



Friday | February 24 | 8pm
NEC's Jordan Hall

Dreamers' Circus

Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen
violin and other instruments

Nikolaj Busk
accordion, piano, synthesizers

Ale Carr
cittern, kannel, violin, and other instruments

The program will be announced from the stage.

*The performance will run approximately 90
minutes with no intermission.*

2022/23 Season Sponsors
Amy & Joshua Boger

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 travelling 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 2023. 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

Dreamers' Circus & Celebrity Series

As a violinist in the Danish String Quartet, Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen made his Boston debut on the Celebrity Series in November 2013, returned in January 2017, and appeared most recently with that group late last month. Originally engaged to perform at NEC's Jordan Hall in October 2020, Dreamers' Circus pivoted along with the rest of the world and joined Celebrity Series' virtual 2020/21 season, with a performance memorably recorded at an historic lighthouse in Denmark. Ale Carr and Nikolaj Busk made their virtual Series debuts then but make their in-person Celebrity Series debuts this evening.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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 Vasen 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."

Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen is from Roskilde on the outskirts of Copenhagen in Denmark. He started playing violin when he was five years old. In 2001, he founded the Danish String Quartet, which is one of the leading chamber music quartets in Europe. This Grammy-nominated ensemble has won many prizes and awards. Rune's father is from the Faroe Islands that lie in the north Atlantic between the west coast of Norway and Iceland. His own upbringing was in a family that valued traditional music, song, and dance. Before he devoted his life to full-time touring with Dreamers' Circus and the Danish String Quartet, Rune was leader of the Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra while still in his early twenties. Rune plays a Giovanni Battista Guadagnini violin which is generously loaned to him by the Goof Foundation. His bow is by Eugene Sartory (1910).

Danish-born **Nikolaj Busk** has been a significant figure on the Danish music scene for a number of years now and is in much demand as a composer and music arranger across a number of musical genres. He has won no fewer than 13 Danish Music Awards for his releases and collaborates with various artists. Nikolaj has written music for other ensembles, choirs, orchestras, and theater performances. Nikolaj's accordion is by Pietro Mario.

Hailing from the southern Swedish region of Skåne, **Ale Carr** was raised in a family of folk musicians and dancers. His own style incorporates a strongly developed rhythmic drive coupled with a sensitivity that always seeks to serve the music. He is recognized as one of Scandinavia's most talented folk musicians and leading innovators on plucked string instruments. Also a highly respected composer, he was presented with a Danish Music Award as Composer of the Year in 2015. Apart from his work as a member of Dreamers' Circus, he has also toured with the folk music group Basco.

Ale plays a Nordic Cittern, designed by the Swedish luthier Christer Ådin. He uses Thomastik-Infeld strings.

Did you enjoy the
performance?
Let us know your thoughts
Scan for our survey



2022/23


Celebrity Series of Boston



FEBRUARY 2023

Chris Thile

Fri | Feb 3 | 8pm
Sanders Theatre

Artemis

Sat | Feb 4 | 8pm
Berklee Performance Center

What Makes It Great? with Rob Kapilow Copland's *Appalachian Spring* with A Far Cry

Sun | Feb 5 | 3pm
NEC's Jordan Hall

Jessica Vosk, *My Golden Age*

Sun | Feb 5 | 5pm
Symphony Hall

Circa, *Sacre*

Thu – Sat | Feb 9 – 11 | 8pm
Boch Center Shubert Theatre

NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS

Sandeep Das & Mike Block *Where the soul never dies*

Sat | Feb 11 | 4pm
Harvard-Epworth Church

Emi Ferguson and Ruckus

Sat | Feb 11 | 8pm
GBH's Calderwood Studio

Jason Moran and the Big Bandwagon *James Reese Europe and the Harlem Hellfighters: From the Dancehall to the Battlefield*

Fri | Feb 17 | 8pm
Berklee Performance Center

DEBUT SERIES

Alexi Kenney, violin *Shifting Ground*

Wed | Feb 22 | 8pm
Longy's Pickman Hall

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NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS

Sandeep Das: *Soundscapes of India* - Suhail Yusuf Khan with Boston City Singers

Sat | Feb 25 | 3pm
Multicultural Arts Center,
Cambridge

MARCH 2023

Igor Levit, piano
Sat | Mar 4 | 8pm
NEC's Jordan Hall

Lawrence Brownlee, tenor Kevin Miller, piano *Rising*

Sun | Mar 5 | 3pm
GBH's Calderwood Studio

KODŌ, *Tsuzumi*

Sun | Mar 12 | 5pm
Symphony Hall

JAZZ FESTIVAL (Mar 8-11, 7pm)

at Artists For Humanity EpiCenter

Melissa Aldana Quartet Hiromi Nnenna Freelon Ambrose Akinmusire

Aoife O'Donovan

Fri | Mar 17 | 8pm
Sanders Theatre

Chineke! Orchestra

Andrew Grams, conductor
Stewart Goodyear, piano
Wed | Mar 22 | 8pm
NEC's Jordan Hall

Terri Lyne Carrington + Social Science

Fri | Mar 24 | 8pm
Berklee Performance Center

DEBUT SERIES

Fatma Said, soprano
Rafael Aguirre, guitar
Thu | Mar 30 | 8pm
Longy's Pickman Hall

and many more...

Visit celebrityseries.org to view the full season schedule