ASHLEY & SIMPSON (Jennifer Ashley & Joel Simpson)

SHORT BIO

Comprised of Jennifer Ashley and Joel Simpson, Ashley & Simpson have become folk-scene favorites with their rich vocal harmonies, thoughtful arrangements, and warm sound. Whether performing timeless ballads, spirited folk standards, or originals spun with honest songcraft, Ashley & Simpson bring an intimate, authentic approach and a modern resonance to the enduring sounds of the acoustic tradition.

MEDIUM BIO

Comprised of Jennifer Ashley and Joel Simpson, Ashley & Simpson have become folk-scene favorites with their rich vocal harmonies, thoughtful arrangements, and warm sound. Whether performing timeless ballads, spirited folk standards, or originals spun with honest songcraft, Ashley & Simpson bring an intimate, authentic approach and a modern resonance to the enduring sounds of the acoustic tradition.

The duo has appeared at festivals, concert series, and listening rooms throughout the Midwest, including the Woodstock Folk Festival, Fox Valley Folk Music & Storytelling Festival, and Folk Alliance Region Midwest. Their music has been featured on regional folk radio, and their album *Off To Here Land* debuted at #7 on the Folk DJ Chart.

LONG BIO

Comprised of Jennifer Ashley and Joel Simpson, Ashley & Simpson have become folk-scene favorites with their rich vocal harmonies, thoughtful arrangements, and warm sound. Whether performing timeless ballads, spirited folk standards, or originals spun with honest songcraft, Ashley & Simpson bring an intimate, authentic approach and a modern resonance to the enduring sounds of the acoustic tradition.

Drawing on backgrounds that span classical music, folk, jazz, and popular styles, the duo creates performances that feel both rooted and fresh. Their repertoire moves easily between traditional songs, contemporary folk favorites, and original material, all connected by expressive storytelling, careful musicianship, and a deep respect for the songs they share.

Their sophomore release, *Off To Here Land*, showcased the duo's distinctive approach to traditional music through inventive arrangements and an all-traditional track list. The album debuted at #7 on the Folk DJ Chart, with Ashley & Simpson recognized as a Top 10 Folk DJ Chart artist during its release month.

Ashley & Simpson have appeared at festivals, concert series, and listening rooms throughout the Midwest, including the Woodstock Folk Festival, Fox Valley Folk Music & Storytelling Festival, Sugar Island Fest, Folk Alliance Region Midwest, Fitzgerald's Sidebar, Maple Street Concerts, Acoustic Renaissance Concerts, and the Two Way Street Coffee House. Their music has also been featured on regional radio programs including Folk Festival with Lilli Kuzma on WDCB 90.9 Public Radio and Windy City Irish Radio.

A multi-instrumentalist, Joel Simpson performs on guitar, mandolin, dobro, banjo, and bass, bringing decades of performance, production, and songwriting experience to the duo. Jennifer Ashley contributes vocals, piano, guitar, and a bit of tenor banjo, combining a lifelong musical background with a passion for traditional folk music and song interpretation.

Ashley & Simpson's third album, *Hello, Mrs. Sun*, featuring an all-original collection of songs, is currently in production. When not performing, Jennifer and Joel operate Randomosity Records in Downers Grove, Illinois, where they record, produce, and teach. Since 2020, they have also served as Directors of the Two Way Street Coffee House, one of the Midwest's longest-running folk venues.

SELECTED APPEARANCES

- Acoustic Renaissance Concerts (Hinsdale, IL)
- Concerts on the Creek (Rockford, IL)
- Folk Alliance Region Midwest DJ Showcase (Grand Rapids, MI)
- Fox Valley Folk Music & Storytelling Festival (Geneva, IL)
- Fitzgerald's Sidebar (Berwyn, IL)
- Maple Street Concerts (Lombard, IL)
- Sugar Island Fest (Sault Ste. Marie, MI)
- Two Way Street Coffee House (Downers Grove, IL)
- Woodstock Folk Festival (Woodstock, IL)

RADIO & MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Folk Festival with Lilli Kuzma on WDCB 90.9 Public Radio
- Windy City Irish Radio

TESTIMONIALS

- "Fine traditional material as well as original songs... gorgeous harmony blend and musicianship." *Lilli Kuzma, Folk Festival (WDCB - Glen Ellyn, IL)*
- “With their artistry firmly rooted in classic Americana, the pair brings a refreshingly individual touch to the folk repertoire.” *Chicago Jazz Magazine*
- "The ghosts of Doc Watson and Jerry Garcia are smiling. The rolling fingerpicking and sparse accompaniment serve these songs perfectly. Sincere, thoughtful and well-played folk acoustic music." *Jim Colbert, The Folk Show (WSPU - State College, PA)*

NOTABLE RECOGNITION

- *Off To Here Land debuted at **#7 on the Folk DJ Chart** (February 2019).*
- *Off To Here Land finished the year tied for **#29 Folk Album of the Year** on the 2019 Annual Folk DJ Radio Airplay Chart.*
- *Ashley & Simpson were the **#9 Folk DJ Chart Artist of the Month** (February 2019).*
- *"The Spirit of Christmas" reached **#12 on the Folk DJ Chart Top Songs list** (December 2019).*