

# MadFolk News

## James Keelaghan Plays Madison March 6th

♪ Pure excitement is what we are feeling as MadFolk kicks off its first concert of 2026 with Jame Keelaghan! It is getting harder to get folks across the border to play for us, so please come out to get a rare change to see Keelagahn here in Madison! That baritone voice, the guitar and the stories are just a little of the narrative of what a great evening of entertainment you will get.

James' songwriting has often been cited for its keen sense of history. Songs like "Hillcrest Mine" and "Cold Missouri Waters" instantly come to mind. On **SECOND-HAND**, his newest CD, James also takes on a number of topical issues of concern to us all "Walk On" about overcoming depression and "The Benefits of Surrender"- allowing oneself to be more open to life's possibilities. These songs are so memorable and well written that it is not surprising that James has come to be considered one of Canada's great singer-songwriters.

**SECOND-HAND** finds James at the top of his game with ten new songs including co-writes with Catherine MacLellan, Lynn Miles, J.D. Edwards, Cara Luft and Dave Gunning. "I love co-writing," he says, "it's the spark that gets me motivated – the

fresh approach to a lyric or a different way of forming a melody for a song is so stimulating.

"He displays a genius for finding his way deep inside big stories, building them outward from palpably intimate moments." – The Boston Globe

As we go to print, there are still tickets available! Please go

to [www.madfolk.org](http://www.madfolk.org) for a link to tickets. We will be collecting non-perishable donations of food for the local food banks

Show details: Friday, March 6, 2026 – 7:00pm – doors open at 6:00

At the North Street Cabaret – 610 North Street, Madison -tickets are \$27 in adv and \$32 day of show.



**FOLKLORE VILLAGE** ...passing it on  
3210 Cty Hwy BB  
Dodgeville, WI  
[folklorevillage.org](http://folklorevillage.org)  
608-924-4000

**Folklore Village**  
March 20-22 Spring Swedish Music & Dance  
Weekend  
(\$\$ — see website for registration details)





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



### Save the Date - Details TBA

- March 6th James Keelaghan - North Street Cabaret - @7pm - \$27 adv / \$32 day of show
- April 18th - Anne Hills
- May 7th Ganet Rogers - last U.S. tour - North Street Cabaret - @7pm  
\$30 adv / \$33 day of show



Don't forget!  
Non-perishable donations of food are collected for local food banks at all Mad Folk shows!

## On the Air

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**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)

Considered one of Canada's great singer songwriters, Keelaghan "displays a genius for finding his way deep inside big stories, building them outward from palpably intimate moments." ~ *The Boston Globe*



**Madison Folk Music  
Society PRESENTS**

# James Keelaghan

**Friday, March 6, 2026**

**7:00 pm**

**THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI**

Tickets \$27 advance, \$32 day of show

Available at: <https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/1960134>

Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.



**“Anne Hills is such an exquisite singer that it’s understandable that people might be swept up in the pure beauty of her voice and thereby overlook her writing. She is quite simply one of my absolute favorite songwriters.” Tom Paxton**



**Madison Folk Music  
Society PRESENTS**

# **Anne Hills**

**Saturday, April 18, 2026**

**7:00 pm**

**THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI**

Tickets \$15 advance, \$18 day of show

Available at: <https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/2077029>

Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.



**"A brilliant songwriter. One of the major talents of our time." *Boston Globe***  
***This is Garnet's LAST U.S. Tour***



**Madison Folk Music  
Society PRESENTS**

# **Garnet Rogers**

**Tuesday, May 5, 2026**

**7:00 pm**

**THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI**

Tickets \$30 advance, \$33 day of show

Available at: <https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/2028232>

Non-perishable donations of food will be collected for local food banks.





# ANNE HILLS – APRIL 18th

♪ Well April showers may bring May Flowers, but April is also the month that MadFolk brings the soprano voice and up lifting songs of Anne Hills back to Madison! Anne is no stranger to the folkies or the Madfolk stage, whether we bring her solo or as a collaboration with others, remember when we hosted her with Priscilla Herdman and Cindy Mangsen? If you missed it, there are a few CD's they released. Perhaps some of her most well-known collaborations has been with Tom Paxton and Michael Smith.

