

# Music of Joy



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The concert commenced with devotional songs by the *Music of Joy* Group. Their melodious rendering of this special music in the form of bhajans with accompaniment on the harmonium and drums reverberated throughout the hall drawing a spontaneous response of joy from the audience. The peace and joy that came from the music of the group was felt by every member of the audience.

**Sydney Indian Post**

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## Introducing *Music of Joy*

Music of Joy is a unique Australian World Music Group, who believe the purpose of music is to create and share universal joy. Exceptional joy – jubilant, relaxing, profound. Joy that reverberates with audiences, offering elation, bliss, and inner peace.

Much of the group's repertoire stem from Indian traditional light classical music also known as bhajans – devotional songs of the spirit, in praise and adoration. To these uplifting songs, Music of Joy has also added heart-opening Indian traditional village songs, Qawwalis from Pakistani, and other folk & traditional music from Switzerland, Italy, Spain, England, Israel, Russia, Africa and of course Australia. Members of the group have also been inspired to introduce a number of home grown compositions into their vastly multi-cultural repertoire of joy-giving music.

## A unique experience in music

What can be experienced through listening to this unique music is a beautiful state of thoughtless awareness, a relaxed meditative state which can be understood and developed through the Sahaja Yoga Meditation - This is a discipline practised daily by these musicians. It's a peaceful and joy giving experience which the musicians love to share with their audiences.

## The Musicians

The group consists of around 20 male and female singers and instrumentalists who have come together in the unique multi-cultural Australian environment of Sydney - This adds a certain richness and diversity to the group. Core members of the group have been performing together for more than 20 years. Under the direction of John Smiley, an experienced choral

teacher and musical instructor, the group's repertoire is supported by a fabulous mix of Eastern and Western instruments, such as Indian harmonium, guitar, bass, flute, saxophone, clarinet, tabla, dholak, djembe, chimta, tambourine and digeridoo. As understood in many musical philosophies, the rhythm section of the group is the heartbeat of the music, without which there is no foundation for joy.

## Performances

The group has toured extensively both locally and overseas. They perform regularly at festivals and special events in Sydney, around Australia and all over the world:

The Mind/Body/Spirit Festival at Darling Harbour Sydney, the Woodford Folk Festival in Woodford Queensland, the internationally linked Earthdance Festival Sydney, the popular annual Winter Magic Festival in the Blue Mountains World Heritage park, and at Canberra's spring Floriade Festival.

*Music of Joy* has been invited to contribute at cultural festivals such as the Ganesha Visarjan Festival at the Sri Venkateswara Temple, Helensburgh, and the Mukti-Gupteshwar Temple, Minto.

The group was featured in the New South Wales Art Gallery exhibition of Indian miniature paintings entitled *Dancing to the Flute* in 1997.

*Music of Joy* has performed their unique music overseas at concerts in Ganapatipule and Pune, Maharashtra India, in Milan Italy, and at a Sahaja yoga seminar focusing on music and meditation in New Jersey NY, where they received the enthusiastic acclaim of visitors from all around the world.