



Atwater-Donnelly
Traditional American Folk Music & Dance

**Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire
Artists in Residence February 11-14, 2018
Community Program Guide**



www.aannah.org

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Chicago's nationally syndicated WFMT's Midnight Special 2016 Favorites include Atwater-Donnelly Trio's "The World Is Old Tonight: "Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly have been making music together for 30 years, quietly ascending to the peak of their craft. They specialize in traditional music with gentle harmonies and appropriately natural, deceptively sophisticated instrumental accompaniment." --Rich Warren, WFMT's Midnight Special, Chicago, IL

ABOUT THE RESIDENCY

The Arts Alliance is committed to bringing a variety of art forms to northern New Hampshire through artist residencies. This mid-winter residency with Atwater-Donnelly offers an opportunity for residents and visitors of all ages to connect with two musicians who are not only mesmerizing performers but also superb teachers, skilled in engaging people of all ages and exploring the connections between folk and traditional music, history and heritage.

Award-winning, internationally recognized folk duo Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly present delightful programs of traditional American folk songs and percussive dance for school children and adults. Conveying American heritage through song and movement, Elwood and Aubrey blend gorgeous and unusual harmonies and play guitar, Appalachian mountain dulcimer, mandolin, tin whistle,

harmonica, banjo, bones, spoons, and limberjacks; they also offer other surprises, like Appalachian clogging and French Canadian footwork. With humor, audience participation, and a relaxed stage presence, Aubrey and Elwood explain song origins to create a deeper understanding of American folk music and its cultural history. They have an extensive, diverse list of offerings, including themed performances and workshops on playing traditional music, women in folk music, an instrumental petting zoo, singing harmony and much, much more.

We are pleased to offer this opportunity to all ages to experience their work, whether in a presentation, a workshop, or a combination of the two.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Aubrey Atwater and Elwood Donnelly have been performing together for almost 30 years. Married since 1989, they have traveled extensively in New England, the Ozarks, Appalachia, the Midwest, and across the United States with occasional trips to Ireland, England, and Canada, to perform as well as find their songs and dances one by one.

Atwater and Donnelly have shared festival billing with folk legends and have taught classes, studied with traditional musicians and folklorists, played and called dances, appeared on television, and received standing ovations for their concerts. In addition to twelve recordings, Aubrey and Elwood have received many awards and produced seven books and a film. The duo is part of more than twenty compilation CDs as well as numerous recordings of other musicians.



PROGRAM OPTIONS

Aubrey and Elwood both have strong backgrounds in education and have spent many years teaching both children and adults. Along with their general folk music program, they offer a variety of special programs and enjoy working with people of all ages. If you see something you are interested in, let us know; if you visit their web page and think of something specific that you might not see here, we'll see what we can do to make it happen.

We are planning a hands-on workshop & music-making afternoon and evening session Sunday, February 11 -- if you'd like to host or participate, and are eager for specific workshops to be included (see list below), let us know and we'll be glad to work with you!

*"I can't thank you enough for sharing yourselves so completely, from your dynamic performance on Saturday night to your workshops -- we were wowed, thrilled and awed by your work. Might you consider coming back next year? We didn't get ENOUGH of you!"
Holly Foy, Folk College,
Juniata, PA*

PERFORMANCES & FAMILY EVENTS: ALL AGES & NO MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS (UNLESS NOTED)

American Heritage Music Concert:

American folk music, like American people, is a fusion of many influences and cultures. Join Atwater-Donnelly as they explore and interpret our nation's heritage through song and dance, traveling in time and space to different lands, teaching us about the many stories behind American folk music.

Songs of Love: Special for Valentine's Day (Week):

Aubrey and Elwood will draw from their extensive repertoire of traditional American and Celtic folk songs as well as original songs and poetry, presenting a lively, humorous, and participatory family concert in honor of Valentine's Day, leaving no stones unturned with regard to the beauty, humor, and peril of romantic love!

Funny Songs!:

Enjoy a session of humorous, silly songs and jokes. Aubrey and Elwood have designed one silly program for children and one with a little more risqué material for adults. Come sing and laugh!!

Traditional Barn Dance:

Come with family members and friends of all ages for a rousing good time! You'll learn contra, square and circle dances, traditional party games and songs. A great intergenerational community-building opportunity. Local musicians are invited to participate as well!

*"Atwater~Donnelly are marvelous musicians. Their voices blend beautifully, their instrumental work is sparkling, and they are captivating performers. I could listen to them for hours."
Frank Dudgeon, WUMB,
Boston, MA*

Images of Women in Traditional Folk Music:

Learn about "ordinary" women in history as well as in the present. Aubrey and Elwood combine old songs of love, betrayal, and everyday life as well as songs and poems Aubrey has written about contemporary women's issues. A very moving and unique program to lead into Women's History Month or any time of the year.

French Program:

Since part of American history includes French and French Canadian settlement and immigration, here's another spin on American heritage and folk music: simple childhood songs in French as well as some French narration. Aubrey, who studied partly in Paris during college, teaches the audience French phrases and songs.

