



Performance Descriptions

People of the Willows and The Waters Speak performances draw from the musical traditions of the North American Plains Indians. Artists Keith Bear, Mandan story teller, singer and flutist; Gary Stroutsos, flutist, and Jovino Santos Neto, pianist/arranger have developed these performance options from their groundbreaking work on the critically acclaimed CD People of the Willows.

The People of the Willows

Unique among all Native American tribes, the Mandan-Hidatsa developed a rich cultural heritage living on the banks of the upper Missouri River. This rich heritage comes to life in the program People of the Willows. Presented by Keith Bear, Gary Stroutsos, and Jovino Santos Neto, piano, this program sensitively depicts the gentle way of life the Mandan-Hidatsa shared, living in balance with nature, as well as the cultural influences of the Lakota and other neighbors. Songs in this performance reflect many aspects of daily life, friendship, planting, courtship, heartbreak, parting and return.

The Waters Speak

The Waters Speak is a celebration of the Spirit of Place, that intimately personal and yet universal connection of a people and the land they call home. Drawing from the tribal traditions of Native peoples from the plains of North America, this is a mystical performance of songs, dances and stories, some of which have been handed down for hundreds of years. The Waters Speak is, an intertribal performance of traditional and original music and story, that conveys a message of unity presented in cooperation with local Native people. This performance continues to be popular during the bicentennial celebration of the Lewis & Clark expedition because of its ability to reflect the journey between the point the Corps of Discovery wintered with the Mandans and when they arrived on the Pacific Coast.

Chamber Music Concerts

The critically acclaimed People of the Willows CD showcases the stunning string quartet and chamber music settings Jovino Santos Neto has composed to honor the complex harmonics of Native American melodies. Partnering with string quartet, the ensemble offers a unique programming choice for chamber music series.



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.



Gary Stroutsos



International recording artist Gary Stroutsos is a composer, educator, producer, and performer of world flute music that celebrates traditional cultures and their reverence for the earth. Performing on Native American and Chinese flutes, his repertoire is deeply respectful of ethnic cultures and the spirit of place found around the globe. Influenced by jazz, Afro-Cuban and Native American styles, his performances of original compositions and traditional music weave delicate melodies into a global landscape with improvisation, world percussion and the sounds of nature.

His work was showcased in the Ken Burns PBS documentary *Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*; he is a regular guest on National Public Radio (NPR) including syndicated programs such as *Echoes*.

He has recorded more than 13 CDs for the Makoché, Narada, Red Feather and Paras Labels, and he performs extensively throughout the United States and Canada. His CDs *Distant Shores*, *Winds of Honor*, and *The Native Heart* have received national acclaim as benchmark recordings of Native American flute music. His CDs with synthesist John Serrie, *Hidden World* and *Pacific Moon*, were *Critic's Choices* in *Billboard* CD reviews.

His most recent works -- which include *Pacific Moon*, a meditational soundscape of original works, produced by David Lanz; *Oru: The Natural Order*, an exploration of Nigerian religious chants; and *Echoes of Canyon De Chelly*, recorded live in Canyon De Chelly and featuring Navajo flutemaker Paul Thompson.

He has performed with Susan Osborn, Joseph Fire Crow, Annie Humphrey, John Serrie, R. Carlos Nakai, Karen Therese, N. Scott Robinson, Glen Velez, Jovino Santos Neto and David Lanz.

Although he embraces the full spectrum of world flute music, Gary has made a distinctive contribution through his commitment to the preservation of Native American music and culture. From his first recording, *Distant Shores*, in 1994 to his 2002 release *Echoes of Canyon De Chelly*, more than half of all his recorded work honors the musical traditions of the Mandan/Hidatsa, Zuni, Navajo, Sioux and Taos tribes among others. With Paul Thompson, he presents *Winds of Honor*, a lecture/presentation on making and playing Native American flutes. He also makes presentations on native flute music and the Lewis & Clark Expedition.

Represented by Hosfeld & Associates Artist Management
www.hosfeldartists.com ~ 206.938.3070



Jovino Santos Neto

Composer, keyboard/pianist, Jovino has arranged string quartet settings that invite audiences into the subtle harmonics and melodic nuances of native melodies.

The Brazilian-born artist moved in 1993 from his hometown Rio de Janeiro to Seattle, after spending 15 years performing with the legendary Hermeto Pascoal. Jovino has received several prizes and awards for composition, including the prestigious ASCAP/IAJE Commission for a jazz composer in 2001 and the 2002 New Works: Creation and Presentation Award for jazz given by Chamber Music America and the Doris Duke Foundation.



He also received the 2000 Virtual Concert commission from the Jack Straw Foundation to compose a piece for Musicians Accord, a NY-based chamber ensemble. Jovino has collaborated with musicians such as Airtó Moreira and Flora Purim, Andy Narell, Gary Stroutsos, Richard Boukas and Mike Marshall, with whom he has recently released a duo CD featuring Hermeto Pascoal's music, *Serenata* (Adventure Music). He has also collaborated with musicians from many different cultures, from Native American flutists to Indian virtuoso Chitravina N. Ravikiran.

