

MadFolk News

WILLY STREET FAIR - COME CELEBRATE THE END OF FESTIVAL SEASON AS MADFOLK CELEBRATES OUR 17TH YEAR OF BRINGING FANTASIC MUSIC ON SEPTEMBER 19TH AND 20TH 2026

♪The following is just a little of what you have to look forward to. We will have the full lineup on our website www.madfok.org.

We kick off the festival on Saturday with Bruised Orange – Performing the songs of John Prine. The Madison-based John Prine tribute band Bruised Orange will perform on the folk stage at the Willy Street Fair again this year.

John Prine's music has inspired generations of musicians for more than 50 years, including the bandmates in Bruised Orange, Liz Stattelmann-Scanlan, Jeff Burkhart and Brian O'Donnell. Liz, Jeff and Brian have played together in several iterations over the years, including a sold-out 50th anniversary celebration of Mad Folk last year at the North Street Cabaret.

"John's songs remind us that we should take care of each other. They always feel like home. We are looking forward to sharing his music again with the crowd on Willy Street," said Jeff.

Coming back to WSF - for the past 3 decades Bret and Frisk have been hailed as the premier acoustic duo in Wisconsin's Great Northwoods and have become known throughout Wisconsin as some of the best vo-

cal anywhere. Capturing the supergroups and singer/ songwriters of the past 6 decades in a way that has entertained thousands and gained a reputation for the best live shows and heart warming music! Over 500 memorized songs with no looping or tech-no assistance. What you see is what you get. bretandfrisk.com

Fingerstyle & flatpicking guitar, baritone vocal & Harmonica, Mark Young also plays homemade Mountain Dulcimers.

Born in Janesville, performing in Southern Wisconsin pubs while attending U.W. (Madison & Whitewater), Mark Young has a (memorized) repertoire of 1,262 requestable songs --hundreds of 1960s/70s...contemporary Folk/ Rock, Classic Country, originals, & 1930s-1950s when volunteering at nursing homes & other senior groups.

Never playing the same setlist



twice, most songs are chosen for each gig, most spontaneously, some from requests, often selecting obscure B-sides & album cuts from great artists with backstories you never knew.

A Yooper (Upper Peninsula of Michigan resident) since 1988, he has played extensively in Germany, had several recordings played on the Dr. Demento radio show, making it to the 'Funny Five'. Today, He mostly performs events, pubs, parties, in the U.P & Northern Wisconsin,

Continued...



MadFolk Annual meeting will be on October 4th at 6:00 p.m. via zoom.

We will post the link for the zoom meeting on our webpage next month and in October newsletter.

Continued...Willy St Fair

assisted living & nursing homes when his schedule allows, & occasionally getting back to play his childhood friend's Irish Pub in his hometown of Janesville, O'Riley & Conway's.

The Roddys Trio is Doc Roddy on Guitar and Banjo, Terre Roddy on Guitar, and Chris Powers on Mandolin. The Trio has worked together since 2001, when they crafted the definitive album of Doc Roddy's original songs, *A Night of Deep Nostalgia*. Doc and Terre moved to Viroqua a decade later, and have since become a vital part of the Driftless music scene. They are thrilled to be back playing for old friends and fans at the Willy Street Fair.

Making his debut on the Mad-Folk stage, Stuart Stotts has been a popular Madison performer for nearly 40 years. He's traveled all over the world, singing to all kinds of audiences. He's often known as a performer for children and families, but Stuart is also a prolific songwriter for adults. Since 2021 he's hosted Song Premiere on Tuesday in which he performs a new song every week. That's getting close to 300 songs in five years. Stuart also has a podcast about the power of group singing called *How Can I Keep from Singing*,

featuring interviews with song leaders from around the world. Stuart won the Great River Folk Festival songwriters contest in 2024 and his songs have been sung and recorded by artists around the world. His songs range from stories to sing-alongs to commentary on a political world. Stuart lives near Lafarge, WI, in the middle of the Driftless region, and his newer songs often reflect the experience of living in the country. Stuart has a number of recordings and also several books, including *"We Shall Overcome: A Song that Changed the World."* Stuart

plays guitar and banjo. You can be certain that there will be chances to sing along as well as take in some finely crafted tunes that add a tiny bit of meaning to this crazy world.



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!