We always wonder where a musician started, and they all seem to have interesting stories,

Anne included. Anne was born in Moradabad, India, the third daughter of educational missionaries. Raised in Michigan, she attended Interlochen Arts Academy where she formed her first folk trio. She was also the female vocalist with the Big Band that turned out future jazz greats Peter Erskine, Bob Mintzer and Chris Brubeck. She moved to Chicago's fertile folk scene in 1976 and co-founded the folklore center Hogeye Music, still a force in the Chicago music scene. She has done a lot since those early days, including some acting and Anne's commitment to social justice (receiving a Masters Degree in Social Work with honors on Mother's

Day and recipient of the 2005 Polizzi Award for Dedication and Service in the Field of Social Work) and to children keeps her busy with benefit concerts and community service projects.

Tickets are available at [www.Madfolk.org](http://www.Madfolk.org)

Show details: April 18, 2026 (Saturday)

\$15 adv and \$18 day of show 7 pm (Doors at 6 pm)

North Street Cabaret, 610 North Street, Madison, WI 53704

## Protest Songwriting Class with Jeff Burkhart March 21st

In this three-hour, interactive session, songwriter Jeff Burkhart will engage in activities to convert righteous rage into creative expression through songs that speak out, tell truths, and spark change. Whether you're new to songwriting or a seasoned writer, you'll leave inspired with fresh ideas, new techniques, and work in progress.

Price is \$50 per person. There are only 20 seats available and we expect the session to fill up quickly. Send an email to Stacy Sandler at [smsandler65@gmail.com](mailto:smsandler65@gmail.com) if you have questions or to sign up.

Jeff Burkhart is a songwriter and performer who has been featured on PBS Wisconsin,

and has performed at many venues in and around Madison with a variety of groups. He creates music to share emotions, memories and thoughts on social justice and positive change. He is an educator who supports nonprofit leaders and has worked in the nonprofit world for most of his career.

All proceeds from the Songwriting Session will be donated to the IMMIGRANT DEFENSE FUND ([micentro.org](http://micentro.org)), which assists individuals in Wisconsin facing immigration-related challenges, particularly those who cannot afford legal representation, and provides emergency family support for financial needs that may arise unexpectedly in that process.

Show details: March 21, 2026 (Saturday)

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Muso 2040 Winnebago Street, Madison, WI 53704



Review by Kiki Schueler

Steve Poltz has never taken himself, or anything else, too seriously. Poltz hit the songwriter jackpot early in his career when "You Were Meant for Me," a song he co-wrote with Jewel, became a massive hit in 1996-97. Smartly, he's never tried too hard to replicate that win. Instead, he's done exactly what he wants. His non-stop touring and fairly regular studio releases have won him a cult following of fans who don't care a thing about Jewel or that song, other than the comic fodder it lends to his live shows where he frequently plays extended versions augmented with comic anecdotes and different versions of the truth. On JoyRide, his fourteenth record and third for Red House Records, he ranges from reflective to ridiculous, moody to mirthful. His co-writers include Jim Lauderdale and Leftover Salmon's Vince Herman. Emmylou Harris's backing band the Red Dirt Boys, drummer Bryan Owings, and bassist Chris Donohue, are featured on many tracks. He credits producer/engineer/mixer Dex Green, who also played on the record, "for being the musical trickster who lured me into the studio."

Like Ken Pomeroy's "Pareidolia," Poltz's "Petrichor" is something I didn't even know there was a word for. While the former is, more or less, seeing faces in the clouds, the latter is the pleasant scent when rain falls on warm, dry soil. His jangly, finger-picked, acoustic guitar conjures the pitter pat of rain. The

equally lively lyrics pray for rain, and then ponder the possibility of making a profit on that scent (with a shout out to Harris herself). "My wife says let's bottle it up. See the gold coins fill our cup. Women all around the world smelling like a red dirt girl." It's relatively unexplored songwriting territory, unlike the title song. There's no shortage of songs about life on the road, from Bob Seger's "Turn the Page" to Waylon Jennings' "Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way," but occasionally someone has something new to say about it. Or at least a new way to say it. "JoyRide" is a laundry list of clever couplets. Sure, sound checks, airports, and drugs get mentioned, but Poltz personalizes it with clever rhymes like "half price menus, haunted venues." It all comes to a very Poltz optimistic ending, "As long as I'm with you there's nothing we can't do. I look for the best rhyme, I'm here for your lifetime." The positive messages continue on his collaboration with Herman. The ultimately light-hearted "Love a Little Bigger" uses tales of adultery and mariticide to teach lessons of love and forgiveness.

