



DEAN HALL/LAKELAND TIMES

## MULTI-INSTRUMENT MEDLEY

Global multi-instrumentalist Todd Green displays and plays a selection of his instruments to entertain and educate students on Friday, Oct. 18, at North Lakeland School in Manitowish Waters.

# MUSIC: the universal language

World musician Todd Green makes several appearances in the Northwoods

By Delaney FitzPatrick  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

When Todd Green steps on stage, he never quite knows what to expect. He seats himself in the center of an assortment of instruments, which at first glance look like guitars or drums or flutes, but are alien upon closer inspection. Once the auditorium dims and the stage lights go up, his one-man band begins.

Green thinks of himself as a musician, composer and artist. For the last several decades, he has traveled across the United States, sharing his passion for world music with diverse communities. Each concert, Green plays 30 acoustic string, flute and percussion instruments, using his electronic looper sys-

tem to blend the vibrant harmonies and melodies of the Middle East, Central Asia, Far East and South America. Green's mission is to educate people about foreign cultures by exposing the musical DNA of each region, a pursuit with increasingly higher stakes.

In addition to concerts, he teaches classes from kindergarten all the way up to the master's level at universities. Green has spent the last 10 days in the Northwoods, performing at the local elementary schools — Lac du Flambeau, MHLT, and Arbor Vitae-Woodruff — as well as Lakeland Union High School. During his 60-minute sessions, Green played over 20 instruments, demonstrating traditional playing techniques and giving kids a

brief history lesson.

Green believes younger generations are key in establishing an openness toward diverse cultures and peoples.

"They hear cool stuff. That's all they know, and so hopefully it ignites a little fire," he said. "They don't have to play the instruments, but they'll have respect for the music and the cultures."

Green's residency in the Northwoods culminated with a performance at the Campanile Center for the Arts last night. The longer concert time allowed him to show off additional instruments, 30 in total, but his repertoire includes more. Though the public concert was more focused on the music, it still involved some discussion about the instru-

ments and their origins.

The musician's visit was made possible thanks to the executive director of the Campanile Center Sandra Madden, who applied for a Challenge America Grant, which aims to bring unique art to underserved small or mid-sized communities. Madden and the Campanile won the highly competitive grant and were awarded \$10,000 by the National Endowment for the Arts.

### An evolution

Green's road to Minocqua has been a long one.

He found his calling in life at an early age, experiencing his first musical awakening listening to the Beatles' sophomore album "Meet the Beat-

## 'A good community organizer'

Woodruff's Mike Doud remembered

By Brian Jopek  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

On May 20 of this year, Woodruff town supervisor, Dr. Kate Museum president and 20 year U.S. Army veteran Mike Doud discovered he had cancer.

He was undergoing what his wife Marsha referred to as a "routine hip operation" when the cancer was found.

Doud passed away at the age of 72 on Sept. 30.

On Oct. 19, there was a fundraiser held at the Arbor Vitae community center for Doud, the proceeds going toward medical bills and transportation costs to go to places like the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

His widow, Marsha, said the fundraiser's origins go back to shortly after her husband found out he had cancer.

"Originally, when it started out, we had hopes Mike could conquer this," she said. "We knew it was going to involve a lot of specialized care. Unfortunately, he didn't make it."

Marsha Doud said plans for the fundraiser, however, continued.

"There were plans already in the works for months," she said. "In fact, Mike actually thought he might be here to do some of the cooking. That was his thing — organizing. He was a good community organizer. He was very much aware of this and wanted to be part of it."

"I enlisted in the Army in November of 1965 and was trained for the infantry," Doud, a 1965 graduate of Lakeland Union High School, wrote in a candidate profile published in *The Lakeland Times* during February 2018.

Doud was elected to the Woodruff town board two months later.

Many years before that, he did three combat tours in Vietnam — the first assigned to the First Infantry Division, and was awarded three Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

Before retiring from the Army in the 1980s at the rank of master sergeant, Doud had been assigned several times to Europe and elsewhere "throughout the world" and also was a drill sergeant and recruiter, he wrote in his profile.

Doud returned to the Lakeland area in 1991, operating a home inspection business, becoming heavily

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## Green

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les!” Inspired by the rhythmic beats of Ringo Star, Green decided he wanted to become a drummer. Horrified by the idea of having a child banging on a drumset all day, his mother told him no. Green settled for the guitar.

