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Cleveland World Festival to Offer Full Slate of Diverse Entertainment on Sunday, August 2 from 11 am to 9 pm

CLEVELAND, OHIO — Presented by the Famicos Foundation, the third annual **Cleveland World Festival** (www.clevelandworldfestival.com) which will return to the vast expanse of fields, forests and gardens of [Rockefeller Park](#) on Sunday, August 2, 2015 from 11 am to 9 pm., will offer an exciting mix of music, dance and theatrical performances that reflect the diverse community of Cleveland. From Chinese and Filipino dance companies to German, Indian and African musicians, to Spanish opera and spoken poetry from around the world, the Festival will offer non-stop entertainment that will truly offer something for everyone, including one stage with performances designed specifically for children. Celebrating Cleveland's cultural community with its over 120 different ethnic groups, the spectacular event will once again offer visitors a unique opportunity to sample a smorgasbord of the customs, costumes, music, food, and sports reflecting the diversity that make up Cleveland's heritage.

The free one-day event amidst the gorgeous curving contours of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens (on MLK Jr. Drive between St. Clair and Superior Avenues) will offer a wide array of vibrant entertainment on three stages. In addition, a busker area will allow visitors to interact with some of Cleveland's most unique street performers including magicians, flame throwers, aerial artists and much more while enjoying a café like atmosphere, in collaboration with [Rising Star Coffee](#).

“Our mission is to celebrate the depth and diversity of creative expressions among the cultural entities that make up the Northeast Ohio Community,” according to James, Levin, Executive Director of CWF. “Among the Cultural Gardens, itself an amazing under-known and under-used resource, we offer the community an opportunity to express pride in their own culture but, with ease, sample outward and experience something new. By presenting multiple stages, all with a wide variety of traditional and contemporary music and performance from throughout the world, one can participate in a cultural travelogue by just sitting still or venturing onto the next stage. This year, we are very excited to make the Festival more accessible to special needs youth and adults, in order to make this event truly inclusive.”

Highlights of the Festival offerings include:

- [Distinguished Gentlemen of Spoken Word](#), the celebrated group of African American performance poets, ages 8-18 from Cleveland's East Side, now touring internationally;
- [Great Lakes Light Opera](#) performing “La Vida Breve” (one-act Spanish opera) and “Alice's Adventures in Operaland” (for children)
- Kenyan Hip Hop Artist Mbaruku Maina
- [Donauschwäbische Blaskapelle](#), Cleveland's original German brass band.
- [Kultura Filipiniana Dance Troupe](#)
- [Vernon Jones Blues Cartel](#)
- World-class classical sitar musician [Hasu Patel](#)
- Cleveland's top martial arts group [Capoeira Brasil](#)
- “Passing Storm,” a unique fusion of multinational children's voices
- “Be the Change,” a multi-national, multicultural song involving many languages, inspired by Gandhi's famous inspired quote

The Festival will also focus this year on creating opportunities for special needs youth and adults with improved access at parking lots and to several of the stage settings and enhanced inclusion in some children's activities. Several offerings will spotlight to the talents of those with disabilities such as a performance by [The Dancing Wheels Company](#) and School and an exhibit of artwork by differently abled artists such as the now internationally renowned [Seth Chwast](#).

About Cleveland World Festival

Cleveland World Festival (CWF) is an arts and entertainment event staged in the nationally acclaimed Cleveland Cultural Gardens of Rockefeller Park, in partnership with the Famicos Foundation. First held on August 25, 2013 and attracting 15,000 visitors, CWF is designed to showcase a diversity of cultures through artistic performance. Fast becoming one of Cleveland's most popular and diverse annual outdoor events, this past September, the 2014 Festival drew over 20,000 attendees.

About the Cleveland Cultural Gardens

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens lie in Rockefeller Park, a 276-acre tranquil, ravine-like setting that runs two miles between University Circle, Cleveland's cultural center to the south and Lake Erie to the north. John D. Rockefeller donated the site as parkland in 1896 to commemorate the city's first centennial. Ernest Bowditch, a renowned Boston landscape architect, designed a meandering parkway flanked by wide-open green space and framed by steeply sloped terrain. Interspersed amid this pristine landscape, above and adjacent to the grassy meadows bordering Doan Brook, are 29 formally dedicated gardens representing the various nationalities that comprise Greater Cleveland and the world community. Eight new gardens are currently being created. The Gardens remain an untapped resource and unexplored realm by the great majority of Cuyahoga County residents. Cleveland World Festival seeks to reopen the region's eyes to this hidden cultural gem.

About the Famicos Foundation

Famicos Foundation (www.famicos.org) is one of the oldest community development corporations (CDC) in the city of Cleveland. This non-profit 501(c)3 has a mission to improve the quality of life in Greater Cleveland through neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing and integrated social services. Known for its work in historic housing preservation/restoration, Famicos' portfolio ranges from permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals to market-rate housing for moderate and middle-income families.

Management Team

Director James Levin founded the Cleveland World Festival in 2013 and is seeking to produce the annual festival through 2016 (the 100th anniversary of the Gardens) and beyond. Levin, the founding director of Cleveland Public Theatre and the Ingenuity Festival, sees the Cleveland World Festival as delivering the same kind of economic boost that CPT provided in the Gordon Square Arts District some 20 years ago. He will be joined by Emily Hoag, Project Manager of the youth programming, and Chuck Karnak, Levin's production partner at Ingenuity and Director of All Go Productions.

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**CLEVELAND
WORLD FESTIVAL**