

# 2023 FESTIVAL PERFORMERS

Click on 'Schedule' link on festival home page for all time slots. Click [2023donate](#) to donate pre-event in order to reserve Sat. night Nefesh Mountain inside seating.



## NEFESH MOUNTAIN – 7PM

Sat. evening **HEADLINER**, 'boundary pushing American roots music'

"A masterclass in string music" - Rolling Stone

"Thoughtful, introspective lyrics and world class musicianship" - American Songwriter

"The sound is crisp, clear, magical, an instant favorite, the type of record [Songs For the Sparrows] that cleanses the dirt underneath, in between, and unforeseen, the album is perfection." - No Depression

Listen here: [nefeshmountain.com/songs-for-the-sparrows](https://nefeshmountain.com/songs-for-the-sparrows)

Currently Nefesh Mountain plays over 150 dates a year worldwide with performances all throughout the US, Canada, Israel, England, and Australia. The Quintet consists of **Doni Zasloff** on Vocals, **Eric Lindberg** on Vocals, Guitar, and Banjo, **Alan Grubner** on Fiddle, **David Goldenberg** on Mandolin, and **Max Johnson** on Bass. Their mission whether at a concert hall, festival, workshop, school, camp, or synagogue, is to spread the joy and magic of American roots music and help to champion and reinforce the powerful messages of diversity, wholeness, and harmony for our ever changing times.

Their latest album "Songs For the Sparrows" is a true testament to the unbridled imagination and extraordinary grace of their musicianship and creativity, featuring friends and heroes Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas and Bryan Sutton among others. The band embodies the wild nature and unbridled free spirits of its members, bridging compositional prowess and prolific songwriting with deft and exciting instrumentals and jams.

Their music continues to forge new paths in a world all their own, combining elements of everything from Americana and Appalachian bluegrass to Celtic folk and Eastern European melodies with messages of inclusivity, diversity, and hope for our ever changing world today.

## DAYTIME MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS (NOT IN PERFORMANCE ORDER)



### HARD TRAVELIN' (COLUMBUS, OH) MUSIC BY & INSPIRED BY WOODY GUTHRIE

Four veteran musicians – Jeff Putnam, Bill Cohen, Phil Hart & Teresa Schleifer – explore the songs and musical/cultural legacy of the father of American folk music, Woody Guthrie. Guthrie (1912-1967) was an American singer-songwriter who over the decades penned over 3,000 songs, some of which have become folk song standards of the nation as well as known and performed in many

languages throughout the world. The band will perform individually and together the music of Guthrie, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Phil Ochs, provide background on Woody's life and times, and spotlight his continuing influence from the '60s folk revival to today. [woodyguthrie.org](https://woodyguthrie.org) Band contact: [putnamjeff@hotmail.com](mailto:putnamjeff@hotmail.com)

**2 PM SUN (MAIN STAGE)**

# MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)



## HOUSE OF HAMILL (PHILADELPHIA, PA) 'SOPHISTICATED' INDIE IRISH FOLK

Whether they're ripping through a set of original jigs and reels, adding lush three-part harmonies into traditional folk ballads, or cracking up an audience with stories from the road, House of Hamill puts on a show that captivates audiences from the very first note. Today, Pennsylvania-based House of Hamill is a fixture on festival stages across the US, and have shared their music and stories on the country's premier folk stages. Their version of "Pound a Week Rise" rose to #1 on the US Folk DJ charts, and the video for their all-violin

cover of "Sweet Child O' Mine" amassed over 16 million views on Facebook. Their latest release, "Folk Hero," captures perfectly the intense energy and eclecticism of their always engaging live show.

[www.houseofhamill.com](http://www.houseofhamill.com) **1PM SAT (MAIN STAGE) / 5PM SAT (SHOWCASE STAGE)**



## SHANNON CLARK & THE SUGAR (GREENVILLE, OH) AMERICANA / SOUL

Shannon Clark & the Sugar weave together heartfelt emotions with a distinctive flair to create a sound that can only be described as Midwest Americana Soul. This family band fronted by husband and wife Shannon & Brittany Clark, writes and performs their original music about personal loss, struggles, and the human condition. After

a personal family tragedy with the loss of their 2nd daughter, Shannon & Brittany's creative songwriting would become the healing tool. When their oldest daughter joined in 2019 as a vocalist/instrumentalist, they began experimenting with a new sound and Shannon Clark & the Sugar was born.

