



PRESS RELEASE

May 26, 2016

Asheville Symphony

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Soundtrack for the City

Asheville Symphony and Musicians from Western North Carolina Unite On New Recording

ASHEVILLE, N.C.—The Asheville Symphony and leading musicians from Asheville’s music scene—including Lizz Wright, Free Planet Radio, Rising Appalachia and Steep Canyon Rangers—have collaborated on an innovative new album, released on May 26, 2016.

Celebrating the diversity of music in Western North Carolina, ***The Asheville Symphony Sessions*** features songs that combine the unique styles of locally based musicians, with the Asheville Symphony. The album was produced by Michael Selverne of Welcome to Mars, at Asheville’s Echo Mountain Recording Studios.

“This album serves as a soundtrack for the city,” says ASO Executive Director David Whitehill. “The Asheville Symphony champions great music, and we’re very fortunate that there is great music being made here. Not many communities of this size have the kind of resources—including the symphony musicians, recording engineers, producers, publicists, arrangers, session musicians and recording studios—that we have in Asheville.”

Featured artists are Doc Aquatic, Electric Owls, Free Planet Radio featuring Lizz Wright, Lovett, Matt Townsend, Rising Appalachia, Shannon Whitworth, and Steep Canyon Rangers. The album synthesizes a variety of genres including folk, country, roots, rock, pop, bluegrass, R&B, and jazz, with each track featuring ensembles from the ASO ranging in size from 9 players to 24.

“This album is life-sized art, produced here in our community. After 32 years of making records in New York and Los Angeles, this is one of the coolest projects I have worked on,” says producer Michael Selverne. “Working together, I believe that we have created an incredibly musical record that reflects the spirit and the soul of our community.”

A number of notable arrangers worked on the project including Michael Bearden, who works with Lady Gaga and Neil Young and was Michael Jackson’s musical director for the *This Is It* tour; Van Dyke Parks, who composed and arranged the score for Disney’s *The Jungle Book* (1967) animated film and composed *Smile* with Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys; and Jonathan Sacks, a composer and orchestrator who has worked on many blockbuster films including *The Princess and the Frog* (2009), Disney’s *Cars* (2006), and *Seabiscuit* (2003).

“It was amazing to see the bands’ reactions as they heard the symphony musicians bring the orchestral arrangements of their songs to life. This project is the collaborative effort of more than 150 people coming together to create something that is uniquely Asheville,” says Jessica Tomasin, Echo Mountain Recording’s studio manager. “I love the idea that we are connecting musicians from varying backgrounds and musical genres in our own community.”

The Asheville Symphony Sessions is available worldwide through iTunes and Amazon.com, and locally at Asheville-area retailers. It is also available to stream via Spotify and Apple Music.

Visit ashevillesymphony.org/sessions for more information.

The Asheville Symphony Orchestra performs and promotes symphonic music for the benefit, enjoyment and education of the people of Western North Carolina. The ASO presents concerts in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium in Asheville’s U.S. Cellular Center. Related organizations include the Asheville Symphony Guild, Asheville Symphony Chorus, Asheville Symphonettes, and education initiatives such as the Asheville Symphony Youth Orchestra, Music in the Schools, MusicWorks!, Spotlight on Young Musicians, Symphony Talk and pre-concert lectures.