



Soaring around the world with Menominee Indian Reservation roots, Wade Fernandez (Walks With The Black Wolf) is a “deeply authentic” multi-award winning international touring artist from the Menominee Nation. Winning numerous awards in many genres, Fernandez's musical style knows no bounds. Beginning his solo career joining Jackson Browne & the Indigo Girls onstage has led to a long career with over 60 international tours. Both his music and his message is firmly grounded in his Menominee Reservation roots and love for the land, animals, and people. His passion to educate, share music, culture and honor Grandmother Earth is reflected in his international presentations and work in schools (k-college), workshops, with the elderly, the mentally disabled, elders, youth and concerts both rocking and soothing stages from Woodstock 94 to Honor The Earth. During the COVID-19 epidemic Wade became a team leader/community health worker for Creative Health Collective servicing the needs of the Native American community on the ground, through film, and also through livestreaming. He continues to give concerts and lectures via the internet until he can tour once more.

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Sample Of Musical Performances

Woodstock '94, Reebok Human Rights Awards (2002 Winter Olympics), Ed McMahon's Next Big Star, Chicago's World Music Festival, Native American Music Awards, Aboriginal People's Choice Awards, Indian Summer Festival, Germany's Tollwood Festival, and over 60 international tours.

Performed with Jackson Browne, The Indigo Girls, Jeff Cook (Alabama), Chuck Leavell (The Rolling Stones). Shared stages with dignitaries such as Robert Redford & Bishop Desmond Tutu.

Sample Of Commissions Native Radio Theatre, Milwaukee Choral Artists, Menominee Casino, Tobacco Cessation project, Potawatomi Gathering theme song, various movie and television soundtracks for PBS, BBC, independent films.

Acting Native Radio Theatre, Theatre Of Color at University Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Sample of Teaching Arts; Mannheim, Germany's Pop Akademie of Music, Rhineland School Of The Arts, numerous artist residencies, presentations and workshops in U.S. & Europe teaching Native American Flute, Songwriting, Guitar, Menominee Culture, Artist Trainer for First Peoples Fund, etc. Works internationally with kindergarten-college and beyond.



“...an artist in his own right who deserves to be heard on his own terms”

Peter Buffet – Emmy Award winner & producer



Sample of Awards & Honors

- 2021 **President's Community Engagement Award** from **Medical College Of Wisconsin**
- 2019 **Artist Of The Year, Flutist of the Year, Best Instrumental Recording** finalist **NAMMYs**
- 2017 **Best Blues** award winner from **ISMA's** & finalist 5 categories/genres including **Native Flute**
- 2016 **Guitarist of the Year** finalist **WAMIs**
- 2014 **Artist Of The Year & Album Of The Year** finalist from **NAMMYs**
- 2013 **Folk and Pop** Songs of the Year winner from **ISMAs**
Rock, Blues & Country finalist recording of the year.
- 2010 **Community Spirit Award** winner -**First Peoples Fund**
- 2007 **Contemporary Instrumental & Best Country ISMA** winner
finalist for **Best Blues, Pop, Classic Rock, Native Flute**
Artist of the Year & Pop/Rock finalist **NAMMYs**
- 2006 **Best Male Artist** (finalist **Pop/Rock & Best Music Video**) **NAMMYs**

- 2005 **Best Music Video at Indian Summer Film & Video Awards**
Best Music Video Cherokee International Film Festival
- 2002 **Best Blues/Jazz, Male Artist of the Year, Songwriter of the Year** finalist
- 2001 **“Storyteller/Writer of the Year”** (CD category) from **Wordcraft Warriors**
- 1997 **Tomorrow's Leaders Today Award** (Milwaukee, WI)
- 1996 **Dean's Award of Excellence** (UW-Milwaukee)
- 1995 **Medal of Honor from Menominee Indian Nation**

PRESS/QUOTES

“World class.. Phenomenal.. hard to forget after one listen..a unique style as both a musician and songwriter ...blessed with talent that can't be learned, and with a gracious and inspiring soul that can't be tainted by the pitfalls of the music industry.” **Indian Country Today**

“what beauty and respect you brought to all of us fortunate to have been in your presence. We were honored and blessed, and forever changed.”
Sharon A. Hansen, Music Director The Milwaukee Choral Artists

“.. an artistic and spiritual force that has just begun to gather steam.”
The Massachusetts Daily Collegian

“Speaks to the heart of all native people.. Your jam session with Jackson Browne was phenomenal.”
Oneida Nation Arts Program

“Soaring beyond the invisible culture of the corporate music industry.” **Vital Source**

“guitar and songwriting skills are incredibly sharp, ...remarkable in range, quality and sincerity.. soars with beauty and power.”
Post Gazette

“To see a male role model who has learned to celebrate traditional knowledge (particularly through story) and integrate that wisdom in a music performance context is profound. Through your life we can celebrate and reaffirm our lives. You're a gem. Thank you for gracing us with your gifts.”
Sheila Rocha, PhD, Institute for American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM

