

NOVEMBER 2024 EVENTS

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FRI, NOV 8

Truthsgiving at The Englert

A Night of Powerful Truth about Truthsgiving & Colonization

THURS, NOV 14

Panel Series: Music at The Englert

Learn how to build a life in the music industry

FRI, NOV 15

John McCutcheon at The Englert

Master instrumentalist, powerful singer-songwriter, storyteller, activist, and author

SAT, NOV 16

The Beaker Brothers Band at The Englert

Paying homage to the music of Santana

SUN, NOV 17

Sierra Hull at The Englert

Two-time Grammy Nominated artist and songwriter

WED, NOV 20

Los Lobos at The Englert

One of the most prolific rock bands ever

THURS, DEC 5

Joe Pug & Robert Ellis at The James

Apart of Englert's songwriter series

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Family Folk Machine

In the Garden of **HOPE**

Sunday, November 10, 2024
3 p.m.

Englert Theatre
221 E. Washington St.
Iowa City

Free! Donations welcome!
www.familyfolkmachine.org

In partnership with:
ICSC
IOWA CITY SENIOR CENTER

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Art by Sam Brown and Susan Stamnes

The Family Folk Machine is a non-auditioned, intergenerational, nonprofit choir. We build community through singing songs with our neighbors, explore American history and culture through song, foster individual musical growth, and pursue excellence as an ensemble.



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Sundari, continue to let your inner light shine! We wish we could be there for your performance. Break a leg!

*Love always,
Doddamma, Doddappa, and your cousins Iyla, Sahana,
and Mitali, and LOTS of love from Mummu and Ajja*

**MARTIN
CONSTRUCTION**
IOWA CITY, IOWA

In memory of

ANTONIO "TONY" MANZO

Becky and Reed Renneckar



ARMISTICE DAY OBSERVANCE

Monday, November 11

10:45 AM on the Ped Mall Stage

Rededicate Ourselves to the Works of Peace

Bells Will Ring at the 11th hour, 11th Day, 11th Month.

Free lunch for all at ICPL after the outdoor observance.

www.vfp161.org

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Reflects donations made 7/1/2023 through 6/30/2024

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FIX THIS PLACE

Alma Drake and Michael Crow
arr. Alma Drake and Jean Littlejohn
Jeffrey Morgan, Morgan Brown, Kristi Abuissa, and Josie Dunnington, soloists

Old Pete Seeger lived along the Hudson River, 'cause he loved that Dirty Stream and he was worried about the water. In 1969 they launched the Sloop Clearwater, and in '72 sailed to Washington and persuaded with a concert. He and Bobby Kennedy became the Water-Keepers: "Think Globally! Act Locally!" still inspires the people. We can fix this place, together we can do it. We can fix this place, if we put our hearts into it. Well, we might not be able to fix the whole world, but we sure can fix this place. Doctor Samantha Tol studied seagrass off the coast that were plagued by a fungus, oh, they thought that grass was toast. But Doctor Samantha figured out that the seeds that were eaten by sea turtles and pooped into the sea were immune to the fungus: Hooray for turtle poop! Now that seagrass holds more carbon than the rainforests do. Mister Ron Finley, called the Gangster Gardener, decided to bring beauty to Los Angeles South Central by planting gardens in old, abandoned lots. But City Hall didn't like it, so they called in the cops. Ron Finley fought the city and the gardens won, like flowers growing through the cracks of concrete in the sun. Well now, humans have not been the greatest of tenants on this planet that made us, maybe we should do some penance. It seems overwhelming, but like Pete used to say, "Think Globally! Act Locally!" and we'll surely find the way, 'cause the turtles and other critters can't fix it all alone. We need to think and act so we'll all still have a home. We sure can fix this place!

I AM WILLING

Lynn Partridge, soloist

Holly Near
arr. Jean Littlejohn

I am open, and I am willing, for to be hopeless would seem so strange. It dishonors those who go before us, so lift me up to the light of change. There is hurting in my family; and there is sorrow in my town. There is panic all across the nation, and there is wailing the whole world 'round. May the children see more clearly, and may the elders be more wise. May the wind of change caress us, even though it burns our eyes. Give me a mighty oak to hold my confusion, and give me a desert to hold my fears. Give me a sunset to hold my wonder, and give me an ocean to hold my tears.

