



## South for Winter Will Headline Americana Concert Series Sept. 25

**Note:** Our concert season has moved back to the Mennonite Church space at 35 Oakland Park Ave., Columbus. There is an audience limit (pre-registration required) and you must be vaccinated and wear a mask .

With elements of folk, blues, classical and rock, Nashville-based South for Winter's varying sound is characterized by storytelling lyrics, complex instrumentation, and earthy vocals. The trio released their debut album *Luxumbra* in October 2020, which was recorded in Nashville with GRAMMY award-winning producer Matt Leigh. Singles from the album were featured on sites such as American Songwriter, For the Love of Bands, Grateful Web and Ditty TV. CFMS's Bill Cohen interviewed the band members for this issue.

[www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](http://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org)

Many of our members have never heard you perform, so please help us understand your musical sound and genre. Is it a mix of well-established styles? Does your music remind listeners of other performers?

Our typical one-liner for describing our sound is "happy folk and murder ballads." But we do love to mix in all kinds of other genres into our music too, including blues, jazz, Renaissance, and classic rock.



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**South for Winter in concert Saturday, Sept. 25, 8:00 pm at the Mennonite Church in Columbus. Limited in-person audience. To register, see link on page 4.**

# South for Winter in Concert Sept. 25



South for Winter band members



Left to right: Nick, Dani, Alex

Continued from page 1

Each of us three members listens to a variety of musical genres and draws inspiration from these, but our mostly-acoustic instrument lineup of cello, male and female vocals, mandolin, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, and simple percussion lends itself more to a Folk-forward sound. We've often received comparisons to artists like the Civil Wars, Delta Rae, and Elephant Revival when performing - all of which are huge compliments, as we love these artists!

**What's the musical background of each of you?  
When did you first learn the joy of music? What other types of musical groups have each of you been in ?**

Each of us fell in love with music at a young age, but our musical backgrounds are quite different. Nick (vocals, acoustic guitar, electric guitar) grew up in a very musically-gifted, classically-trained family in New Zealand. He spent much of his youth taking piano, saxophone, and guitar lessons and singing in boy's choirs. He also spent most of the last ten years performing music full-time in the indie-rock scene in New Zealand before moving to the United States, and starting South for Winter with Dani. Dani (vocals, mandolin) also grew up in a musical family, taking piano, violin, and voice lessons throughout her childhood and performing in high school musical theatre productions in her hometown of Colorado Springs. During and after high school, she stepped more into

the songwriting side of things, writing and recording as a pop-folk solo artist before starting South for Winter with Nick. Alex (cello, acoustic guitar) is the most classically-trained musician between the three of us, having studied and performed cello from grade school through college. He received his music performance degree at Hope College in Michigan before moving to Nashville in 2017, meeting Nick and Dani, and starting to perform full-time with South for Winter.

**Your songs are originals. Tell us about your songwriting process and where you get your inspiration and ideas from.**

The process for writing each song is a little different, depending on how and when inspiration strikes. However, we do love telling stories in our songs, so this is a common starting point. Sometimes an original idea comes to mind while Nick is writing a guitar part, and we run with the concept until it's a fully-fleshed out story (like the story of the outlaw in our song "Ten Black Crows", or the story of the beaver and sparrow in "Twine"). Other times, we're inspired by a true story that we turn into a song (like the story of serial killer Lavinia Fisher, in our song "Black Widow"). A song might start with a vocal melody that Dani hears, and Nick then writes a guitar part for, or it might happen vice-versa. The fun part of the process is that we're always finding new ways to write songs together, but it gets easier, quicker, and more fun the more we do it.

# South for Winter

**How has the Covid virus impacted your concert schedule and your song-writing? Have you found creative ways to keep performing and keep creating?**

Like for many artists, show cancellations and safety concerns surrounding Covid have caused a pretty big hitch in our touring schedule. We released our debut album *Luxumbra* towards the start of the pandemic, and have just now been able to start performing and touring the album. It's been tough, and is often disheartening to not be able to play songs we've worked so hard on for the last couple years. Also, the pandemic has affected our band in a different way, as Dani's day job is working as an ICU nurse. She's spent much of the last year travel nursing in cities like Chicago, Denver, and Atlanta, so it's been hard to have the band together enough to write and record a lot of material. The biggest benefit, though, is that it's really increased our drive, hunger, and passion for playing live music - so every time we



play a live show, we really throw ourselves in. We enjoy every moment. And we've been able to connect with audiences even more than pre-pandemic because of that. Also, when we are together, it

makes us really driven to write and record more songs. Finally, having seen so many people lose loved ones to the virus this year, we are just thankful to all be healthy. We know that the day we hit the road full-time again will be even sweeter because of the wait.

