

ARVEL BIRD - "CELTIC INDIAN"

INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER

Artist Rep: Kimberly Kelley

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Promotional Video

[Inspirational Speaker Demo](#)

Animal Totem Related Links

[Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary - Ramah, NM](#)

[Great Blue Heron - Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC](#)

[Turtle and Bear - Winston-Salem, NC](#)

[Animal Totems Workshop - Kanab, UT](#)

Website and Social Media Links

[Official Website](#)

[Official Facebook Page](#)

[SoundCloud](#)

[LinkedIn Page](#)

[Arvel Bird's Twitter](#)

Inspirational Speaker and Animal Totem Workshop Facilitator

Arvel Bird has spent a lifetime studying the characteristics and spiritual messages of animals. He calls on their spirits daily to give him guidance, a higher view of difficult situations and sometimes just to remind him that life is supposed to be fun.

In 2002, as Arvel began performing his instrumental music from his Animal Totems CD, he felt he needed to “explain” the relationship between the music and the animal. These stories quickly became as integral to his performance as his violin and flutes.

Arvel followed Animal Totems CD with two more relevant releases, Animal Totems 2 and Animal Totems 3. As he continued to include this music in every performance, many more stories developed. Some of these stories involved his tumultuous childhood and how he rose above those early years. As you will discover, the animals have played an important role in his survival, his transformation and his success. The stories of the animals ultimately turned into a full Animal Totem Workshop and his Inspirational speaking followed.

Through his music and workshops, Arvel’s intention is to help you to discover the Sacred Power of Animal Totems, and to find your own connection with them; through music, workshops like this, meditation, reading, focusing on animal fetishes, photos, spending time in nature, whatever helps you to feel the “medicine” they have for you when you need it.

The Animal Totem Workshop combines traditions of many indigenous cultures including the Native American perspective and shamanic traditions of South America. Arvel teaches the “Nine Power Animal Tradition” and uses contemporary interpretations of Spirit or Totem animal medicine. These meanings give inspiration, guidance and answers to those who journey, including why they’re here, their strengths, weaknesses and what fears they need to overcome to heal themselves.

Each and every person on earth has nine power totem animals that symbolize the medicine they carry in their Earth Walk. These animals or creature beings represent each person’s innate talents, abilities, challenges and dreams. For instance, if a person is linked to a Wolf as a power animal, that person is natural born a teacher, pathfinder, innovator, and self-starter. This does not necessarily mean that a person has acknowledged those gifts and is using them to the fullest. It can mean that Wolf is there to bring that person to an awareness and a greater understanding of those talents.

How do you know what your Power Animal is? Pay attention to not only what animal, insect, or bird you are naturally attracted to, but also notice if an animal shows itself to you on your way to work, in your yard or on a telephone wire or if you see fetishes, images or jewelry representing the animal. If you see it 7 times in a brief period of time, that is usually considered your Power Animal.



Awards and Notables

Cowboys and Indians Magazine (Nov/Dec 2015)

Arvel named one of their top 4 favorite musicians

Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards

Best Instrumental (3 Albums)

Best Producer / Engineer

Native American Music Awards

Artist of the Year

Best Instrumental

Indian Summer Music Awards

Best Traditional Instrumental

Best Contemporary Instrumental

PowWows.com

Best Native American Artist

Best Native American Band

Four Time Indiana State Fiddle Champion

"Bird captivated students (pre-K to 12) with his stories of Native American animal totems whose spirits can teach lessons about human nature and life.

His performances blend original and traditional music with inspirational tales of the customs and spiritual practices of Native Americans, historical events of both cultures and Bird's journey of self-discovery through his music."

