

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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Foundation Introduces New Troupe of Full-time Tavern Interpreters via Impromptu Performance



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (July 27, 2017) – Colonial Williamsburg introduced its new troupe of full-time tavern performers in an impromptu performance Thursday on Duke of Gloucester Street outside Chowning’s Tavern.

Video of the performance can be downloaded at [this link](#).

Composed of actors, vocalists, composers and musicians of instruments including fiddle, guitar, sackbut, mandolin, tambourine, banjar and guitar, the troupe interprets tavern life daily portraying the Waterman family, musicians with roots in the Cumberland Gap region of Appalachia.

“Our full-time troupe of tavern interpreters embodies our core mission of bringing the 18th century to life in new and engaging ways,” said Mitchell B. Reiss, Colonial Williamsburg president and CEO. “The troupe’s depth and range of talent will help us share an important facet of period life in a more authentic way and share our nation’s enduring stories.”

The troupe begins regular performances Aug. 1 and will appear at each of Colonial Williamsburg’s four Historic Area taverns: Chowning’s, Shields, King’s Arms and Christiana Campbell’s. The group will perform for 30 minutes at each tavern Tuesday-Saturday from 11:45-2 p.m. during lunch and 5-7:30 p.m. during dinner.

“We’re thrilled to invite guests to enjoy the many talents of our new troupe of tavern interpreters,” said Ted Maris-Wolf, Colonial Williamsburg vice president of education, research and historical interpretation. “Among them are world-class vocalists and multi-instrumentalists who will perform common music of the 18th century – a departure from the more refined music performed at the Governor’s Palace and enriching entertainment for all our tavern guests.”

Rather than appearing throughout the tavern individually or in pairs, the group will perform in “concert style” as a group in tavern lobbies.

“Our new performance techniques are based on research of 18th-century folk music,” said Wayne Hill, lead for the troupe who has been playing guitar for Colonial Williamsburg for 25 years. “This new approach will allow our performances to be heard throughout the tavern and will invite guests to join in the fun while minimizing intrusion to diners and servers.”

The group is in the process of hiring a sixth performer to join the troupe.

Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Area taverns are open for lunch and dinner. Reservations are required for dinner at King’s Arms, Shields and Christiana Campbell’s and are available by calling 855-296-6627, online at www.colonialwilliamsburg.com or via OpenTable. Additional information is available by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](#) and [@colonialwmsburg](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia’s 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences, highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 400 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg’s educational programs and preservation initiatives.

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