**Many members of CFMS are older than 50, so we worry that folk music may die out as we ourselves pass on. That's why we are thrilled when we see young people enjoying folk/acoustic music, performing it, and creating it. What is your band's take on the future of this musical genre?**

We completely understand this, with the big move towards electronic sounds in mainstream music over the last few years. However, we truly believe there will always be a place for acoustic music. Trends come and go, but there's something beautifully intimate about watching an amazing musician in a bar who's holding nothing but an acoustic guitar and singing songs from the heart. Also, seeing incredible acoustic artists like Brandi Carlisle, Hozier, The Paper Kites, and Chris Stapleton receiving so much great press recently makes us believe that there is still an audience for this kind of music. Even if our genre is considered "niche" right now, we think there will always be people who want to hear and create it.

Watch South for Winter perform live:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

## A BIG Thank You to All Involved in CFMS' Successful Garage Sale in July

On July 10, the CFMS hosted a Garage Sale, which is a benefit for the Central Ohio Folk Festival. The event was entirely coordinated by member Linda McDonald. She provided the space for the sale, arranged for volunteers to set up and tear down, and opened her front porch to those who agreed to provide music for the day. We wish to give a big SHOUT-OUT to ALL, whether you donated items, volunteered, and/or played music. The Garage Sale was a huge success!



## Welcome Our New and Returning Members

- Kirk Bampton**
- James Buddelmeyer**
- Diane Spink**
- Christy Tull**
- Marshall Verbsky**



## Virus or No Virus, Upcoming Americana/Folk Concert Series Promises Fun and Variety

We're looking forward to gathering for our monthly concerts (a.k.a. coffeehouses) this season. We have an exciting season lined up with a wide variety of performers. As usual, it's a mix of toe-tapping upbeat groups, introspective singer-songwriters, veteran performers, and emerging young musicians heading for the stars.

Check out the **Events** page at:

[www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org](http://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org) for a complete listing of performers and additional information about each of them.

Concerts in the 2021-22 line-up include: South for Winter trio (NASHVILLE, TN); John Prine Tribute (Mike Hale, Patrick Casey, Renilda Marshall & Ed Tatum); Heather Pierson Acoustic Trio (CONWAY, NH) and more!

For the safety of all, we plan to have the following CHANGES in place: (but rapidly-changing safety guidelines and rules could mean further changes).

The events will be held at the Columbus Mennonite Church, social hall space, as usual. But due to COVID and church requirements we are currently operating at 50% capacity (so that means we can spread folks out more). **And you will need to be vaccinated and wear a mask. You will also need to pre-register** for each particular coffeehouse concert on Eventbrite. The registration is free, but donations, as usual, will be asked at the door. That is the only way we will be able to know when our cap is reached. If you can't register, please know our cap has already been reached. Instructions are on Eventbrite.

The link to pre-register for the September concert is:

[bit.ly/SFW-CFMS](https://bit.ly/SFW-CFMS)

We won't be doing any "home-made" refreshments or serving of coffee/tea, but we will have available bottles of water and commercially "pre-packaged" treats.

We won't have any Open Jam or the Community Sing-along segment at the events this year, unless COVID becomes much less of a problem, as you obviously can't wear a mask when you sing! We will continue to have the Open Mic (free sign up) at 7PM and the Featured Performer at 8PM.

**BE SURE to stay tuned** in the event one or more of the concerts need to be moved to Facebook Live or to accommodate COVID regulations beyond our control. We will notify you via e-mail if that should be the case.



## Fall COFF Fundraiser Sunday, Oct 10 Held in Attractive Outdoor Patio Space at El Vaquero's

On **Sunday, Oct 10 (3-5PM)** we'll hold a COFF fundraising concert in the spacious, covered outdoor patio space at El Vaquero's, 3230 Olentangy River Road, Cols. The Featured Act? **The Avalon Nine trio.**



Trio, left to right: Brian Szuch, Linda Blaine, Dave Clutter

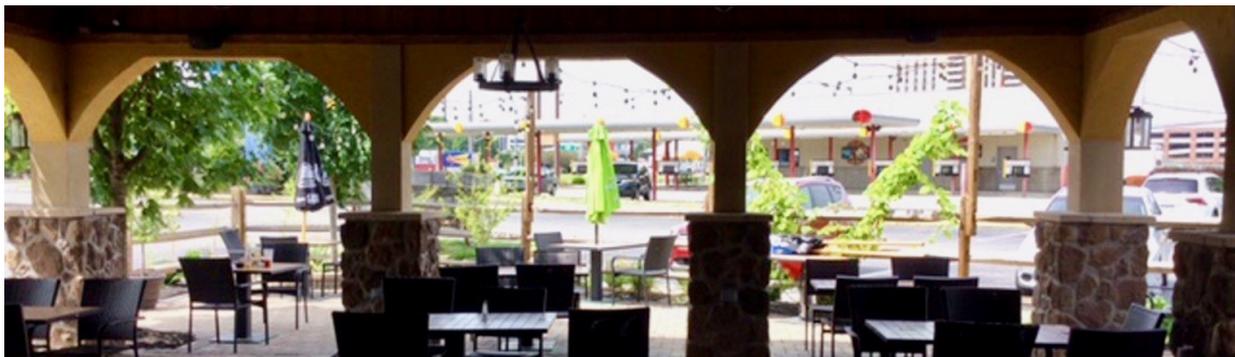
The trio is composed of Linda Blaine, Dave Clutter and Brian Szuch. We'll be **celebrating the roots and branches of folk and Americana music.** This acoustic trio brings great vocal harmonies, guitar, mandolin, and other instrumentation to songs by such artists as Joni Mitchell, Nanci Griffith (R.I.P.), John Prine, Gillian Welch and many more.

