

# UC Peace Arts Festival:

United Cultures in Support of the United Nations



## *Congratulations & Celebrations 2008 Friendship Awardees*

*Recognizing and thanking members of the extended United Nations family who have done so much to promote cultural understanding throughout the world and at the UN Headquarters, where they have been a positive, guiding force to us all.*

**2008.06.12** Thursday  
6:00 pm

**U.N. Headquarters, New York  
Conference Room I**



Presented by  
**Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, Inc.**  
*Celebrating 35 years of peace thru cultural exchange:*  
an operational partner of UNESCO & associate of UN DPI

Co-presented by  
**UN Women's Guild**  
**UN Staff & Recreation Council**  
**Society for Enlightenment & Transformation**  
**Cantus**  
**Management Arts & Events AS**

### *∞ Awardees:*

**Ms. Tsu-Wei Chang**  
Pres., UN Women's Guild

**Mr. Gordon Tapper**  
Pres., Give Them A Hand Foundation

**Mr. Jeffery Huffines**  
National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is  
of the United States of America

### *∞ Performing Ensembles:*

**Reykjavik Opera Choir** (Iceland)

**The Icelandic Female Choir of  
Domus Vox** (Iceland)

**Skagfirska Songvertin Reykjavik**  
(Iceland)

**Landsvirkjunarkoninn Choir** (Iceland)

**Haapaniemen Youth  
Wind Orchestra** (Finland)

**Youth Band for United Nations**



## Mayor of Kuopio (Finland)'s greetings for the Haapaniemen Youth Wind Orchestra



With this youthful music group, I want to send you the warmest greetings from the group's Finnish hometown of Kuopio.

Kuopio, with nearly 100,000 inhabitants, is a youthful university town that invests in internationalism. Our city is the commercial and administrative capital of Central and Lakeland Finland.

The clean water lakes are our city's most striking natural element. About 35 per cent of our city's area is covered by water, by lakes. The total length of shoreline in the City of Kuopio is about 2,500 kilometers – that is 25 meters for every single citizen. We have realized that this is our wealth and combined it with the eternal human desire to live near a lake, by the water.

Therefore, in the 2000s, our city's new house building has taken place on shoreline lots, near the water. On capes and islands close to the city center, both single-family houses and apartment buildings are going up. Bridges connect the residentially developed capes and islands to the city's commercial center. In the first decade of this millennium, this building has become such a characteristic feature of Kuopio that Finns have begun to call our whole city the Town of Islands.

That is by no means an insult, but a respectful definition of our city, a term of which we, too, are proud. Numerous groups of architectural experts from our country and other European countries have come to see how we have put the Town of Islands idea into effect.

I believe that in their program our city's young group of musicians will be performing music by the Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius. Sibelius's music was greatly inspired by the Finnish lake scenery, its various elements: whether a still, sunny lake or the waves on a lake caused by the wind.

I hope that you sense these elements when you listen to the band's beautiful Finnish music.

My warmest regards to you all from Finland and Kuopio.



Petteri Paronen  
Mayor of Kuopio

## { 2008 Friendship Awardees }

### **Ms. Tsu-Wei Zoe Chang** *Pres., UN Women's Guild*

An ordained Interfaith Minister, Ms. Tsu-Wei Zoe Chang, known as Reverend Z, has worked for peace and understanding among people in many capacities. She worked in the United Nations for more than thirty years in different positions including among others, Chief of the Coordination and Outreach, Division for the Advancement of Women, Secretary-General's Representative to the United Nations Joint Disciplinary Committee, and the United Nations Joint Appeals Board. She was elected as Acting President, Group on Equal Rights for Women in the UN, and for many years, a staff representative. She has dedicated her working life to the equal rights of women and the justice of the in the UN system. She has been effective, since she always try to reach solutions by finding common grounds and bringing people together.

