

Mad Folk News

Why We're Just Folkin' Around

In today's world, music is everywhere—but so much of it feels polished, packaged, and professionalized. Like many creative outlets, singing has drifted from something anyone could do into something people think should be left to “the pros.” If you casually sing a pop song, someone might ask, “Who sings that?”—and then say, “Well, why don't you let them sing it?” But that misses the point. Music is for everyone. It's one of the most natural forms of human expression, and it doesn't need to be perfect—or profitable—to be meaningful.

Some people love singing in a choir, but even that can feel structured and restrictive. Choirs often require auditions, rehearsals, and directors who expect precision. There's beauty in that discipline—but there's also joy in singing freely, with-

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Were-Just-Folkin-Around/61581661873405/>

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 righteousmusicgmt@gmail.com

- Friday, December 5th - @8pm (doors at 7) Jason Narducy - \$25
- Saturday, December 6th - @7pm (doors at 6) Nathan Graham + band - \$20
- Friday, December 19th - @8pm (doors at 7) The German Art Students - \$10

out rules or judgment.

That's where We're Just Folkin' Around comes in.

We're a laid-back community of people who simply love to sing. No experience required. No pressure to perform. Just voices coming together for the sheer fun of it.

Our ever-growing song binder is a collection of beloved tunes gathered over two generations of folk music fans and friends. You'll find traditional ballads, sea shanties, protest songs, spirituals, children's songs, and even a few classic rock favorites. There's something for everyone—and if you've got a song you love, just bring copies and we'll add it to the mix!

Since folk music comes from the oral tradition, many songs have multiple versions. When someone nominates a song, they can lead it in their favorite variant—or ask someone

else to take the lead. Once we start singing, everyone makes the song their own. Go off-key, try a new style, change registers, sing like a pop star or an opera diva—there's no wrong way to do it. No one's keeping score, and there's no concert to prepare for. The joy is in the moment. Singing, after all, is cheaper than therapy!

While many of our songs are sung a cappella, there's usually a guitar in the mix—and if you play an instrument, feel free to bring it along for some freestyle accompaniment.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30–8:30 PM at Muso, 2040 Winnebago St., Madison, WI 53704.

Come as you are—everyone is welcome!

So, do you like to sing without judgment?

Join We're Just Folkin' Around and find a community that celebrates the joy of singing together.

Lyrics provided. Instruments welcome. Talent optional.





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



Save the Date - Details TBA

- March 6th James Keelaghan - North Street Cabaret - @7pm
- 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/ 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
Coordinator: 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

muso
2040 Winnebago Street
Madison WI
musomadison.com

muso

- 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. Brearly St.
wildhoginthewoods.org
608-233-5687

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday, Dec. 5th, 7:30pm Soundbillies
- Friday, Dec. 12th, 7:30pm Tsuzamen Combo
- Friday, Dec. 19th, 7:30pm Bittersweet Christmas Band
- Saturday, Dec. 20th, 2:00pm Hootenanny

NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St
Madison, WI
northstreetcabaret.com

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

- Sat, Dec 13th - Shauncey Ali Quartet - @7pm - \$22 adv / \$25 d.o.s.
- Sun, Dec 27th - Slipjig Trio & The Krause Family Band - @7pm
- Sun, Feb 28th - Shoman and Coole - @7pm
- Fri, Mar 6th - James Keelaghan - @7pm
- Sat, Mar 7th - Louis Michot - @8pm

The Malt House

- 1st Monday - Grandpa's Elixir
- 2nd Monday - The Kissers
- 3rd Monday - Material boys
- 4th Monday - Barley Brothers
- 1st Tuesday - Cajun Strangers
- 2nd Tuesday- Birds, Birds, Birds
- 3rd Tuesday - Onadara
- 4th Tuesday - Dollar Bill and The Bucks
- 1st Wednesday - The North Westerners
- 3rd Wednesday - Don't spook the horse

