

Journey of the Roma



It is my pleasure to support the North American tour of the **Gypsy Spirit**, **Journey of the Roma** production performed by the Budapest Ensemble, Kálmán Balogh Gypsy Cimbalom Band and Guests. This important tour will feature many of the unique manifestations of Roma culture and will showcase the remarkable artistic talent and creativity of our people. In addition, it is our hope that this dynamic and colorful presentation will enlighten the world about the history of the Roma and will enhance awareness of the valuable impact they have made on society.

The Hungarian Government pays special attention to the community of Foma artists, this was evident during fiscal year 2003 when specifically Foma cultural projects received official support from the Government for the first time. This commitment, to support Foma artists, will continue to be a high priority in the future in order to assure they continue in their creative work and their art develops fully.

It is my conviction that the tour of Gypsy Splitt, Journey of the Roma will greatly assist in achieving some of these goals.

László Teleki

State Secretary of Forma Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office of the Pepublic of Hungary



The goal of the Hungarian Cultural Center, NY is to promote Hungarian culture and increase awareness of the vast and wonderful cultural resources of Hungary in North America. The tour of Gypsy Spirit, Journey of the Forna will greatly assist us in attaining this goal. The Forna minorities in the Hungarian speaking areas have greatly contributed to the exciting music, dance and visual art of the Hungarians. In music, especially, this is so significant, that Hungarian music is often identified in North America as "Gypsy" music. This is understandable since in Europe, centuries ago, even great classical composers, such as Liszt and Brahms were not able to make a clear distinction. Today we know that, although the Forna in Europe have their own indigenous culture, they play a significant role in contributing to the music and dance culture of each country in which they have settled.

We are proud of sponsoring this tour, because we believe that it will assist in achieving a better understanding of the ingenious spirituality and exciting instinctive knowledge of the Roma people. If we better understand the contribution of the Roma, we beg in to appreciate and admire the exciting "Gypsy Spirit" and understand the adventurous "Journey of the Roma". The European Gypsies should be admired and appreciated for their tremendous accomplishments.

András Márton, DLA Director, Hungarian Cultural Center, NY

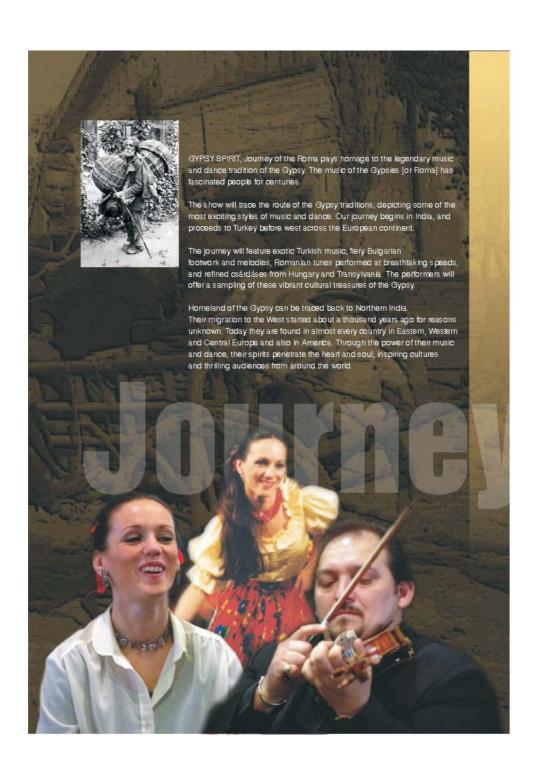


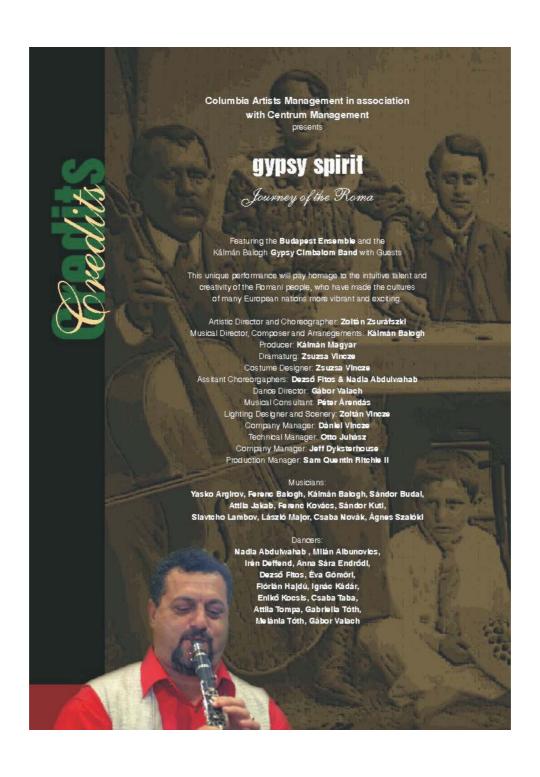


The producers and directors of the "Gypsy Spirit, Journey of the Foma" production gratefully acknowledge the assistance and support of the Hungarian Governmental Office of Equal Opportunity Directorate of Formany Integration.

