

Peace Concert

with Sri Chinmoy

The Nobel Peace Center

Monday, April 30th, 2007

Programme





The Eternal Peace Flame

Aker Brygge, Oslo

Dedicated by Sri Chinmoy, June 9th, 2001



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Welcome to the Peace Concert

Sri Chinmoy offers his warmest welcome and deepest gratitude to each and every guest here tonight.

Tonight's Main Guests and Guests of Honour are:
Professor Arne Næss and Mrs. Kit-Fai Næss

Peace begins, Sri Chinmoy feels, within the heart of each human being. Each individual can contribute in a unique way to world peace. Since 1964, Sri Chinmoy has been striving to foster peace through music, literature, art, sport, humanitarian service and contemplative silence. Through these dedicated offerings, he seeks to touch the universal aspirations of individuals from all cultures, religions and nations.

You are cordially invited to join with Sri Chinmoy in tonight's concert by offering your own lofty aspirations for personal peace and world peace.

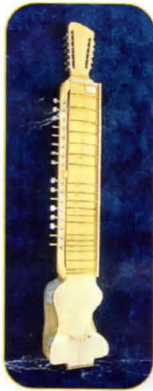
*"Peace is not merely the absence of war.
Peace is the universal oneness-heart.
Peace is the presence of harmony, love,
satisfaction and oneness. Peace is a
flood of love in the world family."*

—Sri Chinmoy



A Selection of the Instruments

During the concert, Sri Chinmoy will perform his own musical compositions on many instruments from all around the world—some easily recognised and some perhaps never seen or heard before by most listeners. Some of the instruments are pictured below.



ESRAJ



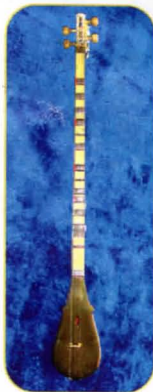
BASS ESRAJ



BRASS ERHU



WESTERN FLUTES



TANBUR



BAMBOO FLUTES



ERHU



CHINESE RUAN

The Programme

Welcome and Introduction

by the Deputy Mayor of Oslo, Hon. Sverre Kristiansen

Short Videotape

of Sri Chinmoy's World Service

Peace Concert

While performing his musical compositions, Sri Chinmoy seeks to create an uplifting atmosphere to calm the mind and inspire the heart. Sri Chinmoy feels that through the spirit embodied in our hearts, we can together establish a true and lasting peace in the world.

Sri Chinmoy will start the concert with a moment of silence for peace – an invocation in which you are kindly invited to join with your own silent prayer for peace. There will also be moments of silence between instrumental performances. Should you wish to express your appreciation, please hold your applause until the end of the concert, in order to maintain the peaceful atmosphere.

Highlights of the concert include Sri Chinmoy's improvisational performances on instruments specially made for him. They are full of tremendous energy and dynamic power.

Closing Comments

by Prof. Thomas Hylland Eriksen, University of Oslo

Reception

During the reception, Sri Chinmoy will be very happy to welcome each guest personally and offer his heartfelt gratitude.

Sri Chinmoy: A Biographical Sketch

Sri Chinmoy was born on August 27th, 1931 in Chittagong, East Bengal, India. He was the youngest of seven children. In 1944, after the passing of both his parents, he joined his brothers and sisters as a member of a spiritual community in southern India. There he lived for the next 20 years practising meditation and spiritual disciplines that found expression in poetry and music even at a tender age.



Sri Chinmoy has also been an avid sportsman since his childhood; besides being captain of the football and volleyball teams, he was a champion sprinter and decathlete. In later years his athletic pursuits have included long-distance running and astounding feats of strength in weightlifting. In 1964 Sri Chinmoy followed an inner command to come to the West, where he has since resided in New York City. A pioneer in fostering the ideal of culture for peace, his university lectures, poetry series, paintings, peace-bird drawings and musical compositions convey the oneness of humanity in and through its many cultures, faiths and nationalities.

Towards this same aim, Sri Chinmoy has initiated many global programmes to foster interfaith harmony. At the request of his dear friend Secretary-General U Thant, he began to lead the twice-weekly Peace Meditations at the United Nations in 1970, which continue to this day. Sri Chinmoy has offered the opening silent invocation at the largest interfaith gatherings ever in history—the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago in 1993 and in Barcelona in 2004.

Millions of people have run or walked in the Peace Run/World Harmony Run, passing a lighted peace torch from hand to hand in more than 80 countries. Founded by Sri Chinmoy in 1987, the Run has enjoyed the participation and enthusiastic support of many world leaders.

Other global peace initiatives of Sri Chinmoy include the Peace Concert series started in 1984; an international all-volunteer humanitarian service programme; and the Sri Chinmoy Peace-Blossoms family, which includes more than 150 nations dedicated to the cause of world peace.



Comments on Sri Chinmoy's World Service

"My Brother in peace, we acknowledge the tremendous contribution which you and your peace movement are making to promote global peace." Aug. 26th, 1997 *President Nelson Mandela*

"You have dedicated your life to what is most precious, to what makes the foundation for all mankind. You represent, in a nutshell, a philosophy of goodness, the philosophy of kindness, of light and of everything that is best about people." Oct. 15th, 2006 *President Mikhail S. Gorbachev*

"Thank you for all you are to God, for the beautiful work you have done for the glory of God and the good of souls." Jun. 25th, 1997 *Mother Teresa*

"You are part of the spiritual force of Love that emanates from God and which will transform the evil of this world into its counterpart... Thank you so very much for all you mean for God's world and God's children." Mar. 16th, 2004 *Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

"Sri Chinmoy has dedicated his life's work to fostering peace and harmony in the world through meditation, music, poetry, painting and humanitarian work..." Aug. 10th, 2006 *The Dalai Lama*

"Sri Chinmoy, you are the heart of the United Nations. In all the years I was Secretary-General, and even before, you were always with us. Even if you were not present, your message was with us, and we were being inspired by you." May 26th, 2005

United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

"...Let me also take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your 30 years of dedication to the United Nations. Through your prayers, meditations, concerts and global 'Peace Run', your work has linked peace-lovers in more than 100 countries and complemented that of the world Organization..." Sep. 22nd, 2000

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan

"I thank you for bringing this moment of serenity and deeper thought. The values for which you stand and the message for which you stand is timeless and will go beyond the present." May 17th, 2006

Pres., 60th Session, UN General Assembly, former Swedish Foreign Minister, Jan Eliasson

"Sri Chinmoy himself is an embodiment of the culture of peace. In him we see how to find peace within and peace for the rest of the world. His ideals and his work for humanity are beacons of hope for us in this world of turmoil." Apr. 11th, 2003

United Nations Under-Secretary-General Anwarul Chowdhury

"Sri Chinmoy is a miraculous model of the abundance in the creative life, and I can only hope that I may someday participate in that cosmic fountain of stillness and profound energy which he inhabits." Oct. 31st, 1977

Composer and Conductor Leonard Bernstein

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*"We are all members of a oneness-world-family.
When we feel that we are brothers and sisters
with the same hopes and dreams, then we shall
not quarrel and fight. We shall work together to
create a peaceful happiness-home."*

—Sri Chinmoy

