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Africa, but not only...

**A dialogue
between traditional, classical
and contemporary music**



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The 2005 Marrakech International Prize was awarded to the Melody for Dialogues Among Civilizations Association for “its work in the field of art and creativity through interaction between melodies and musical instruments from different cultures.”

For more information concerning the Melody for Dialogues Among Civilizations Association please consult the following web sites:
www.madarshahi.org www.melodydialogue.org

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Message from President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Honorary President, “Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations” Association

The African Regional Conference on the Dialogue among Civilisations, Cultures and Peoples in Nigeria’s capital, Abuja, offers us a unique opportunity to explore new approaches to promote mutual understanding and knowledge among peoples from different origins and to overcome old and new ignorances.

Too often, we have invested time and resources into exercises and meetings which amounted to little more than political grandstanding instead of promoting true dialogue and togetherness of people on our Common Planet Earth. We seem to have overlooked the beauty, creativity and engagement of music as a tool to help achieve and solidify peace. Tonight, we can seize the chance to appreciate, if not indulge in the power and potential of music and artistic performance.

Artists from all continents will entertain us, playing on traditional instruments. These artists didn't know each other, let alone practised together until only three days ago. They assembled here in Abuja ready to be open and responsive to the artistry of other musicians and to engage in an unknown exercise aimed at demonstrating that we can interact, communicate and even understand each other although we may not be able to exchange words, sentences or speak a common language.

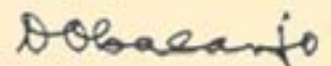




I am particularly pleased that we will be able to enjoy many Nigerian artists, hailing from different regions of the country. Indeed, dialogue begins at home and so the Nigerian contingent could be seen as the first link in a chain of global musical dialogue that will yield a positive impact well beyond our national borders.

As Honorary President of the Association “Melodies for Dialogue among Civilisations” I am proud that so many talented artists have accepted my invitation to perform for us and thereby, hopefully have the experience of a lifetime.

It is my wish that the experience tonight will resonate to many other regions and countries. Indeed, let us lay the foundations for the future with the chimes, drums, strings and songs of these valiant musicians, who may be driven by diverse cultural traditions but are united by one common aspiration: peace.


Olusegun Obasanjo

Abuja, June 2006



Message from the President of the Melody for Dialogues Among Civilizations Association

Why an intercultural dialogue concert in Africa?

The vision, ambition and focus of the “Melody for Dialogues Among Civilizations” Association, which was founded a year ago in Paris, is based on the hope that one day music will emerge as an important and unifying symbol of global communications. In today's world we must find ways to learn to live together, to learn together and to interact with each other in a peaceful and tolerant manner. The rages of war, conflict and violence have sapped too much energy of peoples and individuals and they must give way to reason, mutual understanding and - dialogue. President Olusegun Obasanjo, the Honorary President of the Association “Melodies for Dialogue among Civilisations” has contributed so much to bring about a peaceful and prosperous Africa and I wish to salute his vision, wisdom and his accomplishments in this regard. Today, with President Obasanjo's encouragement and support, we want to demonstrate the powerful message music, melodies and artistic creativity may have to help realize and reinforce his ideals and vision.

“Africa, but not only” is our first regional concert. It is being organized in a continent which was engulfed in internecine wars and conflicts. Recently, much progress has been made to resolve previously interminable conflicts. Africa today is striving to embrace the wisdom of peaceful co-existence, the pursuit of good governance and the principles of cooperation and good-neighbourliness. The choice of the venue for this regional concert was therefore deliberate, namely to support the conflict-resolution and peace-making efforts under way in many sub-regions and countries. To be sure, much needs still to be done but let us begin to spread from here in Abuja the message.





We salute Africa as a cradle of civilizations and we hope the multicultural concert presented on this occasion, will serve as a step forward in the long march to highlight the inherent potential and power of Africa's intangible heritage and to create in the process new innovative bridges for dialogue among peoples through the medium of melodies.

Music and musical performances are major components of the cultural heritage of mankind. As one of the oldest forms of human communication, present in all cultures at all times, in the age of globalization music has become one of the most accessible and popular features of the "global village". We should, therefore, more explicitly recognize and make use of its potential. In the words of Professor Mohamed Arkoun: "this is a most practical and touching approach to harnessing the power of creativity of peoples for the dialogue and mutual understanding and respect".

