

# TPFF INTERVIEWS



Karen Jonas

Field Stage, 11:00 a.m.

*We're kicking off the Field Stage this year with a country sound, built on the twangy-steamy vocals of Karen Jonas and guitar of Tim Bray. If you like what you hear, you're in luck because they're typically playing a couple of times a week, often in Northern Virginia.*

TPFF: Your website describes your music as a mix of folk and country. Tell us a little more. Karen

Jonas: If it's on our website, it must be true! I think our music sounds like a mix of classic country, folk, and modern Americana. We sound like Joni Mitchell and Dwight Yoakum together on a plane to Paris, drinking whiskey and reading beat poetry.

TPFF: What or who are your influences?

Jonas: I love the great songwriters - Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon. I heard Joni Mitchell's "Miles of Aisles" when I was 16 and had a major a-ha moment - "This is what I want to do." I didn't know if I could actually do it, but many years of hard work later, here I am.

TPFF: What can we expect from a live performance? What do you like about playing live?

Jonas: Our live show is energetic, passionate, and intense. My musical partner/guitarist/co-conspirator Tim Bray plays a mind-boggling textured twang, I play acoustic and sing like I mean it, and we've got bass and drums holding it all down. I love to experience the power of the songs freshly each time we play them live.

TPFF (fill in the blank): If you like \_\_\_\_\_, you'll like our band.

Jonas: If you like sipping straight whiskey on an old plaid sofa in a cabin after sunset on a rainy Tuesday in October, listening to the distant chirp of crickets in the yard and thinking about everything and nothing at all, you'll probably like our band. Was that too specific? Piña colodas and getting caught in the rain?

TPFF: We're living in intense political times. How is that reflected in your music?

Jonas: Most of my observations are more social in nature, but as they say, personal is political. One of the central images of my new album, "Butter," is the circus. I think that probably applies to our political state, too. Jonas: Tell us something that you haven't revealed in a previous interview. Jonas: Well, shoot. I think I've already confessed that I can't whistle, that I can recite the Preamble to the Constitution and at least three-quarters of Hamlet's Soliloquy from memory, and that I don't really have a favorite color, and that all I really want to do is nap in other interviews. I'm not sure what's left. I do make brownies only because I like to lick the brownie batter off the spoon.

Social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/karenjonasmusic>  
<https://www.instagram.com/karenjonasmusic/>  
<https://twitter.com/KarenJonasMusic>

**TPFF happens:**

**September 16, 2018 10:30am-6:30pm**

**at Takoma Park Middle School**

**7611 Piney Branch Road, Takoma Park, MD**

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