

Tickets are \$12 in advance at churchillbaker.com, or \$18 at the door. Proof of COVID vaccination or a negative test is required. Admission is free for fully vaccinated youth age 15 and younger who attend with a ticket-holding adult.

## SWITCHING TO SONGS

While in college, Jones studied international business with a focus in Mandarin Chinese. She even studied abroad in China — but music kept calling to her.

“My first ditty I wrote — it felt so good. I became obsessed with it,” she said.

When she returned from China, she knew her new focus.

“I was determined — I just wanted to song write. I love it so much,” she said.

She applied to the Berklee College of Music, and received a scholarship to study songwriting.

Since college, she’s toured for about 10 years and has released four albums. Her newest is “Stories Up High.”

“Now I have a new record and we’re on the road again,” Jones said.

She’s branched out a bit too, thanks to a pop song writing class she took at Berklee. Her songs can be found in films from Disney and Pixar, as well as commercials for Google, Netflix, New Balance, Toyota and Red Bull.

She’s toured around the country two or three times to share her music with audiences.

“I’m so thankful for music — it’s connected me to so many people,” she said. “It’s such a wonderful way of meeting people and building community.”



Kathryn Claire/Contributed Photo

Kathryn Claire, left, of Portland and Margot Merah of Amsterdam open the show Saturday, July 2, at Churchill School in Baker City.

## OPENING ACT: KATHRYN CLAIRE AND MARGOT MERAH

Kathryn Claire and Margot Merah grew up on different continents, but a chance meeting in an Amsterdam pub in 2013 sparked a musical collaboration that continues today.

Portland-based Claire and Merah, who lives in Amsterdam, are playing around the Pacific Northwest this summer on a tour they’re calling “Portland to Amsterdam and Beyond — a folk music collaboration from the heart.”

They will open for Jones on July 2 at Churchill School.

Both play multiple instruments, and their shows feature guitar, fiddle, ukulele, bodhran, harmonica and vocal

harmonies.

Claire has toured in The Netherlands with The Lasses, a duo of Merah and Sophie Janna. Although they grew up far apart, these musicians share the same musical influence.

“A love of Celtic and old traditional music,” Claire said.

In the past, Claire and Merah joined for a few shows at a time. This summer they will play 10 shows in two weeks. They are well accustomed to a long-distance friendship and continued to connect and collaborate throughout the pandemic.

This is their first time playing music in Baker City.

“We’re so excited for this show,” Claire said.

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