- 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/>

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

The Bur Oak All shows @8pm (doors at 7)

- Thur, Sept 3rd, Joe Crookston
- Fri, Sept 11th, Whitney Mann / Erik Koskinen



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

Wild Hog in the Woods

- Friday, Sept 11th at 7:30pm- John Duggleby
- Friday, Sept 18th at 7:30pm- Wattle & Daub
- Friday, Sept 25th at 7:30pm- Joshua Hester



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

The Bridle Barn

- Thu, Sept 24th - The Lone Canary (and pizza @ the Farm)
- Fri, Oct 16th - David Singly (final show of the season)



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, 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, September 18th - @7pm (doors at 6) - Turn, Turn, Turn - \$15
- Wednesday, September 19th - @7pm (doors at 6) - Rye Valley/Sean Michael Dargan Trio - \$15
- Wednesday, September 24th - @8pm (doors at 7) - Spencer Thomas - \$15
- Wednesday, September 25th - @8pm (doors at 7) - Dressy Bessy/The Tammy Shine - \$20



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

September 19th-20th -Willy Street Fair - Watch for the MadFolk Stage
<https://willystreetfair.org/>



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

Venues

muso
2040 Winnebago Street
Madison WI
musomadison.com

muso

- Tues, Sept 1st, @7:30pm - We're Just Folking around
- Wed, Sept 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, @5pm - Madison Song Circle
- Tues, Sept 15th, @7pm - Sea Shanty Sing
- Thur, Sept 17th, @6pm - Andy Crooks & Kayla Aether
- Mon, Sept 21st, @5:45pm - International Day of Peace Concert w/ Isabella Clinton
- Sat, Sept 26th, @7pm - H.R. Britton: Medical Melodies

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on

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

Folklore Village

- Sat, Sept 12th, concert @7:15pm Barn Dance
- Rare Privilege w/ caller Sue Hulsether - 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

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

Stoughton Opera House

- Fri, Sept 18th - Altan - @7:30pm - \$30
- Wed, Sept 23rd - L. Shankar - @7:30pm - \$45
- Fri, Sept 25th - AJ Lee & Blue Summit - @7:30pm - \$30
- Sat, Sept 26th - S. Carey - @7:30pm - \$30

NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St
Madison, WI
northstreetcabaret.com

- 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, Sept. 12th - Mean Mary - @2pm
- Sat, Oct. 10th - Claudia Russell & Bruce Kaplan - @7pm
- at Mountain View Community Center

Flying Friendly Skies

By Emily Beebe

When planning a trip that involves air travel, you need to consider whether you are taking a musical instrument or a child. Preparation of your precious cargo is similar in each instance so we will consider them together to save you some time in having to read two separate articles.

Small instruments/children (smaller than a guitar) should be packed in a hard case and carried onto the plane. Never check small instruments/children under the plane. They fall through microscopic cracks in the fuselage like socks in a dryer. They may also get smooshed if loaded between a sarcophagus and an anvil salesman's luggage.

Unusually heavy carry-ons, like a pedal steel guitar in a rhinestone-encrusted case or a gothic tween, may incur extra charges for your flight, even if they pack up smaller than a guitar. On some airlines you may be able to travel with your instrument/child on your lap, although for longish flights, this is ill advised as they can make loud shrieking noises on take-off and landing, particularly if you are asked to remove the case before fastening your seat belt (FAA rules, not the airline).

A word of caution: some lap instruments/children are capable of roundhouse punches at elevations over 20,000 ft. Banjos can be frail and they run the risk of a breakdown which will make absolutely everyone on the plane upset, especially the pilot. Hammered dulcimers and infants are pressure sensitive and may suddenly fold in half, launching the contents of your tray table if you don't loosen the strings/onesie before take off.

Some airlines are very strict about the dimensions of your carry-on, so if

you travel with an irregularly shaped instrument/child like an alphon or a 12-year-old going to circus camp there may not be anyplace to store it unless you can make a distraction and chuck the folding wheelchair out the emergency door when the flight attendants are busy and stuff your cargo in the in-cabin closet. Handy tip: ketchup packets and durian fruit are useful for making distractions. Also, note that circus camp kids may fit in the overhead bin if you think you may need that wheelchair later.

If you have an iPhone, consider putting an AirTag securely on your instrument/child in the event you are separated. Place the AirTag inside the sound hole or in a cup of Jello pudding one hour before departing as your instrument/child may be separated from their case/clothing in transit somehow. I don't quite understand how this happens, but it is not uncommon in chaotic environments like airports. In the unlikely event you are separated from your instrument/child, the AirTag will emit a loud but pleasant chime until you are reunited. If someone else's AirTag ends up in your instrument/child, don't worry – you can use an app to cause the foreign AirTag to emit a loud farting sound while simultaneously alerting security.

