

Friday, September 16, 2022, 7:30 PM

## **Eileen Ivers and Universal Roots**

Moss Arts Center Street and Davis Performance Hall Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre



# FALL SEMESTER at a glance

Tues., Sept. 27, 7:30 PM

Redman · Mehldau McBride · Blade

A MoodSwing Reunion

Wed., Oct. 5, 7:30 PM

Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi

Wed., Oct. 12-Thurs., Oct. 13, 7:30 PM

Makuyeika Colectivo Teatral

Andares

Sun., Oct. 23, 2 PM

Acrobuffos

Air Play

Fri., Oct. 28, 7:30 PM

**Farruquito** 

Íntimo

Fri., Nov. 4, 7:30 PM

**Danish String Quartet** 

Tues., Nov. 8, 7:30 PM

Broadway in Blacksburg

Anastasia

Sat., Nov. 12, 7:30 PM

Āhuti

Nrityagram Dance Ensemble

Thurs., Nov. 17, 7:30 PM

**Soweto Gospel Choir** 

Hope: It's Been a Long

Time Coming

Sat., Dec. 3, 4 PM

Roanoke Symphony Orchestra

Holiday Pops Spectacular

Tickets are available now at the box office and online. See the complete schedule of performances, exhibitions, and engagement activities at artscenter.vt.edu.

## Eileen Ivers and Universal Roots

Eileen Ivers, fiddle, mandolin, and bodhrán
Buddy Connolly, button accordion and keyboards
Colin Forhan, acoustic guitar, banjo, beatbox, and vocals
Lindsey Horner, upright bass, electric bass, and harmonicas
Dave Barckow, percussion, guitar, and vocals

Program to be announced from the stage.

"More than a survey of Irish tradition, Ivers's presentation was music with the kind of life and spirit that can come when talented artists find the linkages that connect all forms of music.

No wonder the audience loved every minute."

—Don Heckman, Los Angeles Times

Eileen Ivers and Universal Roots bring traditional Irish music to life. In this evening's program, you will hear traditional pieces dating back hundreds of years alongside Ivers' original pieces written in the same style. Ivers celebrates the journey of the immigrant and showcases how Irish music, together with other roots music, became a fundamental building block of Americana music.

This is Eileen Ivers and Universal Roots' first performance at the Moss Arts Center.

Join us after the performance for a question and answer session with the artists.

This performance is supported in part by gifts from Erv Blythe, Ms. Elizabeth Hahn and Mr. Douglas Chancey, and Mr. Edwin H. Talley and Mrs. Melinda P. Talley.

## **Biographies**



**EILEEN IVERS,** fiddle, mandolin, and bodhrán

Grammy-winning and Emmy-nominated, Eileen Ivers continues to push traditional fiddling boundaries from a folk music staple to a fiercely fresh, powerfully beautiful, intensely driving world stage experience. In a career that has spanned over 30 years, Ivers has performed and/or toured with such diverse artists as Sting, Patti Smith, Al Di Meola, Hall and Oates, and The Chieftains. She has guest starred with the London Symphony Orchestra,

Boston Pops, and over 50 symphony orchestras to date, and she was the groundbreaking musical star of *Riverdance*, a featured instrumentalist on *Back to Titanic*, and film soundtracks including *Gangs of New York*. She is a nine-time All-Ireland fiddle champion and one of the most awarded All-Ireland Fiddle and Banjo champions ever. Ivers has been proclaimed "a national treasure" by NCTA Board Chairman George Holt, as she celebrates her renowned career as a performer, composer, producer, songwriter, band leader, educator, multi-instrumentalist, and revered pioneer in connecting her American, Irish traditional, jazz, blues, and world roots.

She's been called a "sensation" by *Billboard* magazine and "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin," by the *New York Times*. "She electrifies the crowd with a dazzling show of virtuoso playing" says the *Irish Times*.

Ivers graduated *magna cum laude* in mathematics from Iona College, and in 2019, Iona College conferred upon Ivers the degree of doctor of arts, *honoris causa*, for her "lifelong commitment to innovation, excellence, and deep dedication to bringing people together through music." She continues to bring people together in performance with her five-piece, passionate, powerhouse band. *The L.A. Times* proclaims, "Ivers' presentation was music with the kind of life and spirit that come together when talented artists from different backgrounds find the linkages that connect all forms of music...no wonder the audience loved every minute."

Scatter the Light is Ivers' new CD release of predominantly original music. It follows the previous release Beyond the Bog Road, which focused on the influences of the Celtic tradition on Roots music (bluegrass, French-Canadian, Cajun, Appalachian, and Americana).

In 2021 Ivers released her first children's book, a heartwarming story entitled Will Someone Play Bluey?, featuring talking instruments... and a blue violin.

