

If you enjoyed SCPL's concerts featuring the Master Drummer Gideon Alorwoyie, September's concert by Sean Gaskell playing the Kora, a 21 stringed harp, features the similar joyful, powerful and traditional sounds of African music.

Gaskell, inspired by the ancient music played by Kane Mathis, lead performer with The Kora Band and The Sahel Band, studied with the Kora masters Malamini Jobarteh and Moriba Kuyateh, both of Gambia, West Africa. Gaskell moved from Seattle, Washington to North Carolina in 2014.

In Gambia, Gaskell studied with the oral and musical historians called Griots (Greeks), who teach and preserve the ancient musical tradition of Kora music. A cross between a guitar and harp, its sound is easy on the ears, yet flows from both peace and conflict. It spans the range of West African life experience and history, including war and hardship, while memorializing the high political status of the warriors and leaders who helped expand the Mande empire.

At the other end of the musical spectrum come Stirfry Musette. "The easiest catch-all to describe our music is world music. We play our own compositions falling into many categories - Jazz, Americana, Eastern European, Latin and Folk. We met within the music community, and sort of fell in together," said Joanna Hay, the group's violinist. "We're Kentucky musicians who enjoy playing in Kentucky."

Band members include guitarist Jeff Ellis and two of his sons, both percussionists. Ben Griffith, a multi-faceted musician, plays piano, accordion, brass and sings vocals. In addition to performing music, Hay owns Arkwright Media Company. She recently directed the documentary, *Kentucky Bourbon Tales*, produced by the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at University of Kentucky. *Stirfry Musette* enjoys state-wide recognition, and is listed in the Kentucky Arts Council's performing arts directory.

Celebrate the cool days of autumn and the change of season by gathering inside the Community Room. The venue is just the right size for an intimate and easy give and take between these talented musicians and music fans who enjoy fresh, original and lively concerts.