

TOWER GREEN



BAND BIOGRAPHY

Tower Green was born from a mutual love of folk dance, renaissance and faerie festivals. Tower Green plays both traditional and original songs on a variety of modern and period instruments featuring hurdy gurdy, winds, bagpipes, and percussion, as well as mandolin, guitar, and voice. The band specializes in music from the 13th - 16th centuries, as well as dance music from the traditional and more recent Balfolk genre which includes bourrées, schottisches and others. Tower Green plays with an energy and interpretation that makes the music instantly accessible to modern audiences. The music of Tower Green is genre bending and spans a diversity of worlds, from ancient Rome to Tudor England to those magical realms inhabited by dark elves and fey folk. Tower Green aims to create a timeless space that beckons the audience to extraordinary music created centuries in the past.

The band is based in Maryland and is a frequent guest at fairs, festivals, and numerous other events in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region. Recent venues have included the Maryland Renaissance Festival (2021, 2022), Washington Folk Festival (2022, 2023), the Takoma Park Street Festival (2023), the Virginia Renaissance Faire (2018-2023), the Ravenwood Medieval Faire (2023) and the Ocean Renaissance Faire (2023). Tower Green also plays regularly (annually or more over the last decade) at the New Deal Café in Greenbelt Maryland, the Greenbelt Greenman Festival, the Spoutwood Farm May Day and Solstice Fairie Festivals in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and the Maryland Meadworks, among others.

MUSICIAN BIOGRAPHIES

Sven Abow. Sven, a native of Germany, is a multi-instrumentalist, who performs songs across many genres and styles. Besides playing various kinds of percussion instruments with Tower Green, he also performs as a solo guitarist and plays drums with Proverbs Reggae Band, and with several other groups around the D.C. area. He has performed at the White House, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts, and numerous other venues. Sven is a full-time musician and teaches guitar, drums, percussion.

Roger Drexler. A British Folk Rock enthusiast, Roger has been writing songs and playing mandolin, guitar, and bass in bands since the 1980's. With Tower Green, his approach to the octave mandolin blends various musical genres to create a unique rhythmic style.

Ralph Dubayah. Ralph is a classically trained multi-instrumentalist and composer who specializes in medieval, renaissance, and traditional music on the hurdy gurdy. He also plays keyboards, accordion, percussion, and guitar. He is a founding member and leader of Tower Green, and performs with the middle eastern band, Brinjal, and the balfolk dance band, Trio Mirambel. He has performed at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, the King Richards Faire in Massachusetts, and the Virginia Renaissance Faire, among others. An unrepentant fanatic of the instrument, Ralph is passionate about introducing the hurdy and its unique sound to American audiences.

Amy Rosenthal. Amy brings to Tower Green a background in early, baroque, and classical choral and opera singing as well as folk and folk-rock guitar and vocals. She has performed as a solo musician, as part of a classical guitar/vocal duo, and in a variety of choral ensembles including the UMBC Camerata Chamber Choir and the Baltimore Symphony Chorus. She loves the linguistic richness of Tower Green songs, whose lyrics range from medieval French and English to Galician Portuguese and more.

Mary Shelley. Mary plays soprano recorder, acoustic guitar bass, and sings. Her love of European renaissance history and music inspired her to join Tower Green. She also enjoys playing banjo.

Kirsten Stade. Kirsten has studied and performed African dance, African and Middle Eastern drums and percussion, and traditional Zimbabwean music for more than two decades. She continues to play the Zimbabwean mbira, performs dance and percussion with American folk-rock ensembles in the Washington DC area, and sings and writes original pagan folk songs on guitar.

Charlie Rutan. Artist-Associate with Tower Green, Charlie Rutan has played Bagpipes & Woodwinds professionally for 30 years after completing conservatory training in Philadelphia. He has performed across the United States, Quebec, the UK, and Italy, specializing in French and Italian bagpipes. His work in many ensembles has led him through the Classical, Baroque, Celtic, Traditional, and Rock worlds. A veteran performer of the New York Renaissance Faire, and the Gotham Early Music Series, Charlie recreates woodwind melodies from past times with Tower Green.

DISCOGRAPHY

Mirth and Play (2012), *Noontide* (2016), *Tudor Masque* (2017), *Faire Play* (2021). An upcoming album, *Je Vivroie Liement* is scheduled for release in 2024 showcasing bagpipes and hurdy gurdy in early music.



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References are available upon request.