#### **BUDDY CONNOLLY,** button accordion and keyboards

Three-time All-Ireland accordion champion Buddy Connolly hails from Newark, New Jersey, with parents from Clare and Galway in Ireland. In 1995, Connolly moved to Nashville and was introduced to bluegrass, Cajun, and country music and toured/recorded with Tim O'Brien, Kathy Mattea, Rodney Crowell, Christian rockers Ceili Rain, Orleans, Matt Molloy (Chieftains), Joel Sonnier, and many others.

#### **COLIN FORHAN,** acoustic guitar, banjo, beatbox, and vocals

Colin Forhan grew up in Takoma Park, Maryland. A self-taught musician, Forhan was primarily exposed to American folk music in his youth and has since discovered traditional Irish music after moving to New York City. He was quickly hooked and began attending sessions and voraciously learning the traditional tunes. Over the past six years, he has played traditional music professionally in many contexts and is thrilled now to be joining Eileen livers and "the guys." Forhan has recently transitioned from his position in actuarial sciences to professional musician.

#### **LINDSEY HORNER,** upright bass, electric bass, and harmonicas

Julliard alum Lindsey Horner has recorded and performed with diverse artists from Susan McKeown and Johnny Cunningham in the Celtic realm to Greg Osby, Bill Frisell, Bobby Previte, Dave Douglas, Don Byron, and Muhal Richard Abrams in the jazz world. He has performed for dozens of Broadway shows, from the *Lion King* to *Tommy*, and has produced five albums. Horner's most recent, *Undiscovered Country*, features Irish legend Andy Irvine on two tracks.

#### **DAVE BARCKOW,** percussion, guitar, and vocals

Queens, New York native Dave Barckow has been playing music professionally since the age of 12 and has played with several national and international acts, including Celtic Cross, The Diddley Idols, and hard rockers White Trash. As song writer and performer, Barckow's music has been used on several primetime network shows, including *Mercy* (NBC), *Nurse Jackie* (Showtime), and *Flesh & Bone* (Showtime).

## Tell Us What You Think!

We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to Farruquito on Friday, October 28, 2022.



bit.ly/ivers-feedback

## Go Deeper

Eileen Ivers described her latest album, Scatter the Light (2020, 2022), as a "reflect[ion] upon positive aspects of life and human nature, and finding moments of joy and gratitude... even in light of life's struggles." What's the significance of experiencing a concert today with this musical mission? After experiencing Ivers' and Universal Roots' performance, what are you reminded of that you're grateful for?

### Did You Know?

Did you know that during our 2021-2022 season, the Moss connected with over 12,000 people through 125 outreach events? Thousands of Virginia Tech students participated in our engagement events and attended performances, while 3,388 elementary, middle, and high school students participated in free programs, including special school-day performances, gallery tours, and classroom visits.

## Land Acknowledgement and Labor Recognition

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan People's homeland and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that legislation and practices like the Morrill Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands, both locally and in western territories.

We understand that honoring Native Peoples without explicit material commitments falls short of our institutional responsibilities. Through sustained, transparent, and meaningful engagement with the Tutelo/Monacan Peoples and other Native Nations, we commit to changing the trajectory of Virginia Tech's history by increasing Indigenous student, staff, and faculty recruitment and retention, diversifying course offerings, and meeting the growing needs of all Virginia tribes and supporting their sovereignty.

We must also recognize that enslaved Black people generated revenue and resources used to establish Virginia Tech and were prohibited from attending until 1953. Through InclusiveVT, the institutional and individual commitment to *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence, we commit to advancing a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

## Health and Wellness

The Moss Arts Center adheres to the guidelines of the Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Tech in its operations, including protocols for distancing, face coverings, and cleaning and sanitation. Our status may change according to changes in university operating procedures. Find the most up to date information at artscenter.vt.edu/visit.

We ask patrons to do their part in keeping our community healthy. If you feel unwell, please stay home.

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Devair Jeffries-Lee, program direct
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Wednesday, October 5, 7:30 PM Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi

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MOSS ARTS CENTER

#### Visit the 53rd annual YMCA Craft Fair

at Christiansburg Recreation Center 1600 N. Franklin St, Christiansburg

Nov 11- Nov 12, 2022













The Lancaster House at 403 West Washington Street was built by William E. Lancaster in 1913 when Lucy Lee Lancaster was a little girl. She grew up in the house and lived there the rest of her life. William Lancaster, who died in January 1933, was a prominent civil engineer working on many projects in the region and for a while was mayor of Blacksburg; his wife was Lucy Sibold with family in Blacksburg and Giles County.

From years of close association with the Y, Lucy Lee knew its history with the university and town, its work with students and its need for a home within walking distance of campus. For this reason Lucy donated her house to the YMCA at Virginia Tech.

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