



Andrew Finn Magill
and the
'Polaris Project'

Friday, September 11th at 7:30 PM
Van Dyke Performance Space

About Andrew Finn Magill

Andrew Finn Magill is a musician, a fiddle player and composer. He is from North Carolina, where his parents are traditional Irish musicians. Magill has a grounding in folk and roots styles of music, and jazz as well.

Then “I fell in love with a girl from Brazil,” he says. Their marriage saw him moving his home base to Brazil, where it was natural for him to seek out the music scene.

“When I moved to Rio de Janeiro I first began learning choro, which is played by musicians sitting in a circle called a roda –literally ‘wheel’ in Portuguese,” Magill says. “These rodas happen in bars, restaurants, people’s homes and sometimes even in impromptu ways in the street.”

In 2009, Magill was awarded a Fulbright-mtvU Fellowship to spend a year in Malawi co-writing and co-producing an album which confronted the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Magill currently lives in France, and he brings all of his travels into his music which you will hear in the Polaris Project!



Words from the artist

Polaris

Polaris was the first tune I composed for my 2022 album The Polaris Project. The whole project represents finding my north star artistically speaking, since this album was the first time I attempted to synthesize the different genres I've played over my life (Brazilian choro, traditional Irish, Malawian) into a jazz context that is distinctly my compositional voice. Polaris is an Irish fiddle tune. It's also funk. It's also lots of other things. Polaris so well encapsulated the idea of the album I named the album and my whole touring project after it.



The Honeyguide

This piece was inspired by ecologist Rob Dunn's book "The Call of The Honeyguide." His premise is that human life on Earth could be so much richer if we only opened ourselves to the symbiotic relationships with other species waiting all around us, mutualisms he calls it. The honeyguide is a bird that literally beckons humans and leads them to honey. It's such a fascinating creature that Rob named his book after it and I decided to name my tune after it. A lot of my music is inspired by nature and the idea of mutualisms was swimming around a lot in my head when I composed my new album this year, which includes this tune.

Matt Wilson, Program Notes

Matt Wilson, the author of the program notes that you hopefully found illuminating and inspiring, is a violinist and violist from South Carolina. He received a Bachelor's in Music Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, before teaching in the North Carolina public schools for several years. He received a Master's in Music Education from UNC Greensboro and a Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. He is an active researcher, often focusing on issues of gender and sexuality in music education. Dr. Wilson is currently on the faculty at Penn-Griffin School for the Arts, where he teaches history, philosophy, music theory, and music appreciation.



Dr. Wilson has been an active member of the North Carolina and Kansas Music Educators Associations. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the American String Teachers Association (ASTA). He is currently on the ASTA's RIA committee, continuing to share in creating inclusion and diversity within music education.