



Santa Clara University

CULTURE PERFORMANCE

International Education Week 2023

November 14, 2023

Music Recital Hall

Welcome to SCU Global Engagement's very first Culture Performance event during International Education Week.

We are gathered here tonight to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our diverse and vibrant community at Santa Clara University. This event is a testament to the power of art and culture to transcend boundaries, to bridge differences, and to bring us together as one global family. Tonight, you will witness the talent and creativity of our student and staff performers who have dedicated their time and passion to make this event a memorable one.

But it's not just about what happens on this stage; it's also about you, our wonderful audience. Your presence here is a testament to your appreciation for the arts, your openness to new experiences, and your commitment to fostering a spirit of unity in our community.

Let us remember that in a world often divided by differences, events like these provide a much-needed opportunity to celebrate what unites us: our shared humanity, our shared love for music, dance, and art. May the performances tonight inspire you, move you, and remind you of the beauty of cultural diversity. Together, we will create lasting memories and build bridges that will help us reach across boundaries and bring our world closer together.

We appreciate your understanding. Again, thank you for being here to witness and support this beautiful evening of culture.

Enjoy the Show!

PROGRAM

Opening	_____	Raisa Velazquez Bonet
Piano	_____	Christian Bernhart
Vocal	_____	Nandini Kodipunzula
Piano	_____	Nikita Daniel Smelkov <i>with Nargiz Kudaibergenova</i>
Vocal	_____	Archana Vellanki
Ehru	_____	Paul Li
Guitar	_____	Abhilash Atwe
Vocal	_____	Raisa Velazquez Bonet
Dance	_____	The Desi Girls
Closing	_____	Raisa Velazquez Bonet

There will be no intermission during tonight's event.

The entire program is scheduled to last for 90 minutes, and it's important that we respect our performers. Please silence your phones now if you haven't already, and if you need to leave at any point during the show, wait until a performance has concluded to depart.

PERFORMERS



CHRISTIAN
BERNHART

School of Law, PhD
Exchange Student

For our first act, we will embark on a musical journey that will take us to the enchanting heart of classical music – Vienna, Austria. This beautiful country and its capital, Vienna, are known for being the homes of musical giants like Mozart, Beethoven, and countless other maestros from the classical and romantic eras. We offer you a glimpse into the world of classical music with three piano compositions that have left a mark on both the world of music and culture.

Performing:

“Musette in D major” Johann Sebastian Bach

“Écossaise in G major” Ludwig van Beethoven

“Prelude in C major” Johann Sebastian Bach

PERFORMERS



NANDINI
KODIPUNZULA

Computer Science
and Engineering

Lord Ganesha is a figure revered for his role as the remover of obstacles and the guardian of esoteric knowledge. He holds a special place as the presiding deity of astrology, guiding practitioners of Vedic science in understanding the intricate interplay of planets, karma, and the destiny of every soul. In Hindu tradition, Ganesha is sought after by individuals embarking on significant life endeavors, whether it be in business, marriage, or the journey of parenthood. However, his significance also transcends worldly matters, as he is cherished by those who aspire to transcend the material and embark on a profound spiritual journey.

Performing:

“Ekadantaya Vakratundaya”

PERFORMERS



NIKITA DANIEL
SMELKOV
*FT. NARGIZ
KUDAIBERGENOVA*

Computer Science
and Music

As we gather to celebrate the beauty of culture and the arts, we must also recognize the world outside these walls and the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine. Nikita is an international student from Russia who will be sharing a personal musical journey with us. Through his introspective piano compositions, we are invited to reflect on the profound impact of these conflicts. Each note played represents a moment of reflection, a plea for understanding, and a hope for unity. For the last section of the performance, Nikita will be joined by Nargiz Kudaibergenova, an international student from Kazakhstan. This song is devoted to a friend who graduated.

Performing:

“Overflow” Nikita Daniel Smelkov

“Makar’s Waltz” Nikita Daniel Smelkov and Nargiz Kudaibergenova

PERFORMERS



ARCHANA
VELLANKI

Computer Science

Archana will be performing a medley of some of the most enchanting Indian songs. These songs are a journey through the various shades of love and emotions.

Performing:

"Piyu Bole" Sonu Nigam, Shreya Ghoshal

"Konte Chuputho" Belly Raj, Deepa

"Puvvullo Daagunna" P. Unnikrishnan, Sujatha

"Kammani Ee Premalekhane" S. P. Balasubrahmanyam, S. P. Sailaja

PERFORMERS



PAUL LI

Electrical and
Computer Engineering

The traditional Chinese musical instrument known as the Erhu is often referred to as the "Chinese violin." Paul's performance is a composition that carries distinctive Mongolian characteristics with fast-paced rhythm and exciting, high-spirited melodies. It is a vivid portrayal of the joyful scenes of grassland riders galloping on horses across the vast green expanse. With his mastery of the Erhu, Paul skillfully simulates the neighing of horses, the sound of horse hooves, and the calls of the horns, creating a sensory experience that immerses you in the very essence of this vibrant and picturesque landscape.

Performing:

"Gallopig Horses"

PERFORMERS



ABHILASH
ATWE

Computer Science
and Engineering

Abhilash Atwe is a self-taught guitarist hailing from the heart of India. His musical journey is a beautiful tale of joy. Raised with family and friends listening to wide musical influences, including Marathi, Hindi, and Rock and Roll, he has crafted his unique sound by relying on his keen ear. Additionally, he also served as the lead guitarist in his undergrad band 'Viculp Project', performing live shows in India and also live music in the esteemed theater play competition 'Firodiya Karandak.'

Performing:

“American Pie” Don McLean

PERFORMERS



RAISA
VELAZQUEZ
BONET

Assistant Director of
International
Students & Scholars

Raisa was born and raised in Puerto Rico. At a young age, she decided to migrate (like many others) to the United States to pursue amazing dreams. "La Borinqueña" is a cherished emblem of her identity and a profound connection to her Puerto Rican culture, history, and the spirit of resilience that defines her island and its people. This anthem is a symbol of unity and pride for all Puerto Ricans everywhere, including those who have moved away. This anthem serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving our traditions and maintaining our connection to our homeland.

Performing:

"La Borinqueña"

PERFORMERS



THE DESI GIRLS

Performance
Finale

Indian Fusion Group Dance is a dynamic and contemporary performance that seamlessly blends diverse dance styles.

Performers:

Manasa Madiraju, COEN
Pujitha Kallu, COEN
Vibha Nayak, COEN
Simran Dhawan, COEN

Pooja Raju, COEN
Archana Vellanki, COEN
Harini Arul, Financial Analytics

Thank You for Coming!

SPONSOR



Global Engagement

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

**International
Education
Week**

Engaged • Resilient • Global

Learn more about International Education Week and
how you can be involved at www.scu.edu/iew