

Saint Mark's

2020-21

MUSIC

SERIES

presents

Native American Flute Songs

Gary Stroutsos, World Flute Artist

Friday, November 20, 2020, 7:30 P.M.

Livestreamed from Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle

Program note from the artist

I will be sharing old and new music tonight. Old songs were graciously shared with me over many years from ongoing support from my Native American collaborators. New songs are inspired by my time on the land with the people.

The selections performed are from my catalog of recordings. Music performed tonight recognizes Native American Heritage month this November.

Half of my performance fee from this concert is going to the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office.

Please email me directly at gstroutsos@comcast.net if you want to donate to the Hopi Cultural Preservation office. We'll keep the music going in a good way.

Performance flutes tonight were made by Dakota artist Bryan Akipa, other flutes made by Colyn Peterson and Michael Allen.

Special thank you to Saint Mark's staff for hosting me.

– Gary Stroutsos

**“WHAT IS LIFE? IT IS THE FLASH OF A FIREFLY IN THE NIGHT. IT IS THE BREATH OF A BUFFALO
IN THE WINTERTIME. IT IS THE LITTLE SHADOW WHICH RUNS ACROSS THE GRASS AND LOSES
ITSELF IN THE SUNSET.**

CROWFOOT BLACKFEET TRIBE, 1890

REMEMBERING THE SONGS

Program order

OPENING INVOCATION: ZUNI SUNRISE

Traditional Zuni

Zuni Pueblo morning prayer song. The first to arise goes out to the east to sing this song to welcome the day at Zuni

TUZIGOOT

Original Gary Stroutsos
For Blythe Koyiyumptewa

SONG FOR OSHANEE

Original Gary Stroutsos
For Agnes (Oshanee) Kenmille Montana Salish,
for her 80th birthday 1997

CHERISHED GRANDMOTHER

Dakota Honor Song
For Bryan Akipa

BLUE WORLD

Original Gary Stroutsos
For the Hopi children

ZINTKALA NUNI: THE LOST BIRD OF WOUNDED KNEE

Original Gary Stroutsos

"Lost Bird can you hear me ~ The wind still cries Lost Bird"

RAIN OF LIFE

Clark Tenakhongva,
Hopi traditional composer & singer
rearranged by Gary Stroutsos

FIRST FLUTE SONG

Lakota traditional

The first song I heard and learned in 1997 for Kevin Locke

ALONG THE RIVER

For Keith Bear

Mandan traditional turtle medicine song, sung feeding the turtles medicine before the ice comes and when the ice melts on the Upper Missouri River

MANDAN HEARTBREAK SONG

Mandan 300 year old traditional song
For Mandan elder Buffalo Bird Woman (Grace Henry)

"No one cares for our corn songs anymore"... "my Indian way of life is gone forever"... "it's just an old woman's dream"

CLOSING INVOCATION: FOURTH WORLD

Original Gary Stroutsos
for the Hopi Nation



About the Artist

In the tradition of one of his mentors, jazz flutist Paul Horn, who in the 1960s journeyed inside the Taj Majal and the pyramids to make music with these pillars of time, **Gary Stroutsos** creates odysseys of sound with the world of nature.

Gary Stroutsos performs world flute music drawn from many traditional cultures. Evoking a spirit of place and the voices of the land, his work includes internationally-acclaimed recordings at sacred sites, using the unique acoustics and history of each great space as the starting point for musical exploration: A shared moment in a timeless place, where flute melodies, ancestral and modern, play off one another and songs come alive, buoying and breathing through the generations.

Originally trained as a Jazz flutist (studying with Jazz master flutist and composer James Newton, and Afro-Cuban flute master Danilo Lozano), Stroutsos's work now features American Indian music, as well as Chinese, Cuban and American Jazz stylings - all styles and traditions reflecting his diverse musical influences. His audiences have the rare opportunity to hear ancient Chinese Bamboo flutes, the Xiao and Dizi, seldom heard outside the walls of China, and has created an interest in these flutes among both modern flute players and flute makers.

However, Gary Stroutsos has become perhaps best known for his haunting work on the Native American Flute, and is acknowledged to have made a significant contribution to the preservation of American Indian music and culture. Himself a Greek-Italian-American, Stroutsos has had the rare opportunity to journey into the indigenous cultures and communities of North America, where he learned how to play the Native American Flute. During this time, Lakota, Mandan-Hidatsa, Navajo and Salish Kootenai Elders asked him to set their songs to his flute, which has undoubtedly been invaluable in the development of insight and the character of authenticity that his recordings embody.

