madison Area Ukulele Initiative -- Singalongs

3rd Sunday 11am - 1:30pm

- for location visit www.MAUImadison.com

IF YOU NEVER GO AWAY - BETTYSOO

2025 - TEN16 PRESS



Review by Kiki Schueler

Settle Down is a story about telling stories, and how location and audience shape those stories, sometimes in magical ways. There are grade school stories, bedtime stories, dreamed stories, and hypnotic stories. It's also a familiar story, not only because Madison forms the backdrop for over half the book, but also because the main character Kenny MacLuher has just graduated college and has entered that summer limbo between school and the rest of his life. A place most of us have been at some point. With a liberal arts degree, he's wondering where his life is going, and the last thing he is thinking about is settling down. At just over 250 pages, it's a breezy read, the prose natural and easy to digest. The literally spellbinding stories several of the characters tell add a note of whimsy. And since the story takes place in the late Eighties, there is a

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

Stoughton Opera House

- Thu, Nov. 6th - Sam Grisman Project - @7:30pm - \$27
- Sat, Nov. 8th - Caitlin Canty - @7:30pm - \$27
- Thu, Nov. 20th - Cactus Blossoms - @7:30pm - \$25
- Fri, Nov. 21st - Kruger Brothers - @7:30pm - \$40

refreshing dearth of devices.

After a brief opening interlude where we find our hero and his best friend in grade school, already intrigued by the power of words ("I am the narrator," Kenny thinks with precocious clarity), the action moves to Virginia where Kenny is winding down his four-year degree in history at UVA and working a catering gig on campus. He interacts with his co-workers in the way of fleeting friendships, knowing that while they may stay in touch for a while, their time together is ticking away. After graduation, the story follows Kenny back to Wisconsin and back to the house he grew up in to live with his widowed mother, and where his sister and young niece are frequent visitors. These relationships have more permanence, and they are well developed and real.

There's not a lot of action in Settle Down, which is not a bad thing. Instead, the characters are developed by what they say, not what they do. They spend a lot of time talking, in kitchens, living rooms, bars, in dreams, and while walking around town. The latter conversations take place around the east side of Madison and on campus, and it's fun to picture them in locations familiar (St Vinny's) and long gone (The Willy

Bear). Author Ritt Deitz has a lot in common with the protagonist of his first novel, he too moved to Madison after attending college at UVA. But this is not to say it is autobiographical, more a case of writing what you know. And you get the feeling that Deitz, like Kenny, has spent a lot of time considering the two sides of every story: dreams and reality, North and South, home and everywhere else, fathers and mothers, and even Lincoln and Jefferson.

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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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>

Grandma Put It All in Drawers

By Emily Beebe

Disclaimer: the article you are about to read is fiction. It is not about my family. If any of the characters within resemble your family (or YOU), it is purely by coincidence. Also, good luck with the estate sale.

My Grandma Jane died one month after her 102nd birthday. She lived alone for the past thirty years on a farmstead not far from Roxbury, WI. After Grandpa Rick died, she stayed in the old house, sold the cattle and equipment and rented out the farmland. She kept the out-buildings in good repair and unloaded boxes of quilting scraps, baby toys, and Ball jars out of the cramped little farmhouse and into the old barn. She nurtured a passel of barn cats to keep the mice under control. The Irish wolfhound kept the raccoons away by night and deterred visits from fly-by-night roofing outfits by day. Grandma was never a dog person, but that hound caused a lot less drama than that flock of geese she and Grandpa used to keep for the same purpose.

Grandma Jane was a busy lady. She never sat still for longer than ten minutes before jumping up from her chair to stir a pot in the kitchen or bring the laundry in the minute it was dry. She said that she could smell rain twenty miles away. Despite her incessant work, she always found time in her busy days for music. Dad said that when he and our uncles were little, she would turn on the big radio in the living room and listen to the National Barn Dance broadcasts out of Chicago. Later, she tuned in to Hee Haw on the color RCA to hear Buck Owens and Roy Clark trade one liners and country ballads. A good breakdown would get her dancing in the kitchen.

In the 1990s, she discovered Prairie Home Companion and never missed a story about Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon. The names of all the musical

performers were written in neat cursive in a little yellow notebook, and when one of those acts ventured to a concert hall in Southern Wisconsin, she made sure to free up her time and budget for a pair of tickets. Grandma became a big public radio fan from then on. The battery powered kitchen radio kept her company as she went about her chores, and she particularly loved listening to Simply Folk on Sunday evenings.

