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MUSIC: WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

# We are the world

## The city's best festival brings exotic rhythms, ancient melodies and gloriously unique styles to our stages

By Howard Reich  
Tribune arts critic  
Published September 15, 2006

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Chicago guitar polymath Haque and North Indian classical violinist Ramnath have collaborated to striking effect in previous Chicago outings, reaffirming the adaptability of jazz improvisation.

SATURDAY

Chicago Symphony Orchestra with Yang Wei, Yat-Kha and Radio Maqam, 7 p.m. in Symphony Center, 220 S. Michigan Ave.; free; 312-294-3000.

In a reprise of the festival's opening concert in Millennium Park, the CSO partners with visiting and local musicians in a genre-bending evening. Pipa virtuoso Yang Wei will play Tan Dun's Concerto for Pipa (a Chinese lute) and Orchestra; the Tuvan band Yat-Kha and Chicago's Radio Maqam (with new compositions by leader Issa Boulos) will expand the stylistic range of the mighty CSO.



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Alternate: Natacha Atlas and La Mar Enfortuna, 8 p.m. at the Old Town School of Folk Music; \$12; 773-728-6000.

Singer Atlas investigates the commonalities between North African and Arabic musical languages; La Mar Enfortuna transforms Sephardic music of centuries ago.

**SUNDAY**

Kala Ramnath and Purbayan Chatterjee, 5 p.m. at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave.; \$12; 312-397-4010.

A rare opportunity to revel in the subtleties of Indian classical music, this double-bill features two of its greatest practitioners. Chatterjee, leading his own ensemble, stands among the best of a new generation of sitar masters; Ramnath can adapt her North Indian classical violin playing to various musical settings -- this time, she'll play solo and with Chatterjee (as the evening's finale).

Alternate: Oliver Mtukudzi & Black Spirits, Occidental Brothers Dance Band International, Mamadou Diabate Ensemble, 8:30 p.m. at Logan Square Auditorium, 2359 N. Kedzie Blvd.; \$13 advance, \$15 at door; 773-252-6179.

**MONDAY**

Culture Musical Club of Zanzibar and Natacha Atlas, 6:30 p.m. in the Pritzker Pavilion of Millennium Park; free; 312-742-1168.

Making its North American debut, the Culture Musical Club epitomizes the taarab music of Zanzibar, a cross-continental hybrid that blends Eastern and Western musical influences in an orchestral setting. Considering the sheer size of the ensemble, its international renown and its debut engagement, this promises to be one of the more significant performances of the World Music Festival. The evening also will feature Belgian-born singer Natacha Atlas.

Alternate: Descemer Bueno and Rob Curto's Forro for All, 9 p.m. at HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo Drive; \$12; 312-362-9707.

Bueno, born in Havana, extends Afro-Cuban music in contemporary directions; Curto's Forro for All draws inspiration from music of Brazil but extends beyond it.

**TUESDAY**

Aurelio Martinez, 8:30 p.m. at University of Chicago International House, 1414 E. 59th St.; \$5; 773-753-2274.

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A founding member of the Garifuna All Star Band, singer-songwriter-guitarist Martinez has become an icon of the Paranda music of Central America, which incorporates African and Caribbean influences.

Alternate: Born into Brothels Ensemble, 7 p.m. in Preston Bradley Hall of the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.; free; 312-744-6630.

Composer John McDowell leads an ensemble performing music from the documentary film of the same name.

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