Kate Evans - Reporter,
Morgan Messenger, WV

"I am from Peru and I have different ancestries: Incas, Spanish. In more than seven years that I have studied in two different universities I have never experienced a sense of personal satisfaction in any of my classes like the last Wednesday when you were in the class. My respect."
Raphael Lopez, Student,
Saint George, UT

"Arvel is such an awesome person and performer. His music is powerful, riveting. There were about 40 people who attended my house concert and I am still getting calls and emails about how much they enjoyed his performance and sincerely hope he will come back. Part of Arvel's appeal is that he is so personable and he is so

happy to have other local folks who play an instrument join him for a song or two. His music, his energy, touches people on a deep level. One minute you have goosebumps, tears, the next you'll be up dancing a jig. He is absolutely amazing. He and Kimberly are always welcome in my home and community."

Becky Donlan House Concert,
Salida, CO

"Best entertainment we've had here in 20 years! This was definitely the largest crowd, too. Please call as soon as you're ready to book Arvel again."

Ingrid Kluegel, SKP Saguaro
RV Resort Entertainment
Director, Benson, AZ

"I have seen Arvel in concert many times, and I greatly enjoy his music and storytelling. Having him perform a concert in my home for close personal friends was an incredible experience. All my guests enjoyed themselves, and many remarked on his incredible talent. A truly wonderful experience. I would recommend him to anyone looking for a Celtic performer. No one will be disappointed!"

Teresa S. - House Concert,
Byers, CO

"Arvel Bird's performance at the Tanner Amphitheater was heart-felt. Bird's music is beautiful and the entire program takes the listener on a journey across diverse lines of heritage and culture." -

Mary Stephenson, Dixie State
University, St. George, UT,
Cultural Arts Programming
Director

"Arvel Bird and Kimberly Kelley's performances were intimate and engaging, and were accompanied by an illuminating commentary. As if by magic, Arvel weaves a musical tapestry derived from seemingly incongruous cultural traditions and genres to create his own unique style and sound, one that speaks to the heart of contemporary audiences. He reminds us that, although rich in our diversity, we are all one people."

Jeffrey Moyer, VP Craftsmans
Guild of Pittsburgh, PA

"Arvel Bird is a performer that gets the audience up and moving! His music makes you see and feel the title of his songs. He has been performing at our celebration for many years and the audience can never get enough!"

Susan Soto - Shinnecock
Nation Powwow Committee,
Long Island, NY

Arvel Bird Bio

Arvel Bird's "Celtic Indian" brand is a reflection of his mixed-blood American Indian and Celtic heritages -- With his violin, fiddle, Native flutes and Irish whistles, Arvel weaves a powerful tapestry of music and stories about animal totems and of his rich cultural history. He performs at a variety of venues from music festivals to concert halls where the audience gets a glimpse into his Native American heart and Scottish soul.

Within that confluence of traditions, Arvel has become an inspirational speaker, giving messages as spiritual centers borne of his tumultuous and abusive childhood and developing his Animal Totems Workshop "Discover the Magic of Animal Totems" - Who are YOUR Power Animals? - which is a culmination of his studies, insight gained from his students and his own personal experiences. These popular workshops are known for their profound Shamanic Journeys and practical interpretations, which have transformed many lives.

Classically trained as a violinist, Arvel Bird's compositions and performances are a confluence of styles informed by his extraordinary love of diversity—from traditional Celtic tunes and bluegrass standards to his original Native American folk and Celtic rock orchestrations.

Arvel's first private violin teacher in Salt Lake City, UT encouraged him to play from his soul. Prophetically, she said, "Arvel, no one will remember if you're the best or the fastest, but they *will* remember your passion."

For two years, Arvel attended Arizona State University on music scholarship and later transferred to Champagne/Urbana, IL where he studied classical violin with renowned Hungarian violinist and teacher, Paul Rolland at the University of Illinois. Although he had been playing for several years, Arvel credits Mr. Rolland with perfecting his performance technique.