CARRY IT ON

Buffy Sainte-Marie
arr. Jon Ranard

Hold your head up, lift the top of your mind. Put your eyes on the earth, lift your heart to your own home planet. What do you see? What is your attitude? Are you here to improve or damn it? Look right now and you will see we're only here by the skin of our teeth, as it is. So take heart and take care of your link with life. Oh, carry it on (we're saying). Oh, carry it on (keep playing). Oh, carry it on (and praying). Oh, carry it on. It ain't money that makes the world go 'round, that's only temporary confusion. It ain't governments that make the people strong, it's the opposite illusion. Look right now and you will see they're only here by the skin of their teeth, as it is. So, take heart and take care of your link with life. It's beautiful if you've got the sense to take care of your source of perfection. Mother Nature, she's the daughter of Dawn and the source of all protection. Look right now, and you will see she's only here by the skin of her teeth, as it is. So, take heart and take care of your link with life.



We extend our gratitude to our friends at **Hills Bank** for supporting this concert through a one-time matching fund donation. Thank you!

You can make a secure online donation to the **FAMILY FOLK MACHINE** by scanning this QR code or by mailing a check to:

FAMILY FOLK MACHINE
P.O. Box 1421
Iowa City, IA 52244



FAMILY FOLK MACHINE SINGERS

Kristi Abuissa
 Asha Bhandary and Sundari Bhandary-Narayanan
 Ellen Avoletta
 Amanda Axley
 Laura Bergus
 Glenda Buenger
 Aprille Clarke and Callum Crall
 Libby Conley
 Michael Crow
 John and Donita Grebner, Harper and Olivia
 Celia Dunnington
 Josie Dunnington and Sasha Jakob
 Emily Edrington
 Michele England
 Sara Feldmann
 Ed Flaherty
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 Renee Harper and Beatrice
 Susan Henke and Star Marcelino
 Denise Kanne
 Craig Kessler and Janet Lessner
 Joe Klingelhutz
 Alex Korotkov
 Jenna Ladd
 Dave Larew
 Perry Lenz
 Shawna Levy
 Gene Light
 Ruth Manna
 Joe McGee
 Marty Miller
 Jeffrey Morgan
 Mindy Myers and Orion Orrico
 Laurie Neuerburg and Micah
 Kat Nydam Olivier and Louise
 Bill O'Neill

Lynn and Jerry Partridge
 Mike Partridge and Amy Dobrian
 Cecelia Proffitt and Conor Hilton
 Harper, Emerson, and Zora Hilton
 Reed Renneckar
 Derek Rodgers and Margot
 David Rust
 Michael Sauder
 Mendi Schmelzel
 Harper Sherwood-Reid
 Christine Sobocinski and Nora
 Susan Stammes
 Martha Szyberg
 Mary Trachsel
 Elizabeth Willmore, Sam and Morgan Brown

FAMILY FOLK MACHINE BAND

Morgan Brown, ukulele
 Callum Crall, ukulele
 Alma Drake, guitar
 Harper Grebner, ukulele
 Laurie Haag, cajón, drums, and percussion
 Craig "Pappy" Klocke, various instruments
 Jean Littlejohn, banjo
 Micah Neuerburg, ukulele
 Orion Orrico, ukulele
 Jon Ranard, keyboard
 Geb Thomas, bass guitar
 Nicole Upchurch, ukulele

LEADERSHIP

Jean Littlejohn, Director
 Alma Drake, Associate Director
 Jon Ranard, Associate Director
 Nicole Upchurch, Kids' Program Instructor

The **FAMILY FOLK MACHINE** is proud to share the Englert stage with the *Lena Kids Choir*, a lively group of children ages 4 through 9, united by their care for Mother Earth. Under the direction of Emily Pritchard and accompanied by John McNamara, they hope to inspire a connection to nature through the joy of music, and to spread awareness about the importance of protecting Earth. Members of this enthusiastic group include Izzy Andrews, Emily Boyce, Matthew Boyce, Hattie Guthrie, Millicent Guthrie, Annie Jay, Augie Jones, Sophie Lathrop, Rowan Morton, Alli Romero, Quin Romero, Belle Ruppel, and Vivian Ruppel. Welcome to all!

