

East London's 'People's Park' hosts the Music Village for the first time ever, in preparation for the 2010 London Olympics.

## TERENCE O'FLAHERTY 1PM

Terence is a charming Irish singer-songwriter with an ever-present twinkle in his eye. He was born into musical family in County Clare on the West Coast of Ireland, a stronghold of 'lilting'. This form of traditional Irish acapella singing stemmed originally from hundreds of years of storytelling, which Terence soon mastered.

Terence has been a member of Crusheen, one of London's most famous Irish bands and played at the Cambridge Folk Festival. He has also performed for BBC television and the World Service. A Londoner since 1971 and with a musical career established over 3 decades, Terence recently created *Ghosts*, a new album collaboration with rock musician Paul Cunningham.



## ADEL ELBRARY 2PM

A venerated singer and composer in Sudan for 30 years, Adel's performances radiate integrity and excellence. Arabic music from Egypt, including sacred Sufi chants, has had a particularly powerful formative influence on his musical development, while later encounters with artists from around the world stretched his musical horizons further still.

Adel lived and worked as a manager of a camp in the Sinai desert some years ago. During that time he met and worked alongside many musicians from India, Arabia, South America, Europe and Israel. He subsequently collaborated with Israeli world music ensemble Sheva to promote peace in the region through music. Together, they recorded the famous track 'Od Yarb Shalom Al Eina', (Peace will come to us).

## ROMANY DIAMONDS 3PM

One of the world's finest Roma violinists, Ricardo Czureja founded Romany Diamonds after migrating to London from Poland in 1998. Ricardo is passionately committed to enhancing cultural awareness to reduce the centuries-old social stigma afflicting Roma peoples. His band comprises three generations of virtuoso musicians whose combined musical brilliance goes far to achieving this.

Ricardo's son Benjamin explains that music is "what we live off; it's our bread". The male family members play violin but Benjamin has broken with convention and plays guitar to add a jazzy feel to the band's music. Save for Yugoslav double bassist Viktor Obsust, all other band members are Roma and have been steeped in Roma music since childhood.



## GOURI CHOUDHURY 4PM

Bangaldeshi folk diva, Gouri Choudhury is a singer and music teacher born in Sylhet. Today she is one of Britain's most sought after Bangaldeshi performers. "Music surrounded me from a very early age and my parents encouraged me to sing. I recall performing Bengali folk songs when I was seven". She settled in London soon after being invited to perform here.

Gouri was featured on BBC television in 1997, alongside Ravi Shankar in a commemorative concert to mark the 50th anniversary of Partition. She has played all over Britain and in Canada, France and Germany. Nowadays, she performs poignant Bangla songs composed by national poets Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, and mystical folk renditions by Lalou Fokir.

## YUSUF MAHMOUD 5PM

Son of maestro Ustad Asif Mahmood, Yusuf Mahmood is from the most famous family of tabla players in Afghanistan, one that boasts a lineage of distinguished musicians dating back to the 18th century. Yusuf's boundless musical curiosity has led him to collaborate brilliantly with other pre-eminent world musicians in London and South Asia, including vocalists Ustad Salamat Ali Khan and Ustad Fateh Ali Khan.

Yusuf was born in Kabul, where he studied vocal music with several revered teachers. Now an outstanding tabla master who teaches tabla to music students in London himself, Yusuf is also an excellent singer. He has recently extended his recitals to include Sufi devotional singing, which he will do at this year's Music Village.



## MOSI CONDE 6PM

Mosi Conde is a born crowd-pleaser, a masterful West African griot (praise singer) from Guinea-Conakry who leads his talented London-based ensemble Kaira Kora Afrika. This remarkable and highly skilled West African musician and his matchless crew sing and play a wide range of percussion and string instruments. "We griots are born in music, every family plays together. Music is our life".

Mosi's compositions are from a strong traditional background yet demonstrate a global sonic awareness. His inspiring vocals and fine instrumental technique have graced Presidential visits by Nelson Mandela and Bill Clinton and delighted audiences at WOMAD and on BBC4.

## HARARE 7PM

Harare is one of only a handful of Zimbabwean dance music ensembles in Europe today. Formed by Kudaushe Matimba in 2005, an exiled musician who was once at the epicentre of Zimbabwean urban music, Harare's repertoire features high-octane urban Jit-Jive alongside the hypnotic rhythms of mbira (traditional thumb piano).

Kudaushe worked with the internationally famed Bhundu Boys in the 1980's, one of Zimbabwe's leading groups at the time. He includes both old and original new compositions and arrangements in Harare's set. Song lyrics in Shona confront the pressing social issues of the band members' Zimbabwean homeland, yet also celebrate Harare's new musical friendships in London and point to a promising future here for Zimbabwean dance music.



## OSVALDO CHACÓN 8PM

Osvaldo Chacón was a prodigiously talented member of some of Havana's top salsa bands before arriving in London in 1997. He went on to extend his already celebrated musical career by setting up Chacón y su Timba as his own Cuban big band, rapidly establishing it as the leading UK exponent of Timba, a dynamic new sound that powers Cuba's latest dance craze.

Osvaldo has performed alongside Cuban greats like Adalberto Santiago, Tito Allen, Roberto Plat, and Eddie Palmieri. His band Chacón y su Timba includes a line-up of the UK's foremost Cuban and Latin musicians. It has played at a variety of leading festivals and nightclubs around the country including a rousing session at the Barbican Centre's *iCuba Presente!* festival.