As he worked to develop his own music style and a loyal following, Arvel went wherever the music called him, which led him away from classical and towards Bluegrass, Appalachian, Folk and Celtic. During his years in the Midwest, Arvel won the Indiana State Fiddle Contest four times while still perfecting a variety of performance styles. Arvel returned to Arizona in 1986 and hired by Glen Campbell to tour worldwide for the next six years.

In 1991, he continued touring with Campbell and moved to Nashville, TN, later adding tours with Loretta Lynn, Tom T. Hall, Ray Price, Louise Mandrell, and Clay Walker; but once he began composing and recording his own music, the result was a blending of both his Scottish and Native American roots that are uniquely his own and intricately woven throughout his songs.

One of Arvel's favorite aspects of touring is the worldwide travel to Scotland, England, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and in prestigious locations including the SkyDome in Toronto, Ontario, Royal Albert Hall in London, England, Smithsonian Museums in DC and NY, Hochstein Performance Hall in Rochester, NY and the Kennedy Space Center in Cocoa, FL just to name a few -- with symphonies, chamber orchestras, large festivals and more, logging over 500,000 road miles. Arvel has been touring full-time since 2004, giving no indication he's ready to slow down.

A prolific songwriter, Arvel released his 24th and 25th CDs in 2015 adding to his two EPs and two DVDs. Five of his releases have earned him international music awards. One of his most cherished is for his classical recording, Tribal Music Suite: Journey of a Paiute, a Celtic and Native American concerto for violin and Native American flute, that earned him Best Instrumental Album and Best Producer/Engineer (with Grammy-winning producer Tom Wasinger and Nashville engineer Chas Williams) at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. Other awards include Artist of the Year as voted by peers and fans as well as numerous Best Instrumentals.

Arvel's continuously evolving music is delighting audiences worldwide. His 25th release is a World Music CD reflecting the mood, environment and flavors from around the globe. His 24th release, "Celtic Indian" is a reflection of his live musical experience. Arvel compiled many of the songs he performs and that have been released on other CDs, included 2 previously unreleased but popular performance songs and created a signature CD to make Celtic Indians everywhere proud!

During his 13 years in Nashville, Arvel built a master recording studio to help him launch his own independent record label, Singing Wolf Records, which still supports his 17 active recordings. Initially the studio provided him with a haven to write and record his own music and later to record hundreds of songs and album projects for songwriters and independent artists in many countries.

While enjoying the life of concerts and festivals, Arvel is also active in community outreach projects for local schools, community centers, and social clubs where he facilitates music and spiritual workshops, performances at retirement centers, nursing homes and more.

Although based in Nashville, TN, Arvel is permanently on the road, connecting with audiences the old-fashioned way . . . live. This is where Arvel's emotionally driven performances thrive, igniting concert venues, symphony halls, festivals and more, leaving his audiences inspired, transfixed and transformed.

Contact: Kimberly Kelley (615) 406-3689 or kkelley@arvelbird.com

Discography

ALBUMS

- ***Animal Totems 3*** (2015)
- ***Celtic Indian*** (2015)
- ***The Indian In Me - EP*** (2014)
- ***Going Home - EP*** (2014)
- ***Secret of Cave Lakes*** (2013)
- ***Titanic Centennial*** (2012)
- ***Celtic Nation*** (2011)
- ***From the Heart of a Paiute*** (2011)
- ***Storyteller*** (2011)
- ***Ride Indian Ride*** (2010)
- ***Tribal Music Suite, Journey of a Paiute*** (2009)
- ***Red River Jig*** (2009)
- ***One Nation*** (2008)
- ***Music for Wellness and Bliss*** (2008)
- ***Arvel Bird and One Nation*** (2006)
- ***Ananeah*** (2006)
- ***Winds of the East*** (2006) Collaboration Red Feather Records
- ***Animal Totems 2*** (2005)
- ***Arvel Bird LIVE!*** (2004)
- ***Big Chief Quetoos, Paiute Country Fiddle*** (2003)
- ***Christmas with Arvel and Fred*** (2003)
- ***Rakish Paddy*** (2002)
- ***Animal Totems*** (2002)
- ***My Cabin Don't Leak*** (2002)
- ***Birdstock: Fiddle Tunes for the Birds*** (2001)

