

Ensemble Polaris was founded in the spring of 1997 to explore the music of the north: Scandinavia, the Baltic countries, Scotland, and Canada. Composed of Canadian musicians from a unique array of traditions and backgrounds, the band uses a smorgasbord of instruments (nyckelharpa, hurdy gurdy, baroque flute, bass clarinet, Swedish bagpipes, 'cello, accordion, Norwegian will flute and more) plus voice, to create a unique, distinctive style. The resulting music has an eclectic palette of musical influences, colours, and techniques - early, folk, Klezmer, Hot Club of Paris, middle Eastern and southeast Asian, traditional Scandinavian, Celtic, Cape Breton, eastern European, classical, improvisatory, and avant-garde. Ensemble Polaris has won wide-ranging admiration from music lovers of all types, succinctly summed up by an enthusiastic reviewer on amazon.com: "I dare you not to love this music."

Ensemble Polaris is

Marco Cera, guitars

Kirk Elliott, violin, folk harp, mandolin, accordion, bagpipe, etc.

Margaret Gay, 'cello

Ben Grossman, hurdy gurdy

Katherine Hill, voice, nyckelharpa (*keyed fiddle*)

Alison Melville, baroque flute, recorders, seljefløyte (*willow flute*)

Colin Savage, clarinet, bass clarinet, recorders

Debashis Sinha, percussion