

A chamber music tribute to Dr. Earle

Kala Keerthi Dr. Earle de Fonseka played a major role in the development of western music in the latter half of the 20th century in Sri Lanka. He was the conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka from 1961 up to his death in 2000. He conducted numerous orchestral and choral concerts, and was able to attract well known international soloists to perform with him. He was a mentor and guide to young musicians. He relished in the joy of playing chamber music, supporting younger musicians in their efforts, and taking part himself in small ensembles with his friends.

As a tribute to him, the Earle de Fonseka Trust will present a concert of chamber music featuring some of our most talented young musicians, on June 5 at the Russian Centre (10, Independence Avenue, Colombo 7) commencing at 7.30 pm. The programme opens with Haydn's Kaiser quartet performed by Thushani Jayewardene and Amal Abeyssekera (violin), Mangala Abeyssekera (viola) and

Tamara Holsinger (cello). This quartet, which is one of the great masterworks of Haydn, is famous for the fact that the theme of its slow movement (Emperors' Hymn) was used as the Austrian National Anthem.

The string quartet is expanded to a string sextet with the addition of Rasika Hewage (viola) and Amila Abeyssekera (cello) for the last work in the programme, the first movement of Tchaikovsky's brilliant and technically complex work "Souvenir de Florence". In between these two works is the piano trio by Clara Schumann, performed by Johan Pieris (piano), Thushani Jayewardene (violin) and Amila Abeyssekera (cello). Clara Schumann lived in an era when the world was not ready to accept that a woman could be an outstanding composer. Famous during her time as a pianist, her talent as a composer is now acknowledged universally.

Entrance to the concert is by programme priced at Rs. 400, available at Titus Stores, Liberty Plaza.

The blind date portrait with a £15m price tag

One of the last great paintings by Raphael still in private hands is to be sold at Christie's next month with a guide price of up to £15 million.

The portrait of Lorenzo de Medici, scion of the wealthy but cruel dynasty that dominated Florence from the 14th century to the 17th century, is the most important work by Raphael, an Italian Old Master, to be sold at auction for decades.

Lorenzo ruled Florence from 1513 until his death in 1519. His uncle, Pope Leo X, had found him a wife - Madeleine de la Tour d'Auvergne, a cousin of Francois I, King of France - who was an ally of the Vatican against the Holy Roman Empire.

As the couple had never met, an exchange of portraits was arranged. Raphael, one of the greatest High Renaissance painters and then working for Leo X in Rome, was commissioned to show Lorenzo, then aged 25, in his best light.

The portrait shows the subject in a fur-necked red and gold cape.

It must have done the trick because the couple were married in 1518.

Both died the following year, from either syphilis or the plague, but not before producing a daughter, Catherine de Medici, who strengthened families ties with the French by marrying Henry II of France.

The portrait, which is owned by an



This Raphael painting is expected to fetch £15million at auction

American art dealer, has not been seen in public for 40 years. It will be sold at Christie's in London on July 5.

Richard Knight, the director of Christie's Old Master department, said yesterday: "The importance of the artist and the sitter, together with the provenance and the historical context behind this painting, make it one of the most significant Old Master pictures to be offered at auction for a generation."

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June at the Alliance Française

Tue. 5th at 15h00 and Wed. 6th at 18h30 - Documentary «**I muvrini**» by Tony gatlif - 52 min - 1999. Version française/ English Subtitles.

Thu. 7th at 17h30 - Conference «**Humanité et Biodiversité : nos vies sont liées**» at the l'Alliance Française Auditorium. Free entrance.

Tue. 12th at 15h00 and Wed. 13th at 18h30 - Film «**De battre mon cœur s'est arrêté**» by Jacques Audiard - 107 min - 2004. Version Française/ English Subtitles.

14th June - 5th July - Exhibition "Jeunes talents" / "Young Talents" at the l'Alliance Française Auditorium. Free entrance.

Sat. 16th - Fête de la Musique/ International Music Day at BMICH.

Tue. 19th at 15h00 and Wed. 20th at 18h30 - Documentary «**Le tour du monde en 80 danses**» by Charles Picq - 150 min - 1999. Version Française/ English subtitles.

Tue. 26th at 15h00 and Wed. 27th at 18h30 - Animated Film «**La prophétie des grenouilles**» by Jacques-Rémy Giered - 100 min - 2001. Version Française/ English subtitles.

Cinema schedule

I muvrini: Terra by Tony gatlif - 1996 - Tue 5th at 3 pm & Wed. 6th at 6.30 pm. (52 min). Tony Gatlif (Latcho drom, Gadjó dílo) directs a documentary on a group of Corsican traditional singers. An exploration of sources and the origin of Polyphonic art.

