

An Evening of Many Cultures

Patrick Gilbert as Chairman of the Organising Committee for the Evening sent a message of loyal greetings to Her Majesty the Queen, as head of the Commonwealth, on behalf of all those associated with this occasion. The Queen was graciously pleased to send the following reply:

Please convey my sincere thanks to all those attending the Multi-Cultural Evening at the Commonwealth Institute for their kind message of loyal greetings. As Head of the Commonwealth, I greatly appreciate this message and send my very best wishes for a successful and enjoyable evening.

ELIZABETH R.

"The All Party Parliamentary Group for Heritage is delighted to be associated with this very special evening. It is particularly appropriate that it should be so for the performances that we will be seeing are particularly of a new rich and growing artistic heritage of which future generations of British citizens will be increasingly proud. Through our participation in this Multi-Cultural Evening we will all, I hope, get to understand each other better and like each other more."

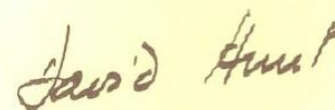
Patrick Cormack and Andrew Faulds MP
Joint Chairmen

"I send you my greetings and best wishes for a successful evening."

Sridath Ramphal
Commonwealth Secretary-General

"The Commonwealth Institute is particularly pleased to provide the venue for this important event. The Commonwealth is above all an association which exists to foster and celebrate different cultures from all parts of the world. Cultural expression through the arts provides one of the best ways of enabling people of different origins to understand and appreciate each other's particular approach to life.

Such understanding is of great importance at this particular stage in the development of British society. We wish every success to the initiative which has been taken by the Working Party on the Arts of Ethnic Minorities."



David Hunt
Chairman of the Board of Governors
Commonwealth Institute

An Evening of Many Cultures

David Lane, Chairman, Commission for Racial Equality


There have been many evenings of multi-cultural entertainment throughout Britain in recent years but none, I think, which has been so specially designed for such a particular audience. The object of tonight's entertainment, besides creating enjoyment, is to make a public bid for recognition by established funding agencies, on behalf of the arts of Britain's ethnic minorities. Inevitably the programme will not represent every art form of every minority. It would be impossible, in the course of a single evening, to do full justice to the diversity and range of cultural activities which have been added to the British heritage in the past twenty years.

It gives me particular pleasure, on behalf of all our other sponsors, to express our thanks to the National Westminster Bank. The Bank has an extensive programme of assistance to community activities including the arts and we are delighted that it is supporting us this evening.

I only wish I could be here to share it with you.

An Evening of Many Cultures

in the presence of H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester.
Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8.
Monday 10th November 1980

Sponsored by **National Westminster Bank** 
Programme introduced by **Cy Grant**

Barnet Cypriot Dance Group: four specially selected Greek and Cypriot dances.

Tai-Shen Chinese Play Association: excerpt from the Chinese mime-drama *The Monkey King*.

Jagdish Mistry and **Harvey De Souza** students from the **Yehudi Menuhin School:** Bartok violin duets and improvisations with **Mohana Lakshmi**pathy, veena.

Ken Johnson of the **Silvertones** pan solo.

Elizbieta Lubicz accompanied by **Maria Drué:** traditional Polish songs.

Aklowa: African drumming and dancing.

Interval: 30 minutes

Surma: traditional Ukrainian songs.

Tara Rajkumar: classical Indian dance.

Cy Grant: short excerpt from *Return to my Native Land* by Aimé Césaire.

MAAS Movers: *One* – a world premiere of an original piece performed by James S. Lammy and Patience Owusu, two members of the dance company.

Great Indian Dancers: *Bhangra*, a harvest folk dance originating from the Punjab.

6.00pm - 6.30pm Reception
Drinks in Foyer and Gallery Bars

7.45pm - 8.15pm *Interval*
Buffet supper in Gallery Bar
Drinks in Foyer and Gallery Bars

9.30pm - 10.00pm Drinks in Gallery Bar

By courtesy of National Westminster Bank



Cy Grant introduces *The Evening of Many Cultures* and reads extracts from Aimé Césaire's *Return To My Native Land* – the surrealist masterpiece hailed as "nothing less than the greatest lyrical monument of this time".



