

Mad Folk News

The Charlies debut August 6th

In October of 2024, the Madison music community lost beloved singer and frequent performer, Chuck Bayuk. Chuck played many years both solo and in several bands featuring a number of local players covering an array of Americana songwriters. Over the last eight years he was the featured singer with The Acoustic Charlies with bandmates Jeff Laramie (Free Hot Lunch) and Chuck Gates, (Bayuk's brother-in-law). Faced with losing a friend and collaborator, Jeff and Chuck have invited mandolin/guitarist Tim Haub (Dogtown Hollow, Grouvin Brothers) to explore new material in keeping with an all-acoustic

singing-trio format. "We thought it best to find new songs to fit our voices and feature Tim's amazing mandolin skills. It's taken a while but we're confident we've put together an eclectic all-new program," said Jeff. "We've also invited Chuck's sister Rosy Bayuk



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

- Saturday, August 15th @6:30pm - The Rough and Tumble / Flagship Romance - \$20
- Saturday, September 12th @6pm - Karyn Ann - \$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

- Sunday, August 9th - @4pm (doors at 3) and @7pm (doors at 6) Robbie Fuls - \$25
- Wednesday, August 12th - @8pm (doors at 7) Eric Bachmann

to be part of the event, as we all sang together at Chuck's "Celebration of life". We really liked her renditions of Nanci Griffith and Emmy Lou Harris songs that she sings so well. The band will also cover gems from The SteelDrivers, Chris Stapleton, Steve Winwood, The Travelling Wilburys, John Hiatt and more.

The new line-up, simply known as "The Charlies", will debut from 5:30-7:30pm on Thursday, Aug 6, at the Garver Patio (3241 Garver Green, Madison) Come out to enjoy what promises to be a great night of music and fun.



Donate to
Mad Folk!



Join
Mad Folk!
(or renew)



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

♪ Check back soon for upcoming events



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

Misc

Stuart Stotts

Weekly new song Facebook Live event. Song Premiere on Tuesday (SPOT) at 11AM
facebook.com/stuart.stotts

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

My Highway Home

© 2026 Joe Jencks, Turtle Bear Music

A Dream In Progress...

When I was about 15, I saw a film that changed my life: Cry Freedom. The story of Steven Bantu Biko and the struggle for liberation in South Africa from apartheid. In the film, there was a scene where mourners and compatriots in the liberation movement were in a funeral procession carrying Mr. Biko's coffin. They were singing, "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika."

This is a hymn written in the 1890s in South Africa. It was and remains an anthem of liberation in many parts of Africa. But the melody and the harmonic structures, captured my young musical mind and my tender big heart. I was determined to go to a place where people sang like that, and to hear that song sung in South Africa one day. Last year, that dream came true. I was sonically blessed to hear a group of singers, Soweto a Cappella, sing this hymn at a neighborhood restaurant in Soweto. "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika" is now the first part of the South African National Anthem.

I wept freely, for so many reasons. In part because it was a promise to self, fulfilled. In part because I was listening to a group of young men sing joyfully and beautifully in a FREE South Africa. "Free at last, Free at last, Thank God almighty I am free at last." So goes the famous hymn of liberation in the African American communities here in the States.

But I also wept in part, because there are people here in the U.S. who would like to see a more entrenched form of racism and classism take hold. There are people here actively working to create a new apartheid state. I wept because while it is still

very much a work in progress, the South Africa that Biko and so many countless others envisioned, continues to grow 31 years into that long sought after independence.

But perhaps most of all, I wept because it is still a piece of music that pierces the thin armor of my heart and reminds me that we are stronger in solidarity, in community, than when we suffer the illusions that we can go it alone and get where we are hoping to go.

In Soweto, I met an AMAZING painter (Sipo / Smoke_y) on the street and bought from him a portrait of Nelson Mandela. It now hangs in my humble living room as a daily invitation to remain awake and engaged. In Soweto, I walked past the homes of Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu: two Nobel Peace Prize recipients who lived a block apart for a spell.