IN MEMORY OF A BROTHER.
LONG MAY YOU RUN.

Reed Renneckar



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The **FAMILY FOLK MACHINE** celebrates **The Green House**, an oasis of greenery located in the heart of Iowa City, but off the beaten path. Using local tinctures, herbs, and bitters to create specialty cocktails with a botanical twist, **The Green House** also offers a plethora of Iowa craft beer, locally made ciders, and many other plant-themed libations, both spirit-full and spirit-free. With indoor seating, two outdoor patios, and an edible garden, **The Green House** offers a welcoming and cozy atmosphere for all. Through a sustainability grant, **The Green House** now owns a countertop composting machine and a hydroponic herb growing station, making it possible to grow the very herbs used on site. Also involved with *Prompt for the Planet*, **The Green House** promises to maintain and exceed its sustainability goals and look for ways to reduce waste whenever possible. For more information, visit the lobby display, and be sure to **REGISTER FOR TODAY'S DRAWING** for two gift cards, generously donated by **The Green House!**



The Family Folk Machine presents

IN THE GARDEN OF HOPE

ROAD TO NOWHERE

David Byrne, Tina Weymouth, Jerry Harrison, and Chris Franz
via the Talking Heads
arr. Jean Littlejohn

Dave Larew, soloist

*Well, we know where we're going, but we don't know where we've been.
And we know what we're knowing, but we can't say what we've seen.
And we're not little children, and we know what we want. And the future is certain, give us time to work it out.
We're on a road to nowhere, come on inside. Taking that ride to nowhere. We'll take that ride.
I'm feeling okay this morning, and you know, we're on a road to Paradise. Here we go, here we go.
We're on a ride to nowhere, come on inside. Taking that ride to nowhere, we'll take that ride.
Maybe you wonder where you are, I don't care. Here is where time is on our side. Take you there, take you there.
There's a city in my mind: come along and take that ride and it's all right. Baby, it's all right.
And it's very far away, but it's growing day by day and it's all right. Baby, it's all right.
Would you like to come along? You could help us sing this song and it's all right. Baby, it's all right.
They can tell you what to do, but they'll make a fool of you and it's all right. Baby, it's all right.*

GOOD PEOPLE

Benjamin Walter, David Lovett, Edward James, Milton Dwane,
Marcus Oliver Johnston Mumford, and Pharrell L. Williams
arr. Jean Littlejohn

Orion Orrico, soloist

*Now I'm done being tired so right now I'm inspired. Welcome to the revelation.
I was once underwater and now I'm on fire. Welcome to the revelation.
And I feel it in the air, that Mother Earth ain't steady. Feel so alive even though times are deadly.
And in my soul (get ready) something is stirring now (get ready)
And I'm not worried (get ready), you better get ready to see now (get ready)
Good people been down for so long, and now it's like the sun is rising.
Long was the night, but you know we've been dreaming. City's getting loud 'cause the mountains are screaming.
When you've been through it all and it won't get no worse, and the first shall be lost, and the lost shall be first.
And in my soul, something is stirring now, and I'm not worried. You better get ready to see now.
The sun is rising, it's coming, it's on its way. So nothing tonight is getting in the way.*

HOPE

Ysaÿe M. Barnwell

*If we want hope to survive in this world today, then every day we've got to sing on, sing on.
If we want peace in the world we've got to work on.
If we want hope to survive in this world today, then every day we've got to walk/work/move/march/teach/sing on.*

LET THE SUN SHINE DOWN ON ME

Jean Ritchie
arr. Jean Littlejohn

*Roll on, clouds, in the morning. Roll on, clouds, in the morning.
Roll on, clouds, in the morning, let the sun shine down on me.
Bound away for glory, I am bound for glory and deliverance.
Roll on, clouds, in the morning, let the sun shine down on me.*

*I looked out this morning, deep down trouble I see. I looked out this morning, let the sun shine down on me.
Saw that big cloud rising, hard trouble I see. I heard my mother crying, let the sun shine down on me.
I know there's a great day coming, when no more trouble I'll see,
when we'll all shout together, "Let the sun shine down on me!"*

A LITTLE SEED

Mabel Watts and Mary Lou Siegal

A little seed for me to sow, a little soil to help it grow. A little sun, a little shower, a little wait, and then a flower.

