

*Mitchell Museum of the American Indian
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News

For Immediate Release

Attn: Events & Calendar Editors/Benefits/Concerts

Evanston Singer-Songwriter to Headline Mitchell Museum Benefit November 4

EVANSTON, Ill., Oct. 10, 2010 — Veteran singer-songwriter Mark Cleveland and his Mark Cleveland Band will headline a benefit concert next month for Evanston's Mitchell Museum of the American Indian.

Cleveland, a longtime Evanston resident of Cherokee descent, works in a pop and roots-rock vein similar to that of John Hiatt.

The event will take place 6:30–9 p.m. Thursday, November 4, at Prairie Moon restaurant, 1502 Sherman Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$60 per person and include entertainment, appetizers, and one beverage (wine, beer, or soft drink). A split-the-pot cash raffle will be held during the event, with raffle tickets costing \$5 each or six for \$25. The winner need not be present. For concert and raffle tickets and information, call the museum at (847) 475-1030 or visit www.mitchellmuseum.org.

Cleveland, who categorizes his work as world music, has performed at the American Indian Center of Chicago's annual powwow and at other powwows in the region. He's performed in Ireland and for audiences of indigenous Maori people in New Zealand, and he once opened for a Tibetan dance troupe at the Harris Theater in Chicago's Millennium Park. He recorded with Silk Road Chicago's Crossroads Exchanges project, organized by cellist Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project.

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Cleveland’s website describes his music as “woven from the songwriter's exposure to Native American tradition, world culture and contemporary American life” (www.markclevelandmusic.com).

Cleveland sings and plays guitar and Native wood flute, backed by fiddler Jordi Kleiner, lead guitarist Mike Carpenter, bassist Dave Budrys, and drummer Bob Bechstein.

He and his band originally started out playing traditional, rollicking Chicago-style blues before focusing on his original songs, he said.

At around 30 years of age, Cleveland was adopted by a Native elder and traveled with him as he performed traditional ceremonies in tribal communities throughout the western U.S. With the elder’s encouragement, he began exploring his own Native heritage in his music.

Although American Indian history and sounds figure in many of his songs, Cleveland doesn’t characterize his concerts as Native events. Rather, he says his music expresses his personal journey as “as a person trying to understand his heritage and walk a path that has integrity.”

The Mitchell Museum, at 3001 Central Street, Evanston, is a fully independent, nonprofit educational institution with a collection of 10,000 items that ranks among the premiere holdings of Native American art and material culture in the Midwest. The museum, which focuses on Native peoples of the United States and Canada, houses permanent and temporary exhibits and presents a wide range of speakers, special events, and children’s workshops year-round.

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