

OUR GENEROUS SERIES DONORS

(July 1 – September 15, 2023)

Maestro's Circle - \$2,500+

Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation
(in-kind services)

Conductor's Circle - \$1,000 - \$2,499

Liz Kasper (in-kind services)

Concert Master Circle - \$500 - \$999

Drs. Scott & Rhiannon O'Connor

Patron - \$250 - \$499

Mary & Paul Hoff
Julie & Joe Molitor

Celia Wirth Computer Services (in-kind services)

Benefactor - \$100 - \$249

David & Sheila Bennett
Donna Ernster

Supporter - Up to \$99

Lenore Bolfing
Joann Carlson
Arlo Frost
Sara Hasslen
Paulette Jones
Dan & Kay McCarthy
Patricia Pickering
Gary Salisbury
Kelly & Chris Unger

To make a tax-deductible donation,
visit wildwoodartistseries.com
or scan the QR code below.



The graphic features a yellow background with colorful musical notes and a book. At the top right is the Wildwood Artist Series logo (WAS) and the text 'WILDWOOD ARTIST SERIES' and 'The Power of Storytelling Through Music'. Below this is a portrait of John McCutcheon, a man with a grey beard, holding a guitar. At the bottom, the name 'John McCutcheon' is written in large, red, cursive script, with 'Sunday, September 17, 2023' in blue text below it.

Chautauqua Fine Arts Center
8000 75th Street North, Mahtomedi, Minnesota

The Wildwood Artist Series is a committee of the
Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF)



UPCOMING 2023-2024 SERIES EVENTS

All concerts (unless otherwise stated) are held in the Chautauqua Fine Arts Center of Mahtomedi High School.

SHAPESHIFT Dance – Be Your Own Superhero

Saturday, October 7, 2023 @ 7pm

The President's Own United States Marine Band

Monday, October 9, 2023 @ 7:30pm

this special event held at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

The Mahtomedi Music Faculty Concert

Sunday, October 29, 2023 @ 4:30pm

Kenwood Symphony Orchestra – Peter & The Wolf

Saturday, January 27, 2024 @ 4pm

A Cappella Showcase

Saturday, April 6, 2024 @ 7pm



To purchase tickets -
visit wildwoodartistseries.com,
scan this QR code or call
(651) 605-1124.

The **Chautauqua Fine Arts Center** provides access for people with disabilities. A ramp is available to the left side of the lobby for any individuals who need it. Public restrooms are located off the lobby in either direction. Beverages and food are limited to the lobby or highschool commons and may not be brought into the Center. Fire codes prohibit seating in the aisles. Our buildings and grounds are smoke free.

WILDWOOD ARTIST SERIES COMMITTEE

David Bennett	MAEF Representative
Staci Bennett	MHS Band/Choir Student Liaison
Angela Bodensteiner	Member at Large
Julie Conzemius	Member at Large/Music faculty
Donna Ernster	Member at Large
Roxanne Hardy	Member at Large
Julie Molitor	President
Rhiannon O'Connor	Ticket Chair, Tickets, iContact
Lucy Payne	Member at Large
Rob Pontious	Digital Support/Music faculty
Kathy Schwister	School Residencies
Kelly Unger	Programs
Tony Vosooney	Treasurer

Consider becoming a member of the Wildwood Artist Series committee. To learn more, contact Julie at info.wildwoodartistseries@gmail.com or (612) 655-6023.

2016-2017	Ross Sutter at Wildwood Elementary
2017-2018	J.D. Steele at OH Anderson Elementary
2018-2019	Dr. Scott Agster with Mahtomedi Middle and High School Bands
2019-2020	Kyle Pederson with Mahtomedi Middle And High School Choirs
2020-2021	James Hersch at Wildwood Elementary
2021-2022	Peter Mayer at OH Anderson Elementary
2022-2023	Sowah Mensah Mahtomedi Middle

BRUNER RESIDENCY FUND DONORS

(January 1 – September 15, 2023)

Mary Kaye & Greg Anderson | Linda Anderson
Dianne Ball | David & Sheila Bennett | Mary Berg
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Chris & Mary Sorenson | Bob & Erna Spath
James Stowell | Dixon & Jean Tews | Kelly & Chris Unger
Debra Venker | Barbara & Larry White
Kris & Steve Wilson | Donald & Sharon Wright
Jeffrey & Jeanne Zlonis

Thank you for your support of this incredible legacy program. Ellie Bruner, our founder, is so missed.

ABOUT JOHN MCCUTCHEON

“John McCutcheon is not only one of the best musicians in the USA, but also a great singer, songwriter, and song leader. And not just incidentally, he is committed to helping hard-working people everywhere to organize and push this world in a better direction.”— Pete Seeger

*“The most impressive instrumentalist I’ve ever heard.”
— Johnny Cash*

“He has an uncanny ability to breathe new life into the familiar. His storytelling has the richness of fine literature.”— Washington Post

*“Calling John McCutcheon a ‘folksinger’ is like saying Deion Sanders is just a football player.”
— Dallas Morning News*



No one remembers when the neighbors started calling the McCutcheons to complain about the loud singing from young John’s bedroom. It didn’t seem to do much good, though. For, after a shaky, lopsided battle between piano lessons and baseball (he was a mediocre pianist and an all-star

catcher), he had “found his voice” thanks to a cheap mail-order guitar and a used book of chords.

