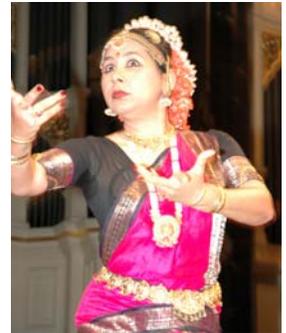


World Culture Concert & Arts Festival 2005

The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia's second annual World Concert & Arts Festival, held at Sydney Town Hall on Sunday 2nd October 2005 was yet another exotic experience for the fortunate ones. Ostensibly held on Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary, the music and dance concert with over 150 artists from cultures around the world, and an arts exhibition in fact celebrated the spirit of multiculturalism and the vibrancy of the ethnic arts community in Australia. The event was well compeered by Moksha Watts, Advisor to Jenny Macklin MP, Deputy Leader of Federal Opposition and Director, Bhavan Australia.

The performances opened with an Indian classical Bharatnatyam Dance Invocation prayer presented by Subhra Chakraborty, followed by the traditional Turkish Song presented by Australian Turkish & Kurdish Community Services Co-op Ltd. Throughout the night, the audience took in fantastic performances from "Aldeias de Portugal" Cultural Folk dances from the region of Portugal - Ribatejo: 'Baba esteja quieto', Asim Gorashi's Sudanese peace songs from the various region of Africa, Russian Bass- Solo Performance of 2 live songs with backing tracks presented by Gennadi Dubinsky, Rythms of the World presented by Avijit Sarkar with drummers from Panjab Sangeet centre group, Asscociation Grupo Bahiade Capoeira and grupo Raices - Argentinian & Uruguayan folk dancing group, dances from the four corners of India presented by Geetanjali School of Dance and Performing Arts, Panjab Sangeet Centre and others from the different communities of the world, the World Culture & Arts Festival was a truly spectacular occasion.



The dignitaries / diplomats who graced the special event included (most accompanied by their partners) Hon John Aquilina, Member of Riverstone, Speaker of the NSW Parliament, Mr. Madhusudan Ganapathi, Consul General of India, Mr Ejaz Ahmad, Consul General of Pakistan, Mr Recep Peker, Deputy Consul General of the Republic of Turkey, Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian AM, Chair, Community Relations Commission for Multicultural NSW, Mohana Kumaran, Consul & Head of Chancery, Consulate General of India and many other dignitaries.



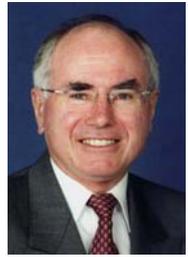
A special Souvenir magazine was brought out on the occasion which included the programme schedule, brief description of the artists, their traditional and folk performances and articles like World's Cultures, World's Religions and articles on Mahatma Gandhi. The souvenir magazine also included the messages of support and appreciation for Bhavan's multicultural activities were received from such highly profile dignitaries as His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffrey AC CVO MC (Retd.) Governor-General of Commonwealth of Australia; The Hon John Howard MP Prime Minister of Australia; The Hon Kim Beazley MP Leader of the

Opposition; The Hon Morris Iemma, Premier of NSW; Clover Moore MP Lord Mayor of Sydney; His Excellency Prabhat P. Shukla, the High Commissioner of India to Australia; Mr John Brogden, former NSW Liberal Leader; The Hon. Consul General Bozidar Obradovic, Consulate General of Serbia and Montenegro; The Hon. M Ganapathi, Consul General of India; Shankar Dhar, Regional Director, India Tourism Sydney and Dr. Stuart Rees AM., Professor Emeritus & Director, Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Sydney and Sydney Peace Foundation.

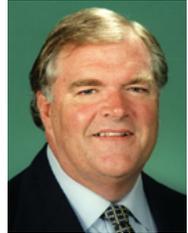




His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC saw the Festival as portraying “each country’s unique heritage through music and art and to take rightful pride and pleasure in the preservation of rich traditions. ... willingness to share and celebrate our cultural diversity and to promote peace and unity through the arts.” The Hon. John Howard, Prime Minister applauded Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia’s efforts over past two years in promoting cultural diversity, community participation, harmony and an



appreciation of the performing arts through this wonderful event. The Hon. Kim C Beazley MP, Leader of the Opposition wrote and appreciated the magnificent role played by the Bhavan, one of the largest cultural organisations in the world, as it preserves the best Indian traditions and at the same the time meets the needs of modernity and multiculturalism. Bhavan’s World Culture and Arts Festival is family oriented festival and a magnificent celebration of cultures from all over the world.