Grandpa Rick loved music almost as much as Grandma. After the kids left home the two of them would jump in their (t)rusty old Honda Civic every chance they could get to hear folk performances in Madison, Stoughton, Milwaukee, and once or twice, Galena. Sometimes they would just go to Pott's Inn for open mic night and a good fish fry. The two of them loved to polka as much as they loved walleye.

My sister and I spent many memorable weeks visiting our Wisconsin grandparents in the summer months. They would haul us all out to some festival or another depending on when we came. Our favorite was the Sweet Corn festival in Sun Prairie. We loved watching men boil enormous vats of fresh corn. Saltshakers hung from the trees like Christmas ornaments. We raced around with all the other kids, everyone's faces shining with butter. There was always some band or another playing on a makeshift grandstand, and our grandparents were the first couple on the plywood dance floor.

My cousins and I agreed to spend September cleaning out the old family farmhouse. We all had full lives in Atlanta, Sacramento, and Houston. As it turned out, Dad and our uncles never returned to Wisconsin after leaving, meeting sweethearts at school and in John's case, the Army. Our generation never knew what it meant to be snowed in by a Midwestern bliz-

zard, eat a fresh cheese curd, or crack an egg still warm from the hen who laid it.

It was a lot more work than we expected getting rid of all the clutter in the equipment shed and clearing away the tobacco shed that went down in a windstorm two years ago. Seven years ago, Grandma relinquished her car keys and moved to an assisted living facility. She had always kept her eyes open, and knew the day was coming when she couldn't live on her own anymore. No one was ready to part with the old farmstead then, not while Jane could still visit.

We planned an estate sale for the last weekend we were in Wisconsin. We weren't attached to the over-stuffed hassock, the block of dull knives, the dog bed fashioned from an old snowmobile suit. Our rhythm of sorting, boxing, and labeling was broken however when we got to a cockeyed drawer in the kitchen. It was jammed and difficult to open. When we finally got it unstuck, we saw it was crammed full of souvenirs from all the concerts, dances, and celebrations that Grandma Jane attended. A flyer from a Friday night dance played by the Goose Island Ramblers at the Rec building in Stoughton. A match book from the Club de Wash. Ticket stubs from a Peter Ostroushko show at the Barrymore, Pete Seeger at the Pabst Theater in 1969, Don Peachey and his Orchestra at Turner Hall. A beer coaster from the Café Carpe. Her dog-eared yellow notebook.

We're keeping all of this, Jenny said. This is worth more to us than a collector. Let's plan to share this bundle every few years. I nodded. Now, who wants the dog bed?

Venues

muso
2040 Winnebago Street
Madison WI
musomadison.com

muso

- Thu, Nov 6th - We're Just Folking Around Song Circle - @6:30pm
- Mon, Nov 24th - MUSO Monthly Songwriters Circle - @6:30pm
- Fri, Nov 28th - Open Mic Night - @6:30pm
- Wednesdays, 5-7 pm Madison Song Circle
(From Rise Up Singing and Rise Again, folk instruments welcome)
- 1st and 3rd Sundays at noon: Sjungar Folket -Singing People (a capella group)
- 1st and 3rd Sundays, 5-7 pm Muso Slow Irish Sessions
- 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 2-4 pm Blue Grass Jam with Davey Harrison



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

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday, Nov. 7th, 7:30pm Skip Jones
- Friday, Nov. 14th, 7:30pm The Raging Grannies / Stephen Lee Rich
- Saturday, Nov. 15th, 2:00pm Hootenanny
- Friday, Nov. 21st, 7:30pm Wild Hog's Anniversary Concert and Party

NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St
Madison, WI
northstreetcabaret.com

- Thu, Nov 13th - Sugar Maple Concert Series: Hildaland Scottish fiddle and mandolin - @7pm - \$20 adv / \$27 d.o.s.
- Sat, Dec 13th - Shauncey Ali Quartet - @7pm - \$22 adv / \$25 d.o.s.