DVDs

- ***Arvel Bird at Roots & Rhythm DVD*** (2009) Live concert - Ft. Wayne, IN
- ***Arvel Bird Live at Schemitzun*** (2006). Live performance - Green Corn Festival, Stonington, CT

SCORES

- **Documentaries:** Native American Sacred Places, Sacred Journey, Mighty Mac, Icebreaker Mackinaw, Caring Way
- **Short films:** Spirit Mountain, Animal Totems (music video), Patrick, Pirate Fantasy, Field Trip, A Secret World, Lost Souls: Lighthouses & Shipwrecks.
- **Feature Films:** The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln: The Making of the Man, The Spirit of Abraham Lincoln, Bury My Heart With Tonawanda
and more!

THE PREMIER MAGAZINE OF THE WEST COWBOYS & INDIANS

Arvel Bird (Southern Paiute)

Latest album: Animal Totems 3

Standout track: "KOBRA"

Classic cuts: "Rockness Monster," "Great Blue Heron"

Arvel Bird, the self-described Celtic Indian, was born in Utah, grew up in Arizona, and keeps a residence in Nashville. But he truly believes his home is the road. In a way, his lack of a geographic anchor is akin to the half-Native American, half-Scottish heritage that has inspired him to use Native flutes, Irish whistles, violins, and fiddles to create his signature world music.

Although he was classically trained in violin, Bird found himself in Nashville playing bluegrass, folk, and other genres, including country with Glen Campbell's band. The mix-and-match of influences inspired him. "All of these genres were swirling around in my head, and I took up the violin to see what would come out," he says. "The music touched something inside of me and made me weep. It expressed everything I felt about identity and connection." [Full Article - Cowboys and Indians](#)



Photography: Puspa Lohmeyer

BOYCE THOMPSON ARBORETUM EVENTS

**Boyce Thompson Arboretum
New Year's Day Concert &
Blessing With Arvel Bird**
Jan. 1 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Here's a resolution you'll find easy to keep: begin 2016 at Boyce Thompson Arboretum with a sage-smoke-scented blessing and special concert for New Year's Day! Special 'First Day Hike' guided walks that morning are part of AZ State Parks annual program and include a 9:30am Bird Walk guided by Gold Canyon resident Mark Ochs (followed by a 1030am Dog Socialization walk guided by AJ's Sandra Schenone and her canine compadres Chaco & Buddy).

Celtic Fiddler Arvel Bird

Live music at noon features inspiring Celtic fiddle and flute musician Arvel Bird. Curious to see how a recording artist with roots in both Paiute culture and Celtic music blends both styles? Check out the 2-minute concert film linked at BTA's website ag.arizona.edu/bta

And hope for nice weather – Arvel's debut concert at BTA two years back saw a lovely day with warm temps and music outdoors that energized the picnic area. If predictions are for snow (remember New Year's Eve one year ago?), Arvel moves indoors for afternoon concerts in the lecture room – and space will be severely limited. At noon Arvel begins by sharing a Native American style New Year's blessing to begin 2016, then a concert surrounded by desert beauty, performing new music from his CDs as well as fan favorites from releases including *Animal Totems*, *Tribal Music Suite* and *Titanic Centennial*. Arvel Bird spent a decade playing fiddle for country legends including Glen Campbell, Loretta Lynn and Louise Mandrell; now based in Nashville,



*Arvel Bird by
Denise Sowers*

The Morgan Messenger

Arvel Bird shared life lessons with Celtic fusion music, Native American tales

by Kate Evans

Celtic Indian performer Arvel Bird captivated Warm Springs Intermediate School students with his Celtic fusion music and tales of Native American history and culture.