The Hon. Morris Iemma MP, Premier and Treasurer of NSW saw the Festival as “The great advocate of peace, Mahatma Gandhi, spread a message of peace and unity through understanding and appreciating our respective cultures” it is this same message of peace and unity that will resonate at the World Culture Concert and Arts Festival. His Excellency Prabhat P. Shukla, the High Commissioner of India to Australia, has had many interactions with the Bhavan in India and wrote to congratulate the Bhavan and acknowledged that such events are essential to provide opportunities for showcasing cultural talent from different countries and foster harmony in society.



Mr John Brogden, former NSW Liberal Leader wrote to congratulate the Bhavan and acknowledged that the festival is a wonderful celebration of the values Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan holds close, namely multiculturalism and a bonding of global cultures and all Australians are proud Sydney plays host to one of the Bhavan’s seven international centres. The Hon. Clover Moore MP, Lord Mayor of Sydney wrote to congratulate the Bhavan and acknowledged that such events will provide the audience with a vibrant display of music and dance from around the world and contribute to the ongoing development of a tolerant and multicultural society that we now enjoy.



The Hon. Consul General Bozidar Obradovic, Consulate General of Serbia and Montenegro wrote to congratulate the Bhavan and acknowledged that such type of cultural manifestations, as have inestimable character, in multicultural societies. They enrich individuals and national origins. Through them, people become closer, which diminishes aspects of ethnic and other prejudices and stereotypes.



The Hon. M Ganapathi, Consul General of India wrote to congratulate the Bhavan and acknowledged that by organising such events and by bringing together performances from various parts of world Bhavan reflects the Indian ethos to strike deep roots in the consolidation of multiculturalism in Australia and that is ideally embedded in the Bhavan’s motto, “let noble thoughts come to us from every side”.



Shankar Dhar, Regional Director, India Tourism Sydney wrote to congratulate the Bhavan and acknowledged that such intermingling of cultures from the far corners of the world lays the foundation for international understanding and he suggested that Tourism is the key to Harmony. Dr. Stuart Rees AM., Professor Emeritus & Director, Centre for Peace & Conflict Studies, University of Sydney and Sydney Peace Foundation saw the Festival as “Music, dancing and other art forms display a common ground



between the peoples of the world. Such means of celebration also honour those principles of non violence and ideals of peace with justice who harm no-one and inspire so many”.

Our Sponsors and Supporters included, India Tourism Sydney, HCL, City of Sydney, State Bank of India Sydney, Small Business Guru, Nash Patel The Good Guys, Sydney Peace Foundation, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Australia India Business Council, Trendwest Sydney Kings, World TV UBI, Indian Link Radio, SBS, 2NBC Radio, MX News, Duniya Turkish Newspaper, O Portuguese Na Australia and others.



Moksha Watts
Master of Ceremonies



Avijit Sarkar
Cultural Coordinator

The Performers

Africa



Asim Gorashi

Musical Notes on violin from the various regions of Africa. Alex provided support with drums.

Argentina

Grupo Raices – Argentinian & Uruguayan Folk Dancing Group

Grupo Raices is an Argentinian & Uruguayan folk dance and music performing group. They perform traditional dances along with *malambo* which is South American tap dancing which is accompanied by the South American Drums called *bombos*.

Co-ordinator: Kelly Rosas

Participants: Annabella Menendez, Carolina, Christofer Rossi, Eduardo Menendez, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Enrique Gerrero, Irma Ferreira, Jeniffer Rosas, Jesica Acosta, Laura Rosa Lis, Leonardo Acevedo, Lucas Travieso, Lucas Travieso, Marta Menendez, Michael Digiorgio, Richard Gonzalez, Sabrina Menendez



Bosnia

Kud Zambak - Australian Bosnian & Herzegovinian Cultural Association

The traditional Bosnian and Herzegovinian dance shows how young Bosnian men approached the women in 18th and 19th century. It was indeed an art as the young girls were always strictly locked after by their aunty and young men had to find a way to approach the girls without the aunty knowing.

