



## WXPN/Philadelphia brings new artist Mt. Joy to public radio listeners across the US through Slingshot emerging artist project

### *New collective effort with NPR Music and VuHaus drives music discovery*

Videos and interviews at [npr.org/slingshot2018](http://npr.org/slingshot2018)

PHILADELPHIA (JANUARY 9, 2018): [NPR Music](#) and program directors from [VuHaus](#)' public radio music station network, including [WXPN/Philadelphia](#), today revealed a list of 20 artists being supported by [Slingshot](#), the new collective effort among taste-making stations to elevate the profiles of exceptional emerging artists. The list includes the new Philadelphia band Mt. Joy, selected for inclusion by WXPN.

The **Slingshot** video, interview and live event series launched in September and featured three artists selected by the collective: Lo Moon, Jamila Woods and Big Thief. As these artists traveled around the country, public radio stations including WXPN produced videos, conducted interviews, and recorded live performances that appeared both on-air and online at [NPR.org/Slingshot](http://NPR.org/Slingshot).

In a larger effort for 2018, each member music station selected one new artist to include, with more to be added to the list throughout the year. Today, *World Cafe*, the daily two-hour music program produced by WXPN and distributed by NPR to more than 200 US radio stations, will introduce many of the new **Slingshot** artists. It will air at 2 PM ET on WXPN (check other local listings [here](#)). They will also be highlighted on NPR's *All Songs Considered* podcast.

WXPN's selected artist, [Mt. Joy](#), is from Philadelphia (their name is an ode to Mt. Joy, located in Valley Forge National Park) and currently based in Los Angeles. The band's Matt Quinn (vocals/guitar) and Sam Cooper (guitar) have been making music together since 2005, but it wasn't until 2016 when they began writing songs that would become their streaming hits "Astrovan," "Sheep," and "Silver Lining." The addition of Michael Byrnes (bass), Sotiris Eliopoulos (drums), and Jackie Miclau (keys) expanded the duo to a five-piece band, and their first full-length album, recorded in Los Angeles with Dualtone Records, is due early this year.

"Hearing Mt. Joy for the first time reminded me of the first time I heard *August and Everything After*, the debut album by Counting Crows," said Bruce Warren, WXPN Assistant General Manager of Programming, who was instrumental in the formation of **Slingshot** along with WXPN General Manager Roger LaMay. "Like the 'Crows on their debut, Mt. Joy bring together elements of old school classic rock and Americana with well-crafted songs that drip with

nostalgia, and lots of well-placed sing-along moments. Quinn is an emotionally powerful singer whose phrasing is filled with yearning and longing, yet offers plenty of redemption.”



**MT. JOY**

In an additional sign of support, WXPN has also named Mt. Joy its “[Artist to Watch](#)” for January. Since 2003, the Artists to Watch series has been a reflection of WXPN’s commitment to nurturing fresh, new talent and exposing listeners to the best new music. Each month, the series spotlights a different up-and-coming performer who has produced an album or body of work that demonstrates outstanding vision, creativity and songwriting ability. Month-long on-air promotion is combined with online features to help audiences more fully discover each artist.

“Music discovery is at the heart of what WXPN and *World Cafe* are about,” said Warren. “Through **Slingshot**, we’re excited to be working with our colleagues to help such talented new artists reach even more audiences.”

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#### **About NPR Music**

NPR Music collaborates with NPR's newsmagazines, public radio Member Stations and the passionate NPR community to celebrate great music in every genre. Visit [NPR.org/music](https://www.npr.org/music) to find the complete Tiny Desk Concerts series, live music, extensive archives of performances, interviews and reviews of artists from all genres.

#### **About WXPN**

WXPN, the nationally recognized leader in Triple A radio and the premier guide for discovering new and significant artists in rock, blues, roots and folk, is the non-commercial, member-supported, public radio service of the University of Pennsylvania. WXPN produces [World Cafe](#), public radio’s most popular program of popular music, syndicated by NPR, and the Peabody Award-winning [Kids Corner](#). WXPN serves the greater Philadelphia area at 88.5 FM, the Lehigh Valley at 104.9 FM, Worton/Baltimore at 90.5 FM, Lancaster/York at 88.7 FM, Harrisburg at 99.7 FM, Northeastern PA and Northwestern NJ at 91.9 FM, and the world via online streaming at [www.XPN.org](http://www.XPN.org). The [WXPN app](#) brings all of WXPN to any mobile device. WXPN produces [XPoNential Radio on XPN2](#) as its secondary radio channel in HD, also available online.

#### **About VuHaus**

VuHaus (pronounced “view house”) is a collaboration of public radio and television stations from across the country, deeply rooted in their local music communities. We share a common mission to support artists and be a source of music discovery for audiences around the world. VuHaus is a non-profit, non-commercial organization, with an aim to be true partners to artists while providing a unique window into the country's most vibrant music scenes.

The VuHaus network includes public radio stations [WFUV](#) in New York City, [KCRW](#) in Los Angeles, [KXT](#) in Dallas/Ft. Worth, [WXPN](#) in Philadelphia, [KEXP](#) in Seattle, [KDHX](#) in St. Louis, [opbmusic](#) in Portland, [KUTX](#) in Austin, [KTBG](#) The Bridge in Kansas City, [Mountain Stage](#) in West Virginia, [WGBH](#) in Boston, [Houston Public Media](#), [WMOT](#) in Nashville, [88Nine Radio Milwaukee](#) in Milwaukee, Colorado's [KSUT](#), [KVNF](#), [KSJD](#), [KRCC](#), [KRFC](#) and [The Colorado Sound](#), [Vocalo](#) in Chicago and [NV89](#) in Reno. VuHaus receives funding from the [Corporation for Public Broadcasting](#) and is operated by its founding partner, [Public Media Company](#), a national non-profit organization focused on maximizing the impact of public media through innovation and strategic partnerships.