



Michael Searching Bear

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Michael Searching Bear, NAMA (Native American Music Awards) winner for Best World Recording and nominated artist - 2009, Aboriginal People's Choice Award nominee and Just Plain Folks Music Awards Album of the Year winner 2006, is an accomplished world musician whose love for music and search for his Native heritage led him to the Native American wood flute.

Michael incorporates the Native flute with his love and education for many traditional world cultural instruments including Celtic, Japanese, Native American and African, just to name a few, and creates a fusion of world instrumentation with a familiar underlying rhythm Michael is known for. Michael adds contemporary instrumentation when needed as well as modern dance and voice to give his audience not only a sonic experience but a visual experience as well.

Michael is an accomplished studio and stage drummer as well as a flute player with a “traditional” or “old” style sound. His flute playing incorporates many techniques that are unique to the traditional Native style. Barks, chirps, trills and other techniques which often mimic sounds heard in nature are not uncommon and weave their way through the melodies. “I’ve always played the flute this way”, Michael states. “It’s as if it has been inside of me all my life. This is how I have always heard the flute in my mind. I have a vague memory of certain sounds from my childhood. One of those was the flute. I searched for many years to find the instrument that was the sound I heard in my memories. Then one day I happened to be doing a search on the Internet, of all places, and came across a sound clip. I knew instantly that this was the sound I was looking for and so began my journey to find this instrument. It was the Native American wood flute and I’ve been in love with this instrument ever since.”

With over 35 years of experience in music as a drummer and percussionist, Michael has developed his talents and perfected his gift for mastering intricate rhythms. Through private study, Michael increased his knowledge of the electric, acoustic and classical guitars, as well as music theory and ethnomusicology. With this knowledge, Michael incorporates as many different types of instruments into his recording compositions – especially Native cultural instruments. Michael began incorporating the Native American flute music in 1996. His original compositions can be heard in his CD’s, 2006 Just Plain Folks Award winning album of the year *Voice from Within* (2003) and the 2006 Native American Music Awards (NAMA) nominated *Unearthed* (2005). Fans can also enjoy Michael’s NAMA nominated concert DVD, *Michael Searching Bear Live in Concert* (2007) along with his latest NAMA winning CD for Best World Recording release, *Ceremony* (2009). Michael’s latest release is his world fusion journey, *The Mirror* (2010).

Of Cherokee and Powhatan descent, Michael considers himself to be a cultural traditionalist and desires to pass on the traditions of the Native American wood flute. Michael has followed his heart and now teaches about the ancient and contemporary methods of flute construction and uses of the flute in the Native ways of life. His informal classes and workshops are taught in a variety of settings and to literally all age groups; from toddler daycare centers and college level workshops; to a variety of churches, schools and community organizations. Dedicating his life to educating and teaching about his Native culture, he uses his expertise in the flute as a catalyst for this training.

Nearly a lost art, the Native American wood flute is experiencing resurgence in popularity. The haunting melodies and soothing tones have found a wide and accepting audience in today's hectic society. Michael has been appearing in concerts to selected audiences throughout the country and brings the music of the flute to the public.

Michael is currently available for performance booking engagements as well as workshops, lectures, concerts and other performances. For more information about Michael Searching Bear and arranging for booking engagements, call (330) 296-7413 or contact Michael by Email at michael@searchingbearflutes.com. Please also visit his website at www.searchingbearflutes.com or Michael's MySpace page at www.myspace.com/michaelsearchingbear and his YouTube site at www.youtube.com/michaelsearchingbear

Michael is a full time musician, performer and educator as well as a full time wood flute maker. He travels and educates on Native American culture and heritage through music across the country. He teaches and performs in various arenas, from historical societies, corporate business gatherings, Native arts organizations, festivals, theaters and colleges to day care facilities, K-12 schools and national events.

Michael is proud to be a member of the Eastern Cherokee tribe & of Powhatan descent....