From such inauspicious beginnings, John McCutcheon has emerged as one of our most respected and loved folksingers. As an instrumentalist, he is a master of a dozen different traditional instruments, most notably the rare and beautiful hammer dulcimer. His songwriting has been hailed by critics and singers around the globe. His thirty recordings have garnered every imaginable honor including seven Grammy nominations. He has produced over twenty albums of other artists, from traditional fiddlers to contemporary singer-songwriters to educational and documentary works. His books and instructional materials have introduced budding players to the joys of their own musicality. And his commitment to grassroots political organizations has put him on the front lines of many of the issues important to communities and workers.

Even before graduating summa cum laude from Minnesota’s St. John’s University, this Wisconsin native literally “headed for the hills,” forgoing a college lecture hall for the classroom of the eastern Kentucky coal camps, union halls, country churches, and square dance halls. His apprenticeship to many of the legendary figures of Appalachian music imbedded a love of not only home-made music, but a sense of community and rootedness. The result is music...whether traditional or from his huge catalog of original songs...with the profound mark of place, family, and strength. It also created a storytelling style that has been compared to Will Rogers and Garrison Keillor.

The Washington Post described John as folk music’s “Rustic Renaissance Man,” a moniker flawed only by its understatement. “Calling John McCutcheon a ‘folksinger’ is like saying Deion Sanders is just a football player...” (Dallas Morning News). Besides his usual circuit of major concert halls and theaters, John is equally at home in an elementary school auditorium, a festival stage or at a farm rally. He is a whirlwind of energy packing five lifetimes into one. In the past few years alone he has headlined over a dozen different festivals in North America (including repeated performances at the National Storytelling Festival), recorded an original composition for Virginia Public Television involving over 500 musicians, toured Australia for the sixth time, toured Chile in support of a women’s health initiative, appeared in a Woody Guthrie tribute concert in New York City, gave a featured concert at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, taught performance art skills at a North Carolina college, given symphony pops concerts across America, served as President of the fastest-growing Local in the Musicians Union and performed a special concert at the National Baseball Hall of Fame. This is all in his “spare time.” His “real job,” he’s quick to point out, is father to two grown sons.

But it is in live performance that John feels most at home. It is what has brought his music into the lives and homes of one of the broadest audiences any folk musician has ever enjoyed. People of every generation and background seem to feel at home in a concert hall when John McCutcheon takes the stage, with what critics describe as “little feats of magic,” “breathtaking in their ease and grace...,” and “like a conversation with an illuminating old friend.”

Whether in print, on record, or on stage, few people communicate with the versatility, charm, wit or pure talent of John McCutcheon. For more on John, visit his website at folkmusic.com.

ABOUT THE WILDWOOD ARTIST SERIES



The Wildwood Artist Series (WAS) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1990 as a committee of the Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF), a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The goal of WAS is to present quality, diverse,

family-appropriate arts events, and to encourage an appreciation of the fine arts in the community.

Over the course of our 30+ year history, performers such as the Vienna Boys Choir, Arlo Guthrie, The Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats, Billy McLaughlin, Pat Donahue, John McCutcheon, Monroe Crossing (to name just a few) have entertained and enriched the lives of community members of all ages.

The Wildwood Artist Series is run by a volunteer committee who contribute their time, talent, and energy to bring the best and most accomplished performers to the Fine Arts Center stage.



THE ELLEN C. BRUNER PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING ARTS RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Ellie Bruner founded the Wildwood Artist Series in 1990 to encourage an appreciation of the fine arts and to support musical education in our community. Under her leadership, WAS initiated the Wildwood Artist Series Professional Performing Artist Residency Program which funds extended residencies by professional performing artists (clinicians, composers, arrangers and artists of various cultural backgrounds) to work closely with students in the Mahtomedi school district. WAS is currently able to offer one residency per year that rotates around the four schools. Ultimately, we would like to be able to provide at least one residency experience for each student during their school career. See, below, the list of talented individuals who have enriched our music programs thus far.

WELCOME

Dear Valued Patrons,

When I was a child, I loved to sit in front of our big wooden stereo player and listen to records. One song that I listened to often was Danny Kaye's "The Little Fiddle." Mr. Kaye's humorous rendition of the voices of a symphony introduced names and sounds of instruments that I had never heard otherwise. He also explained that music always tells a story, which is the theme of this year's Series, "The Power of Storytelling Through Music."

In addition to our talented Mahtomedi music faculty and A Cappella show favorites, we have two performances that are new to Wildwood Artist Series. On October 7 we will present "Be Your Own Superhero" which is a theatrical dance production commissioned by the Ordway and illuminates the journey of friends discovering what it takes to be heroes in their community by finding the power from within. And on January 27 the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra will present the classic story of "Peter and the Wolf." We hope you can join us (and bring a friend!) for all of these musical traditions - old and new.

Which brings us to our inaugural concert, John McCutcheon, who has been described as a master musician, songwriter, and storyteller. John will also be performing a show at Wildwood Elementary school. What a fantastic kick-off to our season!

Thank you for your support and to so many of you who have added a donation while purchasing your ticket – your patronage helps to provide these high-quality acts, while keeping ticket prices affordable for families and other community members.

Enjoy the show!

Julie Molitor
President, Wildwood Artist Series