Volume 52 No. 10 October 2026

Mad Folk News

Joe Jencks and Deidre McCalla Returns to the MadFolk stage on November 15!

♪♪Most of us know Joe Jencks music and love when he makes it to town. But back in May of 2024 he was touring with Deidre McCalla and they made a stop for MadFolk for a very special concert of two amazing performers. Well, when you put two master storytellers on a stage, it's not just a concert, it is a concert that you won't forget! Both have voices that are so pleasing to the ear, their voices are a quilt of music sewn together. Joe with that unmistakable baritone voice and various stringed instruments that seem to multiply every time I see him play and Deidre who makes her acoustic guitar meld with her voice so beautifully.

Check out some of the awards and places Deidre has played: Deidre McCalla spent 11 years recording with Olivia Records. Her first Olivia album, Don't Doubt It, is held in the Smithsonian's LGBT Collection at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., and was named one of Ms. Magazine's 25 Classic Women's Music Albums. In 2021 Deidre received a SERFA Award from the Southeast Regional Folk Alliance for Distinguished Service and Exceptional Contributions to Folk Music in the Southeast region of Folk Alliance International and in 2023 the National Women's Music Festival presented Deidre McCalla with the Jane Schliessman Award for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Music.

And here are some of Joe's past accomplishments, 2008 - Kerrville Folk Festival - New Folk Finalist ; 2008 - Dirty Linen Magazine's Best of 2007; 2007 - Falcon Ridge Folk Festival - Emerging Artist Showcase, NY; 2005 - Songwriting Contest Winner - Plowshares Songwriting Competition - Phoenixville, PA; 2005 - Songwriting Contest Winner - South Florida Folk Festival, Margate, FL; 2004 - Songwriting Contest Winner In Two Categories - Walnut Valley Music Festival, Winfield, KS; 2004 - Songwriting Contest Winner - Tumbleweed Music Festival, Richland, WA; 2003 - Songwriting Contest Winner - Tumbleweed Music Festival, Richland, WA;

But at the end of the day, even if they have won no awards, they are just such great performers that you will want to keep coming back every time they come to town. We have chosen a time for this show that you can still watch your Packers and have your music too. Feel free to grab to-go food from across the street at the Tip-Top, grab your seats when the doors open and enjoy a wonderful evening of music!

See the flyer in this newsletter for all the details and remember to please bring some food items for the food pantry!

Local Musicians sing to Benefit Homeless Families and Children

Local musicians Ken Lonnquist, Doug Brown, Esperé Eckard-Lee and Beth Kille will present a concert to benefit The Road Home, which provides supportive housing and case management for homeless families with children. The concert will be held Sunday, October 4 from 2-4 pm at the Friends Meetinghouse, 1704 Roberts Court, Madison.

Ken, Doug and Esperé will do a set, including some Ken Lonnquist originals, "Nobody knows my name" among them, and songs from their O'Darby repertoire. Then Beth will play a set, and finally as a special treat, they may be joined by local members of 350.org for some environmental songs of Ken's.

The Road Home, which holds that every child deserves a home, served over 200 families and over 430 children in Dane County last year, of whom 85% of enrolled families remained stably housed.

Join us for an afternoon of great local folk music for a good cause!

Donate to Mad Folk!

Join Mad Folk! (or renew)

With voices that carry generations of truth and melodies that stir the soul, this pairing is a rare and radiant convergence of artistry and authenticity.



Madison Folk Music Society PRESENTS

Joe Jencks & Deidre McCalla

Sunday, November 15
6:00 pm
THE NORTH STREET CABARET, 610 North St, Madison WI

Tickets $20 advance, $25 at the door

Available at: https://buytickets.at/madisonfolkmusicsociety/2427198

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

Madison Folk Music Society • See madfolk.org or our facebook page for latest show postings

♪♪ Sunday, November 15th - @6pm (doors at 5) $20 adv / $25 day of show
North Street Cabaret - 610 North St, Madison

MadFolk Annual meeting will be on October 4th at 6:00 p.m. via zoom.
Please visit madfolk.org for the meeting link.

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

Transients and Strangers - ritt deitz with wilder deitz
2026 BSK mastersound



Review by Kiki Schueler

When Madison mainstay Ritt Deitz titled his newest release Transients and Strangers he certainly wasn't referring to himself. He's well known on local stages as a singer/songwriter with eleven releases under his belt, as well as in UW classrooms where he's taught French for two and a half decades. And, since he moved to Madison shortly after graduating from the University of Virginia in 1988 to work on his Masters and PhD and never left, he certainly can't be accused of being transient. Some of the characters that inhabit these eleven songs might fit into these categories, but after a few listens, we know them too. But more on that later. Transients and Strangers features his son Wilder Deitz, who has been playing with his father since his teens. In addition to releasing music under his own name, Wilder is the founding director of the School for Creative Music in Madison where he teaches music to all ages. Ritt's homepage is subtitled "acoustic family roots music," which tells you exactly how important these connections are.

The younger Deitz's contributions are many. In addition to composing the record's two instrumentals, the brief (under a minute) fourth track "The Rose Cottage" and "La Belle Iseult" which ends side one, he plays piano, mandolin and bass, as well as adding backing vocals. The instrumentals allow him room to stretch out on the mandolin, while his piano becomes integral elsewhere. Originally featured on Ritt's 2007 record Upstream, "Hey Darlene" gets a remake here, and benefits from more keyboards. The song is packed with individuals you may not know at the beginning, but you feel like you recognize by the end. People like "Scotty Ray who spent near two years in jail for sending marijuana to his cousin through the mail." As for Darlene, I have to believe that she is the "girl whose laugh was like sunshine, with the moon in her hair." The nearly five minutes spent in their company is time well spent. It's followed by the barroom piano bounce of "Around and Round," which growls and swings like a night on Bourbon Street, and is almost as much fun.