Michael is the 2009 NAMA (Nammy) winner for Best World Recording for his Ceremony cd. Nominated for Song of the Year for Indian Reservation, 2009 NAMA (Nammy) Awards. Nominated for 2009 Just Plain Folks Music Awards Video of the Year, Live in Concert DVD. Nominated 2009 Just Plain Folks Music Award for Album of the Year, Un earthed and Just Plain Folks Music Award nominee for Song of the Year - Appalachian Sunrise. Nominated for 2008 NAMA (Nammy) Best Long Form Video of the Year. Michael is a Just Plain Folks Music Awards 2006 Album of the Year winner for his cd Voice From Within and a Song of the Year nominee for The Gathering. He was a 2006 Nammy Award nominee entree for six categories for his Un earthed cd. He has also had nominations for the Aboriginal People's Choice Awards in 3 categories for his Un earthed cd release....

Michael was nominated for 'Artist Of The Year' from the Yankee Peddler Foundation - 2005

Michael's cd's and dvd can be found at many local stores which carry Native and World genre music as well as Amazon.com, Borders.com, CDbaby.com, Super D cd distribution, searchingbearflutes.com and can be downloaded @ iTunes, Rhapsody, PayPlay.fm and MySpace and many more.



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Artist : Michael Searching Bear (Cherokee/Powhatan descent)

A cultural traditionalist dedicated to sharing the Native American culture as well as other World cultures through sound and visual means in order to preserve these arts through music and education.

Musical Style / Genre: Native American, World fusion music

Featured Instruments: Native American wood flutes, traditional ocarinas, hand, frame and other cultural drums, contemporary drum kit and percussion, various traditional and cultural world instruments, acoustic and electric guitar, other string instruments and keys

Awards/Nominations:

- 11th annual NAMA (Nammy) Award Winner for Best World Recording for Ceremony cd
- 11th annual NAMA nominee Song of the Year for Indian Reservation from Ceremony cd
- 2009 Album of the Year (Native American genre) nominee for Just Plain Folks Music Awards
- 2009 Song of the Year for Appalachian Sunrise from Un earthed cd JPFM Awards
- 10th annual Nama (Native American Music Awards) nominee for Best Long Form Video of Year, 2008 "Live in Concert" DVD
- 2008 Spirit Wind Records Silver Arrow Award for outstanding contribution to Native American music
- 2006 Just Plain Folks Music Awards winner for Album of the Year for "Voice From Within"
- Nominee, Aboriginal People Choice Awards, 2007
- Nominee, Native American Music Awards, 2006
- Nominee, Artist of the Year, Yankee Peddler Foundation, 2005

CD/DVD releases:

- CD release, "The Mirror", 2010
- CD release, "Ceremony", 2009
- DVD released, "Michael Searching Bear Live", 2007
- CD released, "Un earthed", 2005 (in 2nd printing)
- CD release, "Voice From Within", 2003 (in 2nd printing)
- CD release, "Silent Journey", 1999 (out of print)

Featured artist/guest television appearances:

- That's Life with Robin Swoboda on Cleveland Ohio's Fox 8, September 2007
- Cuyahoga Community College Crooked River Groove TV show, Feb 2007 available on DVD
- Cuyahoga Community College Words and Music talk show, Feb 2007 available on DVD
- Featured artist at the International Children's Games, Hungarian Delegation, 2004
- Co-Founder of Northeast Ohio Native American Flute Circle, 2000 - 2006
- Member International Native American Flute Association (INAFSA)

Recent stage appearances/performances/radio spots:

