STREET SCENE

Musical duo on the road to success with first CD

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Steven and Abha Dearing pever dreamed there would be so many small details involved with producing their own CD.

Their excitement built steadily as they talked about the endeav-or recently. Sitting side by side,



Take One: Abha and Steven Dearing play music from their new CD, "Take One," at the Ann Arbor Art Fairs.

the husband and wife duo seemed in complete harmony except for the few times when their enthusiasm got the better of them and they stopped on each other's sentences. Then one of them would gently nudge the other and they were back in sync.

The intense conversation was the exact opposite of the mellow guitar and flute selections on Take One. The CD is easy lis-tening music, the kind that makes you want to close your eyes and lay back.

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If you'd like to hear their music live before purchasing the CD at Border's in Birmingham, Off The Record and Repeat The Beat in Royal Oak or Harmony House Classice! in Ferndale, catch the Plymouth due at the Ann Arbor Art Fairs on Friday, July 23. The Dearings will be joined by dozens of other entertainers in different areas throughout the three fairs. "There were so many things

throughout the three fairs.

"There were so many things we didn't anticipate, securing copyright permission and a bar code," said Steven. "Just when we thought we were done, another thing would come up."

The Dearings' choice of a photographer to shoot the image for the cover was easy. They choss Jim Steele, the same Detroit "photographer who took their wedding pictures a year age in April." Their neighbor neroes the street, Nikki Lorence, did the graphic design.

Beven, a classical guitarist,

graphic design.

Bieven, a classical guitarist, and Abha, a fluitat, stepped into a Cleveland studio to record the miss of repertoire from Havel and Bizet to 'attin selections, and an original' composition by Wayne Btate University professor James Lontini certain they were ready, at least musically. For Abha, the returns from producing their first CD were many.

First step

"It was our first step into the professional world," said Abha. "And to be professionally mixed

What: Abha and Steven Dearing perform music from their new CD, "Take One," at the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, They're among the nearly 30 entortainers, including Three Men and a Tenor, Bakra Bata and Mr. B, foatured at four performing areas at the fair.

Whon; 10:50 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. Friday, July 23, on South University near the Tappan Street Intersection, Ann Arbor. There are also performance areas on the corner of East and South University and Church Street.

and mostered was thrilling."

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Steven's take on the session differed slightly. That's okay with Abha because the two respect each other's opinions.

"Playing in a studio is like playing in a studio is like playing in a studio is like." You don't have reverberation. You can't hear yourself. My favorite part was when it was done. In the studio, we were four feet apart. We usually perform right next to each other. It was tough because we really had to listen to one another. I couldn't hear her breathe. When she breathes, I know when to come in."

in."
Engineered by Bruce Gigas at Audio Recording, the CD took less time than expected which was important to the Dearlings who weren't spending their own money. An anonymous sponsor picked up the cost in exchange for a promise that the Dearlings rupay the money when they could.

"It was very concise," said Abha. "We played each of our pieces three times. Our engineer said, we're one of the most pre-pared groups he'd worked with."

Potpourri of styles

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From their eight hours of literature for guitar and flute, the Dearings chose selections that would propel their performing careor forward. While the duo play weddings nearly every week, concerts, like ones last year at the Plymouth Community Arts Council and The Community House in Birmingham, are fewer and far between. They hope the CD will pave the way for future performances. With the help of a computer they purchased two months ago, Steven is searching the web for lists of promoters presenting concerts throughout the U.S. He is then able to e-mail them with information about the Dearing Concert Duo.

"We wanted it to be a potpour-ri," said Abha, "so someone who liked Latin would hear some-thing they liked, and also for marketing reasons. So in the future we could send it to a vari-ety of presenters."

Fantasy for Flute and

Written in 1981, Lentini's "Fantasy for Flute and Guitar' is a special addition to the CD. Steven was a master's student at Wayne State when he met Lentini, who chairs the guitar depart-

ni, who chairs the guitar department there.
"This is the first time the Fantasy had ever been recorded," said Steven. "When he gave it to me in 1994, it hadn't even been published yet. It's fortunate because we're fond of the piece. All he asked was that I save the programs we played it on and give him a copy of the CD."

Lentini's gift to Steven precéded hie meeting Abha nearly five
years ago when both were atudents at Wayne State University.
Today, Steven teaches guitar hit
the University of Windsor and
Macomb Community College. A
private music teacher, Abha ic,
holt director at Mercy High
School in Parmington Hills. Tilja
School in Parmington Hills. Tilja
School in Parmington Hills. Tilja
Berboyler, send Abha who will
perform with Steven at the
school in fall: "Li's also important
for our students to see us poiform."
Added Steven, "Not just to lif-

form."
Added Steven, "Not just to listen to what we're saying but to see what we do."
The Dearing Concert Due's CD is also available at Repeat the Beat and The Coffee Studio in Plymouth.

Artists flock to Ann Arbor

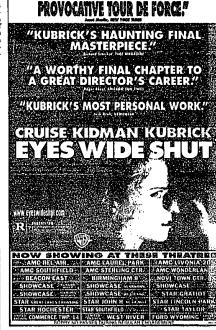
Nearly 1.100 artists take to the streets of downtown Ann Arbor to display their wares at the Ann Arbor Art Fairs. Contin-uous entertainment offered on stages throughout downtown Arbor. There are also free children and adult art activity areas. For visitor information, call (600) 888-9487 or visit the Ann Arbor Convention and Visi-tors Bureau Web site www.annarbor.org

Fair hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday to Friday, July 22-23; and until 6 p.m. Saturday, July 24.

Transportation: Fairgoers are encouraged to park at Briarwood Mail (off 1-8) at State St.) or Pioneer High School (Main and Stadium) and take the shuthe bus to the fairs. Shuttle bus for \$2 adults (\$1 each way), no charge for children age 7 and under.

Trolley rides between the three fairs cost 50 cents, shuttle buse passengers ride free. Shuttle buses and trolleys will run 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday to Friday; and until 7 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call (313) 996-0400 or go to http://theride.org on the Web.





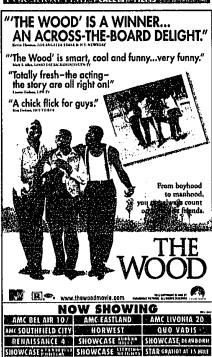
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