



**MIDDLEBURY  
PERFORMING ARTS  
SERIES**

P R E S E N T S

# DREAMERS' CIRCUS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

7:30 PM

MAHANEY ARTS CENTER, ROBISON HALL





# **dreamers' circus**

**Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen ..... Violin and other instruments  
Nikolaj Busk..... Accordion, Piano, Synthesizers  
Ale Carr..... Cittern, Kannel, Violin and other instruments**

*There will be one 15-minute intermission.*

Please note that this evening's performance will be introduced from the stage by the performers.

The nature of Dreamers' Circus music is essentially spontaneous  
and the band prefers to change and vary their program from show to show.



*This performance is sponsored by the Performing Arts Series  
and the Rothrock Family Residency Fund.*

*Please turn off all electronic devices prior to the performance, and refrain from texting.  
Photography and the use of audio or video equipment are prohibited.*



## A few words from Dreamers' Circus

Hello and welcome to our performance as part of our Fall 2025 series of concerts. We are excited to be back travelling and touring internationally after what has been a challenging time for all of us. It's been a while since we've been in the United States. What will you, the audience, think of what we play? How will you react? Well, we're about to find out...

Let us tell you a little about Dreamers' Circus, who we are, and what we do.

Our approach to music sees us challenge the norms of the traditional music we were brought up with and attempt to shape it into how we imagine Nordic music can sound in 2025. We certainly do not seek to turn our back on our folk music roots and, having grown up with traditional music, we value it as an important part of our musical makeup. But we also discovered early on that traditional music cannot stay static, that change is inevitable and even, we might argue, beneficial. So, in a sense, we view our roots in the rich traditions of Danish and Swedish folk music as a point of departure and refuse to accept tradition as a straitjacket. We investigate new angles and consciously seek to challenge not just ourselves as performers and composers, but also the norms and sometimes even the structures of the music we play. With Dreamers' Circus, no two performances are quite the same and we enjoy the fact that today's show can be quite different from yesterday's. We have learned to enjoy our curiosity about the music and have come to value the importance of listening. Close listening to what we each do is an important part of our engagement with the music and with each other. We hope that you, the audience, might also listen closely and join us as we react to one another's playing and spontaneously respond. Our name hints at the possibilities and magic of the imagination, and we hope that you will open yourself up to the colors and images we seek to create with our soundscapes.

—*Ale, Nikolaj, and Rune*

The three members of Dreamers' Circus first encountered each other at a late night, post-concert jam session in Denmark over ten years ago. They immediately hit it off on both a musical and a personal level. Since then, the band has toured all over the Nordic countries and Europe, they've played the Sydney Opera House in Australia, and have made a number of tours to Japan. Dreamers' Circus has shared stages with folk luminaries such as The Chieftains, Sharon Shannon, and Vasen, and have been invited to compose and perform music for stage and television shows in Denmark. A Danish critic observed that, "playing violin, piano, accordion and cittern they display a playful inventiveness allied with a Nordic sensibility that is at once refined and cool."



*Dreamers' Circus  
at their Middlebury Performing Arts Series debut  
on March 6, 2020. Photo by Aaron Kimball*

## ***Biographies***

### **Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen, Violin and other instruments**

Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen is from Roskilde on the outskirts of Copenhagen in Denmark. He started playing violin when he was five years old. In 2001, he founded the Danish String Quartet, which is one of the leading chamber music quartets in Europe. This Grammy-nominated ensemble has won many prizes and awards. Rune's father is from the Faroe Islands that lie in the north Atlantic between the west coast of Norway and Iceland. His own upbringing was in a family that valued traditional music, song, and dance. Before he devoted his life to full-time touring with Dreamers' Circus and the Danish String Quartet, Rune was leader of the Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra while still in his early 20s. Rune plays a Giovanni Baptista Guadagnini violin which is generously loaned to him by the Goof Foundation. His bow is by Eugene Sartory (1910).

### **Nikolaj Busk, Accordion, Piano, Synthesizers**

Danish born Nikolaj Busk has been a significant figure on the Danish music scene for a number of years now and is in much demand as a composer and music arranger across musical genres. He has won no less than 13 Danish Music Awards for his releases and collaborates with various artists. Nikolaj has written music for other ensembles, choirs, orchestras, and theater performances. Nikolaj's accordion is by Pietro Mario.

### **Ale Carr, Cittern, Kannel, Violin and other instruments**

Hailing from the southern Swedish region of Skåne, Ale Carr was raised in a family of folk musicians and dancers. His own style incorporates a strongly developed rhythmic drive coupled with a sensitivity that always seeks to serve the music. He is recognized as one of Scandinavia's most talented folk musicians and leading innovators on plucked string instruments. Also a highly respected composer, he was presented with a Danish Music Award as Composer of the Year in 2015. Apart from his work as a member of Dreamers' Circus, he also toured with the folk music group Basco. Ale plays a Nordic Cittern, designed by the Swedish luthier Christer Ådin. He uses Thomastik-Infeld strings.

Dreamers' Circus acknowledges the support of The Danish Arts Foundation.

Dreamers' Circus have issued 6 CDs:

*A Little Symphony* (2013) released on GoDanish GO0913

*Second Movement* (2015) released on GoDanish GO0315

*Rooftop Sessions* (2018) released on Vertical Records VERTCD112

*Blue White Gold* (2020) released on Vertical Records VERTCD122

*The Lost Swans* (2022) released on Vertical Records and GoDanish GO0322

*Handed On* (2025) released on Vertical Records VERTCD132 and GoDanish GO1424CD

Dreamers' Circus' Middlebury appearance is in collaboration with Kirshbaum Associates, Inc.

To contact Dreamers' Circus please visit [www.dreamerscircus.com](http://www.dreamerscircus.com)  
or write to Tom Sherlock Management [tom@dreamerscircus.com](mailto:tom@dreamerscircus.com)



*/With special thanks to those friends who have played a major role in the creation  
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*Middlebury College sits on land which has served as a site of meeting and exchange among Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. The Western Abenaki are the traditional caretakers of these Vermont lands and waters, which they call Ndakinna, or “homeland.”*

*We remember their connection to this region and the hardships they continue to endure.*

*We give thanks for the opportunity to share in the bounty of this place and to protect it.*