

Jayme Stone's Folklife



Jayme Stone
(BANJO, VOICE)

Moira Smiley
(VOICE, ACCORDION)

Joe Phillips
(BASS, VOICE)

Sumaia Jackson
(FIDDLE, VOICE)

Perennials for the People

Stemming from the Lomax Project, Jayme Stone's *Folklife* treats old field recordings not as time capsules, but as heirloom seeds passed down from a bygone generation. Planting these sturdy seeds in modern soil, this versatile gathering of musicians has cultivated vibrant Sea Island spirituals, Creole calypsos, and stomp-down Appalachian dance tunes for contemporary listeners. Their concerts and educational programs are moving, inventive, and participatory experiences that prove folk songs are indeed perennials for the people.

"A fresh contemporary take
on musical treasures."

NPR

"A musical evangelist, Stone
loves using fresh approaches
to get people hooked on
wider musical traditions."

EDMONTON JOURNAL

"A truly inventive spin
on some very old tunes."

GEORGIA STRAIGHT

Praise

“Our audience still hasn't stopped talking about the show! The concert was truly a joy from beginning to end: beautifully performed, charmingly presented, with much variety and clear research behind the music. The stellar performers connected deeply with our audience and it was one of the highlights of our last season.”

NATALIE NEUERT – UVM Lane Series, Burlington, VT

“Jayme put together a wonderful ensemble that thoroughly engaged the audience with their virtuosity, musical integrity, and irrepressible charm. This concert is a presenter's dream—great music, low tech, and passionate artists who are easy to work with and deliver the goods!”

MERVON MEHTA – Koerner Hall, Toronto, ON

“The combination of your knowledge and extremely sensitive handling of the artistic material is nothing short of impressive. It's clear that the musicians in your group have deep respect for you and the powerful artistic space you create for them—and that's obviously heavily rooted in your musical gifts, but it extends way beyond that to your intellect and your openness as a human being.”

TODD WETZEL – Purdue University, Lafayette, IN

“If anyone had asked me if they should try some of those songs you chose to record—especially the African-American ones—I would have said, ‘Don't do it. You'll never get it right.’ But, whoa, did you ever get them right! A brilliant album.”

JOHN SZWED – Author of "Alan Lomax: The Man Who Recorded the World"

"The record has re-ignited Lomax's best aspects. A wonderful project, excellent music, adventurous interpretations, powerful singing and great performances all around."

JOHN COHEN – Musician, folklorist, founding member of the “New Lost City Ramblers”

“I can't begin to calculate the number of times I've listened. What I most like is the sense—right up front—that these brilliant, inventive, wildly skilled musicians also really know the Lomax collection. They've heard the old stuff and it comes through. And to be able to play the hell out of the instruments and then sing unaccompanied harmonies? Just fabulous.”

JEFF DAVIS – Musician, song collector

“Jayme Stone is one of the most innovative and creative banjo players we've ever heard. He's in a rarified class with Béla Fleck. Over and above his musical skills, Jayme was also exceptionally well prepared as a teacher and completely engaged and captivated a large group. Jayme understands the power of music and community—It was a joy to have him.”

GRIT LASKIN – Director,
Woods Music & Dance Camp



Education

Our mission is to offer educational programs on traditional music that center conversations around musical styles, the provenance of songs, and the social underpinnings of the music. We pull back the curtain on our artistic process and engage in vital questions about how we honor musical traditions while expressing our own voices.

Our programs are participatory. Students (both “regular folks” and musicians) will sing, stomp, and experience the richness of traditional music. They’ll also learn about the diversity and cultural heritage of American Roots music traditions.

With experience leading workshops and residencies at the Berklee College of Music, Tufts University, Purdue University, East Tennessee State University, DePauw University, Alasdair Fraser’s Sierra Fiddle Camp, Targhee Music Camp, Mike Block String Camp, Silkroad Global Musician Workshop, and more, we tailor our programs to suit our audiences. Working with presenters and education coordinators we determine what will work best—including the level of participation, whether we’ll need a PA (for audiences over 60 people), and what elements to include—from slideshows and sing-alongs, to side-by-side comparisons of field recordings as they were then and as we’ve remade them now.

See the following page for examples of programs for our typical audiences.



Young Folks, Old Folks

Ideal for K-12 classroom visits, school assemblies, libraries, and festival workshops.

A wide range of audiences are introduced to folk instruments, sing and stomp in community, listen to and learn about field recordings, discover the banjo's West African roots, explore the music's cultural heritage, and hear world-class music performed live.

University Students

Ideal for Ethnomusicology, Folklore, and American Studies departments.

Through classroom visits, and in tandem with course curriculum, we bring the history, stories, and traditions that underpin the music alive. Presentations may include audio-visual materials, conversation, musical participation, and performance.

Music Students

Ideal for masterclasses, music programs and camps.

Together, we explore material from the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center, Alan Lomax's Global Jukebox, and field recordings collected by many folklorists. Students experience songs from a wide spectrum of folk music including Appalachian ballads and fiddle tunes, African-American spirituals and shouts, and songs from the Caribbean and Bahamas.

Students also learn the origin of songs, transcribe lyrics from field recordings, and get coached in creating contemporary arrangements of traditional music.

Band members teach individually and together. **Jayme Stone** teaches banjo styles of every stripe, as well as classes on rhythm, improvisation, cultural entrepreneurship, and more. **Moira Smiley** teaches singing with classes like *Colors of the Voice*, *Your Voice Is a Traveler*, and *Hambone and Harmony*. **Sumaia Jackson** teaches fiddle with classes like Old-Time Fiddle Bowing, and Chops and Grooves. **Joe Phillips** teaches bass, specializing in bowing, moving between styles, and also Irish and Canadian guitar accompaniment. Together, the band teaches songs from their Lomax Project and Folklife repertoire: shape note hymns, Sea Island shouts, work songs, square dance tunes, and more.

When we leave we want participants to feel as though these songs are theirs now too. We want them to sing them, plant them in their own gardens, graft them to their own musical trees.

If you're interested in hosting one of our programs please be in touch and let us know about your needs and interests.

Contact

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