



Paul Winter, the soprano saxophonist, is a dedicated environmentalist, who performs benefits for groups such as Greenpeace.

Wildlife provides him with meaning for his own music

By Larry O'Connor
staff writer

In one beat, Paul Winter became one with nature.

When he was 13, the diverse and talented musician took a drum into the hills of Pennsylvania. The sound Winter heard echoing through the trees was something he couldn't forget.

Winter's music has since included the voices of a whale, a fox and an eagle. Today, he's involved in trying to preserve those sounds. The soprano saxophonist is a dedicated environmentalist, who also performs benefits for groups such as Greenpeace, Sierra Club and numerous ecological causes.

His music speaks the loudest.

"Music is the common denominator," said Phil Moore of the Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford. "It's a language that we all see."

The Paul Winter Consort will perform on Friday, May 12, at Orchestra Hall in Detroit in a benefit for the Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center, East Michigan Environmental Action Council and the Sierra Club of Southeast Michigan. Organizers hope to raise between \$8,000 to \$10,000.

But more than money, though, Winter's music raises people's awareness of the environment.

"I THINK it has done that for some people," Winter said. "What it does, hopefully, is let people appreciate the beauty of the earth more than being a statement of protest."

(The issue of the environment) makes you realize how endangered some life forms are. It wakes you up and shakes you out of your ivory tower."

As a musician, Winter is in a tower of his

own. He has recorded 25 albums and has worked with the likes of Beatles' producer George Martin.

Astronauts on Apollo 15 took his music aboard with them to the moon and even named two craters after compositions from one of his albums.

One of Winter's most well-known albums, "Canyon," was recorded over a period of years in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and on rafting trips down the Grand Canyon.

"We had one raft flip with our cellist on it," Winter said. "Fortunately, he was all right."

"Canyon" did better than all right, reaching No. 4 on Billboard's jazz charts and receiving a Grammy nomination in 1987. A film documentary, "Canyon Consort," was released following the album.

For the album "Whales Alive," 10 of the 11 pieces on the album were compiled from recordings of whales by Dr. Roger Payne of the Long Term Research Institute. Royalties from album sales were donated to the World Wildlife Fund.

WINTER'S LATEST project has involved several trips to the Soviet Union where he's working on a series of albums, "A Song of Russia." Of particular interest to Winter is Lake Baikal, the deepest lake in the USSR.

"It's very, very beautiful," he said. "It's very much like our Grand Canyon in many ways."

"Friends of the Environment" present the Paul Winter Consort at 8 p.m. Friday, May 12, at Orchestra Hall in Detroit. Tickets are \$18 and \$15. Proceeds will benefit Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center, Sierra Club of Southeast Michigan and East Michigan Environmental Action Council. For ticket information, call 833-3768 or 645-6866.

Lakes fishing has thrills of deep sea

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IT TOOK the Ginger Brandy Two half an hour to get beyond the first, second and third banks to The Shelf, where we joined the rest of the "fleet" near the Three Bears.

Joe's wife Ann, a school teacher and "first mate by land and sea," took the wheel while Joe organized and looked up seven fishing poles in shiny chrome holders at the back of the boat.

Ann can hook, haul, swab and do everything Joe can do, but for the moment her job is to keep the boat on course.

"I like fisherwomen even better than fishermen because they pay attention, they aren't macho and they don't pretend to know everything," Joe said.

The first fish struck while Joe was still putting the lines out.

"Who's going to take it," he yelled, and there I was with a huge rod jammed into my stomach and a fish fighting furiously to go in the opposite direction. It turned out to be an 18-pound coho salmon, the biggest of the six salmon we caught that morning.

It took me 20 minutes to haul him in, although the struggle got more desperate as I replayed it that evening around the Fish Ball. Most of the charter boats had come in by then and were knocking gently against the dock of the nearby Solberg Marina in the small Michigan city of Manistee.

The charter boat captains and their wives were gathered around picnic tables, near their summer caravans, to savor the dinner — salmon, carrots, onions and potatoes layered and steamed in a huge pot over an open fire. It was served with oym-on-the-cob, salad and cold beer.

WE WERE lucky to be there, because a fish ball is usually a private affair: an evening meal that boat crews and their wives sometimes cook for themselves after the fish have been cleaned and the work is done for the day.

Most of the charter captains had tawn jobs, and fished for fun, before they decided to make fishing their business; many still hold down other jobs and charter only on weekends

and holidays.

When do you go and how do you choose a charter? The season runs from April through November.

Michigan City, Ind., at the south end of Lake Michigan an hour's drive from Chicago, has one of the largest charter fishing fleets on the lake. You can fish from there for coho salmon March through May, for chinook May through July. By mid-June, a hybrid steelhead trout, called Skamania, starts running.

The coho and chinook go north as the water warms with summer. August and September is high season, when you catch the largest salmon and lake trout around Grand Traverse Bay. Things get active again all along the lake in late October and November when the salmon move towards their spawning grounds.

A charter boat costs about \$60 per person for half a day, with a four-person minimum. Pick the morning and go early.

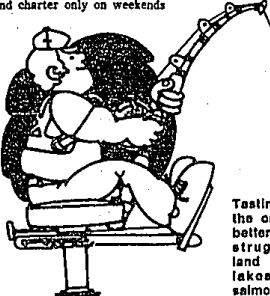
Charters are available all up and down the Lake Michigan shoreline. If you are based in Traverse City, you are less likely to be held back by bad weather; Grand Traverse Bay is like a big 200-square-mile lake.

CONTACT THE Fisheries Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, Mich. 48909, for detailed information, including fishing tips and license fees. A daily fishing license costs less than \$8.

The Michigan Travel Bureau, Michigan Department of Commerce, Lansing, Michigan 48906, will send you state tourism booklets listing fishing and specialty charters, which includes boat size, passenger levels etc. Don't be afraid to ask how long they've been licensed and how much experience they've had.

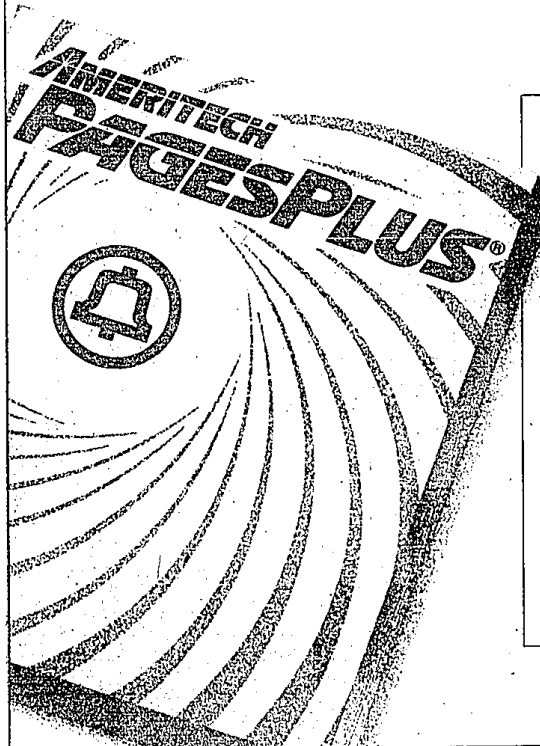
And if you can find one, join a Fish Ball. They are sometimes organized as local charity events or during town festivals. There's nothing quite like telling fish stories while the butter runs down your chin into your shoes.

If you have a travel question for Iris Sanderson Jones, send it to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



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