

Discovery Theater

presents



You, Me, and the Tree By **Swil Kanim**

Who is Swil Kanim?

Swil Kanim is a world class virtuoso violinist who advocates self-expression to create stronger community. He intertwines his music with storytelling, poetry, and audience interaction. His original compositions are mesmerizing and inspiring to all ages alike. While quickly becoming the most popular Native American Violinist, Swil Kanim is also a key-note speaker and notable actor.

*Discovery Theater Artistic Director: Roberta Gasbarre
Learning Guide Layout by Jacqueline E. Lawton*

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(202) 633-8700 • Info@DiscoveryTheater.org • DiscoveryTheater.org

See our website for tickets, location, directions, resources for teachers, and much more!

Identity & Self-expression in Native American Culture

Storytelling is an ancient art. People tell stories to entertain, educate, honor tradition, preserve a culture, teach moral lessons, and as a form of self-expression. Stories can be told through words, images, gesture, and sounds. Every culture has stories and legends that are important to them.

In Native American cultures, there is a strong tradition of self-expression and storytelling is in all of. Swil Kanim believes that “there is honor in self-expression. I am just a violinist. That does not mean that I need to give up my identity. I can play for reasons other than to impress someone. I am not dumbing down when I play something simple with feeling. I am holding up the concept of simply living through my music.”

Swil Kanim credits the public school music program in the Bellingham, WA school district for his interest and passion for music. “If it wasn’t for a school instrument and group lessons provided by the school district I would not be playing. I think I would not be alive.” For many people, artist, sharing stories is essential to their health, well-being, and happiness. For Swil Kanim, music helped him deal with the difficulty of being raised in a foster home. He feels that his “mental health is owed to the rhythm, pitch, dynamics, vibration and tone music provides as a tool to express the emotions and thoughts words could not provide.”

About the Violin, also called the Fiddle

Not only is the violin the most commonly instrument in the string family, it is the smallest and highest-tuned as well. The members of the violin family, which include the viola, cello and double bass, descend from various medieval fiddles. These bowed string instruments were originally imported to Europe from the Middle East. By the mid-1500s, Italian craftsmen created models that are similar to the violins that are in use today. Many consider that the “Golden Age” of violin making reached its pinnacle in the work of Antonio Stradivari and Guiseppe Guarneri in the 18th century. In fact, music historians estimate that quite a few four-hundred-year-old Italian instruments are still in use and they are the most sought-after instruments by collectors and performers.



Related Resources

<http://swilkanim.net/> - visit this site to learn more about Swil Kanim and his music.

<http://library.thinkquest.org/27178/en/index.html> - this website unveils the mystery behind the violin and explores its history.

<http://www.violinonline.com> - this site is designed for amateur musicians and offer a comprehensive approach to violin playing for all ages.

Discovery Theater and the Museum of the American Indian present ***You, Me, and the Tree*** by Swil Kanim.