



Magnolia Project- Full Bio

Magnolia Project began when Meg Hamilton and Sarah Dunsmore met as colleagues and quickly learned they loved to sing and play the same music. They began their musical endeavors in 2014 as part of a 5-piece bluegrass band, Magnolia Still. Inspired by the legacy of story-telling within bluegrass music, Meg and Sarah began to focus more on writing and contributing to the evolving world of modern bluegrass music.

As a duo, Magnolia Project focuses on song-writing that seeks to honor the traditions in bluegrass music while creating new narratives. Inspired by musicians like Gillian Welch and David Rawlings, Mandolin Orange, and The Honey Dewdrops, Meg and Sarah write songs born out of a powerful personal connection. As a queer couple, they hope to add to LGBTQ+ visibility within the bluegrass community and help create new narratives of life and love.

Meg and Sarah grew up with special connections to bluegrass music. Sarah remembers falling asleep to the sound of her father playing mandolin in the living room or jamming with friends. Meg's North Carolina family has deep roots in Southern culture. Her mother remembers family trips to Galax Fiddler's Convention as a child and the value of bluegrass music on the tobacco farm where she spent summers. When Meg re-connected with bluegrass music as a young adult, she knew she had found a piece of home. Meg and Sarah carry these roots and family traditions with them into their music- literally. The washboard Meg plays was gifted to her by Sarah's grandmother.

In 2019, Meg and Sarah embarked on a new component of their musical journey and began a series of interviews with Southern women. The interviews seek to explore and document the stories, tales, and legends of Southern women, adding to the lexicon of a bluegrass mythology that has historically been dominated by men. Magnolia Project is writing songs based on these interviews and hopes to conclude the project with a multi-media product including film, music, and photography.

While you may find Meg and Sarah performing as a duo, Magnolia Project often plays with several contributing musicians. These include Jason Beverly (guitar, mandolin), Patrick Walsh (bass), Zack Mondry (bass, mandolin), Cora Beth Lanier (fiddle), Jeff Ward (banjo) and Andrew Johnston (guitar).