Magic Tortoise Bio

Short

Magic Tortoise is an alt-folk duo weaving intricate fingerstyle guitar, rich harmonies, and unconventional song structures into a sound that's both delicate and powerful. With two FOOM finals appearances (2020 & 2022) and a FOOM Lyric Category win in 2021, they've made their mark on South Australia's original music scene. Their sell-out show "Beyond the Trees" has captivated audiences at Adelaide Fringe (2023 & 2024) and Nature Festival (2022). Inspired by the natural world and with a twist of improvisation, Matt Cattanach and Bas Tijdhof create immersive, boundary-blurring performances—echoing the spirit of Nick Drake, Radiohead, Neil Young, and Iron & Wine, yet unmistakably their own.

Medium

Magic Tortoise is an alt-folk duo blending intricate fingerstyle guitar, rich harmonies, and unconventional song structures into a sound that's both delicate and powerful. Matt Cattanach and Bas Tijdhof bring an improvisational energy to every performance, making each show a unique and immersive experience. Their music, deeply inspired by the natural world, invites listeners to pause, reflect, and connect.

With two FOOM finals appearances (2020 & 2022) and a FOOM Lyric Category win in 2021, Magic Tortoise has made its mark on South Australia's original music scene. Their sell-out show "Beyond the Trees" captivated audiences at Adelaide Fringe (2023 & 2024) and Nature Festival (2022). Passionate about performing in nature and collaborating across artistic disciplines, they create powerful, boundary-blurring experiences—echoing the spirit of Nick Drake, Radiohead, Neil Young, and Iron & Wine while carving out a sound that's uniquely their own.

Long

Magic Tortoise is an alt-folk duo that blends intricate fingerstyle guitar, rich harmonies, and unconventional song structures into a sound that is both delicate and powerful. **Matt Cattanach** and **Bas Tijdhof** bring an energy to the stage that reflects their deep joy in creating music together with an improvisational twist, making each performance a unique, immersive experience. Rooted in a profound connection to the natural world, their music invites listeners to pause, reflect, and deeply feel.

With two **Festival of Original Music (FOOM) finals appearances** (2020 & 2022) and a **FOOM Lyric Category win in 2021**, Magic Tortoise has established itself as a unique voice in South Australia's original music scene. Their evocative show **"Beyond the Trees"**—a multi-sensory journey blending music, storytelling, and nature— **was a sell out at Adelaide Fringe (2023) and** entranced audiences at **Nature Festival (2022) and Adelaide Fringe (2024)**.

Live, the duo creates a captivating experience, intertwining **intricate guitar work and soaring harmonies**, inviting audiences into a world where music and nature meet. Their **unconventional chord arrangements and song structures** bring a fresh perspective to folk traditions, resulting in an evocative, soul-stirring sound.

Passionate about sharing their **nature-connected music in natural spaces**, Magic Tortoise also loves collaborating across artistic disciplines and cultural divides, creating powerful multimedia performances that blur the boundaries between sound, sight, and story.

If you listen closely, you might hear echoes of **Nick Drake, Radiohead, Neil Young and Iron & Wine**, but at its heart, Magic Tortoise is something truly original!