The waitress in "I've Got Things to Do" is one Harry Chapin might recognize. She might still be living in the town she grew up in, but she is still "open to change and things brand new." Her wistfulness echoes in the melancholic mandolin. While you're there, you might want to try the key lime pie. "Old Seventeen" enlists the talents of Disq drummer Brendan Manley, whose cymbal crashes make this journey the catchiest one here. Even if it ends up exactly where it began, back on old 17. It's followed by the traditional "Bury Me Beneath the Willow" with the addition of a new verse that adds one white lily to the grave, "so she will know of her I'm dreaming." Some might consider our time here as transient, at least that seems to be the message of "Mighty Old Wheel." A circle of life meditation written from the perspective of a newly minted grandfather looking forward, while also reflecting on his own roots. In the minimal liner notes, along with run times, musicians, production and publishing, there's a message so important that it shows up twice. Behind the CD, just below artist and title, are the words "only love is stronger than music." And then again, in microscopic print, just below the credits. Spoken like someone who knows.

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

Madison Folk Music Society Board

DarleneBuhler.....President,Concerts, Advertising
225-0710~ darlene@blettner.com
Jocelyn Acuna.....Treasurer
jocelyn@offthecuffaccounting.com
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849-3510 ~ nfwodke@chorus.net
DedeGoldberg.....Newsletter distribution
246-4332 ~ speedydd99@yahoo.com
Neil Morris.....Newsletter editor
358-5855 ~ madfolk@wiscomfort.com
Meg Skinner..... Scholarships
238-6950 ~ meggskinner@gmail.com
Eric Hester.....Board Member
224-0093 ~ Eric@erichester.com

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

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)

Venues

muso

muso
2040 Winnebago Street
Madison WI
musomadison.com

- Sat, Oct 3rd, @7pm - Annual Midwest Cajun Jam Gathering
- Tue, Oct 6th, @6:30pm - We're Just Folking Around
- Weds, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 @5pm - Madison Song Circle
- Thu, Oct 9th, @7pm - Jim Malcolm from Scotland
- Fri, Oct 15th, @6:30pm - Dolly Parton Tribute Singalong Celebration
- Thu, Oct 20th, @7pm - Sea Shanty Sing
- Tue, Oct 23rd, @7pm - l'il Rev on Blues Harp & Ukelele
- Fri, Oct 29th, @6pm - Classical Guitar Concert

Folklore Village

FOLKLORE VILLAGE ...passing it on
3210 Cty Hwy BB
Dodgeville, WI
folklorevillage.org
608-924-4000

- Oct 23rd-25th, Fall Swedish Music & Dance Weekend.
  For fees and registration visit folklorevillage.org

The Malt House

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

- 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

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

- 10/9 Josh Ritter
- 10/10 Special Consensus
- 10/16 Jeffrey Foucault@7:30pm - $30
- 10/22 Michael Perry
- 10/23 Karla Bonoff
- 10/24 Arcadian Wild

NORTH STREET CABARET

610 North St
Madison, WI
northstreetcabaret.com

- Fri, Nov 20th - Jake Blount - @7:30pm

Cafe Carpe

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

- Thursday Oct 1 Sarah Morris
- Friday Oct 2 Connor Garvey
- Saturday Oct 3 Lonesome Bill
- Sunday Oct 4 Von Carpe Family
- Friday October 9 Claudia Russell & the Folk Unlimited Orchestra
- Saturday Oct 10 Ernie Hendrickson
- Sunday Oct 11 Guzzo (Jeremy) Pinc
- Wednesday Oct 14 LivLaFluv/ Maximiano/ Lucy London
- Thursday Oct 15 Satchel Paige with Ruthie McQuinn & Nick Lang
- Friday Oct 16 Laura Veirs
- Saturday Oct 17 Jess Klein
- Wednesday Oct 21 Round Robin w/ Tricia Alexander
- Thursday Oct 22 Cam Pierce

Saturday Oct 24 The TexPats

Black Hawk Folk Society

Mt. Morris Town Park
N3847 County Rd G
Wautoma

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

Wild Hog in the Woods



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

- Friday, Oct 2nd at 7:30pm- Dan and Faith Senie / Andina and Rich
- Friday, Oct 9th at 7:30pm- February Sky
- Friday, Oct 16th at 7:30pm- Raging Grannies
- Saturday, Oct 17th at 2pm- Hootenanny!
- Friday, Oct 23rd at 7:30pm- Bounding Main
- Friday, Oct 30th at 7:30pm- Leafy Greens



BENEFIT CONCERT

The Road Home
Dane County

Join

KEN LONNQUIST,
DOUG BROWN &
ESPERÉ ECKARD-LEE
•
BETH KILLE
•
O'DARBY

OCT 4
2 PM - 4 PM
QUAKER MEETING HOUSE
1704 Roberts Ct, Madison

WORT
EIGHTY NINE.NINE FM
COMMUNITY RADIO • MADISON, WI



Benefit Concert to support The Road Home - helping to end family homelessness in Dane County

TICKETS / DONATIONS
$25 or whatever is comfortable for you.
QR code above or pay at door

Stark
COMPANY REALTORS
Anna Trull & Evan Braun

ORANGE TREE IMPORTS

GALLO
MEN'S CLOTHIER

SPENCER
REAL ESTATE GROUP

"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!

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

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

☐ 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 _____
Scholorship 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