

Singer adds world touch to his folk music roots

By Gail T. Boatman
Special to To Do

Guy Mendilow is never sure how to answer when someone asks him where he is from.

A citizen of three countries, Mendilow did not grow up, as most Americans do, in one location, speaking one language. His roots are in the world.

IF YOU GO

An Evening of World Folk Music with Guy Mendilow

Where: Burlington County Library, 5 Pioneer Blvd., Westampton

When: Friday at 7 p.m.

Admission: Free

Information: 609-267-9660, ext. 3036

This multinational background opens a wide window, which is reflected in his music. Friday, he will bring his songs and stories to the Burlington County Library in Westampton. The program begins at 7 p.m. and is part of the library's series of Friday night events for families. According to the entertainer, everyone is welcome, adults and children.

"Adults will be interested in the cultural dimension of the music and children, especially those over 4 years of age, will enjoy the music. The audience should come

prepared not to be passive," he said. The program will last about an hour and a half with a brief intermission.

Those attending can expect to be involved not only in his music but in his view of a small and interconnected world. "My music reflects the different places I have lived," said Mendilow, a citizen of Israel, Great Britain and United States.

He has lived in Mexico, South Africa and Brazil and has performed around the world, from Taiwan to Guatemala. The sounds and rhythms of all of them have found a home in his music.

A composer, arranger and activist, as well as performer, Mendilow incorporates Israeli, Brazilian, Hindustani and American folk music influences in his sound. He studied the music of northern India for six years and worked and studied in Brazil, where he was introduced to the berimbau, a one-string, bow instrument that produces a droning, hypnotic tone. He also performs overtone singing in which he uses three distinct voices at one time.

Mendilow, who now makes his home near Boston, aims to make music with his audience and the evening will begin with a series of games that involve dancing. Then the audience will direct where the music goes, he said.

He likes to compare the program to sitting in someone's living room. "It's intimate and dynamic," he said, adding that the audience



Guy Mendilow will perform Friday at Burlington County Library.

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can expect to learn something new.

Mendilow began to study music when he was only 5. By the age

of 10, he was performing professionally with a boys' choir and appeared in Boston's Symphony Hall and New York's Carnegie Hall.

His first CD, "Soar Away Home," debuted in 2001, and a new recording, made in October, will be released later this year.