

January 4, 2024

MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL WINTERLUDE RETURNS JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 2

More Genre-Defying Acts, Concerts, Workshops



Moab, Utah – The Moab Music Festival kicks off the new year with the return of its eagerly anticipated community-centered week of workshops, concerts, and events, *Winterlude*. January 26 to February 2, 2024, MMF welcomes back the captivating saxophonist, composer, and band leader Alison Shearer, who, with her quartet, delighted audiences and students alike in her MMF Winterlude week last season. Joining *Winterlude* for the first time this year will be W4RP (formerly Warp Trio), a cross-genre ensemble blending classical chamber music with improv, jazz, world, and popular traditions.

Shearer, back in Moab after a triumphant appearance last season, brings funk and soul to her relentlessly groovy compositions. Her Brooklyn-based quartet includes Kevin Bernstein, keys; Marty Kenney, bass; and Horace Phillips, drums. The group's debut album, *View From Above*, featuring Shearer's compositions, arrived to critical acclaim last spring, and was a *JazzTimes* magazine Editor's Pick. About her return to *Winterlude*, Shearer says, "we're just so grateful for the opportunity to come back to Moab for a second year! *Winterlude* for us is a perfect balance of performing, working with students and the community, and spending time as an ensemble writing new music and exploring the parks and hiking trails."

This year, Shearer and her quartet will lead not one, but two adult non-professional workshops for Jazz-minded community members, giving participants the chance to deepen their exploration. Says Shearer, "The improv workshop was super fun last year, and I'm glad we're taking things a step further this time around." Participants will have the option to perform as part of the Winterlude Showcase Concert at the end of the week.

Like last year, Shearer and her quartet will also work with Grand County High School Jazz

students during special in-school workshops. Participants will also perform in the Winterlude Showcase Concert at the end of the week.

Not your usual piano trio, W4RP “exemplifies the genre-obliterating direction of contemporary classical music” (*Columbia Free Times*) with electrifying programs blending classical standards, popular tunes, jazz stylings, and contemporary compositions. The group, featuring Josh Henderson, violin; Ju-Young Lee, cello; Mikael Darmaïne, piano; and Rick Martinez, drums, has made waves across the nation for its non-traditional approach to the classical concert experience, as well as its innovative educational residencies.

W4RP will lead an adult non-professional traditional chamber music masterclass, during which participants can observe or receive a short coaching session on a previously rehearsed work. The group will also lead a new workshop introduction to film scoring, using a recent project as an example, as well as coach participants through creating short scores of their own.

W4RP will also work with Grand County string students during in-school workshops, and appear as BEACON program teaching artists, working with students in after-school workshops throughout the week. Both programs culminate in performances as part of the concluding Winterlude Showcase.

New to Winterlude this year, each adult non-professional workshop will begin with a drum circle, which will be featured at the Showcase concert. The week opens with W4rp playing *Peter and the Wolf* at a Musical Story Hour for children and families,

Educational and community outreach is an integral part of what the Moab Music Festival does, in addition to hosting the annual Festival with its signature *music in concert with the landscape®* and world class artists every fall. This educational work fosters profoundly enriching experiences between local music students and MMF’s teaching artists. The Grand County community is integral to MMF’s function and Winterlude represents MMF’s commitment to enriching and honoring those who make it possible.

Complete Listing of Winterlude Public Performances – more at moabmusicfest.org

Friday, January 26

Alison Shearer Quartet Concert, 7pm
Hoodoo Moab Ballroom

Saturday, January 27

Musical Story Hour, 10:30am
W4RP Concert, 7pm

Monday, January 29

ADULT WORKSHOP #1: Drum Circle (6-6:30pm) & Intro to Improvisation (6:30-8:30pm), Star Hall

The Alison Shearer Quartet introduces improvisation as a tool for musical expression! Learn about the concept of call and response, building a groove, and the standard blues form. Students are encouraged to bring an instrument, or attend as an observer.

Tuesday, January 30

ADULT WORKSHOP #2: Drum Circle (6-6:30pm) & Chamber Music Masterclass (6:30-8:30pm), Star Hall

This Warp Trio workshop will center around chamber music performance! Observe the masterclass or sign up for a short coaching session of a piece of music you’ve selected and previously rehearsed with friends. Come prepared to play a 2-5 minute piece (any genre/groups encouraged/solos acceptable) and receive coaching on stage in Star Hall from W4RP in a supportive and welcoming public environment of fellow participants.

Wednesday, January 31

ADULT WORKSHOP #3: Drum Circle (6-6:30pm) & More Improv! (6:30-8:30pm), Star Hall

Build upon your improvisation skills with Alison Shearer Quartet, including developing a solo, incorporating chromaticism, and learning about the origins and evolution of the bebop jazz style. Students are encouraged to bring an instrument, or attend as an observer.

Thursday, February 1

ADULT WORKSHOP #4: Drum Circle (6-6:30pm) & Crafting Stories: Music & Film (6:30-8:30pm), Star Hall

W4RP leads an interactive workshop around the world of film scoring! After a discussion and demo of W4RP's current film scoring project, participants will jump into the creative process, making decisions on crafting their own short scores (which W4RP will perform). No prior musical or composition knowledge required.

Friday, February 2

DRUM CIRCLE DRESS

6:15-6:30pm, Star Hall

Perform a short drum circle piece to open the Winterlude Showcase. Drumming participants should plan to attend the Monday-Thursday workshops.

Friday, February 2

WINTERLUDE SHOWCASE

7 pm • Star Hall • FREE • All ages welcome

Performances by Alison Shearer Quartet, W4RP, BEACON After-School Strings, Middle School Strings, GCHS Jazz Band, and adult drum circle participants.

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