"It all started at an open mic back in 2003" Linda Blaine of Avalon Nine explains. "I met Dave [Clutter]

and we found we had a lot of common musical ground." After a few years performing as a duo, they invited multi-instrumentalist Brian Szuch to add tracks on their recording, and later to play their 2009 CD release show that featured songs by John Hartford, Gillian Welch, Dave Carter, and other American folk artists.

"We've played together ever since," David Clutter said. "Brian is a musician's musician. He can play anything; bluegrass to classic rock." Szuch is also lead guitarist of the Dan Orr Project, a classic rock band.

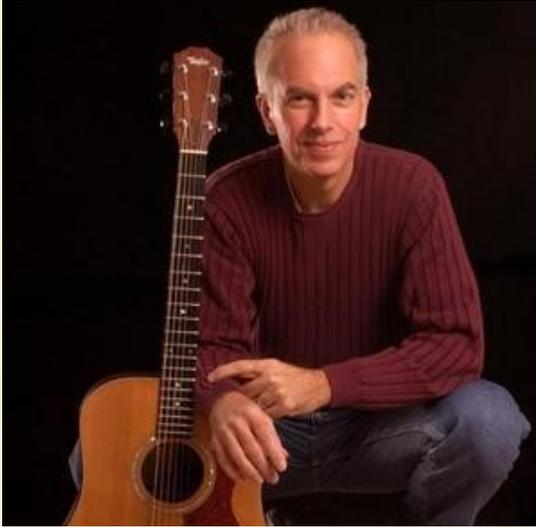
Avalon Nine performs as a duo, trio, and band, and recently have returned to their acoustic roots with folk and Americana shows that showcase Szuch's instrumentals and the original duo's vocal harmonies. You'll enjoy a vast collection of choice songs penned by favorite artists. At the same time, you'll be able to partake in good, reasonably priced food at El Vaquero's. **The event is first-come, first-served as far as seating on the patio.** Since there isn't a door entrance, **we'll pass the "hat"; suggested donation \$10-15 per person,** with donations supporting our 2022 Central Ohio Folk Festival. We hope to see you there!



El Vaquero patio space

# John Morgan: “Music Is Too Important To Be Left To the Experts”

By Peter Insabella



John Morgan, a well-known musician/music teacher from Westerville, has always believed strongly that making music is something for the common people....the folk.....not just professional musicians. For almost 20 years he has hosted a weekly jam session in Westerville for anyone who would like to make music. The jams are attended by beginning guitarists as well as accomplished players. John provides a playlist each week of songs with lyrics and chords and suggested strumming patterns. The songs are selected from an enormous database containing thousands of songs, which can range from vintage Beatles to James Taylor to contemporary popular songs. The jammers mostly play guitars, but there have also been bass players, drummers, and banjo players, as well as flutists, saxophonists, and others.

John Morgan himself has been playing guitar ever since he saw the Beatles perform on the old Ed Sullivan show in 1964. He started out with a Harmony electric guitar, and eventually progressed to a Martin D-28 and a Taylor 710. His current #1 guitar was custom made for him by L.A. luthier Kevin Ryan.

During his college years (at Marietta College) John Morgan studied classical guitar and also devoted a good deal of time learning to play the blues. He has released seven CDs, four of which are songs he has written himself. His music

has appeared on NPR radio and various TV shows, including Martha Stewart’s Kitchen and Biography A&E. One of his CDs, *Quiet World*, is a collection of instrumental guitar music designed to transport the listener to fresh discoveries of sound and spirit. Several of the songs have been played on *Echoes* with John Diliberto and *La Note Picking Radio* in Paris, France. You can hear a sample here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPiGXleCbm0>

Retired from his full-time job at Meditech since 2001, John Morgan is currently the Artist in Residence at Riverside Methodist Hospital, where several times each week, he can be found playing music at the bedside of oncology patients.

