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News

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Gentle Thunder CD release celebration this Sunday

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Grammy nominee Gentle Thunder will be home in Mount Shasta to introduce her new CD, "Opening the Gate," and perform live at the Mt. Shasta Resort this Sunday evening, Nov. 11, at 7 p.m.

She said she is looking forward to sharing her new music and stories about its inception and creation with her supportive home town community, along with things she has learned on her journey.

"I feel honored to live in Mount Shasta and have a deep gratitude for the community surrounding me," GT says. "It takes a village... no one does anything alone."

Her fourth self-produced CD and third solo creation showcases her playing on grand hammer dulcimer, several Native American flutes and percussion, including Buffalo drum and chimes.

Officially released for purchase Sept. 27, Opening the Gate hit the airwaves last week and is on the ballot for the 2007 Grammys.

The new CD was co-produced and engineered by Brian Todd at Rough Giraffe Studios in the Santa Cruz mountains.

"Brian's ability to pristinely record, mix and master all of my music in just four weeks was awe inspiring!" said Gentle Thunder. "The CD is also on the ballot this year for best artwork due to the magnificent creativity and design by Shimmering Wolf at Shimmering Wolf Studios. We all made a great team!"

GT said the CD went out to 240 radio stations around the country and internationally last week. Jefferson



The CD cover of Gentle Thunder's 'Opening the Gate'

Public Radio was one of the stations to give it airplay, as Eric Alan played the cut "Spirit Fire" on his Open Air program.

"The whole process in creating this new album was an experience that touched me profoundly" said Gentle Thunder, who has earned the nickname Rolling Thunder because she spends so much time on the road.

Her previous CD, "Beyond Words," a collaboration with Will Clipman and AmoChip Dabney, was a 2006 Grammy nominee for Best New Age Album.

The past year has been a whirlwind for GT, including guest appearances on Native American flute with former Jefferson Starship guitarist and multi-platinum Grammy nominated artist Craig Chaquico and his band, and the expansion of her music company, GT Productions.

She said Chaquico has invited her to join him for several other shows this year and in an expanded musical role on his 2008 tour for select dates (her calendar is posted on the website: www.gentlethunder.com).

She is also now in production on her next CD, a 7/20 Twins duo album with fellow Grammy nominee Clipman, whom she describes as a "percussionist extraordinaire."

GT is also continuing work with Krista Miller's Mt. Shasta City Dance Theater to provide a commissioned recorded musical score for "H2O Manifesto."

She and engineer Brian Todd co-produced Ann Licater's debut solo flute CD "Following the Call," which recently debuted on the nationally syndicated NPR radio show Hearts of Space.

In a review, New Age Reporter's Bill Binkelman wrote, "Gentle Thunder is the consummate musical perfectionist (as well as being a passionate and spiritual person) so her sonic fingerprints were easy to hear."

GT also recorded a CD with singer/songwriter Mariee Sioux, entitled "Faces in the Rocks," in Nevada City, CA. She co-produced the album with engineer Dana Gumbiner and recorded Native American flutes on five of the eight songs, as well as some percussion. The CD debuted as a "top pick" in Parade Magazine.

Having now been a part of recording/producing eight full length CDs, Gentle Thunder says she is still pinching herself about the swiftness with which Opening the Gate was created.

"I got really strong guidance from Spirit on Aug. 10 that I needed to get my solo CD done and submitted by the (Grammy) deadline," she said.

By Sept. 25 she had the final product delivered.

"So it was a journey of faith, showing up more fully and efficiently than ever before and having my team that I have cultivated do the sameŠ really bring our A game and keep paddling on the very swift moving river so to speak," she said. "We all did and it got done in a beauty way and it is really a huge statement to me from the Creator that when I am guided to act and I am aligned with a greater purpose and Spirit that we have support come in ways we could never imagine and there are things already laid out in front of us to step into."

She calls Opening the Gate "a milestone marker of me as a person, composer, recording artist, producer, business woman, spiritual being, communicator and in service to the Great Spirit..."

GT's musical path began in her childhood as a dream "to do my music on a large scale so I could impact the world in a positive way," she said.

Now she has performed around the country as well as in Greenland, Germany, England, Spain, Scotland and Canada. She toured in Europe after the release of her CD "Awakening Remembrance."

Her CDs receive airplay on radio stations in foreign countries, as well as Internet streams that go around the world.

"I get emails from listeners and DJs around the world and I love that," she said.

When asked what it takes "to live your dream and to be successful at it," she responds, "My experience as a self-produced artist is you must have the courage to follow your heart, vigilance, determination, trust, passion and an unwavering commitment to something greater than yourself. This all takes faith."

All of her titles, including the new CD, will be available at the event and are available now in stores in Mount Shasta and worldwide via the Internet at www.GentleThunder.com.

"I'm grateful to be home for a change and am looking forward to celebrating on 11-11 with my family and friends following the live performance," GT said.