In 2020, the group's single, "Carry Me" was in contention for Best Music Video in multiple film festivals across the globe. In 2021, they released their first full-length album "Marks on the Wall" with GRAMMY Award-winning producer, Mark Howard (Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Tom Waits, Lucinda Williams, Emmy Lou Harris). "Gorgeously haunting, gracefully walks a line between Americana and soul" – The Tinnitist

[shannonclarksugar.com](http://shannonclarksugar.com). **NOON SUN (MAIN STAGE) / 3PM SUN (SHOWCASE STAGE)**



## THE FOLK RAMBLERS (COLUMBUS, OH) OPENING COMMUNITY SING

Bill Cohen (guitar & vocals) and Carl Yaffey (banjo & vocals) perform classic folk songs of the 50s & 60s made famous by Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, the Kingston Trio, Peter, Paul and Mary, and many others. Both are veteran performers, each with a performing history of over 60 years; that's a whopping 120 years cumulatively. Leading the festival's Opening Community Sing, they'll have their audience singing along in no time (indeed that will be their intent)! Join them at the festival opening at 11am on

Saturday for a rousing sing-along. [folkramblers.carl-yaffey.com](http://folkramblers.carl-yaffey.com). **11AM SAT (MAIN STAGE)**



# MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)



## THE PAIRS (LONDON, ON, CANADA) PROGRESSIVE FOLK

Family is what ties The Pairs together. With soaring harmonies, they share stories of life's hope, hilarity, and hardship. An honest, quirky stage presence and their unbottled chemistry, quickly connects them with their audience. The line between stage and the crowd becomes blurred as if we've all pulled up a seat around their family's lively kitchen table. Powered by three classically trained vocalists and a former punk rock drummer, The Pairs offer a unique blend of music that will hug your eardrums and inspire you to dance.

"Not only does music bring us great joy and allow us to connect with ourselves and others, but it acts as a constant reminder and metaphor for the way in which we aim to live life. Music teaches us to live in the moment.

It teaches us to acknowledge the detail of each confusing and inspiring moment, and continue to dance through life with ease. . . . We believe in the importance of finding those things that grab you and pull you into a moment. . . Our hope is that every time we share our joy of making music, we invite those who listen to share in the joy of finding that thing that makes their own heart sing."

[www.thepairsmusic.com](http://www.thepairsmusic.com) **3PM SAT (MAIN STAGE) / NOON SUN (SHOWCASE STAGE)**



## na SKYLARK (RINEYVILLE, KY) CELTIC TRADITIONAL

na Skylark means "the skylarks" in Irish. This trio is unequivocally birds of a feather: three accomplished musicians highlighting the old tunes, songs and instruments of Ireland (and other Celtic lands), weaving them together to produce a richly inspiring and emotional musical experience. Invariably, na Skylark audiences leave a performance smiling, laughing, and feeling like they understand just a little bit more about the beating heart of the Celtic soul. The group's "Old Ceol" recording was named one of the best new recordings of 2017 by the Celtic Connections radio show.

na Skylark can also be heard on various Celtic and folk podcasts, and in live venues and festivals around the Eastern half of the US. [naskylark.com](http://naskylark.com) **NOON SAT (MAIN STAGE) / 2PM SAT (SHOWCASE STAGE)**



## MARY MILLER & MIKE HALE FEATURING BRIAN SZUCH (COLUMBUS, OH) POPULAR FOLK

Expect this duo to delight and entertain as they perform a variety of Americana, folk, country, and classic tunes – with plenty of opportunities to join in the fun and sing along.

They are pleased to be joined by Brian Szuch who is a multi-instrumentalist, music collaborator and producer.

Band contact: [mike@oldshoemusic.com](mailto:mike@oldshoemusic.com) [marymillerinspires.com](http://marymillerinspires.com)

**2PM SAT (MAIN STAGE)**

# MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)



## APPALACHIAN SWING (NEWARK, OH) BLUEGRASS

Taking their name from The Kentucky Colonels' iconic album, Appalachian Swing, Adam Schlenker (guitar), Hayes Griffin (mandolin), Todd Sams (banjo) and George Welling (bass) are a group that is not a cover or tribute band as much as a band building its sound around The Kentucky Colonels' brand of bluegrass and the influences of Clarence & Roland White. Adam is an educator and known worldwide for his flatpicking skills, Hayes is an educator and has over a decade of experience as a touring musician, Sam is an award winning banjo player and master luthier and George holds the band together with his experienced bass skills.