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

Folklore Village

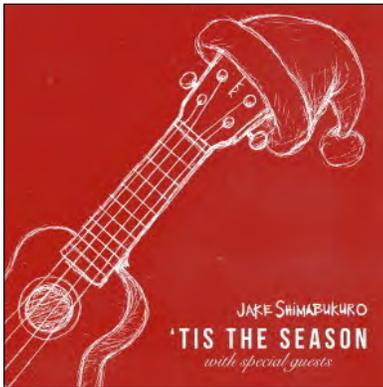
- Tues, Dec 2nd - 7-9 pm On-line Open Mic
- Thurs, Dec 4th, 7pm Kongero - \$20 adv / \$25 d.o.s.
- Sat, Dec 6th, 6 pm Barn Dance - \$10 adults / \$8 seniors / \$5 kids / under 5 free
- Tues, Dec 16th - 7-9 pm In-person Open Mic



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

Cafe Carpe

- Fri, Dec. 5th - Bobcat Oposum - @8pm - \$15
- Sat, Dec. 6th - Tim Grimm w/ Sergio Webb - @8pm - \$20
- Thu, Dec. 11th - Shitunauts - @8pm - \$35
- Fri, Dec. 12th - Shitunauts - @8:30pm - \$35
- Sat, Dec. 13th - Shitunauts - @8:30pm - \$35
- Sun, Dec. 14th - Shitunauts - @6pm - SOLD OUT
- Thu, Dec. 18th - Anne Heaton / Katie Dahl / Jenny Binemann - @8pm - \$25
- Fri, Dec. 19th - Cash Box Kings w/ Queen Lee Kanehira - @8:15pm - \$25
- Sat, Dec. 20th - Ernie Hendrickson @8:30pm - \$20
- Sat, Dec. 27th - Bill Camplin and Michael Hect - @7:30pm - \$15



Review by Kiki Schueler

If you've never heard the term ukulele virtuoso, then you've probably never heard of Jake Shimabukuro. By the early 2000's the Hawaii native was already well known in his home state and Japan, but he captured the attention of the rest of the world in 2006 when a video of him playing George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" went viral, gathering over 17 million views. Shimabukuro's unique and creative playing style comes from a very modest place, he doesn't think he can sing. So in order for people to recognize what he is playing, he adds finger picking along with strumming the ukulele in the traditional way. For his first holiday record, *Tis the Season*, he combines instrumentals with guest vocalists, and traditional with contemporary. There's even an original song, though it isn't exactly new. While his playing is always magical, he performs a different kind of trick here. He makes Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" listenable.

I didn't think I ever needed to hear Carey's cloying and omnipresent song ever again, but all I really wanted was to hear someone else sing it. For the opening track, Shimabukuro enlists fellow Hawaiian and collaborator Jusin Kawika Young. The result is a buoyant and stripped-down version, with only the ukulele and light

percussion. The pair team up on two other tunes, "Oh Holy Night," which is both soaring and reverent, and Donny Hathaway's classic "This Christmas." While this version has 100% less horns than the original, it still has a lot of soul. The most obvious holiday song choice for a Hawaiian musician is "Mele Kalikimaka," and he doesn't disappoint, but his partner here isn't as apparent. Jimmy Buffet is associated with the beaches of Key West, not those of Oahu, but he and Shimabukuro toured and worked together. "He's just magic," Buffet said. Here he sings with his characteristic smiling good humor, backed by a chorus of female vocalists worthy of Bing Crosby's indelible version. "At Christmas Time," a song he wrote in high school, features his first band Pure Heart.

As fun as the half dozen songs with vocals are, the instrumentals are where the record really stands out. The Doobie Brothers Michael McDonald joins Shimabukuro for a duet on "Winter Wonderland." The punchline? He doesn't sing; it's a ukulele duet. "Everyone should know what a great ukulele player Michael is," Shimabukuro says, "his ukulele playing sounds like Michael McDonald!" It's hard to pick a favorite from so many lovely songs, but "Happy Xmas (War is Over)" might be it. Written by John Lennon, it is born again in this touching and elegiac duet with cellist Yo-Yo Ma. The pair play off each other beautifully, making the unlikely pairing of their instruments perfectly natural. *Tis the Season* also contains five instrumentals, ranging from a shimmering and reverent "Ave Maria" to a playful "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." His intro

to "White Christmas" sparkles like a first snowfall, while the body of the song is indeed dreamlike. "We Three Kings" gets an unexpected makeover, morphing into "Ring Christmas Bells" with exotic and almost hallucinogenic flair. Add Shimabukuro's *Tis the Season* to your Yuletide playlist, and spice up the holidays with something different.

