



PRESS RELEASE

MUSIC IN THE TREES EVENT IS AUGUST 14-15

Outdoor event features musicians performing from tree stands above audience

(AFTON, Minn.) — Belwin Conservancy is excited to host the return of Music in the Trees, a two-day outdoor event showcasing a diverse group of instrumentalists and vocalists, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 14, and Sunday, August 15, in and among the trees near the Belwin Education Center (1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton).

Music in the Trees was first held in 2019. This year's event features live performances from an eclectic group of artists that includes Gospel and Hip Hop vocalists, found-object percussionists, a Zither player, jazz musicians, and more. Each day will feature a different roster. With such a wide range of performers, audiences are sure to encounter sounds both familiar and novel.

On Sunday, August 15 at 2:00 p.m., the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT) will present a fully accessible performance, including ASL and Hmong-English interpretation. Performers will include Hillary Lor, a Hmong flutist, and Celestials, a Hmong dance team.

Curated by Belwin's Program Director Susan Haugh, Music in the Trees was envisioned as a way to draw attention to the health of a beloved pine grove undergoing restoration. With the pines as their inspiration, artists will perform from tree stands 16 feet above the ground. Attendees may sit at the base of the performance spaces or enjoy the sounds of the musicians as they explore 4 miles of trails that weave through woodland, prairie, and wetland.

"The performing artists are being very brave about this invitation to improvise with nature, not to mention performing in tree stands!" says Haugh. "They all have strong improvisational chops and an intuitive connection with nature, and will be inspired by what they are hearing and feeling around them. The landscape might move them to perform something they composed or by someone else. It's the unknown that makes this such a unique event for performers and attendees alike. No two performances will be the same."

The cost to attend each day is \$10/car. Attendees are invited to carpool and to bring a chair, food, and non-alcoholic beverages; no refreshments will be sold onsite. The Education Center building will be open for restroom use and water bottle refills. Face masks are required inside the building.

Music in the Trees 2021 Performers



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Hillary Lor, a Hmong flutist, and Celestial dancers, both through a partnership with the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT); David Mehling, zither; Diane Miller and JG Everest, rap and guitar; Isabel Dammann and Mikeala Marget, violin and cello; Izzy and Squill, mandolin, vocals and bass; Reggie Neal and Munir Kahar, soprano sax and percussion; Ritika Ganguly and Shinjan Sengupta, Bengali vocals and guitar; SeVy Gospel Quartet; and Zack and Ben Baltich, percussion and banjo.

Schedule is subject to change. Visit belwin.org/event/music-in-the-trees/ for the most current event information.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Music in the Trees also received funding from the St. Croix Valley Foundation.

Photos: [Music in the Trees trails Belwin.png](#) and [Jarelle Barton Music in the Trees Belwin.png](#)
Musicians performed in and among the trees near the Belwin Conservancy Education Center in 2019 as part of Music in the Trees.

MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT BELWIN CONSERVANCY

[Belwin Conservancy](https://belwin.org/) is a nonprofit organization with a mission of inspiring connection and engagement with the natural world. At Belwin, we spark passion for wild places through a variety of innovative experiential programs that include the arts, astronomy, athletic fields, bison, education, and public access to our restored lands. Through land protection and habitat restoration, we revive threatened ecosystems so wildlife can thrive for generations to come. Located in Afton, Minnesota, on the ancestral home of the Wahpekute Dakota people, Belwin's 1,500 acres of permanently protected land includes woodland, prairie, oak savanna, ponds, streams, and wetlands.

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