The Malt House
2609 E. Washington Ave
Madison, WI
malthousetavern.com

The Malt House

- 1st Tuesday - Cajun Strangers
- 2nd Monday - Kissers
- 2nd Tuesday - Birds, Birds, birds
- 3rd Tuesday - Onadare Irish trad.

FOLKLORE VILLAGE

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

Folklore Village

- Nov 1-9 Friends of Folklore Village On-line Auction
- Tues, Nov 4th, 1:30-2:30 pm Silver Strings free concert with Kathy and Marian
- Tues, Nov 4th - 7-9 pm On-line Open Mic
- Tues, Nov 18th, 7-9 pm In-person Open Mic
- Fri, Nov 21st, 7 pm Sean Dagher concert of sea shanties/ballads



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

Cafe Carpe

- Sat, Nov. 1st - Bill Poss & Love Seat - @8pm - \$15
- Sun, Nov. 2nd - Beatles Singalong Fundraiser - @5pm
- Thu, Nov. 6th - Satchel Paige w/ Ruthie McQuinn - @8pm - \$20
- Fri, Nov. 7th - Logan Metz - @8:30pm - \$15
- Sat, Nov. 8th - Hiroya Tsukamoto - @8pm - \$20
- Sat, Nov. 15th - Cory Branan - @7:30pm - \$25
- Sun, Nov. 16th - Von Carpe Family Singers - benefit concert - @3:30pm - \$20-30
- Fri, Nov. 21st - Dave Ramont / Tim Southwick Johnson - @7:30pm - \$12
- Sat, Nov. 22nd - Bill Camplin / Pete Johnson @8pm
- Fri, Nov. 28th - What's His Name & The Other Guy - @8:15pm - \$20
- Sat, Nov. 29th - Johnsmith - @8pm - \$20

Let's Get Small: Inside Madison's Writer's Block

In an era of big stages, bright screens, and louder-equals-better entertainment, there is something quietly radical about choosing to listen. That is the heart of Writer's Block, a small but growing concert series in Madison built on a simple belief: songs still matter.

Held at the Bartell Theatre three times a year, Writer's Block strips away everything that gets between a songwriter and a listener. No amps. No soundcheck. No band. No production. Just three songwriters, taking turns sharing songs and the stories that shape them. It's not a showcase. It's not a bar gig. It's a conversation—set to music.

A different kind of music community

Writer's Block began with a question: *what happens when you build a room for listening instead of talking?* The answer is a space where audiences lean in. Where lyrics land. Where musicians rediscover why they write in the first place. At a time when live music can sometimes feel transactional, this series feels human.

Each show features one national touring artist, one regional artist, and one local songwriter—an intentional mix designed to connect musicians across geography, career level, and community. Past performers have described it as a rare chance to share honest work without the pressure of selling themselves. Audiences describe it as intimate, surprising, and even a little addictive.

There's no setlist. No script. The writers trade songs in the round and often end up trading stories, harmonies, and laughter too. You get to see songs in their rawest state—sometimes newly written, sometimes reimaged, always delivered with intention.

More than a show

Writer's Block isn't a club or a scene. It's a gathering, built for people who believe that a song can still move you, make you laugh, knock you down, or take you home. There's no green room. Artists sit among the crowd before and after the show. Conversations spill into the lobby long after the last chord fades. The audience has become its own kind of community: regulars, travelers, musicians, writers, neighbors. People who understand that smaller doesn't mean less. It means closer.

The November 20th show

The next Writer's Block takes place **Thursday, November 20 at the Bartell Theatre** and features three standout artists:

- **Katie Dahl** – Door County folk poet and acclaimed playwright
- **Noah Guthrie** – Soul-worn Americana voice with viral roots and road-earned authenticity
- **Mark Croft** – Wisconsin songwriting mainstay with sharp hooks and a storyteller's heart

Doors open at 6:00 PM. Music begins at 7. Total capacity is 80 seats—and they go quickly. Tickets are available now at <https://tinyurl.com/WBNov2025>.

Looking ahead

As Writer's Block continues to grow, 2026 will bring a new season of songwriters and stories. Season ticket packages—including a limited number of reserved front-row seats—will be available **starting in November**, just in time for holiday gifting. More details will be announced in early November on our website, at the show and through the Writer's Block mailing list, which you can join at writersblock.show.

Because in the end, Writer's Block isn't really about how loud you can be. It's about what happens when you finally get quiet and let the songs speak.

"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