Barnet Cypriot Dance Group

The Barnet Cypriot Youth Club formed its own Dance Group to encourage interest in Greek dance, music and language amongst the many young Greek Cypriots.

The Barnet Cypriot Dance Group whose average age is 19 have been dancing together for the past four years. The group is in great demand for appearances at festivals in and around London.

Invited by the Ministry of Overseas Cypriots, the dancers spent a month this summer touring refugee camps in Cyprus. This was the first time an English Cypriot dance group had been invited to perform in that country. The excellent response from their audience ensured an invitation to return next year.

Kalamatianos Syrtos

Zembekikos Servikos

— a cycle of four dances, chosen for their diversity.

Photo: Chrys Chrysanthou

The Tai-Shen Chinese Play Association Artistic Director — Brian Tai-Shen Wang.

The teenagers who are performing are beating the dragon drum which is about 2½ feet in diameter, complete with cymbals and gongs. This is usually accompanied by the Dragon dance or Lion dance and is believed to frighten away the evil spirits.

This performance is an excerpt from the Chinese mime-drama *The Monkey King* first performed in Liverpool in May 1977. The play tells the story of a monk going on a pilgrimage, accompanied by three companions, Pigsy, Sandy and the Monkey King. Lying in wait are terrible demons. The Monkey King penetrates and destroys each demon.



Jagdish Mistry and Harvey de Souza, both students at the Yehudi Menuhin School, Cobham, Surrey.

Jagdish Mistry (Aged 17). Violin, comes from Bombay in India. His parents came to live in England when he was accepted into the Yehudi Menuhin School in September 1975. His teacher is David Takeno. He has played in many concerts given by the Menuhin School, including Mr Menuhin's annual Festival in Gstaad, Switzerland.

Harvey de Souza (Aged 15). Violin, also comes from India. He entered the Menuhin School in 1977, the same year his brother Ralph left the School after seven years study here to continue his musical studies at the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. Harvey studies with Margaret Norris. His parents live in Bombay and he returns for a visit once a year in the summer.

Duos Bartok
Transylvanian Dance
Mosquito Dance
Ruthenian Song

Bagpipes
Sorrow
Pizzicato
Arabian Song

Jagdi. ♪ Mistry: Violin
Harvey de Souza: Violin

Mohana Lakshmipathy
accompanied by Jagdish Mistry

Karahara Priya – each artist emphasises the dominant feature known to East and West.

Sharada Priya – a derivative of the previous style, the gaiety and vivacious content of the raga is brought out.

Brought up in a musical environment at home and at Mysore, Mohana was able to study tala, laya, swara kalpana and finer aspects of classical music. After training with Vidwan Venkatachalam at Chidambaram Music College, she has given concerts in several European countries and introduced Veena to a wide audience.



Vina, a seven-stringed instrument is one of the three chief musical instruments in India, the other two being sitar and sarangi. It can be safely regarded as the purest and most ancient of the three.

Elizbieta Lubicz
accompanied by **Maria Drué**

The three songs from Poland are two traditional folk songs – *Rosemary Flowers* and *My Country* – and *Kujawiak Dance* by the well-known Polish composer H. Wienianski.



Elizbieta Lubicz: Born in Poland, she studied and performed in her native country before coming to live in England. She performs mainly for the Polish community in this country.

Maria Drué: Born in Poland, she came to England after the war. She has studied at Cracow in Poland and the Guildhall School of Music in London.



Aklowa

A performance of African drumming and dancing.

Aklowa was formed in 1977 and took over a Victorian country vicarage in the village of Takeley, Essex to turn it into a centre for traditional African drumming and dancing.

Aklowa is Ga for "village" and the aim of the group is to promote the understanding of African culture and societies, through performance and workshops.

"Africa is probably the only place left where musicians can still be part of society with their music. And this is important, for when music is separated from its roots it loses its value".

Photo: Cambridge Evening News

Surma

Surma is the London Ukrainian Youth Association Choir. Formed in November 1978 the group's intention is to continue the traditions of their fathers through a variety of music and song.

Surma has performed at numerous concerts and anniversaries and also at international cultural festivals.



The Flight of the Eagles

This song describes the fight of Ukrainian freedom fighters against the enemies of the Ukraine.