John has published a book and DVD, *Foundations for Great Guitar Playing*. He has taught guitar to students of all ages and has had as many as 55 students at one time. His teaching method is simple and unstructured. Instead of insisting that his students begin with music theory or learn to read music, he often begins by asking, “What do you want to learn?” The student might reply, “I want to learn to play the blues,” or “I want to play Johnny B. Goode like Chuck Berry,” and that is where the learning process begins. The student may go on to learn the pentatonic scales and some music theory, but the lessons are student-driven, rather than instructor-driven.

John Morgan describes himself as “unencumbered by fame or fortune.” In many ways he is living the ideal musician’s lifestyle.....teaching, playing, writing, recording, and sharing the love of music with others. He is a living, breathing embodiment of his motto: “Music is too important to be left to the experts.”

If you would like to learn more about John Morgan, his website is at <https://www.manta.com/c/mm5njq8/john-morgan-acoustic-guitar>

To see another sample of his guitar playing, click here: [Girl in the Garden - John Morgan Acoustic Guitar - YouTube](#)

## Renew Your CFMS Membership (or Join for the First Time)

# YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By Jennifer Cohen-Jordan, Membership Coordinator

Greetings lovers of the folk arts. Wow, time sure flies. Another season for the Columbus Folk Music Society has passed and we are now preparing for a new one. Thanks to the generous support of our members who renewed and thanks to our new members, this past season has, for us, been instructive and successful. Because of pandemic restrictions, we learned quite a bit about re-envisioning ways to bring you the entertainment you look forward to, and to conduct our usual business. In doing so, we were able to sponsor a successful Central Ohio Folk Festival. We presented our Americana/Folk Music Series digitally, to great success. We also were delighted to once again support a budding young musician with the Kirby Scholarship Award. As pandemic restrictions have begun easing, we were able to hold our garage sale, and we are once again getting together for in-person jams.

With that said, it is time to renew. By becoming a member of the Columbus Folk Music Society, or renewing your membership, you show your appreciation for and enjoyment of folk music, song, dance, story telling, and other folk arts. You will also experience the pride of knowing that you are bolstering the growth and perpetuation of the folk arts in the Columbus area. Supporting young, promising musicians is still as important as ever, and we will continue our work with the Kirby Scholarship Award program.

In the season ahead, CFMS will continue to provide you with entertainment, information and support. We hope you will, in turn, support us in these efforts. Please renew your membership. If you are not already a member, please consider joining us and showing your support for the exciting folk community here in

And don't forget to spread the word. Encourage your friends to join as well. You can access membership forms on our website, or in our newsletter. You may also use the following link to directly access a membership form.:

<https://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/membership-application.html>

Your patronage is valuable to us and we look forward to seeing you at our events as soon as we are able to again share in each other's company. Enjoy your membership, and enjoy the diverse folk culture that thrives in Central Ohio! Be well, and hope to see you soon

Thank you so much!

## Save the Date

### Concerts

**Saturday, Sept. 25, 8:00 pm South for Winter, in Americana Folk Concert Series.**

**Held at the Mennonite Church space, 35 Oakland Park Ave, Cols. Audience limit and you must be vaccinated and wear a mask. Donation at door: \$15 (non-members) / \$10 (members). You must pre-register (so we can keep track of the count) at: [bit.ly/SFW-CFMS](https://bit.ly/SFW-CFMS)**

**Sunday, Oct. 10, 3-5:00 pm COFF fundraiser at El Vaquero's featuring the Avalon 9 Trio.**

**The event is first-come, first-served with seating on the patio. Suggested donation \$10-15 per person. El Vaquero's is at 3230 Olen-tangy River Road, Columbus**

### Jam Sessions

#### Daily Zoom Jam Sessions

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 10:00 am to noon; Wednesday, Friday, Sunday: 2:00 to 4:00 pm. To see the current link to these sessions, send an e-mail request to Jane VanAuken [vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com)**

**Saturday morning jam sessions from 9:30 to 11:30 continue at Whetstone Park and some Saturdays at Worthington Farmers Market.**

**The Columbus Folk Music Society**

P.O. Box 20735  
Columbus, OH 43220



**We're on the web!**

www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org

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**BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  New  Renew Preferred Newsletter Format:  Digital  Hard Copy

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**Membership renewals are due annually on September 30th.** Check one of the membership levels listed below.

- Individual \$20
- Band Membership \$25
- Sponsor \$100
- Silver \$250
- Household \$25
- Good Friend \$50
- Patron \$200
- Life Member \$500

For credit card transactions, visit CFMS website at: <https://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/member-application.html>  
Membership amounts may be tax-deductible. My place of work matches donations:

**Like to volunteer? Please click all that apply. We are an all-volunteer driven organization!**

- May festival
- Leadership
- Cooking / Baking
- CFMS events
- Writing/Communication
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
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