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## Fly to the flame of Xavier Rudd's White Moth

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He's been declared the Dave Matthews of Australia and the Jack Johnson of Canada by San Diego City Beat. The Advocate found his show "spectacular" and called "the Xavier experience" something that is unforgettable. One thing is certain: Xavier Rudd is taking the world by storm and doing his part for the environment while he's at it.

As a kid, this one-man band learned to play clarinet, saxophone and Yidaki, according to his official Web site. The Yidaki, also referred to as the didgeridoo, is a 50,000-year-old wooden trumpet of the Aborigines, the indigenous people of Australia-where Rudd was born and raised.

He has expanded his instrumental talent and now plays guitars, Weissenborn slide guitars, stomp boxes, djembes (a type of drum), harmonica and several different percussion instruments. At his shows, he often plays guitar, didgeridoo and various percussion parts simultaneously. He sets up his instruments so they are actually surrounding him as he sings from behind a stand holding three Yidakis in different keys. The Yidakis are what lend the low, calming vibration, almost a buzzing, that is heard in the undertone of each song.

For inspiration on his newest CD, White Moth, Rudd relied heavily on a trip he took around the globe over the past seven years.

"I think the record is just a reflection of my journey and my journey is amazing," he wrote on his Web site. "It's a reflection of a connection with powerful people around the world-powerful spirits-but also connections with the energy that people bring to my show." His world expedition, along with his eco-conscious mindset are also reflected in each song on the disc.

In the first track, "Better People," an eerie, ethereal beginning leads into a funky, guitar-driven tribute to environmental activists. Folksie, and extremely earthy, it is only appropriate that this song should discuss, "the better people with more good to do."

Rudd switches it up with the mellow and tropical sounds of Jamaica in the second track, "Twist." A lazy tempo and steady, slow, reggae beat makes it impossible not to surrender to his lyrics "Sway to the music; let the spirit choose you, 'cause everybody's feeling okay."

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