

Living Traditions News

Edition 4 • February 2007

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February Events Guide

This section lists performances and events involving Living Traditions members during the coming month.

FRI 16 FEB: BabaGanoush – Gypsy, Klezmer & Balkans music. Bebida Café & Bar, 325 Smith St, Fitzroy VIC. 8pm. Free entry. www.babaganoush.info.

SAT 17 FEB: BabaGanoush performs prior to Moonlight Cinema film screening. The Amphitheatre, Darebin Parklands, Yarana Rd, Alphington VIC (Melways 31 C9). www.babaganoush.info.

FRI 23 FEB: Zarafa – Melbourne's premier Balkans & Near-Eastern ensemble in concert. Nova Gallery, 127 Campbell St, Collingwood VIC. 9pm. \$12 / \$10. Enquiries: 0408 178 537. www.zarafamusic.com.

SAT 24 FEB: Pako Festa - Geelong's premier multicultural festival. A celebration of cultural diversity with a smorgasbord of cultural food, folk dancing, the famous Pako Parade, workshops, art exhibitions, multicultural craft displays and entertainment on four world music stages. BabaGanoush performs from 2pm with special guest Sarah Turner. www.pakofesta.com.au.

FRI 2 MAR: BabaGanoush in concert for the Eltham World Harmonies series. St Margaret's Hall, Pitt St, Eltham VIC (Melways 27 J7). 8pm. \$12 / \$9. An Eltham Arts Council event. www.babaganoush.info.

Marina Bistrin Dance Classes – Term 1 2007

Marina is an inspiring and encouraging dance teacher based in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. For regular updates please put your name on her email list. All enquiries: marinabistrin@optusnet.com.au, 0438 580 889, a/h 9440 5882, or visit her website at www.dance-explorer.com.

Thursday nights commencing Feb 8th: Bellydance class – beginners level Egyptian style dance. Heidelberg. 7.30-8.30pm. Commencing Feb 8th.

Last Sunday of each month. Workshops on various themes from the Silk-Road to Gypsy to the Middle East. Uniting Church, 251 High St, Northcote. 1-3pm. \$30.

Daylesford Neighbourhood House:

- **SAT 17 FEB: Flamenco Shawl Dance workshop.**
- **SAT 17 MAR: Rhythm work for Flamenco** - simple stepping and clapping patterns.

Both workshops at Factory 2, 39 East St Studio (Old Timber Mill), Daylesford. 1-3pm. \$30. Bookings via Daylesford Neighbourhood House 03 5348 3569.

Castlemaine Community House:

- **SAT 24 FEB: Rhythm work for Flamenco** - simple stepping and clapping patterns. 1-3pm. \$25. Bookings 03 5472 4842 or email comhouse@castlemaine.net.

Creswick Learning Centre:

- **SAT 3 MAR: Gypsy dance (overview of Flamenco and Russian styles).** 2-4pm. \$25. Bookings 03 5345 2653 or email calcan@vic.chariot.net.au.

Clunes Neighbourhood House:

- Expressions of interest taken for Sat or Sun workshops in term 1 - check with Karen McMullan 03 5345 3486 or email karenm@hhs.vic.gov.au.

And a special fundraising event coming up in March...

SUN 18 MAR: Lucy's Lodge BELLYDANCE FUNDRAISER in Hepburn Springs. At THE PALAIS www.thepalais.com.au (suggest you stay overnight at one of the lovely B&Bs. Youth Hostel "Wildwood" is walking distance). The show features the band "Yalla" www.globalgrooves.com.au, and dancers Maria Sangiorgi, Melissa Cristina and Marina Bistrin. More info: Anne Huxtable anne@lucyslodge.com.au or visit www.lucyslodge.com.au.

Featured Ensemble – Zarafa

"a class Australian band playing Balkans music with subtlety and panache" – fRoots magazine.

Zarafa is Melbourne's premier Balkans and Near-Eastern ensemble – a collective of musicians and dancers who have been bringing quality multicultural performances to Australian audiences since 2001.

