



Midwest Trio The Wildwoods Perform January 27 for Concert Series

INTERVIEW BY MICHELLE HUGHES

Editor's Note: Their story is a symphony of exploration and connection, a journey that has taken them from the Midwest to international venues. They have graced stages alongside artists such as Mighty Poplar, Sierra Ferrell, Aiofe O' Donovan and more. They are made up of husband and wife, Noah (guitar) and Chloe Goes (violin), and Andrew Vaggalis (bass). Their songwriting prowess and distinctive, enchanting fusion as a band have them recognized consistently at the Omaha Arts and Entertainment Awards and they were crowned "Best Band" by the Lincoln Journal Star's Lincoln Choice Awards in 2022.

The Wildwoods will perform at **8pm on January 27** at the Columbus Mennonite Church at 35 Oakland Park Avenue as part of the Americana/Folk Concert Series.

Michelle Hughes: I've read on your website that you have a "commitment to pushing musical boundaries"; can you tell me a bit more about what that means, especially in the context of folk/American roots music?

Chloe Gose: While the core of our music is rooted in folk

[See Wildwood, pg 4](#)

I met John Hartford a couple of times. but never really got to know him. but his music has had more effect on me than anyone's. -Chris Coole

A Different Strummer Newsletter Highlights

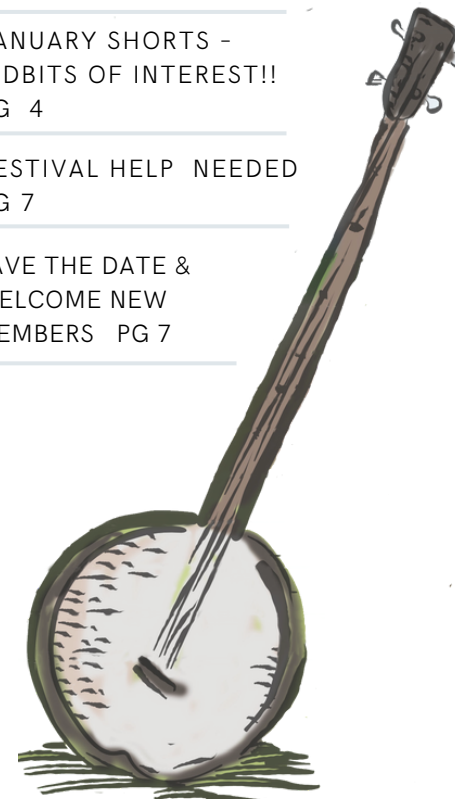
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The Showman and Coole to Play Bluegrass and Folk at the Reeb Center

BY MARK ZNIDAR

John Showman and Chris Coole will perform at the Reeb Avenue Center on Saturday Jan. 20. Either one or both have toured internationally for a number of years with the The Lonesome Ace Stringband, The David Francey Band, and The Foggy Hogtown Boys. They have also performed at prestigious North American festivals such as Merlefest and Mariposa. Get a preview of their sound here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgYmAK5rW4>. **The show at Reeb Avenue Center is part of the CFMS' Americana/Folk Concert series and begins at 2pm with gathering and refreshments.**

Seven weeks ago, Chris Coole was, well, cooling it a bit in his Toronto home with wife Julie.

He was beat up physically in that he and John Showman had just played 14 gigs in 14 nights totaling almost 4,100 miles. They have been playing together or with other bands since the early 2000s.

Some nights, when The Showman and Coole could manage only a cramped motel room, Coole got out a sleeping bag and hit the floor like a Boy Scout in the woods. That's tough for a 20-year-old, but Coole is 50. This has been his life for almost two decades.

On January 20, The Showman and Coole will perform their bluegrass and folk show at Reeb Avenue Center. It's part of the Columbus Folk Music Society's community outreach project.

Showman plays fiddle and Coole the banjo and guitar.

