



## **MALLARMÉ MUSIC PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MAY 9, 2024**

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### **Dynamic Duos in Durham, a mini festival in June 2024**

DURHAM, N.C. – CALL FOR TALENT: The Durham-based Mallarmé Music, a 40-year-old chamber music ensemble based in Durham, NC has selected four duos as recipients of the **Dynamic Duos: Call for Talent**. The duos will each receive \$1000 for their performance presented in concert by Mallarmé Music. Three of the winning ensembles will perform in various venues in Durham in three consecutive Tuesdays this June 2024 in what we are calling the “DYNAMIC DUOS IN DURHAM MINI FESTIVAL.” The fourth duo will perform in the fall of 2024.

In the fall of 2020, Mallarmé’s board spearheaded a new directive to diversify offerings both musically and via the personnel who perform in our concerts. Couldn’t our performances better reflect our community while keeping a high standard of performance? Since Mallarmé has no core of musicians, we typically choose our performers based on the repertoire for a given concert and the musician’s expertise and ability to perform that repertoire. Most of our performers are based in North Carolina and are personally known by or recommended to artistic director Suzanne Rouso. They are either freelance musicians, university professors or symphony players with an occasional guest brought in from out of state. For a successful performance, in addition to being at the top of their technical game, players are put together for a concert with a knowledge of their ways of working, temperaments and level of commitment to a project.

However, understanding there are many musicians who are new to the state, recent graduates or those who perform in non-classical genres, Mallarmé developed the Dynamic Duos talent search to challenge our status quo. The goal was both to discover North Carolina musical talent and to expand on the style and genre of our usual programming. North Carolina musicians of any type, including jazz, folk, and rock were asked to apply, especially members of the LBGTQIA+, African American and Latinx communities. Applicants were asked to propose a 60-minute program and to provide artist bios and musical examples of the specific artists that judges could watch online.

Mallarmé Artistic Director, Suzanne Rouso, sound engineer and Assistant Professor at UNC [Pablo Vega](#), and flutist [Carla Copeland-Burns](#) were the adjudicators for the program. Groups were chosen based on both performance skills and the interest of the judges in the proposed program. Additionally, the ensembles demonstrated a history of working together – an obvious dynamic between the two performers was essential in addition to their individual artistry and compelling proposed programs.

The groups picked to perform for the upcoming Dynamic Duos in Durham Mini-Fest will be performing in small, iconic venues in Durham, NC that will support and enhance each specific program. This includes Missie Lane’s, NorthStar Church of the Arts, and the new Huron Stage, who are coming in as partners in this project. The presenting duos are:

1. **Onyx Club Boys Jazz Duo with Gabriel Pelli - violin/guitar and Ben Lassiter – guitar** will perform songs either written or performed by Django Reinhardt, whose music is now considered the folk music of the Western European Gypsies, also known as the Sinti tribe. It is most often referred to as Gypsy

Jazz, Jazz Manouche, or Hot Club Jazz.

2. If Jerry Garcia and Tom Waits made an Appalachian music duo, it might sound a little like the **Brown Mountain Lightning Bugs**. Hailing from Winston-Salem, NC, **Zack and Kendra Harding** blend the traditional with the trippy to create original music they like to call folk(ish). The married couple play a variety of instruments including the mandolin, guitar, melodica, banjo and voice with all-original songs.
3. **Raga Bihag - Alap, Jod and Jhalla with Viswas Chitnis - sitar and John Stephens – sarode**. The concert will be a unique opportunity to experience classical Hindustani with long-form Ragas. The specific ragas: *Alap*, *Jod* and *Jhalla* are increasingly rare to hear, though they are the true authentic heart and soul of traditional music from South Asia. As part of the program, Viswas and John will give a brief introduction to the style of music and the instruments they are playing, and explain the concept of the Raga which is a melodic framework for improvisation in Indian classical music.
4. The fourth group selected is the only traditional classical chamber group, **Duo Guitiano** performing **19th Century Works for Guitar and Piano**. The Fayetteville-based husband and wife duo of **Carlos Castilla, guitar** and **Amanda Virelles, piano** will present a continuation of their research into 19th-century music for guitar and piano including Giuliani/Moscheles' Grand Duo Concertante and Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata. Their concert will be scheduled for the Fall of 2024.



#### **DYNAMIC DUOS IN DURHAM: ONYX CLUB BOYS DUO**

**Gabriel Pelli, guitar/violin**

**Ben Lassiter, guitar**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024 7:00 pm**

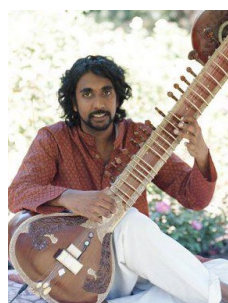
[Missy Lane's Assembly Room](#), 310 E. Main St., Ste. 100 Durham NC 27701

#### **DYNAMIC DUOS IN DURHAM: BROWN MOUNTAIN LIGHTNING BUGS**

**Kendra Harding, vocals/guitar/melodica**

**Zack Harding, vocals/guitar/mandolin/banjo/harmonica**

[Huron Stage](#), 2329 Huron St., Durham NC 27707



#### **DYNAMIC DUOS IN DURHAM: INDIAN RAGAS**

**Viswas Chitnis and John Stephens**

**Tuesday, June 25, 2024 7:00 pm**

[NorthStar Church of the Arts](#), 220 West Geer St, Durham, NC 27701

**There is a suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for students at each concert at the door.**

More info: [mallarmemusic.org](http://mallarmemusic.org)

**Mallarmé Music** is a flexible collective of professional musicians based in Durham, North Carolina, whose mission is to enrich the lives of the community through outstanding chamber music performance.

The organization distinguishes itself in the community by its innovative educational programs, its commitment to creative collaboration with other organizations, its creation of significant new work, and its dedication to serve a diverse population. Mallarmé annually presents a series of concerts that features diverse and multidisciplinary chamber music. Mallarmé performs everything from Bach on period instruments to commissioning and performing brand new works. In 2010, Mallarmé released, to great acclaim, a CD on Albany/Videmus records of chamber music by African American composers, featuring Nnenna Freelon singing *Soul Gone Home* by composer William Banfield.

Mallarmé is unique in that they use the wonderful musical talent North Carolina has to offer to perform with the ensemble depending on the needs of the repertoire. Most of Mallarmé's musicians are members of professional organizations like the NC Symphony, freelance players, or faculty members of numerous institutions of higher learning.

Mallarmé is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501(c) 3 organization. The 2023/24 concert season was made possible in part by grants from the Durham Arts Council's Annual Arts Fund and the North Carolina Arts Council. ##