(Eagles was the nickname of the freedom fighters).

The Bandura Song

A traditional Cossack love-song about a young Cossack who in an attempt to impress a beautiful maiden learns to play a love-song on the bandura and then discovers a greater love for the instrument.

The Minstrel Song

A moving song about a roving minstrel's love of the Ukrainian land.

Traditional Ukrainian Love Song

A light and humorous conversation between two lovers.

Conductor: Dr. Wolodymyr-Paska

Photo: Chris Schwarz

Tara Rajkumar

The dance style is *Mohini Attam* referring to Hindu mythology when the Lord Vishnu has assumed the form of the divine enchantress – *Mohini*. *Mohini Attam* literally means the dance of the enchantress.

Tara Rajkumar is one of the foremost exponents of the classical Indian dance forms of Kathakali and Mohini Attam. Both these dance styles originate from her birthplace, Kerala, the southern state of India. Her experience ranges from traditional performances in village temples to recitals; she has performed widely in Britain.

Invocation

Verses in praise of Lord Ganesha, remover of obstacles, and Sarawathi, the goddess of Vidya: learning. The dancer opens the recital with a prayer to the Ranga Devatha, the ruling deity of the stage. This is followed by 'Cholkettu' which is the basic dance structure moving from simple to complicated footwork patterns.

Padam

A padam is narrative in style. The dancer actually portrays the character, often that of a love-lorn maiden seeking the love of her lord.



MAAS Movers

One – a duet performed by James S. Lammy and Patience Owusu.

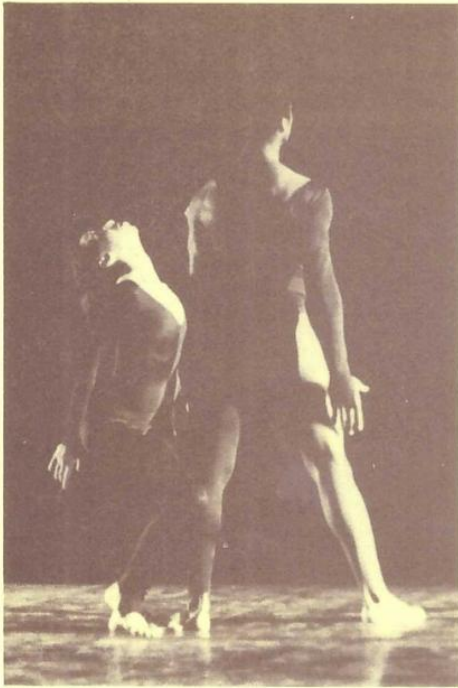
Choreography by James S. Lammy.

Costumes by James S. Lammy.

Music by Don Sebesky and Ron Carter.

This is a world premiere of an original piece performed by two members of the dance company, MAAS Movers.

"It's not impossible to behave like this to one another, or is it?"



MAAS Movers Dance Company was founded in 1977 to provide a training ground and performing experience for young black dancers. Under the direction of James S. Lammy, the company has eight dancers. MAAS Movers is now based at two centres in Brixton, London where they teach regular classes for the community.

Since its debut, the company has developed a distinctive repertory created by black artists living in Britain. The work explores and explains the unique black cultural and social inheritance and its relevance to our times. At the same time the company manages to be one of the most imaginative and exciting contemporary dance groups in the country.

The Great Indian Dancers

Leader, Harbinder Singh

Bhangra

a harvest folk dance, famous for its grace and colour, originating from the Punjab.

Since its formation in 1967, the group, *The Great Indian Dancers* has won international fame performing to a wide audience – from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the

viewers of Larry Grayson's *Generation Game*.

As well as undertaking highly successful tours, *The Great Indian Dancers* have also been winners of several dance competitions at the Edinburgh International Festival, the Asian Youth Festival and the Big Bhangra Competition of the United Kingdom.



An Evening of Many Cultures

has been organised by the Commission for Racial Equality, the All Party Parliamentary Heritage Group, the Council of Regional Arts Associations, the Commonwealth Institute and Minorities' Arts Advisory Service.

and sponsored by National Westminster Bank, Greater London Arts Association, Commission for Racial Equality, Commonwealth Institute, Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge and the Methodist Church.