"You load and unload the car about four times a day, in the morning at the venue and then at the hotel," Coole said. "On this last tour it was rare that we didn't drive five hours a day. There's not much time for anything else. You get to the hotel, but then it will be time for the sound check. It looks glamorous to people. You sure don't advertise the other parts. People say, 'You are so lucky to go to these places.' But most people would shrivel over the life. It's not fancy and it's not glamorous."

After Columbus, Showman and Coole will perform in Frankfort, Ky., Nashville and Knoxville, Tn., Black Mountain, N.C., Harrisonburg, Va., and Red Bank, N.J.

The burning question: Why do this? Both men are scratching out a living.

"I joke that I will keep this up until I keel over on stage," Coole said. "I will be giving banjo lessons on Zoom. I don't want to stop. But financially speaking, I don't have a safety net. I have to keep going."

There has never been a fallback if he failed at this. Coole admits that he was a rotten student, and Appalachian music was his muse since hearing The Dillards play as "The Darlings" on The Andy Griffith Show when he was a child. He recorded all 249 episodes.

Coole played in the subways, streets and bars of Toronto from the time he graduated from high school until about 30.



Chris Coole and John Showman, PRESS photo

“ I was enamored by the romance of the music since I got my first banjo. I was all in. It was the most important thing in my life. It was the only thing that made sense to me. ” - Chris Coole

“No, it wasn’t a leap of faith,” he said. I grew up in an urban area. There was no country music in my background. My parents liked Pete Seeger and Gordon Lightfoot. I would hear Kenny Rogers, and that was as country as it got in my house.”

Then he heard The Dillards, a tenor banjo on the soundtrack of Neil Diamond’s jazz singer and the soundtrack to the movie “Deliverance.”

“I just played those songs over and over and over again,” Coole said. “I said that this is the best music. I didn’t even know what it was called. I fell in love with the Appalachian culture.”

His parents were supportive. They saw that their son was driven and not merely wandering.

It has been a wonderful life. Coole also plays and sings with The Lonesome Ace String Band, The David Francey Band and The Foggy Hogtown Boys.

“I had blinders on,” he said. “To me, it was the only way forward. There was nothing else for me to do – nothing. It was great

that I had no pushback from my family, but only support. My parents saw my passion. I have worked my ass off to get this far.”

So, when Coole is weary and maybe sees too many empty seats for the show, he gets into his beautiful world that the people sitting in the seats will never know.

“You get on stage and you just imagine that it’s the last time that you will do that thing,” Coole said. “What we do is a magical thing. It’s life-giving.”

Editor’s Note: The Dillards, also known as the Darlings, celebrated their 50th anniversary of that first appearance on The Andy Griffith Show, on April 19th, 2013. Check out the video, courtesy of Branson Visitor TV:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2ijcCdHRyE>

Showman & Coole performance
Venue: Reeb Avenue Center,
280 Reeb Ave, Cols, OH. Event
start – 2PM with refreshments.

The Wildwoods, from pg 1



The Wildwoods, PRESS photo

traditions, our interest in other musical genres and styles drives us to write music with unconventional elements while aiming to stay true to our folk roots. Classical and jazz music are two genres that we love dearly due to their complex use of harmonies, chord progressions, whirling layers, and incredibly moving melodies. It's not really something that happens on purpose, but obsessing over other genres has caused us to chase a sound that we truly feel is our own.

Michelle: In addition to your highly-lauded original works, you've also done a number of interesting covers, such as Tears for Fears' "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" – what is it about these songs in particular that inspired you to make your own versions of them? Do you think something more or additionally meaningful is uncovered in these songs when given The Wildwoods' special brand of folk treatment?

Noah Gose: We're really just drawn to music that we think is beautiful. A beautiful song is still beautiful when you

strip everything else away and just leave the melody. "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" is such a beautiful, huge sounding song with so much going on in the arrangement. At its core, the song is structured with a gorgeous melody and a flowing chord progression. Our goal with the songs we cover is to keep those structural parts of a song, while adding our own blend of herbs and spices, rearranging the song with new harmonies and instrumental parts. Though keeping the integrity of the original song is very important for us, our arrangements have to stay fairly simple since there are only three of us.