Recognizing its important role in the creation of an "increasingly closer union between the peoples of Europe", the Article 128 of the Treaty on the European Union considers music as a contributing factor "to the blossoming of the cultures of the Member States with respect for their national and regional diversity, while bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore". This holds equally true for Africa. It is obvious, that as part of the global village we can no longer stick to our own roots and ignore other cultures or other musical genres.

To ensure that this type of dialogue will be promoted further, it is my hope that the musical encounter and dialogue in Abuja, which brings together not only African artists but also artists from Europe, Asia and Latin America, may help advocate and intensify recognition and recourse to our common heritage epitomizing an engaging dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples. Let us jointly explore and chart directions for regional and inter-regional networking and co-operation.

Mehri Madarshahi



Africa, but not only...

(First regional concert of Mozart, but not only...)

Ensemble Orchestra: International artists
and notable African musician

Abuja, Nigeria
June 20, 2006

Conductor: Igor Vlahjanić

P R O G R A M M E

Part 1: National Anthem of Nigeria
Performed by Ayanwale

Part 2: La Mora, (danzon) by Eliseo Grenet
Led by Efrain Amador (Cuban laud) and Doris Oropesa (piano)

Part 3: Dance of Yi by Wang Huiran
Led by Liu Fang

Part 4: Sweet Mother
African Xylophone and drum played by the Ekemini Group

Part 5: In honor of Africa,
A melody led by Dragan Dautovski

Part 6: Dialogue of melodies
Performed by Bahman Panahi and Mukesh Sharma

Part 6: Csardas
Performed by Ino Mirkovic (Artist for peace of UNESCO)

Part 7: Ara and Africa



Artists Performing During The Concert



Igor Vlačnić

Composer and Conductor
Croatia

Igor Vlačnić was born in Osijek, Croatia, in 1984. where he finishes primary and secondary school education. He distinguishes himself in arrangement with various Cultural Artistic Societies as a singer and a leader. He has recorded a few sound tracks and he is cooperating with the Croatian National Theater in Osijek. At the age of 17 years he enrolled at the Music High school “Ino Mirković” in Lovran, where he studied and specialized composition and conducting in the class of Professors L. Nikolaev (Russia) and M. Homen (Croatia). As a student he collaborated with the Croatian National Theater in Rijeka. He was awarded with the Masterclass scholarship in the class of Maestro Kurt Masur in 2004. He also works as a collaborator in the Opera of National Theater in Sarajevo. At the moment he is working as a Professor in Primary and Secondary Musical school “Mirković” and also as permanent collaborator in the Opera of Croatian National Theater in Rijeka.

Ino Mirković

Violin
Croatia

Ino Mirković was born in Rijeka, Croatia, in 1960 in a family of professional musicians. At the age of 5 he began studying violin and enrolled at the Music school in Rijeka. In 1979 he went to Russia and enrolled at the Moscow State Conservatoire “P.I. Tchaikovsky” where he studied and specialized for several years in the classes of Professors M.S. Glezarova and A.B. Korsakov. He received the doctorate from the Moscow State Conservatoire. He has been a member of the Association of Music Artists of Croatia since 1980. Dr. Mirković played his first recital at the age of 11 and since then he gave over 1000 performances in almost all European countries, North and South America and Middle and Far East. Among this performances are appearance in Koloniji Hall (Moscow), Great Hall of Moscow Conservatoire (Moscow), Herkules Hall (Munich), Great Hall “Vatroslav Lisinski” (Zagreb), “Auditorium” (Palma de Mallorca), UNESCO Hall (Paris), Hall of Seoul Arts Centre (Seoul), UN Congress Hall (New York) and others throughout the world. 1998 in Paris Ino Mirković was awarded with the “UNESCO Artist for Peace” Title.





Efraín Amador and Doris Oropesa

Tres and Luth
Cuba

Efrain Amador, with his wife **Doris Oropesa** have created 35 years of artistic life together. They fare the Amanecer Duo. This duo has undertaken several tours in

Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. They embrace all styles of universal music, from the Renaissance to the 21st century. They created their own repertory of Cuban music, reaching deeply into the roots of folklore, in particular the son and punto cubano (traditional folk music). They have examined all genres such as folk dancing, dance, danzón, and Afro-Cuban music. In 2005, Efraín Amador played his concert for Tres with the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional at the «Amadeo Roldán» theatre in Havana. This Concert was the first of its kind written for this popular instrument and was the first time it was played in a theatre with an orchestra. Efraín, it is the founder of the Cuban School of Tres and Luth.