SONG FOR THE SEEDS

Siri Penchauer Undlin
aka Humbird
arr. Jean Littlejohn

*Oh bluebell, do tell. I'm listening, and I mean well.
Even monsters like their flowers. You watch them fall from their towers.
Through the cracks, one seed at a time, I give back what was never mine.
Yarrow, what of tomorrow? Teach me to heal my sorrow.
Set the boundary, soft and loving. Clean the wounds of each day for mending.
Clover, I step over, takes water from the sky and sows her.
No more lawns, I will lay you down, learn to be patient and spread it out.
O cosmos, where do we go? It's big out there and hard to know what it means, but you're out there dancing.
Could it be as simple as catching the breeze?*

IN THE GARDEN OF HOPE (world premiere)

Alma Drake and Janet Lessner
arr. Jon Ranard

Alma Drake and Janet Lessner, soloists

*When the world is too heavy to carry, come with me.
When you're hanging by a thread at the end of your rope, when the sign of the times reads,
"Here dragons be," come and walk with me in the Garden of Hope.
"Unprecedented" is a word we hear a great deal. Every time you take a step, you're on a slippery slope.
When the news is all bad and you just want to heal, take my hand and walk in the Garden of Hope.
You can cultivate dreams in your Garden of Hope. Create fabulous schemes in your Garden of Hope.
Avoid painful extremes, see what your life means in your Garden of Hope.
Plant the seeds, pull the weeds in your Garden of Hope.
If the light in the tunnel appears to be out, and you wonder how you'll ever be able to cope,
you can take a deep breath and look all about. Friends and family wait in your Garden of Hope.
The problems of this world seem wide and deep. And sometimes for solutions we blindly grope.
But we can never give up, and the faith we must keep. Seek inspired answers in your Garden of Hope.
You can plant love/peace/truth/seeds/home/family/memories in your garden.*

MOTHER EARTH IS THE VERY BEST PLACE TO PLAY

The Lena Earth Warrior Kids Choir

*I like to jump, jump, jump off the rocks. It makes me feel like I can fly.
I like to lay, lay, lay in the grass. It tickles my legs with its spikes.
I like to play, play, play at the beach. The waves crash up to my thighs.
I like to pose, pose, pose like a tree. Sway in the wind and touch the sky.
I've been around here for 5 or 6 or 7 years and I've got something to say.
Mother Earth is the very best place to play!
I like to walk, walk, walk in the woods. I search for all the biggest trees.
I like to crunch, crunch, crunch in a pile. Hide in a blanket made of leaves.
I like the rain, rain, rain on my head. It gives the plants the drink they need.
I like the snow, snow, snow on the ground. I can build and sled and climb and dream.
Earth is not just the best place to play, it is the only place to play.
There is no guarantee. There is no Planet B.
I like to breathe, breathe, breathe in the air. Makes me feel like I'm alive.
I like the leaves, leaves, leaves as they dance. Reminds me I'm alright.*

THE HARMONY TREE (*world premiere*)

Sasha Jakob, soloist

Alma Drake
arr. Alma Drake and Jean Littlejohn

*I know you're hurting, blistering anger, prickling fear.
I know you're wanting a future that's peaceful and clear of the rage and the discord
that plague our brave and sweet home. If there's a god listening, bring us unity and calm.
We need to sing together again under the harmony tree.
We need to see each other as friends, one people, caring and free.
I want your children and mine to know the love of a community. Come and meet me under the harmony tree.
We've been divided, sliced and diced by the Powers That Be until we can't recognize our common humanity.
The system is broken, rigged in favor of the Corporate Few who don't care about us,
or understand what it is that they do.
We are so many. We have the advantage of choice. We have the power in our hearts and with our voice.
We can tell it and think it, speak it and breathe it and sing it out loud
'til we rise like an ocean in hope and love, a wave strong and proud.*

I HAVE A MILLION NIGHTINGALES

Linda Hirschhorn
Text inspired by Mahmoud Darwish

I have a million nightingales on the branches of my heart, singing freedom.