In addition to her official duties, she has been active in many other ways working towards understanding and friendship among people. She is the Co-founder and President of the UN Staff Recreation Council's Feng Shui Group; she is also the Vice President of UNSRC's Society for Enlightenment and Transformation. She is the President of the United Nations Women's Guild since 2004. The UN Women's Guild who is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, is an organization of women associated with the United Nations working for the needy children around the world.

### **Mr. Gordon Tapper** *Pres., Give Them A Hand Foundation*

Gordon Tapper is a native of Jamaica in the West Indies. Mr. Tapper was with the United Nations for more than 30 years and served under four Secretaries-General. He worked with the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa that facilitated the first free and fair elections held in that country. Mr. Tapper is also the Founder and President of the Give Them a Hand Foundation, a humanitarian group that works in a number of developing countries supporting orphanages, children's hospitals and needy school children. In November of 2006, Mr. Tapper led a team of volunteers to the Gulf Coast where they participated in clean up activities, bringing relief to many homeowners. He also led a clothing drive that delivered over 400 boxes of clothing to the New Orleans area. He also initiated a fund raising event that raised money to help with the rebuilding of the Senior Citizens Center in Slidell, Louisiana that was severely damaged by Katrina.

### **Mr. Jeffery Huffines** *National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States of America*

Jeffery Huffines is the UN representative for the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States, a non-governmental organization that has been accredited to the Department of Public Information since 1947.

Based in New York since 1996, he has been a leading advocate for a number of coalitions related to the United Nations, including the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, DPI/NGO annual conference, Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN, Tripartite Forum on International Cooperation for Peace, and previously the NY Council of Organizations of UNA-USA. He has also taught as an adjunct professor at the Center for Global Affairs at New York University.

He represents the Baha'i International Community as Co-Chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court comprised of a diverse international group of organizations representing the world's religious and ethical traditions that examine the moral and ethical values surrounding the Court. Moreover, he represents the U.S. Baha'i community on the American NGO Coalition for the ICC.

Mr. Huffines previously worked at the Washington office of the U.S. Baha'i Community where he collaborated with NGOs and government officials on the ratification of UN human rights treaties. He also assisted in the defense of persecuted Baha'i communities in the Middle East with relevant congressional and executive branch officials.

## { Programme }

Welcome  
FAF Co-Founder Cappy Devlin  
FAF Executive Director Patrick Sciaratta

Award Presentation by  
H.E. Ambassador Marcello Spatafora (Italy)

*Performance:*  
**Youth Band for United Nations**  
Conductor: Mr. John Yoon

- "Italian in Algiers" by Gioacchino Rossini, Arr. Lucien Cailliet  
"Nessun Dorma" by Giacomo Puccini, Arr. Mark Williams  
"Symphonic Dance No. 3" by Clifton Williams  
"Funiculi, Funicula" by Luigi Denza, Arr. Alfred Reed

Award Presentation & Welcome by  
H.E. Ambassador Kirsti Lintonen (Finland)

*Performance:*  
**Haapaniemen Youth Wind Orchestra**  
Conductor: Mr. Harri Ulmanen

- "Marshalls Silver Horns" by Artur Rope  
"Castle Park" by Timo Forsström  
"Concert Polka" for flute and piccolo by Väinö Tuominen  
Soloists: Ms. Pauliina Karjunen and Ms. Hanna Pesonen  
"Finlandia" by Jean Sibelius

### { Intermission }

Welcome by  
H.E. Ambassador Hjálmar W. Hannesson (Iceland)

*Performance:*  
**SKA-LA** (*Skagfirská and Landsvirkjun choirs combined*)  
Conductor: Mr. Bjorgvin Valdimarsson