[5thfretproductions.com/appalachianswingbluegrass.html](http://5thfretproductions.com/appalachianswingbluegrass.html) **4PM SAT (MAIN STAGE)**



## HEATHER PIERSON DUO (CONWAY, NH) FOLK/JAZZ/BLUES

Heather's two performance slots at the festival will incorporate both songs from her Heart Songs & Circle Songs project, a repertoire inspired by the power of song to nurture harmony, community, connection, joy, and peace as well as her regular repertoire. She'll be performing on the Showcase stage on Saturday in addition to being the performer for our special "Songs for the Spirit" slot at 11am Sunday morning. Heather is a pianist, singer/songwriter, and performer whose inspiring live performances with her bassist/partner Shawn Nadeau delve into Americana, New Orleans jazz, blues, and folk. Best known for her ease at the piano and her bell-tone vocals, Heather's songs embody honesty, playfulness, and a desire to share from the heart. "Heather is like two great acts

in one, sliding from sweet acoustic Appalachian old-timey vibe with Patty Griffinesque lyrics to brassy New Orleans blues piano with a bone thrown to Bessie Smith." - DC Bloom | Lone Star Music Magazine

[heatherpierson.com](http://heatherpierson.com) **3PM SAT (SHOWCASE STAGE) / 11AM SUN (MAIN STAGE)**



## KATIE DAHL (BAILEY'S HARBOR, WI) FOLK/SINGER-SONGWRITER

Clear-eyed and tough-minded, fresh and funny, Katie Dahl is a small-town celebrity on the Wisconsin peninsula (where her family has lived for 175 years). Dahl is a nationally touring, radio-charting songwriter as well as playwright. "Katie Dahl is the real deal. She's a 'regional' artist the way Robert Frost is a regional artist, meaning everybody in the world can appreciate the way she captures the spirit of a place – and the generations of humans who've lived, loved and died there – with such grace, nuance and grit." – JT Nero (Birds of Chicago)

"Razor-sharp lyrics with a hearty, soulful voice." — American Songwriter

"Katie Dahl's songs aren't just melodies and words, they're journeys that are firmly grounded in a sense of place—beautiful, real landscapes that help you

feel places that you may have never been before. That's the very best kind of songwriting." – Dar Williams

[katedahlmusic.com](http://katedahlmusic.com) **NOON SAT (SHOWCASE STAGE) / 3PM SUN (MAIN STAGE)**

# MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)



## JOHN HARROD & TONA BARKLEY (OWENTON, KY). OLD-TIME

John (guitar, fiddle, vocals) and his wife Tona (guitar, vocals) have a passion for old-time music. John Harrod has documented, recorded, and performed traditional music for more than 45 years. Over the years John has played with multiple string bands. He worked for three years as an artist in residence in KY schools and has also produced a series of field recordings of KY fiddle and banjo players (available on Rounder Records). He has taught fiddle and conducted workshops at the Augusta Heritage Center, the American Festival of Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend, Washington, the Berea College Celebration of Traditional Music, and the Cowan Creek Mountain Music School. He continues to perform with Kentucky Wild Horse, a band that draws on a wide variety of Kentucky music past and present. In 2004 John received the Folk Heritage Award of the Governor's Awards in the Arts for his work in traditional music.

Tona is an artist (painter) and a quilter. Her gallery of paintings feature portraits of Kentucky musicians doing what they do best in local settings. [www.johnharrodmusic.com](http://www.johnharrodmusic.com) **1PM SUN (MAIN STAGE)**

# SHOWCASE STAGE PERFORMERS (NOT IN PERFORMANCE ORDER)

The following Main Stage Performers will also perform on the Showcase Stage. If you missed them on one stage, you can see them on another!

## THE PAIRS

**SHANNON CLARK & THE SUGAR**

**HEATHER PIERSON DUO**

**NA SKYLARK**

**HOUSE OF HAMILL**

**KATIE DAHL**

**Additional Showcase Stage Performers:**



## LYN FORD, HOME-FRIED AFFRILACHIAN TALES (COLUMBUS, OH)

Lyn Ford is a nationally recognized Affrilachian\* storyteller. She is a teaching artist and workshop facilitator, a writer (published in storytelling magazines), and a recording artist with award winning CDs. What are "Home-Fried" Tales? Folktales, spooky tales and family stories rooted in Lyn's family's multicultural Affrilachian storytelling traditions, all shared with humor and heart. \*Afrilachian or Affrilachian: of African American heritage and history, from the region called Appalachia. Yep, it's a put together word, but a wonderful one! [storytellerlynford.com](http://storytellerlynford.com)  
[friedtales2@gmail.com](mailto:friedtales2@gmail.com) **1PM SAT (SHOWCASE STAGE)**



# SHOWCASE STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)



## DENISON UNIVERSITY AMERICAN ROOTS ENSEMBLE (GRANVILLE, OH) THE MUSIC OF PETER ROWAN

The Denison University American Roots Ensemble is made up of students who are music majors/minors and non-majors who desire to study traditional and progressive roots music. Under the direction of Adam Schlenker, the students explore a new artist, era or theme each semester, taking a deep dive into their catalog of music. The fall 2022 semester focused on the music of Peter

Rowan. The students will present a sample of this work at the Central Ohio Folk Festival.

