



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**DOOR DOG MUSIC PRODUCTIONS**

*in association with The Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, Ali Akbar College of Music, Trees Music & Art of Taiwan, Taalim-Forum of Kyrgyzstan, Sangati Center, Silk Road House, & KITKA presents*

**The Tenth Annual  
SAN FRANCISCO WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL  
presents an**

**International Youth Music Initiative**

(San Francisco) – For a decade now, the **San Francisco World Music Festival** has developed projects with master artists and youth in the Bay Area and in several countries abroad as a catalyst for cultural understanding. We have staged works bringing musicians from many backgrounds and traditions together to explore the potential of this essential exchange. This year, as the centerpiece of the festival, and in celebration of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we will continue this tradition, launching one of our most ambitious and inspiring projects yet, an *International Youth Music Initiative*.

**ABOUT THE INITIATIVE**

An *International Youth Music Initiative* started last year after receiving a generous grant from the Sam Mazza Foundation, and since has traveled across the globe to unite the youth of the world through music. This initiative brings together youth from all over the Bay Area, 12-18 years of age, combining a diverse range of our world's musical traditions and cultures, from the ragas of North India to the choral music of Eastern Europe. In addition to investing in the youth of the Bay Area, the initiative has also traveled to the mountains of Nepal, rural Taiwan, and the mountains of Kyrgyzstan to pass on to underprivileged youth their traditional music. Within the next couple years, students from these regions will join the group performing in the Bay Area.

**THE WORLD PREMIERE**

The World Premiere of an *International Youth Music Initiative* will debut at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco on November 22, 2009 at 7pm, featuring several Bay Area accomplished youth, including:

**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 and 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

**Videos of Overseas Children to Play with Children on Stage:** Tibetan exiled children in Nepal; Kyrgyz children in the mountain village of Jany-Tilek, located in Ak-Tala district, Naryn region; and Aboriginal children of the Tayal ethnic group from the village of Wu Lai in the north of Taiwan.

Artistic Direction/ Concept: Michael Santoro  
Music Direction: Jim Santi Owen  
Commissioned Music: Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri  
Scenic/ Lighting: Matthew Antaky

In addition to the traditional and newly composed music performed by this orchestra, the production will also feature interactive video compositions performed by the ensemble with video projections of youth performers in Nepal, Taiwan, and Kyrgyzstan. There will also be stylized video projections from several countries featuring interviews with leaders in the fields of human rights, performances of youth, and village and community elders talking about the importance of preserving their traditions and cultures.

During the performance, there will also be a dedication to Ustad Ali Akbar Khansahib, by his son, Alam Khan, and dedicated vocal student, **Gaayatri Kaundinya**, and the rest of the ensemble, providing the live music to a short film prepared by the Ali Akbar College of Music, which highlights their guru's lifelong dedication and commitment to teaching the youth of the Bay Area.

This dialogue between youth from many countries, having diverse global perspectives, is an effort to promote and preserve ethnic music here in the Bay Area, as well as, to provide youth from oppressed or endangered cultures of the world a voice to express themselves through their traditional music. It is an effort to challenge and inspire our next generation to learn about the global issues facing their peers in their own communities and of those around the world.

*"The San Francisco World Music Festival has a reputation for experimentation as an indirect call for cultures to share peace and understanding."* ~ The San Francisco Chronicle

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TICKET INFORMATION FOR THE FESTIVAL MAIN EVENT ON NOVEMBER 22ND:

**INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE**

November 22, 2009; 7:00 PM

\$12 Members | \$15 Public | Children under 12 Free

Jewish Community Center  
3200 California Street  
San Francisco, CA 94118

Box Office: 415-292-1233

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## **FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

November 13 - 7pm

### **FILM NIGHT**

*Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, SF Film Screening Room*

A film about the music and culture of Kyrgyzstan with lecture demonstration with master musician Akylbek Serkebaev from Kyrgyzstan and a short film of our Laz music initiative (filmed in the NE regions of Turkey) by Kutay Derin Kugay

November 15 - 7pm

### **SONGS OF KYRGYZSTAN**

*Silk Road House, Berkeley*

Akylbek Serkebaev from Kyrgyzstan makes his festival debut

November 16 - 3pm

### **FESTIVAL ASSMBLY PROGRAM**

*Alice Fong Yu Alternative School, SF*

November 19 - 8pm

### **TABLAS AND MORE TABLAS**

*Sangati Center, SF*

Featuring the Ali Akbar College of Music Youth Tabla Ensemble with Guests

November 22 - 7pm

### **INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE**

*Jewish Community Center of San Francisco Kanbar Hall*

World Premiere of youth from around the world performing together, with a special dedication to Ustad Ali Akbar Khansahib by his son, Alam Khan, and his dedicated vocal student, Gaayatri Kaundinya.

## **PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD**

Please visit: [www.doordog.org/pressphotos/](http://www.doordog.org/pressphotos/)

## **FESTIVAL 2009 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Please check the festival website at [www.sfworldmuicfestival.org](http://www.sfworldmuicfestival.org) for all events information.

## **FESTIVAL BACKGROUND**

The San Francisco World Music Festival was founded in 2000 by Executive Director Michael Santoro and Program Director Kutay Derin Kugay.