Stroutsos has worked and recorded with many American Indian artists, including collaborating with Navajo flute maker Paul Thompson, a work which expresses the enduring legacy of the American Indian flute and its recent reintroduction into today's society.

Stroutsos has brought his music and his stories to audiences throughout North America, as well as in Japan and Korea. He can be heard on the soundtrack of Ken Burns' PBS documentary, *Lewis and Clark: Journey of the Corps of Discovery*, which led to a command performance at the White House for President Bill Clinton. He is also showcased on Jan Nickman's *Living Temples*, an intimate study of man's relationship to nature. Gary has been featured on NPR broadcasts, *New York Evening at the Pops*, and the syndicated radio program *Echoes*. His CDs *Distant Shores*, *Winds of Honor*, *The Native Heart*, and *Echoes of Canyon de Chelley*, with Navajo Elder Paul Thompson, have received national acclaim as benchmark recordings of Native American flute music. Stroutsos has also released a number of recordings aimed at the preservation of Native story, music and culture: *People of the Willows*, *The Elder Speaks*, and *Heart of the Bitterroot: Voices of Salish & Pend d'Oreille Women*, which all exemplify his understanding of not only the cultural context, but of the muse and spirit of the people's voices he complements.

In Stroutsos's latest project, he is featured in a documentary portraying the lives of American Indian Flute masters largely unknown to American or International audiences outside Native American circles. Through interviews, performance and narration, viewers are offered a rare glimpse into the heart of American Indian culture, past and present. In a recent interview about his work, Stroutsos comments: "I have had a unique career of recording flute music inspired by travels and really awesome masters. My passion is to share with listeners the cultural legacies that my teachers have shared with me, particularly my journey with my friend and mentor, Navajo flute maker Paul Thompson. We brought to life traditional love songs learned from American Indians, and recorded these flute songs live inside Canyon de Chelley, the spiritual ancestral lands of the Navajo. I continue to discover more of the wealth of flute traditions, these time-honored traditions which span many generations. This history is the real mystery of the flute, both haunting and enduring. Bringing music to life for new listeners

is part of my vision of my own work, because music touches the soul, making it our true universal means of communication.”

Stroutsos is a master of playing music from the heart: “As improvisers, we challenge ourselves to explore new sounds to imagine, new feelings to embrace.” In over thirty recordings, including a number of recordings made on location from the plains of the Dakotas, to the canyon lands of the Southwest, to the shores of the Pacific Coast, Stroutsos has created a body of work which expresses a passion for sound traveling: Music without borders.

Bio Courtesy of White Swan Records

About Saint Mark’s Music Series

Music is an integral part of the life of the Cathedral. As a ministry of Saint Mark’s Cathedral, the mission of The Saint Mark’s Music Series is to offer its musical riches to the wider community so that all can experience the unique acoustical environment, superb pipe organs, and talented musicians dedicated to making music in a sacred space.

Saint Mark’s Land Acknowledgement Statement

Saint Mark’s Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Coast Salish people, specifically the Duwamish people, a people who are still here among us. We honor, with gratitude, their sacred ground, their presence, and their struggle, and we seek right relationship with them. Recognizing the enormity of the climate crisis, we further commit to follow the lead of the Duwamish and other indigenous people and treat the earth as sacred.

Donate to the Music Series

Saint Mark’s Cathedral has a tradition of offering concerts to uplift and inspire going back many decades. This season, for the first time, all the offerings on the Music Series are being offered free of charge to viewers around the world via livestream.

If you have enjoyed this evening’s recital, a donation in any amount to help offset the loss of ticket sales income will be gratefully received. You may send one-time donations to:

By check:

*The Saint Mark’s Music Series
Saint Mark’s Cathedral
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The Friends of the Music Series program supports the continuing growth of our concert series. Friends of the Music Series contribute annually, are recognized in concert programs, and may receive additional benefits.

Please consider joining the Friends of the Music Series by making a donation in the amount that suits you.

Donate online at saintmarks.org/give (choose "Friend of the Music Series" from the list of options), or add "FOMS" to the comments in the Venmo app or the memo line of your check.

Write to Canon Kleinschmidt (mkleinschmidt@saintmarks.org) or Music Series Manager Madeleine Stephens (mstephens@saintmarks.org) for more information about joining the Friends of the Music Series.

Friends of the Music Series Donors

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