And then the choir I was traveling with went to Kliptown - a very poor community within Soweto. We gave a shared concert with the Kliptown Community Choir at The Kliptown Youth Program school. Young adults raising the roof with their songs and heart. Music that moved me beyond words, as I finally got to hear a soundtrack of South Africa, not curated by a film or documentary. I was just there, drinking it all in, present with the phenomenal beauty and heartbreak and hope.

One of our guides grew up in Klip-town. He said, "Call this an informal settlement, call it a shanty town, call it a slum, call it what you will, we call it community." Amen.

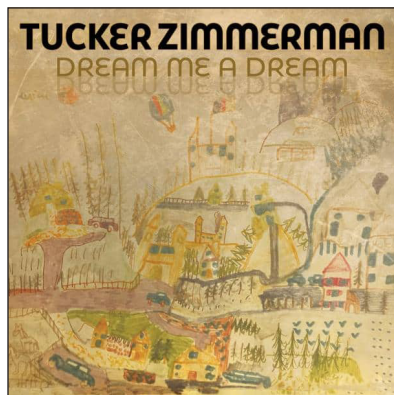
I will be returning to South Africa in September and October of this year, for most of five weeks. I have a friend outside of Cape Town who founded a non-profit with projects running in all nine provinces of South Africa. Shawn has training and degrees in Horticulture, Environmental Science, and Conflict Resolution. I look forward to traveling with him as he goes to do site visits on a multitude of these development and empowerment projects. It will be very different than being on a tour bus with a choir. More intimate and off the beaten path. A South Africa missed by most tourists.

And I will bring a guitar, of course. I don't expect to play concerts in the way I do here in North America or in Ireland. But I will offer music as a bridge between people, anywhere and anytime it seems useful. Even one song can invite dialogue and camaraderie where there is an interest. Music offered thoughtfully and in kindness, is in my experience a universal language. It can sound cliché, but I have seen the power of song in so many ways over the course of my career. Both the power it has on me as a listener and as a musician invited into the circle of others. So, once again, I will bring music into some unexpected places, and trust the Muse to follow. I will also be offering a few benefit concerts for a few of the organizations that my friend's non-profit supports in various ways.

Don't get me wrong - the choir tour was AMAZING. And I offer my thanks to 2nd Presbyterian Church
Continued...

DREAM ME A DREAM- TUCKER ZIMMERMAN

2026 BIG POTATO RECORDS



Review by Kiki Schueler

The tale of Tucker Zimmerman and his wife Marie-Claire is a timeless love story. The San Francisco born Zimmerman was a classically trained musician who traveled to Rome on a Fulbright scholarship in the late 60's. There he met Marie-Claire and they married in 1970, subsequently moving to Belgium where they stayed until they both died in a house fire earlier this year. In those five plus decades of marriage, she was both his muse and his collaborator. Between 1969 and 1983 he released a literal handful of records, and David Bowie declared the first of those, *Ten Songs*, one of his favorite albums. There were a few more sporadic recordings around the turn of the century, but in 2024 he experienced a true career renaissance. A three-volume set from the Tucker Zimmerman Trio was followed by *Dance of Love*, a collaboration with Big Thief that lifted him out of cult artist obscurity. Using that momentum, he returned to the studio with Nick Holton, Big Potato's cofounder. In addition to producing, Holton co-wrote three of *Dream Me a Dream*'s ten tracks, and contributed all sorts of keyboards: piano, organ, Moog and synths. Additional support comes from British folk singer and violinist Jackie Oates, and, of course, his wife Marie-Claire.

The latter has a starring role in the surreal "Riding Around in My

Dreams." Her accented spoken word stream of conscious narration bursts with the kind of logic that only occurs when we are fast asleep, "I am stopping to give directions to lost bikers, just go down the hill and pass through the communist regime until you come to the Academy Awards." Violin, acoustic guitar, and synths follow her whimsical lead. In two cases, Zimmerman mined his old poems to create new songs. On the hauntingly spare keyboard piece "Rooftops of San Francisco," Zimmerman does his own spoken word, following a paper airplane over the city of his youth. The Moog represents the more fantastical, while the piano anchors it in reality. The more grounded title track has a Leonard Cohen-esque poetry, a comparison that comes to mind often during the record's 38 minutes. Organ and violin trade off in a fantasyland "with highways of strawberry jam," and "shape-shifters swimming in the waves." In the opening lines he introduces the next track, a brief but stately instrumental titled "Orion Comes Down to Walk the Land." The reverie continues in "Wolf Run," whose bouncy melody gushes with all sorts of dreams: wolf escape and imaginary landscapes, moonshine eyes and sweet surprise.

