

The Lomax Folk Project

150th Anniversary of John Lomax



Press

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“The group’s arrangements of the folk songs they performed were beautiful.”

-Dawn Terrizzi, *Denton Public Library*

“Wonderful performance yesterday of the Music of John & Alan Lomax at the Denton Public Library. I was the guy gawking and soaking it all in from the aisle seat. Thank you.”

-Audience Member, *Social Media Post*



About

"I saw the job of a folklorist was to make a bridge between people who had no voice and the big world of communication." – Alan Lomax

John and Alan Lomax pioneered recording folklore by traveling across the United States. The father-son duo interviewed, recorded and learned from artists such as Leadbelly, Jean Ritchie and Muddy Waters. Together, they helped shape American music by influencing such artists as Jeff Buckley, Mumford and Sons, and Ed Sheeran; all of whom have recorded folk classics from the Lomax collection. Hannah Grantham and Amanda Ekery created the Lomax Folk Project to commemorate the 150th anniversary of John Lomax in 2017 and celebrate American Folk Music with audiences.

The Lomax Folk Project explores the vast repertoire recorded by the Lomaxes for the American Archive of Folk Music, located at the Library of Congress. A five-piece band comprised of guitar, voices, keyboard, drums and bass, recreates these classics and invites audiences to join in. Ekery has arranged each of the songs, some being performed in an authentic way and some being reimagined with new harmony and melodic figures. Grantham, a musicologist, has researched the history of each song and spent years compiling stories about the artists, instrumentation, and time periods.



The Lomax Project's mission is to inform audiences of the vibrant music history in their own backyards. The program is structured by pairing music with stories and invites audiences to participate in this interactive, educational and entertaining celebration. After the performance, Ekery and Grantham go out into the lobby or seating area and spend time

with audience members who may have questions, or just want to learn more. Previous performances include the Denton Downtown Square, the residence of the Lomax Family home, and the Denton Public Library.

Beyond the Lomax Folk Project, Grantham and Ekery have worked and performed together for many years and continue to create and explore new ideas for collaboration. Amanda Ekery has performed her own arrangements and original music at the Kennedy Center, Washington Women in Jazz Festival, Portland Jazz Festival, Blue Note Amsterdam and the Amalfi Coast Music Festival. She has taught and coached for various workshops and seminars including the University of North Texas Vocal Jazz Workshop, El Paso Friends of Jazz Society and the Boy Scouts of America. Grantham has presented her research at the National Music Museum (NMM) on "Localizing Bluegrass" and "A North Carolina Dulcimer Tale." She has also studied the history of musical instruments, education, and folklore, while a curatorial intern at the NMM, Museum of Fine Arts-Houston, Mellon Mays Fellowship and the Library Preservation Lab at the University of North Texas.

Recommendation



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Greetings!

I am pleased to highly recommend Amanda Ekery and The Lomax Folk Project to any organization who is considering booking them.

Amanda Ekery contacted me about doing an event at the Denton Public Library in late April 2016. The project sounded very interesting and the group's arrangements of the folk songs they performed were beautiful. In organizing the event with the library, Amanda Ekery was a pleasure to work with, as she responded quickly and cordially to email communications and was eager to both introduce herself in person and look at the space where she and her group would be performing.

The Lomax Folk Project performed at the Emily Fowler Central Library on the afternoon of Saturday, June 25, 2016. The entire group of musicians was delightfully friendly and their performance was wonderful and professional. Hannah Grantham, the lead presenter and singer, introduced each song with a brief history, as well as her personal connections to each song, allowing for a relaxing, intimate atmosphere. There was also a handout made available by the group that included a summary of John and Alan Lomax's work, the songs performed and the histories of each. The program concluded with an interactive sing and clap-a-long that was really fun.

The group's energy and passion during their performance was as evident as it was contagious. I admire the goal of the Lomax Folk Project to bring awareness of the Lomax's lives and work while simultaneously entertaining others. I have included a picture of the Lomax Folk Project's June performance. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns and thank you for your time!

Sincerely,
Dawn M. Terrizzi



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