Denison's long-standing Bluegrass music program underwent a name change in 2021—it is now formally known as "American Roots." The name has changed with the background of the music itself in mind. Bluegrass music is a sub-genre of country music that was first developed in the mid-to-late 1940s by Bill Monroe, Earl Scruggs, and Lester Flatt amongst others. Their work was an amalgamation of Appalachian fiddle and string band music, early blues, gospel music and early commercial country music.

The study of this music is offered as a concentration within the music major at Denison and comprises exceptional student performers with all levels of professional and personal musical experience. The objective is to cultivate an interest in traditional music within new students, as well as advance knowledge and performance skills in students wishing to major or minor within the American Roots degree.

[DenisonUniversityAmericanRootsMusic\\_Facebook](#)

[DenisonUniversityAmericanRootsMusic](#)

**2PM SUN (SHOWCASE STAGE)**



## THE REDBUDS (COLUMBUS, OH) ACOUSTIC FOLK

The Redbuds got their start in the spring of 2012 when sisters Laura and Allie Smith decided to play folk music at the Clintonville Farmers' Market. What started as an acoustic side project – perfect for this outdoor venue – quickly turned into something much more serious. Rachel Scott joined their group in 2023 and their repertoire combines music from the Appalachian folk tradition with originals in the folk music style. Blending together guitar, ukulele, mandolin and fiddle with their sister harmonies, the Redbuds have a timeless sound that appeals to every age.

[facebook.com/TheRedbuds](#)

[theredbuds@gmail.com](#)

**4PM SAT (SHOWCASE STAGE)**



## STARLIT WAYS (COLUMBUS, OH) FOLK MIX

Starlit Ways is an acoustic duo composed of singer/songwriters Rose Nkechi Onyeneho (originally from West Africa, specifically Gabon and Nigeria) and Chris Glover, a native of Columbus, OH. Rose's elegant vocals combined with Chris' expert rhythmic/melodic guitar style and their glorious harmonies, creates a unique and captivating sound that reflects both their talent and passion for the music. They perform an eclectic range of styles: from originals – to jazz (some in French) — to

modern tunes. [www.starlitways.com](#) **1PM SUN (SHOWCASE STAGE)**

# BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE PERFORMERS

Stage is conveniently located within viewing/listening distance of the Beer Garden/Pavilion.



## NIC (COLUMBUS, OH)

Local musician, Nic Watkins, along with David Scott, Lucas Fox, and Chris Scherer perform a folk, singer-writer mix. [www.instagram.com/nicwatkins](https://www.instagram.com/nicwatkins)

**NOON SAT (BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)**

## JOANIE CALEM (COLUMBUS, OH)

A local singer-songwriter colleague once introduced Joanie by saying, "Most of us open up a bottle of wine and sit down to write a song. Joanie turns on the news, gets mad, and sits down to write a song." Joanie's singer-songwriter material spans a variety of languages and continents, consistently telling thought-provoking stories, be it through humor and satire or pathos and reflection. [www.joaniecalem.com](http://www.joaniecalem.com)

**1PM SAT (BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)**

## BRYCE MULLINS (BATESVILLE, IN)

Bryce Mullins is a fingerstyle guitarist from Batesville, Indiana. He received his bachelor's degree for classical guitar from the College Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. Bryce also received his master's degree in classical guitar performance from Austin Peay State University. Utilizing the knowledge and technique that he received from his studies, Bryce began composing his own pieces and playing fingerstyle classics written by his heroes. His influences include Tommy Emmanuel, Chet Atkins, Merle Travis, Jerry Reed, and Steve Howe. He has released 3 albums and has placed both 2nd and 3rd in Indiana's Fingerstyle Guitar competitions. He is an instructor and will also be conducting a finger-style guitar workshop at the festival. [brycemullinsguitar.com](http://brycemullinsguitar.com)

**2PM SAT (BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)**

## PREVIOUS YEAR'S KIRBY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER PERFORMANCE(S)

Listen to a few tunes by some of our previous years' Kirby Scholarship winners and support their interest in music! You'll hear from Eric Ndossi, Joel Ndossi, and Piper Sigloch (with Miss Emily).

