



Keith Bear

Keith Bear's name in the Nu E'ta (Mandan) language is O'Mashi! Ryu Ta. It means Northern Lights or He Makes the Sky Burn with Great Flame. A self-taught flute player, Keith has been performing since 1986. His critically acclaimed performances include traditional storytelling and the sacred Buffalo Dance; a ceremony, which only honored tribal members, may perform.

According to Keith, "The Nu E'ta people have had flutes for hundreds of years using the wind, birds and water from the Big and Little Missouri Rivers for accompaniment."

His first recording, *Echoes of the Upper Missouri*, reflects Keith's desire to take each listener on a journey back to the bottom lands as in times passed. In fact, the natural sounds heard on this release were recorded on location in the ancestral lands of the Mandan-Hidatsa people.

Keith has appeared as a solo presenter and storyteller with the Smithsonian Folklife festival, the Kennedy Center, Lewis & Clark Bicentennial signature events throughout the US, International Storytellers Festival in Wales, UK; for the North Dakota Arts Council, and cultural programs throughout Europe. He has soloed with the National Symphony, Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in performances of *The Fable of Old Turtle Symphony* (composer: Linda Tutas Haugen).



During the summer of 1995, Keith made his professional acting debut in the feature film "Dakota Sunrise". In July of 1995 Keith performed on QVC's Home Shopping Network and sold over 2000 copies of *Echoes of the Upper Missouri* in less than 5 minutes. The New Age Voice Awards 2001 voted *Earthlodge* as a finalist in the Best Native American Album 2000.