

2022 FESTIVAL PERFORMERS

Visit 'Schedule' or 'Pamphlet' on Festival Page for time slots & info. Click [2022donate](#) to get on a list so that we can contact you later to reserve Headliner seats inside tent.



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Photo Keith Cotton

THE WAY DOWN WANDERERS – Sat. evening HEADLINER, 'high energy and infectious positivity'

"In addition to songwriting skills wholly impressive for their youth, and their equally admirable musicianship, there is a charisma in their sound accompanied by a positivity that proves infectious." - No Depression

#1 of 10 New Artists You Need To Know - Rolling Stone Country Winter 2019

Listen here: [TheWayDownWanderers.com/listen](https://www.thewaydownwanderers.com/listen)

The Way Down Wanderers will have the audience on their feet dancing and more advanced-age attendees smiling and tapping their toes. All will leave uplifted and revitalized – a festival for the memory books of an all time glorious and gleeful experience.

The Way Down Wanderers, a 5-piece band from Peoria, IL, in true Midwestern style, sing like angels but write songs with guts that are unmistakably earthbound. "There's really nothing more humbling than discovering that one of our songs meant something in somebody's life – that it helped them through a tough time, or inspired them to do something meaningful . . ."

They just want to change your world, or at least provide optimism. . . "Hopefully what we're doing is helping people open up and be there for one another," says Austin Thompson (front man and core writer), who married the older sister of longtime friend Collin Krause (the other lead songwriter and vocalist). "Out on the road, we're seeing people that are just craving some connection," Collin says.

With youthful exuberance and a lively stage show, "as reliable as it is infectious," you can expect high energy, mandolin, guitar, bass, banjo and fiddle woven seamlessly together to create an experience for fans that has sold out shows across the UK and the United States. – Jammin Java

DAYTIME MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS

ADAM SCHLENKER & HAYES GRIFFIN (NEWARK, OH) AMERICAN ROOTS



In a pairing 'greater than the sum of its parts,' this duo is composed of Adam Schlenker (*Coord. of American Roots Music, Denison University*) and Hayes Griffin (*Mandolin Secrets, Denison University*). Geography kept them from working together regularly, but 2021 brought Hayes back to central Ohio and the pairing came back to life. While exploring different styles and eras in American Roots Music, one sound stood out: The Monroe Brothers and "brother duos" of the 30s. The November 2021 release of their album *Long Journey Home*, celebrates both the "brother duos" sound and the beginning of a new era for the pair while

they pay homage to their roots. [Schlenker.Griffin.Duo](https://www.schlenkergriffin.com) Listen at: youtu.be/lrDbIfVZNs4

MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)

BILLY & EMILY (ANN ARBOR, MI) FOLK / FOLK POP / SINGER-SONGWRITER

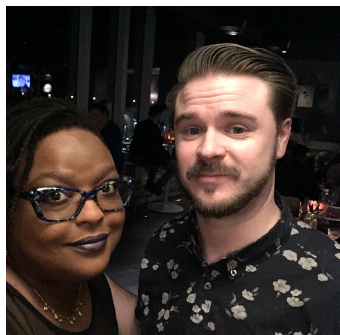


This duo mixes their own original songs with eclectic and vibrant covers of songs by the likes of Paul Simon, Joni Mitchell, and the Beatles. They blend beautiful harmonies, swap solo roles, and showcase marvelous musicianship on multiple instruments – guitar, banjo, fiddle, and mandolin.

Emily Slomovits is a freelance musician, theatre artist, teacher, and writer. She also performs regularly with Billy King. Billy, a seasoned performer, songwriter and recording artist in his own right, brings to the table an original blend of rootsy folk/pop with an occasional touch of country swing.

Influenced by master songwriters such as Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell and Paul Simon, Billy crafts melodically compelling songs that maintain a sense of the timeless and classic. . . . with always direct and thoughtful lyrics – this is original music from an original life, fully accomplished yet humble, and, most of all, real. billykingdom.com emilyslomovits.com

BRIDGES TO WONDERLAND (COLUMBUS, OH) SOUL / R&B / FOLK



Bridges to Wonderland is a duo composed of local talent Paisha Thomas and Chris “Topher James” Shaw. Their music combines influences from gospel, soul, R&B, and folk from some of their favorite artists – Stevie Wonder, Mavis Staples, Leon Bridges and Yola Carter. The duet’s warm harmonies and palpable chemistry provides a wonderful listening experience as they share their original music and some unique takes on the covers they love.

Chris has been a staple in the Columbus music scene for over 10 years: in the Andy Shaw Band, Americana duo Shaw Brothers, and fronting soul band

Topher James and Biscuit Brigade. Paisha Thomas has quickly made a name for herself since coming onto the scene in 2016 releasing a full-length album and several singles including “I Am Here.” The single was the first Thomas and Shaw collaborated on and they have penned other tunes together such as “When Will We Overcome” and “Right Now.” They have been working as a duo combining their originals in respective projects as well as a long eclectic list of covers – the only rule is the music must have harmony and soul. www.facebook.com/paishaband bandcamp.com/tag/chris-shaw

BUFFALO ROSE (PITTSBURGH, PA) ALT-FOLK / AMERICANA



Buffalo Rose is a wildly charismatic six-piece modern folk/Americana band that will change your entire perspective on acoustic music. They take the singer-songwriter tradition to new levels by crafting emotive, meticulously arranged original songs, inspired by a world of idiosyncratic influences – never letting a dull or predictable moment creep in.

