



# NOTES

from the Center

Community Center for the Performing Arts / Located in the Historic Woodmen of the World Hall

The Newsletter of the Community Center for the Performing Arts

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## The "Lion Of Zimbabwe" Comes To Eugene

By Eric van Keppel

It's not unusual for an artist to write and sing about social injustice, racial prejudice, oppression and corruption of power, but how many artists also help create an identity and help to define an entire nation at the same time? On Monday night, April 15th, at 8:30 one such person will be appearing at the WOW Hall.

Zimbabwean born Thomas Mapfumo was the first artist in his country to address national issues like the apartheid system of the Ian Smith regime or the Revolutionary War of 1974-80, which gained Zimbabwe (at the time known as Rhodesia) its independence. Mapfumo's sardonic, caustic and inspirational lyrics has kept him at odds with his government, and when the English speaking Rhodesian government translated Mapfumo's Shona lyrics, they deemed them as militant, advocating political change. The authorities charged Mapfumo and threw him in jail for 90 days for influencing young people to leave the country, get trained, and come back opposing the Government. The Rhodesian Broadcasting Company banned Mapfumo's music from the air-waves in 1976.

However, the gag of censorship and the attempt to keep Mapfumo and his music from being heard failed. Mapfumo became a catalyst and his music was the battle cry that in 1980,



ended colonial rule, founding of the state of Zimbabwe.

Recognizing that the struggle for control of Zimbabwe was a spiritual battle as well as a political battle, Mapfumo realized that his country had no distinct "Zimbabwean" sound. All the music Mapfumo and his peers were playing was foreign, ranging from western Rock n Roll, South African rhythms to Jamaican Reggae. What sets Mapfumo's chimurenga (the liberation struggle) music apart from music from other African countries is the Mbira (thumb

piano). The Mbira is played mostly by people who come from the rural areas of

...Lion continued on page 2

## WOW Celebrates Diversity in April

By C.C. Jackson

April commemorates the first Civil Rights Act in the United States. Passed in 1866, it was the first legislative act giving rights to former slaves.. It was the forerunner to the 14th amendment which gave African Americans citizenship. April has produced many events that shaped the world and affected the shape of Human Rights in America.

On April 9th, 1939, famed African American opera singer Marion Anderson sang at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., after having been refused an appearance at Carnegie Hall. Many say that her inspiring performance contributed to the beginnings of the later emphasis on civil rights that was prevalent in the 50's and 60's  
...diversity continued on page 2

## Quantum Leap Dance the 13th & 14th

"Quantum Leap", an exciting and innovative dance performance, collaborating with the Arts and Science, will perform two shows at the WOW Hall the weekend of April 13th & 14th. Pat Knaus, choreographer, has drawn from the new Science of

Chaos, quantum physics and oriental mysticism in creating dances that illustrate, for instance, the butterfly effect, Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, the yin/yang in human affairs and the transitory (illusory)

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# "World Fusion Music"

## April 11th

Thursday night, April 11, promises to be an evening of enchanting music when the WOW Hall welcomes back to town, **Ancient Future**. Imagine the irresistible rhythms of a jungle of African, Balinese, Indian, Middle Eastern and South American percussions, along with exotic instruments from around the world in concert with the latest state of the art synthesizers, electric violin and scalloped fretboard guitars. Mix all that together with rich harmonies and beautiful melodies, and what you get is a strikingly original synthesis of African, Indian, and Latin rhythms woven together with European harmonies, Eastern and Western melodies, and jazz-rock improvisations.

**Ancient Future** was formed in 1978, with the goal of bringing world music to a wider audience. Billboard magazine called **Ancient Future** "trendsetters" for the groups efforts at establishing the genre known as "World Fusion Music", a term **Ancient Future** coined for music that blends musical ideas from many different cultures. They've

recorded five albums, and have recorded with such luminaries as the master of the North Indian tabla, Zakir Hussain, Alex De Grassi and Darol Anger. **Ancient Future's** award winning lead guitarist (Louis Armstrong Jazz award & Colorado Out-

Because of their many influences, **Ancient Future** is equally at home on any bill be it jazz, folk, classical or world music. Headlining is such venues as New York City's Carnegie Recital Hall, San Francisco's Great American Music Hall, as well as the



standing Young Guitarist Award 1976) Matthew Montfort, is a pioneer of the scalloped fretboard guitar, an instrument combining aspects of steel string guitar and South Indian vina. He is also the author of a book entitled, "Ancient Traditions--Future Possibilities: Rhythmic Training Through the Traditions of Africa, Bali and India".

Hult Center, **Ancient Future** has delighted audience with their special sound and they're guaranteed to do it once again Thursday night, April 11, at the WOW Hall. The doors will open at 9:00. Show time is 9:30. This is a sit down show. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Advance tickets are available at the usual WOW Hall ticket outlets.

...leap cont. from cover

nature of things. Collaborating with Knaus, Pat Arrera, visual artist, has provided two monumental set sculptures, costumes and overall art direction: Michael Dyer, U of O Math Professor, contributes his Science and Philosophy expertise, while Engineer Chuck Arrera is in charge of computer fractel graphics and video.

Interspersed among and tying individual dance pieces together are Gregorian chants sung by an acapella quartet and provocative quotes from such diverse notables as Albert Einstein and William Blake. In addition, some pieces will make use of black light and fluorescence, fractels (computer generated graphics produced from mathematical "sets"), or video projection.

"Physicists," say Dyer, "as they explore ever more minute quanta of nature, are beginning to sound like Zen Buddhists as they describe, for instance, the condition of the universe in the first

second following the Big Bang or theorize about "virtual" particles appearing from and disappearing into nothingness. Eastern Mystics, on the other hand, are adopting more "scientific" methods and metaphors as they attempt to integrate their philosophy into western culture. "Art", says Knaus, "is uniquely positioned to mediate and interpret the synthesis of these two powerful forces.

The show times for "Quantum Leap" dance performance are 8:30 Saturday night, and Sunday's matinee begins at 2:00. Door will open a half hour before show time. Tickets are \$ in advance and \$ at the door.

The "Quantum Leap" dance performance is being funded in part, by the City of Eugene.

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