

News
&
Performance
Schedule
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An Amazing House Concert!

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**The Seminole Indians
of Florida**

"Windtalker Experience"
Concert Dates

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)

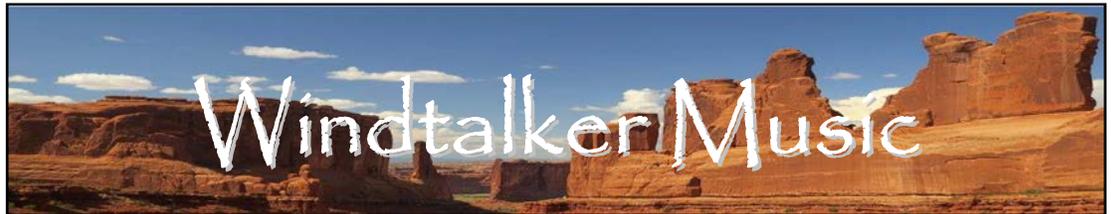
Monday, May 21st
Asbury Methodist Village –
Kindley Hall
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Wed., May 23rd
Brooke Grove Retirement
Village – Bldg. #1635
2:30 pm to 3:30 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)



An Amazing House Concert!

It has been quite some time since I performed my last "house concert," so my performance at the home of Donna Marino in Gaithersburg, Maryland on April 14th was a real treat. Donna heard me play some time ago at a performance I gave at the Brooke Grove Retirement Village, and gave me a call in late March. The evening began with a wonderful potluck dinner, complete with homemade soups, breads, fruit, wine, and many other culinary delights provided by the 30+ friends, neighbors, and members of a group she belongs to who regularly go dancing together.

The audience was captivated by my wife, Georgia's, breathtaking photos from our trips to the Southwest, and for many who had visited some of the places shown on the screen, it brought back fond memories. For those who had never been to places like the Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Monument Valley, and Sedona, it was an opportunity to bath themselves in the visual wonders of these locations. Add to that the haunting sounds of Native American flute music and stories about the history and cultures of the First Peoples, and the result was a most memorable journey of sight and sound.

There is just something special about performing in such an intimate environment, where I don't have to compete with the sounds of latte machines or coffee bean grinders in the background and where the audience can feel like they are participating in a moment made especially for them. And, unlike when I perform at assisted living facilities where the relaxing tones of my flutes lull the audience into a calmative state, no one at this concert fell asleep.

There were numerous questions about how I got started playing the Native American flute, how the flutes are made and, as always, whether or not I am Native American. I enjoy this aspect of my concerts as much as performing because people are always appreciative of the information I share and when they get a chance to view the cut-away version of a flute that is passed around and see how it is made, they are utterly amazed.

The highlight of the performance was the "play-along" song that I do at all of my concerts. Georgia handed out percussion instruments to the audience and they played along with a pre-recorded drum beat while I improvised a melody. The room was filled with the sounds of drums, shakers, rattles, and flute and it everyone had a grand time.

If you would like to schedule a house concert for your family and friends, please contact me at windtalkermusic@gmail.com.



Photos Courtesy of Georgia L. Harris

The Seminole Indians of Florida

Performance Schedule (continued)

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

Thursday, Sept. 20th

Country Meadows of
Frederick
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
(Private Performance)

Fri. through Sun. September 28th to 30th

Sweetgrass Flute and
Nature Festival
Hiawatha, Iowa
(2 performances)
(Open to the Public)

Wed. October 10th

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

Tuesday, October 16th

Riderwood – Arbor Ridge
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
(Private Performance)

Thursday, October 18th

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

Georgia and I recently returned from a trip to Florida to visit friends, family, and to meet our new two-month-old grandson, Tommy. While there, we also spent time traveling through the Big Cypress National Preserve, where Georgia was able to photograph an amazing variety of birds and more alligators than we could have imagined. We also visited the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Indian Reservation where we learned about the Seminole Tribe who call that land home.

(The following was reprinted from the Seminole Tribe of Florida website and edited for length.)

The Seminole people are descendants of the Creek people in Georgia. During the late 1700's, being cattlemen, the vast herds of the growing Seminole Nation drew the attention of their white neighbors to the north. Conflicts in Georgia spilled into Florida due to an increased desire for land and cattle by white settlers.

Through the late 1700's and early 1800's, the Seminole population in Florida remained small, around 1200, compared to the main body of Creeks in Georgia and Alabama, who numbered possibly 25,000 people. Then came the War of 1812 (1812-1815); the Creek War (1813-1814); the Creek Civil War (1813); the First Seminole War (1818-1819); the Second Seminole War (1835-1842); the Scare of 1849-50 (1849-1840); and the Third Seminole War (1855-1858).

By 1823 the native population, which had grown to about five thousand, was subjected to the fiercest of all the wars ever waged by the U.S. Government against native peoples, known as the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842. By the end of the war there were reportedly only three-hundred Seminoles left in the territory. The Third Seminole War removed another 240 or so Seminoles.

For the next sixty years, the small Seminole population lived on the fringes of society, making a living as hunters, guides, and sometimes as curiosities for tourists.

In 1907, the Department of the Interior set aside 540 acres of land near Dania, Florida for Seminole use. In 1911, President Taft also set aside lands in Martin, Broward and Hendry Counties as reservations but the Florida State Governor, William Jennings, vetoed the bill. He believed that the Seminoles had signed a treaty to move to Oklahoma, had no rights as citizens of Florida, and that the rights of 800,000 non-tribal members outweighed those of the 400 Seminoles that lived in the State.

By 1913 there were 18 Indian reservations in Florida, ranging in size from 40 acres to 16,000 acres. The Seminoles vigorously resisted life on reservations. The attitude of Tribal people about land ownership was reflected in their hatred of surveyors. The Third Seminole War was precipitated by a survey party that was attacked while surveying what is today's Big Cypress Seminole Reservation and as late as 1908 a surveyor was shot by a Seminole while surveying for a drainage canal that was crossing Seminole lands.

In 1953, the United States Congress passed legislation to terminate federal tribal programs. While the State of Florida supported this legislation, Seminole tribal members and their supporters successfully argued against termination. By 1957, Seminole leaders had drafted a constitution and attained self-government through the formation of a governing body, the Tribal Council. At the same time, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. was created to oversee the business matters of the Tribe.

Today the Seminole casinos support a growing infrastructure for the Seminole community's health and welfare, public safety, education and other services. The economic stability provided by gaming, combined with the cattle, citrus, and other business enterprises, have made the Seminole Tribe of Florida one of the most successful native business peoples in the United States today. They employ more than 7,000 employees in their casinos, hotels and other enterprises and purchase more than \$130.3 million in goods and services yearly.