RED AND GOLD

Gene Light and Glenda Buenger, soloists

Adam and David Moss (The Brother Brothers)
arr. Jon Ranard

*Red and gold, that's my name. And I'm there at the end of each and every day.
Blue skies or rain, clear cloudy days, I am there. Come and find me.
And the hillside, she's my friend. On her shoulder's where I go to lay my head,
high above the sea in her bosom soft and green. She is there to lay beside me.
My lady, cool blue water, for the way I love to lay myself upon her.
And everywhere you see she is looking after me until I go, just like so many.
But I'm here, red and gold. In the evening I am something to behold.
And in my waking hours I lay among the flowers. I am here, come and find me.*

FALL ON ME

Mike Partridge and Sam Brown, soloists

Bill Berry, Michael Stipe, Mike Mills, and Peter Dinklage
via R.E.M. and Cry, Cry, Cry
arr. Jean Littlejohn

*There's the problem, feathers, iron, bargain buildings, weights and pulleys.
Feathers hit the ground before the weight can leave the air.
Buy the sky, and sell the sky, and tell the sky, and tell the sky, "Don't fall on me."
What is it up in the air for? If it's there for long it's over, it's over me.
There's a progress, we have found a way to talk around the problem. Building towered foresight isn't anything at all.
When the rain, when the children reign, keep your conscience in the dark, melt the statues in the park.
Buy the sky, and sell the sky, and bleed the sky, and tell the sky, "Don't fall on me."
Well I would keep it above, but then it wouldn't be sky anymore.
So if I send it to you, you've got to promise to keep it whole.
Buy the sky, and sell the sky, and lift your arms up to the sky, and ask the sky, and ask the sky, "Don't fall on me."*

TINNY

Micah Neuerburg, Orion Orrico, Morgan Brown, and Beatrice Harper, soloists

Bahamian folk song, arr. Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem
further arr. Jean Littlejohn

*Tinny, lend me your pony to keep company with mine,
'cause my pony's gone running down the track; my pony's gone wild.
Tinny, lend me your rooster... 'cause my rooster's gone crowing for the day.
Tinny, lend me your crocodile... 'cause my crocodile's sitting in the sun.
Tinny, lend me your humpback whale... 'cause my whale is gone.*

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In the Garden of Hope

Welcome to this concert by the Family Folk Machine! We have some wonderful songs to share with you today, and you are heartily encouraged to sing along!

Our project as a choir is to bring people together and strengthen our bonds, in opposition to the societal forces that are working to separate and isolate us. By coming together, we can set intentions and shore up the hope we need to face the challenges of our world together. That's what this concert is about: building hope and honoring our love for the earth enough to believe we can help fix some of the damage humanity has done. Please join your voice with ours!

Along with the multitude of other thanks that are owed for bringing us to concert day, I want to take a quick moment to honor my co-directors. It's such a privilege to have a songsmith on our staff, especially one who can come up with a great song based on a new session title, and even more especially one who is so good at pulling in collaborators. Much love to you, Alma! And my hat is off to Jon, who has done such a terrific job working on development for the Machine. Thanks for keeping us running, Jon!

If you're thinking about joining us for the spring session of the Family Folk Machine, rehearsals will begin January 12. You're welcome to come give it a try! Thanks again for joining us for today's concert!

Jean

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Neighbors who want to work together to develop and fund community-driven projects.

We offer grants of **space, time, and money**, and we're sticking with folks for the long haul.



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The Family Folk Machine extends our sincere appreciation to the following:

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Nicole Upchurch, ukulele instruction
Craig "Pappy" Klocke, ukulele instruction
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All FFM members, past and present
Dennis Green, KCKK Radio
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Heather Widmayer, treasurer
Senior Center Technology and Video
Sam Knutson, audio support and guidance
Sandy Sponcil, rehearsal track recording

COMING UP AT THE **IOWA CITY SENIOR CENTER!**

November 20th	S.S.R.O. Readers Theatre Performance	2 p.m.
December 5th	<i>Iowa City New Horizons Band</i>	2 p.m.
December 10th	<i>Iowa City New Horizons Band</i>	2 p.m.
December 12th	Voices of Experience Concert	2 p.m.
December 15th	<i>Winter Sing-Along & Sweets and Treats</i>	2 p.m.

*Many thanks to
Jean, Jon, and Alma
from the choir!*