His second musical awakening occurred when he heard “Sunshine of Your Love” by the classic psychedelic rock band Cream. To the adolescent Green, Cream’s blues rock sounded like an entirely new genre.

From there, he began writing his own music, having some bands and performing at small gigs and talent shows. He started studying classical and jazz guitar and was skilled enough to be accepted into Berklee School of Music, where he studied composition, arrangement and performance. After living in Boston for about five years, he decided to return to his roots, moving to New York City.

“Growing up around New York, I felt that’s where I needed to be,” he said.

New York, in all its glory, offered a rich music scene. It was there Green’s interests began to shift outward toward a global picture, beginning with the music of India. Although he had taken a class on Indian music at Berklee, it wasn’t until moving to New York that something clicked and he became completely fascinated.

Green was not simply interested in learning about different cultures’ music, he wanted to fully immerse himself in each unique music scene by mastering traditional instruments using traditional techniques. Up until that point, Green only played guitar, but he soon expanded his instrument resume by studying with two western experts, first the



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Global multi-instrumentalist Todd Green plays one of the dozens of musical instruments he brought with him to entertain and educate during a performance for students and staff on Friday, Oct. 18, at North Lakeland School in Manitowish Waters.

Bansuri, which is a bamboo flute, and then the tablas, which are Indian drums. (Turns out Green was able to fulfill his dream of playing drums after all.)

It didn’t stop there. Green has continued learning to play more and more strange instruments with hard-to-pronounce names and hypnotic sounds, clearly earning the title of multi-instrumentalist.

### Playing with purpose

Throughout his early music career, Green experimented with genre, but one element remained constant: improvisation. He may not have been conscious of it at the time, but Green asserts looking back that improvisation is the connective thread in the evolution of his musical interests from blues to jazz to world music. He is now a firm believer the skill is critical for fledgling musicians.

Green has come to notice the West is especially dependant on the eyes when playing music.

“Music with dots on the page, as I call it, is used pretty much everywhere,” he said.

Green believes a well-balanced musician must master what he calls the “Three Pillars” in order to circumvent this dependency. The first of these pillars includes the basic skill of playing one’s instrument and the ability to read sheet music. The second is the ability to improvise a tune or harmonize with another musician. The third is identifying one of these improvised melodies and recording it. Put simply, these three pillars are playing, improvising and composing.

Green views these as interconnected processes.

“The composer is the creator of music,” he said. “The players that are in the orchestra, they’re only interpreters of the music.”

In educational sessions with young music students, Green encourages them to hone these three pillars immediately or the second and third skills could be lost.

“The more you practice, the better you get at practicing,” he said.

The musician’s own appetite for continual learning and revelation is insatiable. It is not uncommon for him to awaken long before the crack of dawn to practice his craft. Normal practice days can start at 2 or 3 a.m. and include 14 hours of focused practice.

And yet, during those 14 hours, Green never practices a setlist. This is because a setlist doesn’t exist for any of his concerts: they are all improvised.

Though Green plans out the general flow of each performance, deciding which instruments and melodies he will use at different points in the program, his pieces remain in flux.

“I look at it as happy accidents because when you improvise, there are no mistakes,” Green said. “Every performance has something that pops up or something that I hear that’s different from the way I’ve done it.”

This is what makes his performances exciting: the process of discovery is simultaneously experienced by artist and audience.

The audience’s sense of discovery is twofold. In addition to hearing sounds they’ve never heard before, the audience is also seeing instruments that they never knew existed. Even music experts could not claim to recognize every single instrument in Green’s collection, as he has collaborated with luthier Fred Carlson to create six custom instruments, combining elements of existing ones. Green showcased two of these custom instruments during his performance at the Campanile yesterday.

It is somewhat ironic that Green’s ability to innovate new sounds is facilitated through technology. Green was at the forefront of musical looping electronics in the early 90s. In fact, it was the invention of looping systems that eliminated his reliance

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OPERATION

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# Scarecrow Run Shop Hop runs through Oct. 26

The Scarecrow Run Shop Hop is taking place at various Northwoods quilt shops through Oct. 26.

