

"When Jo B. & Walton play sunshine fills the room! Music so bright and joyful you can't help but smile. Jo Berger and Walton Mendelson perform beautifully together, creating a seamless and surprisingly full sound for just a duo. Their personalities come through in their performances instilling the listener with a sense of being with good old friends." – Jennifer Cohen, Host, Verde Valley Experience TV Show.

Jo B. & Walton features singer-songwriter Jo Berger on guitar and vocals and instrumentalist Walton Mendelson on the unique and eclectic electronic wind instrument (EWI). Together they create original music rooted in the folk traditions of the West infused with a splash of jazz and a touch of blues. When Jo and Walton met in 2013 they found a strong musical kinship with one another even though they come from very different backgrounds. This chemistry is reflected in Walton's rich vocabulary of instrumental voices interwoven with the lyrical vocals of Jo's original songs. Their music is spirited, poignant, and full of variety. They can get your body moving and lift your heart.

Jo shares a warm connection with her audiences and through her compelling songwriting and stories, she transports us into the richly woven world of her songs. She is charming, lively, and a keen observer of the quirks of daily living. "Life is a magnificent journey," Jo reflected. "My songs explore my passions as they focus on messages and movement; I try to account for the tough decisions, the emotions that spill out, and my unbridled joy in being alive."

"Lyrics are as important to me as the music. It is the twists and turns of the story that I want to share." Learning guitar and flute as a child, Jo loved the music of the West and the folk music of the Baez and Dylan 60s. She became steeped in the traditions of old time, bluegrass, country, jazz, and Latin music in '80s Colorado, moved to Sedona in the '90s with husband Ed, and eventually drifted over the mountain to their current home in Prescott.

Walton Mendelson grew up in Cleveland playing the saxophone and flute as a child. In the late '60s, he immersed himself in the folk, rock, and jazz scenes. Later intrigued by early music—generally music written before 1800 and performed on period instruments—he studied, performed, and wrote about it. "From the chromatic dissonances of Guesaldo to the expected free, jazz-like, interpretations of melodic lines, early music is surprisingly contemporary." In 1989 he moved to Prescott, and in 1998 produced and performed on a CD of experimental chamber music entitled, *The Isle of Melancholy & Madness: The Music of Frederick Sommer* (Nazraeli Press)—"The music stands up to the best of 20th Century avant-garde composers, like Philip Glass and Steve Reich," Kelly Everding, *Rain Taxi*. "For me," Walton says, "all of this experience comes to bear in Jo B. & Walton."

Jo B. & Walton perform their blend of original folk, blues, and jazz tunes at a variety of regional venues, house concerts, and folk festivals throughout Arizona. The both live in Prescott, Arizona.