Other songs aren't as simple as their titles would portend. "Don't Feel Like Doing Nothing Today" may sound unambitious, but don't be fooled by the double negative. References to Bukowski, Jack Kerouac, Howling Wolf and Neil Young abound, as he searches for something, anything, to do. Opening track "Sun in Scorpio" sounds like the mus-ing of an old hippie, "tell me what does that mean, sun in Scorpio? She said: I control your soul, I'm

your mojo, don't you know." Zimmerman wasn't usually one to record covers, but he includes a song from his recent collaborator Adrienne Lenker. She adds gorgeous backing vocals to the poignant "Stay (I Want You to Stay)," an unrecorded, live Big Thief fan favorite. The tragedy preceding this posthumous release is undeniable, but it is no small comfort that we get to hear his last work. *Dream Me a Dream* is a perfect bookend to an eccentric career.

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>

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 and we will add it. Get out there and enjoy the music!

- August 7th – 9th – Shawano Folk Music Festival -Shawano, WI
<https://www.shawanofestival.org/>
- August 14th – 15th – Schenks Corners Block Party
<https://www.facebook.com/schenksblockparty/>
- August 15th - Ekin Park Festival - 2407 Coolidge St, Madison - 11am - 8pm
Bear in the Forest @1:40pm
<https://www.facebook.com/ekenparkfest/>
- August 16th – Gandy Dancer Bluegrass Festival – Mazomanie, WI
<https://gandydancerfestival.org/>
- August 28nd – 30th – Great River Folk Festival – LaCrosse, WI
<https://www.greatriverfolkfest.org/>
- August 28th – 30st Orton Park Festival
<https://www.marquette-neighborhood.org/events/orton-park-festival>
- September 6th & 7th – Fox Valley Folk Festival – Geneva, IL (50TH anniversary!)
<https://www.fvfs.org/>
- September 12th – GreekFest
<https://madison-greekfest.org/>
- September 19th-20th -Willy Street Fair -Watch for the MadFolk Stage
<https://willystreetfair.org/>
- September 26th – The True North Food & Music Festival
<https://www.truenorthfest.com/>

Continued...My Highway Home in Indianapolis for the invitation to be a guest on their journey last June. It was fun to sing challenging choral music again, and to trade sets with South African choirs. It was an honor to sing in the Anglican Cathedral that was the home pulpit of Bishop Desmond Tutu. And, I yearn for more time in this remarkable country. I yearn to have deeper conversations, and reconnect with friends I made this past year. I want to cultivate a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the present moment, and the amalgamated vision for the future in South Africa. It is a place of extraordinary promise, in spite of hundreds of years of colonial imperialism. And the spirit of the people is a thing of beauty.

I am still struck by the economic and class divisions in South Africa between whites, blacks, and people of mixed race and ethnicity. My hope is that more would have changed in the conversations and pragmatic policies around racism and classism, since the end of apartheid. And a lot has changed. But the journey toward a more equitable economic, political, and social system is multi-generational work.

And still, South Africa embraces the pluralities, the seeming contradictions, and the tensions inherent in the nation building process. And the people of South Africa are proud, adventurous, inventive, courageous, and committed to a better future. There is vitality in the air that is profound. Palpable.

My hope is that more would have changed in the conversations about racism and classism here in the United States since the 1960s, much less

since our own independence. And still we struggle with our own contradictions. In a year when innocent people doing nothing illegal, have been shot and killed by ICE in Minnesota, we see our leaders malign the victims of these illegal government actions here at home. And we see them simultaneously condemn the suppression of human rights in other parts of the world.