Ara

Talking Drum
Nigeria

The heritage of Ara is African. Her birth was shrouded in mystery, as she was being prepared by the ancestors for the task ahead of her as a music icon. She was born into an aristocratic family in the early 70's that believes so much in keeping the good name of the family and as such, places so much premium on education and not "frivolities" like music. She started playing African percussions like the conga in her primary school days, this she developed up to her secondary school where she formed her own band and later joined several bands cutting her teeth in music. She recorded some Afro beat tracks for a promotional outfit in Nigeria. In her sojourn for a proper identity of herself, her music, origin and identification of her roots she stumbled on the Motown of Africa known as Atunda ENT.



Chukwuma Abara

Flute, Nigeria

He was born in December in 1978 and is a multi-talented artist associated with the Ebonyi State Cultural Centre. He is a flutist, acrobat and dancer who has recently completed a four-year stint with the National Troupe of Nigeria where they showcased Nigeria in several countries including Japan and South Africa. Abara participated as a flutist in the *Melody for Dialogue Concert in celebration*





Mamadou Cissokho

Kora and Djembe
Senegal

Mamadou Cissokho was born in Dakar Senegal in 1976. An artist by profession, he plays Kora and Djembe (drums very popular in the Francophone Africa). He is a griot (he belongs to a family of traditional artists). He is widely traveled and has participated in several festivals in Africa and Europe. He is currently based in Dakar.

Dragan Dautovski

Kaval, Tambura and other instruments
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Born in 1957 in the village of Rusinovo Berovo, Macedonia. He has composed many works for various instrumental and vocal soloists, groups, and orchestras, including usage of folk instruments performed or recorded in Macedonia and the region.

He teaches at the University of “Sts Cyril and Methodius” as a professor of folk instruments: Kaval, Gaida, and Tambura. In 1992 he formed the ensemble “Mile Kolarovski” performing concerts in Macedonia and elsewhere. Music of the film “Before Rain” was also composed and performed by this group. Mr Dautovski is a great musician who has mastered more than twenty different musical instruments.



Eric Acakpo

Percussion
Benin

Eric Acakpo was born in 1979 in Quida, Republic of Benin into a family of traditional artists known as a griot. He is a professional percussionist specializing the talking drum with expertise in traditional and contemporary music. He is also a professional dancer and vocalist. He travels widely and has participated in several festivals in Africa, Europe and America. Presently he plays with the Voodoo Brass Band based in Cotonou.

Ekemini Group

Xylophone and Percussion
Nigeria

A group of talented youth and children artists based in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria and led by Prince Patrick Idiong. The group has represented Nigeria throughout the world with several honours to their credit. Three young artists from the group are featured for this programme:



EkemObong Ekere Robson

9-year old, dancer, drummer and xylophonist, she was the youngest artist at the 2002 London Jazz Festival.

Otu Obong Emmanuel Ekpoudom

11-year old, dancer, drummer and xylophonist, has been with the troupe since 1997. Otu was part of the Ekemini team to Washington and Jordan in 2000, Millennium Dome Performance in 2000 in London and 2002 London Jazz Festival.



Ini-Obong Justine James

14-year old dancer, drummer and xylophonist who has been with Ekemini since 1998. She also participated at the 2002 London Jazz Festival





Liu Fang

Pipa
China/Canada

Montreal resident Liu Fang achieved an international reputation for her masterful and deeply spirited pipa playing. Born in 1974, in Kunming in the Chinese province of Yunnan, she began studying the pipa at the age of six and gave her first performance as a pipa soloist when she was nine. In 1985, she played for Queen Elizabeth during Her Majesty's visit to China. Honoured with several provincial and national prizes, Liu Fang graduated from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, where she also studied the guzheng, a Chinese zither. Since moving to Canada in 1996, she has built up a remarkable artistic profile by captivating audiences and critics with the richness and grace of her playing as well as her wide-ranging repertoire.

Kpev T. Kpev

Flute, Drum
Nigeria

He was born in February 1968. He is Multi-flutist, Drummer and Dancer presently engaged with the Abuja Council for Arts and Culture. He is widely traveled and has represented the country in several festivals including in Israel, Singapore, China, Mexico and Ethiopia. His special performance of "Giddo" from the "Tiv" speaking people of Benue State of Nigeria is usually a show-stopper anywhere it is performed.



