World Culture Concert

18 October 2007 at Sydney Town Hall

The fourth annual World Culture Concert had a wide variety of performers from the Scottish Highland dances to Marinera, the national dance of Peru; The Columbian to the Russian Operas; Scottish dancers; to the Spanish Flamenco to the Kuchipudi and Bharatnatyam and many more. Sydneysiders enjoyed a feast of diverse performing arts at the festival. The riveting performances from 14 countries over four hours Thursday enthralled an audience of 800 people at the Sydney Town Hall.

Bhavan Australia President Gambhir Watts said: "Bhavan's ideal is **'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The whole world is but one family).** With a view to put Bhavan's ideal into practice, we launched the WCC in 2004.Sydney is a rich mosaic of migrants from about 200 countries and WCC showcases the cultural diversity of these communities. "Each year, we provide a platform to about a dozen countries to demonstrate their traditional and folk culture. Through WCC, we hope to enhance mutual understanding between people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and at the same time encourage the artists to nurture their cultural heritage."

This year, for the first time, a special segment for school students was incorporated in the festival. Mr Watts says: "The inclusion of schools across the state of New South Wales has helped us tremendously in spreading the message of peace and harmony." Some of the attractions were a Russian Opera and songs by indigenous singer and former Australian Idol Casey Donovan.

The World Culture Concert has become an important event in Sydney's cultural calendar. It takes the audience on a journey of traditions, costumes and cultures of different countries without leaving the shores of multicultural Sydney A celebration of the ethnic vibrancy of Australia, in the past years WCC has included performers of ethnic backgrounds from Chile, Turkey, Sudan, Portugal, Poland, Argentina, Uruguay, Cambodia, Vietnam, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Macedonia, besides India.

Master of Ceremony

Rebecca Nardi: Rebecca studied Journalism and Business at university and started work with Channel 7 in 2000. Rebecca has worked for 7 News in Queensland as an on-the-road reporter, fill-in presenter and news producer. She transferred to Sydney earlier this year and currently works as the Broadcast Producer and Senior Writer for 7's successful Morning Show.

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THE PERFORMERS

In alphabetical order of group names

AADI - Prabhu and Friends

Peace Fusion Music

Group Co-ordinator: Prabhu Acharya

Performers: Colin Campbell, Freya Lindblom, Geeti (Julie Rogers) Harry O'Donovan, Prabhu

Aldeias de Portugal - (Portuguese Folk Dance Group)

Villages of Portugal: Aleias de portugal is a traditional folk dancing group based here in Sydney Australia. They have been in existence for 31 years and during that time have performed all around Australia and even overseas. songs. Their songs incorporate ribbons, sticks, tambourines, beautiful coloured costumes, and more. The name of their group translates literally to: "*Villages of Portugal*" and so their songs are derived from all around Portugal including it's islands Madeira and Acores.

Group Co-ordinator: Kerry-Anne Pestana

Performers & Musicians: Adelino Simoes, Anabela Simoes, Antonio Nobrega, Bruce Yip, Daniel Lelo, Daniel Lopes, Daniela Santiago, Danny Cardoso, Diogo Andrade, Dionisia Gaspar, Fabio Graca, Fernando Santo, Helder Martins, Helena Mendes, Jaime Alho, Jessica Gomes, Jessica Silva, Joao Santiago, Jose Rodrigues, KerryAnne Pestana, Manuel Maceira, Melissa Assuncao, Melissa Gomes, Micael Gameiro, Monica Simoes, Patricia Rodrigues, Patrick Ferreira, Paula Graca, Ricardo Lopes, Rita Gomes, Thomas Lameiro, Tiago Fernandes

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia

Thillana: This is a particular kind of musical composition. The dance is done with intricate footwork, hand movements and beautiful hand gestures. At this Festival, we had a Thillana in praise of PRANAVA SWAROOPINI in Ragam Revathi and Thalam Adi. The composer of this is Madurai Krishna Iyengar. This dance was done by Ramya Sridharan, MIT student of University of Sydney and presently working part time in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

Performer: Ramya Sridharan

Blue Sky Choir representing Soka Gakkai International The

A choir group from a Buddhist organisation known as Soka Gakkai International (Value Creating Society), their our movement aims to promote peace, culture and education. Based on the principle of human revolution, or the inner transformation of one individual as the surest means to peace, they wish to polish their character through Buddhist practice, music and singing and bring hope to our audience, and thus to contribute to world peace. They believe that the voice has the power to transform life from within, to strengthen and purify it. The group performed two songs, You raise me up by Westlife & Onara, A traditional Korean theme song for a very popular TV series.