Michelle: It's my understanding that while you've been touring regionally for quite a long time, your first national tour was in 2021. Has touring nationally changed your approach to performances or your songwriting in any way?

Chloe: Before touring in 2021, our gigs were typically limited to weekends since we were in college leading up to then. After we began touring and being able to play shows five or six times a week, we feel like we've been able to grow as musicians at a much more rapid pace. We're constantly trying to learn and challenge ourselves on how we can improve our musicianship as well as our performances. This has allowed us to feel much more comfortable on stage which makes it easier to keep our audiences engaged.

Noah: Touring has definitely changed our songwriting quite a bit. Traveling around the country, meeting people from all walks of life, hearing wild and unique stories, seeing beautiful places, and getting ourselves into interesting situations have

all been the inspiration of the majority of our tunes since getting out on the road. When we're home, the mail gets delivered, our dog pees on the carpet, nothing too exciting happens on a regular basis. When we're touring in our van around the country, it feels like the world is just throwing constant inspiration at us.

Michelle: Even though it's way past Halloween, your newest single "Footprints on the Floor" continues to haunt me in the best way possible – what was the inspiration for this song?

Noah: Last winter I got sick and was stuck at home for a week during a blizzard which caused the most intense sense of loneliness I've ever felt. Even though Chloe was at home with me, I just felt as though I was going a little crazy. Shaving my head, crying over spoiled milk, accidentally breaking a coffee pot, discovering that I had multiple cavities, and many more alarming moments that happened throughout that week went into the song. I had the flu pretty bad, which gave me horrible brain fog. Hopefully I won't experience another week like that. Maybe this winter I'll go sledding instead of staying in.

Michelle: I've read in multiple interviews that "connecting with others" is an important goal for you and your music – what does that mean and why is it important?

Andrew Vaggalis: Connecting with other human beings is what music is truly about. Whether it's feeling that connection from an engaged audience or while talking to people in the merchandise line after a

performance, getting to know the people that come to our shows and listen to our music is such an important thing to us because they're the ones who allow us to continue doing what we love to do.

Michelle: Some of our readers may already be familiar with The Wildwoods due to your recent performance at Natalie's in Grandview, but for those who aren't, can you recommend a few songs for them to get to know you and tell us why you've chosen them?

Chloe: We'd love for you to listen to the songs "[West Virginia Rain](#)", "[Thirteen Sailboats](#)", and "[The Hard Times Have Come and Gone](#)" from our most recent album 'Foxfield Saint John', as well as our latest single, "[Footprints on the Floor](#)". I believe that these four songs showcase what The Wildwoods are truly about, both musically and lyrically. The songwriting combines elements of traditional folk with winding string parts, unconventional chord progressions and key changes paired with lyrics derived mainly from our travels around the country. From being stuck out in the pouring rain after a terrible gig experience in West Virginia, to having a life changing realization while on a beach in Georgia, to being stranded at a truck stop in Colorado for a week with little hope of ever leaving, we have so many stories that we would love to share with anybody willing lend an ear.

“A beautiful song is still beautiful when you strip everything else away and just leave the melody.” -Noah Gose

JANUARY SHORTS



Intriguing Radio Interview With CFMS'

October Performer, Roberta Lea

Remember October 28, when singer and songwriter Roberta Lea wowed us with a wonderful show at our monthly coffeehouse?

WCBE's Mike Foley created a great in-depth radio program using her original songs and an interview. Good questions, interesting answers, and compelling music.

Here's the link:

<https://www.wcbe.org/podcast/music-journeys/2023-12-08/roberta-lea-reflects-on-too-much-of-a-woman-and-the-public-service-of-being-a-musician>

A Big Shout Out and THANK YOU to All Who Donated to CFMS' Year-End Appeal!

We met our goal and surpassed the \$1,000 in contributions! That means, thanks to our generous anonymous donor who offered the match, we have surpassed \$2,000 in year-end donations!



