



## Starlit Ways Coming to Dazzle at Reeb May 2nd

INTERVIEW BY DORI SMITH

*Starlit Ways is an acoustic duo featuring international singer Rose Nkechi and guitarist Chris Glover. Together they are a dynamic duo performing an eclectic repertoire varying from jazz classics, waltz, Broadway, modern tunes and even country. They have been featured as part of ABC 6's Good Day Columbus and have performed at Natalie's Grandview, the Lincoln theater, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Sosnick Courtyard as headliners for the Poetry & Music: A Starlit Night event, and at events such as the Columbus Arts Festival, Westerville Arts Festival and many more.*

*They will be performing as part of the Americana/Folk Concert Series at Reeb Center, 280 Reeb Ave. Columbus, on Saturday, May 2nd, at 3 p.m. Open mic, sing-along, and food start at 2 p.m.*

**Dori Smith:** I've read that you met at church, and you've each spoken before about religious influence in your music and songwriting. How has your experience with gospel and church

[See Starlit Ways, pg 2](#)

*The world needs teachers. books and schools  
Bring them home. bring them home.*

*"Bring them Home." Pete Seeger*

## A Different Strummer Newsletter Highlights

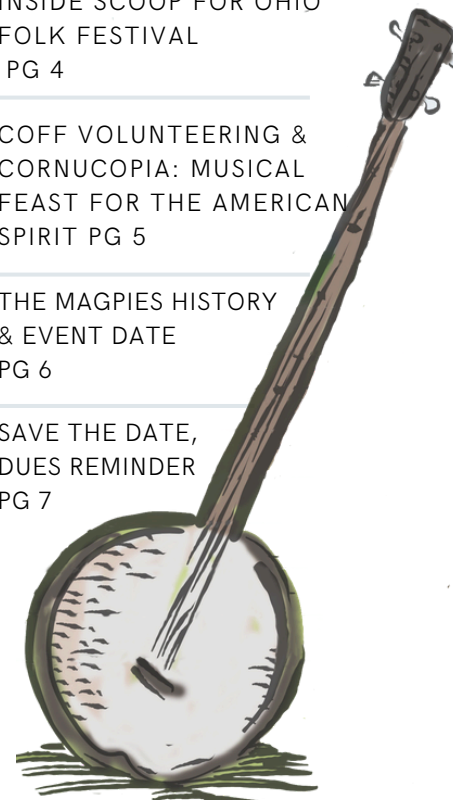
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Starlit Ways, from pg 1



*Photo by Jonathan Edwards*

music shaped your musical style and song writing?

**Starlit Ways:** It would be more of our faith that shapes our musical style and songwriting. Whenever we perform, we hope that God's love shows through our music and gifts. We say often that if we made someone's day brighter, then we did our job.

**Dori:** Your repertoire spans a remarkable range of languages, including but perhaps not limited to Spanish, French, Italian, and English. Beyond the phonetic beauty of these languages, how do you decide which language best captures the 'soul' or the specific story of a song, and what do you hope a non-speaking audience feels when they hear them?

**Starlit Ways:** We usually play the song in its original language to pay homage to the culture and to the artist who performed. Music often transcends language itself, and emotions can transpose through the soul of the song which is what we hope to

convey when we play and perform songs that our audience may not know the language or lyrics.

**Dori:** Your music blends jazz, soul, and folk. When you are preparing a setlist for a specific audience—like the Columbus Folk Music Society—how do you balance your eclectic influences to create a cohesive narrative for the evening?

**Starlit Ways:** We try to always play for ourselves first. Meaning the music has to speak to us first in order for us to properly convey the passion and love we have for the art.

**Dori:** You've performed in a variety of environments, from concert venues to virtual spaces to festivals. Which environments allow you to feel the most connected to your audience, and how does the venue's 'vibe' affect your on-stage interaction?

**Starlit Ways:** Anytime we can interact with our audience the better. Music can be such an intimate space, and we truly are grateful for those who attend our shows. If we can interact with them and show our appreciation from speaking with them to a simple acknowledgement, the better.

**Dori:** You sometimes perform with pianist Robert Mason, which adds a distinct layer to your sound. When you bring in a collaborator like Robert, how does it shift the dynamic of your 'Starlit Ways' identity? What specifically about his musicality complements your music?

**Starlit Ways:** It is always an honor and

pleasure to collaborate with talented musicians such as Robert. Robert's ear for refreshing and delicate melodies is truly remarkable and always an enjoyable addition to our acoustic sound. We tend to naturally collaborate with musicians with whom we share a similar vision for the performance at hand. This creates a more authentic atmosphere where we each get to express ourselves freely and cohesively.

**Dori:** Rose, can you speak to the path you've taken from West Central Africa to Central Ohio?

**Starlit Ways:** I came to Ohio to continue school. Growing up speaking French, I had to take some English as Second Language (ESL) classes before I could begin taking classes for an actual degree here in the States. After about three quarters of ESL classes, I began taking degree-seeking classes and eventually obtained my Associate of Science Degree from Columbus State Community College before transferring to The Ohio State University to obtain my Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Healthcare Informatics.