De battre mon cœur s'est arrêté de Jacques Audiard - 2004 - Tue 12th at 3 pm & Wed. 13th at 6.30 pm (107 min). Tom leads a life that might be termed as criminal following his father's footsteps by making money from dirty, and sometimes brutal, real estate deals. Somehow he appears to have arrived at a critical juncture in his life when a chance encounter prompts him to take up the piano and become a concert pianist, like his mother...

Le tour du monde en 80 danses by Charles Picq - 2006 - Tue. 19th at 3 pm & Wed. 20th at 6.30 pm. (150 min). Directed by Charles Picq and produced by La maison de la danse. It is a panorama of the diversity of dancing techniques from around the world. Butó, flamenco or tap dancing. However, this documentary proves the fact that dancing is a universal form of expression around the world!

La prophétie des grenouilles by Jacques-Rémy Giered - 2003 - Tue. 26th at 3 pm & Wed. 27th at 6.30 pm. (90 min). Animated film. It's a catastrophe! A flood has hit our planet and an unusual group of people are all that remains. Led by Ferdinand, a modern day Noah, this little group have managed to defy the furiously raging elements. People and animals alike are dragged through this incredible whirlpool of an adventure.

Our grasses

by Subhashini Gunasekera

1 There are about 80 *Brachiaria* species in the tropics and sub tropics of both hemispheres, but mostly in Africa.

Many are useful forage grasses. Para grass or water grass (*Brachiaria purpurascens*) is grown as a fodder grass, especially in the low country. There are *Brachiaria milliformis* mixed pastures at low mid-country elevations.



1. *Brachiaria paspaloides*

This grass is an annual and 15-40cm in height. From sea-level to the montane zone, it is common at low and mid-country elevations, for eg in Peradeniya, Colombo, Negombo, Ambeppussa, and Bandarawela. It is eaten by cattle but

not very readily. It occurs in India, Burma, the Malay Pacific and Mascarene Islands.

This species is readily distinguished in the field by the loosely tufted culms, the short ascending culms rarely rooting at the nodes, the glaucous leaves and the spikelets often purple on the upper side.

2 *Brachiaria subquadrifera*

A stout, extensively creeping perennial grass, up to 3m or more long, 15-45cm in height. Found in low and mid-country elevations such as Peradeniya and Negombo, it is common

2. *Brachiaria subquadrifera*

A stout, wide-creeping perennial

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in damp places. It is a very good pasture grass. It has been successfully grown as a pasture grass with *Alysicarpus vaginalis*, a suenna, at Ambeppussa, Valpita, Negombo and other places. It is readily established from seed or cuttings. It occurs in India, China, the Malayan region and Mauritius.

3. *Brachiaria milliformis*

A somewhat creeping perennial grass up to 1m long and 10-30cm in height. Found throughout the island it is a very good common pasture grass with *Alysicarpus vaginalis*. It is found in Ambeppussa, Valpita, Negombo and other places. It is readily established from seed or cuttings. It occurs in India, China, the Malayan region and Australia.

4. *Brachiaria purpurascens* - Diya tana

A stout, wide-creeping perennial

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grass with the stolons 2-5m long, culms ascending, up to 1.5m in height. Introduced to Sri Lanka over a hundred years ago. It is cultivated at all elevations in Sri Lanka as a fodder grass, and is naturalised in a few localities near rivers and water courses as near Polonnaruwa and Muthurajavela. It occurs in tropical Africa and tropical America; introduced in most tropical countries as a fodder grass.



Christa Rigozzi, Miss Switzerland



Polyvia Achilleos, Miss Cyprus 2007 and Doukissa Nomikou, Miss Greece 2007, left.

Miss Universe

Beauties from around the world are all set to compete for the title in the 56th annual Miss Universe competition to be held on May 28 in Mexico.

Sri Lanka's 2007 beauty queen Aruni Rajapaksa will participate in next year's contest and not in this year's in Mexico, reports say.

For the first time in 16 years, Trinidad and Tobago will also not be represented at the Miss Universe pageant.

In total, 77 beauty queens from across the world will vie for the title.

The number of participant countries in Miss Universe has dropped in the last few years.

Last year, in Los Angeles, 86 nations' representatives showed up; in Mexico only 77 will compete.

The pageant will be held almost two months prior to when it was held in 2006, and reigning Miss Universe Zuleyka Rivera will reign for little more than ten months, one of the shortest in the history of the title.

This is the fourth time Mexico has been the host country and the second time Mexico City the host city of the Miss Universe pageant.

Angelina Glass, Miss Germany and Elias, Miss Peru 2007.

