

IXTLAN Artists Group

virtuoso performers - a commitment to education and diversity



Ixtlan Artists Newsletter

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Issue 4

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Ixtlan Artists Group

Virtuoso Performers – A Commitment to Education and Diversity

For more than twenty years The Ixtlan Artists Group has represented virtuoso performers from Europe and the Americas who have a commitment to education and cultural diversity. Founded in 1986 under the name "Joan Sherman Artist Management," the agency's original mission of providing excellent folk artists has expanded to traditional world music artists who provide concert and educational experiences that open doorways to universal cultural understanding.

Each artist Ixtlan represents is a premiere talent in their genre, and they take audiences beyond daily experience into the arena of performance virtuosity rich in cultural traditions. Our artists speak directly, not only to performance, but to making an impact, on and off the stage.

News

Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble Awarded NEFA Grant



Being part of a culture that has traditions dating back more than 300 years comes with an unwritten responsibility. The Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble is mindful of this and applied for the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) American Masterpieces: Dance (AMD) Reconstruction Grant with the goal of preserving the dances at the core of their culture and sharing them with the world through an exciting visual event.

The AMD grant project "celebrates the extraordinary and rich evolution of dance and choreography in the United States." Specifically, this Reconstruction grant gives awardees the opportunity to "acquaint Americans with the best of their cultural and artistic legacy."

Soon after the announcement in mid-July that the Native Dance Ensemble would receive \$40,000 from NEFA, Kevin Locke's company, Lakota Performing Arts, began production. The Ensemble's program, *The Drum is the Thunder, Flute is the Wind*, is being redesigned to capture the essence of ritual tribal dance and place it in a contemporary theater environment. The show will include new lighting, new choreography, and new multimedia.

The focus of the reconstruction will be on the beauty of the dance forms. As a way of telling the stories of everyday life in the tribe and honoring the Divine Spirit, tribal dance has been preserved through the centuries by teaching the next generation. In order to reconstruct this indigenous American tradition, the Ensemble and producers are paying close attention to the history of individual dances: their meaning, intent, and form. Included in the compendium will be Jingle Dress, Women's Fancy Shawl, Eagle, Buffalo, Spear and Shield, Hoop, Grass, Men's Traditional, and Warrior Dances, as each individual dance is fused into a compelling piece of American heritage.

"In the past, The Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble's performances have focused on the cultural aspects of American Indian dance," relates Robin Troup, the show's producer. "We've included explanations about the history of each dance in the midst of an educational presentation. What the NEFA American Masterpieces Dance grant will allow us to do is focus on the beauty of movement within the dance, as well as the beauty of the traditional regalia. Enhanced lighting effects will be created to bring out those two aspects." Troup further explains that, "the grant allows us more rehearsal time, additional dancers on stage, a professional lighting designer... so many things which will add to the emotional impact of the story. We could not have done this without NEFA's award, and we are very appreciative."

In April 2009, the new program will debut in Pittsburgh at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild Performance Hall, home of legendary jazz artist concerts and the Ensemble's financial partner for the grant. The subsequent tour will begin Fall 2009, with three sponsoring presenters: National Museum of the American Indian, National Council for the Traditional Arts, and New England's Mashantucket Museum. NEFA is also providing touring funds for other presenters who wish to book this reconstructed "Native ballet". For more information on this fine dance troupe, please visit [Kevin's site](#) or the [Ensemble's page](#) at Ixtlan.

Through both stage performance and educational outreach, Ixtlan endeavors to provide a venue where performance is used as a bridge to cultural understanding, artistic awareness, educational involvement, and peaceful coexistence of shared ideas.

Call Ixtlan Toll Free:
800-961-9601

www.ixtlanartists.com

Our Roster



AcoustiCon



Boys of the Lough



Brave Old World



Harmonia



Beppe Gambetta



Guy Klucevsek & Alan Bern



Kusum Gboo

NEFA is the proven leader in the development, promotion, and distribution of the arts in New England. All of NEFA's programs and initiatives are designed to broaden and strengthen support for artists and audiences alike. Learn more about [NEFA](#).

Scroll down to preview Kevin Locke's new CD.

Review Peter Ostroushko and *Blood on the Tracks*



It carried Louis Armstrong, Chuck Berry, Miles Davis, Elvis, Johnny Cash, Muddy Waters, and Bob Dylan over 2,500 miles. It's the mighty Mississippi, and it starts in Peter Ostroushko's home state of Minnesota.

Mississippi's currents have flowed with its tributaries to blend music styles from all over the states, and all over the world. The BBC's Smooth Productions Radio has charted the course of the Mississippi as it passed key cities with distinct musical identities for their "Rolling River of Rock" program. The last episode features an in-depth look at Minneapolis, the birthing ground for Bob Dylan's *Blood on the Tracks*.