Group Co-ordinator: Linda Leong

Performers: Agnes Yu, Alice Tsang, Echiko Sadamatsu, Florence Li, Jessie Chang, Joanna Chan, Josephine Wan, Joyce Wong, Judy McGregor, Karrie Kang, Libby Tay, Linda Chung, Linda Leong, Nancy Chan, Nguyen Tram, Noriko Nagai, Peck Siew Lai, Puja Lal, Rita Wong, Taeko Yoshida, Yumi Hisabae

Casey Donavan

Casey Donavan in an Acoustic Performance: Casey Donovan is one of the best new talents to hit the Australian music scene for quite some time. Casey was only 16 and still a student at the Australian Institute of Music in Sydney, when she entered Australian Idol series 2 in 2004. Throughout the competition she perfomed brilliantly week after week and received great praise from all three judges. She went on to win and take out the title of Australian Idol 2004 in front of a packed audience at the Sydney Opera House, becoming the youngest ever to win an Idol competition and the first Australian female winner. Casey performed an acoustic performance this evening.

Performance Co-ordinator: Wendy Richards

El Duende Flamenco Dance Co.

Flamenco performance from Spain encompassed a variety of Flamenco techniques including footwork, castanets and fan work. A blend of traditional Gypsy dance and music from Andalusia, the birthplace of Flamenco, together with contemporary influences."

Group Co-ordinator: Susana Menotte

Performers & Musicians: Angela Neville,Anna Lohwasser,Antonio Ambrosio,Avanti Desh Pande,Cheryl Mackie,Farah Irani,Giselle da Costa,Gurce Isikyildiz, Juliette Rosa,Lynn Teoh,Mario Domanski,Maryann Murphy,Michelle Tadros,Rose-Ann Kruger,Sonia Lor,Susana Menotte

Indian Dance School The

Bharatanatyam-Indian Classical Dance: The Dance of Lord Shiva who is seen as the master of all dance forms. This dance item portrays Shiva as a powerful god dancing, in terms of motion & vibration. With many admirers, his passion and talent for dance defines his life and was uniquely portrayed in this performance.

East Meets West: This first piece combined and contrasted both the Eastern and Western dance forms. It was showcased to promote & appreciate the complexities and grace of two distinctly different styles: Bharatha Natyam and Hip Hop. The Jatis were composed by Mr A.S Ramanathan, famour Mridangam player of all time in Indian & Internationally

Group Co-ordinator: Janani & Meena Beadle

Performers: Akshat Gupta, Anjhavi, Arander, Carolyn, Carolyn Elmo, Dhakshi Nagarajah, Elmo, Eruvatt, Iyswariya, Janakan Sutharintharaj, Janani Beadle, Jeyalingam, Jeyalingam, Jeyaprakash, Joanna Lovell, joti, Kawisha, Keshana, Krishan Segaram, Lal, Marthury, Maryann, Mayoori, Natasha, Nievelle, Priyanka, Raveendiran, Raviraj, Sayanthinie, Sundararaju, Suresh Kumar

Indonesian Dance Group - SuaraTari

Saman Dance: It's a traditional dance from Aceh, Indonesia, which has been well known abroad. People call it the dance of a thousand hands. The performers sing as they dance and the rhythm is simply produced by their movement and the clap of their hands. The speed of their movement gradually increases and at the end the dance becomes really fast.

Group Co-ordinator: Cheryl Gerbera

Performers: Cheryl Gerbera, Jeanette Anandajoo, Leilani Surono, Marcella Nadia Miranti, Ryana Rachmat, Wanda Theodora

Mango Dance Productions - Semi Classical India Dance

Performance of the well known song 'DOLA RE' of a true Indian classic film, "Devdas", certainly reflected the evolution of Indian dance. With classical choreography as well as lots of flow in our movements, the perfrmers aimed to give this piece the justice it deserves. New costumes from India and graceful performers helped depict the story through dance and make it visually ravishing for all who were watching.

Group Co-ordinator: Farah Shah & Nerissa Jayasingha

Performers: Nerissa Jayasingha & Shauna Crick

Peruvian Dance Group

The Marinera: It is a coastal dance of Peru, generally called the "National Dance of Peru." Marinera is a graceful and romantic couple's dance that uses handkerchiefs as props. The dance is an elegant and stylized reenactment of a courtship, and it showed a blend of the different cultures of Peru. The dance itself has gained a lot of recognition and is one of the most popular traditional dances of Peru.

Group Co-ordinator: Jose Luis Camarena

Performers: Alicia Fernadez, Jose Luis Camarena

Ragavan Nair's Indain Dance Center

Ganesh Vandanam: This is prayer for the elephant headed god Lord Ganesha to remove all the obstacles and impurities of life. This Dance item was in classical Kuchipudi style, Kuchipudi dance is from Andhra Pradesh in India. This dance also salutes other Trident gods of the Hindu religion such as Brahma , Vishnu and Maheshwara.