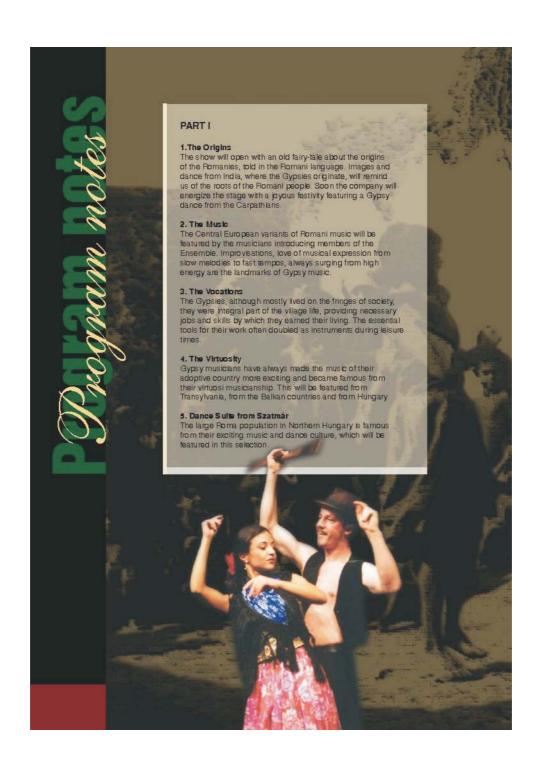
István Forgács, Head of Section

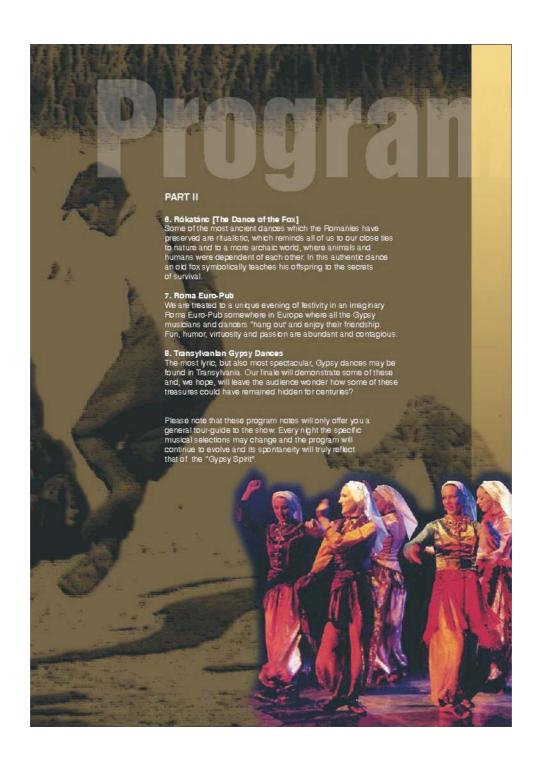






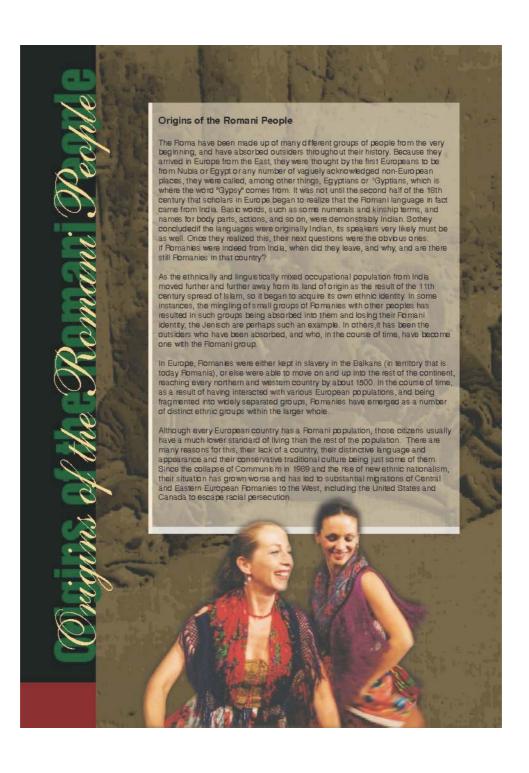














Landaade

The Romani Language

About half of the world's ca. twelve million Fomanies speak the ethnic language, Fomani, some European countries have enacted legislation against its use which has caused it to disappear, though efforts to introduce it are having some success. Because it is the language of a Diaspora people, it has diverged into great many different dialects, and only now is a written standard form being constructed, nevertheless, it has supported written literatures in some of those dialects for over a hundred years.

