

## Artistic Director - Report 2023

Firstly, I want to thank Bridget our coordinator, and **all** our fantastic committee members for their wonderful work and support to both myself personally, and to their good faith in making our comeback after two hard years such a joyous occasion!

In particular, to Anne, who continues as president to steer this committee with such grace and wisdom, to Michael Russell for his ongoing support and great ideas, Michael Thomsen, who with Bridget keeps the books up to date and to Ray for sharing his legal brain and wisdom....and to Michael Bentley (so many Michael's!!) and Rachel Meyers for aiding my decision making when there are so many amazing artists who want to play at our little festival!

It's ALWAYS a privilege that our event is so well loved by the musical community, but so very hard to send the "not this year" email to so many. ....and to Chris who makes sense of all the database details and manages to make it possible for us to use it without tearing our hair out! I love working with ALL this wonderful team of humans and I value your friendships!

It was such a treat to see our stages and seats full again with the sights and sounds of the music and mayhem that goes to make an event happen. To see all the old crew (and a few new ones) working so hard to make it seem seamless...to see Sal's amazing team of venue dressers (they only do it because they love working with her!) transform some pretty ordinary buildings and spaces into a magical world for a few days, and to see the market stall-holders peddling their wares once more.....oh, and the glorious poster and artwork from Sam Lynne!

You all know that for me, it's (almost) all about the music....and what glorious music we heard!

It was of course, a treat to have musicians back from all-over this big country and from around the world once again, but also to see how our local musicians punch well above their weight in terms of skill, virtuosity and stage presence!

Only three months after this festival, we're about to close performer applications for 2024 and all I can say is: expect an absolute cracker of an event next January!

Erin Collins  
Artistic Director