

## **Bethany Professor uses musical talents to create a new sound - 05/05**

**Keri Brown**

**Lead:** Aaron Carey has been playing heavy metal and rock music for most of his life. But over the past 6 years, his style of music has changed. He's now focusing on using his guitar to produce more folk type music that combines his Native American and Celtic heritage. Keri Brown reports.

**Brown:** 30 year-old Aaron Carey of Wellsburg has always been driven by music. He played in a few heavy metal bands growing up but now he's focusing on a more subtle sound.

**Carey:** This project that we are taking to Texas. *Forrest of the Soul* began at a Native American sweat lodge and my friend Andrew Dellacagna who plays in the group with me brought his guitar along and we were strumming some songs and we both have a lot of Irish blood and studied Celtic music and there are similarities between the two musical styles so we have attempted to juxtapose styles so we can create our own thing from that.

**Brown:** His songs have little lyrics and rely on acoustics for an eclectic sound.

**Carey:** There is a device called an Ebow that I love with an electric guitar and it sounds a lot like a flute so I can do a lot of flute-lines over top of what he is playing and it gives a good atmosphere to what he writes. .

**Brown:** His interesting style caught the attention of some public radio executives in Texas. In July, Carey and his band will perform at a PBS fundraiser in Harlingen. KMBH Business manager David Holden, who is also a native of Wellsburg, WV says Carey's music will add a different twist to the lineup.

**Holden:** I wanted to open people's minds to different styles of music because down here they are kind of sheltered to types of music and Aaron has been a best friend of mine since 6th grade and we grew up together and I thought he would fit into this style because of his uniqueness in playing the Native American and Celtic style which most people have never heard that style before.

**Brown:** Carey is also recording a solo album under his Indian name Nechochwen, which focuses the area's local history. He started playing the guitar when he was 10 years old. He says nature, life experiences and family help inspire most of his songs. He majored in music at WVU and became a professor at Bethany College three years ago. Carey says his time in the classroom has helped him to reflect on his musical style.

**Holden:** I love being a guitarist and musician and sometimes when I would teach and sometimes in between lessons I would see a guitar sitting there and I had to pick it up strum and come up with ideas and it became the songs that you hear for Forest of the Soul.

**Brown:** Carey also plans to play songs for the Texas crowd that reflect his West Virginia roots.

**Carey:** I even have a song about a particular section of route 2 going through Follansbee that has some bulldozers and things that people do in jobs around here that represents where we are from.

**Brown:** Carey's band Forest of the Soul will play at the music festival in Texas on July 12<sup>th</sup>. For West Virginia Public Broadcasting, I'm Keri Brown in Bethany.