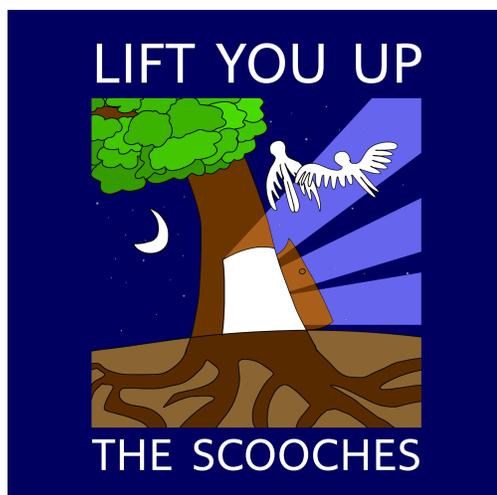


NEW ALBUM STREET RELEASE JULY 14, 2023



THE SCOOCHEs

LIFT YOU UP

Arranged/produced by: Nick Russo, Betina Hershey, Len Monachello

Label: On the Bol Records

Available on DSPs **July 14**: Apple Music, Amazon, Spotify, Pandora, Bandcamp, etc.

"A band that has to be seen to be believed."

- John Platt (WFUV)

Led by vocalist **Betina Hershey** and multi-instrumentalist **Nick Russo**, **The Scooches**, formerly known as Banjo Nickaru & Western Scooches, have assembled a world-class lineup of musicians from New York, Suriname, Sapelo Island (Georgia), Mexico, and the Caribbean on *LIFT YOU UP* (due July 14). The vital new 12-song collection builds upon the exuberance that made 2018's 'Get Us Out Of Fearland' (#2 on the International Folk Alliance Chart) and 'Very Next Thing' (2016), a transcendent breath of fresh air.

Inspired by the current social climate, the songs on *LIFT YOU UP*, including "Stop This Climate Change", "Spread Your Wings And Fly", and "Open A Door" call upon society and the human race to believe that we, collectively, can make a difference, a change for the better.

"Not just music forged from myriad sounds and cultural styles garnered from genre and geography but the music of the world, about the world." - The Big Takeover

Other highlights include the reggae-dub groove of the title track, the playful, country break-up song "I Broke The Egg," the 1920s-inspired "What's Meant To Last Will Last," the smoky Motown-inflected duet "Give It To Me Real" (featuring Griffith and Hershey trading lines), the gospel-tinged "Leavin'," the eerily lilting "Run," about trafficking and gun violence, and the rollicking bluegrass-driven "Let's Grow Our Roots Deep And True," about finding home.

The ever-timely traditional protest song "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round" is presented in two versions and both are stunners; the first a celebration to lift the spirits, the second a **Gullah Geechee** version featuring stirring improvisational vocals from **Miles Griffith** and drumfolk riddim percussionist/vocalist **Dr. David Pleasant**.

With additional contributions from **Aditya Phatak** (tabla), **Mamadou Ba** (bass), **Harvey Wirht** (drums), **Angela Workman** (vocals), **Kenny Kosek** (fiddle), and Brooklyn rapper **Ra\$h Ca\$h**, **The Scooches** raise their voices, their instruments, their consciousness, with an eclectic melting pot of original music inspired by world folk traditions, global Americana, New Orleans and 1920s. *Elmore Magazine* championed the group's "remarkable musical dexterity with songs that bask in a genuine roots regimen and a sense of timeless tradition."



Cover Art: Seriana Russo / Band Photo: Norman Wong

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

VERY NEXT THING #6 Album - International Folk DJ Chart (Sept 2016)

GET US OUT OF FEARLAND #2 Album - International Folk DJ Chart (April 2018)

For bookings, **interviews** & more: contact@thescooches.com • 516.982.7496

Socials: [@TheScooches](https://www.instagram.com/thescooches) • <https://thescooches.com>

