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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WXPN Welcomes Mt. Joy to Whitaker Center's Sunoco Performance Theater**  
*Philly-native indie folk band to hit the Harrisburg stage this spring*

Harrisburg, PA- On Friday, May 18 Whitaker Center presents Mt. Joy in Sunoco Performance Theater at 8:00pm. This show is supported by the Lois Lehrman Grass Foundation. All Whitaker Center Presents shows are sponsored by Capital BlueCross.

Mt. Joy started off as a rekindling of shared musical ambitions between Philadelphia high school friends Matt Quinn (vocals, guitar) and Sam Cooper (guitar). Reunited in Los Angeles thanks to the ebbs and flows of adult life, the pair met multi-instrumentalist Michael Byrnes through a Craigslist ad. They named themselves Mt. Joy as an ode to a mountain in Valley Forge National Park near Sam's childhood home, and together, with Byrnes' roommate Caleb Nelson producing, they recorded three songs and sent them out into the world, hoping for the best. Much to the band's amazement, "Astrovan" accomplished the impossible.

Come 2017, Mt. Joy hit the road, and hit it hard: They played tour dates alongside the likes of The Shins, The Head and The Heart, The Lone Bellow, and Whitney, and popped up at some of the summer's biggest festivals, including Bonnaroo, Newport Folk Festival, Lollapalooza and Made In America. "We were put on some big shows very quickly," Quinn says. "The growth for us has been exponential - we've really just become a family that's constantly pushing each other and the live show to be great." They eventually caught the attention of Dualtone Records and began work on their debut album.

Steeped in folk-rock tradition and powered by the intuitive creative connection between Quinn and Cooper, the songs on 'Mt. Joy' depict Quinn wrestling with his own conscience, where the mundane and the fantastic collide as he processes tragedy, society, and love. "Sheep," with its collapsing, hoarse-voiced cry of "freedom was paid in blood," is a post-Trump salvo on the responsibilities of the fortunate to overcome political and social despondency. And on "Silver Lining," perhaps the album's brightest moment, Quinn surveys the damage of hard drugs and the vicious cycle of addiction, as the song's melancholic sentiment kicks into its fervid, defiant chorus, all shout-along vocals and trilling guitars.

Tickets go on sale Friday, February 23 at 10:00am at whitakercenter.org and at the Whitaker Center Box Office. Tickets range from \$20 - \$25. For tickets and more information, please visit whitakercenter.org or call the Whitaker Center Box Office at 717-214-ARTS.

Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts is a non-profit center for the arts, education, entertainment and cultural enrichment located in the heart of Harrisburg's vibrant downtown. Whitaker Center is home to Sunoco Performance Theater, Harsco Science Center and Select Medical Digital Cinema featuring a four story premium large format theater with a recently upgraded 4K digital projection system. Visit [whitakercenter.org](http://whitakercenter.org) for a full list of events, shows, hours of operation, and ticket rates.

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