



Courtesy photo
Eric Tingstad and Nancy Rumbel will perform contemporary instrumental music on the Main Stage Friday.

Duo's music honors environment

Environmental activism characterizes the contemporary instrumental music of Eric Tingstad and Nancy Rumbel, who are slated to perform Friday at 6 p.m. on the Main Stage.

The duo has five albums and an extensive performance background. Rumbel plays the oboe, English horn, and ocarinas while Tingstad plays the guitar and mandolin.

With the release of an album dedicated to the beauty of trees ("Woodlands") in 1987, Tingstad and Rumbel embarked upon a career of combining their environmental loves and concerns with their music.

The duo points to "Woodlands" and their numerous benefit concerts on behalf of wilderness areas, museums, zoos and tree-planting festivals as evidence of their long-term commitment to nature conservation.

"No one can accuse us of just jumping on the environmental bandwagon because it's this year's hot trend," Tingstad said.

Tingstad and Rumbel first met at the 1984 Willamette Folk Festival. Tingstad said they have "a relationship that seems to improve with time. When people come to see us in concert, in addition to seeing two musicians, they're also seeing two good friends who know each other very well."

Their most recent album, "Homeland", revolves around the duo's emotional links to their homes, cultural diversity and the earth. The musicians believe the ideals of home are worth working for, worth celebrating and worth protecting.

Tingstad and Rumbel also promote the preservation of the environment with "Homeland", beginning with the album itself. All CD and LP packaging for "Homeland" is

printed on recycled paper.

"We want to encourage people to slow down, so they have time to do things like sort and recycle their garbage. We both think it's important that we all learn the ethic of responsibility toward nature. We have got to learn how to cooperate with our ecology rather than simply control it," Rumbel said.

Tingstad and Rumbel have performed numerous benefit concerts throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. "We avoid preaching to people at our concerts," Tingstad said, "but we do encourage them to take responsible action."

"People...need to make environmental commitments and stick with them. Even if we just convince a few people to stop letting the water run while they're brushing their teeth, we've made a positive impact," Tingstad said.

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