Dr. Dan Maraya, OON

Kutungi
Nigeria

Dan Maraya is a well known Soloist based in Jos, Nigeria. He originated the popular traditional guitar called "kutungi" which is now widely played all over the Northern part of Nigeria. He is a Composer, Poet and Musician with several albums to his credit. Dan Maraya is a National Award Winner in Nigeria. He was conferred with the title of Officer of the Order of Niger, OON, an honour bestowed in New York in 1984. He is also the recipient of the United Nations Peace Award and has recently been awarded with a PhD honoris causa degree by the University of Jos. Dan Maraya is a living human treasure whose message of peace, unity and development has been invaluable to his several admirers and has represented Nigeria all over the world.



Ali Nori Buka

Algaita
Nigeria

Ali Nori Buka is an Algaita Musician from Bornu State of Nigeria. Algaita is an ancient musical instrument of the Bornu Kingdom. Ali has demonstrated his skill in this instrument at several local and international occasions.

Chegoun Olabisi

Percussion and Vocal
Togo

Chegoun Olabisi was born in 1978 in Lome in Togo. He is a professional percussionist specializing in the African flute with expertise in traditional and contemporary music. He is also a musical comedian, composer, vocalist, writer and director and has produced a range of music and plays. He has traveled widely and participated in several festivals in Africa and Europe, including a French Comedy. He is the Chairman of Champagne SOC, currently working as a writer and producer. He also performs with a variety of music ensembles.



Bahman Panahi

Tar, Setar
Iran

Bahman Panahi was born in 1967 in Iran. He obtained a BA degree in design and visual art from the École des Beaux Arts of Tehran University and completed studies in calligraphy with the Association of Calligraphers in Iran. He mastered the Iranian classical music in “Tar” and “Setar” early on in his life. At present, he is a doctoral candidate at the University of the Sorbonne in Paris. Bahman Panahi conducted many concerts, exhibitions and workshops in: Iran, England, Syria, India, Netherlands, Maldives, Tunisia, Morocco, Spain, Sri Lanka, Belgium and France.





Harouna Saneye

Gogue
Niger

He is a griot (He belongs to a family of traditional artists). He was born in 1949 in Niger Republic. He is a professional artist. He specializes in Gogue (African violin). He is widely traveled and has participated in several festivals in Africa, Europe, America and Asia. Currently, he is based in Gaya, Neger, where he plays with Troupe de Gaya.

Ayanwale A. Olayanju

Dundun
Nigeria

Ayanwale A. Olayanju was born into a drumming family in Oyo State, Nigeria. He obtained a BA and MA in Yoruba studies (Oral Literature). Drumming was one of the cultural activities that earned him the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) honours award at local, state and national levels in 1989. As a cultural officer in the Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ayanwale has been playing Nigerian National Anthem with his talking drum called a *dundun* since 2000. In 2006, he accompanied HE President Obasanjo to Paris to on the occasion of the award ceremony granting the title of UNESCO Artist for Peace to Twins Seven Seven. He also ushered in Mr President to Brazil and Ethiopia in 2005. Today Ayanwale sings the national anthem in the Yoruba language.

Ara Group

Nigeria

Ara is accompanied by the following artists: Wanle Akinboboye, Oduyoye Suzanne, Ibe Breakthrough, Ayandegi Sakiru, Eziefula Joy, Ehizibye Charles, Adebo Apeola, Ladipo Abayomi Shittu Olaniyi, Mary-Peter Christopher, Popoola Festus, Aklamavo Sylvester, Ajayi Abiodyn, Olabode Oluwatobi, Onafowope Imoleayo, Yemi Remi, Jojo B/Beat, Omopariola Sunday, Omopariola Oluwakemi, Akpabiode Shole, Ejohwomu Sunday



Mukesh Sharma

Sarod
India

Mukesh Sharma is India's leading exponent of sarod. His highly versatile and esthetic perception of the sarod has enabled him to touch the most profound depths of his instrument. He has created an enviable

niche for himself in the field of fusion music and has worked with various musicians from all over the world.

Special Thanks:

The concert has been made possible thanks to the generous artistic contributions by:

Igor Vlajniæ, Composer and Conductor
Ino Mirkoviæ, UNESCO Artist for Peace

and also

Dragan Dautovski,
Bahman Panahi
Efraín Amador and Doris Oropesa
Liu Fang

as well as Wanle Akiboboye

The Organizers express their profound appreciation to Prince Twins Seven Seven a UNESCO Artist for Peace for the artwork created on the occasion of the Conference and Concert.

