



International Heritage Festival

www.internationalfestivalmodesto.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jet around the world at the 2009 International Festival *International music and dance featured*

Families can enjoy free international fun as they jet around the world at this year's International Heritage Festival. The Oct. 3 event takes place at the Gallo Center for the Arts from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and a fabulous Americana Opening begins promptly at 11 a.m., with a parade of flags featuring Uncle Sam and special guests from Modesto's sister city in Vernon, British Columbia, Canada, the National Anthem performed by Joe Rykert and a special appearance by YES! Ambassadors.

Making special appearances at this year's festival are the Afro-Cuban drum and dance ensemble Ebo Okakán, and Anna Maria Mendieta & Tango del Cielo in a dramatic presentation of harp, strings, percussion and dance. Local group Simply So will delight audiences with an American musical journey through the 1950s and 60s, featuring doo-wop and Motown music. Also scheduled to perform are Mexican folkloric dancers, Irish bagpipers, the Filipino American Association, Mar Alto Portuguese Folkloric Dancers, Chinese dancers and the Village Dancers of Modesto (Scandinavian). Making their debut at the festival will be Modesto's Van Ott Band, performing in traditional Swiss embroidered outfits, with Swiss-German band music and Swiss folk waltzes, yodeling and showcasing the sounds of the alphorn, the traditional instrument of Switzerland. Performances will be ongoing in the Rogers Theater. Tickets are not required, but seating is limited and is on a first come, first served basis. Ote Api Polynesian Revue will give a special performance on the outdoor stage at approximately 5:10 p.m.

Featured outside the arts center will be international food booths and cultural displays. Cultural representatives will host display tables with 25 countries represented through displays and performances. The Stanislaus County Office of Education will present children's activities, including photo passport

making. Inside the center the Modesto Youth Symphony Orchestra will delight the kids with their "instrument petting zoo."

The event is presented by the International Festival Committee whose volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring a cultural event to the community this year. Making the event possible are sponsors such as E. & J. Gallo Winery, Gallo Center for the Arts, Stanislaus County, Target, Modesto Rotary Foundation, U.S. Bank, Stanislaus County Office of Education, Chris Ricci Presents and Brad Hawn, Coca Cola, KRVR The River, The Modesto Bee, Dianne Gagos, Mocse Credit Union, and Modesto Irrigation District.

For details visit www.internationalfestivalmodesto.org or call (209) 521-3852.

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2009 International Festival
Entertainment Schedule
(Times are approximate)

Rogers Theater

- 11 a.m. Americana Opening with flag ceremony with Uncle Sam and YES!
Company Ambassadors
- 11:25 Harpist Anna Maria Mendieta & Tango Del Cielo (group of 4 musicians,
tango and flamenco)
- 12:05 p.m. Legend Chinese School and Stanislaus Chinese Culture Society
- 12:25 p.m. St. Andrew's Society, Irish Cultural Society and Ripon Police Pipe Band
- 12:50 p.m. Village Dancers of Modesto (Scandinavian)
- 1:50 p.m. Simply So
- 2:35 p.m. Van Ott Band (Swiss)
- 3 p.m. Filipino-American Association of Stanislaus County and Vicinity
- 3:20 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Anahuac and Ballet Folklorico Los Falcones
- 4:05 p.m. Ebo Okakan (Afro-Cuban)

Outdoor Stage (times are approximate)

- 11:30 a.m. Mar Alto Portuguese Dancers
- 12:35 p.m. Stanislaus Chinese Association
- 1 p.m. St. Andrew's Society, Irish Cultural Society and Ripon Police Pipe Band
- 1:25 p.m. Village Dancers of Modesto (Scandinavian)
- 2:30 p.m. Simply So
- 3:10 p.m. Van Ott Band
- 3:30 p.m. Filipino-American Association of Stanislaus County and Vicinity
- 3:55 p.m. Ballet Folklorico Anahuac and Ballet Folklorico Los Falcones
- 5:10 p.m. Ote Api Polynesian Revue

**2009 International Festival
Saturday, October 3, 2009
Performer Descriptions**

Ebo Okokan

Returning to the International Festival is Ebo Okokan. They were a huge hit last year! The Afro-Cuban culture is a rich tradition combining West-African and European influences which makes a beautiful synergy of colorful cultural ambience. Ebo Okokan exemplifies this with their ensemble of multi-talented individuals.

Simply So

Representing our American culture is the most famous local group Simply So. Audiences have enjoyed their performances for 10 years in Modesto and when the group has opened for rock, country and R & B groups. For the Festival Simply So will take you on a musical journey through the 50s and 60s with doo-wop and Motown music.

Anna Maria Mendieta

Harpist Anna Maria Mendieta & "Tango del Cielo"

The passionate music of tango meets the ethereal romance of the harp in "Tango del Cielo": a heavenly blend of Argentine Tango, Spanish Flamenco, and Latin Jazz. Barry Manilow's "favorite harpist," Anna Maria Mendieta reinvents the very character of Argentine Tango by joining world music with classical instruments in a dramatic presentation featuring harp, strings, percussion and exhilarating dance.

Village Dancers of Modesto

The country of Finland will be visited through several lively choreographed dances set to modern yet traditionally-inspired Finnish music.

Filipino-American Association of Stanislaus County and Vicinity

Showcased will be folk dances and costumes from the three major islands of the Philippines. The Spanish influence will be evident.

Van Ott Band

Making their Festival debut is the Van Ott Band from Modesto. Wearing traditional embroidered outfits, this group of young performers will delight with Swiss-German band music and Swiss folk waltzes. The youngest performers also yodel. This group will showcase the alphorn, which is the long conical tube-shaped horn that curves at the end. The alphorn is the traditional instrument of Switzerland

Irish Cultural Society and St. Andrew's Society

The Ripon Police Pipe Band offers a balance of both Irish and Scottish tunes played on the great highland bagpipes. Along with the pipes will be a bass tenor and snare drums to accompany the bagpipes.

Ballet Folkloric Los Falcones and Ballet Folkloric Anahuac

Dances from different areas of Mexico will be showcased as will the beauty and splendor of the Mexican culture.