If you are feeling a disconnect in this year of our 250th anniversary as a nation, you are not alone. If you are feeling the phenomenal contradictions around every corner and a sense of helplessness, you are not alone. If you are scared, if you are dealing with insomnia, depression, anxiety, and everything seems harder than it should, you are not alone. If stories of people being “disappeared” lurk around the edges of your consciousness, you are not alone.

We have not lost the Republic. But we do need to remember what it is we are working for: A truly free, truly inclusive, truly multi-cultural society, where the American Dream is still possible. Not the dream of wealth or privilege for an elite few. Not the dream of political power for a select caste of society. But the dream of a United States of America where hope is alive and where we are trying to make the table longer rather than limit who gets a seat at that table.

I don't have answers, but I will keep singing. I will keep observing and writing and touring and offering concerts. I will keep being present in the world in all the ways I know how, in order to help us all fulfill the promise of building a more perfect union. And not just for Americans. Rather,

building relationships as partners in process with the rest of the world. Not as imperial forces, not as colonizers, not as an elite people, but as actual neighbors in a global community.

That's a lot to ask from a folk song. But we've seen that spirit move the needle here and around the world in the past, and I have faith that we will again.

In Solidarity & Song,

~ Joe Jencks (6-23-26)

Joe Jencks is 27-year veteran of the international Folk scene, an award-winning songwriter and vocalist, and a contributing writer to numerous publications. For more info on live concerts, tours, new recordings and broadcasts - please visit: www.joejencks.com.

Joe Jencks also hosts a monthly radio show called My Highway Home on the Folk music network – Folk Music Notebook. MHH features interviews with people Joe meets in his travels, and music by many artists from the big tent that is Folk Music. Tune in on the Second Sunday of each month at 5:00 PM CT. Rebroadcast at Midnight CT on the same night, and again the following Wednesdays at 11:00 AM CT. www.folkmusicnotebook.com

Super El Niño

By Emily Beebe

With a fanfare of trumpets, the Super El Niño of 2026 has dawned on our planet, lighting a gigantic flame under the Pacific Ocean and setting it to broil. Not since 2016 have we enjoyed a Super El Niño spectacle, except when we lived through the Strong El Niño of 2024. Just to set the record straight, the term ‘Super’ El Niño is just a media gimmick; the official scientific term for a two degree rise in Pacific Ocean temperature is ‘Very Strong’ El Niño.

Do not confuse the Super (i.e. Very Strong) El Niño with the Mega-Niño, which is a salty and very spicy tortilla chip snack you can buy at Qwik Trip and is also the cause of the Permian-Triassic extinction event. A whole lot of methane was involved and significant environmental acidification, thus, Mega-Niño is an excellent name for a snack chip.

Now hypers will hype and you MAY hear someone refer to this year’s Super El Niño as a Mega El Niño but the El will be your clue that we are not actually experiencing this, although it is possible that we will be the last to know and we won’t get a chance to correct our nomenclature. Plus, the two degree rise in cable news ratings for using the term Mega El Niño won’t matter much past the Anthropocene Period.

What does this have to do with Folk Music, you may ask? Well, I’m getting to that.

One of the biggest side-effects of a warming Pacific Ocean is hotter temperatures worldwide, particularly in remote, very deep caves where bears like to hibernate. It is so comfortably cool in those caves in fact that Pleistocene-era cave bears have been lightly dozing in there for the last 100,000 years, living on bac-

teria-rich water dripping off stalactites and crystallized packrat pee (there is actually a name for this – amber-at – which rhymes with packrat so it’s easy to remember). As the warm zephyrs of the Super El Niño waft the smell of bacon and good coffee into these caves, the cave bears will begin to shamle outside, emancipating, we sincerely hope, Uncle Walter.

You may or may not know about the elusive Uncle Walter. Dale Marxen did, and he wrote the Legend of Uncle Walter, a.k.a., *Waltzing with Bears*. Trigger alert: *Waltzing with Bears* is powerful medicine. It can cure what ails you and can also cause harm as it is more infectious than the measles and is often sung with tuba accompaniment. Plus, it attracts bears. I contend that *Waltzing With Bears* may be the greatest folk song ever written based on the strength of the reactions people have to it. Here is the whole legend, in Dale’s own words (a-one-two-three, two-two-three):

Wa-wa-wa-waltzing, waltzing with bears,

Raggy bears, shaggy bears, baggy bears, too.

