

PROGRAM SLOW FOOD - SATURDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

11.00-11.45pm

MELTEMI

A Melbourne based band formed in 2003, comprises of both Greek and Turkish members who have joined together and created a musical fusion of both cultures. Their music comprises of original instrumental compositions using bouzouki, guitar, kanun (Middle Eastern plucked dulcimer/harp) darbuka and various other percussion instruments. Their imagination, experience and skill has given rise to their distinct characteristic sound and has set them apart from the conventional.

12.00-12.45pm

STRING THEORY

String Theory Formed in mid 2006, through the inspiration of the Gypsy musical traditions of Western and Eastern Europe, String Theory is a fresh and evocative new acoustic band on the Melbourne scene. The group displays fresh musical ideas, with an emphasis on spontaneity; flair, humor and a loosely/highly arranged collective improvisational style. String Theory plays a variety of genres, from intimate interpretations of Latin/Western European tunes (Edif Piaf, Brazilian-samba, Spanish-Flamenco) to swinging Gypsy Jazz (Django Reinhardt, Birelli LaGrene) as well as original compositions. String Theory also fuse popular music with their trademark acoustic style.

Presented by Victorian Multicultural Commission and Multicultural Arts Victoria...

BLOCK PARTY.....OUTSIDE THE SQUARE!

Melbourne's first Latin Funk and Hip Hop Block Party.

9 Piece Latin Mestizo outfit San Lazaro are collaborating with Latin Hip-hop masters Labjacd and samba-funk collective Tumbarumba to celebrate the cultivation of original urban music with latin roots at Federation Square on Saturday 23rd of March 2008. Kicking off at 2pm this free outdoor event has been especially curated to showcase the wealth of diverse and unique contemporary urban latin music forged in Melbourne in a family friendly environment. Between bands, there'll be DJ Manchild (PBS) on the decks making for a non stop shakedown....

2.00pm

TUMBARUMBA

Tumbarumba are a five-piece percussion based band who are the core of an ever-evolving Melbourne based samba school and percussion group. Following in the footsteps of Brazilian percussion organisations like the world famous Olodum, who fused Samba and Reggae, Tumbarumba combine a wealth of Brazilian musical material with the inevitable influences of the multicultural experience. Through their performances and workshops Tumbarumba form a link to the spirit of Brazil that all Australians of all ages relate to.

3.30pm

LABJACD

Melbourne-based band LABJACD (pronounced "lab-jacked") is a dynamic nine-piece outfit that's been making a big splash lately, both in their hometown and beyond. Since their formation in 2004, they've quickly built up an impressive reputation for their exhilarating mix of old school hip-hop, Cuban salsa, jazz and even Andean folk music. Singing and MCing in both English and Spanish, the group's three vocalists all share a Chilean heritage, and like the band's other members, have all previously performed in a number of well-known Latin big bands and a variety of funk/jazz configurations.

5.00pm

SAN LAZARO

Taking their roots from traditional Cuban Son, Salsa, Merengue, Cha Cha and Timba, San Lazaro fuses the popular styles of Funk, Reggae and Jazz for your dancing enjoyment. They are an energetic band with a unique sound and play uplifting music, which is both ideal to dance to and tasteful to listen to. With most band members in their mid to late twenties the group has an energetic stage presence accompanied by a driving sound. San Lazaro aims to revolutionize the much loved conventional Latin sound into something more appealing to the wider multicultural dancing crowd through the fusion of many different styles of music, coupled with the irresistible flavour of the Latin rhythm section.

PROGRAM SLOW FOOD - SUNDAY 24th FEBRUARY

12.00-12.45pm

KLEZMERITIS

Klezmeritis is a world music festival & concert band, inspired by Eastern European Jewish traditional celebration and dance music. The band also creates infectious and soulful fusions of klezmer with gypsy, jazz and eastern music. Klezmer music draws on Jewish musical roots as well as Gypsy, Hungarian, Moldavian, Ukrainian, Greek, Turkish and Arabic modes and rhythms. The band also adds influences from their experiences in the improvised, jazz and middle-eastern areas.

1.00-1.45pm

KAVISHA MAZELLA TRIO

Northern Hemisphere meets Southern, Old world meets the new world in a mediterranean gypsy folk southern hemisphere twist. The Kavisha Mazzella Trio play an energetic fusion of Italian folk music with original music and lyrics. Their shows are rich in humour, pathos and audience participation. Take the musical journey with these outstanding local performers.

2.00-2.45pm

3.00-3.45pm

MUSIKI MANJARO

Musiki Manjaro is a contemporary African dance band, who since 1989 has delighted audiences at festivals, events, clubs and pubs in Australia and abroad, with over 1000 dynamic performances to their credit. The vibrant, energetic music the band performs is all original, the pan African style reflecting the origins of the members, who come from South Africa, Congo, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania and Australia.

4.15-5.00pm

5.15-6.00pm

DYA SINGH

Dya Singh's impact on the world music stage has been nothing short of phenomenal. He sings about spirituality in his native Punjabi (with occasional English explanations) and blends traditional music with modern and contemporary trends, country & western and new acoustic sounds. He has single-handedly taken the traditional *Sikh* spiritual music of his ancestral Punjab (frontier province on the border of present day India and Pakistan, south of Afghanistan) into the world music stage reaching out from his source indigenous music to fusion with music from other parts of the world.