

# Living Traditions News

## Edition 1 • September 2006

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### Welcome

Welcome to the September '06 edition of Living Traditions News, the monthly email newsletter of Living Traditions Inc. Each month the newsletter provides information about future Living Traditions events, other events involving Living Traditions members, a featured performing artist, and other Living Traditions news. We welcome your feedback on any aspect of this newsletter.

### September Events Guide

This guide lists performances by Living Traditions members during the coming month.

**FRI 1 SEPT:** Glen Kniebeiss (tabla) & Chris Sprague (surbahar, mandocello) launch their new CD 'Raga Malkauns' at Eltham World Harmonies. St Margarets Hall, Pitt St, Eltham. 8pm. \$12/\$9. [www.melbournmusic.info](http://www.melbournmusic.info)

**FRI 1 SEPT:** Folk Victoria presents Umanee live at the Emerald Lounge, Clifton Hill Hotel, 89 Queens Pde Clifton Hill. 8pm. \$12/\$8. Also performing: Leticia Maher. Enquiries: Jeanette: 0414 732 667

**SAT 2 SEPT:** 'Earth, Air, Fire, Water' Dance workshop with Marina Bistrin. Gentle movement and dance exploration with music from the Silk-Road, the Middle-East, the Gypsies and elsewhere. Northcote Uniting Church, 251 High St, Northcote. 1-3 pm. \$10. Enquiries: Marina Bistrin 0438 580 889. [www.dance-explorer.com](http://www.dance-explorer.com)

**SAT 2 SEPT:** Glen Kniebeiss & Chris Sprague perform works from their new album 'Raga Malkauns'. Prana House, upstairs, 885 High St, Thornbury. 8pm. \$15/\$10. [www.melbournmusic.info](http://www.melbournmusic.info)

**WED 6 SEPT:** Marina Bistrin will perform at the opening of Living Energy's Pilates Studio, Level 1, suite 7, 83-87 Main St, Greensborough. 7pm. Refreshments available. [www.living-energy.com.au](http://www.living-energy.com.au)

**THU 7 SEPT:** "The Good, the Bad and the Balkan." Balkans party night with DJ Delay, Systa BB and BabaGanoush (from 10pm). Horse Bazaar, 397 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne. 9pm-1am. \$5/\$3.

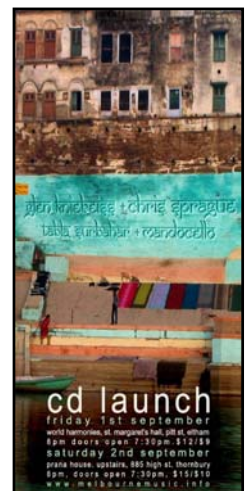
**SAT 9 SEPT:** BabaGanoush perform Gypsy, Klezmer and Balkans music, with dance by Marina Bistrin. Globe to Globe World Music Festival, Namatjira Park, Springs Rd, Clayton South (Melways 79 A4). 1pm. \$2. [www.kingston.vic.gov.au](http://www.kingston.vic.gov.au)

**FRI 15 SEPT:** BabaGanoush perform at Terra Firma Bar, 222 High St, Northcote. 8.30pm. \$5. Enquiries: 9481 1222.

**SAT 16 SEPT:** Sanctuary Ensemble present sufi music, song and dance at the Northcote Uniting Church (the Chalice), 251 High St, Northcote. 5.30pm. \$12/10. [www.chalice.org.au/special.htm](http://www.chalice.org.au/special.htm). A Darebin Music Feast event.

**SAT 23 SEPT:** BabaGanoush acoustic, up close and intimate in the cosy surrounds of Bebida Café/Bar, 325 Smith St, Fitzroy. 8pm. Free entry. Enquiries: 9419 5260.

**SUN 24 SEPT:** High Vibes – Northcote Street Party. BabaGanoush perform at Terra Firma Bar, 222 High St, Northcote. Sometime around 4pm. Free entry.