- Akron Civic Theater (Akron, Ohio) March 2010
- The Kent Stage (Kent, Ohio) October 2006 and June 2006 and 2009
- Musical Echoes Festival (Fort Walton Beach, Florida) yearly 2004 to 2010
- Radio Live Extra performance, WUWF (Pensacola, Florida) April 2008
- Yankee Peddler Festival, yearly 2003 to 2010
- John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio Sept 2009
- Massillon Museum, Massillon, Ohio March 2009
- Cleveland Music Settlement, June 2008
- Alliance Rotham Library, Alliance, Ohio April 2009
- Reed Memorial Library, Ravenna, Ohio, 2006 and 2007
- Great Lakes Science Center Planetarium (Cleveland, Ohio), 2005
- International Children's Games 2004, Cleveland, Ohio
- Pocahontas On Trial (Cleveland, Ohio), November 2002
- Kulture Kids, educating children about Native American music and culture
- Interviewed and featured on Cleveland, Ohio's PBS Channel 25, 45/49 in 2003
- Radio interviews and music featured on WKSU, NPR 89.9FM (Kent, Ohio); WAPS Radio 91.3 The Summit (Akron, Ohio) Red Hearts Radio and Anything Goes programs; CFRO Radio 102.7 FM (Vancouver's independent radio station) Ancient Mirrors and When the Spirit Whispers; Radio Vladivostok (Russian Far East) 1098 KHZ, Voices of the Planet: Native Wisdom and New Era

Recent articles and publications:

- Article in the Examiner.com, Cleveland issue, February 2010
- Exclusive interview in Native Digest, November 2009
- Article in Canton Repository on Yankee Peddler performance, Sunday, September 13, 2009
- Several articles in Ft. Walton Beach and Pensacola newspapers on performance at Musical Echoes Festival, 2008-2009
- Feature article in Good Living section of the Canton Repository, Thursday, September 14, 2006.
- Feature article in Entertainment section of Kent-Ravenna Record Courier, Thursday, June 15, 2006.
- Feature article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer (2003)
- Article in Lifetimes section of the Kent/Ravenna Record-Courier, Monday, November 5, 2007.
- Other articles in the Canton Repository (September 2004, 2006)
- Record Courier (2003).
- Cited in the publication, Flute Magic: An Introduction to the Native American Flute by Tim "Windwalker" Crawford, 3rd edition, appendix I;
- Cited in the following publications World Music, A Global Journey, Ethnomusicology by Miller and Shahriari, 2006

- On going articles in Great Trail Festival paper and informational. 2003-2009
- Several articles in Voice of the Wind – The Official Publication of the International Native American Association and World Flute Association.

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For additional information, please visit his websites at www.searchingbearflutes.com or
www.myspace.com/michaelsearchingbear and www.youtube.com/michaelsearchingbear



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Testimonials from CD listeners:

Promontory from Ceremony CD: It was a strongly evocative piece with a satisfying and original combination of Native American and Irish flavors. The blend of those flavors was well balanced, with the underlying percussion groove and flute sound leaning more towards the Native American and the flute playing and scale used sounding more Irish. The flute work was the most distinctive aspect of the arrangement. The piece had a nice dynamic build to it, subtly adding layers at a time and ramping up the intensity. Great job on this, Michael!!

Craig Streaman, Manager, A&R, TAXI

Just wanted to tell you that I thoroughly enjoyed your show on Friday night at Kent Stage. I have been to many concerts in all parts of the world, but that one was probably the most inspiring, well done, sincerely, it was a fantastic show.

Terence Richardson

Michael Searching Bear has brought forth his best work to date! His artistic talent, ingenuity and passion for detail speaks for itself in his new work titled "Ceremony". Michael has always had a gift for bridging cultures together to unite in harmony the common whole; the human race. Today the real purity lies in your heart, intention and actions. It is for this that Michael's compassion exemplifies the true noble character of the "Good Red Road". Thank you Michael for such extraordinary work... Review for Ceremony CD

Eric Wolf-Windseeker - Native Voice

Acoustic guitar, bull roarer, didgeridoo...PLUS Michael Searching Bear on the Native American Flute??!!!! Heck, I would have just taken Michael on the flute and Windwalker on the vocals and gladly forked over the dough...but Michael throws in those other wonderful (and amazingly complementary) instruments as well, done with grace and aplomb, and you've got a one-of-a-kind blend of contemporary and traditional sounds. Didn't think he could outdo "Voice From Within"...I was wrong!!

Tom Kerr - Executive Director, Kulture Kids.