Group Co-ordinator: Shri Ragavan Nair

Performers: Poornima Sharma, Sanushka Seomangal, Urvashi Seomangal

Russian Arias from Russian Operas

Gennadi Dubinski (singer) has twenty years experience in the entertainment industry and the musical theatre. He can sing in many languages like English, Russain, Ukrainian, Italian, Spanish, German, French, Turkish. He has extensively toured to over 80 cities across Russia as well as performed in Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey and China. Glenn sings the timeless songs of favourite performers including Mario Lanza, Liberace, Jan Peerce, Vaughn Monroe and Robert Goulet.

Glen Amer (pianist): He is one of Australia's beloved performers. He is a favourite with audiences everywhere he appears because he performs music that audiences love and remember. Combined greats of song and entertainment with Glenn's unique and thrilling piano wizardry led to a spectacular night of entertainment that cannot be easily forgotten!

Group Co-ordinator: Gennadi Dubinski

Performers: Gennadi Dubinski, Glenn Amer

Sinhalese Cultural Forum(SCF) - Srilankan traditional folk dances

Gajaga Vannama: It is one of the most popular of the "vannams", which in Sanskrit means to "depict or describe". It depicts the graceful movement of the majestic elephant. The performance was accompanied with the hectic rhythms of the drum called 'geta beraya".

Mask Dance (Raksha): A unique form of dancing from the low-country dance tradition performed in the southern part of Sri Lanka. The mask used is not a mere covering of the face, but an elaborate head and face dress, which transforms the appearance of the dancer into the character he depicts in the dance.

Group Co-ordinator & Choreographer: Dinesh Perera & Mahinda Karunaratne

Performers: Dinesh Perera, Kumaransi Silva, Paneetha Hettiarachchi, Praveen Senanayake, Priya Mudoonkothge, Ravi Kulathilake, Sanduni Gunatilake, Subhaga Amarasekara, Tharushi Peiris, Thilini Wanigathunga, Vidusha Prabhadhi, Vishma Silva

Sydney's Scottish Highland Dancers

The talented Highland Dancers performed 3 dances including the Sword Dance a choreographed piece and the popular Highland Fling. It takes many years of practice to learn and perfect the intricate steps.

Flora MacDonald's Broadswords: This is the story of Flora MacDonald and Prince Charles. , Flora met Bonnie Prince Charlie and was instrumental in helping the Prince escape from Scotland following the battle of Culloden. The Sword Dance was danced prior to a battle. To kick the sword was considered a bad omen for the battle to come. The soldier would expect to be wounded, and if many of the soldiers kicked the swords, chieftain of the clan would expect to lose the battle. ;**The Lilting Highland Fling:** This dance represents the end of the battle. It shows the people contemplating the war being over and the celebration and victory dance at the end of the war upon hearing the battle is over. Traditionally, the ancient warriors and clansman performed this dance on the small round shield (called a Targ), which they carried in battle. The warriors made this dance a feat of strength and agility. It is believed that the Highland Fling was inspired by the sight of a red deer stag prancing on the hillside. This dance copies the movements of the stag with hands raised antler-like, springing and turning with feet raised to the knee.; **The Scottish Journey:** This is a joyous dance, a collaborative piece incorporating a collection of steps showing the journey through the Scottish ages. This is danced to tune of "the Hornpipes" and has been choreographed by Helen and Jennene.

Group Co-ordinator: Karen Mcphilips

Performers: Bryony Dwyer, Elizabeth Munro,Emily Carr,Helen Euridge,Jennene Miller,Lauren Caunter

Meagan Lacoba ,Melissa Beattie

Tierra Colombiana

The Cumbia: It is the dance which is the most characteristic of Colombia's folklore. It is a blend of the African, Spanish and Native cultures. The woman dance with lit candles which they use to lighten the place of the cumbiamba and to defend themselves against their irrespectful male partners. The men in order to display their wealth, burned banknotes of large denominations in these candles.

Group Co-ordinator: Karina Diez and Martha Diez

Performers: Alice, Alison, Carolina, Guaderra, Julio, Laura, Mariana, Mateo, Melissa, Michael, Nancy, Tatiana, Vanessa

Vietnamese Dance School

The dance is performed on Tru Music. Tru Music was first appeared in Vietnam in 10th century. This is an ancient genre of chamber music featuring female vocalists, with origins in North Vietnam. For much of its history, it was associated with a geisha-like form of entertainment. The 8 dancers in Vietnamese Traditional dress danced with fans. The dance was mixed between Vietnamese Ancient Movement and Contemporary Ballet.