There’s nothing on earth Uncle Walter won’t do,

So he can go waltzing, wa-wa-wa-waltzing,

So he can go waltzing, waltzing with bears.

I went upstairs in the middle of the night,

I tiptoed in and I turned on the light,

But, to my surprise, there was no one in sight.

My Uncle Walter goes dancing at night.

I gave Uncle Walter a new coat to wear.

When he came home, he was covered with hair.

Lately I’ve noticed several new tears. I’m sure Uncle Walter goes waltzing with bears.

We told Uncle Walter that he should be good

And do all the things that we said he should.

But I know he’d rather be out in the woods.

I’m afraid we might lose Uncle Walter for good.

We begged and we pleaded, “Oh, please, won’t you stay?”

We managed to keep him at home for a day,

But the bears all barged in and took him away.

Now he’s dancing with pandas

And he can’t understand us.

The bears all demand at least one dance a day.

Yes, dear reader, we hypothesize that Uncle Walter has been detained by cave bears for the last several millennia, forced to sing this song repeatedly and dance with the occupants on demand. One may contend this is not slavery as waltzing has always been Walter’s greatest ambition, plus all that dancing has made him quite fit.

Now that Walter is no longer stuck in a cave with a bunch of dancing bears, he is free to discover a new hobby, like ark building or smoke jumping. Thanks, Super El Niño! If a warming Pacific Ocean can do all that for Uncle Walter, just think what it can do for you!

*Note: Dale Marxen died in 2025. He came from a musical family with ties to Wisconsin. His song *Waltzing With Bears* is a truly lasting musical legacy, whether you like it or not.*

Venues

muso
2040 Winnebago Street
Madison WI
musomadison.com

muso

- Thurs, August 6th, @7:30pm, Greg Garing
- Fri, August 14th, @7pm Hedgerow Dinkum
- Thurs, August 20th, Andy Crooks Showcase
- Sun, August 23rd, @4:30pm Artist Spotlight: Sims Delaney-Potthoff & Chris Wagoner
- Sat, August 23rd, @7:30pm Celebrindal & Friends Bluegrass Concert

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

Folklore Village

- Sun, August 9th, concert @7 pm T Marie and Bayou Juju, preceded by a dance workshop at 4:30, and potluck at @6pm

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

The Atwood Music Hall

- Fri, Aug. 28th - John McCutcheon - @8pm (doors at 7)

NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St
Madison, WI
northstreetcabaret.com

- Thu, Aug 13th - Golden Schoals - @7pm
- Wed, Aug 26th and Thu, Aug 27th - Ben Sidran - @7pm
- Sun, Aug 30th - Blue Moon Marquee - @7pm
- Tue, Sept 15th - Mean Mary James - @7:30pm
- Fri, Nov 20th - Jake Blount - @7:30pm



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

Cafe Carpe

- Saturday, Aug 1st - @8pm - Bill Camplin w/ Michael Hecht
- Friday, Aug 7th - @8:30pm - Nick Dittmeier & The Sawdusters - \$20
- Saturday, Aug 8th - @8:30pm - Yazmin & Beat Zero - \$20
- Thursday, Aug 13th - @8pm - Mark Hummel All Stars - \$35
- Wednesday, Aug 19th - @6:30pm - Round Robin w/ Tricia Alexander - \$5
- Thursday, Aug 20th - @7:30pm - Whitcomb / Caplan Cello Duo - \$20
- Friday, Aug 21st - @8:30pm - Logan Metz - \$20
- Saturday, Aug 22nd - @8:15pm - Harmonious Wail - \$20
- Friday, Aug 28th - @8pm - Karen Johnson - \$10
- Saturday, Aug 29th - @8pm - The Boston Imposters - \$20

Black Hawk Folk Society

Mt. Morris Town Park
N3847 County Rd G
Wautoma

- Sat, Aug. 8th - Krause Family Trio - @2pm
- Sat, Sept. 12th - Mean Mary - @2pm

"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>

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