

# the mealies



During a supposed one-time collaboration in 2010 between guitarist/singer/songwriter Willy Porter and the Carpe Diem String Quartet in Carpe Diem's hometown of Columbus, OH, **the mealies** wowed audiences and realized they had created a unique ensemble outside the lines of their individual musical identities. Those performances are now captured in part on the CD, "**the mealies - Live at BoMA.**" Since those Columbus concerts, the group has been touring the US in support of the disc and collaborating on new material for a forthcoming full-length studio recording.

**the mealies**, comprised of the traditional string quartet (violins, viola and cello) in addition to a 6- or 9-string guitar and vocals, defy categorization. It's not just Carpe Diem adding strings to Porter's catalog of songs. In **the mealies** we have a meeting of the minds of first-tier professionals at the top of their game, each adding depth and character to a wide panorama of songs while bending the genres and blurring the lines between musical forms and preconceived ideas. In their own unique way, **the mealies** bring the technical refinement and flourish expected of a string quartet together with songwriting salt, sugar and rock, pleasing a very wide theater audience.

**Carpe Diem String Quartet**, the premier American "indie" string quartet, performs the classical string quartet repertoire, but their musical passion has led them down the paths of gypsy, tango, folk, pop, rock, and jazz-inspired music. Dubbed "one of the most adventurous groups of its kind" by Edith Eisher of Strings magazine, recent collaborations that showcase Carpe Diem's outside-the-box programs include concerts with Graeme Boone, banjo; Latin Grammy Winner Raul Juarena, bandoneon; and, of course, Willy Porter.

**Willy Porter** has been an indie favorite in his own right since he began touring the country over 20 years ago. His multi-faceted approach to the guitar coupled with his protean songwriting have taken him around the world on his own and in support of a diverse collection of contemporary music icons including Jeff Beck, Jethro Tull, Paul Simon, Sting and Tori Amos. Live at BoMA marks his 8th release and introduces **the mealies** to his wide audience. *Billboard* magazine summed it up best by saying "Porter accentuates well-rendered tales with spit-fire-percussive acoustic guitar strumming and fiery color-chord picking."



[willyporter.com](http://willyporter.com)

[carpediemstringquartet.com](http://carpediemstringquartet.com)

# quotes

“The experience is as of listening to a filmic narrative blending Del Newman, Benjamin Britten, Danny Elfman, and William Ackerman into a skein of episodic frames moving toward a Proustian finale.” - Mark S. Tucker for the *Folk & Acoustic Music Exchange*

“...highlights the quiet beauty of [Porter’s] songs while adding a little extra color to his typically stripped-down live framework.” - Jeff Giles of *PopDose.com*

“..the audience that night heard a one-night-only show that sounded like it was a lifetime in the making.” - Jeremy Schaefer of *Sun On The Sand*

“Take an extraordinary talent like **Willy Porter** and pair him with the acclaimed **Carpe Diem String Quartet** and you have a match made in heaven - or at least something that rivals the Reese’s chocolate peanut butter cup.” - *Bill’s Music Forum*

