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October 1, 2009

Dear Youth Performers, Esteemed Teachers, and Parents:

Welcome to the INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE, a program of the San Francisco World Music Festival and Door Dog Music Productions. We are pleased to have you as a part of this inaugural theater production. You represent an important living link to the future and we are proud to highlight your talents in this evening of sharing cultural traditions. This year's concert will consist of musical traditions from India, Armenia, China, Nepal, Taiwan, Kyrgyzstan and more.

Listed below is important information about the event:

❖ **WHEN**

Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009  
7 pm

❖ **WHERE**

San Francisco Jewish Community Center  
3200 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94118  
Tel: (415) 292-1200  
Box Office: (415) 415-292-1233

❖ **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

There will be set rehearsals for all the musicians in the group, as well as, rehearsals for portions of the group. Jim Santi Owen will be in touch with the teachers of each group, arranging the schedules and making sure that everyone involved knows where to go. For the latest information, please see: <http://web.me.com/estheradams/Site/SFWMF.html>

❖ **CHECK-IN TIME & SOUND CHECK**

We would like to have your group at the theater no later than **TBA** on the day of the concert. We will start the sound checks for the audio quality at TBA pm. There will be a list telling the order of the sound check at the theater, as well as, a stage manager telling you where to go. Please have your instruments tuned and the performers ready to go on stage ten minutes prior to the appropriate time.

❖ **CONTACT INFORMATION (related to rehearsals, etc.)**

Esther Adams  
esther.home@sbcglobal.net

Jim Santi Owen  
jsantiowen@gmail.com



## ❖ LIST OF GROUPS

**Bay Area Youth Ensembles:** Gaayatri Kaundinya, Indian youth vocalist and disciple of the late Ustad Ali Akbar Khan; South Indian Youth Ensemble of the Trinity Center for Music; The Ali Akbar College of Music Youth Tabla Ensemble; The Jumping Buddha Youth Ensemble; The San Francisco School Orff Ensemble; Jeboor KZV Armenian School Choir

**Master Musicians/ Teachers:** Tibetan singer Techung; South Indian master musician Anu Sridhar; Chinese virtuoso Zhang Xiaofeng; Akylbek Serkebaev making his US Debut from Kyrgyzstan; Armenian singer Hasmik Harutyunyan; Balkan Female Choir Kitka; Indian sarodist Alam Khan; master Orff instructors Doug Goodkin, James Harding, and Sofia Lopez-Abor; master North Indian tabla master Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri; and directed by multi-percussionist Jim Santi Owen

## ❖ PROJECT INFORMATION

The International Youth Music Initiative is a natural evolution of Door Dog's Youth Arts Education programs, which grew from a single concept of trying to create "Cultural Awareness Through Music" for ethnic music here in the Bay Area, and branched out to experiential hands on learning via "World Music In Schools", "Artist Residencies" and "World Music Youth Showcase", and evolved out of necessity into professionally staged cross-cultural productions such as the "Youth for Youth World Music and Arts Fest", so as to bring a profound perspective changing experience to youth artists of the next generation, in an effort to promote and preserve ethnic music here in the Bay Area.

But the singular catalyst that sparked the International Youth Music Initiative came from a cross-cultural exchange day that Door Dog created for 16 Kurdish Youth Choir members from Turkey and the students at Alice Fong Yu Alternative School. Door Dog has worked with the Alice Fong Yu School community for the past nine years (2000-2009), instilling in their students the skills and appreciation for Chinese music and arts while introducing master musicians from other cultures around the world. We have seen the powerful, social perspective changing effect that our program has had on this one particular school community over the past eight years, especially through the creation and production of their professionally staged "A Journey to China" youth arts stage show.

But when the Kurdish youth came to visit their school, the divide between the American youth and the Kurdish youth was so obvious. When the Blue Angels flew over their school that day, the American youths jumped up and down in delight while the Kurdish youths cowered in response, completely terrified of the sight and sounds. The students at Alice Fong Yu had no clue what the lives of these Kurdish youths were like (many will face jail sentences upon their return to Turkey for singing Kurdish songs abroad), and likewise, the Kurdish youths had no clue what American youths' lives are like.



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This case in point illustrates that if we assume that kids are the same all over the world, we will miss something important. Though kids in the U.S. and around the world may all be playful, optimistic and naïve, the fact remains that they have no clue what each other's reality is like. And if these kids grow into adults with the same clueless naiveté, then it is no wonder as adults that they won't understand each other.

