



## Stillhouse Junkies - CFMS' Concert Series Featured Act at Nocterra Brewery April 27

INTERVIEW BY EMILY SINK

Get ready for an energetic musical journey when Stillhouse Junkies "launches" the 2024 Central Ohio Music Festival playing the weekend before at Nocterra Brewing Co. - the Festival's beer partner's Powell location **7pm on April 27** - part of the Americana/Folk Concert Series.

**Emily Sink:** In 2021 you received the "Momentum Band of the Year" award from the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA), but your music seems to incorporate elements of many different genres. How would you describe your music?

**Alissa Wolf:** The three of us come from varied musical backgrounds, influenced by everything from jazz and classical, to bluegrass, country and funk. It's hard to describe us in just a few words, but we often refer to ourselves as a progressive string band. Fans have creatively tagged us as "math grass" as well as "power grass".

**Emily:** From reading your bios on your website, it seems that all three of you have experience playing every kind of music imaginable. . . classical, jazz, folk, funk, bluegrass...how does

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*"For me, music is a way to connect with people."*

*-Lincoln Mick, The Arcadian Wild*

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# Festival Headliner: The Arcadian Wild

BY EMILY SINK

"Welcome." It's the title of The Arcadian Wild's most recent album – an invitation. "And not necessarily one that we're giving. I think it's one that we're caught up in also." says mandolin-player Lincoln Mick. The album, which debuted at number 2 on the Billboard Bluegrass chart, typifies their sound, rich in harmony and propelled by rhythmic interplay from each voice and instrument.

The Arcadian Wild began in 2013 by Lincoln Mick and guitarist Isaac Horn. "Whenever we were first starting out as a college band we had very little experience playing together." Horn describes the band's beginnings. "We were new to a lot of things and I think we always just tried to...make the best of the things we have at our disposal." The band underwent a number of lineup changes before welcoming fiddler Bailey Warren to the group in 2020. All three members collaborate on writing and arranging. "We tend to play together more ...in conversation with each other now." says Horn.

Released in 2023, The Arcadian Wild's latest album has a modern poignancy, with songs that grapple with themes of isolation and distance, human connection, and resilience. "We have these tools available to us now in this age that...allow us to somehow make some kind of connection with people who are far away from us...but somehow those tools that are designed to serve that function I think so frequently serve the opposite purpose." Mick explains. "For me, music is a way to connect with people."



**It is this thread: connection and communication, that runs so deep through The Arcadian Wild's story.** In the band's early days, they played house shows, often relying on the generosity of others to welcome them into their homes. "There were so many moments in some of our earlier years where there was this sort of mutual willingness to take a risk," Mick recalls. "There was this kind of grace that hovered over that season for us...and I think we've tried to carry that forward as we've moved into a different season." Though they don't play nearly as many house shows now, the energy and camaraderie that underpin live shows are an integral part of the trio's music. "It's this sort of co-created experience that wouldn't be special if the audience weren't there, and if a specific audience weren't gathered together that night." says Mick. "I think that's what we were trying to chase down and pin down when we were making the record [Welcome]."

The Arcadian Wild will headline this year's Central Ohio Folk Festival, hosted by the Columbus Folk Music Society (CFMS) at Highbanks Metro Park on May 4th, at

7 pm. Seating will be available on the lawn and under the main tent. To listen to a sampling of the band and/or reserve a tent seat, please donate early here:

<https://centralohiofolkfestival2024donate.eventbrite.com/> and save your receipt. You will be asked to show your receipt to gain tent access. Donate \$20 or more to receive a special gift, courtesy of the Central Ohio Folk Festival.

## The Relentless Mules Perform for CFMS' Americana Folk Concert Series at Reeb Ave Center April 13

BY BRENT DAVIS

Mules are not stubborn, animal experts tell us. But they can be relentless.

And the Relentless Mules, one of the area's premier bluegrass bands, have been determined in their quest to master and present bluegrass music at the highest level.

You can see this exciting and accomplished band in concert Saturday, April 13, at 3 p.m. at The Reeb Center on the city's South Side. The concert includes free food at 2 p.m. and an open mic at 2.30.

Fronted by guitarist Daniel Phelps and banjoist Glen Rinehart, The Relentless Mules have refined their music playing at countless festivals, gigs, and through many

weekly appearances at Ramblin' House, which garnered them a strong and loyal following. Phelps is a gifted musician who has been influenced by the singing and playing of the late Tony Rice, one of the most respected musicians in bluegrass. In fact, if you close your eyes during a Mules show you might swear it was Rice himself on stage.

Rinehart is an accomplished banjoist who incorporates Scruggs style, melodic, and single-string techniques in his playing. While these are the prevalent styles in bluegrass banjo, few are able to combine them with the skill that Rinehart demonstrates.

This concert series is part of CFMS' efforts to present folk music to new and diverse communities. It's also a great opportunity for our members to travel beyond their own familiar environs into a historic neighborhood that's being transformed by growth and development.

This concert series is supported by a grant from the Greater Columbus Arts Council. The CFMS is grateful to the GCAC and also to the leadership of The Reeb Center for their interest in partnering with us on this and other endeavors.



