

presents...

DREAMERS' CIRCUS

Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen | Violin and other instruments

Nikolaj Busk | Accordion, piano, synthesizers

Ale Carr | Cittern, kannel, violin and other instruments

Friday, March 3, 2023 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre

Please note that this evening's performance will be introduced from the stage by the performers. The nature of Dreamers' Circus music is essentially spontaneous and the band prefers to change and vary their program from show to show.

There will be one intermission.

This program is made possible in part by the generous support of the Barbro Osher Pro Suecia Foundation

Dreamers' Circus is represented by Kirshbaum Associates Inc.
307 Seventh Avenue, Suite 506, New York, NY 10001 kirshbaumassociates.com

Dreamers' Circus has previously recorded with Vertical Records



ENSEMBLE PROFILE

San Francisco Performances presents the San Francisco debut of Dreamers' Circus.

A new driving force in Nordic world music is the young Danish trio, **Dreamers' Circus**. Contemporary and endlessly innovative in their approach, they draw inspiration from the deep traditions of folk music in the region and reshape them into something bright, shiny and new. Dreamers' Circus are: Nikolaj Busk (DK) on piano and accordion, Ale Carr (SWE) on Nordic cittern and Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen (DK), also of the Danish String Quartet, on violin.

Dreamers' Circus display inventiveness and talent in their approach to performances that include music from Denmark and Sweden as well as Finland, Norway and the far reaches of the windswept Faroe Islands. The ensemble has won five prestigious Danish Music Awards and toured throughout Europe and beyond, with performances in Japan and the Sydney Opera House in Australia. Their first US tour in 2019 opened ears, eyes, minds and hearts. The trio collaborates regularly with the Danish String Quartet and the Copenhagen Philharmonic and performs with other orchestras.

Highlights of the 2022–23 season include debut performances at Celebrity Series of Boston, San Francisco Performances, two performances at Detroit Chamber Music, two at Music at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC, Brigham Young University, Modlin Center for the Arts in Richmond, and a jointly presented performance by

Saratoga Performing Arts Center and Caffè Lena, the oldest folk-oriented coffee house in the U.S.. which has hosted artists such as Bob Dylan, Ani DiFranco, and Arlo Guthrie. The trio makes return stops to Bucknell, PA, Orono, ME, Burlington, VT and Portland, OR.

Highlights of the 2021–22 season included performances in La Jolla, Santa Barbara, Orange County, Montalvo, Indianapolis, Appleton, WI, and a return to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. In 2020, Dreamers' Circus released its fifth album, *Blue White Gold* on Vertical Records and was awarded Album of the Year by the Danish Music Awards 2020 and the 2021 Carl Prize for Composer of the Year (Roots music category).

Dreamers' Circus views their traditional roots as a point of departure and know tradition should not be a straitjacket. This adventurous attitude, coupled with their outstanding musicianship, has brought the band to the forefront of the Nordic folk and world music scene.

PROGRAM NOTES

A few words from Dreamers' Circus:

Hello and welcome to our performance as part of our Spring 2023 series of concerts. We are excited to be back traveling and touring internationally after what has been a challenging time for all of us. It's been a while since we've been in the United States...What will you, the audience, think

of what we play? How will you react? Well, we're about to find out...

Firstly, let us tell you a little about Dreamers' Circus, who we are and what we do.

Our approach to music sees us challenge the norms of the traditional music we were brought up with and attempt to shape it into how we imagine Nordic music can sound in 2022. We certainly do not seek to turn our back on our folk music roots and, having grown up with traditional music, we value it as an important part of our musical make-up. But we also discovered early on that traditional music cannot stay static, that change is inevitable and even, we might argue, beneficial. So, in a sense, we view our roots in the rich traditions of Danish and Swedish folk music as a point of departure and refuse to accept tradition as a straitjacket. We investigate new angles and consciously seek to challenge not just ourselves as performers and composers but also the norms and sometimes even the structures of the music we play. With Dreamers' Circus, no two performances are quite the same and we enjoy the fact that today's show can be quite different from yesterday's. We have learned to enjoy our curiosity about the music and have come to value the importance of listening. Close listening to what we each do is an important part of our engagement with the music and with each other. We hope that you, the audience, might also listen closely and join us as we react to one another's playing and spontaneously respond. Our name hints at the possibilities and magic of the imagination and we hope that you will open yourself up to the colors and images we seek to create with our soundscapes.

—Ale, Nikolaj, Rune

The three members of Dreamers' Circus first encountered each other at a late night, post-concert jam session in Denmark over ten years ago. They immediately hit it off both on a musical and a personal level. Since then, the band has toured all over the Nordic countries and Europe, they've played the Sydney Opera House in Australia and have made a number of tours to Japan. Dreamers' Circus has shared stages with folk luminaries such as The Chieftains, Sharon Shannon and Väsen and have been invited to compose and perform music for stage and television shows in Denmark. A Danish critic observed that, "playing violin, piano, accordion and cittern they display a playful inventiveness allied with a Nordic sensibility that is at once refined and cool."