



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

April 2006

World Music Festival: 20 – 26 May 2006

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 4JJ

This May, St Martin's presents its first acoustic **World Music Festival**. From Saturday 20 May - Friday 26 May this 18th century Baroque church, best known for its Concerts by Candlelight series, will play host to some of the best musicians from roots and world music.

Saturday 20 May, 7.30pm
ZUM "Gypsy Tango Mania"

From magical tenderness and haunting and intoxicating harmonies to explosions of sound and rhythmic power, this highly acclaimed gypsy tango band combines the fire and brilliance of Eastern European gypsy fiddle music with the hot-blooded passion of Argentinean Tango. ZUM's new show includes 'Nuevo Tango' masterpieces by Astor Piazzolla and music from the golden era of tango, alongside addictive traditional gypsy melodies and dazzling virtuoso fiddling. The band adds its own compelling original material, inspired by both gypsy and tango, sophisticated threads of jazz connected with gypsy, celtic, salsa, bluegrass, klezmer, Arabic, calypso and tango to create a stunning new sound.

Tickets: £18 £15 £12 £8 £6

Saturday 20 May, 10.00pm
Mauro Carra, Accordion

Mauro Carra is one of Italy's hottest young talents. A stunning accordion virtuoso, he has recorded five albums, performed for films, and won competitions all over the world. Mauro makes his debut at St Martin's in this special late night concert. There's no better place to enjoy his phenomenal talent than the atmospheric setting of St Martin's by candlelight.

Tickets: £9

Tuesday 23 May, 7.30pm
Nuru Kane

The extraordinarily gifted Senegalese singer Nuru Kane first came to prominence with his performance at Mali's Festival in the Desert in 2004, to many one of the festival highlights. His music is a blend of the rhythms and colours of traditional music and Oriental and European sounds. His live performances are unhindered, unrestricted and full of musical surprises. Nuru's exceptional musical beauty combined with his natural exuberance, wonderful storytelling and velvety smooth voice produces an unforgettable live experience.

Tickets: £15 £12 £8

"There's a plethora of talented Senegalese singer-songwriters around at the moment, but few have the musical breadth of Nuru Kane...[the music] is a funky roots melange with Kane's soulful delivery sounding like a silky hybrid of Marley and Keziah Jones"

The Observer, March 2006

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS

World Music Festival at St Martin-in-the-Fields/PAGE TWO

Friday 26 May, 7.30pm

The Burning Bush

Exuberance, defiance, celebration and ribald wit all come together on the emotional rollercoaster ride that is a Burning Bush performance. Combining foot-tapping klezmer, exotic Arab-influenced dance music from the old Ottoman world and haunting, mystical ballads of the Jewish ghetto, The Burning Bush crosses cultural boundaries in music and song. Featuring the amazing voice and sinuous violin of Lucie Skeaping and the breathtaking, unbridled virtuosity of clarinettist Ben Harlan, this multi-talented sextet presents music that is impossible to resist whatever your background, as audiences from Zagreb to rural Wiltshire will confirm. A magical journey into nostalgia, hope and joy.

Tickets: £18 £15 £12 £8 £6

Special World Music Festival Offers: Buy tickets for 2 concerts and get 20% discount; buy tickets for 3 concerts and get a 25% discount and a complimentary ticket to the Late Night concert on Saturday 20 May. To take advantage of these offers, please call the Box Office on 020 7839 8362 during the hours of 10am - 5pm, Monday - Saturday or come in person.

Concert tickets can be bought online at www.smitf.org or via the Box Office on 020 7839 8362.

ENDS

For further information, interviews or photography, please contact Quintilla Hughes on quintilla.hughes@smitf.org or 020 7766 1130.

Notes to Editors

- **St Martin-in-the-Fields**, with over 350 concerts a year, is one of the busiest music venues in the country. St Martin's concerts draw in visitors from all over the world who are attracted by St Martin's superb acoustics, intimate yet impressive surroundings and outstanding musicians. Concerts take place on some Tuesdays and every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm and include Early and Baroque Music, chamber and world music, song and piano recitals. For more information on St Martin-in-the-Fields go to www.smitf.org. St Martin-in-the-Fields is one of London's major concert venues. It is also a working parish church with a weekly programme of services. The programme of services can be found at www.smitf.org.
- **ZUM** are Adam Summerhayes, violin; Chris Grist, cello; Lucy Shaw, bass; David Gordon, piano and Eddie Hession, accordion. Since forming in 2001 the band has gone on to enjoy sell-out tours and performances at major festivals throughout the UK and Europe.
- **Mauro Carra** began studying the accordion at the age of nine. He has studied with the world's greats including Bruno Aragosti, Paolo Gandolfi, Renato Benelli, Gigi Stok and Carlo Venturi, Frédéric Deschamps and Richard Galliano. In 2002 he was chosen to represent Italy at the World Accordion Championships and has toured extensively around Europe including Italy, France, Spain, Denmark, Germany and the UK.
- **Nuru Kane** was born and raised in Medina, Dakar. His distinctive take on Senegalese music explores the connections between the music of North and West Africa – a musical journey across the Sahara. After learning the bass and guitar, Nuru played in and sang lead vocals for various bands in Senegal until his mid-twenties. Relocating to Paris in the late 1990s, a trip to Morocco left him captivated by the rhythms of *gnawa*. He mastered the *gnawa* instrument, the *gimbri* and formed 'Bayefall Gnawa' with Thierry Fournel and Djeli Makan Sissoko. Developing a growing following on the Paris club scene, they were invited to perform at the 2004 Festival in the Desert in Mali.

- **The Burning Bush** was formed after Lucie Skeaping was invited to make a BBC documentary to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain and to explore her own East European roots. Since their debut at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall, the group has performed to packed houses at major festivals and cultural events throughout the world. Recent activities include tours to Germany, Slovenia, Slovakia, Croatia, Finland and South America. London concerts include the Barbican, Royal Festival Hall and Royal National Theatre. They are frequently heard on BBC Radio and have appeared in several films, including Polanski's Oscar-winning *'The Pianist'* shot in Warsaw. **Lucie Skeaping**, vocals, violin, rebab; **Ben Harlan**, clarinet, zurna; **Roderick Skeaping**, violin, mandolin; **Robin Jeffrey**, oud, laouto, darabukka, guitar; **Jon Banks**, kanun, cymbalom, accordion; **Robert Levy**, double bass