

Immediate release: 23-April-2010

HEADER: **Spring when music collective's fancy turns to love of tradition.**

SLUG: **April 30th Kick-Off Event to unveil line-up and release tickets for late-summer's 7th annual Sugar Maple Music Festival**

Madison, WI - Simmering over the last six years (into a rolling boil each summer) cooks Madison's own traditional music soup. And as tradition has it, Pavlov's proverbial bell once again will ring-in the annual Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival with a spring kick-off concert.

But why all the fuss three months before the 7th annual event is even dished-out?

"Actually all the fuss begins about 10 months prior to the festival," says entertainment coordinator Bob Batyko, one of several core volunteers with The Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective (FLTMC), producers of the festival. "We've been planning the main stage talent and educational offerings since September. The [kick-off] unveils our fruits-of-labor to date as we announce the artists that will join us at Lake Farm Park in August."

The Kick-Off Show not only serves as a stage to announce the festival line-up, but stages past festival artists as well.

Shotgun Party, the Austin trio who wowed the crowd at the 2009 Sugar Maple Fest, returns to Madison to headline the 2010 Sugar Maple Festival Kick Off Concert at the High Noon Saloon, Friday, April 30th. The show also welcomes back from Milwaukee **Frogwater** (also 2009 fest alumnus) and features local favorite **Jim James and the Damn Shames**. The Kickoff Concert starts promptly at 8pm (21 and up) and is a modest \$10 cover charge.

Festival treasurer Mark Schlutt is also excited for the kick-off show. "We typically sign-up many of the hundred or so volunteers it takes to run the festival at the spring concert."

According to Schlutt, the extremely popular, early bird-priced festival pass will also be available at the Kick-Off for only \$20. After that, advance-price tickets will be available at Whole Foods (University Avenue), Willy Street Co-op, Spruce Tree Music, and on-line at <http://sugarmaplefest.org/tickets/>.

The 7th Annual Sugar Maple Music Festival takes place August 6-7, 2010 at Lake Farm County Park in Madison. Contact www.fourlakesmusic.org or 608/227.8685 for more information.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

The original **Shotgun Party** trio met in a little Texas dive bar in 2006. They got their start performing weekly at Austin's own Continental Club. Sparks flew and now Shotgun Party, the Austin based trio, really knows how to fire up a crowd! Their original songs are beautiful and timeless drawing influences from early blues, country, bluegrass and depression era swing. Katy Rose Cox's fearless fiddling is simply virtuosic. Miss Jenny Parrott's gorgeous vocals and addictive songs will bring you to your knees. ... and introducing Shotgun Party's newest member, (and Madison native) **Andrew Austin-Petersen** on show stopping upright bass! The group became an instant sensation at the 2009 Sugar Maple Music Festival!

Frogwater features a cross-pollination of musical styles: Celtic, Bluegrass, old-time, and blues. Their performances are particularly influenced by their love of Irish and Scottish music. Alongside **Susan Nicholson's** flashing fingers on the fiddle, husband John adds his prowess on Celtic, Blues, and finger-style guitar.

Jim James and the Damn Shames started playing together in Madison in 2002. UW Grad Student and freelance arts & science write James Travis leads the quartet's original Americana Rock tunes that suit the front porch to the main stage.

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8pm - Frogwater

(Milwaukee, WI. Celtic-style bluegrass/folk duo and 2009 Sugar Maple Fest alumn!)
www.frogwater.us

9pm - Jim James & The Damn Shames

(Madison, WI. Willy Street Rockabilly... Bascom Hillbilly... Capitol City Country!)
myspace.com/thedamnshames

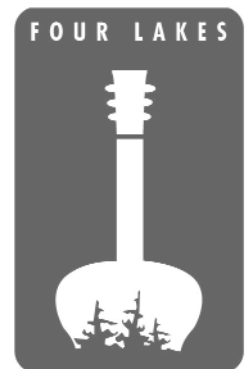
10pm - Shotgun Party

(Austin, TX. High-energy blues/swing trio and 2009 Sugar Maple Fest favorite!)
www.shotgunfiesta.com

Midnight - All-Band Jam

The Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective, is a non-profit organization supporting the art of traditional music and dance throughout the greater Madison community. We provide educational and performance opportunities that bring together people of all ages to celebrate diverse musical traditions. Contact us if you'd like more information or would like to get involved.

Photos? Interviews? CDs?
Please contact:
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FOUR LAKES TRADITIONAL MUSIC COLLECTIVE, INC. 501(c)3

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