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>

No Root, No Fruit: a history of folk, roots, & Americana music, one record at a time

a podcast written, hosted & produced by Matt Watroba

If you are ever sitting with a group of musicians, try asking the question, 'what was the one recording that inspired you to do what you do?' Sit back and listen. What will inevitably follow are passionate pitches for recordings that influenced, inspired, and delighted. My podcast, No Root, No Fruit: a history of folk roots, & Americana music one record at a time was born out of conversations like these.

Each episode focuses in on a single recording from the world of roots music. Each episode features one, and sometimes two, guests to dive deep into the record, often going track by track. Rather than just present the conversation, I decided early on to edit in clips from the recording to illustrate what the interviewee is talking about. For example, in my latest episode on Joni Mitchell's Blue, songwriter Susan Cattaneo talks about specific songwriting devices Joni uses followed immediately by a clip to illustrate the point. Doing it this way requires many hours of editing, but, for me, it is more powerful than just a recorded conversation.

I started No Root No Fruit toward the beginning of the pandemic shutdown when there was lots of free time. I was able to produce

2, 12 episode seasons (with a few bonus episodes) before taking a 2 year break. I started up season 3 in November of 2025. So far I have presented 25 different records and I feel like I'm just getting started. At this point, you might be curious as to who picked what recordings and why.

I opened season 1 with Pete Seeger's We Shall Overcome. This record was chosen by my guest, John McCutcheon. John heard the record when he was 13 years old and, in many ways, it sealed his fate as a future folk singer. Other records in season 1 includes:

Dublin Blues by Guy Clark, with special guest Jeff Daniels, Hazel & Alice by Hazel Dickens & Alice Gerrard with special guest Cathy Fink, Harry Belafonte Live At Carnegie Hall, with special guest James Keelaghan, Tom Paxton's Ramblin Boy, Will the Circle Be Unbroken by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and the list goes on. All of the episodes are available wherever you get your podcasts and on the website, norootnofruit.com.

Other highlights from the first 2 seasons include Mary Gauthier talking about how the Indigo Girls saved her life, NPR's Don Gonyea talking about the influence of

Townes Van Zandt, and Jeff Place from Smithsonian Folkways talking about the sweeping influence of the Anthology Of American Folk Music.

For me, producing a podcast like this is an opportunity to do several things I love; teach about the history of roots music, interview fascinating people, and then creatively edit all of it into something that is informative, entertaining, and easy on the ears.

The hardest thing about creating a podcast like this is figuring out how to pay for it. I did season 1 to see if I could do it. Season 2 was made possible by crowdfunding. I've produced 1 episode of season 3 (as of this writing) and have not figured out a funding source. I am committed to keeping it ad-free if possible. I do have ways for people to contribute on the website, norootnofruit.com

I am often asked where I came up with the name. Well, my Madison friends, it came from a quote by the great Utah Phillips:

" kids don't have a little brother working in the coal mine, they don't have a little sister coughing her lungs out in the looms of the big mill towns of the Northeast. Why? Because we organized; we broke the back of the sweatshops in this country; we have child labor laws. Those were not benevolent gifts from enlightened management. They were fought for, they were bled for, they were died for by working people, by people like us. No root, no fruit."

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

Stoughton Opera House

- Fri, Dec. 5th - Sam Grisman Project - @7:30pm - \$27
- Sat, Dec 6th - Caitlin Canty - @7:30pm - \$27
- Thur, Dec. 11th - Kruger Brothers - @7:30pm - \$40



5 WORT Birthday Bash



**Sunday, December 7
6-10pm**

**THE BERRYMANS
TONY CASTAÑEDA LATIN JAZZ BAND
PAUL FILIPOWICZ
THE GERMAN ART STUDENTS**

\$25

**ticket
link:**



**More info at:
www.wortfm.org**

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DANE ARTS



1925 Winnebago St.

Atwood Music Hall

Sonnet Enchanted Evening

By Emily Beebe

'Cause the days grow short and dark
(Do I resemble that remark?)
Here are some sonnets for a lark
To read to pigeons in the park

Second Rising

One year and one has swiftly ebbed
away
Through countless week and month
and day and hour
As nights grow long I hope this poem
may
Remind you that you need to buy
some flour