What do others say about them? “Their sound is intoxicating – the combination of their tight string band rhythm and their supple harmonies.” - *John Platt, founder of the New Folk Initiative*. “Best Alt-Folk/Alt-Country Band 2021” – *Pittsburgh City Paper*. “How can a band be loose and tight at the same time? Listen to Buffalo Rose for the answer. I flat love them.” - Tom Paxton, folk music legend. buffalorosemusic.com

MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)

BUTCH ROSS (CHATTANOOGA, TN) MOUNTAIN DULCIMER (GENRE – YOU NAME IT)



Multi-instrumentalist and mountain dulcimer maestro Butch Ross has tackled everything from Radiohead to Bach and come away with a renewed appreciation for what the humble dulcimer is capable of. No genre is off-limits, nor is there a limit to what Ross has envisioned for this specific instrument.

Ross has become an in-demand performer at folk and dulcimer festivals throughout the US and Europe. He's performed at such festivals as Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, the Lancaster (UK) Music, the prestigious Philadelphia Folk Festival and is a favorite at the Central Ohio Folk Festival.

Ross' recent release called "Found Objects" is a collection of original compositions, outside-the-box covers, mashups and thoroughly unexpected arrangements of traditional songs. An eclectic mix that led *Chattanooga Times-Free Press* reporter Joshua Pickard to call it "a sound both experienced and

timeless, a result of its celebrated past and boundless future." butchross.com

ELEXA DAWSON (EMPORIA, KS) SINGER-SONGWRITER



Elexa Dawson presents sultry, spirited, original music with a voice like warm honey mixed with Kansas prairie dirt. Elexa Dawson's original songs and familiar favorites will ignite your senses with musical artistry, memorable melodies and engaging storytelling.

Dawson says: "I'm on a creative exploration of what it means to be Neshnabe (the Potawatomi's name for ourselves, meaning originally human): original, created, connected, elemental. I'm telling the story of being between, of seeking to honor both those ancestors who came before and the generations to come. Healing comes through the present

moment, but echoes throughout the past and future."

"Music is Medicine" (2019, Lost Cowgirl Records) debuted Elexa's community-centered songwriting, and "High Place" charted at #6 on Sirius XM's Indigenous Music Countdown. Some of her other involvements? Kansas Touring Roster; Citizen Potawatomi Nation; 2019 First People's Fund Fellow; 2020 WAA AIP Fellow; 2021 WAA AIP Native Launchpad Artist. elexadawson.com

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 (well, since they were teens); 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 for a rousing sing-along. folkramblers.carl-yaffey.com

MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)

JOHN PRINE TRIBUTE BAND (COLUMBUS, OH) SONGS OF JOHN PRINE



Rolling Stone Magazine says: “For 5 decades [Prine] wrote rich plain-spoken songs that chronicled the struggles and stories of everyday working people and changed the face of modern American roots music.” A two-time Grammy winner singer-songwriter, Prine was considered a premier ‘phrase turner,’ and Mike Hale, Renilda Marshall, Ed Tatum and Brian Szuch will perform John Prine’s tunes with the passion they deserve. When the tribute band has performed at previous Columbus Folk Music Society concerts, it’s always to a packed house.

The band members have come together for this project, but all of them are veteran performers in bands of their own.

RACHEL CLEMENTE WITH DAN HOUGHTON (GRANVILLE, OH/BRATTLEBORO, VT) SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL



Pedal and traditional Scottish harpist Rachel Clemente has had a passion for music from the age of five. Fast forward to July of 2018, Rachel graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow with a bachelors degree in traditional Scottish music.

Her accolades include winner of the US National Scottish Harp Champion in 2016 and winner of the Princess Margaret of the Isles Clàrsach Competition (USA) in 2021. A soloist as well as performer in her duo with bagpiper Dan Houghton she also enjoys working as a private harp instructor.

Dan Houghton is a gifted Scottish traditional musician who plays Highland bagpipes, small-pipes and border-pipes, flute, guitar and bouzouki, AND he sings – though he doesn’t do all at the same time. He is the progeny of two

Scottish Country Dance teachers – both of whom are also folkies – and as a result he began his Scottish musical training several months before he inspired his first lungful of air. Since those far off, halcyon days he has come to have a profound impact on audiences throughout Britain, Europe, North America and even the antipodes. rachelclementeharpist.com www.pipingtool-scot.com

STONE & SNOW (BLOOMINGTON, IL) ALT-FOLK / SINGER-SONGWRITER



Stone & Snow is an alt-folk pairing of songwriters and multi-instrumentalists, Karen Bridges and Clint Thomson. In 2012, they began a collaboration filled with close harmonies and thoughtful lyrics. And they gave it a name that gives a nod to the mountain landscapes of the West – Stone & Snow.

