

Worldly Micich returns to his musical roots

By J. SHARPE SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE REGISTER

Paul Micich feels very comfortable playing in a duo. In fact, he used the duo format to cut his first two albums, “Prairies” and “Stacking Stones,” and it served as a testing ground for his popular quartet, World Port.

Micich, the founder of World Port, will return to his musical roots Saturday night when he settles into the intimate environs of Café di Scala to play his electric horn with his longtime guitarist Dan Nicholson.

“(The duo) is a different kind of groove. It requires a different way of projection and expressive quality,” said Micich. “When there are two of us playing, we can play off of each other, and we can ratchet up the nuance of it.”

The duo will play original songs spanning the breadth of Micich’s recording career, including the nuevo flamenco-inspired “No te Olvidare,” Texas swing-inspired “RFD,” the expansive, ethereal “Glide,” and “Hand Talk,” an afro-rhythm tune. Covers will include George Gershwin’s “Summertime,” Ricardo Silverado’s “Island Magic” and Johann Sebastian Bach’s “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring.” The evening will also feature new World Port music, a Brazilian tune called “Whirlwind.”

“I write the tunes for two reasons,” Micich said. “One is to inhabit the world music of the cultures that immigrated here, whether it is Celtic, South American or Latin influence. The other is to establish a setting in which to



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Paul Micich, left, and Dan Nicholson.

DETAILS

WHO: World Port: Paul Micich with Dan Nicholson

WHEN: Saturday, 8-10:30 p.m.

WHERE: Café di Scala, 644 18th St.

RESERVATIONS: 244-1353

improvise. That is a vital part of what we do.”

The audience will also be treated to original music written by Micich’s son Ari, who has his own band, the Ari Micich Fusion Band.

Together, Micich and

Nicholson will revisit and continue to explore the nuances of World Port’s music scaled down to fit comfortably into the inviting atmosphere of the turn-of-the-century Victorian home occupied by Café di Scala.



Paul Micich’s first two albums — “Stacking Stones,” left, and “Prairies” — were recorded with guitarist Mitch Espe.

datebook

The Des Moines Register's entertainment guide