

# Ayreheart

## Will You Walk the Woods So Wild?

### Ayres of Albion

Lully lulle	Anonymous
In a Garden so Green	Anon. (17th century Scotland)
Lady Hunsdon's Puffe Come Again	John Dowland (1563-1626)
Woods so Wild Twa Corbies	William Byrd (1543-1623) Anonymous
Mr. Dowland's Midnight Fortune	John Dowland
John Barleycorn	Anonymous
La Rossignol	Anon. (from Jane Pickering Lute Book c. 1616)
Drewries accordes Black is the Colour	Traditional (Scottish/Appalachian/John Jacob Niles 1892-1980)
Solus Cum Sola M. George Whitehead's Almand	John Dowland
Henry Martyn	Anon. (17th century Scotland)
Ddoi di dai	Traditional (13th century Wales)
Nottamun Town	Traditional (Late Medieval England)

GRAMMY-nominated lutenist Ronn McFarlane founded Ayreheart in 2010 out of the desire to write new music for the lute - the most popular instrument of the Renaissance and make it accessible to a wider audience. Though his first compositions were originally conceived as solos, he was soon writing music for lute with voice and other instruments, and a new group was born. In addition to original music, Ayreheart also performs Medieval, Renaissance and Traditional music as a vital part of its musical life.

**Brian Kay, vocals & lute**

**Ronn McFarlane, lute**

**Willard Morris, colascione**

**Mattias Rucht, percussion**

**Brian Kay, vocals, lute**

Award-winning musician Brian Kay is a modern-day troubadour. Brian has performed throughout the United States and beyond. He specializes in historical plucked instruments and ancient songs of the world, is a songwriter, plays a variety of percussion and wind instruments, writes poetry, and paints. Described as "far-ranging", "brilliant",

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and "exciting" by Cleveland Classical, Brian's singing is "natural", "heartfelt", and "emotional" (Boston Musical Intelligencer). The Cleveland Plain Dealer stated that Brian's singing was "sinister and tragic-the most affecting vocal performance." His lute and oud playing have been referred to as "masterful" (Nuvo) and "phenomenal" (Early Music America). Brian has been featured at distinguished venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Shriver Hall, and The Boston Early Music Festival. His radio appearances include Baltimore's WYPR, Boston's WGBH, and Cleveland's WCLV. His debut album Ocean was released in November, 2013. As an avid ensemble player, he has performed with Apollo's Fire, Ayreheart, Hesperus, The Broken Consort, The Catacoustic Consort, and is a founding member of the early music improvisation group Divisio. He is the only two time winner of The Lute Society of America's national Emerging Artist lute competition and the 2013 recipient of Peabody Conservatory's "Excellence in Early Music Award"

### **Ronn McFarlane, lute**

GRAMMY-nominated lutenist, Ronn McFarlane strives to bring the lute - the most popular instrument of the Renaissance - into today's musical mainstream and make it accessible to a wider audience. At thirteen, upon hearing

“Wipeout” by the Surfariis, he fell wildly in love with music and taught himself to play on a "cranky sixteen-dollar steelstring guitar.” Ronn kept at it, playing blues and rock music on the electric guitar while studying classical guitar. He graduated with honors from Shenandoah Conservatory and continued guitar studies at Peabody Conservatory before turning his full attention and energy to the lute in 1978. He has over 30 recordings on the Dorian/Sono Luminus label, including solo albums, lute duets, flute & lute duets, lute songs, recordings with the Baltimore Consort, the complete lute music of Vivaldi, and *Blame Not My Lute*, a collection of Elizabethan lute music and poetry, with spoken word by Robert Aubry Davis. Recently, Ronn has been engaged in composing new music for the lute, building on the tradition of the lutenist/composers of past centuries. His original compositions are the focus of his solo CD, *Indigo Road*, which received a GRAMMY Award Nomination for Best Classical Crossover Album.

### **Willard Morris, colascione**

When bitten by the classical music bug at 10 years of age, the violin became the first in a long line of instruments taken up by Willard and still remains ever close to his heart. It was through the violin that he studied classical music. As a

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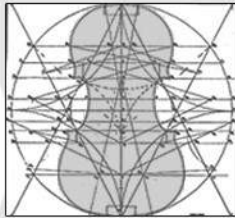
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teenager he took up piano, flute, saxophone, mandolin, guitar and learned how to play bass so that he could join the high school jazz band in which great strides of music study and composition developed, all the while keeping active as a classical violinist and earning pocket change as a pit orchestra musician for operas and musicals. Having become enamored with jazz as a teenager, he founded a jazz fusion group. After a decade of hard bass playing Willard gave the bass a rest to relieve stresses on the hands and focus solely on the violin and string quartet composition. During this time he put his electric violin to work in a variety of live performing bands and studio recordings. In 2009 Willard took up the bass again to develop original music with Ronn McFarlane which combined the ancient lute with the modern electric bass, percussion and vocalist which became the group Ayreheart. Recently he has taken on yet another instrument - the colascione, a bass cousin of the lute.

### **Mattias Rucht, percussion**

Mattias Rucht has been immersed in music from an early age. His father was a symphony conductor and his mother was a pianist. His first playground was in the midst of the orchestra and behind the stage. He started playing the


drum-set at the age of twelve and began playing in southern rock bands at the age of fifteen. By college, he had advanced to jazz fusion. Mattias is trained as a visual artist and has been involved in multimedia development for many years. He has composed music for animation, games, film & video and has had a computer based studio since 1984. At one point, all the instruments that he used were MIDI and electronic. Around 2002, Mattias saw a concert of the Paul Winter Consort where Glen Velez played a three minute solo on a red plastic tambourine and he was blown away. Glen had played more on a simple plastic tambourine than what he had seen done with thousands of dollars worth of hi-tech electronic gear. This sparked his interest in world percussion and getting back to basics. Since then, he has discovered the joy of ethnic percussion and world music, bringing a wide range of influences to his playing style. Mattias Rucht has been active in the Washington DC music scene for over 25 years as a drummer/percussionist, playing in various rock, jazz, folk and world ensembles. He has also performed in theatrical productions and accompanied dancers and storytellers.



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