Preschool Program: ages 3-6, up to 40 children

Young children can see, hear, and try unusual instruments as well as clap, sing, and dance to captivating folk songs for the very young.

WORKSHOPS & SMALLER GROUP SESSIONS:

No maximum number of participants unless listed

Workshops are generally 1-2 hours

Instrument Playing, Jam Sessions, Singing, and Dance:

The residency will begin with a Sunday Music Afternoon that will include a selection of workshops chosen from an extensive menu of offerings: these may include instrument instruction, a repertoire/singing session, percussion, clogging, contra dance, play party games and songs, and more.

Aubrey and Elwood have particular expertise in teaching the mountain dulcimer and are frequently invited as presenters at national conferences; one possibility for a workshop is a dulcimer class. They can also offer workshops for guitar, Irish tin whistle, old-time banjo, harmonica, and percussion as well as jam sessions, vocal classes in harmony, ballad, group, and hymn singing, and dance classes for clogging, square and contra dance. Some of these are described below --contact us for more details!

**Folk Music and Dance Sampler:** up to 40 students

Try your hand, or foot, in this three-part session where we will have a short lesson on the Mountain Dulcimer, an American string instrument that can be played quite instantly; a session on the American step dance form, clogging, where we will learn a few simple dance steps; and a session on group singing. Aubrey will bring loaner dulcimers for you to play, as well as a bag of shoes, in case you don't have your own smooth soled shoes to wear for the dance component.

Harmony Singing:

An opportunity to develop harmony singing in an informal but informative way. Aubrey will present her own by-ear techniques used to work out harmony parts. She will provide lots of simple folk songs to get started and get more complex as the group wishes. Participants can also bring their own songs and musical questions.

(All Levels)

Songs of Jean Ritchie and the Ritchie Family:

This is a good repertoire workshop where Aubrey will teach a variety of songs she has learned over the years through her contact with Jean Ritchie and other Ritchie family members. Workshop focuses on the traditional style of playing with the noter and playing in different tunings. For the advanced player, other subjects can be incorporated in addition to noter

technique and modes and tunings, including using the dulcimer as a harmony voice, arrangement, and crooked rhythm.

(Beginner/Intermediate OR Intermediate/Advanced)

Playing and Dancing: up to 40 dancers plus musicians

This is an integrated workshop where Aubrey, or Aubrey and Elwood, will teach basic clogging steps and a couple of short dances and games and the people NOT dancing will play the music! This is incredibly fun and reminds us of the function of the tunes we often play in jam sessions. Lots of laughing with the dancing and games! ALL LEVELS for dancing. INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED for music players.

Playing for the Dance!

This multi-instrumental workshop addresses the magic of playing for a contra or square dance, as well as clogging and other step dancing. Unravel the mathematical mystery of dance or "fiddle" tunes and how they pair seamlessly with dancing. We will work with well-known tunes--their melodies and chords--and try to play up to speed. What fun it is to watch people laughing and dancing to the music YOU are providing!

(Intermediate and up)

Contra for Everyone! up to 40 participants

This workshop is designed for anyone who wants to master the steps and figures needed to dance confidently, and includes circle mixers, reels and contras.

(Beginner/Intermediate)

Chording, Strumming and Singing:

(Beginner/Early Intermediate)

Participants will learn basic chords for the D-A-D Mixolydian tuning and how to strum accompanying rhythms while singing and playing at the same time! Elwood will choose from some of his favorite traditional ballads.

*"Just watching the two of you on stage was one of the most wonderful experiences in my life"
-- Dan Bolger in the audience at the Ozark Folk Center, Mountain View, AR*

Songs of the Carter Family:

Discover the wonders of this early pioneering American country music group. Elwood will teach a variety of Carter Family songs with simple chord progressions that can be adapted to many instruments while exploring their history. Bring your voice and the instrument of your choice. It is helpful to know basic chords.

(All voices, instruments, levels)

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

If available, please provide five microphones and boom stands. (If that isn't possible, they can bring their own.) Please provide a clean, clear space. If available, a wooden floor is ideal, but if not, they will make do.

PRICING:

Please contact us for pricing on programs. We are able to offer reduced rates because of block-booking and residency funding support from the New England Foundation for the Arts. We handle travel costs – organizations with flexible schedules may be given priority. (We try to keep costs low by scheduling travel from town to town as efficiently as possible.) Contact us as soon as possible for best availability. Discounts may be offered if we can help find local

sponsors. **If funding is a challenge, please don't hesitate to contact us; we will work with you to try to make this programming possible.**

Booking and additional information: Please email us at programs@aannh.org and tell us which programs you are interested, where you'd like to host them and what days and times are available to you. You can also email us with questions.



The Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire works to promote, support and sustain culture, heritage and the arts throughout northern New Hampshire and engages in partnerships and statewide initiatives focused on arts learning, arts in health, cultural and heritage tourism and the Creative Economy. Visit our website, www.aannh.org, for additional information and details on program offerings.



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This residency is supported in part by the New England States Touring Program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts Regional Touring Program and the six New England state arts agencies, including the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts.