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YORK COUNTY COAST STAR
KENNEBUNK, ME

Do'a World Music Ensemble in concert

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PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — Do'a World Music Ensemble will be in concert on Wednesday, July 8, at 7 p.m. at the Prescott Park Arts Festival, Marcy Street, Portsmouth, N.H. Do'a breaks new ground into music's future, with original compositions written for more than 70 instruments from around the world.

Do'a World Music Ensemble was co-founded in 1974 by Randy Armstrong and Ken LaRoche. More than a decade later they are still excited about dissolving the barriers between cultures and musical styles. Their own life-affirming mixture of jazz, classical and improvisational music produces the fascinating and compelling sounds of "world music" that is earning critical acclaim and ever-widening audience enthusiasm and response.

Ken LaRoche performs on concert and alto flute, piano, synthesizer, soprano saxophone, North Indian bansri flutes, South American kalimba, mbira, and various percussion. He was formerly a member of the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra and studied at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Mass.

Randy Armstrong performs on acoustic and classical guitar, West

African balafon and adodo drum (talking drum), mandolin harp, Japanese Biwa, Chinese Yueh-chin, sitar, African mbira, Bolivian charango, tabla and percussion. He has a degree in composition and world music studies from Columbia Pacific University, and has studied at the Lalit Center of North Indian Music and Dance, and with composer/performer Bart Jordan, former student of Andres Segovia.

Do'a (pronounced doe-ah) earned official recognition by the United Nations for its highly successful "Peace Tour" of the United States and Canada, a musical and educational package designed to celebrate the International Year of Peace. Highlights of that tour included the San Francisco International Year of Peace Conferen where Do'a played to an audience of more than 8,000; participation in the First Earth Run; and an invitational tour of India, where they joined Ravi Shankar, Seals and Crofts, and other world-reknowned artists in the dedication festivities of the first Baha'i House of Worship of the Indian subcontinent.

Do'a World Music Ensemble has shared their celebrated music

throughout North America and internationally for the past 12 years in concerts, workshops, radio and television, multimedia presentations, and film scores. Performances include appearances at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Recital Hall, and the Bear Mountain Festival of World Music and Dance. They have been the recipients of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New England Foundation for the Arts touring program.

Recent engagements have seen Do'a World Music Ensemble share the stage with such noted artists as Larry Coryell, Dizzy Gillespie, the Paul Winter

Consort, Ritchie Havens, Tom Rush, and David Bromberg.

Do'a World Music Ensemble chose their name from the Arabic-Persian language. "Do'a" signifies a call to prayer and meditation. They will be performing works from their fifth album and four Philco/Rounder Record releases.