

BEAT of a WORLD DRUM

Touring the world on its mission on peace, we introduce the Norwegian World Drum Project

A long time ago, humans lived in harmony and mutual respect with nature and Mother Earth. She spoke to humankind each day, on how to treat all that dwelled on her, and the people respected this and understood her language.

But as humankind's development progressed, the language of Mother Earth became forgotten by most of the people. But some still remember it, especially the indigenous peoples of the world, and they have tried to tell the rest of us for decades that our way of life will bring us difficult times as we strive for better wealth and a higher standard of living.

The World Drum project was started after Norwegian shamanic practitioner Whitecougar had a vision about a drum, and the drum itself was made by drum maker Birger Mikkelsen. The vision was to bind people together across borders, distance, race and religion in a common struggle for Mother Earth. As the drum travels from country to country, people to people, and from hand to hand, its heartbeat will get stronger each day.

The time has come now to once again listen to the voice of Mother Earth and to unite in a common struggle for a better world. The

World Drum is a part of this, its purpose is to be a wakeup call for humankind so that they once again may understand the language of Mother Earth. The Drum symbolises the circle of life and its voice is the heartbeat of life itself.

The project was initiated during a ceremony in front of the Norwegian Parliament in October 2006, and has since travelled the world. From Norway it went to Sweden, and then back to Norway where it was a part of an official celebration on the Sámi national day in Gratangen. After that it went to New Zealand, Hawaii and US. Its one-year anniversary found it in Eureka Springs, Arkansas hosted by the Lakota flute player and visionary John Two-Hawks.

During this anniversary John said: "As this World Drum spent the weekend with us, I thought a lot about the message it carries with it. It is both a sad and a hopeful message. It is a stern, yet loving message. It is the message Indigenous people have whispered for centuries... As I thought more and more about this message, it became more and more clear to me

what the real message of the World Drum is. The real message is that we are all the World Drum. The sacred heartbeat which sounds on the skin of this humble, powerful drum, exists in the center of every being on the planet. It is in you, and it is in me. It is in every tree, every rock, every bird and every fish. The sacred heartbeat of the World Drum beats in us all, and it is up to each of us to stop long enough to quiet our minds so we can hear that still small voice of the Spirit which calls us back to the place of balance, respect, humility, honour, courage and wisdom"

Finishing the North-American tour, the World Drum returned to Norway and participated in ceremonies and a peace-concert, before it went on to Finland.

The World Drum recently visited England courtesy of the British Druid Order and the Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids, and later, in September of this year, it will be at the Society of Shamanic Practitioners conference at Gaunts House in Dorset.

The World Drum will keep on travelling through Europe, before it heads towards Mongolia, Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines, and then from them on to Canada, Alaska and eventually Australia.

The project is meant for everyone and more participants are welcome to join the project.

As the World Drum has travelled around the world, it has been filled with the power and spirit of all kinds of people and from many different cultures. Even though it is a sacred drum, it has been, and will keep on being, played by of all kinds of people from different cultures and religions, old people, young people, children, the homeless, the sick... all kinds of people, all together in the spirit of this common cause.

For more information
www.theworlddrum.com
post@theworlddrum.com

For information about the British Druid Order
www.druidry.co.uk

More informations about the Society of Shamanic practitioners (SSP):
www.shamansociety.org

Information about the SSP conference at Gaunts House can be
www.shamanconference.co.uk

The drum is also taking part at an evening ceremony in the Town Hall, Glastonbury, Somerset, Friday Sept 12 with Howard and Elsa Malpas,

For more information and booking contact: Esther or Pammy
office@isleofavalonfoundation.com
Tel: (01458) 833 933
www.isleofavalonfoundation.com



Photo: the drum during a Druid ceremony earlier this year at Dragon Hill - a small hillock immediately below the Uffington White Horse, Oxfordshire England (photo Elaine Gregory)