

HARMONIOUS GATHERING 11/11/11 - MEDIA RELEASE

Harmonious Gathering will be a night that Melbourne will remember as it will capture the hearts and minds of audience at this year concert on Friday the 11/11/11. Fusing their diverse cultural backgrounds into exciting original and sacred chanting music, this unique ensemble spreads the message of co-existence and harmony with their music and songs.

Hailing from many different parts of the world – some historically adversarial – the ensemble members comprise of Melbourne leading world music instrumentalists: an Israeli percussionist, Iranian string and vocal instrumentalists, a Chilean multi instrumentalist, Indian flutist, Israeli Oud/guitarist/vocalist, and Australian instrumentalists on Guitar/Harmonium/Tablas/Sitar and Vocals.

Amos Hasson contributes the success and vitality of the ensemble to its members, each of them 'giving from the heart' and dedicated to spreading positive messages through music. The night will be recorded, filmed and released later on as a CD/DVD.

The Harmonious Gathering ensemble was formed to spread messages of peace and harmony in our community and across the globe.

The ensemble will be performing a set of sacred chanting songs of devotion from different cultures in multiple languages such as Hebrew, Spanish, Arabic, English and Sanskrit. The ensemble will also perform a set of original music that each musician will be offering with collaboration of the ensemble.

The night will start with a special sound scapes journey with Crystal singing bowls, gong, chimes, vocals toning and harmonics. There will also be great food and drinks provided by "Lentil as anything".

"We are going to amaze you – People will be blown away by the lyrics, the music and the vibe of who we are...Australia is the place where the dream of co-existence and Harmony is coming true and we as musicians are honoured to represent these values" said Amos Hasson

The countdown to Harmonious Gathering 11/11/11 has begun with the early bird Tickets sale through Moshtix www.moshtix.com.au , 1300 get tix (438 849). Posters will be seen on the streets across Melbourne suburbs with all the details from the 19 of October onwards.

Amos Hasson and the team at Hallelujah Productions is once again producing the annual Harmonious Gathering concert. 11 Musicians will be taking the stage at Glen Eira City Council Auditorium (cnr of Glen Eira Rd/Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield) on Friday 11 November 2011 from 7:00pm.

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Amos Hasson (Israel) – is an Australian based Musician and Music events producer. Amos was born and raised in Israel to a North African family from Morocco and Libya. He has been drumming since he was 13 years old and through his journey he ended up developing his skills on drums and percussion. Among them are: Djembe, Cajon, Bongos, Frame drum, Darbuka, Udu drum, Timbales, shakers and other percussive instruments. 5 years ago he moved to Australia and he managed to be involved with many different Local & International musicians as a percussionist and a vocalist. Amos is known for his great sense of music, organic improvisations and powerful presence on stage and in studio recording. Amos also produced and managed a few bands, one of them performed at 'Australia day concert 2008' as the final act in front of 11,000 people with an original composition. He is also a sound therapist; he is using the therapeutic qualities of music and sound produced by Crystal singing bowls/chimes/gong and vocal toning and harmonics.

Pin Rada (Chile) - A World music producer and multi-instrumentalist performer based in Melbourne, Australia who, as a migrant from Chile, regularly collaborates in studio work and on stage with other musicians from diverse cultural backgrounds. He specialises in unique Eastern bowed and wind instruments and has a passion for modal composition and improvisation. He produces recordings and is gaining a growing reputation for his characteristic versatility across a wide range of instrumentation. Locally in Australia he has worked with an enormous variety of other migrant and ethnic Australian musicians. He also regularly travels and collaborates overseas with musicians from Turkey, India, and Thailand and has worked extensively in Istanbul with a variety of musicians. He specialises particularly in Eastern bowed and wind instruments, namely North Indian Sarangi, Turkish Ney, and Cretan Lyra, but also performs Didgeridoo, Turkish saz, Dulcimer, Indian Basuri flute, and various western stringed instruments. He has also studied music extensively in Turkey, Greece, and India.

Pooya Mheman Pazir (Iran) – Born in Shiraz (Iran) in the year of 1977, Pooya showed interest in music from early childhood and embarked on playing the Setar. Progressively improving his techniques and knowledge in traditional Iranian musical modal systems, at the age of 15 he commenced professional training under the supervision of music masters such as Master Behnam Vadani simultaneously brushing up on techniques on the instrument Tar. Pooya successfully passed the mandatory stringent examinations required by the institutions and met all necessary prerequisites, gaining entrance to the Art University of Tehran at the age of 22. Completing the 4 year course he obtained his bachelor in music and was offered 3rd national postgraduate position (out of 5 offered) in the field of composition. During the process of his tertiary education Pooya obtained valuable knowledge on instrument techniques. Pooya began performing with the Sepidar and Art University Ensembles as well as the Australian cultural consulate choir from the year of 2000 in a number of noteworthy concerts in renowned venues of Iran. Having established the "Mehr" ensemble in Tehran and after migrating to Australia in 2006, he is continuing activities with relevant members in Melbourne, his primary focus remains in creating compositions of a unique nature.