Formani began in India a thousand years ago, when speakers of different Indian languages were recruited into the military forces that were being assembled to resist the eastward spread of Islam. In the same way that gave rise to Urdu, those soldiers and their camp followers developed a lingua franca, or common means of communication based on their various Indian languages, and influenced as well by Perslan, which for centrules was the administrative language of the Indian military. Thus Formani began not as the speech of a single ethnic population, but as an occupational dialect based on several related but distinct languages.

There were a series of encounters with the Ghaznavid Muslims between AD 1000-1027, almost all of which were Islamic victories. The Indian troops were taken as prisoners of war, but subsequently joined the Seljuk armies who defeated the Ghaznavids in 1038 and who employed them in their later conquest of Armenia and their establishment of the Sultanate of Rium in Anatola (now modern-day Turkey). Here, the Indian soldiers and their camp followers, through in-group marriage, began to emerge as a people with a distinct ethnic identity and, under the influence of Byzantine Greek, Pomani too began to take shape as a native language. With the westward spread of Islam under the Ottoman Turks, the Pomanies moved across into the Balkans around 1300 AD, and by 1500 had reached almost every country in Europe.

It is possible to reconstruct the linguistic history of Formani by examining its vocabulary, which has been acquired layer upon layer as the population has moved from place to place. Thus its heart is Indian, and while there are fewer than 800 Indian words altogether, they account for about 70 percent of those occurring in everyday speech. Then there are layers of Persian and Armenian words, but the next biggest contribution is from Byzantine Greeknearly as large as the Indian component. The vocabulary up to this point is more or less shared by all Formani dialects, but after the move up into Europe and the subsequent fanning out into different countries, the words acquired begin to be different from group to group. Thus those Formanies who were kept in Wallachia as slaves until the 19th century speak a dialect (called Vlax) full of Formanian words, those who moved on up into Germany speak a dialect (called Sinti) heavily influenced by German.

Here are some common words and phrases in Romani:

The

Big baro
Small tsikno
Good lacho
Beautiful shukar
Ped lolo
Black kalo
Happy losheno
Hungry bokhalo
Today adjes
Tomorrow tehara
The mano emanushesa

The woman
From the woman
I'm sitting
You're running
He's walking
We're drinking water
They are the meat
How are you?
I'm fine!
Thank you
Where are you going?
I'm going home
Come with me!

e djuvil la djuvilatar beshav prastes prastes pani plyas o mas xale sar san? mishto sim parikerav tut kal djas? ktaves mansal

More phrases, and a grammatical sketch of Romani, can be found in We Are the Romani People (http://www.herts.ac.uk/UH Press/romanipeople.html).

lan Hancock



The basis for and core of the ensemble's artistic work and stage adaptations has always been the original peasants' musical and dance culture. Since its founding the primary objective of the ensemble has been to maintain, revive and adapt to stage the national folklore traditions. The choreographers and composers of the ensemble have always represented a unique style in the past decades and their creations have enriched Hungarian stage dance art in a lasting way

> Leader of the Musical Ensemble and Primás: Gázsa István Papp Dance directors: Zsuzsa VIncze, Gábor Katona

Musical director: Péter Árendás Artistic director: Zoltán Zsuráfszki







Csárdási The Tango of the East

The performance is about an ageless story. It could even be about today's people as it is based on the conflicts of the eternal triangle. The theme is built, of course, around authentic Hungarian, Transylvanian and minority (Gypsy, Polish, Slovakian, etc.) dances and the show becomes complete by the end of the second part its sub-title could be: "Csárdás Love under the Carpathians."

While enjoying the interesting, exciting and enchanting storyline we can also take pleasure in the wonderful and virtuoso interpretation of the multicolored Hungarian, Transylvanian and Upper-Hungarian dances.

