

Janelle Lucyk | Kerry Bursey

Méneſtreſel

voices, lute, violin

Ancient repertoire and oral folk traditions



In The Garden's Folly

Drawing inspiration from the English tradition of the Follies: those elegant, ornamental pavilions found within landscape gardens, where sitters could admire the surrounding decorative greens, evoking both harmony and tempered wild beauty. Méneſtreſel has curated a program of Elizabethan airs, French baroque from the court of Versailles, paired with ballads and crystalline melodies that bring you into a sonic dreamworld celebrating all the colors of this ornate musical era!

The Nine Maidens

songs of travel and adventure: English traditional songs woven together with other lively early music, telling of heroines and heroes who cleverly escape danger and flee to the comfort of love. Through voices, a myriad of plucked strings, and some violin, Méneſtreſel performs old music in an intimate manner, with ayres and ballads recounting the transience of good fortune in the life of a voyager. Music by Purcell, Dowland, Gilles Binchois, and Guillaume de Machaut.

Songs of the Mayflower

Interwoven voices, plucked strings, and some violin bring to life ancient music in an intimate manner, with folk songs, ayres and ballads highlighting the remarkable stories of ordinary people. The program includes a spotlight on the Helen Creighton Collection. Helen Creighton is considered Canada's first lady of folklore, she was from Nova Scotia and collected over 4,000 traditional songs across the Maritimes.

The Order of Good Cheer

Founded by Samuel de Champlain in 1606, the Order of Good Cheer was America's first social club where wine, camaraderie, theater and music came together to brighten cold winters. Hear songs inspired by the sea, the new world, absence and hope, with songs that have forged the bonds of French-Canadian music today. Méneſtreſel reimagines these evenings together, with music from the 17th Century, ever timeless today.

Yuletide, A Ceremony of Midwinter

Delve into the historical roots of Yule as Méneſtreſel brings listeners a wintertime immersion of early song and folk dance music from around the world. Celebrating the ancient magic of midwinter, the concert weaves together the threads of Yuletide traditions and ancient customs and symbols still present in beloved Christmas carols.



🇨🇦 Méneſtreſel has been active since 2019. 2024 included concerts in all of Canada's thirteen provinces and territories, with countless performances, workshops, masterclasses and outreach events.



youtube.com/@ensemblemenestrel