



## Rob Gonzalez concert raises over \$1,000 for flood relief

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(Winona, MN) The Winona State University recreational programming class, along with **Melvinares.com** hosted a concert for the flood relief effort last Thursday evening in Somsen Auditorium.

Gonzalez's concert brought in a good crowd of people, and with tickets at \$10-12 **a total of \$1,217 was raised** for the flood relief effort. Eric Larson, one of the main organizers for the event, deemed the concert, given by independent artist **Rob Gonzalez** and his band, a success.

**Rob Gonzalez** has been touring the college circuit for five years now and was the number one touring act among colleges in 2004, according to Abby Meyer, another coordinator for the concert.

"The recreation class organizes different events each year like the eco challenge and the haunted house," Meyer explains. The class strives for community involvement within the university as well, trying to keep strong ties within the town.

The other sponsor of the event, **Melvinares.com**, is a web site Gonzalez started where independent artists can post their songs for the public to purchase with one-third of the profits going to charity.

The concert was set up after Winona State's physical education/recreation department head, Maureen Olson, whose nephew is guitarist Joe Gantzer in the band, contacted Gonzalez after his La Crosse Center show.

"After the flood, I e-mailed her again," recalls Gonzalez. "We came up with the idea to turn the concert into a fundraiser for the flood relief."

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The concert itself was full of energy, as Gonzalez brought so much passion to his music, playing mostly his original pop songs along with a tune called "Take off Your Clothes" which he described as a "gospel song about skinny dipping."

Gonzalez gave a humorous performance that included audience participation by encouraging the audience to clap along as he and his band broke out into a beatbox improv.

There was so much energy included in his performance that at one point Gonzalez exclaimed, "I think I broke my bench!" The benched seemed to become lopsided from all the bouncing around he'd been doing throughout the show.

Along with energy, some of the lyrics in his songs even seemed to mirror the flood relief message with lyrics like "I don't know how it happens, it just does...it's another fine mess" and "We have long way to go but we're gonna get there," making it feel like even more of a community event.

Those in attendance were not only Winona State students, Larson said, because they advertised the event in town a lot more than on campus. This resulted in mostly middle-aged and senior citizen community members in attendance.

Joyce Woodworth, from Hiawatha Broadband Communication, filmed the concert and it will air on her television program Spirit of the Heartland the first weekend in December.

The concert showed that a community can come together and help out those in need while having fun at the same time.

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