

# DEBUT YOUTH FESTIVAL TO PREMIER SUNDAY OF SACRED WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

## Gospel queens, Sibel Thrasher and Lovena Fox, open show on Saturday

Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA: The countdown begins: from November 8-11, 2003, the 5th Annual Sacred World Music Festival will celebrate four days of music with three distinct events at two locations. Organizers have announced the debut of a youth festival with appeal to teens throughout the Lower Mainland - the Youth Festival of Sacred Music & Art ñ on Sunday, November 9 at Vancouver's Croatian Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive.

"This is a new spark for the festival," says Nancy Fischer, the executive director for the Westcoast Sacred Arts Society (WCSAS). "Coupled with the 'Gospel Experience' and gospel queens, Sibel Thrasher and Lovena Fox, these two events carry an exciting dimension to accent the spiritual aspect of music."

The 'Gospel Experience' opens the festival on Saturday, November 8 at the First Baptist Church, 969 Burrard Street in Vancouver, from 8 pm to 10 pm. Thrasher (Platters, Ain't Misbehavin') and Fox (Ragtime, Ain't Misbehavin') have banded together with other praise-worthy notables: band leader Candus Churchill (Black & Gold Revue, Little Shop of Horrors), Lovie Eli (Bordello of Blood, Iceman), Marcus Mosely (Peter Dent), Tom Pickett (Def Jam Vendetta, On the Corner), Leora Cashe and Will Sanders. The evening is a blend of intoxicating contemporary and traditional songs by the powerhouse octet.

For November 10 and 11, the Sacred World Music Festival returns to the Croatian Centre, with a chalice full of unique musical groups, including the Rene Hugo Sanchez Group (Peru), Thione Diop & Yeke Yeke (Senegal), Alfarabi (classical Arabic and medieval Mediterranean Latin) and Marilyn Lerner with David Wall (Toronto, Ontario), whose music combines original settings with Yiddish poetry written by a handful of poets, including Allen Ginsberg. Audiences will also be treated to songs from the Hasidic Jewish music tradition.

The festival is produced by WCSAS, a community-based, not-for-profit charitable organization. WCSAS is committed to producing sacred arts festivals for the purposes of education and advancing the public's understanding and appreciation of sacred arts, as well as to educate artists through participation in such festivals and related workshops. "Sacred arts expresses the spiritual nature of humanity without being connected to any specific religious doctrine," explains Fischer. The mandate for WCSAS is to provide opportunities for artists from a variety of cultural communities to share their artistic and cultural heritage with one another and to benefit the community at large.

Tickets are available in Vancouver at Banyen Books and Sound: 3608 West 4th Avenue (604-737-8858); Highlife Records, 1317 Commercial Drive (604-251-6964); in North Vancouver at Utopia Gifts for the Soul, 117 West 1st Street, North Vancouver (604-984-8782), at Kamal's Video Palace, 8268-120 Street, Surrey (604-592-9777) and in Victoria at Boomtown Import Records & Discs, #105, 561- Johnson Street (250-380-5090). Youth and elder discounted prices are available (see web site for ticket prices).

**MEDIA:** for one-pagers, interviews or media kits, call:  
Mairi Campbell, Tel: 604.506.3082 or Ange Frymire Tel: 604.734.0600  
**Web site:** [www.sacredmusicvancouver.org](http://www.sacredmusicvancouver.org)

## SCHEDULE FOR 2003 SACRED WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

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| <b>November 8:</b><br>8 pm - 10 pm    | <b>Gospel Experience</b><br><b>First Baptist Church, 969 Burrard Street, Vancouver</b><br>Featuring: Sibel Thrasher, Lovena Fox, Marcus Mosely, Candus Churchill, Tom Pickett, Will Sanders with Gail Suderman (piano), Dave Olsen (bass), Lou Hoover (drums)                         |
| <b>November 9:</b><br><br>1 pm - 3 pm | <b>Youth Festival of Sacred Music &amp; Art</b><br><b>Croatian Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver</b><br><br>Family Drum Circle with Lyle Povah   |
| 3 pm - 5 pm                           | Inter-Cultural Youth Choral Showcase featuring the Vancouver Ismaili Muslim Youth Choir and friends; the Youth Festival's Choral Showcase brings together the Vancouver Ismaili Muslim Youth Choir, G.L.A.S.S. Youth Choir, and other local youth choirs. Director Hussein Janmohamed |

- 5:15 pm - 6 pm Jane Corral and Treble Five-Christian Sacred Music, featuring soloist, Jane Corral, and her partners Erin and Kendra James, with Esher and Tejas Madhur
- 7 pm - 7:30 pm Chibi Taiko-Japanese Taiko Drumming. Directed by Shinobu Homma; Inter-Cultural Dance Fest, featuring two dynamic BC Youth dance ensembles
- 7:45 pm - 8:45 pm Visions of Thailand. Directed by Angela Cooper; Otowa Ryu Japanese Dance Group, directed by Otowa Hinaaki
- 9 pm - 10 pm Jabulani, Youth World Rhythm Ensemble

**November 10: Sacred World Music Festival  
Croatian Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver**

- 2 pm - 4 pm Community Drum Circle with Ron Stelting. Drums available for rent at \$5
- 4 pm - 5 pm Rene Hugo Sanchez Group (Peru)
- 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm Thione Diop & Yeke Yeke, Sacred Rhythms from Senegal
- 7 pm - 8:30 pm Alfarabius. (Classical Arabic and Medieval Latin Music from the Mediterranean)
- 8:45 pm - 10 pm Ann Mortifee, Into the Heart of the Sangoma. Born in Zululand, South Africa, she tells, through story and song, of the writing of her musical, When the Rains Come. She speaks of how, by divine providence, she was led to a group of women Sangomas in a traditional healing village in Africa, of how they gifted her with a ceremony of healing, and of how she was finally led to an encounter with the head Sangoma of the Zulu nation, Vasamazulu Credo Mutwa

**November 11: Sacred World Music Festival  
Croatian Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver**

- 1 pm - 2:45 pm Sounding the Source Vocal Workshop, with Sheinagh Anderson
- 3 pm - 4:00pm Catherine Wilson and Friends, Classical Piano and String Quartet. In collaboration with Vancouver composer, John Burke
- 4:15 pm - 5 pm Sandy Scofield Band, Aboriginal Spiritual Music
- 5:15 pm - 6:15 pm Marilyn Lerner and David Wall, Jewish Music
- 7 pm - 8:15 pm musica intima, a Capella Early Music Ensemble
- 8:45 pm - 10 pm Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra (VICO), featuring Nancy Fischer (soprano) and the Laudate Singers

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