

American Music Research Center UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



our Roots

ecreate

A Celebration of American Roots Music

Featuring Jayme Stone's Folklife, Dom Flemons, Anna & Elizabeth, and more January 22-25, 2018 February 5-8, 2018

Welcome to Recreate Your Roots

As director of the American Music Research Center, I am pleased to invite you to this exciting exploration of the history, the lore, and—most importantly—the sounds of American folk music. But more than simply giving a history lesson in the form of a concert, our performers—both local and those of national reputation—will demonstrate how regional and ethnic communities have contributed to (and continue to re-create) a diversity of folk styles.

Understanding the sonic "roots" of the United States can help us reaffirm our commitment to community engagement and positive action. Ultimately, this roots celebration embodies the values many associate with folk music. That is, how music and storytelling help us to share our common humanity; lift our spirits; lower our stress; practice kindness towards neighbors; hospitality to strangers, and to inspire our yearning for social justice. This experience is inter-generational, inclusive, feminist, and diverse.

This program promises to be a dynamic and renewing experience—a creative conversation with American roots music traditions. Please join us!

Tom Riis



A Celebration of American Roots Music

Presented by CU's American Music Research Center, Recreate Your Roots brings together musicians from a diverse cross-section of American roots music traditions—think banjos, fiddles, voices—in an ear-opening way for contemporary listeners. Like a summer camp in the woods brought to the city, the celebration will include concerts, TED-style talks, creative incubation, and community gatherings that welcome folks of all ages from greater Boulder.

The visiting musicians—Jayme Stone's Folklife, Anna & Elizabeth, and Dom Flemons—all work in collaboration with the past, both honoring and exploring the provenance and social underpinnings of the songs they play. These are songs that come with stories of black cowboys, slyly political Caribbean dancers, and the kind of woman who wouldn't leave her house without her fiddle and her rifle. With great generosity of spirit, these musicians share their creative processes up close in a way that is fascinating to any art lover or art maker.

Program curator Jayme Stone says this about his Folklife project: "In this age of monoculture, it's no wonder that many of us seek nearly-forgotten artifacts from the past: an antique Radio Flyer wagon, a dog-eared first edition, a hymn as old as dirt. But I'm no collector, nor am I particularly nostalgic. I revel in the act of discovery. I want 33¹/₃ revelations per minute. I crave collaboration. So I gathered together fellow keen-eared musicians to help blow the dust off of these carefully chosen songs, uncover their hidden histories, and till fresh soil to see what might spring forth from these sturdy seeds.

Similarly, Anna & Elizabeth learn traditional songs from master elders (especially women) and archives, then weave in new musical ideas and performance practices, including dance and moving panoramas or "crankies." They also take inspiration from other musicians dwelling in storytelling and landscape places—like Laurie Anderson and Nick Cave—and put an avant-garde spin on traditional songs.

Meanwhile, Dom "the American Songster" Flemons, a founding member of the Grammy Award winning Carolina Chocolate Drops, slam poet, and multi-instrumentalist, brings his own modern take to ragtime, Piedmont blues, spirituals, southern traditional music, string band music, fife and drum music, and jug-band music, with both showmanship and humor.

This is music for the people by the people.

Visiting Artist Biographies



Jayme Stone

Two-time Juno-winning banjoist, composer, and instigator Jayme Stone makes music inspired by sounds from around the world-bridging folk, jazz, and chamber music. His award-winning albums both defy and honor the banjo's long role in the world's music, turning historical connections into compelling sounds. Stone is the consummate collaborator, unearthing musical artifacts and magnetizing extraordinary artists to help rekindle these understudied sounds. He is a passionate educator and producer and is the curator of the Recreate Your Roots program.

Jayme Stone's Folklife

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.

Jayme Stone (banjo, voice) Moira Smiley (voice, accordion) Sumaia Jackson (fiddle, voice) Joe Phillips (bass, voice)

Visiting Artist Biographies



Anna & Elizabeth

Through their immersive creative process and bold interpretations, Anna & Elizabeth's visionary partnership pioneers new ways of presenting old songs and stories to modern audiences. With a deep and shared love of old Appalachian music, they stand at the vanguard of tradition and the avant-garde, transforming traditional music with innovative, modern arrangements. Their captivating performance integrates visual art, movement and experimental film with breathtaking harmonies.

The performance magic comes from the unique strengths of each artist: Elizabeth LaPrelle, lauded as the finest traditional singer of her generation, is rooted in rural Virginia and a lifetime of singing ballads. Anna Roberts-Gevalt's musical path has led her from the kitchens of Kentucky banjo elders to sessions in Brooklyn's thriving experimental music world. A master instrumentalist, Anna is the band's arranger and driving force. On their new album, the spartan simplicity of their voices and acoustic instruments also include percussion, synth, pump organ, woodwinds, field recordings, film projections, choreography, and crankies—illustrated, hand-cranked scrolls depicting songs and stories as they are performed.

