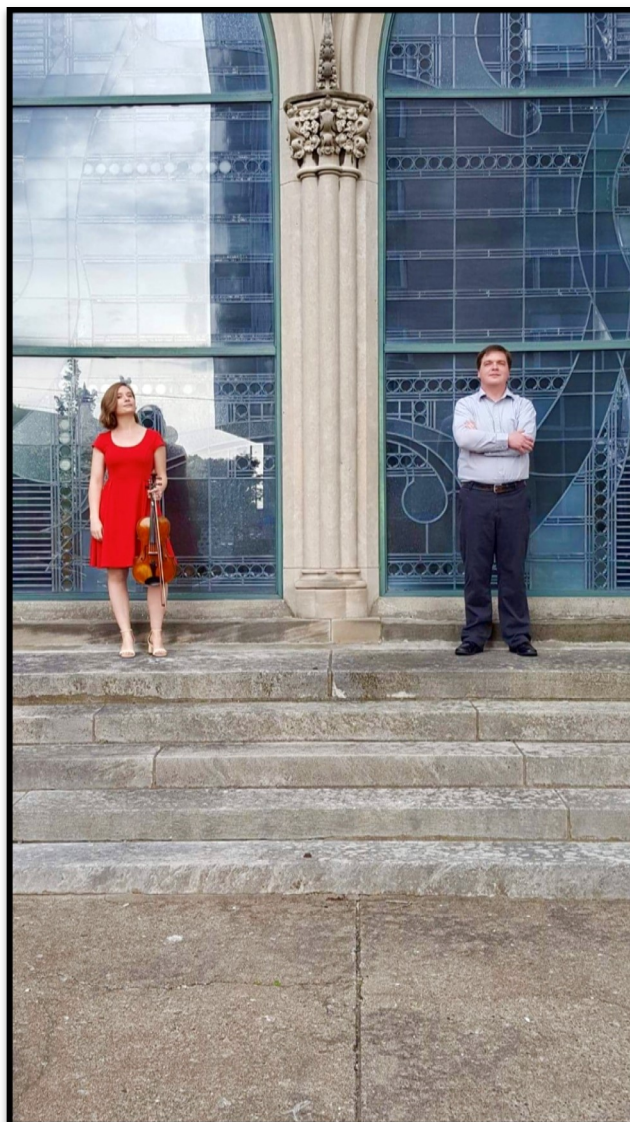


MERCER-McCOLLUM DUO

VIOLA & PIANO

The Mercer-McCollum Duo is passionate about playing undiscovered, underplayed, and newly written gems of the viola-piano repertoire. This duo, including Lydia Byard Mercer, viola, and Ethan James McCollum, piano, is based in Louisville, Kentucky and shares with audiences original music written for their distinctive instrumentation.



Lydia Byard Mercer became a U.S. national Scottish fiddle champion at 16 years old. Her love of Scottish folk music led her to record her solo album of original and traditional Scottish music, entitled "A Peculiar Sense of Humor." She has gone on to create an active performing and teaching career as a violinist, violist, and fiddler. Lydia has been a featured performer at venues across the U.S. and Scotland, including the Strathspe Away Festive in Kingussie, Scotland, the Edinboro Highland Games, the Ohio Scottish games, the Joe Luckey recital series, as a finalist in the Neil Gow International Tune Writing Competition, and as a soloist with the Greenville Symphony. Along with her national title, other honors include the Allegheny Mountain Fiddling Champion, Baldwin Wallace University Concerto competition winner, and Ohio Scottish Games Fiddle Champion. Lydia was also a member of the winning quartet in the Macauley chamber music competition. She holds a BM in violin performance from Baldwin Wallace University and an MM in viola performance from the University of Louisville. Teaching has been and continues to be an integral and meaningful part of Lydia's life. She has maintained a private studio of violin, viola, and fiddle students for over ten years, and has taught clinics and masterclasses in group settings including the Bonnie Loch Fiddle Clinic in Lakewood, NY and the Heart of the Arts Folk Festival in Titusville, PA, and has been a guest lecturer on the Scottish fiddle at Edinboro University.

Ethan James McCollum is a pianist and choral conductor based in Louisville, Kentucky. A sought-after collaborative pianist around the city, he regularly plays with instrumentalists, singers, choirs, and orchestras. He also performs chamber music regularly, with an emphasis on lesser-known works and composers. A supporter of contemporary music, he enjoys performing works by living composers, and even had a composition dedicated to him by Chinese composer and pianist Chen Yihan. Ethan has received prizes in the Macauley chamber music competition as a part of a quartet, as well as prizes in solo piano competitions including the Nathaniel Patch competition, Eastern Kentucky Piano Competition, and at the Kentucky Music Teachers' Association. He has been a pianist for the Kentucky Music Educators' Association's high school All-State choir and orchestra, and Intercollegiate orchestra. Ethan is also a ballet class pianist, accompanying technique classes and summer intensives at the Louisville Ballet School and Youth Performing Arts School. He received both his bachelor's degree in piano performance and master's degree in choral conducting at the University of Louisville. His principal piano teachers were Dror Biran, Gregory Partain, Laurie Choi, and Brenda Stratman. He also had lessons and master classes with many renowned pianists including Karen Shaw, Alessio Bax, Elisabeth Pridonoff, Craig Nies, Donna Lee, and many more. His choral conductor teachers were Kent Hatteberg, Wonjoo Ahn, and Bomi Lee.