



Press Release

For: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Randy Richards

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PHOTO: (1) photo, color "Chimu's Trio" 300dpi

CAPTION: The Peruvian band Chimu's from L to R, Mario Montalvo, Guillermo Seminario and Agosto Taype perform in Northern New England this fall.

RE: Peruvian Musicians to perform and teach in Dartmouth/Lake Sunapee region this fall.

Mountain Spirit Institute, an educational nonprofit organization based in Sunapee, NH is sponsoring three traditional folklore musicians from Cusco, Peru for the month of September and October. The band, called Chimu's, which is named after a pre-Columbian culture that lived on the Pacific shores of Northern Peru, will be teaching and playing their way across Northern New England from Bennington Vermont to Gorham NH. This will be the first visit to the U.S. for three, of the five-piece band members, based in Cusco, Peru.

Mountain Spirit founder and director, Randy Richards met the band when leading climbing and cultural programs in Peru eight years ago, and had become good friends with Chimu's' musical director Guillermo Seminario. When asked, how he met Seminario and the band, he replied, "Like most 'gringo's, I was taken by the music in Peru, and took up the zampoña, or pan pipe flute." Richards adds, "I saw the band playing in a Cusco Restaurant, asked Guillermo questions about their instruments." They developed a friendship over music, and which eventually led to the group coming to the US. Says Richards, " It has been quite a journey, researching and filing for Performer's Visas, Permits, and getting the venues and schools lined up, but it's all been worth it."

The group will focus on performing traditional Andean folklore music, its history and instruments. They will perform and share their culture at such varied venues as the Richards Free Library, and Sunapee CoffeeHouse in the Lake Sunapee area, to the Bennington Center for the Arts and the Langdon Street Café in Montpelier Vermont, and a number of High Schools and colleges in the area.

Songwriter Click Horning says of Chimu's, "After seeing a video of Chimu's playing in Cusco, I thought, these guys are good enough for NPR's Prairie Home Companion. They're technically very good musicians, and have a wonderful style." Richards adds, "All three are very passionate about music, and it comes through in their performances. Audiences of all ages immediately are taken by their warm and light-hearted demeanor.

The band, has three CD's (*Q'ori Pank'arita & Magical Melodies* are two of the albums the third has just been released) and a local following to its credit. The band has been together for over 6 years and continues to play on a daily basis in the restaurants and private functions in downtown Cusco.

All three members play their different instruments equally well, including the zampoña and flute. They seem to exchange them at will during a performance, but Seminario primarily plays the “Cane” or bamboo flute. Augusto Taype, from Puno, Peru, plays the small mandolin style instrument called the charango, and Mario Montalvo, a native of Cusco, plays classical Guitar.

Mountain Spirit also has plans to continue the Chimu's Music Exchange by offering an educational immersion trip to Cusco where musicians from the US can visit, study, and perform with Chimu's in Cusco. Local ruins such as Machu Picchu will also be part of the program.

For information on their performances and educational schedule, visit their web page at www.mtnspirit.org/Quechua.html or call Mountain Spirit Institute at 603-763-2668.

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