This event is free to participate and all Hoppers may register for each store's door prize. A Grand Door Prize is a gift certificate from all participating shops. Store hours vary by shop. Pick up a different placement pattern at each shop.

## Fabric Patch

Ironwood, Mich.  
906-932-5260  
FabricPatch.com  
Monday through Friday  
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## River's Edge Antiques & Quilt Loft

Hayward  
715-634-0706  
ShopRiversEdge.com  
Tuesday through Saturday  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Fisher Under Cover

Port Wing  
715-774-3444  
Wednesday through Saturday  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Quilt Elements

Ashland  
715-292-6524  
QuiltElements.com  
Monday through Friday,  
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Green

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on band members and enabled him to become a one-man band. In many ways, the looping technology has allowed him to incorporate effects that he would be unable to achieve with a full band.

While technology has freed him in some respects, it has limited him in others. Green has had to navigate the tension between the organic sounds of his instruments and inherent artificiality of his electronic recordings.

"I say what I do is a combination of the ancient and the modern. It's taking the ancient instruments and utilizing the modern technology to present the ancient instruments," he explained.

At first, Green experimented with incorporating synthesized sounds into his songs, but he said, "I've dropped all that and I just do the acoustic instruments because they're more beautiful: they look gorgeous, they sound amazing and the synthesized sound of one is never going to be as good."

In order to give audiences the most authentic experience Green insists on becoming a master of each and every instrument he plays in concert.

## Expanding horizons

It's not every day that the strumming of a lute or the whistle of a bansuri flute can be heard lilting through the hallways of local schools or the streets of downtown Minocqua. Green hopes his appearances in the Northwoods have helped expand some peo-

ple's views on foreign cultures.

"My feeling is the music really shows you how beautiful they are because only a beautiful culture or beautiful people could create some of this music," he said.

Green moved out of New York in 1988, first to Montana and then to the Lake Tahoe area where he currently resides. From his home in Nevada, he has easy access to the dynamic music scene of the Bay Area, which features its own pool of skilled world musicians. He plans to continue traveling across the country — as both student and teacher — speaking a language recognized by all.

*This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.*

He loved to serve the community and to help out. It's good to see he's being remembered."

Mike Doud, Jr.

## Doud

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involved over time with the Dr. Kate Museum.

Most recently, he was the museum's president.

There was another big thing that happened in 1991 — Mike Doud married Marsha.

At Saturday's fundraiser, she said it was classmates and friends of Mike's along with family members all coming together to remember him.

"A community group coming together for somebody who was about the community," Marsha Doud said.

Also a long-time member of the Dr. Kate Museum's board, she said she will continue her involvement.

"It'll be tough because Mike was my partner," Marsha Doud said. "In fact, the Saturday before he had the surgery in May, we were at the museum, frantically getting our last exhibit done before he went (for surgery) on Monday. Little did we know he'd never walk again."

She said because of the situation, Mike was not able to even walk anymore in his final months.

"For Mike, to be a veteran ... he could not turn," Marsha said. "But you know, he never complained."

Also at Saturday's fundraiser was Marsha's son, John Bass, who she described as a "driving force" behind the event.

And from Texas were Mike's son, Mike Doud, Jr., a senior chief in the United States Navy and his wife, Kim, also in the Navy as a warrant officer.

Both are active duty, Mike Jr. with over 25 years in the Navy and Kim with 24.

So, when it comes to service, one could say the apple didn't fall far from the Mike Doud tree.

"It's extremely humbling to see all the support from the community," Mike Doud, Jr. said of the fundraiser. "It just shows the impact on all the lives my father had. He loved to serve the community and to help out. It's good to see he's being remembered."

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Among many community events Mike Doud was involved in over the years was the committee that put together the celebration for the 125th anniversary of the town of Woodruff in 2013. Pictured is some of the committee, front row from left, Beth Wetzler, Doud and Louise Colman; back row, Anne Cleveland, Marilyn Jennings, Marsha Doud, Kim Domini and Lonna Smith.



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Members of the band Polkarioty, Marilyn Pekol on banjo, Gabe "The Queen" Yurkovich on drums and Richie "The King" Yurkovich on accordion, perform during the friends of Mike Doud sponsored Oktoberfest fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Arbor Vitae Town Hall.