



## Friday, September 2

### Artist Bios

#### **Margot MacDonald**

Featured on NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts, Voice of America and TEDx; songwriter, vocalist and live looper, Margot MacDonald embodies a one-woman band. A long time guitarist and pianist, Margot's instrumentation has expanded to include unconventional vocal accompaniments created and looped live on the spot through the use of a loop pedal. Haunting, powerful and indie-pop driven, Margot's performances make you forget the technology she hones, as you lose yourself in layers of lush vocals and striking melodies. Margot is Washington City Paper's "Best Singer" of 2014, a three-time winner of the Washington Area Music Association 'Artist of the Year' award, a recipient of DC's Power 30 Under 30 award, and an Artist-in-Residence alumna at Iceland's Saga Fest and the Music Center at Strathmore. Now 25, her latest album, *Canvas*, has gained critical acclaim.

#### **The Sweater Set and Sara Curtin Five**

Sara Curtin is a Washington, DC native and CMJ.com Top 200 artist. CMJ.com describes the music as having a "romantic groove, gossamer weight of the melody, and libidinous lyrical invitations". Sara made a name for herself in the folk scene with her duo The Sweater Set, but NPR's WAMU Bandwidth describes her solo project led by "Summer", the first "slow and sultry" single from 2015 album *Michigan Liliun*, as having more in common "with Sade or Sharon Van Etten than D.C.'s long folk tradition." American Songwriter magazine featured "Summer" as a Daily Discovery. Sara also is a 2013-2016 Artist Fellow sponsored by the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities. Glide Magazine writes "she expands the palette on what a visionary singer-songwriter can mold."

#### **Run Come See**

Run Come See is the new project of Washington, DC musicians Lauren Calve (slide guitar/vocals), John Figura (guitar/vocals), and Tom Liddle (upright bass/vocals). Each bringing their own sensibilities of songwriting to the band, Run Come See is a distillation of soulful blues, rock, and country. As a trio, Run Come See creates a deceptively full sound weaving together powerful lead vocals, intricate harmonies, and arrangements that highlight the beauty, power, and range of each instrument. Sharing songwriting, taking turns singing lead, and featuring each instrument, the band is a balanced collaboration between seasoned musicians who respect each other's skill and musical voice while pushing each other in new directions.

### **Bumper Jacksons**

Like an old-time barn dance in downtown New Orleans, the Bumper Jacksons pull together a vast array of early American traditions into a deliciously cohesive sound that strikes you right in the heart. It's a sound that's pure passion.... joyous ragtime dances and valleyed by delicate waltzes of loss and regret. The Bumper Jacksons recently were honored by the Washington Area Music Awards as Artists of the Year for 2015 among other awards. This success blossomed from their simple beginnings in 2012 as a country-meets-city duet between Jess Eliot Myhre (clarinet, vocals, washboard) and Chris Ousley (guitar, vocals, banjo) in the backyards, living rooms and front porches of DC and Baltimore. They crafted a sound built from their time exploring the dark jazz clubs of New Orleans and old-time fiddler's festivals throughout the southern Appalachians and focused on honest deliveries and energetic performances.

### **Pan American Symphony Orchestra**

PASO was formed 25 years ago to bring symphonic music by Latin American composers to Washington, DC concert halls. PASO continues to provide quality performances of music originating from Latin America with an on-going concert series that showcases gifted Latin American musicians and soloists. With critical acclaim from the press and a loyal following from the public, PASO remains on the cutting edge of symphonic performances with newly commissioned works. The orchestra has dedicated a season to Latin American woman composers and was the first orchestra in the Washington, DC area to perform the unusual, but beautifully melodic, tango-opera *Maria de Buenos Aires*, by Astor Piazzolla. The orchestra has featured rarely performed works by composers from Argentina, Honduras, Mexico, Ecuador, Cuba, and Brazil. PASO was the only US-based ensemble to participate in the prestigious two-week long Al-Bustan Music Festival in Beirut, Lebanon in 2012. PASO also performed in Lima, Peru in 2010 and received such notable acclaim from the public, press and media, that in 2011, President Alan Garcia of Peru invited PASO to play a command performance at the Presidential Palace. PASO is best known for its symphonic tango performances. The only tango orchestra in the United States, PASO draws audiences from across the U.S. for its annual DC tango festival and its tango shows at the George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium.



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