

# The Scooches



Perhaps one of the only bands blending world rhythms and Global Folk with Americana, Folk Traditions, New Orleans Influences, alt grass, music of the 1920s and bluegrass.

"A heart as big as the sky...full of high energy and higher spirits." **Elmore Magazine**

"This is a band that has to be seen to be believed." **John Platt (WFUV)**

"Americana music at its purest and most impressive" **No Depression**

"...an amazing group which a lot of us dreamed would happen some day where the different genres of music all get together..." **David Amram**

"...it's unlike anything most listeners will find elsewhere." **San Diego Troubadour**

"It underscores, too, how sounds from another time can be renewed and re-imagined, by creative minds and right hands, in the present moment. Banjo Nickaru & Western Scooches are ridiculously fun." **Rambles**

"Unfailingly high-spirited." **London Times**

"Remarkable musical dexterity with songs that bask in a genuine roots regimen and a sense of timeless tradition." **Elmore Magazine**

This chart-topping band electrifies audiences with an eclectic mix of Roaring '20s, Global Folk, blues, gospel, New Orleans jazz, Americana, and more. Curated sets of toe-tapping, hand-clapping music leave audiences with no choice but to dance along. The Scooches' performances are like master classes in musicology that quite simply embody joy and excellent musicianship.

# The Scooches

## \*\*\*\*Bios:

Band members have worked with the likes of Paul McCartney, Julia Roberts, Sam Mendes, Paul Simon, Jon Batiste as well as performed on ABC's Good Morning America, WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour, Kansas City Folk Festival main stage, Folk Alliance International 2017, Blue Plate Special, Extended Play Sessions (The Alt. Root), Relix featured videos and appeared in moves such as Mona Lisa Smile, Away We Go and Disney's Enchanted.

**Nick Russo** leads the charge as bandleader and composer. Russo plays guitar, banjo, and resonator and has appeared on "Good Morning America" as well as the **Sam Mendes** film, *Away We Go*, and was a sideman with the greats - **Jimmy McGriff**, **Teddy Charles** and **Sonny Dallas**. Russo had the honor to jam with **Sir Paul McCartney** while performing at **Gwyneth Paltrow** and **Chris Martin's** home, regularly accompanies **Antonique Smith**, **Jon Batiste** and recently performed for actor/comedian/composer, **Jim Dale** in **Jon Weber's** band.

**Betina Hershey** appears as the principle dancer in featured films, Disney's *Enchanted* and *Mona Lisa Smile* with **Julia Roberts**. Hershey performed on international and national tours of Broadway shows such as "West Side Story," "Phantom of the Opera," "The Fantasticks," and "Pump Boys & Dinettes," just to name a few. She composes music and plays guitar.

**Miles Griffith's** (vocals/scats) non-traditional use of the voice as a percussive instrument, combined with an uncanny harmonic sense, rounds out the band beautifully. He is a composer and has performed with Max Roach, Reggie Workman, T.S. Monk, Barry Harris and others. He played the lead role in Wynton Marsalis' jazz oratorio "Blood On The Fields," which premiered at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall.

**Harvey Wirht** (drums/percusstion) has performed alongside Grammy Award artist Angelique Kidjo, appeared on the Jay Leno Show, the Late how with David Letterman, the NAACP awards, Good Morning America, and the Peace Ball for the Inauguration of President Obama. He has also performed at the Kora Awards with Best East African Artist Winner Eric Wainaina and Lionel Loueke. He tours internationally with renowned world music artists, and with his own musical projects.

Gullah-Geechee percussionist and composer – **Dr. David Pleasant** has performed with Wynton Marsalis, Paul Simon, Cecil Taylor and many others. David also performed on Nickelodeon, TED talks, ABC with Ted Koppel, Broadway, and all around the world.

**Angie Workman** (gospel vocals) is known as the Funk Balladress. She has sung throughout the world with Ray Charles, Ben E. King, Patti La Belle, B.B. King, George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic. Gospel performances include singing with International Choir of Harlem, NYC Rescue Mission, Redeemer Baptist Church NYC, and at Rockefeller Center. You can hear her on TV, Film, albums such as Prince's "Soul Psychedelic", Eminem's "Infinity" and many more. Her original global infused compositions and standard renditions are full of soul. Her goal is to change the world one note at a time.

# The Scooches

\*\*\*\*\*Album: **Get Us Out Of Fearland:**

New York City's The Scooches are likely the only band today infusing elements of Gullah-Geechee and world rhythms with folk traditions, New Orleans influences, and 1920s jazz. Their sophomore album, *Get Us Out Of Fearland*, builds upon the multicultural exuberance that made the band's debut, *Very Next Thing*, a transcendent breath of fresh air. *Elmore Magazine* championed its "remarkable musical dexterity with songs that bask in a genuine roots regimen and a sense of timeless tradition," and revered tastemaker station *WFUV* said, "This is a band that must be heard to be believed!"

"These powerful and strong influences for our band bring spiritual energy to our shows," says co-founder/musician Nick Russo. "My musical life has always been surrounded by an eclectic combination of unique musicians and scenes. So naturally, this band is a melting pot of many different cultures, genres, instruments, and sounds. My dream is that people of all races and origins live, play, and share all our different world musics and cultures together as one united race, without fear – one love!"

Highlights of *Get Us Out Of Fearland* include the playful 1920s verve of "I Don't Need No Glasses," the warm lilting embrace of "I Wish The World Knew Why," the organ-driven, gospel-tinged "Dandelion" (featuring special guest singers Stephanie Rice and Charenee Wade), and "Soar," an inspirational song filled with optimism, determination, and perseverance. These qualities sail skyward throughout the 25-minute journey, but none more so than on the boisterous groundbreaking title track, *Get Us Out Of Fearland*, which features improvisational vocalist Miles Griffith, known for his work with Max Roach, Paul Simon, and Reggie Workman, plus percussionist/vocalist, Dr. David Pleasant, a singular talent who has performed with Wynton Marsalis, Cecil Taylor, and Paul Simon.



visit: <http://tiny.cc/TheScoochesYouTube>