

DOVER POST

Rising Appalachia brings world folk to The Queen

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By Staff Reports

The world folk/soul duo Rising Appalachia will headline upstairs at the World Cafe Live at The Queen in Wilmington on Jan. 5.

Sisters Leah Song and Chloe Smith, the voices that lead the band Rising Appalachia, consider themselves not only musicians, but also public servants. Rising Appalachia, who are just finishing a sold-out tour have taken a new approach to touring.

They're promoting sustainable touring practices such as low-impact travel, involving local activist outreach at each show, day-long volunteer events and sourcing farm-to-table food whenever possible.

This "Slow Music Movement," as they've named their unique way of traveling, is "a service where musicians are not just part of fast-paced entertainment world, but instead influence the cultural shift as troubadours, activists, story-tellers, and catalysts of justice," Song said.

The sisters worked alongside incredible leaders and organizations including Winona LaDuke, Joanna Macey, Climbing Poetree, Gulf Restoration Network, the Permaculture Action Network, the Prison Yoga Project and 1 Billion Rising.

Song and Smith's latest mission was to the Oceti Sakowin Camp at Standing Rock in late November. They joined with the International Indigenous Youth Council, which organized a concert of four woman led groups, each one representing a piece of the Lakota medicine wheel.

Rising Appalachia performed a moving, acoustic version of "Wider Circles," the title track from their latest record, which was inspired by the poem "Widening Circles" by Rainer Maria Rilke. The video, also including exclusive activist activity at Standing Rock, can be seen on YouTube.

"I went to Standing Rock to be an ally to the water protectors on a holiday [Thanksgiving) that holds historical weight for many people across this country," explains Smith.

"I went because I believe in the voices of the people to stand up against corporate greed and ask for more than just profit to be considered in the tactics of resource extraction and the necessary fueling of our economy and country," she said.

Rising Appalachia fuses folk and roots music with sounds picked up in New Orleans and around the world. Proudly born and raised in the concrete jungle of Atlanta, Georgia, sharpening their instincts in the mountains of Appalachia, and fine tuning their soul on the streets of New Orleans, they have crafted a six-album folk-roots career from the dusts of their passion.