- "Eg vildi að ung eg væri rose" (*I wish I was a young rose*)  
Music: Sigfus Halldorsson; Lyrics: Thorsteinn Stephensen  
"Smavinir fagrir" (*Beautiful little flower friends*)  
Music: Jon Nordal; Lyrics: Jonas Hallgrímsson  
"Fyrir var oft í koti katt" (*Happy former times at the farm*)  
Music: Fridrik Bjarnason  
Lyrics: Thorsteinn Erlingsson  
"Island ogrum skorid" (*Iceland marked with fiords*)  
Music: Sigvaldi Kaldalons; Lyrics: Eggert Olafsson  
"Undir bláum olar sali" (*Under the blue sky*)  
Music: Emil Thoroddsen; Lyrics: Eggert Olafsson  
"Hun het Abba-labba-la" (*Her name was Abba-labba-la*)  
Music: Fridrik Bjarnason; Lyrics: David Stefansson  
"A Sprengisandi" (*Riding over Sprengisandur mountain desert*)  
Music: Sigvaldi Kaldalons; Lyrics: Grímur Thomsen

**Kvennakor Domus vox**  
(*The Icelandic Female Choir of Domus Vox*)  
Conductor: Ms. Margret Palmadóttir

- "Banuwa"  
Healing and comforting song from Africa.  
"God born og vond"  
Icelandic folksong  
Íslenskt thjóðlag / thjóðvísa / uts. / arr. Jon Asgeirsson  
"Domar heimsins"  
Valgeir Guðjónsson / Johannes ur Kotlum / uts. / arr. Hjálmar H. Ragnarsson  
"Blastjarnar"  
Icelandic folksong  
Íslenskt thjóðlag / thjóðvísa / uts. / arr. Emil Thoroddsen  
"Oskasteinar"  
Hungarian folksong  
Ungverskt thjóðlag, uts. / arr. Hildigunnur Halldorsdóttir  
"Vem kan segla"  
Folksong from The Aland Islands  
Thjóðlag frá Alandseyjum uts. / arr. Carl-Bertil Agnestic

Award Presentation by  
H.E. Ambassador Gábor Bródi (Hungary)

*Performance:*  
**Operukorinn í Reykjavík**  
(*Reykjavík Opera Choir & Carmina Group*)  
Conductor: Mr. Garðar Cortes

*Íslenskt þjóðlag. Icelandic folk songs, arr. by Jon Asgeirsson*

- "Ljosid kemur langt og mjott" (*The light appears from afar*)  
Folklore  
"Krummi svaf í klettagja" (*Raven sleeps among the rocks*)  
Jon Thoroddsen  
"Sofðu unga astin min" (*Sleep, my baby darling, sleep*)  
Johann Sigurjonsson  
"Vorid langt" (*Long awaited Springtime*)  
Arni Bodvarsson  
"Fifilbrekka" (*Springtime*)  
Jonas Hallgrímsson  
"Krummavisa" (*A poem about a Raven*)  
Folklore  
"Gloria Tibi" (*Thanks for all the gifts of God*)  
N.N.  
"Sumri hallar" (*Summer's leaving, autumn is here*)  
Orn Arnarson  
"Visur Vatnsenda-Rosu" (*Rosas' Love poem*)  
Vatnsenda-Rosa  
"A Sprengisandi" (*A flight over a dreary mountain pass*)  
Grímur Thomsen  
"Island" (*An ode to Iceland*)  
Jonas Hallgrímsson  
"Verold flaa" (*It's a wicked world*)  
Folklore  
"Ljosid kemur langt og mjott" (*The light appears from afar*)  
Folklore