Studying classical piano from the age of 12, Neto moved to Beatles and Rolling Stones-influenced pop by his 15th birthday. While exposure to bands such as Yes and Emerson, Lake & Palmer was reflected in the increased complexity of his music, he began to focus on jazz while studying biology at McGill University in Montreal.

Invited to tour Brazil with Pascoal in 1977, Neto remained an important part of the Brazilian multi-instrumentalist's band for 15 years, co-producing six albums, including *Festa dos Deuses*, which received a Sharp Prize as Best Instrumental Album in 1992, and scoring hundreds of Pascoal's compositions. Relocating to the United States in 1993 after performing on Sergio Mendes' Grammy award-winning world music album, *Brasileiro*, Neto studied at the Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. He continues to teach classes at the school in piano, composition, and jazz ensemble.



History

Keith Bear, a Mandan-Hidatsa storyteller and flute player, and Gary Stroutsos, world flute artist, first met in the mid 1990s as a result of Gary's research into the Native American flute traditions of the Northern Plains tribes. Keith, a recording artist for Makoché Records, based in Bismark, ND, gave Gary a new name reflecting his impressions of him at that first meeting: Red Lightning Dancing.

Gary, a Greek-Italian former jazz flutist, seemed an unlikely artistic partner for Keith. In constant motion with a near-obsessive interest in the Native American flute, Gary was a striking contrast to the regal, plainspoken Keith. But Gary did what many other non-Native artists have been unable to do. He gained the trust of Keith and of other Native artists on the Makoché label by respecting the sacred aspect of their traditions, and acknowledging their role in his life as teachers and elders. As a result, Keith and other artists are willing to share their songs and stories with Gary, and to appear with him – a non-Native -- in concert in a show of unity. This attitude of respect is what has unlocked a rare treasure of Native culture from the Northern Plains, and made it uniquely available to new audiences.

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. Gary is a recording artist, composer, educator, producer, and performer of world flute music that celebrates traditional cultures and their reverence for the earth.

Their work together on the Makoché recording *Lewis & Clark, Sounds of Discovery*, ultimately led to the inclusion of Gary's work in the 1997 Ken Burns documentary *Lewis & Clark, The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*. One of the featured melodies was "Along the River," which Keith had taught Gary. Gary and Makoché executive David Swenson toured the music with Burns to promote the documentary in 1997, including a command performance for The White House, a warm reception from President Clinton.

For their critically acclaimed 1999 recording *People of the Willows*, Keith and Gary engaged the help of composer Jovino SantosNeto, to create string quartet settings of traditional Native melodies, and songs inspired by Native melodies. In highlighting the complex harmonic structures of Native melodies through the quartet arrangements, Jovino demonstrated the musical sophistication of Plains traditions to non-Native audiences for perhaps the first time.

Jovino and Gary met in the jazz clubs of Seattle, and worked together in Gary's previous incarnation as a jazz artist. Jovino is a Brazilian-born artist who moved in 1993 from his hometown

Represented by Hosfeld & Associates Artist Management

www.hosfeldartists.com ~ 206.938.3070



the people of the willows

Rio de Janeiro to Seattle, after spending 15 years performing with the legendary Hermeto Pascoal. Jovino has received several prizes and awards for composition, including the prestigious ASCAP/IAJE Commission for a jazz composer in 2001 and the 2002 New Works: Creation and Presentation Award for jazz given by Chamber Music America and the Doris Duke Foundation.

Gary, Jovino and Keith performed music from *People of the Willows* through Makoché Records tours and showcases following its release. They continued to tour together with Makoché artists throughout the midwest, including performances for the North Dakota Council for the Humanities, and the kickoff event for the Lewis & Clark bicentennial held at Thomas Jefferson's home Monticello, in Virginia, in January 2003.

Since then, the artists have developed their own touring and performance concept based on the People of the Willows compositions, and original works inspired by Native melodies. *The Waters Speak: Spirit of Place from the Plains to the Pacific* includes an emphasis on the journey of Lewis & Clark on both the Missouri and Columbia Rivers to the Pacific ocean.



Sample Program

Invocation: The River of Life

The Origin Song
Mandan Traditional

Woodpecker Song
Dakota Traditional

Walking on the Water
Original, Keith Bear

Pumpkin Seed Story
Mandan Traditional

Mandan Heartbreak Song
Mandan Traditional

Intermission

Grandfather Buffalo
Mandan Traditional

Along the River
Mandan Traditional

Buffalo Bird Woman
Plains Tribes Traditional

Program Subject to Change.

The People of The Willows

*Native Flute photos courtesy of
Makoche Records*

Represented by Hosfeld & Associates Artist Management
www.hosfeldartists.com ~ 206.938.3070



350 Kirkland Avenue
Kirkland, WA 98033



Administrative Office:

425-828-0422



Fax:

425-889-9827



Box Office:

425-893-9900



E-mail:

kpc@kpcenter.org



www.kpcenter.org

May 29, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Kirkland Performance Center recently presented "The Waters Speak," a multi-genre performance piece centering on the Native American peoples from the Plains to the Pacific. The production included Native and Non-Native artists performing traditional flutes and percussion instruments, along with a fusion of other music styles.

