

## **White Water and Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra Combine for "Classically Folk"**

One of Michigan's truly outstanding musical ensembles--the U.P.'s own White Water band--will perform on the Rozsa stage in a unique joint concert with the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, February 17, at 7:30 p.m. Please join us for this unforgettable evening!

Evan Premo and his sister Laurel will make the trip north from University of Michigan School of Music to join their parents, Dean and Bette, to be a part of this unique event, with Dr. Milton Olsson conducting.

It'll be a fast-paced evening featuring both classic and folk favorites, plus the premiere of music written by Evan and Laurel. The orchestra will open with "Finlandia" by Jean Sibelius. White Water then joins the KSO for arrangements of some of the group's favorite songs such as "Keweenaw Light" and "White Squall," and will also perform a set on their own. Evan will be soloist with the orchestra in a movement from Jukka Linkola's famed concerto for stringed bass and orchestra, a work which was highlighted in the 2005 Finn Grand Fest Concert in Marquette. Evan will conduct the premiere of "Woodsmoke on the Wind," a piece for clawhammer banjo and orchestra composed by Evan and Laurel, with Laurel as soloist. And those are just the highlights!

White Water has been a concert and dance band for over twenty years and has performed as a quartet of family members since 1994. Their repertoire is diverse, including music of the ethnic groups that settled the U.P. as well as traditional and contemporary folk songs. Their delivery has the precision of classically trained musicians and the driving beat and festive energy of a seasoned dance band. Many tunes feature their tight family four-part harmonies. Both Evan and Laurel are pursuing further music training at the University of Michigan and have launched solo careers. Evan is also co-member of the unique double bass-soprano voice duet known as Duo Borealis.

The relationship between White Water members and the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra goes back almost a decade. Bette Premo and then-12-year-old son Evan joined the KSO in 1997 as violist and bassist, respectively. Three years later Laurel joined the viola section of the KSO. All three made the weekly trip to Houghton from their home seventy-five miles south for Tuesday night KSO rehearsals. "Laurel and Evan accomplished lots of homework on the car trips to and from Houghton," says Bette.

Tickets for "Classically Folk" are available at the Rozsa Center box office (487-3200 or [tickets.mtu.edu](http://tickets.mtu.edu)) for \$15 general, \$5 students.