The fact remains that the next generation of ethnic youth here in the Bay Area as well as abroad urgently need guidance, opportunities, and resources to learn from each other, and how to problem solve a lot of the social and political issues and challenges they will face in their future, as the world gets more globalized.

More crucially, unless these youths and traditional masters have opportunity to exchange their music, their traditions will die out and become extinct. By launching the International Youth Music Initiative, Door Dog is (1) creating the global resources, networks and opportunities to meet that need and (2) saving endangered cultures by investing in their next generation of traditional artists.

Door Dog has been working with kids from different countries but based in the Bay Area since 2000. Through the Laz Project and Kurdish groups we have worked with in recent years, we understand the necessity of investing in kids from these countries. We recognize that the issues affecting these youth in these countries will eventually affect people here in the Bay Area, especially as the world is becoming more globalized. Like losing a certain species of animals in a certain country, the loss will profoundly affect the rest of the world's ecosystem, its balance and diversity. With extinct animals, the potential for comparison studies, for a more complete understanding of the world, is lost. This will certainly happen if these threatened human cultures vanish due to war, poverty, political oppression, etc.

For example, with the kids struggling and dying in a village in Uganda because of AIDS, it's our loss as well as theirs if their traditional music dies with them. Door Dog as an organization wants to be able to support very specific traditions in specific oppressed countries so that they can come here and tell their stories and initiate change for themselves on a global scale.

We feel that the time is finally ripe for youth in the San Francisco Bay Area to see, hear and interact with international youth musicians from different cultures around the world, especially those from cultures that, due to current world politics, have not been given an opportunity to voice themselves. This exchange is timely. This dialogue between youth from many countries, having many perspectives of our global position, will serve as a catalyst for problem solving.

How will this gathering of youth lend some insight to the challenges that the world faces today? What are the goals of developing international traditional music educational programs in politically and economically devastated regions of the world? What systemic issues that are confounding the development of these children are relevant to the rest of the world's stability? These are important questions our next generation of youth will need to address and answer.



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Here is some additional important information about the event:

1. **WHAT SHOULD YOU PERFORM?** You should prepare 5-8 minutes of material. Because there will be several groups, please do not prepare more than that. Make sure that your music piece is ready for the stage. Please wear or bring your performance clothes/ costumes. There are dressing rooms at the theater and a common room which will have dinner, some snacks and water for you. Please bring additional food to keep you going if you need more than that. Sharing with the other groups is encouraged. We request that you only bring vegetarian food to the event.
2. **PROGRAM BOOKLET.** Please provide a photo and paragraph description of the performer (s) as soon as possible. There will be a program handout at the theater. Please provide information about yourself (teacher) and your school or studio. You can send your picture, bio, & school information to [doordogmp@yahoo.com](mailto:doordogmp@yahoo.com) (including contact, teachers, instruments taught, etc). You can also bring flyers with you to the theater to promote your school. A table will be provided in the theater lobby for these materials.
3. **TECHNICAL NEEDS.** There will be a stage with sound equipment. Please provide any technical needs (example: microphones, chairs, etc.).
4. **PHOTOS AND VIDEO.** We will send a photo release form that will allow Door Dog Music Productions, the producers of the Festival, to use your photos for archival and promotional purposes. Please sign this release form and return it. If you have any concerns regarding this, please let us know prior to the event.
5. **HONORARIUM.** We are able to pay your school or organization an honorarium for your participation this year. You will need to fill out an W-9 form in order to receive payment. This is important to fill out in order to give us the name or business to whom we should make out the check. You will receive the check by mail after the Festival's conclusion.
6. **FLYERS & TICKETS.** We soon will have flyers and postcards for the event. Please distribute these to your friends and families. We would like to have a diverse audience in the theater to encourage your young students as they perform. **While the tickets are still available, we can provide 2 complimentary tickets if you purchase 2 tickets (children under the age of 12 and seniors are FREE!).** We are anticipating a full theater and want to make sure your patrons are able to attend.

If you have any other questions, please let us know. We thank you for participating in the INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE. I am sure this will be a great experience for all the students from around the Bay Area! We are all looking forward to greeting you on November 22<sup>nd</sup>!

Sincerely,

Michael Santoro, Executive/ Artistic Director  
Jim Santi Owen, Music Director  
Kutay Derin Kugay, Program Director

Door Dog Music Productions, producer of the San Francisco World Music Festival  
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