Jacky takes significant step in India

Jacqueline Fernandez, Miss Sri Lanka for Miss Universe 2006 who is now partly based in India, is covering huge ground these days. She is managed by fashion guru Prasad Bidapa and his associates who also have a presence in Sri Lanka. She is involved in high profile shoots, music video auditions and screen tests for Bollywood films and for films from the south.

Her fresh look and the right exposure under the influence of Prasad Bidapa have created a lot of excitement in the fashion, music and film industry. In a significant move, Jacky was featured on the cover of Indian edition of Femina this month, she is the first Sri Lankan on the face of the internationally renowned magazine.

Prasad Bidapa's company which manages some of the biggest names in India, has tied up with Grey Sri Lanka for talent management and development. Promoting Jacky regionally is the first project and will pave the way for many more fresh faces to follow from Sri Lanka.

"In a broad sense, one of the avenues of talent management and development is brand ambassadorship and personali-



Jacky in the Indian media

ties. Many communication companies have outfits that manage the above as it also becomes a feeder system for providing right personalities for the brand and endorsements," says Ajai Singh, CEO of Grey Global Group, Sri Lanka.

"In Sri Lanka there is a gaping hole when you look at professional talent and personality management and hence our interest is to fill that hole. We have tied up with one of the strongest personalities in India who has decades of experience in developing and managing talent."

"For Jacky's 'star appeal' to grow, she had to get on a bigger stage and rub shoulders with star personalities and that is exactly what's happening now," added Singh.

Jacky since winning the Miss Sri Lanka title has been invited to the Emmy's in Los Angeles, to be part of an international music video and has also had a couple of movie offers. She also won the Kalpana Chawla, Women of the Year award in Bahrain where she grew up.

A passionate social

worker, Jacky is part of the "Real" charity in Sri Lanka, which currently sponsors 25 tsunami affected children, and 30 women left widowed by the tsunami through loans and cash for work programmes. The funding comes through whatever endorsements she makes as Miss Sri Lanka.

Prior to Miss Sri Lanka, Jacky followed courses in international studies, media, economics and English in Sydney, Australia. She now utilises her skills and knowledge to the optimum.

a "better place". She is determined to link her personal success with the success of her country.

With her personality and charm we expect Jacky to achieve great success in all her endeavours.

Madhuri Dixit turns prof for a day

MUMBAI, India (AP) - Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit took a turn as a professor, to the surprise of students at a Mumbai film institute, according to a news report Friday.

The students at Whistling Woods International Institute were thrilled when Dixit delivered a lecture on filmmaking, *The Times of India* newspaper reported.

Filmmaker Subhash Ghai, who runs the school, told the paper he was touched when the normally reticent and publicity-shy star came to talk to his students.

The actress, making a comeback in Bollywood with "Aaja Nachleye" or "Come Let's Dance," said young aspirants were lucky to be able to study the craft.

"We never had this kind of school to guide us through, we joined and learned on our own," Ghai quoted Dixit as saying, according to the paper.

Dixit starred in his movie "Ram Laxhan" when she was an upcoming actress in the late 1980s and Ghai said he was proud to see her speak about filmmaking.

"Madhuri made me very proud when she was giving the lecture to the students of my institute on acting and a star's growth as a person with such a cool



Royal College presents Harasara Pranama 2007



Students attending a drama workshop

The drama trio of all three languages of Royal College will hold another unforgettable evening by commemorating three talented dramatists along with veteran artist in field of drama. The event named "Harasara Pranama 2007" will be held at Navarangahala at 5 p.m on May 30.

The inter school drama competition "Abhinna 2007" also took place at Navarangahala parallel to this event. The Royalists commemorated the father of Sinhala drama Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra, whose drama Maname fulfilled its 50th year last year.

This is the first time in the Sri Lankan drama arena that such an event is taking place. Royalists are proud to have such a wonderful event in their school calendar where veteran artists in the field of drama are being felicitated each year. Among them were veterans artists Henry Jayasena, Mrs. Manel Jayasena, Mrs. Somalatha Subasinghe, Wijerathna Warakagoda and Prof. Mounaguru and Dr. Lakshmi de Silva, who were felicitated over the last few years.

At the threshold of the world year of

drama, this is a good opportunity to see young and enthusiastic talent being awarded for their performances. A panel of judges will select the best drama, the best script writing, best actor, actress, music and many other areas and the

award winners will receive their awards at this event.

This year the Royalists will felicitate veterans artists Jayalath Manorathne, Mrs. Irangani Serasinghe and Velanandan in this grand ceremony.



Teacher in charge of the Sinhala Drama Society Rathna Lalani Jayakody with the students.