This production is a spectacular show of the nsemble and had a great success in the United States

www.csardas.org

Sleeping Beauty

The tale of the Sleeping Beauty is well-known all around the world and every child loves it. When transforming this popular fairy tale into a dance theatre production Budapest Dance Ensemble choose an unusual way: it has borrowed the contents but in addition to the Hungarian folk dances it took all lyrics and all tunes from traditional Hungarian folklore. In creating the CD-version of the ballet we took great care to keep the original structure of Hungarian folk tales and also to use the original folk-tale idioms (e.g. 'You were lucky to call me a gammer.") in composing the text. By using this 'noble cheat' we wish to bring closer to the hearts of the children our al most forgotten traditions, rich folklore and wonderful musical and dance culture.

Director and choreographer:

Zoltán Zsuráfszki

Drakula

Building upon the folk music and folk dance movement of the 1970's the dancers and musicians of Budapest Dance Ensemble using the results of the most recent folklore collections admittedly have the most thorough and in-depth k nowledge of the original Transylvanian folk dances and folk music no matter if it is Hungarian, Romanian, Gypsy

The tale of Count Drakula is transformed into a spellbinding musical and dance exper even for the modern man by the wonderful, varied music of Transylvania and the unparalleled, unique virtuosity and dignity of the various Transylvanian nationalities

North American representation:

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Hungarian Reformed Federation of America, Washington D.C.

is one of the most important American Hungarian Fraternal Insurance Societies in North America. It was founded in 1696 and has served and supported the American Hungarian communities continuously for 108 years.

Membership is open to all through its life insurance and annuity programs. The Federation also operates Bethlen Home, a nursing home and retirement village in Ligonier, Pennsylvania on 180 acres.

Rev. István Török, President Kossuth House, 2001 Massachusetts Ave. N.W. Washington D.C. 20036 Tel: 202-328-2630, Email: hrfa@hrfa.org, Web: www.hrfa.org



William Penn Association, Pittsburgh, PA

is the oldest fraternal benefit society established in 1896 in Pennsylvania by thirteen coal miners. After numerous mergers the Association currently manages the most significant asset holdings of non-profit capital. William Penn offers fraternal life insurance, including annuity, retirement and other benefits. It is declicated to support Hungarian culture in North America and perpetuate the heritage of their funding fathers.

> George S. Charles Jr. National President 709 Brighton Fload, Pitts burgh, PA, 15233, Tel: 412-231-2979, Fax: 412-231-8555 Web: www.wiliampennassociation.org



American Hungarian Folklore Centrum

AHFC is an organization affiliated with the American Hungarian Educator's Association. It is dedicated to promoting Hungarian Cultural in the scholarly and public life in America. AHFC organizes and supports performing tours, workshops, exhibitions, folk dance camps, and maintains a useful homepage AHFC is also associated with the American Hungarian Museum, Passaic, New Jersey

> Po Box 262, Bogotá, New Jersey, 07603 Tel: 201-836-4869, Fax 201-836-1590 Web: www.magyar.org



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Additional information about the Roma and Roma organizations in the USA



We Are the Romani People will be invaluable to anybody who wants to know more about these fascinating people who left India a thousand years ago. It presents the most current findings about Romani origins, an overview of politics, culture, language and cuisine, a surprising list of notable people of Pomani descent, a description of the centuries-long period of slavery in the Balkans and a brief description of the Romani Holocaust. Especially useful is the chapter on how to interact with Romanies, and the list of recommended readings.

The author, Ian Hancock, teaches Flomani Studies at the University of Texas, Austin. He was born in Britain but descends from his father's side from Hungarian Flomungre Flomani and on his mother's side from English Flomanichal Gypsies. In 1998 President Clinton appointed him to represent Flomanies on the U.S. Holiocaust Memorial Council. He is the author of over 300 articles and books, mostly on the Floma.

We are the Romani People; Ian Hancock (University of Hertfordshire Press, November 2002). ISBN 1902806-19-0. Paperback, 208 pages, \$19.95

We are the Romani People can be bought throughout the "Gypsy Spirit" tour and can be ordered afterwards from all good bookshops.

In case of difficulty contact the US importers, Paul and Company, on Freephone 1-800-888-4741 or e-mail frontdesk@ipgbook.com



ROMANI ROUTES, Voice of Roma specialized in touring exceptional Romani artists in the USA.

Renown Romani artists Esma Redzepova, Yuri Yumakov and otehrs are planned for 2004 season.

The programs present the virtuosity of Rom musicians and the richness and depth of Romani music.

For more information contact: Sani Rifati - Voice of Roma, PO Box 514, Sebastopol. CA, 95473 Tel: 707-823-7941, Fax: 707-829-1893, Web: www.scn.org/roma

Balogh Enterprises supports and promotes Poma cultural programs in the Greater New York area.

Sandor Balogh

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