



# 2023/24

## CONCERT SEASON



SUNDAY / JAN. 28, 2024 / 3 PM

## WINDBORNE

Mabry Concert Hall, Austin Peay State University

# PROGRAM

Selections to be announced from the stage

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Windborne's** captivating performances draw on the singers' deep roots in traditions of vocal harmony, while the absolute uniqueness of their artistic approach brings old songs into the present. Known for their innovative arrangements, their harmonies are bold and anything but predictable.

With a twenty-year background studying polyphonic music around the world, Lauren Breunig, Jeremy Carter-Gordon, Lynn Rowan, and Will Rowan share a vibrant energy onstage with a blending of voices that can only come from decades of friendship alongside dedicated practice. The ensemble shifts effortlessly between drastically different styles of music, drawing their audience along on a journey that illuminates and expands on the power and variation of the human voice. The singers educate as they entertain, sharing stories about their songs and explaining the context and characteristics of the styles in which they sing.

BBC Traveling Folk describes Windborne as “subverting expectations and redefining the genre...just absolutely phenomenal!” Audiences and critics lavish praise upon the singers not only for their technical mastery, but for the passion, engagement, and connection with each other and the audience that imbues each performance with a rare power.

But there's another, crucial dimension to Windborne that guides and roots their artistry. They are adherents of folk music's longtime alliance with social activism, labor and civil rights, and other movements that champion the oppressed, the poor, and the disenfranchised. Their latest project, *Of Hard Times & Harmony*, explores themes of social conscious-

ness, singing in four languages and showcasing the depth of emotion their voices can evoke, as well as moments of true hilarity and wit.

The group is committed to bringing vocal traditions to a younger audience and over the past year has found surprisingly viral success on TikTok for such unlikely genres as Corsican polyphony and early twentieth-century labor anthems.

In 2013, **Jeremy Carter-Gordon** joined Windborne, rounding out the group with bass notes and more banjo. Jeremy holds a MA in dance anthropology and is a bit of a dance nomad, from studying Swedish folk dance at the Erik Sahlström Institute in Sweden to traveling across Europe on a Watson Fellowship collecting sword dance traditions. He is well known in the folk music and dance community for his singing, dancing, and has taught traditional music and dance on five continents.

**Lynn Mahoney Rowan** has been singing her whole life. Having grown up steeped in the folk music and dance culture of New England, she discovered a variety of polyphonic singing traditions through Village Harmony, and toured and taught extensively with the organization. She has taught choral groups and voice for over a decade and composed and arranged music for choirs and theater productions. When not touring, she makes her home in the hilltowns of Western Massachusetts and is deeply connected to the Earth Spirit Community. Lynn and her husband, Will, also perform duet music from old Pagan and folk traditions—particularly from Britain and Lithuania—as Lynn and Will Rowan.

**Lauren Breunig** grew up surrounded by folk music and dance: singing Shape Note music in friends' living rooms, contra dancing often and energetically, and touring internationally with Village Harmony and Northern Harmony. It was at Village Harmony that her love of folk music grew to include traditions from other parts of the world, and she has continued to study and perform vocal music from the US, England, Corsica, the

Republic of Georgia, Bulgaria, South Africa, Basque country, and beyond. Lauren holds a BA in Critical Social Thought, with a focus in experiential education and social change, from Mt. Holyoke College. When she's not making music with Windborne, Lauren works as a circus artist and instructor, teaching and performing aerial fabric, trapeze, and partner acrobatics.

**Will Thomas Rowan** is a singer, composer, conductor, and multi-instrumentalist with a broad interest in music from oral traditions as well as composed choral repertoires. He has a BA in Music Composition from Marlboro College, and a masters in Conducting from the Bard College Conservatory. He specializes in choral compositions inspired by and incorporating styles and themes from the Shape Note and ballad singing traditions. In addition to his work with Windborne, Will has taught for Village Harmony and Revels North, worked as a freelance chorister, played in West African drumming ensembles, conducted choruses and orchestras, and played as a side man in rock/pop bands. Will also performs regularly in a duo with his wife Lynn.

**PREVIOUS VOCAL ENSEMBLES**

Renowned vocal ensembles that have appeared in previous Clarksville Community Concerts include:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| American Spiritual Ensemble | Nashville Symphony Chorus (with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra) |
| Cantus Chanticleer          | Texas Boy Choir   |
| Ensemble Amarcord           | Variant Six   |
| Fisk Jubilee Singers        |   |

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Special thanks to Ms. Cody Richardson for presenting this afternoon's pre-concert talk.







# THE CLARKSVILLE COMMUNITY CONCERT ASSOCIATION

The Clarksville Community Concert Association (CCCA) brings music performances of high artistic merit to Clarksville-Montgomery County and promotes interest in and enjoyment of live music concerts through community outreach and education. The CCCA has presented a local concert series annually since 1951. Each artist performing a concert on the series is carefully selected for musical virtuosity as well as for their ability to provide outreach to local student musicians and the community. An all-volunteer, federally recognized non-profit organization, the CCCA has historically emphasized diversity in all respects as it chooses artists, and pays particular attention to fostering rising young talent, locally and in the musical world at large.

The CCCA presents two additional events in connection with all of its concerts. A pre-concert talk aimed at enriching audience appreciation is offered an hour before each concert. An outreach activity aimed at enriching the musical training of young musicians and music teachers in Clarksville-Montgomery County is presented during each concert artist's visit to Clarksville. Grants, donations, membership subscriptions, and ticket sales make the efforts of the CCCA possible, fostering this important work in our community. Thank you for attending today's concert and for your support. The CCCA's Board of Directors looks forward to seeing you at our next concert. Please bring a friend!

## UPCOMING CONCERTS

**David Byrd-Marrow, horn** Sunday, March 17 at 3 p.m.

**Warren Wolf Jazz Quartet** Saturday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m.  
(63rd Mid-South Jazz Festival)

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