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HEADER: **New Traditions at High Noon Saloon**
SLUG: **Sugar Maple Concert Series continues Dec 10 with two acclaimed groups from the Appalachian region**

Madison, WI - Some looked forward to 2009 as the year of change, while others argue it's the same-old, same old.

Ironically, the two themes will fuse Dec 10 when the Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective presents two innovatively charged, traditional music groups at the High Noon Saloon in Madison.

Mountain Heart (from Nashville) and **The Hot Seats** (from Richmond) simultaneously illustrate their own breakthroughs in traditional music, while reaching deep into the genre's roots. Perhaps each groups' sound is not your average pick-and-grin, but rather the echo each others holler across the wide gorge from which they came.

Both bands make their Madison debut as part of the 2009/10 Sugar Maple Concert Series. Advance tickets are available for \$12 at www.high-noon.com, or at the door for \$15. Ages 21 and over only.

Organizers regard the concert series as a year-round celebration of the past, present and future of the annual summer Sugar Maple Festival, where a broad spectrum of traditional music from Appalachia to Zydeco is featured and performed by the local, regional and national artists who perfect them.

The remainder of the 2009/10 Sugar Maple Concert Series lineup has yet to be announced, but the concerts often expose performers that have, or will play, the festival stage. Organizers expect several shows through April 2010 when the 7th Annual Sugar Maple Music Festival lineup, discount tickets and camping passes are released. A portion of the Sugar Maple Concert Series' proceeds help produce the annual festival, which takes place in 2010 on August 6-7 at Lake Farm County Park in Madison. Contact www.fourlakesmusic.org or 608/227.8685 for more information.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Direct from Nashville, **Mountain Heart** takes center stage for 90-some exciting minutes of superlative and cutting-edge musicianship. Recently named 2010 headliners at 17th Annual Wintergrass and Del McCoury annual festival, Mountain Heart deftly combines elements of rock, jamband, country, blues, jazz, and bluegrass into a high-energy sound that is at once fresh, accessible, and unmistakable. The musical direction they take may be "new," but they are no stranger to the traditional music scene. Forming in Nashville as 20-somethings circa 1999, Mountain Heart already owns wide critical acclaim as a group, with a tremendous undercurrent of individual achievement. The result simply is a show not to be missed. Founding members **Barry Abernathy** (banjo/vocal) and **Jim VanCleve** (fiddle) each arrive with extremely impressive backgrounds. Winner of 1997's Banjo Player of the Year award from the Society for the Preservation of Blue Grass Music in America, Barry began his musical career performing bluegrass gospel with Silver Creek, but first came to national attention as a member of one of the decade's hottest bluegrass bands, IIIrd Tyme Out. From 1994 to 1998, the Georgia-born banjo player/lead vocalist was a featured member of Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, recording five albums with the award-winning ensemble before leaving to form Mountain Heart. Barry's heartfelt and earthy vocal tones are in perfect compliment to Josh Shilling's soaring tenor lines and his banjo playing defies logic, considering he was born with no fingers on his left hand. Barry's on-stage demeanor and his ability to relate with his audience is one of the cornerstones for Mountain Heart's exciting live performances. Fiddle player Jim VanCleve remains one of the most in-demand top-call session musicians in Nashville. Arguably the choice for "everybody" who records in Nashville, VanCleve's bio drops names like Del, Doc, Merle, Johnny, Willie, and dozens more that need no last name. Perhaps someday, if not already, most'll know him as just 'Jim.'

The Hot Seats (formerly known as Special Ed And The Shortbus) strum, saw and pick their way through an Appalachian-steeped mix of neo-trad tunes. Their bio boasts a long list of awards and accolades from competitions and festivals like Clifftop, Galaxy Bluegrass, and Edinburgh Fringe. The Hot Seats' original music is simultaneously hard to classify and instantly identifiable, combining the virtuosic soloing and tightness of bluegrass, the band-driven rhythm of old time, the jerky bounce of ragtime, and the swagger of good old rock and roll. Add some eastern melodies, a few modernist ideals, and an uncanny feel for comic timing, and you begin to approach this sound. While striving to push tradition forward, the band takes great pride in their ability to play within a tradition style as well as without.

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**7PM 10-DEC '09
HIGH-NOON SALOON**



**MOUNTAIN
HEART**

with

**THE
HOT
SEATS**

7pm - The Hot Seats
(Richmond, VA. Appalachian-steeped bluegrass/crunk/blues.)

8:30pm - Mountain Heart
(Nashville, TN. Nashville's award-winning bluegrass mavericks.)

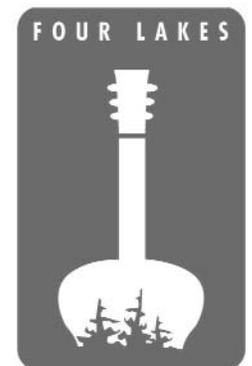
10pm - All-band jam

Related web links:

www.mountainheart.com
www.thehotseats.net
www.high-noon.com
www.fourlakesmusic.org

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 **Jef Pertzborn**
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