Shai Shriki (Israel) - Gypsy Guitarist, Oud player, singer and multi instrumentalist, captures different flavours of world music, playing some unique string instruments from the Middle East. Shai performs his original songs & music, traditional prayers from the ancient Hebrew script, Spanish & Eastern European Gypsy music, in a fusion of contemporary and traditional sounds. Born in Israel to a Moroccan family, Shai's truly authentic sound and voice invoke the desert landscapes and cultures, travelling through time. The Audience are taken on a world journey of sound, emotion and dance.

Vinod Prasanna (India) - Bansuri maestro, Vinod Prasanna has inherited the musical treasure of his ancestors. From the King's court of old to the modern music stage, the Prasanna family have performed Bansuri (the Indian flute) for more than two and a half centuries. Vinod continues this legacy. As a soloist, Vinod commands the stage with grace and tenacity. His passion, technical brilliance and performance style charms audiences in solo, duo and world music performances.

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Glen Kniebisis (Aust) - Glen Kniebeiss has devoted himself to playing tabla since 1998. He has studied with great masters in India, including Ustad Anthony Dass, Pandit Ishwar Lal Mishra, and Pandit Lacchu Maharaj. Glen received funding from the Australia Council for the Arts and the Ian Potter Cultural Trust to study tabla in India during 2003/04, and was again awarded funding from the Australia Council in 2010 for further tabla studies. Glen's playing style is emotional and expressive, with subtle nuance and a very clear sound. Glen is one of the finest tabla artists in Australia and has performed at many festivals and concerts around the country. He has also performed in India, Japan, Holland and Denmark.

Carlos Remsy (Aust) - is an Australian based Musician. Carlos has played Sitar, Mandola and Guitar for 25 years as well teaching music in his own studio. He has played with many known musicians over the years. He has performed at a wide range of functions including several concerts at Crown Casino and Australia day at Federation Square. He has performed on numerous recording sessions for other artists and has been played nationally on ABC classic FM.

Belinda Wickens (Aust) - Belinda has been leading chant groups such as Ecstatic Sound Circle and Divine Chant, in and around Melbourne and at festivals around Victoria, for the past four years. Her solid rhythm guitar style and resonating voice bring a subtle strength to her performance and a sense of presence to her songs.

Angela Hina Gates (Aust) - Hina has played harmonium and tempura for devotional music and Sanskrit text chants in India, America and here. She has studied vocal technique with Antonio Lancuba and is currently studying classical Indian raga with Bikram Malhar. She performs with an ecstatic sound group and is recording her first album of original music. Her voice expresses the beauty and vulnerability of the human heart.

Samira Karimi (Iran) - Born in North of Iran 1980, Samira began her journey in the path of music at the early childhood ages. With a gifted voice, and passion to express her love in music, she began vocal training in 1994 and at the age of 19 she began playing the Setar and went onto playing the Kamanche. With professional training in music theory, Persian classical style singing and harmony under the supervision of masters Sharif Lotfi and Amir Eslami, she is a special up and coming talent in the realm of Persian music with much to offer in her vocal techniques and in the instruments she plays. She has been active in renowned ensembles such as Sepidar, Tehran University choir and is currently working with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Saritah (Sth Korea/Aust) - Inspiring, uplifting and playfully powerful, Saritah's live shows are colourful celebrations of life. Lyrical affirmations, inspirations, and observations weave with sounds inspired by dancehall, reggae, soul, world and pop music. A festival favourite, Saritah loves to connect with the audience and her vocals are delivered with a captivating blend of attitude and grace. Born in Seoul, South Korea, the country of her mother's heritage, Saritah grew up by the Indian Ocean in the most isolated city in the world – Perth, Australia. A traveller from the time she was a few months old, however, she has always had a global perspective and has been exposed to and influenced by a diversity of music and culture from around the world.

Food & Drinks by "Lentil as anything" - Is a non for profit restaurant with 3 locations. Our aim is to make food available to all in the community. We do not have any other funding that finances the restaurants. Over the 11 years that Lentil as Anything has been operating we have made more than 6 million meals available. And serve an average of 1000 patrons a day across the 3 locations. Lentil as anything is about Australians helping each other. The beauty of it is that by eating a delicious meal at one of the restaurants and paying as generously as you can you are not only feeding your appetite, you are also feeding the organization that does so much to support the community and people in need.

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