

Celebrating the silence

Sedona favorites Deva Premal & Miten return with timeless sounds for Scottsdale concert

BY MARV LINCOLN
Special to Kudos

Deva Premal and Miten, whose singing and graceful presence have enchanted Sedona audiences for years, are taking their show to Scottsdale this season.

They will perform on Saturday, July 1, at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. The concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are still available through Sedona ticket outlets and via the Internet.

"It's really a matter of growing pains," said Paul Temple, the duo's manager, from his office at White Swan Records in Boulder, Colo. "We needed a larger venue. Also, there has been a huge demand from Phoenix fans for a concert there."

The Scottsdale location seats 850 people, while the Red Rock High School auditorium, where Deva Premal and Miten had performed for years, seats only 220.

"The artists are very appreciative of the phenomenal support they have received in Sedona," added Temple. "Sedona helped launch these guys, helped establish them. But it was time for a change."

Deva Premal and Miten, her partner in music and life, have certainly come a long way since they started touring about 15 years ago. They have sold more than 500,000 albums to date. They

play to packed houses around the world. Accolades for their musical gifts continue to pour in.

And they have demonstrated that the power of mantra is as relevant today as it has been for thousands of years. Mantras are rapidly becoming the music of choice for people seeking solace in sound, and Deva Premal is the voice they're turning to.

Her soulful rendering of these timeless sounds strikes a powerful chord — whether it's for a private audience with the Dalai Lama, motivational speaker Anthony Robbins, actress-singer Cher, or in front of hundreds or thousands of adoring fans around the world.

The potent combination of her pure voice and these ancient mantras resonate as powerfully today as they have throughout time. Miten, who plays guitar and often writes the melodies for the mantras, sings harmony and also performs his own songs of celebration.

During their concerts, Deva Premal and Miten invite the audience to experience the performance without the customary applause. This creates a deep silence, a connection between performers and audience that invites stillness and introspection.

The experience is incredibly powerful. Eckhart Tolle, famous Western mystic and best-selling author of "The Power of Now,"

calls Deva Premal's and Miten's music "Pure magic ... It is truly a portal into Presence. As you listen, the sacred space that lies beyond the mind emerges naturally and effortlessly."

Just as monks, lamas and yogis have used mantras for thousands of years to attain and explore that sacred space; Deva Premal and Miten are modern-day spiritual messengers, making this refuge of the mind available to an ever-increasing number of people.

Says Miten, "The true purpose of our music is to awaken a longing in the heart for that which is omnipresent: the experience of silence and meditation. It's not about entertainment — it is simply our spiritual practice."

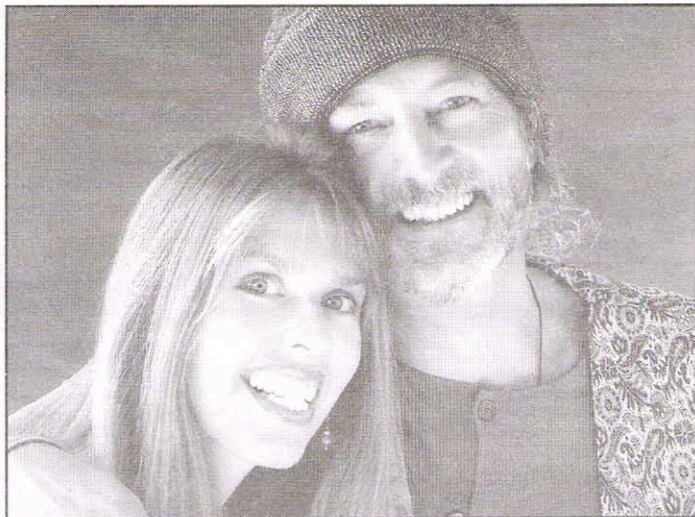
Deva Premal grew up in Nuremberg, Germany, was trained in piano and violin, and "grew up singing mantras while walking with my father," who is a renowned artist. Her mother is a classical musician.

"As a child, the Gayatri Mantra was my goodnight song," she says.

Miten was born in London, had some success as a rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter, but felt unfulfilled by the lifestyle. He and Deva Premal met and hooked up in 1990 at a spiritual commune in India. Their guru suggested a change to Sanskrit names: Deva Premal means "divine loving" and Miten translates as "friend of God."

The music of Deva Premal and Miten — with its ancient words, contemporary songs and contemplative silences — is a very special gift. For the Scottsdale concert, they will be accompanied by Manose, a Nepalese bansuri flute player.

In Sedona, tickets for the Deva Premal & Miten concert are on sale at Mystical Bazaar, Golden Word and Crystal Magic, all on Arizona 89A in West Sedona, or online at www.tickets.com or call (480) 994-2787. Prices are \$27.50 and \$32.50. The Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts is located at 7380 E. 2nd St., Scottsdale. For map and directions, log on to www.mapquest.com. For further information, e-mail Kathleen@... or call



Courtesy photos

Deva Premal (left) and Miten are their respective...