

PRESS RELEASE

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“MUSIC IN THE TREES” AT BELWIN THIS AUGUST

This August, Belwin Will Host A Two Day Live Music Event, Featuring Musicians Performing from Perches Among Red Pines



Afton, MN — Belwin Conservancy is excited to host 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 19, and Sunday, August 20, in and among the red pines near of the Belwin Education Center (1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton).

Curated by Belwin’s Program Director Susan Haugh, and first held in 2019, Music in the Trees was envisioned as a way to draw attention to the health of Belwin’s red pine grove. Planted in 1933, the pine forest is aging and crowded, so Belwin staff are working to restore the area to a

more biodiverse and healthy plant community. Music in the Trees seeks to share the story of this iconic grove with the community through two days of live, collaborative music.

With the pines as inspiration, dozens of artists are set to perform from tree stands 16 feet above the ground. Attendees can watch at the base of these stands and enjoy the music as they explore trails that weave through the grove. Visitors are welcome to bring their own picnics, blankets, hammocks, or camp chairs to enhance their experience.



This year's event will feature a diverse group of talented musicians, such as Ritika Ganguly and Shinjan Sengupta (Indian music vocalists and instrumentalists), Steve Clark with Laurie Knutson (performing on various wooden flutes), Rebecca Merblum (western classical cello), and many more. Each day will end with a fully accessible, interactive performance with audience members. Past accessible, interactive performances have included Titambe West African Drum Group (pictured above, right), Young Dance, Celestials Dance Team and others.



"This event is like nothing I've ever seen before," says Belwin Communications Director Angie Eckel. "The dignity of the setting, juxtaposed with the wild variety of artists makes it just magical. Watching the public discover it year after year has been a delight."

We invite the public to join us in celebrating the intersection of restoration and creativity on August

19th and 20th, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Belwin's Education Site (1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton, MN 55001). Parking will cost be \$10 per car. We suggest families bring lunch or a snack. Dogs are not allowed at this event.

Music in the Trees 2023 Performers

C.B. James (cello) and Daniel Lentz (violin); Hannah Lou Woods (guitar, vocals); Nathan Hanson (saxophone) and Chris Bates (bass); Rebecca Merblum (cello); Ritika Ganguly and Shinjan Sengupta (vocals, guitar, flute); Steve Clark and Laurie Knutson (wooden flutes); Tom & Mira Kehoe (vocals, whistles, percussion and more); Scott Nieman (10 string cittern). More acts to be announced.

Schedule is subject to change. Visit belwin.org/events for the most current event information.

Music in the Trees is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Additional support for this event comes from the St. Croix Valley Foundation.



Music in the Trees is generously supported by community sponsors. Thanks to Steve Smillie for supporting our entire season of events in 2023!



INFORMATION

Please note: No dogs allowed at any Belwin event. Masks suggested but not required inside Belwin buildings.

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About Belwin Conservancy

[Belwin Conservancy](#) 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.