*The Relentless Mules*

# Folk Festival Again Mixes Music and Nature for Family Fun

BY BILL COHEN



## The Central Ohio Folk Festival celebrates its 27th season May 4-5!

Once again, the setting will be the lush green forest and trails of Highbanks Metro Park, 9466 North High Street (U.S. Route 23), Lewis Center, Ohio, just a few miles North of Columbus.

### Among the festival highlights:

More than 30 hourly concerts on three stages: you'll hear a wide range of folk music – bluegrass, old-time, blues, singer-songwriter, Southern roots, Americana, Celtic, and more. . . songs that often reflect the struggles of everyday people.

A giant 1960's-style folk music community sing-along to open the festival at 11 am Saturday, plus a poignant song circle to close the fest on Sunday.

More than 30 workshops. Some examples: songwriting, jamming, playing for social change, the music business, and how to play autoharp, blues guitar, ukulele, dulcimer, mandolin, banjo, and other folk instruments. Some workshops will be for beginning players, and others will be for more advanced musicians.

Our "YouthFolk Tent" serving youngsters with music, stories, and workshops. Workshop offerings include making a drum out of wooden box frames.

Plus, a perennial favorite – our "Instrument Petting Zoo" to let children handle folk instruments. Also, hands-on arts and crafts. Plus, festival mascot Darby Duck will be on hand for the young and young-at-heart.

Two drum circles where everyone, young and old alike, will be invited to pound on a drum or other rhythm instrument to a mesmerizing beat.

A stage slot, featuring "storytelling for all ages" with Goldenthread (storyteller and musician April Mann). April has appeared on stages from Berlin to NYC entertaining audiences with story and song.

Expanded informal jamming by anyone with an instrument or voice. This year will feature five jam tents, each with a different focus: bluegrass, old-time, folk-mix, voices-only, and one led by the "Cbus Jammers" (formerly known as the Worthington Square Jam Group), dedicated to encouraging the very beginner.

► Sunday opens with an 11 am “Songs of the Spirit” session with the audience participating with chants, rounds, and songs, led by the nationally-beloved folk duo, Mustard’s Retreat.

► The festival will include two popular beer garden areas, where those 21 and older may purchase and enjoy a delicious Nocterra craft beer while the music from nearby performers wafts through the air.

The variety of choices is mind-blowing! Saturday and Sunday afternoons, at any one time, festival-goers will have their choice of attending any one of more than a dozen different activities. So many choices, so little time!

**Saturday May 4th at 7 pm, in our main tent beneath a starlit sky, our headliner act, The Arcadian Wild, will create musical magic.**

The trio from Nashville describes themselves as genre-bending, since they had roots in alt-rock and punk, but now mix bluegrass, classical, and other genres with tight 3-part vocal harmonies in original songs that defy categorization. The fact that their 2015 debut album earned them nearly 50 million streams on Spotify alone is proof of their top-notch quality. How else would they be invited to perform at venues like The Woody Guthrie Center and the Ryman Auditorium, once home of the Grand Ole Opry?



Here’s just a small sample of some of the other acts that will perform throughout the festival, along with their focus:

- *Jenner Fox* from Seattle Washington: singer-songwriter and folk
- *Sarah Kate Morgan* (duo) from Hindman Kentucky: singer-songwriter, dulcimer

- *Jackson Grimm Band* from Asheville NC: old-time & bluegrass
- *The Rainmakers Trio* from Zanesville OH: blues
- *The Dirty Windows* from Columbus: John Prine songs
- *Daniel Dye & the Miller Road Band* from Springfield OH: original folk/Americana
- *Fialla* from Columbus, OH: traditional foot-tapping Irish music, AND
- A special “collaborative freestyle performance” by local musicians from Music Columbus’ program entitled “*The Unheard*”, sure to be an electrifying display of Columbus’ creative talent.

As people enter the festival grounds, we’ll welcome donations. For donations of \$20 or more, you’ll get some free fun stuff. With donations funding the festival, there will be no charges for the many activities, and that includes workshops, hourly concerts, jam sessions, children’s activities, and even the Saturday night headliner concert. The festival staffers are all volunteers, so 100% of the money that people contribute will help support this festival.

The festival is produced by the Columbus Folk Music Society and is co-sponsored by WCBE Radio 90.5 FM.

**For more info, visit:**

<https://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/festival.html>.

To donate early and to reserve a seat inside the tent for our headliner concert: <https://CentralOhioFolkFestival2024donate.eventbrite.com/>. Pre-donation is recommended over on-site donation if you hope to reserve inside tent seating for the Saturday night concert. Otherwise, there will be plenty of lawn seating.

Stillhouse Junkies, from pg 1

your versatility as individuals influence your sound as a band?

**Alissa (and the band):** Our versatility comes into play especially with our songwriting and how we arrange our original material. We always push ourselves to write in new styles, with different grooves and feels. Because we have some funk and jazz influences, we're able to steer away from the classic bluegrass vibes but still incorporate moments of the 2 feel. With Alissa's background in classical, she will often lean into her technical training and land somewhere between bluegrass and classical, coming up with ideas that are virtually impossible to define as any specific style.

