



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 2008

What: *Three Flutes, Three Breaths: Native American Style Flute Concert*
When: Saturday, October 11, 2008; 7 – 9 pm
Where: Creative Spirit Center, 1517 Bayliss Street, Midland
Cost: \$10/\$8 students
Information: Call 989-837-1885 or e-mail creativity@creativespiritcenter.org

[Midland] – David Martinka, John Sarantos, and Steve Wyse join in a concert of duets, ensembles, and solo improvisations on the Native American flute, to benefit Creative Spirit Center's scholarship fund. The concert will feature both aboriginal and contemporary music. Wyse will also entertain with humorous folk-style songs from his CD *New Age Folks* and Martinka will play selections from his latest CD *Native Slovak*, uniquely joining the traditions of the Native American and the Slovak courting flutes. The three artists share a passion for building distinctive atmospheres with the evocative sounds of their instruments. Martinka and Sarantos recently performed together at the 2008 Indian Summer Festival held in Milwaukee, and all three have been recognized for their recordings by such groups as the Indian Summer Music Awards and the Native E-music Awards in Albuquerque.

About the artists:

David Martinka, based in Chesaning, is a self-taught musician who draws on nature and his inner life to create his songs. He plays not only Native American flutes, but also Slovakian flutes which are hand-crafted especially for him with the help of Tomas Kovac, who works in the tradition of the best flute makers in Slovakia. Martinka also crafts Native American style flutes, which he plays in many of his recordings. With a long family history of music and love for the Native American flute, Martinka is the first bridge between the courting, healing, and peaceful sides of Native American style courting flutes and Slovakian courting flutes in his new CD, *Native Slovak*.

John Sarantos, who lives in Wisconsin and performs throughout the United States, has been facilitating contemporary Native American flute workshops for over ten years. Sarantos has taught at the Pacific Northwest Flute Gathering near Seattle and the Armadillo Flute Society's retreat held at Flower Mound, Texas, and was a presenter at the Third International Native American Flute Association's Convention in Belmont, California. In 2006 and in 2007, Sarantos was invited to teach a workshop to more than fifty Ojibwe tribal members in St. Ignace. He has published six flute songbooks and founded the Chippewa Valley Flute Circle. His CD with Gera Clark, *Montana Crossings*, was featured at a CD release concert held at Creative Spirit Center in 2007.

Steve Wyse Sleeps by Deer of East Lansing draws his inspiration from his Leni-Lenape (Delaware) grandmother from seven generations ago. In spirit, his Delaware grandmother urges him to do what he can to help heal the Earth, using the flute as an instrument of love for the good of all people, a powerful tool for healing. His latest CD *Sound Healing* uses the Native Flute, animal medicine, and chants to provide healing energy to each of the seven major energy centers of the body, with a flute he made especially tuned to resonate with each of these energy centers. He also recorded *Listen . . . The Tree Speaks* in 2003.

About Creative Spirit Center

Creative Spirit Center is a not-for-profit community arts organization founded in 1994. The Center's mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, conferences, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, psychological and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities.

Contact: **Colleen Reed, Program Coordinator**

Creative Spirit Center

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[Note: JPGs attached separately: David Martinka, John Sarantos, Steve Wyse in performance]