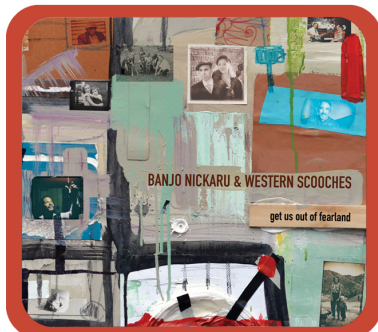


Banjo Nickaru & Western Scooches



Get Us Out Of Fearland

Banjo Nickaru & Western Scooches sophomore album, *Get Us Out Of Fearland*:
#2 album, #2 artist, #5 song with 6 of our songs in top 20
on April 2018 International Folk Music DJs Radio chart!

Americana Radio Impact June 18th

Perhaps one of the only bands blending world rhythms and Global Folk with Americana, Folk Traditions, New Orleans Influences, alt grass, music of the 1920s and bluegrass.

"....the inimitable Banjo Nickaru & Western Scooches" **John Platt (WFUV)**

"A heart as big as the sky...full of high energy and higher spirits." **Elmore Magazine**

"A band that has to be seen to be believed." **John Platt (WFUV)**

"Americana music at its purest and most impressive" **No Depression**

"...an amazing group which a lot of us dreamed would happen some day where the different genres of music all get together..." **David Amram**

"...it's unlike anything most listeners will find elsewhere." **San Diego Troubadour**

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"It underscores, too, how sounds from another time can be renewed and re-imagined, by creative minds and right hands, in the present moment. Banjo Nickaru & Western Scooches are ridiculously fun." **Rambles**

"Unfailingly high-spirited." **London Times**

"This is a band that must be heard to be believed!" **WFUV**

"Remarkable musical dexterity with songs that bask in a genuine roots regimen and a sense of timeless tradition." **Elmore Magazine**

*******Western Scooches & Their Bios:**

Band members have worked with the likes of Paul McCartney, Julia Roberts, Sam Mendes, Paul Simon, Jon Batiste as well as performed on ABC's Good Morning America, WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour, Kansas City Folk Festival main stage, Folk Alliance International 2017, Blue Plate Special, Extended Play Sessions (The Alt. Root), Relix featured videos and appeared in moves such as Mona Lisa Smile, Away We Go and Disney's Enchanted.

Nick Russo leads the charge as bandleader and composer. Russo plays guitar, banjo, and resonator and has appeared on "Good Morning America" as well as the **Sam Mendes** film, Away We Go, and was a sideman with the greats - **Jimmy McGriff**, **Teddy Charles** and **Sonny Dallas**. Russo had the honor to jam with **Sir Paul McCartney** while performing at **Gwyneth Paltrow** and **Chris Martin's** home, regularly accompanies **Antonique Smith**, **Jon Batiste** and recently performed for actor/comedian/composer, **Jim Dale** in **Jon Weber's** band.

Betina Hershey appears as the principle dancer in featured films, Disney's Enchanted and Mona Lisa Smile with **Julia Roberts**. Hershey performed on international and national tours of Broadway shows such as "West Side Story," "Phantom of the Opera," "The Fantasticks," and "Pump Boys & Dinettes," just to name a few. She composes music and plays guitar.

Emiliano Valerio (cajón/percussion) is a highly regarded musician who studied Afro-Cuban percussion at La Escuela Nacional de Arte in Havana, Cuba before further training with Puerto Rican jazz great Giovanni Hidalgo. He also founded Nueva Siembra, a 15-piece Latin band, composed Jackson Heights Suite, for string quartet, was musical director/percussionist/guitarist for the OBIE Award winning Off-Broadway show Tap Dogs, and is a tabla disciple of virtuoso Pandit Samir Chatterjee.

*******New Album: Get Us Out Of Fearland:**

New York City's Banjo Nickaru & Western Scooches are likely the only band today infusing elements of Gullah-Geechee and world rhythms with folk traditions, New Orleans influences, and 1920s jazz. The forthcoming sophomore album, Get Us Out Of Fearland, due June 15, builds upon the multicultural exuberance that made the band's debut, Very Next Thing, a transcendent breath of fresh air. Elmore Magazine championed its "remarkable musical

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dexterity with songs that bask in a genuine roots regimen and a sense of timeless tradition," and revered tastemaker station WFUV said, "This is a band that must be heard to be believed!"

"These powerful and strong influences for our band bring spiritual energy to our shows," says co-founder/musician Nick Russo. "My musical life has always been surrounded by an eclectic combination of unique musicians and scenes. So naturally, this band is a melting pot of many different cultures, genres, instruments, and sounds. My dream is that people of all races and origins live, play, and share all our different world musics and cultures together as one united race, without fear – one love!"

Although the band's debut featured an "unfailing high-spirited" mix of traditional fare culled from various cultures, the new nine-track opus showcases mostly original material. The one cover included is a lively rendition of "A Hundred Miles," the rollicking fiddle-fueled train tune from the 1800s. All the other eight songs were penned by vocalist Betina Hershey, who says, "Songs are always pouring out of me. Some I catch, and some slip out past my lips and float away. With the help of a cast of music mates, these songs linger so beautifully, with textures that I hadn't even imagined."

Highlights of Get Us Out Of Fearland include the playful 1920s verve of "I Don't Need No Glasses," the warm lilting embrace of "I Wish The World Knew Why," the organ-driven, gospel-tinged "Dandelion" (featuring special guest singers Stephanie Rice and Charenee Wade), and "Soar," an inspirational song filled with optimism, determination, and perseverance. These qualities sail skyward throughout the 25-minute journey, but none more so than on the boisterous groundbreaking title track, which features improvisational vocalist Miles Griffith, known for his work with Max Roach, Paul Simon, and Reggie Workman, plus percussionist/vocalist, Dr. David Pleasant, a singular talent who has performed with Wynton Marsalis, Cecil Taylor, and Paul Simon.

visit: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nickrusso11/>