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LOTUS CELEBRATES DIVERSITY THROUGH GLOBAL MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Over 25 international artists come together in Bloomington, Indiana,
for the 24th annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival.

– COMPLETE EVENT DETAILS –

Bloomington, Indiana: The Lotus World Music & Arts Festival returns to Bloomington, Indiana, September 28 through October 1. Over 25 international artists take the stage in ten downtown venues including boisterous, pavement-quaking, outdoor dance tents, contemplative church venues, and historic theaters. When Lotus performers come together for the four-day festival, Bloomington's streets fill with palpable energy and an eclectic blend of global sound and spectacle. Through music, dance, art, and food, Lotus embraces and celebrates cultural diversity.

The 2017 Lotus World Music & Arts Festival lineup includes artists from Russia, China, the Republic of Georgia, to Sweden, and more. Music genres vary from traditional, folk, Tuvian throat singing, string, and several uniquely branded fusions and collaborations.

Though US music fans may not yet recognize many names from the Lotus lineup, Lotus is known for debuting world music artists into the US scene. Many 2017 Lotus artists have recently been recognized in both stateside and international press, including:

Alex Cuba: multiple Latin-Grammy winner, Grammy nominee

Kaia Kater: "...plaintive, mesmerizing ... writes and performs with the skill of a folk-circuit veteran..."
- Rolling Stone

Making Movies: "Lyrically and sonically one of the best albums of the year" - NPR

Meklit: "One of the best albums of 2017, bar none." – *New York Music Daily*

At its core, the Festival centers around premier showcases on Friday and Saturday evenings, when a wristband becomes a passport to explore all downtown venues from 6:00pm until midnight. Festival events also include an opening concert Thursday night, Sunday's closing World Spirit Concert, free access to the Arts Village, the popular Lotus in the Park on Saturday afternoon (free), restorative Festival Unwind Yoga, and workshops led by Danish artist Isabel Berglund.

As the flagship program of the non-profit Lotus Education & Arts Foundation, the Lotus World Music & Arts Festival is one of the oldest world music festivals in the U.S. and the only one of its kind in Indiana. Established in 1994, the Festival attracts more than 12,000 people to downtown Bloomington each fall for 4-5 days of music and arts from around the globe. Through the Festival, Lotus creates – on a grand scale – the rare opportunity for audiences to experience places far removed from their everyday routines and to broaden their worldview through the arts. In doing so, the Lotus World Music & Arts Festival contributes to the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation mission: to create opportunities to experience, celebrate, and explore the diversity of the world's cultures, through music and the arts.

Complete information about the Festival schedule and events, 2017 Lotus artists, ticketing, and more is available online at lotusfest.org.

Sponsors

The 24th annual Lotus World Music & Arts Festival is made possible by the generous support of community partners:

Presenting Sponsors: Bloomingfoods and Indiana University Bloomington

Producer Sponsors: Bloom Magazine; Bloomington Brewing Company; IU Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost; Ivy Tech Community College; One World Catering & Events; Organized Living; and Pizza X.

Sustaining Sponsor: Southside Rental

Festival Grantors: Visit Bloomington, National Endowment for the Arts: Art Works, Indiana Arts Commission, Brown County Community Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, Southern Exposure for Performing Arts of Latin America; Arts Midwest; and the Bloomington Arts Commission.

END

LOTUS WORLD MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

KICK-OFF CONCERT – Thursday, September 28

Festival weekend officially launches when Bloomington's favorite Swedish strings, **Vasen**, takes the stage for the Lotus Kick-Off Concert at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. During intermission, **Sam Bartlett** and Rhino's youth present a Lotus Dickey cranky. Tickets at the Buskirk-Chumley Box Office.

EVENING SHOWCASES – Friday, September 29, and Saturday, September 30

Lotus Evening Showcases are the quintessential Lotus Festival experience. A ticket is traded for a wristband, which serves as the passport that gives attendees access to roam through multiple downtown venues to catch 25+ artists. Tickets at the Buskirk-Chumley Box Office.

LOTUS IN THE PARK – Saturday, September 30

Free to the public, Lotus in the Park offers all-ages fun from 12-5pm at Waldron, Hill & Buskirk Park (Third Street Park). Activities include hands-on art; live performances featuring **Alash, Kaia Kater, The Outside Track, Ladama**, and **Sahba Motallebi & Naghmeh Farahmand**; workshops with Danish visual artist Isabel Berglund; food by Bloomingfoods; and a valet bike corral.

FESTIVAL PARADE - Saturday, September 30

Join the procession led by Festival artist Raya Brass Band! Meet at 7th & Washington; ends at BCT

FESTIVAL ARTS VILLAGE - Friday, September 29, and Saturday, September 30

Free and open to the public from 6-10pm on both Festival evenings, the Arts Village is an entire block full of art installations, hands-on art-making, live demos, chalk art, hula-hooping, “Welcoming Wall” exhibit by artist Joe LaMantia, readings by members of the Writers’ Guild, “Light and Color Experience” interactive art, performances by the Breakdancing Club at IU.

FESTIVAL UNWIND YOGA – Sunday, October 1

Multiple all-level practices are available, in partnership with local yoga studios and instructors. Free; donations accepted.

WORLD SPIRIT CONCERT – Sunday, October 1

Featuring music by **Fareed Haque & Goran Ivanovic** (US/Croatia) and **Maria Pomianowska & Reborn** (Poland). The “pin gets you in” – admission comes with the 2017 collectible Lotus pin, available for \$5 from the Buskirk-Chumley Box Office, Festival Store, Bloomingfoods, or Landlocked Music.

For More Information

LOTUS WORLD MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

For more information about the Lotus World Music & Arts Festival, please contact the Lotus Education & Arts Foundation:

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