The Gertrudes are a unique and experimental music collective from Kingston, Ontario’s Skeleton Park neighbourhood. They sound like an ol’ time saloon party in deep space. Passengers travelling with this down-home “folkestra” lay down experimental beds and frolic through a veritable orchestra of instruments.

The Gertrudes have included a versatile collective of musicians to produce four full length albums, two EPS, participate in numerous Canadian festivals (notably the Vancouver Folk Fest, Pop Montreal, Wolfe Island Music Fest, Halifax Pop Explosion) and share the stage with artists such as Sarah Harmer, Calexico, and Ricky Skaggs.

Alongside a manic collaboration of guest musicians, choirs, and symphonies, The Gertrudes’ latest full-length album, Emergency to Emergency (Wolfe Island Records/ Zunior / Outside Music Canada November 2021) is a musical celebration of sorrow, anxiety, and hope, based on 19th Century Irish and North American traditional fiddle tunes – written in times comparably difficult to our own.

Thoughtful, breezy and with the wonder of Cockburn, the Kingston folkestra sings gently about the remedies that get you through the night.

—The Globe & Mail

Between the mandolins, singalong folk melodies and driving percussion come nods to 70s classic rock, left-field samples and sonic experimentation ... Balk at the ambitiousness, cheer at the result.

—NOW Magazine

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