**Dori:** Outside of the rehearsal room and the stage, what experiences or art forms provide the 'fuel' for your music? What are you both currently reading, watching, or listening to that might surprise your fans?

**Starlit Ways:** Bridgerton (Rose) and Video game streams (Chris) respectively lol.

**Dori:** For an audience that deeply appreciates the folk tradition, your jazzy and soulful arrangements might feel like a new frontier. How do you define 'folk' in the context of your own work? Do you see your music as a modern evolution of the

storytelling tradition?

**Starlit Ways:** We're grateful to express ourselves authentically through various genres. At the core of our music is the importance of storytelling, which is the essence of Folk Music and transcends the genre through which it is delivered- the genre being mostly the canal through which we get to express the message at hand.

**Dori:** The core of Starlit Ways is your soulful harmony. How you develop your vocal arrangements? Is it a meticulous process of scoring out the parts, or is it more of an organic discovery that happens while you're playing together?

**Starlit Ways:** We're grateful that when we decide to add harmonies to a song, the process is more of an organic discovery. We may add a few tweaks here and there, but letting it happen naturally is key.



*Photo by Jonathan Edwards*

# Inside Scoop – Work Behind the Scenes for Ohio Folk Festival

Maybe you're curious (or maybe not!). We wanted to share at least SOME of the work involved in preparation for our annual festival.

There are many, many folks behind the scenes working hard throughout the year to bring the festival to you and, with the exception of just a few, all are volunteers. The financial approval and responsibility of ensuring it remains aligned with CFMS's mission and vision is governed by the Columbus Folk Music Society's Board of Directors. The production of the festival is carried out by a festival committee of 19 members, most of whom are coordinators of festival areas. And there are even more folks involved in the planning stages who work on subcommittees. That adds another 15 individuals. Every year, work starts in late August and gains increasing momentum in the months leading up to the early summer festival.

For the festival itself, if you are a volunteer, you can thank the Volunteer Management team who keeps track of all areas needing volunteers, and enlists and schedules those volunteers to fill over 200 slots. If you enjoy a brew on the grounds, you can thank our Beer Concessions Coordinator who works with our beer supplier, nails down logistics, and trains volunteers on best practices. If you enjoy listening to the music or attending workshops, you can thank the four coordinators who make those performing stages and workshops happen. If you appreciate how tents and activities

are laid out on the grounds and that everything is set up when you arrive, you can thank the Logistics team. There are so many involved to thank and they spend tons of hours making it happen!

Here is a recent visit photo of some of our coordinators at the grounds to nail down some finals, and a photo of Nocterra's new serving truck. Who knew there could be spigots coming out of the side of a van? From Margaret McCullough, one of our volunteer coordinators: "Looking forward to DRY, easy access, good parking, open areas, and tents that won't be so close that one's music floods into another."



*Coordinators nailing down some final touches*

**We look forward to seeing you soon.**

Please don't forget to get a PRE-SALE General Admission ticket to save some money on admissions, have a faster-



*Nocterra's new serving truck*

moving entrance line, and get a free flexible frisbee and sticker (while supplies last). Ticket link here:

<http://tickets.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/>

## ENJOY THE FESTIVAL MORE BY VOLUNTEERING!

If you're coming to this year's folk festival June 6-7, please consider volunteering for a few hours to help the festival run smoothly. It's fun, it's energizing and it'll make you feel great!

If you have volunteered with us before, you know it can be really fun to be a part of this. If you have not volunteered with us before, well, it's about time to try (you do not need to be a CFMS member)! And, if you volunteer, you won't pay general admission to the festival.

**If you are interested in volunteering and/or if you have a friend who wants**

**to volunteer, for the Festival on June 6th & 7th you can sign up on here:**  
[www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/festival#volunteer](http://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/festival#volunteer)

**OR email the festival volunteer coordinators:**

[coffvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:coffvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com)

## CORNUCOPIA: MUSICAL FEAST FOR THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

Coming this May The Magpie Consort a/k/a The Magpies, a group of 15 singers based in Columbus, Ohio, has invited Columbus Folk Music Society's CBus jammers to provide some guest musical flavor for their "Cornucopia: A Feast of American Music" concert. This all-American program is curated to mark the 250th anniversary of the USA, offering a rich tapestry of sound that reflects the country's diverse heritage. The performances will take place on Friday, May 8, and Saturday, May 9, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Columbus Mennonite Church, 35 Oakland Park Ave. The Magpies will donate a portion of ticket sales to CFMS.



[See Cornucopia, pg 6](#)

Cornucopia, from pg 5

## Bridging Communities

This collaboration is a natural fit, as both CFMS and the Magpies are 501(c)(3) organizations dedicated to building musical communities and making music accessible to everyone. Dan Clarke, a longstanding CFMS member, leader of the Cbus Jammers, and member of the CFMS Board of Directors, views this joint concert as a vital opportunity for outreach.