## KHANTARA 1PM

Ever since Colombian singer and multi-instrumentalist Anthar Kharana entered into the world of music at the age of 9, he has explored different sounds and adopted distinct influences from a variety of musical styles. Years of practising khoomei, or Mongolian throat song, have enabled Anthar to develop a powerful and uniquely varied vocal range. He combines both the intimate and the soaring qualities of operatic singing with a multiplicity of ethnic voice techniques and instruments from around the world.

Anthar's cross-cultural musical experimentation has resulted in Khantara. The band's repertoire represents a thrilling fusion of South American and world music rhythms. Expect a truly scintillating soundscape that incorporates mystical Colombian roots with pounding Arabic and Gypsy beats.



## CONJUNTO SABROSO 5PM

Conjunto Sabroso is a 10-piece Latin big band led by gifted Colombian vocalist, Luz Elena Caicedo, and Venezuelan master percussionist, Wilmer Sifontes. Renowned for their authentic swing and lively presence on stage, Conjunto Sabroso features a vibrant horn section and powerful percussion.

They have long presented the thrilling format of a traditional conjunto to London audiences, using trumpets, piano, Cuban guitar, bongo, congas and maracas. The result is vibrant, uplifting dance music.

The band has featured in many festivals London-wide including the *Music Village*, *Carnaval del Pueblo* and *Colores de Colombia* at the Festival Hall. It is also much in demand to support visiting salsa stars like Adalberto Santiago (Fania), Jose Mangual Junior, Henry Fiol and Roberto Torres.



## LOS DESTERRADOS 2PM

An array of supremely talented London Jewish musicians, steeped in diverse musical backgrounds – classical, jazz, folk, Latin and rock – converged in 2000 to form Los Desterrados (The Exiles). The group delves deep into the largely overlooked Judeo-Iberian, or Sephardic, musical canon and has produced several prized albums, including *Miradores*, in 2008.

Fusing fiery Balkan and Gypsy melodies with the rhythms of Spain, Morocco and Turkey, Los Desterrados have created a rootsy, contemporary sound. Their set at this year's *Music Village* will include a selection of songs that draws upon the music of different Jewish communities around the world. Many are featured on their three existing albums as well as on a fourth one now being completed.



## G.E.A.T.A 6PM

A dynamic and professional creative arts group that started in 1997 with just 10 enthusiasts, G.E.A.T.A. has now grown to a 200-strong, London-wide organisation that aims to sustain and develop Ethiopian culture here. Formed by Wendwosen Abebe, G.E.A.T.A. aims to give young British Ethiopians a positive sense of identity through the arts and to increase awareness and enjoyment of Ethiopian culture among the wider population.

The performing group at G.E.A.T.A.'s core has regularly brought London audiences to their feet with its unique and exhilarating synthesis of rhythmic Ethiopian music, dance and song. Its repertoire incorporates traditional instruments including: masinko, (one-stringed violin) and krar, (six-stringed lyre) along with a medley of voices and percussion.

## AMEER KHAN 3PM

Qawaali maestro Ustad Haji Ameer Khan belongs to one of the most ancient and highly revered musical families in Pakistan. Today, Ameer is one of very few professional UK-based Qawaali singers. He enjoys a constant flow of invitations to perform at concerts, weddings and other South Asian community celebrations across Britain.

Qawaali is one of the world's most passionate and vibrant forms of music. It is an intense form of Sufi devotional singing, characterized by powerful, competing and harmonizing vocals, and accompanied by explosive clapping and thunderous tablas. The combined effect is to create a mesmerizing and heart-meltingly beautiful musical aura that is said to cleanse the soul. Ameer brilliantly delivers this complex, joyous and timeless sound.



## MUKKA 7PM

Mukka's vibrant, life-affirming songs include references to "love, making cheese and riding stallions". Led by charismatic Romanian singer Dana Codorean-Berciu, the band could light up a small city with its vivacious mix of East European, Arabic and klezmer sounds.

Mukka's London gigs are famous for encouraging complete strangers to join hands and dance like crazy. Having performed everywhere from Buckingham Palace to Glastonbury and at two previous Music Villages, Mukka look forward to lifting the roof off this year's *World City Music Village* festival.



## LOKITO YA CONGO 4PM

Sweetly-voiced singer songwriter Renato Mondele leads Lokito ya Congo, a six-piece band that combines the spirit of soukous – upbeat dance music from Congo – with a dash of rumba, reggae, salsa and R&B. Mondele is a seasoned musical professional with a dazzling track record of performances at major venues and festivals.

Mondele is a much loved and highly valued original member of Cultural Co-operation's 10-year old voluntary Artist Network (See p31). This free resource now comprises more than 300 groups and individual artists from 80 national and faith communities in 29 London Boroughs.



## KASAI MASAI 8PM

Kasai Masai's charismatic front-man and djembe (hand-drum) virtuoso, Nickens Nkoso, describes this Congolese band's music as coming from the soul of Africa's most remote village, electrified by the vitality and buzz of London.

Nickens is a celebrated and widely-loved Soukous musician who has played with such groups as Koko Kayinda's Soukous Kumbele, Robert Maseko's Congo Beat and Kanda Bongoman. Since performing at the 2005 *Diaspora London Music Village*, Kasai Masai has played at the Barbican, Glastonbury and WOMAD.

Kawele Mutimanwa (folk guitar), Rama Ramazani (saxophone), J.C. Matata (drums) and Claude Bulamushi (bass guitar) provide pulsating backing. Two female dancers often flank Nickens on stage. The musically energetic interplay between them never fails to get audiences on their feet.