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Circle of Days: The Niels Twenty-First Album, a Journey through the Seasons

The Niels, the folk-rock band from Massachusetts, are delighted to announce the release of their much-anticipated twenty-first album, *Circle of Days*. An homage to the calendar—and really, time itself—this collection of songs is a testament to the band's enduring creativity and unwavering commitment to their craft.

During the pandemic, Nerissa and Katryna Niels, the band's frontwomen, took a daily walk with their beloved dogs, Greta and Hudson. The destination was a nearby lake, where Katryna would take a daily photo. Inspired by the ever-shifting seasons, they came to realize that each of Nerissa's new songs could be intimately connected to a particular time of year, forming a musical cycle.

Circle of Days resonates with those twinned states of mind—hope and fear—that come with living through quite a number of circles of days. From the anxious yet hopeful musings of the winter solstice in "Darkest Day of the Year" to the qualified optimism of summer's bounty in "Angel on the Roof," the album weaves together a vibrant tapestry of melodies and narratives that encapsulate the ebb and flow of life.

Among the album's standout tracks are "Brigid," an Imbolc song paying homage to the ancient celebration of the pagan goddess who gave her name to what became St. Brigid's Day—or what we in the US know as Groundhog's Day. "When I Was a DJ" explores the losses we all experience in careers that becomes increasingly irrelevant as Big Business takes over, leaving so many of us voiceless. "Death & Resurrection" addresses our current epidemic of so-called deaths of despair, while "That's What We Do" serves as a stirring graduation anthem, celebrating the triumphs and aspirations of artists and activists.

With their unparalleled ability to blend pop craftsmanship, folk sensibility, and the influences of '60s classic rock and '90s alternative, The Niels have created a distinctive musical style that defies categorization. Their songs, imbued with intelligence and occasional humor, offer poignant observations on life's unexpected twists and turns. Apple Music describes their sound as "equal parts The Beatles, the cranberries, and Joni Mitchell," a testament to their unique fusion of melodic sensibilities.

Having earned their stripes with 21 albums, major and independent record and publishing deals, and performances alongside luminaries such as 10,000 Maniacs, The Band, James Taylor, and the Indigo Girls, The Niels have unquestionably paid their dues, paving their own path, forging a remarkable musical legacy that continues to captivate audiences around the world.

For more information, interviews, or review copies, please contact:
Patty Romanoff at patty@bulletproofartists.com 413-527-9393

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