Visiting Artist Biographies



Dom Flemons

Dom Flemons is a Grammy-winning musician, singer-songwriter, and slam poet. Carrying on the songster tradition, Flemons strives to mix traditional music forms with a contemporary approach, to create new sounds that will appeal to wider audiences. In his recent solo album "Prospect Hill" (2014), Flemons drew from a wide range of styles, including ragtime, Piedmont blues, spirituals, southern traditional music, string band music, fife and drum music, and jug-band music.

In 2005, Flemons co-found the Carolina Chocolate Drops, an African-American string band that won a Grammy for its 2010 album "Genuine Negro Jig." Today, he tours throughout the United States and internationally as "The American Songster. In February 2016, Dom performed at Carnegie Hall for a Tribute to LeadBelly. In September 2016, Dom performed at the opening ceremonies for the National Musuem of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. Dom's newest album to be released through Smithsonian Folkways will be celebrating the stories and songs of the black cowboys. Dom has a new podcast called American Songster Radio and it is in conjunction with WUNC North Carolina Public Radio.

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Schedule

Monday, January 22, 2018

2:00 pm - Jayme Stone's Folklife

Colloquium and preview of the week's events. Think Sea Island spirituals, Creole calypsos, and stomp-down Appalachian dance tunes.

Imig Music Building, Chamber Hall [Room C-199], CU Campus

7:30 pm - Jayme Stone's Folklife

Discover the group's "collaboratory" process, hear the stories behind the songs and sing/stomp in community.

First Congregational Church, 1128 Pine Street, Boulder

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

7:30 pm - Student Concert

Student composers will debut new arrangements of old folk songs for horns, strings, and voices as well as members of Jayme Stone's Folklife and other guest artists.

Imig Music Building, Grusin Hall. CU Campus

Thursday, January 25, 2018

7:30 pm - Jayme Stone's Folklife Evening Concert

Imig Music Building, Grusin Hall, CU Campus

Guest artists will also visit CU classes as well as local K-12 schools for workshops and concerts throughout the week.

January 22-25, 2018

Schedule

Monday, February 5, 2018

2:00 pm - Dom Flemons / Anna & Elizabeth

Colloquium and preview of the week's events. Hear the "American Songster" in conversation with innovative multi instrumentalists and Appalachian story-tellers.

Imig Music Building, Chamber Hall [Room C-199] CU Campus

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

7:30 pm - Steve Mullins / Brenda Romero An engaging and experiential Latin Music Workshop

The Center for Musical Arts, 200 E. Baseline Road, Lafayette, CO

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

7:30 pm - Dom Flemons / Anna & Elizabeth Evening Concert

Imig Music Building, Grusin Hall, CU Campus

Guest artists will also visit CU classes as well as local K-12 schools for workshops and concerts throughout the week.

February 5-8, 2018

Faculty Artist Biographies

Steve Mullins

earned his instrumental performance and academic degree at the University of Colorado, culminating in his doctoral dissertation entitled Flamenco Gestures: Musical Meaning in Motion. He has taught Latin American music, American Indian music, and World Music theories performed throughout the Rocky Mountain west with well-known flamenco artists, as well as several local musical ensembles: the Denver Brass, Boulder Philharmonic, Fiesta Colorado, and Barbelfish Balkan Band. He has recorded three solo and nine collaborative compact discs. In 2011 he composed a flamenco suite for orchestra (performed by the Longmont Symphony) and a number of other works for marimba, violin, guitar, mandolin, piano, and percussion.

Brenda Romero

is an ethnomusicology professor at the University of Colorado, has been teaching in Boulder since 1988. She has worked extensively on the pantomime music and dance called Matachines and other folk genres that reflect both Spanish and Native American origins. She conducted fieldwork on the US-Mexico borderlands, and in Mexico and Columbia as a Fulbright Scholar. She has performed as violinist for the Pueblo of Jemez (1989-98), and as a singer/guitarist on her 2008 CD, Canciones de mis patrias: Songs of My Homelands, Early New Mexico Folk Songs. She is author of numerous articles, chapters, and reviews, and is currently completing a book for the University of Illinois Press, Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World, Matachines, Transcultural Creativity and Renewal in the Americas.

About the American Music Research Center

Collecting and celebrating American music since 1967

The American Music Research Center (AMRC) is a rare music repository dedicated to exploring and celebrating the rich traditions of American music. We are a joint venture between the University Libraries and the College of Music devoted to discovering, sharing, and preserving American music of all kinds: classical, popular, and traditional. As a repository of precious and unique music materials, the AMRC seeks to preserve American music and enhance its cultural and transformational potential for future generations. Our collections are housed and curated in the University Libraries on the CU Boulder campus where students, visiting scholars, and the public are welcome to visit by appointment. We regularly sponsor public events and community outreach activities such as concerts, conferences, publications, and lectures—all based on the AMRC collections.

AMRC

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