The centerpiece of The Waters Speak was the storytelling of Keith Bear, whose captivating presence and personality dominated the stage. Adeptly accompanied by flutist Gary Stroutsos, Keith Bear's stories of his people and life wove a visual image of great sensitivity and complexity.

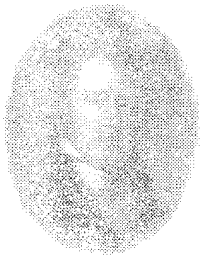
Also included in the performance were dances by Tsimshian carver and mask dancer Corey Moraes, pianist/composer Jovino Santos Neto, world percussionist Larry Mahlis and the St. Helens String Quartet.

The performance begins on the Plains of North Dakota with the story of the Mandan-Hidatsas, the People of the Willows and the story of their earthlodge homes. From the Missouri River we follow the path of Lewis and Clark as they traveled to the shores of the Pacific and a celebration of West Coast dance and music.

Our audience was entranced by this production and sense of peace and serenity it provided. I would recommend this performance for all audiences and all ages. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Lorian
Executive Director
Kirkland Performance Center



Pacific County Friends of Lewis & Clark



HONORARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator
Patty Murray
U.S. Senator
Brian Baird
U.S. Congressman
Norm Dicks
U.S. Congressman
Sid Snyder (Ret.)
Washington State Senator
Val Ogden (Ret.)
Washington State Representative
Mark Doumit
Washington State Representative
Brian Hatfield
Washington State Representative
Brian Blake
Washington State Representative
David Nicandri
Director - Washington State Historical Society
Bob Petersen
Washington State Parks Commissioner
Bud Cuffel
Pacific County Commissioner
Pat Hamilton
Pacific County Commissioner
Jon Kaino
Pacific County Commissioner
Ed Leonard
Mayor - Ilwaco, WA
Ken Ramsey
Mayor - Long Beach, WA
Michael Runyon
Mayor - Raymond, WA
Karl W. Heinicke
Mayor - South Bend, WA
Dr. Robert C. Carriker
Gonzaga University
Lt. Richard Burke
United State Coast Guard
Dale Jacobson
Nabiel Shawa

STATION CAMP
Nov. 15-25, 1805

February 2006

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Andrew
Ginny Assenberg
Una Boyle
Shirley Burt
David Campiche
Ed Cook
Carolyn Glenn
Anne Hauser
Hobe Kytr
Patty Rolfe
Jim Sayce
Karen Snyder
Eileen Wirkkala
Rex Ziak

To Whom It May Concern,

The Waters Speaks Program was the premiere fine arts performance of Destination: The Pacific, the National Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Signature Event for Oregon and Washington that was held November 11-15, 2005.

The Waters Speak helped us to achieve our goals of presenting the Native American perspective through music and storytelling of the places along the Missouri and Columbia Rivers where the Lewis & Clark Expedition met the Mandan/Hidatsa and Chinook Indians.

The Multimedia program drew capacity crowds both evenings and the standing ovations reflected the public's pleasure of this unique program.

Gary Stroutsos gave a stirring solo on the Native American Flutes and was outstanding in creating through his many instruments the sounds of nature, setting the ambiance of place along the rivers. Keith Bear was star quality in his storytelling and flute playing. He helped educate the audience on the Native American life of the time, their spiritual side and connection to the Earth. His songs and poetry were deeply moving. Jovino Santos Neto, composer and pianist, blended his more modern piano music beautifully to enrich the musical experience. The audience had the opportunity to experience the musical sophistication of Native American music.

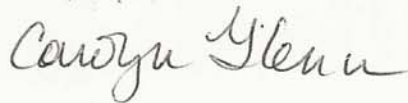
Particularly outstanding was the willingness of the musicians and Kathleen Hosfeld, agent, to add the Chinook Indians to their program. The program was being performed in the Chinook Homeland and they were invited to add their story telling and drumming which they did. This required extra work on behalf of The Waters Speak and was appreciated by all. It added a local perspective to the program.

The public response was enthusiastic. There were capacity crowds, sold out CD's of the musicians, favorable comments to the ushers as the public left and good reviews.

As Chair of "Ocian In View" for Destination: The Pacific and The Waters Speaks, I found the group to be very professional, the musicians fun to work with and the agent flexible and helpful in working to allow the addition of the Chinook Tribe as well as making adjustments to working in a non-urban environment. I would highly recommend the program to not only historically oriented audiences, but to also musically interested audiences. It holds the interest of youth and adult audiences. It is stimulating, educational and unique. It takes you to another world and time and makes you reflect.

I would be happy to talk to anyone considering The Waters Speak. They may call me at 360-642-2472.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Glenn – Board Member Destination: The Pacific
Former Chairman, Pacific County Friends of Lewis & Clark
And current Board member