Greetings! I just had to write: wow! Cd arrived, & I finally got a chance to listen, I sat down, & worked on a gourd rattle. What gems you & yours are! Let me tell you, I have quite a collection of flute music by R. Carlos, & Spotted Eagle, etc. & I have just found my new favorite art music (I call it that because in order to keep my heart open while I work, I listen to music that brings light to me). ...Thank you! Again, awesome cd! Thanks for the gift! Sincerely, Cynthia - Proprietor, Picture Rocks Art

I wanted to write you again and congratulate you on a fabulous job with "Unearthed". When I first heard it, I was very glad to hear how well you fused together two cultures without taking away the integrity of either one. It was a perfect balance - two ages apart by hundreds of years, yet brought together in perfect harmony. That's the beauty of music, it has no date. The Vision and Mother Bear stand out, as I believe, the awesome potential of your music talent coupled with your deep interconnection with our native culture. As I heard The Vision, the haunting voices along with the rising musical panorama left me in shock and awe. I could not help to envision a story of struggle, change and growth. To which I later realized that the story behind this song was very much as I envisioned it. Mother Bear then stepped in to top-off the climax of the story - an amazing work. Your tireless dedication to our culture along with your musical talent is going to be well remembered long after this production. As stated earlier - it's timeless. Well done my friend... Sincerely, Eric Wolf Windseeker

Un Earthed is superb, it touched my heart! Listening to Un Earthed took me on a wonderful heartfelt journey. The blend of Native American Flute with Contemporary instruments is awesome. Apalachian Sunrise is so soothing to my soul, and The Vision is that wonderful blend of cultures, fantastic. Many thanks to you, Michael, for this awesome CD. Mary Jo Green

Hello from the far East..

I received the CD Friday and I spent the weekend listening to it. In comparison to the CD's I own from AH-Nee-Mah, Douglas Spotted Eagle, Douglas Blue Feather etc... , yours is by far the most native of all. You went back to the original native style using the drum beats, shakers and other native instruments -- beautiful. The others I own mix contemporary New Age backgrounds which give it a relaxing touch, but yours concentrates on the flute itself. No studio tricks to drown it among keyboards, and no excessive reverb or delay. Fantastic work! I also noticed you toyed around with half holes as well as the big drone flutes, which gave it a unique character. The native language did great as well. Thank you! Eric "Boone" Rodriguez

Thank you for the wonderful CD. The music is absolutely beautiful. We had it on playing in the background all weekend. Very soothing yet VERY interesting melodies and subtle rhythms. Gorgeous. Love the recording quality. Very well done. The flutes sound stunning. Very haunting and warm. Kenneth Leonard - recording producer/engineer for Lou Reda Corp.(History Channel / Dancetime USA)

I loved your CD. I've played it five times already (no joke) and the truth is I liked it when I first heard it, but I like it better and better with each listening. Terrific, beautiful work. What I like best is that it seems like you're right there in the room playing. And it's not "over-produced" with a lot of extra studio crap that might sound impressive but actually take away from the instrument. The simplicity and purity of the flutes come through as clear as the water of the mountain rivers I can see in my mind as you play. OK, that may sound corny, but that IS how it felt for me. Congrats many times over on a wonderful accomplishment. I'm telling EVERYONE about it!---. Tom Kerr, Executive Director, Kulture Kids.

Michael - I don't pass out compliments readily, but your CD is one of the best I've ever heard. Great heart! Blessings! Jim Curley - Mountain Music Shoppe - Mountain Music Shoppe web site

Michael, Your CDs are fantastic! After I listened to Voice from Within last night, I sat there --- quietly stunned. I wasn't sure what had just happened, but I knew something did. Then I realized that I felt more grounded into my "Native-ness" - except I don't have any. Yet it was a pretty wonderful feeling! The second CD was more like a journey somehow.....esp. Silent Journey and Canyon's Edge. I really liked the feelings I had, although I can't exactly describe them to you just yet. I experienced a lot for a first-time run-through! Some songs I totally understood or identified with, and others, like Mother Bear Song, I couldn't get a handle on. I'll just keep becoming more familiar with your music and see what happens! So, I'll just continue to listen and learn on my own for now. I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Windwalker's voice. It's beautiful, strong and clear. Very soothing, too. "Thank you, Windwalker." Joen Bozarth