The duo enjoys multiple awards and recognitions including recipient of the 2022 Folk Alliance International Scholarship, winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest – NAMM Edition, runner up IAMA (International Acoustic Music Awards), and 2 NPR Tiny Desk Contests Honorable Mention awards.

Their rich vocal harmonies and warm vibe will leave you wanting to [hear] more from this Illinois-based duo. —American Songwriter Magazine stoneandsnow.com

MAIN STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)

STORYTELLERS OF CENTRAL OHIO (COLUMBUS, OH)



The Storytellers of Central Ohio (SOCO) are a dynamic group of men and women of all ages who believe in the power, the magic, and the wonder of storytelling in the oral tradition. Founded in 1990 to promote the art of storytelling, and to foster the growth and development of storytellers, SOCO now plays an integral part in the world-wide renaissance of storytelling. Listen to some of them on the main stage following storytelling by Alexa Dawson (from the Potawatomi Nation) during a special festival presentation of storytelling. www.socotales.org

SHOWCASE STAGE PERFORMERS

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!

BILLY & EMILY

BUFFALO ROSE

BUTCH ROSS

ELEXA DAWSON

RACHEL CLEMENTE with DAN HOUGHTON

STONE & SNOW

Additional Showcase Stage Performers:

BEE HUMANA (COLUMBUS, OH) FOLK / LATIN FUSION / JAZZ



This talented duo is composed of Elizabeth Shuman and Roger Parish. How do that describe their music? Bee Humana is in a class by itself. Chavela Vargas meets Jolie Holland. Eclectic and jazzy with a solid folk backbone.

Original and traditional songs in Spanish accompanied by classical guitar, flute, and flugelhorn combined with soulful trumpet, they produce a unique sound at the crossroads of blues, jazz, Latin and folk. Bee Humana will have you in a trance.

beehumanamusic

SHOWCASE STAGE PERFORMERS (CONT.)

THE GOLDSBERRYS (GAHANNA, OH) ORIGINAL NEWGRASS



The Goldsberrys serve up original newgrass, inspired by old-time music, bluegrass and new age jam band, reggae, and rock. With lyrics everyone can relate to, the band weaves together 4-part vocal harmony, banjo, guitar, fiddle and bass to create a unique sound. With a rousing sound you'll be sure to enjoy, alongside their many fans, come on out and say "hello!" www.thegoldsberrysband.com

JOHN HARTFORD TRIBUTE (FEATURING ADAM SCHLENKER, HAYES GRIFFIN, DENISON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS & ALUMNI (GRANVILLE, OH) JOHN HARTFORD TUNES



This set will celebrate the music of John Hartford and will feature current and former members of the Denison University American Roots Music program. This group is led by Adam Schlenker, Coordinator of American Roots Studies, and Hayes Griffin, mandolin & banjo instructor at Denison.

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](#)

PAST KIRBY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS (SAT. AT NOON / SHOWCASE STAGE)

Our last two years' Kirby Scholarship winners will each have a chance to perform some tunes/songs on the Showcase Stage at Noon on Saturday. We encourage festival attendees to come hear them and support their enthusiastic interest in music.

BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE PERFORMERS

KATY OBERLE (COLUMBUS, OH). www.katyoberlecreative.com

KRISTIN GRAMZA (COLUMBUS, OH) www.kristingramza.com

SOUR CHERRY PIE (PHIL HART & STEVE ROLFE) (COLUMBUS, OH) www.pahart.com

JOANIE CALEM (COLUMBUS, OH) www.joaniecalem.com

KRISTEN ELLIOTT (KRISTEN ELLIOT & ERIC CLEMENS) (DUBLIN, OH) www.kristenvelliott.com

CLAYTON MOORE & CATY PETERSILGE (COLUMBUS, OH)

BILL BAXTER PAGE (COLUMBUS, OH)

COLIN RICHARDS (SPRINGFIELD, OH) [Search Colin Richards and Spare Change on Spotify](#)

WRYGRASS (COLUMBUS, OH) www.facebook.com/Wrygrass – “Very broadly bluegrass” describes

Wrygrass, whose set list includes songs from the genre’s founders, folkies, classic country, and maybe some monkee-ing around.

KIRBY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS FOLLOWED BY “MOST OUTRAGEOUS SONG IN THE WORLD CONTEST” (SATURDAY AT 4PM / BAILEY ACOUSTIC STAGE)



Events occurring on the Bailey Acoustic Stage include the annual Kirby Scholarship Awards by the Columbus Folk Music Society to two young musicians. The award winners will be given an opportunity to perform as part of the awards ceremony. [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 a real audience pleaser. AND it’s the audience that

chooses the ‘Most Outrageous’ song winner. Pre-sign up highly recommended at:

[MostOutrageousSongContest](#).