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MONTEREY WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL PRESS RELEASE

MONTEREY WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL
PROMOTES CULTURAL AWARENESS THROUGH MUSIC
SEPTEMBER 13, 14, 15, 2002

The Cultural Council for Monterey County presents the sixth annual Monterey World Music Festival on September 13, 14, 15, 2002 in historic downtown Monterey. Remembering Sept. 11, the 2002 Festival commemorates that global tragedy by promoting cultural awareness and understanding through music, demonstrating the unity of all humankind. The 2002 Festival theme “Global Consonances” suggest the sympathetic vibrations through time and space of the world’s expressions through music. No matter what nation or tradition, music lifts the spirit and expresses with beauty, feeling and dignity the yearning of every people.

Musicians from Sweden, Pakistan, India, Bulgaria, France, Tunisia and Mali arrive to the Central Coast for a musical celebration with innovative blends of contemporary and traditional sounds. The 2002 Festival features: KIRAN AHLUWALIA, JAI UTTAL and the PAGAN LOVE ORCHESTRA, YURI YUNAKOV ENSEMBLE, LO’JO, GARMARNA, ALTRAMAR, the NIGUNIM TRIO, ANOUAR BRAHAM TRIO, and TAMA.

Daytime festivities in Custom House Plaza include an emporium of ethnic items and culture, as well as international food and drink. Reserved Festival tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at door: (831) 622-9595 (800) 465-5575 www.montereyworldmusic.org. Limited seating. Upper lawn areas are FREE of charge – encouraging families to join together – bring low-back chairs and blankets. Don’t forget hats and sun-screen.

Opening on Friday evening, September 13, at 8 p.m. in the Monterey Conference Center, the Festival bows to the traditions and influences of the Indian subcontinent. Birthplace of religions and sublime artistic traditions, it is a region of incomparable cultural richness. The Festival is honored to present, in her first appearance in California, KIRAN AHLUWALIA and her ensemble. Born in northern India and raised in Canada, she has devoted most of her life to the study of Indian vocal music. She is a subtle interpreter of the sublime ghazal tradition and delivers with zest the songs of her Punjabi ancestors. This program is complemented by an unprecedented third appearance at the Monterey World Music Festival of JAI UTTAL & THE PAGAN LOVE ORCHESTRA. Jai Uttal’s eclectic East-meets-West music embraces a rich variety of cultures and traditions. Intrigued by ancient music, Uttal learned his crafts from India’s national treasure, Ali Akban Khan. Embracing Hindu devotional song, reggae, motown and Beatle’s rock, Uttal creates a sacred, visionary chant in a Western groove.

The Festival moves outdoors Saturday September 14 to Custom House Plaza, the historic center of Monterey, for performances by three outstanding global bands. Beginning at 12 noon, the YURI YUNAKOV ENSEMBLE will present its lively Bulgarian “wedding” dance music.

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Fast speeds, plummeting key changes, impossible rhythms; village folk tunes melded with jazz, rock, Turkish and Indian music all combine to create one of the most thrilling musical sounds today. Also, on Saturday's program, the French group LO' JO performs its own distinctive multicultural sound: cabaret-style deliveries punctuated by Arabic and Romany intonations, circus music, rock and jazz improvisations. As the LA Times put it: "LO' JO fuses sounds of the Mediterranean and Africa into a seamless tapestry of music." The Custom House Saturday program concludes with Swedish super- group GARMARNA. With roots firmly planted in Nordic folk music, they create their own sound, ignoring the unwritten laws of how traditional music should be performed. Led by stunning vocalist Emma Hardelin, GARMARNA brilliantly fuses the ancient with the modern, traditional with rock, the transcendent with the subterranean.

The Festival continues indoors Saturday evening, moving to the 18th Century Spanish chapel – San Carlos Cathedral. In that romantic setting, the acclaimed ALTRAMAR MEDIEVAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE performs the early music of Celtic lands. From Galway to Galicia, ALTRAMAR sets sail on a voyage of discovery across the ocean of geography, time and memory to rediscover the ancient Celtic cultures whose influences resonate today.

On Sunday September 15, the Festival returns to Custom House Plaza welcoming the NIGUNIM TRIO at noon. Nigunim and Zmiros are songs of devotion – spiritual Hasidic chants meant to induce a state of ecstasy in both performer and listener. Ethnographers of the Jewish soul, Frank London and Lorin Sklamberg (both of the Klezmatics) are joined by Rob Schwimmer to focus on the intense beauty of Jewish mystical song. Among world artists, ANOUAR BRAHEM stands out as an original composer and subtle performer of the Arabic lute or oud. Anouar Brahem has explored the most secret depths of sound and pondered long and lovingly the legacy of Islamic music. This artistic contemplation creates a sublime and ethereal sound, ANOUAR BRAHEM'S personal trademark. The 2002 Monterey World Music Festival closes with the Real World recording artists TAMA with their lively blend of West African and western sounds. Based on Malian singer Tom Diakite's repertoire, the group combines tradition and innovation in a creative vein; making an authentic statement rather than trying to represent or revive a traditional folklore. TAMA promises to bring the sixth annual Monterey World Music Festival to an invigorating conclusion.

Many sponsors are partners with the 2002 Monterey World Music Festival, they include Web broadcasters XENOMUSIC, public radio stations KUSP – 88.9 FM, KKUP – 91.5 and KAZU – 90.3 FM; Vintners JEKEL Vineyards and brewers SHINER BOCK; magazines GLOBAL RHYTHM and the UTNE Reader; newspapers the SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS as well as the California Arts Council, the City of Monterey and the County of Monterey. The Monterey World Music Festival is a program of the Cultural Council for Monterey County. The Cultural Council for Monterey County is a private, non-profit arts organization and official arts agency for Monterey County. The mission of CCMC is "to promote education, appreciation and excellence in the arts in Monterey County."

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GLOBAL CONSONANCES

Remembering 9/11 by promoting cultural awareness through music

SEPT. 13 FESTIVAL OPENING
Friday Evening, 8pm: Monterey Conference Center, Serra II Ballroom

KIRAN AHLUWALIA
(India/Pakistan)

JAI UTTAL AND THE PAGAN LOVE ORCHESTRA
(Indian eclectic)

SEPT. 14 GLOBAL CONSONANCES I
Saturday, Noon-6pm: Historic Monterey Custom House Plaza

YURI YUNAKOV ENSEMBLE
(Bulgaria/Roma)

LO' JO
(France/North Africa)

GARMARNA
(Sweden)

SEPT. 14 MUSIC FROM THE CELTIC SHORE
Saturday Evening, 8 PM: San Carlos Cathedral, Royal Chapel

Altramar Medieval Music Ensemble
(Medieval Celtic)

SEPT. 15 GLOBAL CONSONANCES II
Sunday, Noon-6pm: Historic Monterey Custom House Plaza

NIGUNIM TRIO
(Sacred Jewish)

ANOUAR BRAHEM TRIO
(Tunisia)

TAMA
(Mali/West Africa)

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