***Lift You Up* - TRACK DETAILS** with featured musicians:

All songs FCC Friendly

- 1. Lift You Up** 4:54 (B. Hershey, N. Russo) Mid Tempo: Global Folk / Reggae - ISRC QZXRQ2300001. Lift You Up is all about giving. Science supports the fact that when you give to others, you feel better for longer, so let's lift each other up! Harvey Wirht, percussion; Russell Hall, electric bass; Miles Griffith Vocals; Nick Russo (Banjo Nickaru), guitar/organ.
- 2. Let's Grow Our Roots Deep And True** 3:46 (B. Hershey, N. Russo) Up Tempo: Folk / Newgrass - ISRC QZXRQ2300002. The struggle of refugees is like a storm which keeps blowing, and requires strong roots and community building to survive. This song uses hurricane and tree roots imagery, and a hopeful voice. Betina Hershey, vocals, fingerstyle guitar, Miles Griffith & Angela Workman, vocals, Kenny Kosek, fiddle, Len Monachello, vocal bass line & jaw harp, Harvey Wirht, drums, percussion, Dr. David Pleasant, tambourine & Gullah Geechee foot stomping; Nick Russo, banjo, resonator/slide & acoustic guitar.
- 3. Stop This Climate Change** 4:47 (B. Hershey, N. Russo, R.I.A. Salaam) Up Tempo: Global Folk - ISRC QZXRQ2300003. "Stop This Climate Change" is a poetic, uplifting call to action fraught with cataclysmic imagery of fire, ice, flooding, and the desire for change. There's a climate of helplessness and denial that surrounds climate change. Our goal for this song is to inspire people to roll up their sleeves and take action. Aditya Phatak, tabla, Betina Hershey, vocals, guitar; Harvey Wirht, drums; Mamadou Ba, electric bass; Miles Griffith, vocals; Nick Russo, guitar; R. I.A. Salaam (Ra\$h Ca\$h), spoken word.
- 4. Open A Door** 3:40 (B. Hershey) Mid Tempo: Global Folk / elegant AABA song structure with Bossa Nova feel - ISRC QZXRQ2300004. A song about opening ourselves to the muse, the opportunity, the dream. Let's keep on opening doors and fulfilling dreams! Betina Hershey, vocals; Dr. David Pleasant, percussion; Nick Russo, classical guitar, arrangement.
- 5. I Broke The Egg** 3:53 (B. Hershey) Up Tempo: Folk / Americana / Newgrass - ISRC QZXRQ2300005. A funny, raucous break-up song with a twist. Betina Hershey, vocals; Miles Griffith, vocals; Kenny Kosek, fiddle; Jennifer Vincent, double bass; Harvey Wirht, drums; Dr. David Pleasant, tambourine & Gullah Geechee stomping; Nick Russo, guitar, banjo.
- 6. Leavin'** 5:35 (B. Hershey, N. Russo) Mid Tempo: Folk / R&B / Singer/Songwriter - ISRC QZXRQ2300006. Written for my kids, this song is about how we sometimes temporarily leave our loved ones behind to follow our dreams. Betina Hershey, vocals; Miles Griffith, vocals; Art Hirihara, organ; Harvey Wirht, drums; Nick Russo, guitars, electric bass & piano.
- 7. What's Meant To Last Will Last** 3:25 (B.Hershey) Up Tempo: Folk / 1920's feel / Singer/Songwriter - ISRC QZXRQ2300007. Inspired by songs of the 1920's. Sometimes we need to let go of the past to be joyfully present. Gorgeous harmonies by Angela Workman; Betina Hershey, lead vocals & guitar; Michela Marino Lerman, tap; Russell Hall, double bass; Nick Russo, tenor banjos.
- 8. Run** 1:59 (B. Hershey) Slow Tempo: Folk/ Singer/Songwriter - ISRC QZXRQ2300008. Run is dedicated to oppressed women everywhere, and to victims of gun violence. This stripped down production with Betina playing guitar, singing solo, and Dr. David Pleasant adding touches on percussion, pulls in the listener to connect viscerally with such a powerful subject.
- 9. Spread Your Wings And Fly** 4:33 (B. Hershey / N. Russo) Up Tempo: Folk/ Singer/Songwriter - ISRC QZXRQ2300009. This song invites us all to believe we can each make a positive impact! Betina Hershey, vocals; Miles Griffith, vocals; Hilliard Greene, double bass; Harvey Wirht, drums; Dr. David Pleasant, percussion; Nick Russo guitars/organ.
- 10. Give It To Me Real** 3:57 (B. Hershey) Mid Tempo Folk / R&B / Singer/Songwriter ISRC code:QZXRQ2300010. We all need to communicate with each other, and believe that our truths can be heard and understood.! Betina Hershey, vocals; Miles Griffith, vocals; Russell Hall, bass; Amad Johnson, drums; Nick Russo, guitar.
- 11. Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round** 4:39 (Public Domain) Up Tempo, Folk / Global Folk - ISRC code: QZXRQ2300011. A traditional protest song, this version bursts into celebration! Recorded live. Betina Hershey & Miles Griffith, vocals; R.I.A. Salaam (Ra\$h Ca\$h), freestyle spoken word; Harvey Wirht, drums; Nick Russo, electric & acoustic guitars.
- 12. Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round - Gullah Geechee** (FEATURING Dr. David Pleasant) 2:48 (Public Domain) Up Tempo, Traditional Folk / Global Folk / Gullah Geechee Drumfolk - ISRC QZXRQ2300012. This strong rhythmic version led by Drumfolk Riddim specialist Dr. David Pleasant is rough and raw, a powerful expression of protest honoring the civil rights movement, Gullah Geechee, and all who have died for the cause of justice. Live in-studio. Betina Hershey & Miles Griffith, vocals; Hilliard Greene, double bass; Dr. David Pleasant, drumming and vocals; Nick Russo, acoustic guitar.