
WELLS FARGO FESTIVAL FINALE

SHOVELS & ROPE

Middleton Place

June 8 at 8:30pm

Cary Anne Hearst, *vocals and various instruments*

Michael Trent, *vocals and various instruments*

ARTISTS



SHOVELS & ROPE is a Charleston, South Carolina-based duo comprised of Cary Anne Hearst and Michael Trent. They perform as an energetic two-piece band, stirring up righteous racket with two old guitars, a handful of harmonicas,

the occasional keyboard, and a junkyard drum kit harvested from an actual garbage heap and adorned with tambourines, flowers, and kitchen rags.

The songs are the deadliest arrows in this band's quiver. Raw and imagined, effortless and insightful, the pair's panoramic songwriting and raucous performances drive Shovels & Rope's performances and recordings.

Since 2010, Shovels & Rope has been traveling the highways and back roads of North America, logging hundreds of shows and performing for crowds large and small. On stage, Hearst and Trent trade vocals and switch instruments in an instinctive, organic manner that's simultaneously loose and tight, driving their compositions home with a resonant mix of pensive introspection and celebratory passion. In 2011 alone, they were invited to tour with a wide array of acts including Justin Townes Earle, Jason Isbell, the Felice Brothers, Hayes Carll, and Butch Walker, and have accumulated a fiercely loyal fan base along the way, building an audience the old-fashioned way.

Mississippi-born, Nashville-bred Cary Ann Hearst and Coloradan by way of Texas Michael-Trent had each accumulated a good deal of music experience prior to their current partnership. By 2005, they were both residing in the unsung musical mecca of Charleston, SC, and began informally making music together. "I would show up at CA's house with a twelve pack and we'd make recordings of Ramones songs," Michael says. In 2008, the pair teamed up to record an embryonic album under their individual names. They titled that project Shovels & Rope, in acknowledgement of its high concentration of murder ballads in which many of the characters ended up burying their secrets with shovels or hanging from ropes.

Subsequently, Hearst and Trent—who had both released solo albums and were also in other bands at the time—began performing low-key local gigs as a duo. That impromptu collaboration soon proved to be as efficient as it was inspired. They decided to take their act on the road.

Hearst and Trent recorded much of *O' Be Joyful*, their 2011 album during the rare downtime between touring jaunts. While Hearst and Trent are both songwriters individually, *O' Be Joyful* finds them still discovering new strengths as a collaborative unit.

This performance is made possible in part through funds from the Spoleto Festival USA Endowment, generously supported by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America.