



The Compassionate Mandala Tour

Media Kit

In Honour of HH the Dalai Lama in Australia 2007

Produced and presented by Tenzin Choegyal

Overview of Event:

Two beautiful **concerts** with traditional Tibetan multi-phonic chanting and songs, modern rhythms and riffs combine with **sand mandala creation, sand art workshops, guided meditations** and the **Tibetan Art of Divination** to create the **Compassionate Mandala Tour**. Audiences will enjoy uniquely beautiful and moving music and be treated to the intricate art of the sand mandala. Their experience will be enhanced by attending workshops to learn how to make sand art, how to sing traditional Tibetan folk songs and other exclusive cultural events.

The music of the Compassionate Mandala Tour includes the famed multi-phonic chanting of Tashi Lhunpo monks and the extraordinary voice and sounds of Tenzin Choegyal. In one concert Tenzin and the monks will be joined by other Australian musicians. All concerts will enchant and inspire the audience.

Best of all, The Compassionate Mandala Tour will be raising funds for the exiled Tashi Lhunpo monks and The Tibetan Children's Village. This is a unique opportunity to not only provide the gift of beautiful music and world culture but to provide humanitarian assistance.

Audience Experience - Concerts:

The famed Tibetan Buddhist tradition of multi-phonic chanting is an important part of the Tibetan musical experience. Tashi Lhunpo monks will perform their unique version of simultaneous intoning of three notes in harmony. They will also play traditional Tibetan instruments such as 10-foot long dung-chen horns, drums, bells, cymbals and gyaling trumpets.

Audiences will be moved by the composition of Tenzin Choegyal's music and the risks he takes with rhythm and structure. Playing traditional Tibetan musical instruments and joined by the chanting monks, he successfully challenging the traditional Tibetan musical norms.

In another concert the Monks and Tenzin will be joined by several prominent Australian musicians to create a totally unique musical and cultural tapestry. The combination of thousand year old Buddhist chants and jazz riffs create an interesting and exciting musical experience in a concert that is not to be missed!

The results are unforgettable and moving concerts perfect for all ages filled with sounds that calm and restore the soul.



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Audience Experience - Workshops:

Workshop participants will be treated to watching the creation of an intricate and beautiful sand mandala. They can also attend mandala sand art workshops where they will learn to use the same traditional Tibetan tools. Guided meditations, talks on Tibetan culture and traditional Tibetan singing classes will also be offered during the festival. *Please see details below.*

Sand Mandala creation:

The creation and destruction of the mandala is a reminder of the profound Buddhist concept of impermanence. To the Tashi Lhunpo monks the mandala is particularly poignant considering the recent tragic history of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery and its abducted young spiritual head, the Panchen Lama.

The sacred art form of the sand mandala is made from millions of grains of brightly colored sand which are placed with great skill and patience using a metal funnel called a *chak phur* to form intricate and beautiful geometric designs. Tibetans believe that all who participate and who watch accumulate merit.

Festival attendees will be able to observe the monks as they painstakingly create the mandala, learn about its meaning and participate in the stirring dissolution ceremony where the design is destroyed and ritually returned to nature.

Sand Mandala Workshops:

Participants in these workshops will learn about the meaning and history of the sand mandala. The Tashi Lhunpo monks will teach them traditional techniques using the *chak phur* to create designs with the colored sand, allowing them to truly experience the beauty and difficulty of the art form.

Guided Meditation:

Several mornings during the festival, monks will guide workshop participants through traditional Tibetan Buddhist meditation techniques including breathing, body placement and thought awareness. Stress and anxiety are reduced leaving participants refreshed and re-energized in a beautiful way to start the day.



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Audience Experience - Workshops: continued

Tibetan Singing Workshops:

Tenzin leads an innovative workshop in the Tibetan style of vocal projection sharing his knowledge of the technique and the stories told through songs of Tibet's nomadic people. Participants learn simple Tibetan folk songs and investigate the ancient Tibetan art of "Lama Mani" dating from the 12th century.