If you are feeling spontaneous and think you may just bop on down to the airport with your brother-in-law's burlap-bagged Stradivarius fiddle/middle child (named 'Baron Knoop' for some reason) and trustingly plop it down on the checked bag conveyor belt for a last-minute trip to Burning Man, please reconsider. Although there are no songs about children getting damaged by airlines, Tom Paxton offers some friendly advice about traveling with

instruments in his paeon to air travel, **Thank You Republic Airlines**. The song was written in 1983 after the airline destroyed his prized acoustic guitar:

*Thank you, Republic Airlines,
what a joy to the musician you are*

What a zest you've added to pedestrian skies

*It was boring to be flying where
the wild goose flies*

*But the tedium was broken by the
wonderful surprise*

*When you broke the neck on my
guitar*

The air travel industry didn't really learn the lesson of bad PR by musicians until 2008. **United Breaks Guitars** was written by Canadian songwriter Dave Carroll and his band Sons of Maxwell after an incident where United Airlines broke the neck off his Taylor guitar on a trip to Omaha and refused to compensate him for it. If you are considering flying with an instrument/child – and even if you are not – please watch Dave Carroll's **three** 'United Breaks Guitars' videos on YouTube (spoiler alert: special guest appearance by rhinestone-encrusted dobro player Jerry Douglas)

Video #1: <https://youtu.be/5YGc4zOqozo>

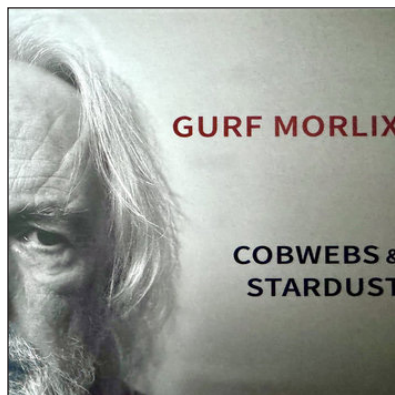
Video #2: <https://youtu.be/h-UoER-HaSQg>

Video #3: <https://youtu.be/P45E0u-GVyeg>

Happily, the airlines stock price/seat of the passenger in front of them got kicked hard by the blowback of these videos. Plus, Taylor Guitars gave Dave two new instruments for his musical endorsements. Moral of this story: don't believe any airline that says '*Instruments/Kids Fly Free*'. There is always a price, and you may be the one paying it.

COBWEBS & STARDUST - GURF MORLIX

2026 ROOTBALL RECORDS



Review by Kiki Schueler

The singer/songwriter/producer Gurf Morlix may have stopped touring since the pandemic, but he certainly hasn't stopped working. He's released an album (or two) every year since 2020, all produced, engineered, mixed, mastered, played and sang by Morlix in his Rootball Studio in Austin, and released on his label of the same name. Lest you think he's become a complete hermit, he also contributed to records by Steve Forbert, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and Buddy & Julie Miller during that time. Born in Buffalo NY and a permanent resident of Austin TX since 1991, he's an inductee to both city's Music Hall of Fame. Cobwebs & Stardust represents his 9th release of the last seven years, his 19th overall, and it's filled with his characteristic good humor, wry observations, and distinctive growl of a voice.

The record opens with "Gimme a Reason," a bluesy drawl that echoes Jack Nicholson's As Good As It Gets character when he says, "You make me want to be a better man." Even though Morlix insists, "All I've got, is what I know, what I've learned, from living' down low," he concedes that "You gimme a reason" for any number of self-bettering things: "to try not to fall," "to give it all," "to get my mind straight before it's too late," and so on. It's a

reluctant admission from someone who thought they already knew it all. It's followed by the simple acoustic guitar ballad "I Want to Hold Your Hand," a meditation on the most basic of needs, the human touch. With simple percussion and loaded pauses, it vibrates with honesty and intensity. At first glance, you could be forgiven for thinking this was a covers record—the first two song titles are almost those of other songs by other, better known, artists. The record closes with "The Man in the Mirror," but this is no more a Michael Jackson song than the first two were Pink or the Beatles. Both Morlix and Michael are talking about self-reflection, but while the latter sees an opportunity for change, the former recognizes what he has become. Dream-like keyboards and electric guitar swirl behind his musings on what the mirror man sees as he looks back out at him. "He's lookin' at me, got me wonderin', who does he see. Someone, he might recognize, or an imposter, in a poor disguise."

Songs don't get any more literal than "My Guitar Is a Blues Machine." While Woody Guthrie may have hoped "this machine kills fascists," Morlix claims his machine "says exactly what I mean," and "knows more than I do, I guarantee." "Money Grubbin' Blues" sees consumerism as the fallacy that it is, "Big money wearing' a thin disguise, tryin' to drown us in merchandise." In this case it's the ads, not the stories, that make him wish he hadn't watched the evening news. Meanwhile, the same hopelessness runs through the introspective "Deep, Dark America."

The balance shifts back toward the light with the sincerity of "The Center of Your Soul" and "Water from Your Spring." Both are loaded with desire and delivered with a straight-forward integrity. I would love to see Morlix play live again sometime, but in the absence of that, I will always take new music. And it seems as though he has plenty to give.

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>

"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

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Choose membership category:

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Regular \$15 _____

Family \$20 _____

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Contributing \$50 _____

Life \$500 _____

Scholarship fund donation (optional) \$ _____

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