Co-ordinator: Damir Bosnjak

Participants: - Adela Korajac, Adisa Harbas, Alida Mujezinovic, Edita Handzic, Elvir Tupkovic, Emina Handzic, Emina Tupkovic, Emir Balicevac, Ishak Avdic, Izudin Sisic, Jasmin Karamic, Mirnes Adjenovic, Samir Bejdic, Samira Bejdic, Saudin Hajdarevic, Semir Kuljanin, Suada Smajovic.



Brazil



Association Grupo Bahia de Capoeira

Capoeira is a unique art form that blends self defence with acrobatics, dance, music, and song. It is an expression of the African slaves fight for freedom in colonial Brazil. Each of these elements are intertwined and inseparable, making Capoeira different from every other martial art, dance, or sport. This 500 year old Brazilian martial arts and dance form has been rapidly spreading around Sydney.

Co-ordinator: Mestre Cicatriz

Participants: Mestre Cicatriz, Instrutor Jensen, Coach Soquete, Coach Felipe

India

Subhra Chakraborty

Shiva Stakam – Invocation Prayer

Invocation prayers in Indian classical dance form in Ragam Mohanam set to Talam Khandchappum praising Lord Shiva and asking for His blessings and benediction.

Shubhra Chakraborty is a well known dancer of Calcutta(India). Trained in Bharatnatyam under the knowledge of Guru Smt Thankamani Kutty, she has given performances in India and abroad. She also went to West Germany to teach Bharat Natyam.



India (contd)



Geetanjali School of Dance & Performing Arts

Semi-classical Indian devotional dances inspired by Odissi and Bharatnatyam dance forms. In this temple dance they are doing “Aradhana and Aarty” by playing sitar, tabla, dholak and mandira. Then young village girls join them for Krishna Kanhaiya dance.

Geetanjali School of Dance & Performing Arts has been assisting a variety of charitable organizations in Australia since 1975. Along with hosting an annual event promoting global humanity and in support of the Children's

Hospital at Westmead, money raised from the regular classes is given to various charities in Australia and orphanages in India. The aim of the school is not only to produce good dancers and actors, but also good human beings - students are coached to attain a deep understanding of universal brotherhood, peace and harmony, and to be aware of their social responsibility to others.

Co-ordinator: Sharmila Maitra

Participants: Aditi Kalra, Amrita Khastagir, Amy Shah, Anagha Killeder, Anjali Narendra, Aparna Verma, Cheryl Sharma, Garima Sharma, Ira Goyel, Junita Mushenko, Kamia Sood, Nidhi Kontham, Pavni Sharma, Ruchira Gage, Sheffy Goyel, Shreya Sharma, Simone Jain, Swathi Vinod

Harmohan Singh Walia



Jal Tarang is an ancient classical form of music. It consists of a set of china bowls that are filled with water. Each bowl is struck with a light wooden mallet to cause it to ring. Jal tarang is not very common and is normally found in the accompaniment of kathak dancers. Jal Tarang is essentially a water-xylophone. Jal Tarang is from Ghana Vadya, Non-Membranous Percussive instruments. This is one of the oldest classes of instruments in India.

Performers : Harmohan Singh Walia and Balashankar . Balashankar is a highly talented multi drum player including mrudangam, tabla and dhol.

- ✚ A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.
- ✚ Mutual courtesy and respect was the foundation of culture.
- ✚ No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive.

- Mahatma Gandhi

Panjabi Sangeet Centre



Bhangra is an exuberant folk dance from Panjab (North India). It is normally accompanied by energetic singing and drum beating. Though traditionally performed during the crop harvest season in mid-April (called Vaisakhi), it is nowadays a common feature at weddings and other social occasions. This dance is performed by farmers in anticipation and then again as a celebration of a good harvest season.

Co-ordinator: Devinder Singh Dharia

Performers : Gurbaj Singh, Manav Singh, Pavitar Singh, Sukhdeep Singh.

Macedonia

Macedonian Cultural & Artistic Association

Combining ancient and modern dance techniques from Classical Ballet to Ballroom and Modern Dance, the dance invites the viewer to a visual extravaganza of finite steps and structure. Choreographed sequences endure and invigorate the senses into a spectacular experience of captivation. The forms depict the Masculine and the Feminine, the Seasons, and Celebrations. The mystical beats, the ancient instruments, the perplexing intricacies are set in the historical and spiritual context of the people.



