

Polka culture still kicking

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much polka as before, there were still those who heard and enjoyed it via their parents, grandparents or other family members, and it was those people who kept polka a proud tradition in Nebraska.

He said younger musicians such as Mark Vhlydal, Jim Kucera and Barry Boyce were definitely accepting the torch and carrying polka on, despite garnering little respect outside of the die-hard polka loyalists.

"It's been a part of this culture since the people came over to this country from Europe. It was something they could cling to from their roots, and then preserve through the generations," Lane said.

"I think it will stay like that, simply because in the last 30 years the music itself hasn't changed one bit. That makes me think the style will stay true to form."

Nadherny said it was that basic style that had kept it around all these years. He said there was one simple element about polka that would always keep people coming - fun.

"The thing about polka is that when the people go to the polka dance, it's like one big, happy family getting together and having a happy party."

Concert Preview The Facts

What: Polka Night at the Pla-Mor. Colorado River Boys and the Ron Nadherny Polka Band
Where: Pla-Mor Ballroom, 6600 West O St.
When: 8 p.m. today
Cost: \$5 for symposium participants, \$8 general admission
The Skinny: Two Midwest Polka bands perform traditional Czech and German-style Polka

Indigenous brings blues as family effort

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plays congas, as well as other percussion instruments in the band.

"He was having some trouble, so we told him to come on down," Pte said. "It wasn't too long that I asked him if he wanted to play."

Mato Nanji said his father told the band it couldn't play publicly until they completed two years of practice.

Indigenous went on to write and rehearse for five years before they played their first show in front of a small crowd at a bingo hall in Marty.

Things have definitely changed in the venue and attendance departments. Indigenous played for President Clinton's 1996 Inaugural Ball celebration, and has sold out clubs in every corner of the United States.

Things must be going well for them, as the group has played 260 shows in the past year.

Pte said he recently learned that the

band's song "Things We Do" is the second most-requested song on R&R charts in the United States.

While Mato Nanji said the band's growing success was "awesome," his younger brother had a more reserved response to the band's growing audience.

"It's not really about winning Grammys or any of that," Pte said. "We love what we are doing and want to do it as long as possible. That's what it's about."

Mato Nanji said that while his band is proud of its heritage, it doesn't necessarily mean his group has to use native drums to express themselves.

"Some (American Indians) do that and that's cool," he said. "But this is the music we grew up with and feel closest to."

With titles such as "Now That You're Gone," the band's lyrics are mostly dreamy words based on tradi-

tional blues themes such as lost love.

Pte said that the success Indigenous has had on the national blues-rock circuit has been fun. Yet he spoke proudly of a more humble performance the group used to put on almost nightly.

"I remember when we were just starting, we'd play all night long in the living room," he said. "Mom and Dad would listen to us until they fell asleep on the couch."

Concert Preview The Facts

What: Indigenous
Where: Zoo Bar, 134 N. 14th
When: 9:30 p.m. today
Cost: \$10
The Skinny: Yankton Nakota band returns to Zoo at the cusp of national blues fame

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