

MultiCultural Review

Dedicated to a Better Understanding of Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Diversity

March 31, 1998

AUDIO

07-1-0118

Armstrong, Randy and Aichele, Genevieve. *World Tales*. Portsmouth,

N.H.: Hew Hampshire Theatre Project, 1997. 60 min. CD and cassette. \$14.95 (CD); \$9.95 (cassette).

World Tales features the tandem storytelling and musical talents of Armstrong and Aichele. It is an enjoyable, high-quality collection of five stories (four traditional and one original), with lush music and sound effects that illuminate the narrative. The voices of Armstrong and Aichele are clearly presented against a delightful background of music and sound effects. The recording transports the listener to Ecuador ("The Magic Lake"), southern Africa ("Mzizi's Great Adventure"), India ("The Elephant and the Ant"), western Africa ("Anansi the Spider"), and North America (the Lakota People's "The First Flute"). It is highly recommended for library purchase for children's audio collections.

The lilting songs and instrumentals preceding and following each tale serve to connect the stories. In addition to the synthesizer and sound effects used, each tale makes use of its own variety of traditional instruments that include castanets, tambourine, flutes, rainsticks, shakers, sitar, tamboura, conch shell, Lakota flutes and percussion instruments, ocarinas, and mbira and djembe drums. This is a successful vehicle for introducing multicultural musical instruments and arrangements, and features the universal storytelling themes of patience, love, humility, courage, equality, magic, and generosity, themes that transcend cultural, political, racial, and age barriers. This recording will be enjoyed by children and adults alike.

—Jane Minotti
Sand Lake (N.Y.) Town Library

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