Bill Cohen's Pre- Valentine Concert Returns

Serious and comical love songs, fun trivia questions, and delicious home-made sweets will highlight the 15th annual Valentines concert by Bill Cohen and friends from **7:00 to 9 pm on Friday February 2.**

With guitar and piano, Bill will sing favorites from the 1940's through the 1990's, made famous by John Denver, the Everly Brothers, John Prine, Sam Cooke and many more. As usual, he will be joined by other area musicians and the all-girl trio, The Harmonettes.

While the songs will reflect the ecstasy, warmth, heartache, and pain that love can bring, the show will have a lighter side as well!

The concert takes place at the Columbus Mennonite Church, 35 Oakland Park Avenue. \$15 per person donations are suggested at the door, with proceeds helping put on this May's Central Ohio Folk Festival. For more information, call Bill at (614) 263-3851



Welcome NEW Members

John Farrell Emily Sink
Prasant Joshii Gino Shifrin

...and Welcome Back RENEWING Members!



Save the Date!

Americana/Folk Concert Series

Showman and Coole

Saturday, Jan 20, 3pm

Refreshments + Social 2pm /Local

Open Mic 2:30pm / Show 3pm

Venue: Reeb Avenue Center, 280

Reeb Ave, Cols, OH

Free-will donation. Come at 2pm!

The Wildwoods

Saturday, Jan 27, 8pm

**Open Mic (pre-sign up) 7pm, Open
Jam 6pm**

Venue: Columbus Mennonite Church,
35 Oakland Park Ave, Cols.

Donation \$15 / \$10 CFMS members

Zoom Jam Sessions

Mondays & Thursdays 10 am-Noon;

Saturdays 9:30-11:30am. Contact

Jane at: vanaukj@gmail.com

In-Person Jams

Saturdays, 9:30-11:30am, at All
Saints Lutheran Church, 6770 N. High
St., Worthington. Every Saturday.

Saturdays, 9:30-11:30am at
Whetstone Community Center, 3923
N. High St., Cols. Jan. 20th, 27th.

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm at Gillie
Community Center, 2100 Morse Rd.
Jan. 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Are you the one to coordinate a Festival activity? We are looking for YOU!!

We need a “few good women or men” to coordinate planning and preparation for festival activities. It’s fun, rewarding and you can be an integral part of all the “behind the scenes – making it happen” work leading up to the festival days. You will see the fruits of your labors and happy faces of those we serve at the festival itself.

Specific areas that need coordination are:

- 1) Quilt Art Craft
- 2) Outside Vendors (who display their wares in the Store Tent)

Neither jobs are very time consuming and both relatively easy to accomplish.

Requirements:

- 1) a willing spirit
- 2) coordination and communication
- 3) being able to meet reasonable deadlines

If you are curious or want more information, please email : infofestival@columbusfolkmusicsociety.org.

**Save the date: May 4 & 5, 2024 for the
Central Ohio Folk Festival.**



The Columbus Folk Music Society

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Date _____ New Renew Preferred Newsletter Format: Digital Hard Copy **[NOTE: if you choose hard copy, we request an additional \$15 contribution over & above dues to cover postage & handling]**

Name(s) / Band Name (if applic) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

General Age Range – Born: 1930s-40s 1950s-60s 1970s-80s 1990s-2010s

Phone _____ (Cell) _____ If Band, website _____

E-mail Address _____ Additional e-mail (if a household or band) _____

We are also a growing, vibrant community of volunteers; the awesome force behind our work! Please at least 1 box.

- | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> May folk festival | <input type="checkbox"/> General Help | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CFMS concert events | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Musician | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking / Baking | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Instructor | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing / Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | Instruments: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Musician | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> None |

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- I have included an additional \$15 (postage & handling) to have a printed version of newsletter mailed to me.

To join/renew by credit card, visit CFMS' website: columbusfolkmusicsociety.org (About Us/Join)

OR click here: <https://tinyurl.com/CFMS-Join>

To join/renew by cash or check, please mail completed membership form with payment to: *Columbus Folk Music Society, PO Box 20735, Columbus, OH 43220.* Membership amounts may be tax-deductible.

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