

# Acoustic duo to bring blues to Wild Duck

By Nicole Krueger  
Entertainment Editor

Acoustic guitarists Woody Mann and Rick Bockner will help fill an often-neglected niche in the University music scene with an all-ages performance at the Wild Duck Feb. 2.

The 8 p.m. show, "An Evening with Woody Mann and Rick Bockner," is sponsored by the EMU Cultural Forum and will feature both instrumental and vocal music. Justin Crellin, heritage music coordinator for the cultural forum, labeled the performance as blues, but he said the music is actually a mixture of blues, jazz, ragtime and other styles.

In addition to the performance, Mann and Bockner will conduct a workshop on blues fingerpicking Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room. Fingerpicking is a guitar-playing style in which all five fingers are used instead of a pick, to create a layered sound.

"You don't hit one note at a time," Crellin said. "You might use your thumb to pick a bass rhythm and use the rest of your fingers to pick other rhythms."

The workshop will be for all ability levels.

Mann is a virtuoso guitarist and master fingerpicker, Crellin said. He was a student of the late Rev. Gary Davis, a famous blues fingerpicker, and he has performed with a number of famous blues acts, including guitarist John Fahey and British singer Jo-Ann Kelly. Mann is also a blues musicologist, or an expert on blues.

Although he began as a blues musician, Mann has incorporated various other styles into his music, Crellin said.

"He mixes styles together to



Woody Mann is a master fingerpicker and a blues musicologist.

create his own things, and his music is not necessarily defined as blues," he said. "He's an amazing guitar player."

Bockner is well-known for his work with Mad River, a San Francisco band that was famous in the 1960's, Crellin said. He has also performed with bands such as The Doors, Santana and Jefferson Airplane.

Crellin said he first heard of Mann when a local woman entered his office and handed him several of the artist's CD's. He then decided to sponsor a performance by the duo.

"Their music fit a niche we don't really get a chance to do too much," he said. "I felt it would be cool to have acoustic blues. It doesn't get a lot of attention on campus, but people are into it."

Tickets for the performance are \$5 for University students and \$8 for the general public, and they are available at the EMU Main Desk. The workshop fee is \$10 for University students and \$20 for the general public. Holders of a ticket stub from the duo's performance will receive a \$2 discount.

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