

Media release: Thursday, 5 November 2009

Émigré musicians take centre stage

You're invited to experience a unique musical event as Wollongong City Council presents some of the city's finest émigré musicians in two free concerts at City Central Church at 2 and 4.30pm on Saturday, 7 November as part of Viva La Gong.

Eight talented performers who have migrated to our community and enriched our culture will delight audiences with a program combining several pieces reflecting music from their country of origin and well known classical masters.

At the concert MC, local singer and teacher, Karen Cummings, will profile these musical artists and engage in conversations with them so audiences can learn more about their musical traditions and backgrounds.

Classical cellist and music teacher, *Ilir Merxhushi* from Albania will open the musical recital at 2pm with his skilful rendition of Ymer Skenderi's Endless Love - an Albanian piece, Bach Prelude in G and Chopin Valse Op 64.

Hernan Flores, guitarist and vocalist *Imogen Granwal* will follow with musical pieces from Chile. Before the break, *Milica Krga*, Serbian accordionist will dazzle the audience with her repertoire inspired by her love for classical, contemporary and folk music.

At 4.30pm, the second show will commence with a performance by *Mirosław Galczynski*, a Polish percussionist. *Galczynski* promises to bring an exciting and unique instrumental experience to the stage.

As a German classical guitarist, *Horsti Baltes* will introduce the city to his repertoire which covers pieces from the Renaissance, Baroque and Flamenco era.

Carlos Alvarado, Colombian conductor and *Alexandra Loukianova*, Russian violinist, both members of the Wollongong Symphony Orchestra will conclude the program with selection of classical and folk pieces guaranteed to make a fitting tribute to our musical and artistic community.

For more information visit www.vivalagongfestival.org