County students had an opportunity to dance and learn about Native American and Celtic culture and history as Celtic Indian Arvel Bird told stories of his heritage and performed his magical fusion of Celtic, rock, folk, bluegrass and Native American music.

The Morgan Arts Council sponsored his Adopt-a-School programs at all Morgan County Schools from September 30 through October 3. Bird also gave a performance at the Ice House on Friday, October 3.

Bird's ancestry is Scottish, of the clan Kennedy, and also Native American of the Southern Paiute tribe. His performances blend original and traditional music with inspirational tales of the customs and spiritual practices of Native Americans, historical events of both cultures and Bird's journey of self-discovery through his music.

Bird was classically trained as a violinist and was a fourtime Indiana State fiddle champion. He has toured with country music legends such as Glenn Campbell, Loretta Lynn, Louise Mandrell, Ray Price and Tom T. Hall.

At one of his Warm Springs Intermediate School performances, Bird captivated students with his stories of Native American animal totems whose spirits can teach lessons about human nature and life. American Indians revered Mother Earth and her creatures, he said. **Full Article -** [Morgan Messenger](#)

Celtic, Native American musical styles intertwine: Arvel Bird at Tanner Amphitheater

Written by Aspen Stoddard 🕒 June 26, 2014



SPRINGDALE — Recording artist Arvel Bird returns to Southern Utah to perform his unique mix of Celtic fusion with a Southern Paiute twist in a performance at the Tanner Amphitheater, 225 South 700 East in Springdale, Saturday at 8 p.m. as part of Dixie State University's Summer Concert Series.

Bird's musical stories combine historical fiction and nonfiction reflecting his dual ancestry of Southern Paiute and Clan Kennedy of Scotland, something rather reminiscent of "Brave Heart" meets "Last of the Mohicans." His stories are said to move the audience from tears to laughter and back again.

Bird chose Zion National Park to debut his new production of "One Fire — Many Clans, Many Tribes" because he thought it was an inspirational setting and is part of his ancestral native homeland.

Many of the compositions Bird will perform derive from his Celtic and Native American concerto, "Tribal Music Suite, Journey of a Paiute," which took him 33 years to finish and another year-and-a-half to record.

"I call the 'Tribal Music Suite' my soul song," he said. "I gained my skill level through classical training but I gravitated naturally to Celtic. I had to unlearn some of my classical teachings."

[Full Article - St. George News](#)

Bird first came to prominence as a four-time Indiana State Fiddle Champion and later toured with Glen Campbell, Loretta Lynn and Louise Mandrell.



Democrat & Chronicle
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Musician brings his unique blend of Native American and Celtic styles back to Rochester, where his foot-stomping concerts have drawn raves.

With a nickname like Lord of the Strings, Arvel Bird has a lot to live up to. Fortunately, he has animal spirits — not to mention classical training and an ever-growing body of work from national tours — backing him up.

Bird's unique blending of Native American and Celtic music has earned him a major following around the world, including here in Rochester. He's returning for his third concert with the Rochester Chamber Orchestra at 3 p.m. Sunday, at Hochstein Performance Hall.

Shamans and folklore play prominent roles in his music, and the stories he tells between songs bring an added layer to the foot-stomping, soulful experience of his concerts.

"It's about transforming yourself and empowering yourself and using the animal spirits as your guardian angel for spirit and direction," he said while preparing for his last performance with the RCO.

He'll be joined on stage by the Rochester Chamber Orchestra, the Bach Children's Chorus of Nazareth College and the Genesee Valley Children's Choir.

"Arvel loves working with children," says Ray Grosswirth, president of the Rochester Chamber Orchestra. "Wherever he travels, he tries to make it a point to visit schools or interact with children in other capacities."

And, adds Grosswirth, "Arvel has become a huge advocate for wildlife, a cause that I personally appreciate and support. Much of this advocacy is reflected in the music that will be performed in Rochester." [Full Article - Democratic & Chronicle](#)