"Music is a powerful tool for bringing people together across cultures, helping us discover how much we have in common rather than focusing on our differences," Clarke notes. He believes that by embracing the cultural melting pot of Columbus, we can "break the cycle of always performing for the same familiar audience" and reach a broader range of cultural, age, and social backgrounds. At a time of division, this partnership offers a positive path forward, allowing music to help our community connect, grow, and thrive.

## A Short History of The Magpie Consort

The Magpie Consort was founded in 1998 by Karen and David Carpenter as a small ensemble specializing in renaissance vocal music. The group's direction shifted in 2000 when Sheena Phillips arrived from Edinburgh, Scotland, and took over as artistic director. Under Sheena's leadership, the Magpies significantly widened their repertoire to include world music and collaborations with diverse groups like Rusalka (a Russian folk ensemble) and the Columbus Guitar Society.

Though the group nearly folded during the pandemic, Sheena's return to Columbus in 2022 sparked a successful rebuilding phase. Since then, the Magpies have celebrated their 25th anniversary and collaborated with local organizations like Open Door. The Magpies perform a wide variety of repertoire, collected in magpie fashion from many parts of the world and from different musical traditions: medieval and Renaissance gems, folk song and world music arrangements, and many other sacred and secular compositions.

## Join Us for the Feast

- Dates: May 8 & 9 at 7 p.m.
- Location: Columbus Mennonite Church, 35 Oakland Park Ave.
- Admission: Tickets at the door; suggested donation of \$0 – \$20 (pay as you are able).
- Logistics: Please enter through the doors at Broadway Place
- Parking: The church lot is accessible via Broadway Place. If full, overflow parking is available at the North Broadway United Methodist Church lot, and street parking is free.

We hope you will join us for this celebration of American spirit and musical community. For more information, visit [magpieconsort.org](https://magpieconsort.org).



## Save the Date!

### Americana/Folk Concert Series

#### Starlit Ways

**Sat, May 2nd, 3pm**

2pm open jam/sing-along

Food/Refreshments available. \$15

door donation / \$10 CFMS members

Venue: Reeb Center, 280 Reeb Ave.

Columbus

#### Cornucopia: A Feast of American Music

**Friday and Sat, May 8th & 9th, 7pm**

Refreshments available. \$0-\$20

suggested donation

The Magpies will donate a portion of  
ticket sales to CFMS. For more

information visit: [magpieconsort.org](http://magpieconsort.org)

Venue: Columbus Mennonite Church,  
35 Okaland Park Ave

### Ohio Folk Festival

**Mon and Tues, June 6th & 7th**

PRE-SALE ticket link:

<http://tickets.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/>

Sign up to volunteer on here:

[www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/festival#volunteer](http://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/festival#volunteer) OR email the festival

volunteer coordinators:

[coffvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:coffvolunteercoordinator@gmail.com)

### Zoom Jam Sessions

**Mondays and Thursdays, 10-**

**11:30am.** Contact Jane for Zoom

logon info: [vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com)

### In-Person Jams

**MONDAY evening 6:00-8:00pm -**

Contact Jane for location.

[vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com)

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

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## In-Person Jams, Continued

**WEDNESDAY evening 6:30-8:30 pm** - Spring

Session starts March 23 - Gillie Senior Center, 2100

Morse Road. Register online or at front desk (no

charge). Jam class is in the Community Room to the  
right of the entrance.

**SATURDAY 9:30 - 11:30am** - Spring Session starts

March 23 - Whetstone Community Center, 3923 N.

High Street, 43214, Music Jamming Class - register

online or in person (no charge). Check in at front

desk - class is on second floor

**SATURDAY 12noon - 2pm** - Spring Session starts

March 23 - Carriage Place Community Center, 4900

Sawmill Road, Music Jamming Class - register online

or in person (no charge). Check in at front desk.

Class is to right of entrance.

Whether a CFMS member or not, a monthly concert  
goer, or one of the thousands attending our May  
festival, your donation to the Columbus Folk Music  
Society yet this year may be doubled!

Donations may be made via the website:

<https://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/contact-donate.html>

via the Columbus Foundation's Giving Store:

<https://columbusfoundation.org/the-giving-store/nonprofit-directory-listing/ColumbusFolkMusicSocietyInc/6505>

or by check payable to Columbus Folk Music Society  
and mailed to: CFMS, PO Box 20735, Columbus, OH  
43220. Please write "matching challenge" on your  
check or online donation note.



## The Columbus Folk Music Society

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(614) 261-7991

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

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.

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

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE ANNUALLY ON DECEMBER 31.**  one of the membership levels listed below.

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Band \$25        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver \$250      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$25  | <input type="checkbox"/> Good Friend \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$200  | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member \$500 |
- 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](http://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.

My place of work matches donations:

