

Will Ridenour
kora and percussion

Betsy Bevan
acoustic piano

wind & stars

With the worldly, soulful sound of Stephan Micus, the imaginative spirit of Toumani Diabaté, and the serenity of rippling water, Wind & Stars is a stunning collaboration between Will Ridenour on the West-African kora and Betsy Bevan on the acoustic piano.

Brilliantly combining the instruments of two continents, Ridenour and Bevan have developed an original, evocative sound that speaks to a wide and diverse audience. Ridenour's fluid, articulate playing in the improvisational style is complimented by Bevan's richly inspired harmonic progressions on piano.

Marked by sparkling melodies in intertwining strings, pulsing with world rhythmic influences, Wind & Stars blends the best of ethnic and meditative music to create a sonorous healing connection to the whole global village.

"Using soothing world music rhythms, traditions and melodies, both artists reflect on sound as a conduit for a sense of wellness and healing."

United Arts Council
of Greater Greensboro, NC

Will Ridenour is a musician from Greensboro, NC who specializes in the kora, a 21-stringed harp-lute from West Africa. He studied traditional kora music in Senegal and Mali with Djeli Madya Diébaté from Casamance and Djeli Fily Sacko, student of master kora player Toumani Diabaté. Currently Will performs and teaches traditional kora music throughout the Southeastern U.S. and writes original pieces with the blessings of his teachers from across the ocean. He is also an accomplished percussionist who has performed in 40 U.S. states and 25 countries worldwide.

Betsy Bevan is a composer, pianist and visual artist who has composed since childhood. She grew up in New England and earned a Masters Degree in composition at the prestigious Eastman School of Music studying under Warren Benson and Pulitzer Prize winner Joseph Schwantner. She has performed with improviser-cellist, David Darling of the world-renowned Paul Winter Consort as a teaching colleague in his Music for People organization and has received awards and grants in composition. She performs locally in NC and shows her paintings in galleries on the East coast.

"...simply a wonderful and inspirational collaboration between two very gifted composers and instrumentalists..."

David Darling,
Grammy
nominated
composer
and cellist



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