“All that one would think was lost with the great guitar legends of the early-twentieth century are now alive and touring with Wade Fernandez and his band the Black Wolf Group.” **The Leader**

“able to transcend all cultural stylistic and technical boundaries to communicate a powerful message” **Strandgut (Frankfurt, Germany)**

“..surprising diversity... swings effortlessly from blues, folk-rock, flamenco and jazz, with traditional singing and drumming... a sincerity and integrity which is reflected not only in his lyrics but in his expressive use of guitar...”
Indigenous Links (London, England)

“Wade Fernandez is an incredibly talented performer, motivational speaker and instructor with the special ability to connect with and inspire others. He is also a gifted teacher who brings out the best in everyone.”
Lynn Tarnoff, MA, Director, School of the Arts Rhinelander, UW-Madison

“..an accomplished musician/composer/producer/engineer/guitarist with spicy chops, that deliver a beautiful performance, live, filmed or recorded!! He is a wonderful teacher/father/husband that works very closely with

the youth from his reservation. ... labor of love for the people and tradition on a profound level... clever, patient and inspirational, with the youth... a community spirit man and a professional artist that has a beautiful show and message!"

Pura Fe

"Wade Fernandez is more than an extremely accomplished musician, a superb songwriter and a great performer, his house concert with us was like being held spellbound by a close friend who told stories, played wonderfully evocative melodies and sang songs that gave an insight into the Native American culture of the Menominee tribe. It was a bridge to an ancient history, yet it was as relevant and contemporary as some of the best song writing coming out of America today; a bridge that also crossed over into our own Celtic culture, history and music. It was, quite simply, a wonder shared."

**Tom Fairnie, Fairnie House Concerts &
Tom Fairnie Show (Radio Saltire), Scotland**

"I am deeply grateful for the beautiful class and performance that you gave to my students and the Lawrence and Appleton communities last winter! You are always so centered, and you speak and play from a place deep within you that reaches all of us in a truly extraordinary way. In the class meeting following your visit, my students spoke rapturously about their time with you -- they spoke of the experience as being transformative and profound. They talked at length about all of the wise insights that they had learned from you, and I could tell that they were reflecting on how to bring those into their own lives." **Karen Hoffmann, Assoc. Professor of English, Lawrence University**

"Wade did a fantastic job with our students Pre K through 8th grades. Not only did he teach about music and his life as a musician, he shared information about growing up on a reservation, values, goal setting, overcoming obstacles and more. He also shared his musical talents with us through teaching and playing for all grades. He was able to have age appropriate conversations with each class. One unexpected bonus for our program was that he is a Native man who plays a native instrument and is also a contemporary musician who could talk to the students about Native heritage. I know he positively impacted every person who got to interact with him. This program exceeded any *expectations!*" **Fort Atkinson Catholic School**

Educational Offerings

With Menominee Nation roots extending back to the Ice Age in the land that is now called Wisconsin/Upper Michigan, Wade Fernandez, Wiciwen Apis-Mahwaew (Walks With The Black Wolf), has been sharing his musical art and Menominee culture on stages and classrooms worldwide for over 30 years. When not on tour, Wade lives among the pristine ancient forestland on the Menominee Reservation with his family where he strives to live in a respectful, honorable, and sustainable way. Wade is an international award winning musician/recording artist/songwriter/producer who tours with voice, guitar, Native American flute, and hand drum. As a certified teacher with extensive educational experience in classroom, onstage, and in parenting (proud father of 5), Wade combines a wealth of experience, a warm personality, and a sense of humor that has kept students and audiences repeatedly inviting him back year after year.

Performance & Residency Information

Wade has extensive experience working with all age groups (k-12, college, and elders) and all programs may be altered to fit any age group.

Finding Your Voice Through The Native American Flute (Grade 5-elderly, multi-day residency)

The Native American Flute is a therapeutic instrument that helps one to deeply express their emotions and innate music. Students learn how to play and improvise on the Native American Flute. No previous musical experience is necessary. This is usually a 4 day residency that culminates at the end of the week with students performing a concert with Wade for school and/or community. With the concert at

the end, students apply and share their newfound talents and build self-esteem. Please note there are usually extra fees for flute purchase or rental, so please inquire directly.

Menominee Culture, Storytelling, Music, History, (Grades K-adult)

Music Workshop

Erasing Stereotypes Through Arts & Culture (Grades K-adult)

School Performance/Motivational Speaking

Wade is an award winning international touring contemporary American Indian performing artist and is available for concerts at your school. His school performances provide music, motivational speaking, environmental awareness, etc. Through music, words, and actions Wade motivates students to recognize and honor their gift of life and talents by developing and sharing them with others while on their pathway to a successful and healthy future.



On set PBS documentary with Chuck Leavell from The Rolling Stones