



The Music Department presents

Skidmore & Bennington Colleges Folk Festival

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 7:30 PM

Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall

Arthur Zankel Music Center

Carolyn Shapiro is an old-time banjo player and songwriter from Upstate New York whose music nourishes the spirit like a hearty, home-cooked meal. Blending sultry nuance with deep-rooted traditional style, her songwriting pushes the boundaries of the banjo, creating a catalog of songs that feel both timeless and entirely her own. With a rich tapestry of folk influences and lyrics that balance wit with emotional depth, Carolyn invites listeners into an intimate journey through the complexities of being human. Her commanding voice and resonant banjo tone bring a joyous vulnerability to the stage.

Though originally on a path to law school, Carolyn's trajectory changed the moment she picked up a banjo in college. Immersing herself in the vast world of folk music, she never looked back. Her 2022 debut album earned her the title of Folk Artist of the Year in New York's Capital Region. Her sophomore release, *Take it Easy* (2024), recorded live with her band, captures the warmth, spontaneity, and camaraderie that define her sound - a celebration of music shared in good company. For more information about Carolyn: www.carolynshapiromusic.com

In tonight's concert, Carolyn will be joined by fiddler, Connor Armbruster, from Troy, NY.

Jay Ungar & Molly Mason are masters of music and storytelling who generously share their lives and their music with audiences. There are so many moments and strands to savor in the course of an evening of their music.

Jay's fiddling is brimming with playfulness, drama, soulfulness and technical verve, as he explores the many musical styles and idioms that he has internalized and made his own. Molly's total mastery and inventiveness on piano and guitar is always spot-on, as she supports the tunes and follows the flow of the melody. Her rich and expressive vocals along with the resonant strains of Jay's violin, reveal the deep emotions that flow in the duos veins.

Millions were entranced by the music they did for Ken Burns' PBS documentary The Civil War. Their performance of the series' signature tune, Jay's haunting composition, Ashokan Farewell, earned the couple international acclaim. The soundtrack won a Grammy and Ashokan Farewell was nominated for an Emmy.

This simple, but powerful melody was originally inspired by the week-long Ashokan Music & Dance Camps that Jay & Molly run for adults and families at The Ashokan Center in the Catskill Mountains. People attend the camps to become better fiddlers, guitarists, mandolin players, percussionists, dancers, dance callers and instructors—and in doing so they become links in the chain that helps pass our folk heritage from the people who came before us, to those who will follow. More information can be found at <https://www.jayandmolly.com/about>

Upcoming Events

SURROUND: Julie Doiron
Saturday, November 9, 4:00pm

Tenzin Choegyal w/Attacca Quartet & Alex Ring Gray:
Be the Sky
Friday, November 14, 7:30pm

SKIDMANIA '75
Friday, November 21, 8:00pm
Saturday, November 22, 8:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Brass & Woodwind Ensembles
Saturday, November 22, 5:30pm

Skidmore in Concert: Orchestra
Tuesday, December 2, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Concert Band
Friday, December 5, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Global Music Showcase (String Band, Indian,
Mongolian, + West African Ensembles)
Saturday, December 6, 2:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Big Band + Cuban Music Ensemble
Saturday, December 6, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Small Jazz Ensembles + Guitar
Sunday, December 7, 1:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Guitar Ensemble
Sunday, December 7, 4:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: String Ensembles
Monday, December 8, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Vocal Chamber Ensemble + Chorus
Wednesday, December 10, 7:00pm