No one expects Steve Poltz to stay serious for a whole record, and there is plenty of silly for balance. The best of these finds humor in organ transplant. "This is my first beer with my brand-new liver. I was on a waiting list, it took two years to find a giver," opens "Brand New Liver." Our recipient has done the math, and if this one is as good as the first, "I can live to be a hundred and two and never have to pay the cost." Equally bad choices inform "New Tattoo." In this case it's a face tattoo of a now ex's face, and how he deals with it, "I put duct tape on the tattoo of you on my face, so I don't have to see you every time I shave." The only joke that falls flat is "The Son of God." I have no doubt that this is absolutely uproarious live, but the

hilarity of Jesus calling to sell encyclopedias wears thin after a few listens.

He may not be actively chasing another pot of gold, but that doesn't mean he doesn't think about it. "You not only broke my heart, this song will never make the charts," he sings on "New Tattoo," and on the meandering closing track "Hairlift" he claims "I'm trying to write a hit song, but I been smokin' from the big bong." Even if lightning does strike twice, I doubt it would change Steve Poltz much. And that's good thing.

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)

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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>

# Venues

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## **muso**

2040 Winnebago Street  
Madison WI  
musomadison.com

## ***muso***

- Tues, Mar 3, 6:30-8:30pm We-re Just Folking Around Song Circle
- Wednesdays, 5-7 pm Madison Song Circle
- Thu, Mar 5 7-9pm Sims Delaney Pothoff & Maggie Delaney Pothoff
- 2nd and 4th Saturdays 2-4pm Blue Grass Jam with Davey Harrison
- Sun, Mar 15, 5pm Muso Slow Irish Session (Beginners/Intermediate)
- Tue, Mar 17, 7pm Sea Shanty Sing
- Sat, Mar 21 6:30-9:30pm Protest Songwriting Session with Jeff Burkhart and Stacy Sandler (\$50, limit 20)
- Mon, Mar 30, 6:30pm MUSO Monthly Songwriter Circle



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

## **Wild Hog in the Woods**

- Friday, March 6, 7:30pm Michael Bell and Tsuzamen's Shmig Gig (Klezmer +)
- Friday, March 13, 7:30pm John Duggleby (Celtic)
- Friday, March 20, 7:30pm Sarah Fiske
- Saturday, March 21 2-4pm Hootenanny Singalong
- Friday, March 27, 7:30pm Strings to Roam
- Friday, April 3, 7:30pm Eddie Ashe

## **NORTH STREET CABARET**

610 North St  
Madison, WI  
northstreetcabaret.com

- Fri, Mar 6th - James Keelaghan - @7pm
- Sat, Mar 7th - Louis Michot - @8pm

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

## **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

The Bur Oak  
2262 Winnebago Street  
Madison, WI  
theburoakmadison.com

## **The Bur Oak**

- Thu, Mar. 27th - Brendan James - @8pm

The Atwood Music Hall  
1925 Winnebago Street  
Madison, WI  
theatwoodmusichall.com

## **The Atwood Music Hall**

- Sun, Mar. 7th - Dar Williams- @7:30pm

The Harmony Bar  
2201 Atwood Ave  
Madison, WI  
harmonybarandgrill.com

## **The Harmony Bar**

- Sun, Mar 1st - The Moon Gypsies - @4pm
- Thu, Mar 5th - Tamkin and Venturella - @6:30pm
- Wed, Mar 11th - Annie & The Oakies - @6:30pm
- Thu, Mar 19th - Jack Norton - @6:30pm
- Sun, Mar 29th - Emerald Grove - @4pm

**"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)

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Madison Folk Music Society

join  renew

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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