Co-ordinator: Yorgo Kaporis

Performers: Ana Acevska, Ace Dzajkoski , Alexander Mitrevski, Blagoja Josifovski, Christopher Karafilovski, Daniel Kalajiovski, Jessica Bosevska, Lochie Beh, Maja Dimitrova, Marija Dimitrova, Marija Radovska, Matthew Salevski, Melissa Mitrevska, Natalie Breshovska, Natalie Karafilovska, Natasha Stojanovska, Nick Bresovski, Olivera Stojanovska, Peter Acevski, Sacho Andreevski, Suzana Gjurovska, Tanya Kotevich, Thomas Jankulovski, Veronika Zaharieva.

Pakistan

Pakistan Australian Association

Peacock Dace: A typical folk dance of Pakistan.

Performers: Aksar Khan , Farjad Khan. Farjad Khan has performed this item in USA, Europe, Asia and other places.



Portugal



Portuguese Folkloric Dancing Group

Folk dances from the region of Portugal - Ribatejo: 'Baba esteja quieto' – also known as Dança da Rosas 'Picadinho', 'Abraços Apertadinhos', 'Benfica do Ribatejo'

Co-ordinator: Vera Carteris, L. Yip

Perfomers: A. dos Santos, A. Rodrigues, A.Nobrega, F. Soares, G. Sousa, H. Martins, H. Mendes, I. De Sousa, J. Oliveira, J. Rodrigues, J. Santiago, M. Domingues, M. Gonçalves, M. Maceira, P. dos Santos.

Russia

Gennadi Dubinsky

Gennadi has experience in performing and singing for the last 20 years. He has toured Russia and abroad and has been living in Sydney for the last 10 years. He has performed at Russian Independence Day, Fairfield multicultural Festival, Italian National Day and many more occasions.



Rhythms of the World

Avijit Sarkar presented Synthesis of Drums and beats from around the globe.

Perfomers: Grupo Raices – Argentinian & Uruguayan Folk Dancing Group, Punjab Sangeet Centre (India), Association Grupo Bahia de Capoeira (Africa).

Serbia



CSO St Nicolas Blacktown - Dance Ensemble Kalenic

Serbian Orthodox Church St Nicholas Blacktown

Co-ordinator: Heather Celic, Milivoje Stojanovic

A temperamental and lively choreography from the Vlah region in Eastern Serbia that borders with Rumania. Frequent stomping in this item represents awakening of the evil and mowing them out of the area they have nestled in. Once rid of all evil it is thought that there will be good health and harvest. A truly enjoyable dance.

Markovic, Andrea Cvorovic, Angelique Dongo, Ashleigh Stanic, Bosa Stojanovic, Dragana Markovic, Irina Calic, Jelena Kesic, Jessica Stoilkovic, Kristina Nestorovic, Marija Velemir, Nina Stojanovic, Stefan Kesic, Stefan Mitic, Tijana Dimitric, Tina Stepanovic

Performers: Aleks Nestorovic, Aleksandra

Soka Gakkai International



Blue Sky Choir – World Choir

The songs "Sound of Music" and "Ode to Joy". "Ode to Joy" was sung in German, Japanese and in English. The significance of the song "Ode to Joy" is that it was nominated to be the anthem of European Unity, for surmounting the barrier the history created and to celebrate the diversity. It is also music of victory for Beethoven, who suffered deafness and poverty but was never defeated.

Co-ordinator: Sumiko Jones

Performers: Echiko Samadatsu, Florence Li, Hitomi Kurosawa, Jessie Ng, Josephine Wan, Judy Macgregor, Junko Ura, Lay Bee Tay, Mikiko Lynagh, Nancy Chan, Peck Siew Lai, Sumie Danjo, Tram Nguyen, Yoke Har Leong, Yoriko Ishigaya, Yukiko Saihara.

Turky



Australian Turkish & Kurdish
Community Services

Haydar Bayar And Friends

Turkish Song: Bugun Bize Pir Geldi (Today We Are Visited by A Master) and Kurdish songs: Megili Delal (Don't Cry My Love)

Performers: Deniz Gulyar, Haydar Bayar, Mustafa Aytemur, Rahile Cakir

Uruguay

Grupo Folklorico Jacaranda

Traditional and contemporary folk dancing, Gauchos Boleadoras, traditional drums and tap dancing from Uruguay and Argentina.

Jacaranda folk dancing group is a group of young kid between 8 and 21 years of age representing Uruguay. They are Uruguayan, Chilean, Paraguayan, Colombian and Australian.

Performers: James, Karen, Luz, Marcelo, Natalie, Nick, Roxana, Vivian, Zulay



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