

Regional News

CHARLES NEVILLE PLAYS BENEFIT FOR WORLD PEACE & PRAYER DAY AT SIX NATIONS, MARCH 28.

This area has seen lots of musical action in the last month, but they were still hyped up for Charles Neville of the Neville Brothers, who flew in from New Orleans with his keyboard player Saya Saito. First of all, Toronto's ABORIGINAL MUSIC PROJECT presented a week long showcase of traditional and contemporary First Nations talent. Unfortunately, with government cutbacks raging across Ontario, planned events for this summer are being re-organized. The AMP (416-972-6501 / fax 416-972-6031 & 9024 / e-mail: amp@lglobal.com) acts as a clearinghouse for Native talent, so if you are into performing, send them your current resume-bio-demotape-portfolio. Any inquiries they get for specific types of music & performance, they connect the presenter with the performer.

Charles Neville was another experience though. On two nights we heard: THE SIX NATIONS WOMEN SINGERS, they have a new CD on SOAR, Albuquerque NM; a brand new traditional dance group called KANATA; a great Native blues band with new horn section called PAINTED PONY, their new CD is "Drove Em Crazy"; a great blues troubador CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE with 6 Nations blues harpist, Steve Thomas, Charlie's new CD is "Big Road Blues"; 6 Nations favorite son MURRAY PORTER is working on a new CD, he's on the First Nations Music label; road warriors JOSH MILLER & 3 WHEEL DRIVE, a real tight blues, R&B, funk native band from 6 Nations; DEREK MILLER & UNIVERSAL LIGHT a young 6 Nations guitarist who can burn both blues and rock; THE UNCEDED BAND, fronted by vocalist Gloria Eshkibok, a band of Anishnabe & Metis women with an uncompromising attitude and great native, blues, jazz, country sounds; local 6 Nations rocking blues outfit THE BREEZE BAND.

The highlight of course was the accomplished sound of a master musician like Charles Neville on flute and saxophone (the Neville Brothers as a group started in 1977 but had been playing all their lives as one of the premier New Orleans blues & jazz families). He was accompanied by a terrific young Japanese keyboard player, Saya Saito, a fresh college graduate who plays like a jazz veteran. She is part of Charles Neville's latest Jazz Quintet group. They mesmerized the audience with blues and jazz standards from Thelonious Monk

and the opera Porgy & Bess, among other songs. The entire 6 Nations contingent also sounded professional and it was probably the highlight of some careers that night because they all pulled off a concert closing blues jam! Most of the various band members plus blues harpist Steve Thomas and vocalist Big Joe doing "Sweet Home Chicago" all jamming with Charles and Saya. A great time was had by all. Thanks go out to Indigenous Studies and volunteers at McMaster University in Hamilton, Amos Keye, Dr. Dawn Hill, Elaine Freeman, Rick Monture, 3 Wheel Drive for the sound. For more information on buying the music of these bands and booking them, call: Elaine Bomberry at ALL NATIONS TALENT GROUP (416) 534-0579 and CKRZ, a great little radio station at (519) 445-4140. I was really impressed with the talent at 6 Nations and the community support. Whatever problems us Mohawks have been having in the eastern communities, it is heartening to see that Mohawk and Iroquois energy coming together to do such events in their own community hall.

Charles Neville had met Arvol Looking Horse and Dr. Dawn Hill of Six Nations the previous month and was invited to play at Six Nations on March 27 & 28 to benefit THE UNITY RIDE & WORLD PRAYER & PEACE DAY. Arvol is the 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe of the Lakotah Nation. According to spiritual leaders and elders who gathered at the UN to present their Prophecies, and at Six Nations for the Cry of the Eagle gathering, the "signs" of the Indigenous People's Prophecies have begun to appear. These Prophecies say it is time to begin Mending the Sacred Hoop and begin global healing by working towards world peace and harmony. Dr. Dawn Hill and Arvol had just returned from South Africa after meeting with President Nelson Mandela to gather support for World Peace & Prayer Day, to be held this June 21, 1996.

It all starts with THE UNITY RIDE, on May 3rd from Wahpeton, Saskatchewan through Sitting Bull's campsites, across the border, on to Grey Horn Butte, Wyoming, also called Devil's Tower, a sacred Native American Religious site. Funds for this ride are critical at this point as it commences in 4 weeks and hundreds of horses need to be transported,

feed, given medicine and vaccinations, papers made out for the border crossing. You can help out with any donation, large or small, by calling the McMaster University Indigenous Studies, Hamilton, Ontario at (905) 525-9140 ext. 27426 Bonnie Freeman. And: Gladys Looking Horse, Box 687, Eagle Butte SD (605) 964-8439. Make checks out to: The Unity Ride. This Unity Ride is to start mending the sacred hoop for the Lakotah people by bringing back to balance the improperly buried dead of the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre and restoring pride in the young generation who will be making the Ride. The Medicine Man Black Elk saw the breaking of the sacred hoop at Wounded Knee and prophesied it's mending, at this time by the Seventh Generation. They ask that all people gather at their own sacred places, the medicine people say there is such a place every hundred miles or so, and pray for healing and peace on June 21, 1996.

The birth of the White Buffalo Calf at a Wisconsin ranch

in August of 1994 was the beginning of this period of prophecy signs and healing. Arvol says that the White Buffalo is changing color as foretold in prophecy, from white to black to red to yellow. They say that if the prayers are strong and the calf turns back to white, then the Lakotah people will start to mend the sacred hoop and all peoples should continue praying for global healing and world peace. It is possible it may be too late and that the Mother Earth is already to sick and will start to shake to purify herself, that is why people are encouraged to set aside June 21 as a prayer day and to gather at sacred sites to bring the earth back into balance.

The Neville Brothers new album will feature a song called ALL MY RELATIONS (WE ARE ALL RELATED) dedicated to Arvol Looking Horse's efforts to bring healing, balance and peace to his Lakotah people, to all Native Peoples, to all peoples and to mother earth. The Nevilles also have their own Word Page and Computer Network that this information can be found on.

-Alex Jacobs

CKON

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Sharon Peters, CKON P.O. Box 1496 Cornwall, Ontario K6H 5V5 or P.O. Box 140, Roosevelttown, NY 13683 or P.O. Box 120, St. Regis, Que. H0M 1A0 or drop them off at the radio station in St. Regis.