

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

What: "Songs of Mid-Winter" a multi-media musical performance

Who: Earthshine, acoustic duo from Billings, Montana

Where: Café Regis, Red Lodge, Montana

When: Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, 7 p.m.

Why: Celebrating the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox

How: \$5 suggested donation to either MusEco Media or Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary

Contact: Earthshine (Kris and Scott Prinzing), (406) 591-0575 or Café Regis, 446-1941

People all over the world celebrate midwinter, the mid-point between the Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox. It is known in various cultures as Candlemas, Groundhog Day, Imbolg, St. Brigid's Day; all falling on or around the first day of February. Technically called a "cross-quarter day," this year it occurs on Thursday, February 4, five days after Earthshine's performance at the Café Regis!

Many of Earthshine's original compositions, written by guitarist/vocalist Kristen Rickels Prinzing, are inspired by the natural world and therefore many of their songs take place in or are inspired by the colder, snowier months of the year. This concert will feature several of these songs.

Many listeners remark on the "soothing" nature of Earthshine's music. Reviewers have described it as "a world music style with an old world, minstrel quality to it," and "melodically blissful and desperately compelling in its art, 'breathtaking,' is the most effective word to describe such a thing of beauty..." Some have said they hear likenesses to bands/artists as diverse as Renaissance, Jethro Tull, Loreena McKennitt and Bruce Cockburn.

Enchanting winter photography by both Kris and her husband, Scott Prinzing (bass/vocals), will be projected during the Red Lodge concert, along with lyrics to the songs. Dedicated outdoors enthusiasts who spend as much of their free time as they can in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, the Prinzing's both also have an enjoyment of photography that leads to countless images from the backcountry from all four seasons.

In addition to sharing their music, photos and anecdotes, Earthshine is hoping to arrange a guest appearance by a local groundhog as well.

The couple has been married for 25 years and has lived in Billings for the past 18. Their first performance as Earthshine was in 2002. They perform about once per month at art galleries, coffee shops, sanctuaries, museums, small auditoriums and out-of-the-way concert halls. In addition to 6-string, 12-string and classical guitar, Kris also plays flute; Scott's primary instrument is the acoustic bass guitar, but he also plays mandolin, guitar, glockenspiel and dulcimer with Earthshine. They often perform with an additional musician on percussion, flute, violin, cello and/or guitar.

Earthshine has released three CDs since 2007. Find out more at www.EarthshineMontana.com. Earthshine raises funds to help support MusEco Media and Education Project, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization the couple founded in 2003, through CD sales, downloads and performances. MusEco works to educate the public on topics and issues critical to sustaining quality of life. MusEco provides timely, relevant, useful information to the public in order that people have the tools they need to live sustainable, earth-friendly lives *and* participate in and support local and regional culture.

Earthshine's last performance coincided with the Winter Solstice and the release of their latest recording, "Black Coyote," commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Wounded Knee Massacre (Dec. 29, 1890).

Earthshine's music can be purchased on CD or downloaded at www.CDBaby.com. Their music can also be streamed at www.Soundcloud.com/earthshinemontana and www.Soundcloud.com/earthshinemt. CDs will be available for purchase at the concert as well.