



The sky is the limit

BY PATRICK RODGERS

For Savannah Morning News

The name Montana Skies might seem like a curious choice for a couple of musicians who met while studying at the University of Georgia, but for Jon and Jenn Adams it makes perfect sense. It's the name of their first album together, which shares a title with the first song Jon ever wrote for them, back when they first realized they needed to make music together.

"I met Jon in college," Jenn Adams explains. "We were playing together, but it really didn't start being something we were out performing until 2002 when we released our first album, and it's been brewing ever since then."

For the past seven years, the Adams have carved a unique musical niche, fusing Spanish and American traditional music styles with influences of jazz, Middle Eastern and Baroque. They've had to carve their own musical path because when the couple first met, they couldn't find any music that paired the guitar and the cello — their instruments of choice.

"We were doing classical training and studying to get our music performance degrees," Jenn Adams said. "We were lucky enough, looking back, that the cello and guitar didn't have this whole repertoire laid out for it, and so we had a lot of freedom to create our own sound."

The creative freedom they had by the lack of existing material has allowed them to experiment with a variety of sounds and styles, composing original material, as well as adapting popular favorites.

"We write a good bit, but we also do arrangements and put our own spin on it," Jon



Courtesy of Montana Skies

Jenn and Jon Adams of Montana Skies will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum.

IF YOU GO

What: Montana Skies

When: 7:30 p.m. Friday

Where: Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum, 41 Martin Luther King Blvd.

Tickets: \$10 for the public; \$8 for Savannah Folk Music Society members; \$5 for children and students.

Information: Go to www.savannahfolk.org.

Adams said. The goal for their arrangements of other artists' work is not simply to replay a familiar tune, but to explore it to its musical depths.

"For instance, with 'Another Brick in the Wall' I like Pink

Floyd, but I love the song, and I love the lyrics," Jon Adams said. "I'll take a lyric and kind of think how we can say something through music without the words ... We'll build on the music, on the chords, and build it into something like the song, but not how it was originally structured musically."

Montana Skies' performance at the Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum will be a chance for them to share their passion with the audience. Jenn Adams explains, "we love to go out and do shows and introduce people to our music live because that's where we feel there's a connection."