



53rd Davies Concert Series Presents

Ayreheart

Sunday, April 6, 2025

4:00 PM

Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation

7400 Temple Hills Road

Temple Hills, MD 20748

Ayreheart

Heather Aubrey Lloyd, vocals & guitar

Ronn McFarlane, lute

Willard Morris, colascione & violin

Mattias Rucht, percussion

<i>Lully Lulle</i>	Anonymous - c. 1500 England (arr. Brian Kay)
<i>In a Garden so Green</i>	Anonymous - 17th century Scotland (arr. Brian Kay)
<i>Wayfaring Stranger</i>	Traditional American - first published 1858
<i>Blackwater Tide</i>	Traditional Irish
<i>Trinity Grove – Granddaddy Jig</i>	Ronn McFarlane (1953 – not dead yet!)
<i>Cold and Raw</i>	Collected by Thomas D’Urfey (c. 1653-1723)
<i>Twa Corbies</i>	Anonymous – Medieval Scotland (arr. Brian Kay)
<i>John Barleycorn</i>	Anonymous – 17 th century England

Intermission

<i>Pastime with Good Company</i>	King Henry VIII of England (1491-1547)
<i>Reres Hill</i>	Traditional Scottish
<i>W. Lee’s Reel</i>	Ronn McFarlane
<i>Newry Highwayman</i>	Traditional Irish
<i>Ddoi di dai</i>	Anonymous – Medieval Scotland (arr. Brian Kay)
<i>Nottamun Town</i>	Anonymous – Medieval England (arr. Brian Kay)

Meet the Ensemble

Ayreheart was founded by Grammy-nominated lutenist/composer Ronn McFarlane. Performing with lute, vocals, colascione (a type of bass lute), violin, guitar, and percussion, Ayreheart offers a program of Renaissance music and traditional folk music from the British Isles. Music of John Dowland and William Byrd are featured alongside anonymous ballad tunes and folk songs from Renaissance England, Scotland, and Wales. This program explores the parallels between high art music and traditional folk music of the time, and includes original music steeped in traditions of the past.

Heather Aubrey Lloyd (vocals and guitar)

Heather Aubrey Lloyd has travelled for two decades, playing anywhere that might make a good story: bait shops, biker weeks ... even clothing-optional resorts. A recovering reporter whose love of the journey evolved into equally adventurous songwriting. Pat Wictor hails her “sing-me-the-phone-book” voice. “Janis Joplin meets Joni Mitchell,” says the Montgomery Caller. Comfortable in any genre, Lloyd blends folky finger-picked guitar with lyrical rhythms/hand percussion influenced by Baltimore's diverse music scene. Best known as co-front of ilyAIMY, Lloyd's solo efforts are gaining recognition: Falcon Ridge Folk Fest Most Wanted, National Women's Music Fest Emerging Artist, No Depression-FreshGrass Finalist, and Top 4 Telluride Troubadour. She is also the 2019 Grand Prize Winner of the prestigious Bernard Ebb Songwriting Award. 2025 finds her back on her beloved road, releasing her second studio album, *Panic Room With A View*, and as regular guest vocalist for Grammy-nominated lute-rocker Ronn McFarlane as part of Ayreheart.

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. He has released over 40 recordings on the Dorian/Sono Luminus label, including solo albums, lute duets, flute & lute duets, lute songs, viola da gamba & lute, the complete lute music of Vivaldi, a collection of Elizabethan lute music and poetry, and recordings with the Baltimore Consort. Ronn has composed new music for the lute, building on the tradition of the lutenist/composers of past centuries. These original compositions are the focus of his solo CD, *Indigo Road*, which received a GRAMMY Award Nomination. In 2010 Ronn founded Ayreheart, an ensemble brought together to perform new compositions as well as early music. Ayreheart's first CD release, *One Morning*, consists of all-original music by Ronn McFarlane. Ayreheart's release, *Barley Moon*, blends folk music and art music from Renaissance and Medieval England, Scotland and Wales. Ronn's most recent solo album, *The Celtic Lute*, features his arrangements of traditional Scottish and Irish music from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Willard Morris (colascione and violin)

A fascination with early music came late in life for Will Morris, having studied music composition and arranging with an emphasis in jazz, he never imagined he'd play the colascione (bass cousin of the lute family) and enjoy performing Renaissance repertoire. When Ayreheart first set out to perform original music, Will joined to play electric bass. And with exposure to early music through Ronn McFarlane, it was a natural evolution to the colascione. Will Morris has deep experience with classical ensembles, jazz combos, rock and funk bands, which shaped his musical sensibilities in unconventional ways, but the common underlying principle is that the presentation of music should enable the listener awareness of the ensemble as a whole, while still being able to appreciate each individual voice and instrument.

Mattias Rucht (percussion)

Mattias Rucht has been immersed in music his entire life. 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 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 started listening to some of the masters of world percussion and what they were doing with acoustic instruments. A simple tambourine or djembe could be more expressive than a rack of electronic instruments. 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.

ayreheart.com

Davies Concert Series

7400 Temple Hills Rd., Camp Springs, MD 20748

Phone: 301-283-2747

e-mail: daviesconcertseries@gmail.com

Music Director: Dr. Mary Whitmore

Board of Trustees: Lora Bennett, Zoom Tech; Ruth Phillips, Treasurer

Maryemma Bohl, Assistant Treasurer & Concert House Manager

Jennifer Sullivan, Madeline Sullivan, and Terri Allen

Thank You to Our Donors:

Benefactor (\$200 and up)

David and Ruth Phillips

Sponsor (\$100 to \$199)

Michael and Elin-Marie Papantones

Patron (\$50 to \$99)

Associate (\$25 to \$49)

Maryemma Bohl

Liz Echols

Sandy Rutiser

Friend (\$5 to \$24)

Davies Concert Series thanks SCHWAB CHARITABLE for their \$4,000 Grant made on behalf of a donor-advised fund for Alice P. Loughry.

Davies Concert Series thanks Davies Unitarian Universalist Congregation for the use of their Sanctuary and Zoom Visual and Audio System operated by Lora Bennett

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Sunday, May 4, 2025
4:00 PM

National Association of American African
Dance Teachers

Sunday, June 1, 2025
4:00 PM

Francesca Hurst, Pianist

The Davies Concert Series is made possible by your generous financial support.

Scan the QR code below to make a tax-deductible donation today.

Thank you for joining us for our 53rd Season!

