

Bainbridge Performing Arts 2009-2010 Season

News from Bainbridge Performing Arts

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The Bee Eaters Return to Bainbridge Performing Arts (BPA) Friday, February 5 @ 7:30 p.m.

BPA presents an evening of acoustic music featuring Bainbridge Island grown banjo and hammered dulcimer virtuosos **Wesley Corbett** and **Simon Chrisman** with six time Grand National Fiddle Champions **Tristan** and **Tashina Clarridge**.

The Bee Eaters boasts four of the most accomplished, creative young talents of the new generation, tracing roots back to the musical traditions of Bluegrass, Old-time, Celtic, Jazz and Pop. The quartet combines the strong, striking music of hammered dulcimer virtuoso **Simon Chrisman** and banjo phenomenon **Wesley Corbett** with the inimitable sound of brother-sister fiddle duo **Tristan and Tashina Clarridge**. Since their last performance on the island, The Bee Eaters have officially released their critically acclaimed debut CD, produced by fiddle legend Darol Anger. The Boston Globe calls it “captivating”, and The Martha’s Vineyard Times says “It’s a sharp, clean example of where new acoustic music may be headed.”

Tristan, an inventive cellist and five-time Grand National Fiddle Champion, tours internationally with **Crooked Still** and **Darol Anger’s Republic of Strings** and has performed with **Mike Marshall**, **Bruce Molsky**, and Cape Breton fiddle phenomenon **Natalie MacMaster**.

His sister **Tashina**, the 2005 Grand National Fiddle Champion, has toured with **Mark O’Connor** and **Tony Trischka** and has performed at **Carnegie Hall** as part of MacArthur Fellow/Grammy-winning bassist **Edgar Meyer’s** Young Artists program.

Since starting banjo at age 16, 23-year-old **Wesley Corbett** has toured internationally with North Carolina’s bluegrass sensation **The Biscuit Burners** and appeared with the **David Grisman Quintet**, **Matt Glaser**, and numerous other groups; he also currently tours with **Joy Kills Sorrow**.

Wesley’s longtime musical collaborator, hammered dulcimer wizard **Simon Chrisman**, has performed with **Darol Anger** and **Mike Marshall**, opened for **Bill Frisell**, and at 16 was a scholarship guest artist at the

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Augusta Heritage Festival in West Virginia. His sophisticated rhythmic sense and ingenious tonal flexibility, on an instrument usually considered limited, has created a buzz among musicians all over the world.

The result of the foursome's collaboration is an elegant fusion of tradition and innovation. The Bee Eaters are a powerful creative force at the forefront of the emerging New Acoustic music scene, and they've garnered rave reviews:

"Boston's fast-evolving progressive acoustic music scene has produced another strange and wondrous new species, the Bee Eaters...the quartet combines chamber music's finely calibrated arrangements with bluegrass's playful virtuosity and pop music's melodic resourcefulness." - *The Boston Globe*

"The Bee Eaters are the instrumental cream of the brand new string nation... somehow these kids have absorbed everything we had to offer and alchemized it into a whole new musical world." - **Darol Anger**

"It is a joy to hear both the exploration of this music and the grounding of it simultaneously. Also, I love the emphasis on the simple beauty of the acoustic instruments." - **Edgar Meyer**

To schedule interviews, or for publicity materials, write trclarridge@gmail.com or call Wesley Corbett: 206.310.1426. Hi-res photos are available at www.beeeaters.com.

The Bee Eaters appear Friday, February 5 at 7:30 p.m., one night only at BPA. Tickets, \$15 for adults, and \$10 for seniors, students, youth, military, and teachers, may be purchased online at www.bainbridgeperformingarts.org, by phone at 206.842.8569 or in person at BPA, 200 Madison Avenue North, Bainbridge Island. BPA Box Office hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and one hour prior to each performance. The performance includes two 45 minute sets with one 15 minute intermission.

BPA is supported, in part, by the **Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council** and the **City of Bainbridge Island**.

Find out more about BPA at www.bainbridgeperformingarts.org. Check online for the latest on theatre and symphony auditions, complete theatre school and adult class offerings, performance listings, tickets, cast lists, video promos, posters, press, and more. Click on "Join Mailing List" to receive electronic performance announcements and behind-the-scenes news.

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