



THE EARLY MAYS

Emily Pinkerton, vox, fiddle, banjo, guitar
Ellen Gozion, vox, banjo, harmonium

& collaborators

Nicole Myers, cello

Rachel Eddy, fiddle, banjo, guitar

With watertight harmonies over banjo, guitar, fiddle & harmonium, they **"bring traditional and original material to spectacular life"**

Cindy Howes | Folk Alley

With Appalachian-inspired harmonies, masterful songwriting, and a sweet old-time sound, The Early Mays bring a deep love of community music-making to regional and national stages. Drawing from musical roots in Indiana, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, they burst on to the folk scene in 2014 with a #2 debut on the National Folk-DJ Charts: an eponymous album born from the ease and joy of singing traditional music together. Most recently, the band appeared on NPR's Mountain Stage, took home the blue ribbon in the Neo-Traditional Band Competition at Clifftop (The Appalachian String Band Music Festival), and hit the **#1 position on the folk charts with their latest release, "Chase the Sun."**

Emily Pinkerton, Ellen Gozion, and collaborators carry their unique creative voices—and carefully honed craft—with them as they explore American traditional music in The Early Mays. Emily weaves folk, classical and world music threads into in her songwriting, and recently released a song cycle for old-time banjo and chamber ensemble (Rounder Songs) on New Amsterdam Records. Ellen is an accomplished ballad singer, accompanist and visual artist; she founded the Pittsburgh Crankie Fest and has taught workshops at the Augusta Heritage Center and throughout the the Mid-Atlantic. The Early Mays' closest collaborators are Rachel Eddy, a prolific old-time performer, and Nicole Myers, a genre-crossing cellist and founding member of Cello Fury. 2020 promises more beautiful collaborations on a brand new album featuring old-time banjoist Adam Hurt and multi-talented bassist, Jason Rafalak.

In The Early Mays, you won't find a lead singer. You'll find a partnership that enjoys lifting up one another's work, putting the best of themselves into every song. You won't find harmonies that fall into a clear category—like old-time or bluegrass—but you'll find yourself transported as you listen. The Early Mays savor the hours spent both on and off stage, and this spirit of warm collaboration shines through all of their performances and recordings.



All it took was listening to one or two of the songs...and I thought, 'These people are such great singers.' I wasn't even familiar with what great songwriters they were, too. ... **What a beautiful, beautiful harmony sound they have.**

Larry Groce | NPR's Mountain Stage

[Chase the Sun] is an album bursting with originality... **The warmth emanating from every song and tune is proof that the collaboration is a labour of love.** Deeply respected for their musicianship, [The Early Mays] have hit gold here--this is instrumentalism and harmony singing to make the heart soar.

Isabel Boothby | UK Old Time News



#1 Artist & Album, National Folk DJ Charts (Aug. 2017)



NPR's Mountain Stage with Larry Groce (October 2017)



1st Place, Appalachian String Band Music Festival (2016)

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