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# Mad Folk NEWS

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Newsletter of the Madison Folk Music Society

Volume 31, No. 2 / February 2005

Mad Folk presents

## Matt Watroba and Lou & Peter Berryman

Lou & Peter Berryman were so excited to hear that Mad Folk was going to be presenting Matt Watroba in concert, they begged to share the bill with him, and we just couldn't turn them down!

Lou says, "Peter and I first met Matt when he interviewed us on his folk music radio show at WDET in Detroit. That was back in the mid-'80s and we've been fast friends ever since. He's a joy to listen to, as well as know, and we just know that Madison audiences will love him as we do."

Early exposure to Tom Paxton formed Matt's taste for folk roots and folk revival music, and it inspired a life in music which as been extremely varied for such a relatively young man. He can, and does, sing it all, though.

He put himself through college by performing wherever and whenever he could, and his repertoire spans generations and genres. A fabulous musical memory holds some 6,000 songs. Formerly a high school English teacher, Matt brings a love of language and nuance to his song choices as well as his ability to capture and hold an audience, for his concerts are entertaining as well as enlightening.

Matt's years as a radio folk music disc jockey certainly have added to his astounding grasp of folk music of all kinds. He has produced his show, "Folks Like Us," for more than 20 years, showcasing the talents of virtually every folksinger and songwriter you can mention. Part of his charm as



a performer is an ability to share his experiences, and he holds his audiences with engaging sing-alongs as well as thoughtful ballads.

Matt was awarded "Best Overall Folk Performer" by the Detroit Music Awards for the year 2000, and his long list of credits include the prestigious Ann Arbor Folk Festival, the Detroit 300 celebration, The Ark, the Spirit of the Woods Festival, the New Jersey Folk Weekend, Louisville's Kentucky Music Weekend, and hundreds of school and community presentations throughout the Great Lakes Region. He has shared the stage with some of our greatest performers including Pete Seeger, Tom Paxton, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Arlo Guthrie, Shawn Colvin, Christine Lavin, Peter Yarrow, Richard Thompson, and why, yes, Lou & Peter Berryman!

*Jukebox Folk* is Matt's latest album, one in which he celebrates the work of early country songwriters and

his own burgeoning talent for the craft as well. A highlight of the album is harmony from Michigan's Katie Geddes, and Matt has agreed to let Lou Berryman stand in for her on some of the songs in this concert.

Lou & Peter Berryman have been entertaining Madison audiences just about 30 years, and last year's Madison Repertory Theater production of a new musical, *Love is the Weirdest of All: The Music of Lou & Peter Berryman*, was a delightful recap of their long career. They're not done yet, and are still touring nationally and working on new material for another CD (#16!), which should be out in the fall of 2005. Of course, many of their newest tunes will be displayed this evening.

Please join Mad Folk in welcoming Matt Watroba to Madison! The concert will be held on the east side at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1021 Spaight Street (which shares its parking lot with Wil-Mar Center) on March 5, 2005, at 8 p.m. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$16 day of show and are available at B-side Records, Borders Bookshops East & West, Spruce Tree Music, Orange Tree Imports, and Steep & Brew (Odana Rd).



If you haven't renewed,  
**THIS IS IT!**

if your label has an expiration date prior to Jan 2005 or says "Time to Renew," you need to renew your membership. If you don't do it now, you won't be getting next month's *Mad Folk News*.

As a reminder, your membership benefits include receiving this newsletter every month, a \$1 discount off the DOOR price (not advance price) of any Mad Folk event, and a coupon good for a 10% discount (up to \$15) on accessories, strings, books, and music at Spruce Tree Music. Take some time to renew now!

## “WISCON-SING” program in Madison on March 12

Folksinger David HB Drake will present “WISCON-SING,” his sing-along song and slide portrait of the state, at the Wisconsin Historical Museum on the Capitol Square in Madison on Saturday, March 12 at 1 p.m.

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and 2:30 p.m. Call 608-264-6566 for information.

The hour-long program presents songs that introduce Wisconsin from the original inhabitants through the

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

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