

THE WAILIN' JENNYS



7:30 p.m. November 4, 2023

Escher Auditorium, College of Saint Benedict

The Wailin' Jennys are Nicky Metha, Ruth Moody and Heather Masse—three distinct voices that together make an achingly perfect vocal sound. Starting as a happy accident of solo singer/songwriters getting together for a one-time-only performance at a tiny guitar shop in Winnipeg, Manitoba, The Wailin' Jennys have grown over the years into one of today's most beloved international folk acts. Founding members Moody and Mehta along with New York-based Masse continue to create some of the most exciting music on the folk-roots scene, stepping up their musical game with each critically lauded recording and thrilling audiences with their renowned live performances.



This show qualifies as an Artistic Engagement event! Scan the QR code for instructions on how to earn your credit.

TERMINOLOGY

Americana music (American roots music): a genre of music made through combining musical traditions in the southern United States—specifically genres of folk, gospel, country, jazz and bluegrass.

Bluegrass music: influenced by English, Scottish, and Irish heritage as well as the music of African American groups through the incorporation of jazz elements.

ONLINE RESOURCES

<https://www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/performances/wailin-jennys>

<https://www.thewailinjennys.com/>

ENGAGE

Folk, bluegrass and country genres have an emphasis on storytelling. The Wailin' Jenny's write their own music, cover popular folk artists like Tom Petty and Paul Simon, as well as record their own versions of traditional songs. For example, the group sings "The Parting Glass," which is a traditional Scottish ballad sung as a farewell after getting together with friends and family.

- Why is it important that tradition is remembered and passed on?
- How does storytelling change when music is added to the narrative?
- What are some ways The Wailin' Jennys use lyrics and sound to enhance the narrative?

The Wailin' Jennys are composed of three talented female vocalists. Historically, women have been underrepresented on music charts, though their creative contributions are essential to the art form.

- Why is it important to have access to all kinds of viewpoints in mainstream media?
- How does collaboration change the outcome of a project compared to if the project was the work of just one person?
- What are some common misconceptions about gender identity, and how can we challenge them?

Folk music was created by the everyday person and for the everyday person when it emerged in the late 1800s. These relatable qualities have made folk music a big part of human rights movements ever since, giving voice to people experiencing hardships and injustice. Folk music incorporates elements of many groups of people with various cultural backgrounds, from African American people living in the south to European immigrants.

- How do you see/hear these cultures contributing to the music you hear in this performance?
- How does music influence and inspire people?
- If you could choose a song that represents you and your roots, what song would you choose and why?