

Vocal only music soon in Colombo

Michelle to launch A Cappella singing

CHAMIKARA WEERASINGHE

Can she popularise A Cappella, the style of singing without instrumental accompaniment in Sri Lanka? Michelle can you do it? "It can be challenging, for one does not really know how the crowds would respond to a style that is yet to establish its place. Nevertheless, I believe that voice only singing has the power to delight any audience anywhere in the world when performed well," replied Michelle Perera.

She is planning to perform and introduce Sinhala A cappella singing to the country. She has done her homework that she has recorded her first A appella single, "Meh Mal Maawatha."

Meh Mal Maawatha is an A cappella song produced by Michelle and her father Melantha Perera, keyboardist and multi-instrumentalist of Miraj, who is currently performing in the Middle East.

Michelle said that her first A cappella song that was produced at her father's recording studio, RT119 at Moratuwa. Melantha sings bass parts of the song while Michelle sings the main melody line and harmonies. "My Dad has been the



Michelle Perera

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major influence in my career and music. In fact he has played a big role in all our lives, mother, brother Dave and me," she said. Dave is a member of Flight12, one of the few Western pop-rock bands in Sri Lanka to play their original songs.

Perhaps, watching a father works may shape a daughter's job choice Michelle has chosen a career in music, but she has never performed with her father's band. Michelle said, "My father would usually take us all

when he toured abroad to perform. I was with him when performed in the Middle East," Michelle remembered. "But I never performed with them. However, I have performed with Gypsies and Corrine," she added.

Speaking further on her Dad's influence she said, "Dad always taught us to be original in our approach to music, Dave and me." "He was amazing when it comes to composing and arranging music and harmonies," she said. Michelle has found a sponsor to launch Sinhala A cappella singing.

However she said she is yet to make a final decision about it. She is more likely to start her A cappella singing career from Hotel, Colombo.



JOES IN "SING ALONG" with Annesley, Indrani, and Nimal

The Josephine Rugby Wing has organized a "Sing Along" at the College Quadrangle on June 26 starting from 7.00 p.m. It is a Sing Along with Annesley Malawana, Indrani Perera & Nimal Jayamanne with Super Chimes to provide

background music. The organisers said, This will be a fun filled event with many prizes on offer. Josephine's young and old will definitely savor the event as their hallowed quadrangle fills with the sound of ever popular

songs of yester year. They request those interested to attend the event to get in touch with them or the College for further details and tickets. The event is to raise funds to develop junior Rugby Football in school, they said.



Holding Back The Years Simply Red

Holding back the [Em9]years [A] hinking of the [Em9]I've had so long [A] When somebody [Em9]hears [A] Listen to the [Em9]I fear that's gone [A] Wangled by the wishes of father Open for the arms of mother Get to me but sooner or later



Holding back the years Chance for me escape from all I'm gone Holding back the tears 'Cause nothing here is wrong I've wasted all my tears Wasted all those years Nothing had the chance to be good Nothing ever could, yeah, oh, well

[Em7]I'll keep [A]holding on [Em7]I'll keep [A]holding on [Em7]I'll keep [A]holding on [Em7]I'll keep [A]holding on, there's still time

Well I've wasted all my tears Wasted all of those years And nothing had the chance to be good Cause nothing ever could, oh, oh

I'll keep holding on I'll keep holding on I'll keep holding on I'll keep holding on

Holding, holding, holding ah la la I say ooh yeah That's all I have today It's all I have to say

Sonar music festival

Joy for techno and rave kids

The first generation of electronic music fans may be all grown up but they're still raving and, what's more, they're taking their kids. The Sonar music festival, a rendez-vous every year in Barcelona for the most cutting-edge fans of techno and electronica, has created an event especially for children and their parents for the first time. French techno legend Laurent Garnier, himself a dad who began DJing in the late 1980s, is to play a set for youngsters this Sunday at the first SonarKids gathering, with the sound reduced to a suitable level for the little ones. He will be joined by German hip hop collective Puppetmastaz and others who will animate workshops on DJing and producing.

"We were seeing more and more people coming to Sonar with children, so we decided to do something for them specifically," Sonar co-founder and director Enric Palau told AFP.

The development has been driven by demographics. Those that came of age in the 80s and 90s during the first waves of rave and techno now have

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kids, but are reluctant to miss out on their summer festivals.

"We wanted to do something that adults and children could both enjoy," said Palau. "We've invited artists to do special sets for them."

The main Sonar festival kicks off Thursday and is as usual split into the laid-back Sonar By Day event in the grounds of the city's modern art gallery and Sonar By Night, which has a club atmosphere and takes place in giant hangars on the outskirts of Barcelona.

James Bond star and 80s fashion and music icon Grace Jones is to headline on Saturday night and she will be joined over the three days of music by other stars of the electro scene, including Orbital, Richie Hawtin, Jeff Mills and Carl Craig. **BARCELONA, June 18, 2009, AFP**

Hi folks

Russian classical concert a success



Tsvetkov and Pashkin

Young Russian musicians, Grigory Tsvetkov (balalaika) and Ignat Pashkin (accordion) have not only succeeded in delighting Sri Lankan audiences, the duo have taken away their love and friendship when they left the country after performing in two classical music concerts, one held at the Bishops College Auditorium in Colombo on June 13 and the other at the Earl's Regency Hotel in Kandy on June 14.

The two were in the group of classical musicians that comprised internationally renowned pianist Veniamin Korobov and bass singer Vladimir Gertz from Russia, the Moscow Orchestra that came to Sri Lanka last week to celebrate the Russian National Day on June 12.

The Embassy of the Russian Federation and the Russian Centre in Colombo have invited

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them to perform in Sri Lanka in a gesture of friendship to the country, Sri Lanka.

The first Secretary of the Russian Embassy and the Director of Russian Cultural Centre Aryal K Akhmethev said at the inaugural concert at the Bishop's College, "we celebrate Russia's Independence Day with the Sri Lankan public at a time they also their freedom of being emancipated from terrorism."

Grigory Tsveski, the 17 year old, played prima balalaika became the centre of attraction, because of the way he presented his music.

It was difficult to say whether he interpreted his

music as in jazz or he adhered to a score, but it appeared that he was playing on his own and his individuality continued to amuse the audience all the way.

He played V. Arhipovski "Improvisation" on balalaika. The way Tsveski played his three or six stringed balalaika resembled jazz than "non-jazz."

Not to forget young Ignat Pashkin who interacted Tsveski with his accordion. Pashkin also played solo accordion. He played E. Derbenko Fantasy on a theme of Russian National song "Whether I Go Out To the Street" and "Austria."

He would hardly look at the audience while he was playing but would bow his head to the audience with such humility.

Tsvetkov and Pashkin took local folks by surprise and proved that music can establish strong feelings of friendship between countries. **Chamikara**

Michelle Obama hosts jazz workshop at White House

Jazz trumpet player Wynton Marsalis (R) saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera perform during a jazz workshop for students hosted by first lady

Michelle Obama at the East Room of the White House in Washington DC, on June 15. Michelle Obama introduced the White House music series which featured artists of all ages. The series began with the Jazz Studio followed by country and classical music events this summer and fall. **AFP**



CMT Music Awards after party



United States: Nashville Recording Artist Rhett Atkins, Kid Rock and Sheryl Crow at the 2009 CMT Music Awards after party hosted by People magazine at the Hutton Hotel on June 16, in Nashville, Tennessee.



Kellie Pickler, Kid Rock and Sheryl Crow have a laugh.