

Native American cultural educator R. Carlos Nakai to appear at UCSD on October 19

October 8, 1990

Contact: Ruth Baily, University Events Office, 534-4090 or Alixandra Williams, University Communications, 534-3120

NAVAJO-UTE CULTURAL EDUCATOR/MUSICIAN R. CARLOS NAKAI TO APPEAR AT UCSD ON OCT. 19

Native American cultural educator and flutist R. Carlos Nakai will appear for one performance only at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, in the University of California, San Diego Mandeville Auditorium.

General admission is \$10, seniors, \$8 and students, \$6. Tickets are available from the UCSD Box Office (434-4559) and from TicketMaster outlets.

Nakai will perform arrangements of traditional Native American music and selections of his own compositions. The Native American selections are melodies of the Plains and Woodlands tribes. For his performances, he has adapted melodies from the Zuni, Blood, Lakota and Kiowa peoples.

He performs on a hand-crafted cedar wood flute, whose sound has been described as "so soothing, it unwrinkles mind and soul."

Nakai has recorded four albums, "Changes," "Cycles," "Earth Spirit," and most recently, "Carry the Gift," on which he is accompanied by guitarist William Eaton. In 1988, the Martha Graham Dance Company premiered a work choreographed by Graham and set to five selections from the "Cycles" album. The work, entitled "Night Chant," has become a part of the Graham repertoire and has been performed throughout the United States, Canada and Europe.

A concerto for Native American flute and orchestra, titled "Spirit Horses," by James DeMars, was commissioned by Canyon Records for performance by Nakai. He premiered the work in 1986 with the Nouveau West Chamber Orchestra, in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the Kerr Cultural Center.

Also an educator, Nakai has taught high school and junior college in Arizona, and is currently with the Arizona Commission on the Arts as a Folk and Visual Artist in the Artist-in-Education program. He presents workshops, seminars, and residencies on Native American culture and music for schools and museums. His lectures include crafts, music, history, herbology, and spirituality of the Native American. His demonstrations of crafts include work in leather, beads and feathers, and the construction of a Plains tipi.

This event is brought to San Diego by the UCSD University Events Office.

(October 8, 1990)