

SOUNDSCAPE JOURNEY

'Enchanted Lands Live Music and Art' event at High Frequency Loft offers groove and dancing

By M. Elwell Romancito

Music producer and media artist John Patrick Funk (aka Spirit Winds) invites you on a soundscape journey into the beauty of New Mexico Friday (July 21), 7-9 p.m. at the High Frequency Loft, 1335 Gusdorf Road. Admission is \$15.

The "Enchanted Lands" soundscape journey is billed

as "an intimate live music and media show that transports the participants into a beautiful musical realm through a performance of original Soundscapes produced in the Rio Grande Gorge Canyon with flutes, guitars, loops and other instruments," according to press materials. "Lighting and visual media are made up of illuminated sculptures and projected photography. These accompany stories shared through the heart that set the atmosphere for the event."

Funk writes, "The Soundscape Journey centers on the musical experience that has been influenced by beautiful locations and events in New Mexico."

Funk is a mixed-media artist who moved to Northern New Mexico from Austin, Texas, to the village of Pilar. For the last four years, Funk has been pursuing his love for music and art inspired by the nature and beauty of New Mexico, where he has settled at his family's home at the mouth of the Orilla Verde Recreation Area.

Funk writes that his "Enchanted



COURTESY IMAGE

John Patrick Funk, aka Spirit Winds

Lands Soundscapes" are his "musical and artistic diaries of New Mexico."

The pieces feature five volumes of original music, photography and multiple series of mixed-media works, including what he calls unique "Spirit Light Sculptures" made with cholla cactus skeletons.

Funk has performed at many venues in Northern New Mexico, including the Taos Inn, Taos Mesa Brewing and Kit Carson Park. He has also become a professional staff photographer for Southern Exposure Photography during the whitewater rafting season on the Río Grande.

For more than a decade, Funk was a successful three-dimensional designer and animator in the gaming, simulation and video industry. He had garnered acclaim within the gaming community on the science fiction space simulation game "Freelancer," which was produced by Microsoft-Digital Anvil Gaming Studio. Funk has

SOUNDSCAPE continues from Page 15

credits producing visual effects and has a miniseries on YouTube called "Space Adventure" with associated workshops designed to inspire youth with creativity, science and appreciation for the universe.

Funk has also been involved with many groups, including The Robot Group in Austin, Texas, since the 1990s. He has won awards, been published in magazines and featured on TV for his robotic inventions, props and LED light sculptures. He has been a participant and guest speaker at science fiction conventions, South By Southwest events and at the Maker Faire community.

The soundscape journey is one you can take without leaving town. Visual and audio parts to the journey become a multimedia experience that is both lively and meditative.

"The 'Photo-Graphics' section showcases my photographic works that represent the places and moments (i.e., experiences) that have inspired the creation of the musical tracks. The images are sometimes augmented with Photoshop to visually express certain metaphysical ideas with the overall goal to have two images for each volume. Also, there are written descriptions and stories that aid in communicating the experience. This process is an ongoing endeavor," he said.

These images are projected during the "Enchanted Lands Live Music and Art" live performance with many of the corresponding tracks being performed with live instruments.

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One of his favorite images is "Happy River." Funk explains this is where the soundscapes began.

"This is where the original inspirations all started for me. I walked down to this spot almost every evening in the summer of 2012 to catch the sunset and watch the various animals, like beavers and bats, do their nighttime activities. The sounds of the river running under my feet on the small wooden bridge and the beautiful sky at dusk nurtured my heart in such a way that I opened to creating music that was feeding off of the experience. I have now been producing six volumes of these soundscapes and also became a river guide on this river for the whitewater rafting community. I am forever in love with the river with all of the amazing experiences and beautiful music that has been flowing out of my heart," Funk explained.

"The first half of the show will be ambient and meditative, while the second half will have you up on your feet dancing," Funk writes.

For more information, call (575) 758-7399 or email cozmicfunk@yahoo.com. Also, visit enchantedlandsmusic.com.

SOUNDSCAPE continues on Page 19

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