Fresh-baked bread is what you need
right now
To chew as you slurp soup containing
kale
Your spirit these aromas will endow
With courage to persist and maybe fail

Sourdough to nurture like a child
To feed and warm and touch and
sometimes spank
Alive with yeasted beasties from the
wild
A loaf worth more than money in the
bank

If you neglect this weekly exercise
Your charge may no more bubble,
foam, and rise

Let It Go

The blinking purple-orange lights of
fall
Reflect on cardboard tombstones
past your gate
The ruby eyes of skeletal macaws
Are flashing that you are way past the
date

For zombies to indulge in witch's brew
Atop a monstrous pirate brigantine
That floats aloft with ghostly sailor
crew
Upon your roof by neighbors to be
seen

Avast! The Miller's van unloads a bolt
Of red and green deflated ripstop
elves
LEDs unspooling volt by volt
Extension cords in sixes and in
twelves
Your ghoulish pride and joy will soon
decay
'Side Santa and his giant blow up
sleigh

Snowmance

Shovels hanging neatly in a row
Ice skate blades as sharp as Norman
swords
Ski-Doos long for frothy drifts of snow

Snow shoes dream of Northern icy
fjords

Where is now the magic stuff of white?
That heralds the emergence of Sas-
quatch
Your snow thrower is girded for a fight
The boogie board is checking its wrist-
watch

Next week it will be sunny, cool, and
dry
December gambols sweetly as a lamb
The thought of it all makes you want
to cry
The grass and trees as brown as
Christmas ham

But lo, extended forecasters do say
That Winter will start in Januar....ay

Space Age

The breath from Percheron nares can
be seen
To rise and join the low clouds o'er the
farm
Wagons laden with cut evergreen
Trundle past the gift shop cozy warm

With Maggie's play and David's indoor
track
December no more has much qual'ty
time
Plus last May you hurt your lower back
And the price of Christmas trees does
climb

Who said fam'ly traditions are bygone
For new ones come to ritual replace
And you are Member Prime at Ama-
zon
The tinsel tree turns gently in its brace

When arrives the next Spring Equinox
You will not have pine needles in your
socks

*We know December can be tough
(sufficient time, there's not enough),
here is some light poesy, to read
when you're cozy and eating a bag of
cheese puffs...*

For Carol

In darkness dawns the Winter holiday
Demanding chipp-ed plastic Visa tithe
We stroll along a bright retail highway
Our savings it does reap as with a
scythe

But hark! I hear an ancient holy hymn
First played upon the sackbut and the
shawm
Now saccharine, a jingle bellsy whim
Of Santa's sleigh ride 'cross a night so
calm

But who recalls the bay-wreathed
head of boar?
What color may the holly berry be?
Who sails three ships above the
breaker's roar?
Who gathers fruit beneath the cherry
tree?

The spangled pagaentry which blinds
the eye
Need not obscure the tales that un-
derlie

F150

The three have crossed the desert,
hill, and plain
Following the day-bright Heaven'ly
star
Surely but a few more miles remain
Before they reach their destination far

Sandalwood and saffron fragrance
coils
Around the crowns of magi foreign
born
More precious though the ewer full of
oil
A swaddled child's cradle to adorn

But lo the star it swells and draws too
near!
It's glow is hotter than the whitest sun
One king falls blinded down upon his
rear -
'Tis but a pickup truck on a beer run

When Summer noon transforms from
Winter night
The wise men say those headlights
are too bright!

Sweet somethings

Butter boxes laying on the floor
Flour dusting face and countertop
Sixty chocolate kisses foiled no more
Baking marathoners roll and drop

What compels confectioners to churn
Great grosses of spritz windmills from
their stoves
Hold vigil so no pfeffernüsse burn
Gingerbread men mill about in droves

Be-ribboned weighty boxes fill the
van
breakroom, basement, church, li-
brary, hall
To trade in sweetmeat with one's fel-
low man
And vow that one will cherish each
and all

I see that you are snacking on those
still
Here's your five bucks, you win, I feel
too ill.

"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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www.madfolk.org

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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 \$ _____

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Send your check, payable to MFMS to: Mad Folk c/o

Tracy Comer, P.O. Box 930446 Verona, WI 53593-0446