

'Beyond the iPod'

Mark Dvorak introduces audiences to a different kind of music

Chicago folk singer Mark Dvorak plans to have the audience involved at his show Saturday, November 14 at the Ludington Area Center for the Arts.

"I like to start off with things people can get into right away," said Dvorak when performing. "I will play a few familiar songs and see who is ready to sing along and interact with me."

Dvorak said besides the guitar, he will probably sneak in some banjo music as well. He has been touring the United States since 1981, with concerts that are a mix of the familiar and the new - traditional folk songs and standards from the American songbook.

Before the show he will host a workshop for young people aged 5 to 15.

"I want to engage their voices and their bodies," said Dvorak. "I want to try to open their ears to a kind of music that lives beyond the iPod. That would be a

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Dvorak is no stranger to Ludington, he had come here as a child and as a young man and recently performed at the Ludington State Park concert series.

"My good friends Mike and Linda



Lenich live in Ludington," said Dvorak.

"Mike was a student of mine for a brief time. He came in as an advanced student and moved on, but in that time we became friends."

Dvorak said he may try to integrate Lenich into Saturday's show.

Once a student himself at Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music, Dvorak has been teaching there for more than twenty years.

"A friend and I ventured down to the Old Town School when I was a kid. I was a student there for only a short time, but I learned a lot and the impression has stayed with me ever since."

A Chicago native, Dvorak became interested in folk music at a young age. "When I was a little boy," he said, "I was aware of Peter, Paul and Mary. I was aware of the protest songs out there. I listened to Gordon Lightfoot, John Denver and Judy Collins.

"In high school I read a biography on

Bob Dylan and became interested in the whole Greenwich Village folk scene of that era. I bought some Pete Seeger records and got a 5-string banjo. Eventually I discovered the music of Woody Guthrie and the great Lead Belly. So that book in a way served as a kind of road map. It led me to a lot of great singers and performers," he said.

Dvorak's appearance is being sponsored by the Leniches, according to Terry

Murphy, Executive Director of the Center for the Arts.

"We are so fortunate that supporters like Mike and Linda Lenich are bringing a talent like Mark Dvorak to the Center," said Murphy. "By underwriting such an event, the Leniches benefit from seeing their donation go farther through the additional ticket sales that are generated. The Center benefits and the audience benefits from the experience. At the same time, this sponsorship allows us to offer the kids' workshop for free, since it will be funded through ticket sales from the concert."

IF YOU GO IMPORTANT INFORMATION
MARK DVORAK SATURDAY, NOV. 14

2 PM - Free children's music workshop, ages 5 to 15. Adults also welcome.

7:30 PM - Mark Dvorak in concert. Tickets \$12 general admission, \$10 seniors over 60. Reserve 843 2787. Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison, Ludington, MI.