The Lama Mani tradition is the telling of Buddhist parables through song. The songs were performed by wandering storytellers who traveled from village to village, drawing on their own often humble origins to relate to people from all backgrounds.

The Tibetan Art of Divination:

Offered by appointment only, these personal readings for clearing obstacles are performed by the senior Tashi Lhunpo Lama. According to Buddhist belief systems, when a divination is performed the practitioner enters into a visualization practice and invokes the energies and the blessings of the deity associated with the particular divination chosen to address their particular area of concern. Guided by the lama, the practitioner communicates with the wisdom aspect of the deity's mind, which is none other than ones own deep mind. This guided communication can occur through many different mediums.

Importance of Message:

The Compassionate Mandala tour is focused on the need for all of us to recognize the importance of compassion for our fellow humans, all other life forms, the earth and ourselves. During this time of extreme global unrest, compassion is an important avenue for peace.

"...It is our collective responsibility to protect and nurture the global family, to support its weaker members, and to preserve and tend to the environment in which we all live."

- H.H. the XIV Dalai Lama



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Support of Tibetan Exiles:

The Compassionate Mandala tour will raise money for Tibetan monks in exile and especially for the Tashi Lhunpo monks. Tenzin Choegyal identifies Tibetan Buddhist monasteries that are in need of support and brings them on tour to create the mandalas and share their philosophy and culture.

Another beneficiary of the tour is the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala India, the school for Tibetan refugee children that Tenzin Choegyal attended. Bringing the Compassionate Mandala tour to your festival is a rare opportunity to meet and support a musician whose immense musical talent is matched only by his humanitarian efforts.

History of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery:

Tashi Lhunpo Monastery is seat of the Panchen Lama, the second most important spiritual leader of Tibet and was founded by His Holiness the First Dalai Lama in 1447. The Communist Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1959 and the subsequent Cultural Revolution wreaked havoc on the monastery which lost many precious scriptures, statues and images. Many monks were killed or imprisoned and those who remained could not practice their religion freely. In 1972, under the patronage of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tashi Lhunpo Monastery was re-established in the Southern Indian state of Karnataka and over 250 monks now live and study there in exile.

Support Note from HH the Dalai Lama's Office in Canberra

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am extremely happy to learn that The Compassionate Mandala Tour 2007 is being undertaken by Tibetan Singer Mr. Tenzin Choegyal based in Brisbane and Monks from the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery of the Panchen Lama based in South India to honor the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visit to Australia in 2007.

Any assistance to make their tour a success will be highly appreciated by the Tibet Information Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Australia.

*Tenzin Phuntsok Atisha
Representative of HH the Dalai Lama*



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Recent Tour Highlights:

Songs of the mandala Dec 05 – March 06

With the Dalai Lama's monks of Tibet

26th Dec 05 - 2nd Jan 06 Woodford FolkFestival (Brisbane)

3rd -10th Jan in Ipswich

13th-15th Jan: Dayleford Singers Fest (Melbourne)

17th - 22nd Jan: Blue Mountains

13th - 18th Feb: Judith Wright Centre (Brisbane)

20th - 26th Feb: Wollongong

3rd - 5th March: Shepperton Arts Festival near Melbourne

9th - 12th March: Womadelaide

13th- 19th March: Victoria

Mystic Arts of Tibet

With Tashi Lhunpo Monks of Tibet in Exile, Karma Phuntsok

5th - 16th Sept: Melbourne Namatjira Park, clayton sth

18th - 24th Sept: Brisbane Powerhouse

25th - 30th Sept: Byron bay @ A & I Hall Bangalow

2nd - 8th Oct: Blue Mt. @ Katoomba Civic Centre

5th Oct: Sydney Opera House @ The Studio

12th - 13th Oct: Sunshine Coast

15th - 26th Oct: Brisbane qld Multicultural Festival

Contact Information:

Tenzin Choegyal

Website: www.tenzinchoegyal.com

Email: Choegyal@yahoo.com

Mobile Phone: 401.091.619