## Featured Artist – Umanee

**Umanee** is one of the most interesting bands to emerge within the Melbourne world music scene within the past few years. Umanee was formed in 2004 by Peter Novotnik – a composer and multi-instrumentalist from Poland. Originally a guitarist, Peter's eclectic musical tastes and wealth of talent have led him to take up a diverse array of instruments including hurdy-gurdy, baglama, Uyghur khushtar, oud and Karadeniz kemence (traditional Black Sea violin). Following his arrival in Australia, Peter soon began to gather around him a group of talented musicians from diverse musical backgrounds. Together, they began shaping a unique and original sound project inspired by Scandinavian, French, Middle Eastern and Balkan traditions, and this project grew into Umanee.



The music of Umanee is inspired by a wide range of the world's cultural heritage. Together with original material, Umanee has made the effort to reintroduce forgotten musical traditions and instruments, and to blend them with classical ones to give their music a new, contemporary sound. Many songs are associated with a specific culture or region, but they are not simply traditional folk music. While each of the instruments has its own rich history, the way that they are used is enriched by the musicians' experience, taste and imagination. These factors, together with a knowledge of classical and contemporary forms, help to create the shape of Umanee's sound - an "earthy" fusion, ranging from energetic dance forms to mystical "landscapes".

Along with Peter, the band members include Bill Thompson (percussion), Dushan Mitrovic (clarinet), Michael O'Connor (flute) and Keryn Lientshnig (cello, viola). Umanee has performed at many live music venues around Melbourne, and at festivals including Maldon Folk Festival and Fusion Arts Festival. Their music is often intriguing and always beautiful.

Umanee's debut album **Fravashi** was released earlier in 2006 and is available online at [www.umanee.com](http://www.umanee.com). For other enquiries, please contact Peter on 0402 681 369 or email: [peter@umanee.com](mailto:peter@umanee.com).

## Other News

**Living Traditions Showcase Concerts:** The two showcase concerts during the Winter in Banyule Festival were a great success, with excellent performances from Triskel and Underbelly on Saturday 12 August, and from Glen Kniebeiss and Chris Sprague, BabaGanoush and Marina Bistrin on Saturday 19 August. A total audience of around 200 people was recorded across the two concerts. Thanks to all audience members who provided feedback. Difficulties with visibility of performers were identified at the first concert and led to a different staging layout for the second concert.

**Performer and Teachers Networking Directory:** We are continuing to develop the concept and format for the Directory, which we hope to launch in the first half of 2007. A registration form will be available soon for performers and/or teachers of culturally diverse music and dance. Please see [www.livingtraditions.org.au](http://www.livingtraditions.org.au) for updates.

## About Living Traditions

Living Traditions is a not-for-profit community organisation based in Melbourne, Australia. Our purpose is to foster and promote high quality, culturally diverse music and dance. Living Traditions creates opportunities for cultural expression through performance events, workshops, festivals, tours, recordings, publications and other activities. We build new connections between artists and audiences, and support innovative projects that bring culturally diverse art forms to a wider audience. We also support artists and practitioners of traditional, world and folk music and dance. Living Traditions celebrates diversity and promotes mutual respect and cultural openness.

If you support the aims of Living Traditions, we invite you to become a member. Memberships are \$22 (individual) or \$44 (organisation) per year. Details at [www.livingtraditions.org.au](http://www.livingtraditions.org.au). We also welcome your ideas and involvement.

## About this Newsletter

Living Traditions News is the monthly email newsletter of Living Traditions. Its primary purpose is to publicise the events and projects of Living Traditions and its members. Event listings are free for Living Traditions members and \$5 per event for non-members. Living Traditions News is distributed on the last day of each month, for the following month. Deadline for listings and other items for inclusion is five days prior to the end of the month. **Next deadline: Tues 26 September.** Items for submission should be emailed to [newsletter@livingtraditions.org.au](mailto:newsletter@livingtraditions.org.au). The editors reserve the right to edit, include or omit items at their discretion. The newsletter currently reaches around 1,000 people.

Living Traditions News is forwarded through a decentralised email list by various Living Traditions members. If you wish to unsubscribe, please email the person who sent you this newsletter and ask to be removed from their Living Traditions list. If you wish to subscribe to our core list, please email [subscribe@livingtraditions.org.au](mailto:subscribe@livingtraditions.org.au).