

Pavlo's music takes Hat audience to faraway places

AMANDA STEPHENSON

astephenson@medicinehatnews.com

"If you feel the undeniable urge to join me on stage for a dance, please feel free."

With these words, Greek-Canadian guitarist Pavlo kicked off his Medicine Hat concert at the Esplanade last night - and you knew right away, you were in for a lively evening.

The concert was made for anyone who has ever dreamed of far-off places. With a band full of members who boast Greek, Italian and Portuguese heritage, Pavlo describes his musical style as "Mediterranean." Listening to his music conjures up images of sunny Spain or a moonlit Greek island.

With seven albums and a PBS special under

his belt - and performing upwards of 200 concerts a year - it would be understandable if Pavlo and his band members were getting a bit tired. But you would never guess it from their energy on stage. In fact, watching their show gives you the impression that these are musicians who love what they do - for them, making music has never gotten old.

From the Greek bouzouki to the Irish bones to the duduk (an Armenian flute), the band demonstrated virtuosity on a wide range of instruments. And it didn't take long for them to get the audience clapping along. Pavlo brought to the stage a mix of impressive musicianship and a taste of faraway destinations - and judging by the reaction, Medicine Hat liked it.



NEWS PHOTO IAN SORENSEN

Pavlo performs an intimate show at The Esplanade on Wednesday evening.