# Calvin Standing Bear (Mato Najin)

"Music For The Spirit"



Canyon Records Recording Artist

(303) 915 - 3675

www.calvinstandingbear.org calvin@calvinstandingbear.org

> Standing Bear Productions, LLC P.O. Box 21803 Denver, CO 80221



# Calvin Standing Bear (Mato Najin)

Calvin Standing Bear is a full Oglala/Sicangu Lakota from the Rosebud reservation of South Dakota. He is a talented flutist and singer of traditional Lakota music and composer of contemporary Lakota Flute songs, which are richly grounded in "Spirituality."

His many talents include mastery of the acoustic guitar. He is a member of the Sonoran Spirit Flute Circle. Calvin's life journey consists of traveling to participate in the many Lakota healing circles. He has danced traditional Men Northern style at Pow Wows and sings at local Native American Indian events.

Calvin conducts lectures on Native American Culture and Lakota Traditions, incorporating old and new flute music for school children at local colleges. For example, he recently collaborated on the flute presentation workshop for children entitled "Lakota Star Knowledge." Calvin provided the music narration, "The Stars, the Black Hills and the Buffalo," where he described concepts of Lakota star mapping and story telling along with the songs accompanying the Lakota stellar presentation. Calvin is also in the book "Kids explore the Heritage of Western Native Americans." In this book, Calvin and his family help children explore the Sioux Heritage, including making traditional Lakota foods, bead work, jewelry and telling of Sioux legends.

Calvin attended **the "1997 North American Indigenous Games,"** held in Victoria, B.C. where he offered support to the Colorado Ute Indians for their sports. While there, he performed at the cultural village and main stage. He holds great pride in serving as an ambassador to promote spirituality and understanding of the Lakota People through music.

Calvin has had the pleasure of performing internationally, introducing his music to audiences in Canada and Japan. As an accomplished musical performer, Calvin has conducted concerts for the Colorado Symphony Orchestra where contemporary and traditional Lakota flute music were blended with the orchestra. He has participated in the musical production of "Granny Dances to a Holiday Drum" with "The Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theater" as a flutist of spiritual traditional songs. The music of "Red Tail Chasing Hawks" can be heard while walking through grand concourse A or the Denver International Airport. Continuous invitations have been extended from the City of Denver and the Colorado Performing Arts Council.

Calvin has produced two national CD recordings, two with James Torres (Chiricahua/Mexican American) as the duo "Retail Chasing Hawks" through Canyon Records. The CDs are titled "Eagle Dances with the Wind" and "Brother Hawk." Two additional CDs "Voices Across the Canyon" Vol. 1 and Vol. 3 also released as his first sole production. His third CD titled "Wakan Olowan" was recorded in Denver, Colorado. His fourth CD, "Fly Eagle Fly" is a solo production in collaboration with CheChe Giannotti (Italian/French Canadian) from Barcelona, Spain. "Fly Eagle Fly" includes contemporary songs, various sounds, guitar and with traditional flute, drum and rattle. Calvin recently took part in the Smithsonian's national Museum of the American Indian Living Voices CD.

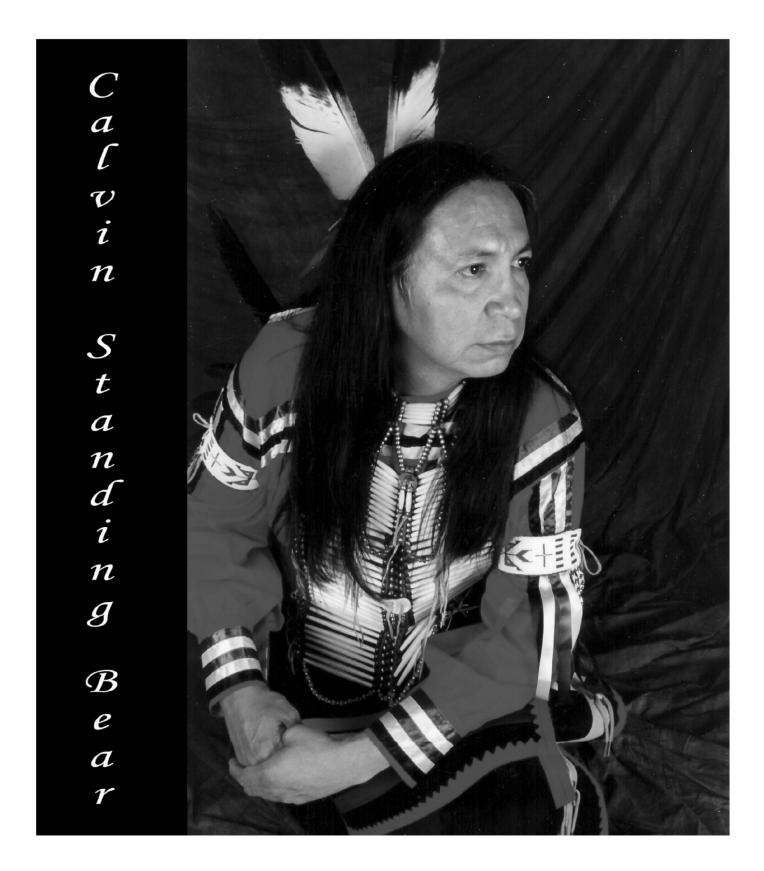
I thank Great Spirit Tunkashila, Wakan Tanka for the flute. It can touch the heart where voices cannot reach. I am honored to share this music with the world. The flute has been a tradition of our people for hundreds of years. I pray this music will provide a healing energy to the hearts and spirits.

