

Sunday, August 24, 2014  
Harmonious Wail  
Sims Delaney-Potthoff, Maggie Delaney-Potthof, Jeff Weiss  
Outside at Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center

An infectious blend of continental jazz, swing, and gypsy music closes the 2014 season of RMF concerts. Founded in 1987, Harmonious Wail has a huge following in the region. Each member's intense playing and sense of purpose never wavers.

Harmonious Wail's founder, leader and mandolinist, Sims Delaney-Potthoff credits Jethro Burns with the band's unique style of mandolin-driven gypsy-jazz. Sims studied for seven years with Burns, the legendary jazz mandolinist, laying the foundation for Harmonious Wail's acoustic string sound. He furthered his studies with Matt Glaser at Boston's Berklee College of Music, honing his skills while immersing himself in the "gypsy" music of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli. Sims also plays a 1937 Gibson Tenor Guitar (tuned as an octave mandolin), sings, writes and arranges for the Wail. He founded the group in 1987.

Vocalist Maggie Delaney-Potthoff is a captivating performer. Equally at home scatting over a bebop tune, soaring on a solo, or blending with the Wail's tight vocal harmonies, she delivers both powerhouse tunes and ballads with confidence and ease. Maggie's Edith Piaf-like sound is often reminiscent of strains emanating from a Paris bistro in the 1920s.

Stand-up bass player for the group, Jeff Weiss, adds to the trio's groove. A recent graduate of UW-Madison's School of Music, he is already a master bassist with dazzling artistic prowess. Awarded the 2012 Madison Area Music Award for best bassist of the year, Jeff brings to the Wail a mesmerizing technical facility on the fret board, a sophisticated and versatile style, and a powerful ability to create musical ambiance and rapport. Jeff studied under Richard Davis for five years and was principle bassist for UW-Madison's Symphony Orchestra. His music reflects a broad application of classical and jazz influences.

"These people put their souls on the line with every show," says RMF Artistic Director, Kent Mayfield. "Wait until you hear and see the lead singer, Maggie Delaney-Potthoff, singing with her incredible, smoky, fabulous voice while playing her cardboard box drum with a set of brushes! Simply wonderful!"

All in all, Harmonious Wail is definitely an uplifting, mind-altering experience. Right for young and old alike. Perfect for a summer evening of "Music in the Fields." Tickets are available at Arcadia Books in Spring Green. On-line tickets at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)  
\$10.00 - 12 and under Free.

Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center, 6306 State Hwy 23, Spring Green.  
Grounds open at 6:00pm, Music starts at 7:30 pm. Bring lawn chairs/blankets and a picnic or refreshments for this fun summer evening event.