* * *

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The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
The Nigerian National Commission for UNESCO, and its Secretary-General, Hajiya Myriam Katagum

As well as

Engineer Wole Adebayo
Dr. Olatunji Abayomi
Mallam Lawal Bataragawa

* * *

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Africa, but not only...

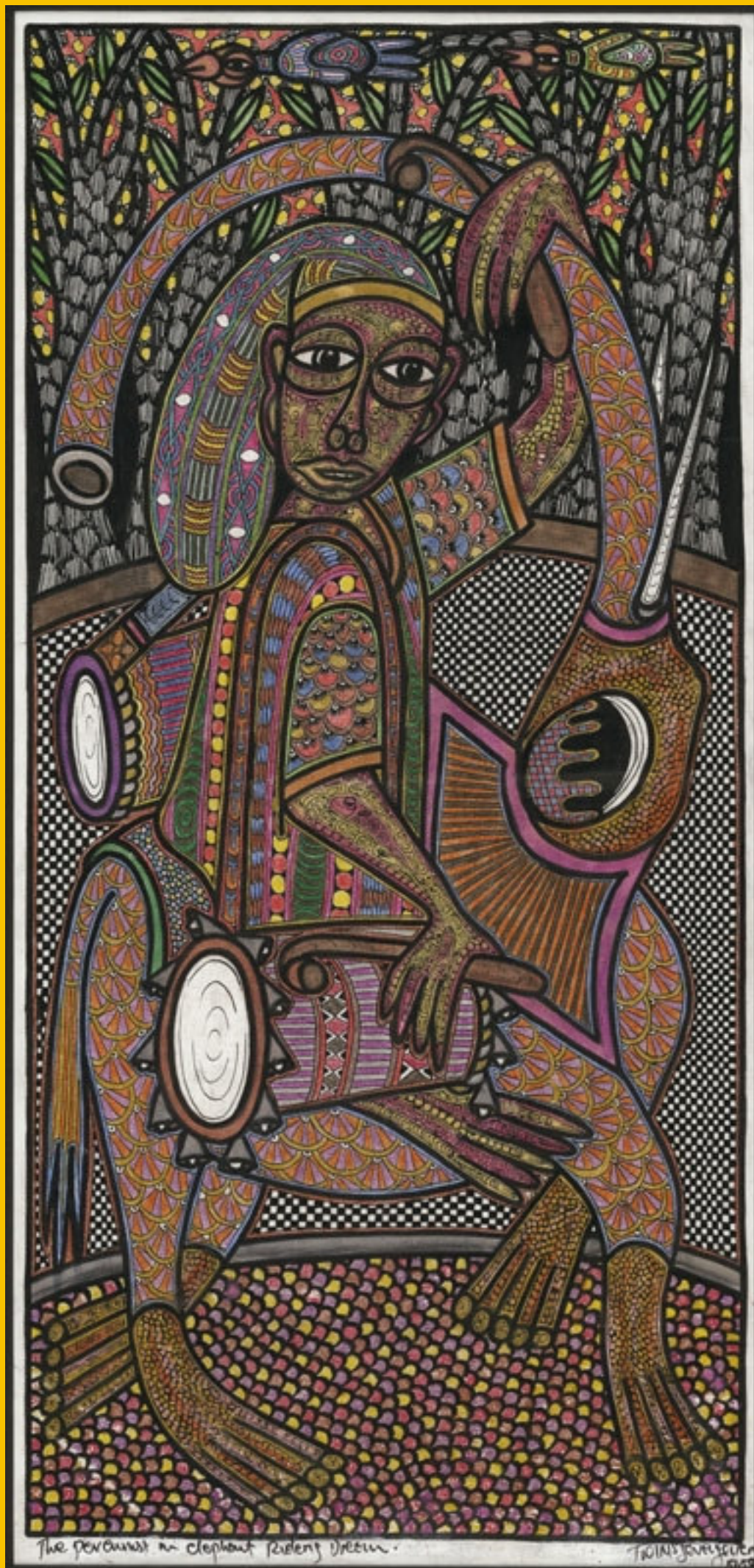
The first regional concert
of "Mozart, but not only..."



Organized by
the Melody for
Dialogue among
Civilizations
Associations



STATE HOUSE BANQUET HALL,
PRESIDENTIAL VILLA, ASO ROCK,
ABUJA-NIGERIA.
20, JUNE 2006
8.00 PM



The percussion in elephant riding dream.

Twins Seven Seven