Group Co-ordinator: Tai Do & Nguyen Thi Binh

Performers: Diem Mi,, Hang Dam, Huyen Nguyen, Ngoc Anh , Ouynh Huong, Phuong Ngoc, Thien Thu, Yen Nguyen

Maitinee Session (11:00am - 2:00pm): For the School by the School Students

Introduction : **Hai and Danh Tai (university students)**

Masters of Ceremony: **Aya Albayati of Granville High; Alex Howard and Joshua**

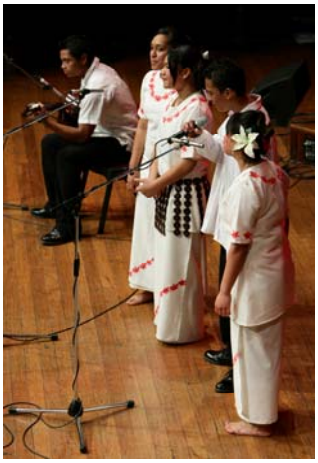
St. Ives High School and Homebush Boys High School

Ganesha Vandhanam: It is an invocatory item traditionally performed in Classical Bharathanatya recitals, invoking the blessing of the elephant face God Ganesha to give peace and sanctity. This dance combines pure physical movements and expressive verse praising and praying to Lord Ganesha.' It was presented/performed by Asha Gopal of St. Ives High School, and Hareeshan Elankovan of Homebush Boys High school, both disciples of Jayalakshmi Kandiah, Natanalya Dance Academy.

Group Co-ordinator: Barbara Pillans

Performers: Asha Gopal & Hareeshan Elankovan

Granville South High School Derbackeh Group



The Granville South High School Derbackeh Group, which is a drum group, performed a traditional Arabic piece of music. This piece of music was composed by the students themselves. The second group performed a traditional Tongan song , sung in Tongan with rich harmony accompanying the guitar.

Group Co-ordinator: Susan Hill

Performers : Akanesi Akauola, Anthony Birnie, Bilal Trad, Jenan Elrishe, Mateo Lasalo, Michael Rizk, Ofa Fonua, Ramie Trad, Rouba Souaid, Salome Kula, Shymaa Souaid, Telea Ah Kani, Tilisi Moimoi

Xavier Drum and Dance

West African percussion and dance group. They recently played for the World Youth Day Cross tour .The group is called 'Xavier Drum and Dance' and their most notable performances included 'Banquet of Love' at Springwood Civic Centre, 'ReachOut' at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith, the 'World Youth Day Cross Tour' and many community fund-raising events. 'Xavier Drum and Dance' includes students from years 7-12, boys and girls.

Group Co-ordinator: Keith Kempis

Performers: josephine ceniza, noel milligan, kieran faccin, daniel faccin, brendan duffus, luke brooks, michael faccin, james gillespie, chris rojo, lisa blanch and chris brooks

St. Ives High School and Homebush Boys High School

Fusion ofPunjabi, Bhangara and Gidda: Indian Dance which is a fusion of modern, comtemporary Punjabi Bhangra and Gidda.

Group Co-ordinator: Barbara Pillans

Performers: Asha Gopal and Ashneet Kaur Sethi

Jaison George, Guineas Record Holder

Keyboard and vocal live songs: Jaison George from Sydney Castle Hill. He was born and brought up in Kerala, India. He is the recent Guinness Book and Limca Book Holder for Playing Keyboard non stop 51 hours. He is currently undertaking Music Production from Hillsong college, Sydney.

Performers: Jaison George

AADI - Prabhu and Friends

Peace Fusion Music
Performer: Prabhu

We are thankful to the following staff / volunteers

Stage Managers: Bhoji Watts, Manju Chand, Reena Doshi

Event Organisers: Pooja Gautam, Ramya Sridharan, Utkarsh Doshi

Other staff and Volunteers: Amit Sharma, Deepak Patel, Vietnamese Dynamic Student Association: Ms Hai, Mr Danh Tai, Mr Hiep, Mr Son, Mr Luan, Ms Le Anh, Mr Nguyen Anh, Huong Le, Hieu Tran, Trany Phan, Binh Ngiyen, Thao Pham, Tuan Nguyen, Trang Nguyen, Vu Thi Duong, Ho Hoang Lan, Phuong Phan, Phan Nanh Ha, Thu Phuong Thai, CAO Thuy Trang, Thi Thuynga Ho, Vy Thi Tu Cao, Tran Guoc Huy.

Ronaldo of Circus Solarus

Supported by The NSW Department of Education and Training

- A nation's culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people. T-5-10
- Mutual courtesy and respect was the foundation of culture. T-3-258
- No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive. EWE-20

- Mahatma Gandhi