**3PM SAT (BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)**

# BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)



## KIRBY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOLLOWED BY “MOST OUTRAGEOUS SONG IN THE WORLD CONTEST”

Events occurring on the Showcase Stage include the annual Kirby Scholarship Awards by the Columbus Folk Music Society (to one or two young musicians). This year's Award winners will be given an opportunity to perform, as well as the previous year's recipients. [KirbyScholarshipInfo](#)

Following the Kirby Awards is the festival's annual “Most Outrageous Song in the World” contest. Open to all (lyrics must be family-friendly), this contest has become quite the event. AND it's the audience that chooses the 'Most Outrageous' song winner. Pre-sign up recommended at: [MostOutrageousSongContest](#)

**4PM SAT (BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)**

## CHARLES SEALEY (COLUMBUS, OH)

Charles has been a fixture around Columbus for quite a while, performing solo at various venues. He is an excellent blues and country singer/guitarist known for projecting his wonderful deep voice that “reaches way down.” ‘Spot on’ Brook Benton and “Rainy Night in Georgia”, he plays electric and steel guitar and is known for his riffs. [www.facebook.com/sea1444](http://www.facebook.com/sea1444)

**5PM SAT (BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)**

## THE RAVINES (JOHNSTOWN, OH)

This trio consists of Jamie Sagle, Dan Thompson, and Megan Rae. Check them out at: [youtube.com/@theravines697](https://youtube.com/@theravines697)

**NOON SUN (BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)**

## KATY OBERLE (COLUMBUS, OH)

Katy Oberle is a multi-talented and very creative soul. She is a singer-songwriter, entrepreneur, and a promoter and workshop leader who teaches folks how to live a more mindful way of life. Also be sure to check out Katy's Mindfulness Workshop at the festival. Katy has been featured in podcasts, articles, newsletters, and blogs. She even pens “handmade songs” tailored to and co-created by interested individuals. Katy recently released her first album, “Driftwood.” More about Katy can be found at [www.katyoberlecreative.com](http://www.katyoberlecreative.com)

**1PM SUN (BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)**

## RICK & RYAN (COLUMBUS, OH)

This father and daughter put their talents together for an uplifting lyric-filled mix of songs.

**2PM SUN (BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)**



# BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)

## KRISTIN GRAMZA (COLUMBUS, OH)

Kristin Gramza is a singer-songwriter based in Columbus, Ohio. A tiny person with a big voice, you can find Kristin strumming stripped-down versions of crowd favorites on her acoustic guitar, or rocking out to original music with a full band. [kristingramza.com](http://kristingramza.com)

**3PM SUN (BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)**

## YOUTHFOLK TENT (NEW)

Come visit our NEW YouthFolk Tent this year (located in the Children's Area of the festival grounds).

**11am Saturday** – The Redbuds will perform Kindermusik – folk style

**11:30am Saturday** – features Cathy Jo Smith with storytelling for kids

**Noon Saturday** – The Redbuds will offer an interactive FolkMusic lesson (ages 5-10)

**12:30pm Saturday** – features Joanie Calem with storytelling for kids

**1pm Saturday** – a Storytelling Workshop (ages 8-12) will be offered by Teri Lott

**1:30pm Saturday** – features Teri Lott with storytelling for kids

**1:45-3pm Saturday** - Box Frame Drum Making Activity (ages 12 & up)

**3:15pm Saturday** – the Snack Time Band (Kristen Elliott and Kristin Gramza)

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**1pm Sunday** – the Snack Time Band

**1:30pm Sunday** – features Julie McGhee doing storytelling for kids

**2-3:30pm Sunday** – Box Frame Drum Making Activity (ages 12 & up)

## 4 ONGOING JAM TENTS (BOTH DAYS)

**OLD-TIME / BLUEGRASS / FOLK & FOLK-MIX / AND A 4TH TENT  
DEDICATED TO ENCOURAGING THE VERY BEGINNER.**

This year we will have 3 ongoing jam tents each dedicated to a particular genre and a 4th tent anchored by The Worthington Square Jam Group and geared to encouraging the very beginner musician.

**If you are a local musician**, we invite you to bring along your instrument and join in one of the jams during the festival. Whenever you want to attend other activities on the grounds, we have a manned Instrument Storage Tent to store your instrument. If you are parking in the center field, look for our roving golf cart to assist you in getting you and your instrument to the festival grounds.

**For other festival attendees**, be sure and visit one of the jam tents; they are truly an amazing experience. They will be scattered throughout the large field, look for the signs.