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"Windtalker Experience"
Concert Dates

Friday, March 30th

Brooke Grove Retirement
Village – Bldg. #1612
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Wednesday, April 18th

Holiday Park Senior Center
3950 Ferrara Drive
Wheaton, MD 20906
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
(Open to the Public –
Seniors Only)

Thursday, April 26th

Asbury Methodist Village –
Parker Hall
7:30 pm to 8:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Monday, May 7th

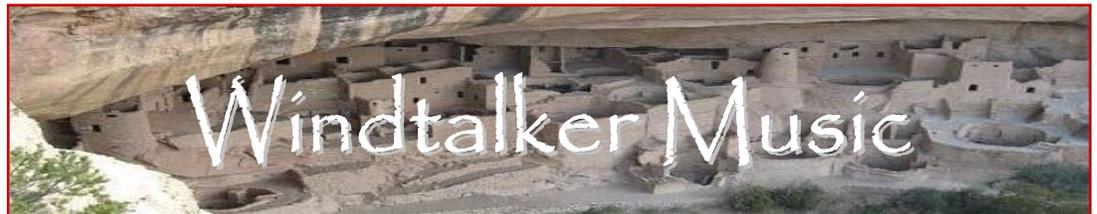
Germantown Recreation
Center
18905 Kingsview Drive
Germantown, MD 20874
11:00 am to 12:00 pm
(Open to the Public)

Wed., May 9th

Winter Growth Adult Day
Care
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Monday, May 21st

Asbury Methodist Village –
Kindley Hall
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)



A Busy Year, So Far!

It has been a busy 2018, so far, with a total of thirteen shows completed heading into April. Most of the shows have been at venues where I have been performing for many years, but there was one new location that was extremely exciting. On February 21st, I performed for the first time in the Red Room at the Westbrook Clubhouse at Brooke Grove Retirement Village. This facility is for Brooke Grove's independent living residents, and took place only hours after I completed a performance at Brooke Grove's rehab facility. It was a very full and very exciting day. What was nice about this group, is that many of them shared my interest in Native American history and culture and one gentleman, knowing that I was coming to play flute, brought an Irish flute that he owned to show me. It was also a banner day for CD sales. One of the only drawbacks to regularly playing at the same venues, is that by the second or third show, everyone who wanted a CD had already purchased one. So, playing at this new location, for people who had never heard me before, many purchased CDs so they could take home the music they had just heard live.



Sweetgrass Flute Festival Update

Over the last several weeks, I completed the contract to perform at the Sweetgrass Flute and Nature Festival in Hiawatha, Iowa in September. Playing at my first flute festival is now a reality! It looks like I will also be presenting a workshop on live performance during the festival, as well as giving two 35 minute to 45 minute performances over the two days of the festival. I sent off my bio and a promotional photo, which should appear on the festival website very soon. <http://www.sweetgrassfest.com>. If you have never been to Iowa, this might be a great time for a visit so you can attend the festival.

"The Ballad of Grey Wolf" Evolves Further

I recently received a new version of the "Ballad of Grey Wolf," on which I recorded Native American flute several months ago. As is the case with many songs, sometimes aspects of the song evolve into something other than what the songwriter originally intended. This version featured a male vocalist with a low and very distinctive voice. It was quite different from the last version which was sung by a female singer. David Jacobsen, the composer of the song, asked me for my opinion on this new vocal and I let him know that I really liked it. The rich and gravelly quality of the singer's voice, whose name was not revealed to me, blended well with both the instrumentation and feel of the song. It remains to be seen if this is the vocal that David will go with.

Monacan Tribe Finally Receives Federal Recognition

As is the case with many American Indian tribes, the rich history of the Monacan people has been overlooked, largely written out of history books. Most people know only the English colonist version of American Indian history, starting with Jamestown in 1607 and ending in the 1700s. Virginia Indians faded from the Virginia history books around 1700, once they were no longer a threat.

