**THE BEE EATERS**

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*“[The Bee Eaters] combine chamber music’s finely
calibrated arrangements with bluegrass’s playful virtuosity and pop music’s melodic resourcefulness.”
-***The Boston Globe**

*“The Bee Eaters are the instrumental cream of the brand new string nation.”
-***Darol Anger**

*"...here come the Bee Eaters. ...so tastefully arranged and so well played. They rescue the hammer dulcimer from all cliches, and bring the music forward to right here and now.”
-***Tim O'Brien**

*“It is a joy to hear both the exploration of this music and the grounding of it simultaneously. Also, I love the emphasis on the simple beauty of the acoustic instruments.”
-***Edgar Meyer**(3 time Grammy-winning composer/bassist/MacArthur Fellow)

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“I believe every sound you listen to informs your ears, and therefore your musical perspective. We grew up hearing the sounds of nature, rather than the sounds of cities,” says Bee Eaters co-founder Tristan Clarridge. Perhaps it was their free lifestyle growing up in a tipi on the side of a mountain in a remote part of Northern California that influenced their musically explorative sound. Or the fact that Tristan and fellow co-founder and sister, Tashina, never went to a day of traditional school but began music lessons at age two, sometimes driving thousands of miles for music camps and lessons and spending much of their time exploring and learning on three week backpacking trips.

Though their family did not have much money, Tristan will be the first one to tell you he feels lucky. And these experiences deeply influenced their approach to music. *OddFellows Road* seems an apt album title for a band breaking new ground with their own tightly woven approach that banjo great **Tony Trischka** called “bodaciously brilliant!”

Venerable string masters **Mike Marshall** and **Bruce Molsky** lend their talents to this latest release, with Marshall playing mandolin and Molsky adding his voice to the group's arrangement of Bruce Hornsby's “The Way It Is”. Revered Nashville sound engineer Dave Sinko captured the music with a delicate touch, bringing a pure and organic honesty to the Bee Eaters sound that matches their musical approach. The eleven-song set of group collaboration takes a focused view of those things in life that resonate with you through the years but perhaps don’t come into focus right away. The joys of traveling and contemplative nature of a visit to Alaska come out beautifully in “Petersburg Interlude” with a recollection of time spent on a fishing boat in the harbor, looking out through the fog and rain towards the mountains across the water. Or the rhythms and twisting melodies of “Gyrosmoke,” a tune written by one of their musical mentors, fellow stringband pioneer and fiddle guru, **Darol Anger**. The tune that is the namesake for the album, *Oddfellows Road*, as the band says, “incubated for years, unnamed and unyielding to our efforts to arrange and play it.” It was eventually named after the street that band principle Simon Chrisman grew up on, at the south end of Bainbridge Island.

Brother-sister duo **Tristan and Tashina Clarridge**, long known and lauded by those steeped in the American fiddle tradition, are joined by hammer dulcimer wizard **Simon Chrisman**. Together, they weave a tapestry of sound all their own, drawing on roots in bluegrass, Celtic, jazz and old-time traditions. While today’s new breed often produces an amalgamation of sounds and styles based on a distant view, The Bee Eaters were raised embedded in these traditions… raised to mold, meld, shape them and carry them forward, leaving their own indelible marks in the process. With Tashina’s delicate fiddle and Tristan’s grounding cello wrapped around Simon’s ethereal dulcimer, they have created a never-before-heard sound in American music. No tricks. No pyrotechnics. Three instrumental voices, united in their musical exploration.

Grand National Fiddle Champion **Tashina Clarridge** has toured with Mark O’Connor, Tony Trischka and Laurie Lewis and has performed at Carnegie Hall as a part of MacArthur Fellow/Grammy-winning bassist Edgar Meyer’s Young Artists program. Multi-instrumentalist brother **Tristan** is a 5-time Grand National Fiddle Champion and a pioneering cellist, synthesizing traditional folk influences with rhythmic vocabulary from jazz, rock and pop music, and leading a revolution among adventurous young cellists throughout the country. He has toured the world with bluegrass/nu-folk sensation Crooked Still and Darol Anger's Republic of Strings, as well as Mike Marshall, Bruce Molsky and Cape Breton fiddle phenomenon Natalie MacMaster. Hammer dulcimer virtuoso **Simon Chrisman** brings a whole new approach to an instrument that has previously been thought to have limited range and technique. His inventive virtuosic touch and sophisticated rhythmic sensibilities are redefining the instrument and earning the attention of musicians from all over the world.

Since their formation in 2008, The Bee Eaters have been on a trajectory of growth, both personal and musical. They have recorded and performed with GRAMMY winning singer-guitarist Sean Watkins (Nickel Creek), legendary fiddler/composer and visionary Darol Anger, bluegrass legend Laurie Lewis, Appalachian music masters Bruce Molsky, singer Aoife O'Donovan (of Crooked Still renown), and dozens of others. Festival highlights include Wintergrass, and the Indiana Fiddlers Gathering.

The Bee Eaters have collectively taught hundreds of lessons and workshops in communities, schools, and colleges such as the Berklee College of Music, the University of Victoria, Humboldt State University, and many others. Tashina and Tristan co-founded the Shasta Music Summit, now in it's 15th year, where they unite the highest level of musical masterminds with musicians of all ages and skill levels, for a series of workshops and all-star concerts exploring the connections between musical traditions of the world, in a holistic community environment. The Shasta Music Summit is revered by many as a powerful musical and social melting pot; young students and professional musicians come together to share, driven by a bold vision of strengthening the interwoven connectedness of music, community, and culture.

Listening to the Bee Eaters is like eavesdropping on a spirited, private conversation. As wonderful as their recorded music is, watching The Bee Eaters in live performance is an exercise in safe danger. They parry and thrust, challenging each other at every moment. Their focus on their music and on each other is tight and complete. Their melodic lines and rhythmic phrases dance (and sometimes roil) over, under and around each other. There is sometimes dissonance but always an ultimate harmony.

Perhaps **Tony Trischka** said it best: “Their impressive ensemble work… leaves me breathless. Their music excites, heals and enriches.  Listen often.”

Yes, listen often.

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[www.BeeEaters.com](http://www.beeeaters.com/)