



"long" bio

The music of **3rd Elephant** is a rich blend of traditions. Classical works, hymns, and ethnic folk melodies, share the stage with jazz standards, soundtracks, and original music. Violin and cello find themselves sitting comfortably alongside banjo, guitar, mandolin, and even baritone ukulele. The trio's unique sound reflects the diverse musical backgrounds of its members.

Nathan Wilson began playing violin when he was 8 years old, at the encouragement of his grandfather. He now holds a master's degree in violin performance from the *University of Minnesota*, and continues to study and perform in a broad range of styles. Nathan's easygoing manner, and his instrumental skills on both violin and mandolin, have made him a favorite guest of tap-style guitarist *Billy McLaughlin*, with whom he has made countless live and recorded appearances since 2006.

Charles Asch received his master's degree in classical cello from *Juilliard* in 2011, and completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the *University of Minnesota* in the spring of 2017. He has performed, as a cellist, with high-level classical ensembles such as *Lyra Baroque Orchestra*, *Bach Society of MN*, and *MN Opera*, and is also a highly proficient pianist.

Benji Flaming is a veteran of the acoustic string music scene. His full-time touring career, first as a member of the bluegrass band *Monroe Crossing*, and later as a member of the folk band *Good Morning Bedlam*, spanned over 1,000 shows throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe. His debut album, a collection of original compositions entitled *Solo Banjo*, was nominated in 2 categories at the 2010 *International Bluegrass Music Awards*.

Each **3rd Elephant** concert is a special journey, inviting the audience to join the musicians as they explore boundaries and find new harmony between musical territories.

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Additional resources are available at <https://3rdElephant.com/epk>*