Originally, the Monacan tribe's territory covered more than half of the state of Virginia, including most of the Piedmont region and part of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Monacan people have lived on the land at and around Bear Mountain for more than 10,000 years, making them one of the oldest group of indigenous people still living on their ancestral homeland.

The Monacan people gradually moved west throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, away from advancing settlers and the diseases brought by them that were decimating other tribes. Some moved into Pennsylvania and Canada and were adopted by other tribes, while others stayed in Virginia, in present-day Amherst County, where, in the early 19th century, the modern Monacan Nation grew from the Oronoco settlement on Johns Creek.

Then, in the 20th century, a paper genocide that sought to systematically erase the identity of the Virginia Indian people caused so much damage its effects are still felt today. In 1924, the Governor of Virginia, E. Lee Trickle signed into law, the Racial Integrity Act, which required Virginians to fill out a certificate of racial composition to be submitted and approved by the Bureau of Vital Statistics. Anyone who wanted to marry in Virginia had to have that certificate. The act further banned interracial marriage in Virginia. Walter Ashby Plecker, registrar of Virginia's Bureau of Vital Statistics from 1912 to 1946, was a white supremacist and eugenics advocate, who believed that there were only two races: "white" and "colored," and that one drop of "colored" blood, which in reality was most everyone, classified a person as "colored." The Racial Integrity Act was promoted by Plecker but was vigorously opposed by Indians who understood its implications. Legally speaking, Virginia Indians had ceased to exist. Plecker retired in 1946, but his policies persisted and the Racial Integrity Act remained law in Virginia until 1967, when the Supreme Court ruled in the Loving v. Virginia case that barring interracial marriage was unconstitutional.

In the 1980s, the state of Virginia began granting recognition to Virginia Indian tribes. The Monacan Indian Nation received state recognition in February 1989, but it would take more than that to legally reclaim their identity. Their birth certificates had to be adjusted, "colored" replaced with "Indian." Governor George Allen simplified that process in 1997, just 21 years ago.

Usually, tribes go through the process of federal recognition via the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which requires extensive documentation. This was not an option for the Monacan. The Monacan Indian Nation has a set of genealogical documents it uses to determine membership, but that wasn't enough for the BIA. The process was difficult because the Racial Integrity Act legally changed their Indian identity, because their people were not well-documented by colonists, and because many of the courthouses and churches that held official records burned to the ground in the Civil War.

Requesting recognition from Congress was, really, the only option. And so, at the urging of Thomasina E. Jordan, the American Indian activist and first American Indian member of the U.S. Electoral College, former Virginia representative Jim Moran introduced the bill in 2000.

More than twice, the bill passed the House and stalled in the Senate, when opponents of the bill rejected the idea that Congress should recognize the tribes when the BIA had already established an official federal recognition process. But on January 11, 2017, Virginia Senators Mark R. Warner and Tim Kaine forced a surprise vote on the bill by unanimous consent, with no guarantee it would pass. However, no senator objected and the bill passed. The Monacan people had finally received the federal recognition they rightfully deserved.

Performance Schedule (continued)

Wed., May 23rd

Brooke Grove Retirement
Village – Bldg. #1635
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Wed., June 6th

Marian Assisted Living
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Wed., June 13th

Brooke Grove Retirement
Village – Rehab Bldg.
10:45 am to 11:45 am
(Private Performance)

Monday, June 18th

Brightview/Fallsgrove
Senior Living
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Thursday, June 21st

Churchill Senior Living
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Friday, June 29th

The Village at Rockville
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Wed., August 8th

Winter Growth Adult Day
Care
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Monday, August 20th

Germantown Recreation
Center
18905 Kingsview Drive
Germantown, MD 20874
11:00 am to 12:00 pm
(Open to the Public)

Wed., August 22nd

Marian Assisted Living
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Friday, August 31st

Brooke Grove Retirement
Village – Bldg. #1612
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Monday, September 17th

Asbury Methodist Village –
Kindly Hall
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)