**Emily:** You're often praised for your chemistry and interplay as musicians. How did you meet each other and become Stillhouse Junkies?

**Alissa (and the band):** The three of us met through the local music scene in Durango, Colorado. Fred started the trio with Cody and Alissa joining shortly thereafter in 2018. We used to play in the corner of a tiny distillery called Durango Craft Spirits every Friday night. This was where we tried out all our new material and found our sound. In spring of 2018 the band was asked to come up with a name to play the Durango Bluegrass Meltdown, so being residents of the distillery, the name Stillhouse Junkies seemed fitting.

**Emily:** Your album [Small Towns](#) is brimming with narrative-style songs..."1963", "Moonrise Over Ridgeway", "El Camino"...just to name a few. What inspires songs like these?

**Alissa:** *Small Towns* came together very organically. All three of us are from small towns and have a special place in our hearts for such places. When we were getting ready to plan the 2022 release, we noticed a theme in our songwriting – small towns! All the songs are inspired by places we've lived and visited over the years.

**Emily:** Which of your songs have been the most fun to write/record/produce?

**Alissa:** We have loved writing and producing every song we've released. One that stands out in our experience was "River of the Lost Souls". This involved some of our most intricate arrangements and improv to date. It was extremely fun and exciting to produce with Stephen Mouglin at Dark Shadow Recording as it showcases our originality and unique sound as a band. We also loved producing and recording "El Camino" as this included guest fiddler, Becky Buller, who we all love and admire. She's become a great friend and ally of the band over the years, and it was an honor to hear her twin fiddle on this original tune.

**Emily:** What can audiences expect from your show this coming April?

**Alissa:** We have some brand new, unreleased music that we have been touring and we are excited to share that with our audiences. We have a tradition with the Stillhouse Junkies – we do not use set lists. So, we can't tell you exactly what to expect but, for those that have not seen us live before, we often transition from song to song without breaks. So, get ready for an energetic musical journey. We promise some fun banter and tour stories in between as well!



## Welcome NEW Members

Art Greenberg                      Matt Leist  
 Patrick Harsch Family      Ken Parsons  
 Rosalie Hendon                  Terry Sharkey  
 Marcella & Paul King      Alexander Ward  
 John Kunzi

...and Welcome Back RENEWING Members!



## Save the Date!

### Americana/Folk Concert Series

#### **The Relentless Mules**

**Saturday, April 13, 3pm**

Food 2pm; Open Mic: 2:30pm

A Free-will donation event

Venue: Reeb Avenue Center, 280 Reeb Ave., Columbus

#### **Stillhouse Junkies**

**Saturday, April 27, 8pm**

Open Mic: 7pm (no pre-concert jam)

Donation: \$15

Venue: Nocterra Brewing, 41 Depot St., Powell

### Zoom Jam Sessions

Mondays and Thursdays

10am -12 noon. Please contact Jane for information: [vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com)

### In-Person Jams

**Mondays** 6-8pm at 4th Ave Christian Church, 296 W. 4th Ave.

**Wednesdays** 6:30-8:30pm at Gillie Center, 4625 Morse Centre Drive

**Saturdays** 9:30-11:30am at two locations: Whetstone Community Center, 3923 N. High St and All Saints Lutheran Church, 6770 N. High St., Worthington

## NEWSLETTER TEAM

**Editor (interim):** Diane Boston

**Regular Writers:** Pete Insabella, Michelle Hughes

**Layout:** Sherry Hubbard

**Distribution:** Pete Insabella

**CFMS Event Photos:** Linda McDonald

## Another Event of Interest

**Celebrate People's Music!** Volunteer presenter Doug Morris (Ph.D., Penn State) gives a **two-part talk on the history of folk music**. Audience participation encouraged - singing, insights, dialogue! Held at: *Columbus Metropolitan Library/Whetstone Branch*: 3909 N High St, Cbus.  
**Sat., April 20** 3:30-5 pm/Part 1: Years 1840 to 1940  
**Sun., April 28** 3:30-5 pm/ Part 2: Woody Guthrie to contemporary folk singers

## Looking for opportunities to play (music) nicely with others? Join the Cbus Jammers!

The Cbus Jammers (formerly known as the Worthington Squares) meet several times a week, in person and via Zoom, to jam together. These informal jam sessions are a great opportunity to practice your instrument while getting to know some fellow folk music lovers. We also sometimes play at farm markets, metro parks, nursing homes, children's events, etc. All folk instrument players are welcome, regardless of skill or experience!

For questions or to be added to the jam list, contact Jane VanAuken at: [vanaukj@gmail.com](mailto:vanaukj@gmail.com)

And see the current jam calendar here: <https://www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org/jam-sessions.html>



## The Columbus Folk Music Society

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### 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"/> General Help      | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Skills   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CFMS concert events | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design    | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Musician   | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Design           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking / Baking    | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Instructor | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing / Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Management     | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal             | Instruments: _____                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising         | <input type="checkbox"/> Musician          | <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      |
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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:

