

**HERALD SUN REVIEWER: XENIA HANUSIAK wrote on Wed 16 June (page 62):**

'Multicultural Arts Victoria is fast tracking its way as one of the most dynamic and vital arts bodies in the state. Its 2004 profile has been considerably energised by a number of potent performances. Earlier this year, Square Beats invigorated Federation Square with diverse world music.

Friday's Global Voice concert attracted a full house. A beautifully modulated concert found a natural crescendo in its creation of rarely heard vocal expositions. Far from being a concert of folk traditions, the virtuoso performers in this concert while being custodians of ancient song ushered in a contemporary voice. Melbourne's Cheremosh Choir expressed Ukrainian folk songs in the classical tradition. The well-balanced choir illuminated a deeply musical interpretation of the strophic songs finding colourful expressions. Visier Sanyu from the Nagaland (north-east India) brought an unadulterated bell like voice to his chants and prayers. Also dedicated to the continuation of tradition in a contemporary setting is Ria Soemardjo.

Soemardjo, an exponent of West Javanese music unveiled a delicate yet compelling voice. Her songs were framed with beautiful ornamental embellishments. The evening spiralled to its next climax with The Rona Ensemble. The quartet specialises in the music of Ancient Persia. Performed on instruments such as the Setar, tomback tamboor the virtuoso musicians and vocalist recalled both meditative and uplifting states in the Sufi tradition.'