We are all related! Mitakuye Oyasin (All my relations)



For more information on CDs, Performances, Lectures or Workshops, please contact Calvin at (303) 915-3675

www.calvinstandingbear.org calvin@calvinstandingbear.org Canyon Records Recording Artist (602) 279-5941



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December 14, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of Native-American flute player and composer Mr. Calvin Standing Bear. This season Mr. Standing Bear is performing with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra for our Made in America Youth Concert program (Adam Flatt, CSO Associate Conductor, conducting). He is performing three original works: Windcatcher, Quiet One and Buffalo's Heart. These beautiful works have been orchestrated by CSO cellist/composer David Mullikin. The response from the students and teachers attending the youth concerts has been a combination of enthusiasm to see a Native-American performing with the orchestra and inspired respect for the beauty of the works and his exceptional performance. Many teachers have included a special note about this portion of the program with their evaluations.

Working with young people is an important part of Mr. Standing Bear's commitment to community and to sharing his knowledge about Native-American flutes' history and performance practices in the school setting. He is not only a tremendous performer but a patient teacher.

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Mr. Calvin Standing Bear and hope that you will seriously consider supporting his work. Should you require further information, do not hesitate to contact me at the number or email address listed below.

Sincerely,

Nora Robinson **Education Director** 303.292-5566, Ext. 251

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nrobinson@coloradosymphony.org

\*CSO Musician Trustee

\*Catherine Peterson Norma Pile W. Gerald Rainer, MD Suzann R. Readey Richard C. Saunders Donald Sicard \*Matthew Switzer lack R. Thompson Fred A. Vierra \*David Waldman Joan H. Walker

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coloradosympho

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#### University of Colorado at Boulder

#### College of Music

18th & Euclid 301 UCB Boulder, Colorado 80309-0301 303-492-6352 Fax: 303-492-5619 www.colorado.edu/music

April 18, 2005

#### To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Calvin Standing Bear since 1992, and have followed his artistic career as a Native Flute specialist closely, inviting him to my classes as often as possible. Students have heard him talk about the spiritual nature of music and existence in Lakota thought, and they have experienced first hand the great power of his music. In particular, when Calvin shares with us his relationship to music and to his spirit teachers in the contexts of prayer in the *inipi* sweat lodge ceremonies, no one fails to be deeply moved. In one hour Mr. Standing Bear relates in his simple yet profound stories and personal narratives, the lessons I have tried to impart to my students about the essential spirituality of Native existence, and how that spirituality continues to function to heal the human spirit in today's troubled world. He follows in the footsteps of his grandfathers, the renowned leaders Silas and Luther Standing Bear, using music as the medium for disseminating Native philosophy.

I am particularly pleased to know that Mr. Standing Bear is being recognized by larger and larger audiences, and that the Colorado Symphony Orchestra has featured him in various youth concerts since 1997. His calm and gentle nature imbues his music; his music soothes the spirit.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to support Mr. Standing Bear in his endeavors. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Brenda M. Romero, Ph.D.

Chair of Musicology

Associate Professor/Coordinator of Ethnomusicology

M. Tomero, Ph.D.

Phone: 303-492-7421

Email: Romerob@spot.colorado.edu

Edwin A. Bemis Public Library 6014 South Datura Street Littleton, Colorado 80120 303-795-3961 FAX 795-3996

January 11, 2006

To Whom it May Concern:

I coordinate programs for the Edwin A. Bemis Public Library in Littleton, Colorado and would like to recommend Calvin Standing Bear as an outstanding performer who attracted a large and enthusiastic audience at our library. Calvin sang and played the flute for a celebration of Native American Heritage Month. He also spoke about Native American traditions and folk stories. He is skilled at sharing his culture through the art of music and storytelling. The audience included people of all ages and everyone enjoyed the program. We received many positive comments following the performance and a number of people purchased Calvin's CD. His original song, Fly Eagle Fly, which he performed at the library, was very moving and is one that I will never forget.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Larison

Head of Adult Services

Edwin A. Bemis Public Library



January 12, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Calvin Standing Bear played his Native flute for the patients of Joe Arrington Cancer Center in December 2006. Every comment I heard was favorable and many said the music touched a deep part of their heart. In addition, on the day Calvin was playing, we had a group of 4<sup>th</sup> graders who were also hear to sing for our patients. They were all very impressed by Calvin Standing Bear and his music and stories. My only regret is that he didn't have more time to spend with us that day. However, he has agreed to come back to play, and for that, I am thankful.

He shares more than just his music—he also shares his heart and his spirituality with the audience. His music has a calming, healing effect on his listeners.