If You See Her Say Hello, *Tangled Up in Blue*, *Idiot Wind* and others from the album were initially recorded in New York. Maybe it was the Mississippi's musical melting pot banks or Dylan's desire to constantly experiment, but when he traveled home to Minnesota he was inspired to go back into the studio. The Minneapolis-version of *Blood on the Tracks* sold a million copies in 30 days, went platinum in a year, and featured local mandolin player, Peter Ostroushko on several uncredited tracks.

The story starts with one lost Old Martin guitar. The events that followed brought Peter into the studio for the first time ever, to record mandolin on *If You See Her Say Hello*. [Hear the whole story from Peter and host Marc Cohn.](#)

Ideas and Programs Wide Circle of Friends and Fans

Love our artists? You can join one or all of the newly-formed fan groups Ixtlan has created for [Kevin Locke](#), [Tommy Sands](#), [Peter Ostroushko](#), and others. The membership-based groups are for anyone interested in the message or music of the artists. The groups are free to join and membership includes:

- Show discounts for select performances
- Discounts for select CD releases
- "Meet and Greets" with the artists
- The latest information on upcoming events, visits, and performances

Featured Artist Babatunde Lea





Babatunde Lea



Llan de Cubel



Kevin Locke



KL Native Dance Ensemble



Peter Ostroushko & the Heartland Band



Sally Rogers



Tommy & Moya Fionán Sa

Babatunde Lea is one of those 'old souls' - wise and serene, deeply in touch with spiritual essences, blessed with a culturally-diverse perspective, and bubbling over with ideas and creative energies that strongly suggest he's been this way before. He has forged a career steeped in the rhythms of the motherland of Africa and its Caribbean and South American diaspora.

Raised in New York City and Englewood, New Jersey, Lea migrated westward to the San Francisco Bay Area in the late 1960's where he was further immersed in global rhythms. Now an established session musician and performer, Lea offers an African-inspired jazz journey with his mastery of trap drums and hand percussion. Recently Lea's wife Virginia accepted an educational outreach position at Gettysburg College. Dr. Lea also shares work with her husband in their **Educultural Foundation**, which is Babatunde's center for education. The new base of operations for both concert touring and educational events will be the East Coast. Ixtlan Artists welcomes Babatunde and Virginia as new neighbors, only three hours from Ixtlan's home base in Pittsburgh.

Babatunde Lea is available as a solo performer or with a jazz quartet. In addition to performing world music concerts, Lea also specializes in school and university percussion programs. Find out more about Babatunde's [school](#) and [concert](#) programs.

Preview Kevin Locke's New CD, *Earth Gift*



Booking Now...

Boys of the Lough

The **Celtic Christmas Tour** runs from Thanksgiving weekend to December 21, 2008. The Spring Tour runs from February 25 to March 25, 2009. Call now for remaining dates on these two tours. Ixtlan will soon begin booking **Boys of the Lough** tours in Summer & Fall of 2009, and Spring of 2010.
For Info call: Aaron Kern at 412-521-2930

Peter Ostroushko

Christmas in the Heartland is being booked now. Picked up on over 50 NPR radio stations nationally within a year of its debut, this holiday show combines family appeal, brilliant musicianship, and a familiar atmosphere of holiday cheer audiences love. Bookings for Peter's DUO concerts occur year-round, please call for dates in your area. **Peter Ostroushko and the Heartland Band**, available for larger concert halls, tours at select times throughout the year, please call for details.
For Info call: Mike Torti at 412-521-2960

The Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble

Visually compelling and musically powerful, **The Drum is the Thunder, the Flute is the Wind** is a sensational journey in Native American symbolism and aesthetics. Embracing Native American arts through six authentic ritual dances, storytelling and a unique presentation of musical skill, this program has openings in October and November 2008, and January/April 2009. New "NEFA Grant" dance theater program available Fall 2009.
For Info call: Robin Troup at 412-521-4201

Tommy Sands

Enchanting. Irresistible. Charming. Three words out of many that describe Ireland's legendary County Down performer. **Tommy** tours with accomplished musicians 26-year-old Moya Sands (violin, bodhran, vocals) and 27-year-old Fionán Sands (mandolin, banjo) for the Fall 2008 *Let the Circle Be Wide*, CD release tour from September 26 to November 2, 2008.
For Info call: Robin Troup at 412-521-4201

Beppe Gambetta, Harmonia, Babatunde Lea, Sally Rogers, Thirza Defoe, AcoustiCon, Brave Old World, Kevin Locke

These artists tour year-round. Ask about available dates in your area. For more information please contact **Ixtlan Artists Group** at 412-521-4201 or click here:

www.ixtlanartists.com

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