Zarafa draws its inspiration from the regions bordering the Eastern Mediterranean – the Balkans, Middle East and North Africa. Music and dance traditions in these regions date back thousands of years, but they continue to evolve and are as full of life today as ever. Drawing on these sources, Zarafa Ensemble presents a unique cultural experience, combining authentic traditional repertoire with modern global influences. Zarafa's performances express a contemporary, cosmopolitan Australian identity, while also being firmly anchored in the Eastern Mediterranean milieu.

In Zarafa's performances, as everywhere in the Balkans and Middle East, music and dance are intertwined. One of the highlights of Zarafa's act is the stunning tribal-influenced bellydance of **Sarah Turner**. Sarah's warmth and energy as a performer, along with her dramatic style featuring colourful costumes, sword work and precision choreography, have earned her a reputation as one of Melbourne's hottest bellydancers.

During 2006, talented Bosnian vocalist **Amela Ušanović** joined Zarafa. Amela brings a wealth of knowledge of the Slavic, Roma and Muslim cultural traditions of the Balkans. Her powerful voice has enhanced Zarafa's already rich sound, and she has a particular gift for making Bosnian folk dance traditions accessible to Australian audiences. When fifty audience members get to their feet and join her in circle dancing during a concert, the sense of celebration is awesome.



Other members of Zarafa include **Pin Rada** (ney, lyra, baglama), **Mark Planigale** (accordion, sax, oud) and **Alistair Lord** (percussion). In addition to concert performances, Zarafa also presents a range of classes and workshops including bellydance, Balkan folk dance, Middle Eastern percussion and Eastern modes.

Following some very successful concerts in northern Tasmania, Zarafa will be presenting their first Melbourne show for the year on **Friday 23 February** at **Nova Gallery, 127 Campbell St, Collingwood**. Show starts 9pm. Tickets \$12 / \$10. Enquiries: 0408 178 537 or visit www.zarafamusic.com.

Banyule Concert Series

Living Traditions is pleased to announce that Banyule Council has generously provided a Community Development Grant to support Living Traditions in presenting a series of six multicultural concerts within the City of Banyule in 2007. The concerts will showcase some of Melbourne's finest multicultural performers and will feature music and dance from Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia. The series will also feature Aboriginal artists. The first three concerts are planned for mid-March, mid-April and mid-May. Full details will be announced in February. Volunteers are urgently needed to help plan and staff the concerts. If you would like to help, please contact Mark on 0429 136 596.

About Living Traditions

Living Traditions is a not-for-profit community organisation based in Melbourne, Australia. Our purpose is to foster and promote high quality, culturally diverse music and dance. Living Traditions creates opportunities for cultural expression through performance events, workshops, festivals, tours, recordings and other activities. We support innovative projects that bring culturally diverse art forms to a wider audience. We also support artists and practitioners of traditional, world and folk music and dance. Living Traditions celebrates diversity and promotes mutual respect and cultural openness.

If you support the aims of Living Traditions, we invite you to become a member. Memberships are \$22 (individual) or \$44 (organisation) per year. The membership form is at www.livingtraditions.org.au. We welcome your ideas and involvement.

About this Newsletter

Living Traditions News is the monthly email newsletter of Living Traditions. Its primary purpose is to publicise the activities of Living Traditions and its members. Events involving Living Traditions members are listed free; other events may be listed for \$5 per event. Larger advertisements may also be accepted; current rates are \$25 per half page, \$50 per full page. The newsletter currently reaches around 1,000 people. Living Traditions News is distributed on the last day

of each month, for the following month. Email items for submission to newsletter@livingtraditions.org.au. The editors reserve the right to edit, include or omit items at their discretion. **Deadline for March edition: Sun 25 February.**

Living Traditions News is forwarded through a decentralised email list by various Living Traditions members. If you wish to unsubscribe, please email the person who sent you this newsletter and ask to be removed from their Living Traditions list. If you wish to subscribe to our core list, please email subscribe@livingtraditions.org.au.