I would certainly recommend him because his music is a blessing to those who hear it.

If you would like to speak to me, I can be reached at 806 725 8047.

. d'alsay LMSW

Sincerely,

Jan d'Orsay, LMSW

Joe Arrington Cancer Research and Treatment Center 4101 22nd Place • Lubbock, Texas 79410 • (806) 725-8000 Covenant Health System



Department of English 314 SWC Building Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1326

Nov. 3, 2005

Phone: (724)738-2043 Fax: (724)738-4829

Calvin Standing Bear P.O. Box 21803 Denver, CO 80221

Re: Letter of Recommendation

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On Oct. 12, 2005, Calvin Standing Bear performed his magical, Native American flute at Swope Recital Hall on the campus of Slippery Rock University in western Pennsylvania. To a crowded hall, Calvin's flute captivated the entire audience, as he also explained the spirituality behind his musical instrument and filled our imagination with Lakota Sioux, indigenous myths and legends.

Mr. Standing Bear's flute performance was the highlight of Slippery Rock University's Second Annual "Día de la Raza/Indigenous Cultures Week" held from Oct. 10-13, 2005. In addition to his enchanting performance, Calvin also participated at a "Round Table Discussion of Indigenous Cultures," as well as visited music and literature classes. He also gave one music professor private lessons on playing the Native American flute as well as attended as guest speaker, a freshman English course.

The day after Calvin left our school, the student newspaper, The Rocket, ran a front-page article on Mr. Standing Bear's performance and visit to campus; actually there were two articles in the paper about Calvin. Yes, indeed, this full-blooded, Lakota Sioux left quite an impression on the Slippery Rock University community.

Therefore, I highly recommend Calvin Standing Bear to anyone (or any institution) who is interested in enjoying as well as learning about authentic, Native American flute music. Also, Calvin's spirituality pervades his music and persona and is thus a very valuable asset to all those concerned.

If you need any further information about Calvin Standing Bear, the person, as well as, the musician, please feel free to contact me: Dr. Itzi Meztli, Assistant Professor of English, 312-P Spotts, Slippery Rock University, 1 Morrow Way, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. My office phone in SRU's English Department is 724-738-4933.

Overall, my sincere thanks to Calvin Standing Bear, for his music and personality, for his legends and myths, and for his heartfelt enthusiasm about sharing good vibes with all those concerned.

Sincerely,

Dr. Itzi Meztli Dept. of English

Slippery Rock University

Atzi Mextli

College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts

> Departments of: Art Dance English History Modern Languages and Cultures Music Philosophy Theatre

> > Women's Studies



## Calvin Standing Bear (Mato Najin)



### "Music For The Spirit"

## Educational Testimonials

Working with young people is an important part of Mr. Standing Bear's commitment to community and to sharing his knowledge about Native-American flutes' history and performance practices in the school setting. He is not only a tremendous performer but a patient teacher.

-Nora Robinson, Education Director, Colorado Symphony Orchestra

Mr. Standing Bear introduced Native American culture, lore and tradition to our students in an informative and enlightening manner. All of the students were fascinated by this "truly enjoyable learning experiences." Many of the participates expressed appreciation for the manner in which he spoke- "in words we can understand." It is with great ethusiasm that I recommend Mr. Standing Bear unequivocally as the choice speaker/demonstrator for your organization to gain a broader understanding of the beauty of diversity. -Carol Suder-Howes, Director, Upward Bound, |Davis & Elkins College|

"Calvin Standing Bear was outstanding!" -Mike Jager, West Jefferson Elementary

".....many positive comments about "Windcatcher" composition and also having Calvin Bear there." -Elaine Dyslin, Beautiful Savior Lutheran

"The kids loved Calvin Standing Bear and continue to ask for his music." -Free Horizon Montessori, Elizabeth Nelms

"My students think the Native-American song was fantastic!" -Tait Anderson - Schmitt Elementary School

"My favorite part of the Symphony was the Windcatcher song by Calvin Standing Bear. That song was the best ever." - Student - Schmitt Elementary School

"The American-Indian playing flute was exceptionally captivating for my students." -Laura Alexander - Montessori School of Evergreen

"Native-American flutist in full dress was awesome." -M. Mayne - Peabody Elementary School

"Yesterday, my World Music students attended the Youth symphony performance. When asked about their favorite musical number, they overwhelmingly said. Calvin Standing Bear...the flute player". -Kathryn Hayes - Clear Lake Middle School

My son and his 5th grade class saw your performance in Denver this week. He came home from school that afternoon and told me he was able to actually meet you. He then said that you gave him a peaceful and calm feeling that he has never felt before. That was around 4:30pm on Wednesday. Shortly after that he laid down on his bed and slept until the next morning. I can't remember that last time he rested so well. -Stacie Berumen

After a concert people will come up and tell us stories about how the music started "Talking Spiritual to them."

It can be very powerful, affecting everyone, young to old....even teenagers!" laughs Calvin Standing Bear

--Kelly Burke, Artist Services Director - Canyon Records

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