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The Will & Deni McIntyre Foundation Receive \$25,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

Hendersonville, NC—The Will & Deni McIntyre Foundation is pleased to announce it has been given a Grants for Arts Projects award of \$25,000 by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The grant will help fund Season 2 of the PBS series *My Music with Rhiannon Giddens*, which premiered on PBS in 2023 and is broadcast by PBS affiliates nationwide.

“The NEA is delighted to announce this grant to the Will & Deni McIntyre Foundation, which is helping contribute to the strength and well-being of the arts sector and the local community,” said National Endowment for the Arts Chair Maria Rosario Jackson. “We are pleased to be able to support this community and help create an environment where all people have the opportunity to live artful lives.” In total, the NEA will award grants totaling more than \$27.1 million as part of its first round of 2024 Grants for Arts Projects.

Season 2 of *My Music with Rhiannon Giddens* will showcase series host Rhiannon and her colleagues in the Grammy-winning Silkroad Ensemble, where she is artistic director. Featured artists are Celtic harpist Maeve Gilchrist, pipa virtuoso Wu Man, Japanese percussionist Haruka Fuji, violinist and vocalist Mazz Swift, Taino-Tuscarora singer Pura Fé, and tabla master Sandeep Das. The season’s theme is “Railroad Roots,” focusing on the traditional music of the immigrant groups who built America’s transcontinental railroad and the people whose lives were most impacted by it.

A MacArthur “genius grant” recipient and Pulitzer Prize winner in music, Rhiannon Giddens is an accomplished instrumentalist and vocalist with far-ranging musical interests. She is a persuasive advocate for the ongoing relevance of folk music to modern issues. *My Music with Rhiannon Giddens* combines musical performance with conversation between Rhiannon and guest artists.

Upon learning of the grant, Rhiannon said “Will and Deni are the absolute best partners a gal could hope for to make meaningful visual and audio content with some of the best musicians around. Season 2 of *My Music* is an exciting journey celebrating the best of what America can be, while not shying away from the potent history that it behooves us all to come to terms with. Many thanks to the NEA for giving us the means to shine a light on Silkroad’s ‘American Railroad’, and to PBS for believing in us!”

PBS-NC is the presenting station for the series. The Will & Deni McIntyre Foundation is based in Hendersonville, and their entire production crew is either from North Carolina or attended school in the state.

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