Closing Remarks by  
FAF Co-Founder Cappy Devlin



## { About the Performers }

### Haapaniemi Youth Wind Orchestra

(Kuopio, Finland) Conductor: Harri Ulmanen

Haapaniemi Youth Wind Orchestra was founded in 1975 as a part of music education at Haapaniemi primary school. The orchestra was conducted by Pekka Ulmanen from 1976 until 2006. From August 2006 onwards the conductor has been Pekka's son Harri Ulmanen. The orchestra consists of 55 young musicians. The mean age of the players is 16 years. Haapaniemi Youth Wind Orchestra has succeeded in many competitions both nationally and internationally. In 2007 the orchestra was on third place at the Finnish national wind band competition (A-series) and in 2005 the young musicians won the second place. In 1991 the orchestra won the Nordic wind orchestra championship (the competition was held in Eskilstuna, Sweden). During the years 2005–2007 Haapaniemi Youth Wind Orchestra has been one of the Young Culture ambassadors of Finland, appointed by the Ministry of Education. The orchestra has made several concert tours abroad. In 2006 the orchestra took part at the Blow Festival in Wexford, Ireland. In 2005 the orchestra travelled to Austria and Czech Republic. The orchestra has also hosted bands from abroad. In 2000 Jugendmusikring from Castrop-Rauxel, Germany was visiting the orchestra and city of Kuopio.

### Youth Band for United Nations

Conductor: John Yoon

Youth Band for United Nations (YBUN), a project of the Symphony for United Nations founded by Maestro Joseph Eger, founder and music director, is a gathered sound of young and professional artists throughout the world in support and celebration of the United Nations and its goals. YBUN involvement includes cultural collaborations that promote peace, and personal asset building that creates a strong voice for positive cultural diplomacy. While on tour, YBUN takes part in celebrations that honor the United Nations and where U.N. initiatives are at work to aid and develop youth. Founded in 2005, YBUN imbues its youth and arts focus with a concern for issues central to the United Nations and global exchange. YBUN uses its local concerts and international tours to promote peace through cultural exchange, mutual understanding, global cooperation, and a greater role for youth in United Nations activities worldwide.

### The Female Choir of Domus Vox

Conductor: Margret J. Palmadottir

In the year 2000 Margret J. Palmadottir founded Domus Vox, an establishment that unites under one roof a singing-school and choir practices. The main choirs are the Girls' choir of Reykjavik, and the two women's choirs Vox feminae and Gospelsisters of Reykjavik. Margret is the founder and director of these choirs. Every year, the three choirs perform together beautiful Christmas concerts along with other projects such as concert tours abroad.

### SKA-LA Choir, Iceland

Conductor: Björgvin Valdimarsson  
(*Skagfirska and Landsvirkjun choirs combined.*)

The *Skagfirska Choir*, Reykjavik, Iceland, is a mixed choir with a membership of about 50. The choir was founded in 1970 and the name relates to a valley in Northern Iceland where many of the members have family roots. The choir performs regularly in Iceland and has also toured Canada, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Spain, Luxemburg, the Czech Republic and Ireland. The choir repertoire is varied, mostly Icelandic and international folk songs and shorter choir pieces. Over the almost 40 years of active practice the choir has recorded five vinyl records and three CDs. Conductor is Mr. Björgvin Valdimarsson.

The *Landsvirkjun Choir*, Reykjavik, Iceland, is a mixed choir with about 35 members. Landsvirkjun is the National Power Company of Iceland and most of the singers are employees and their family members. The choir has been active since 1991 with main public performances two times every year and shorter performances at various occasions and gatherings in Iceland. The choir has traveled abroad three times and performed in Denmark and Sweden. The repertoire has been mostly Icelandic and international folk songs but also songs from opera and choir pieces. The Choir has recorded three CDs. Conductor is Mr. Keith Reed.

### Óperukórinn í Reykjavík

Conductor: Garðar Cortes  
(The Icelandic Opera Choir)

The Opera Choir has made an important place for itself in Icelandic music life, and is much in demand for performances of various works, as the choir has been praised for its singing by critics and audiences alike in recent years. The choir was founded in 1973 by Garðar Cortes, who has been its conductor from its foundation. The choir has a twofold role: it has held concerts, made concert tours in Iceland and abroad, and performed many major musical works with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. It has also provided singers for all the productions of the Icelandic Opera from its foundation until 2004 (well over thirty productions), and participated in various productions at the National Theatre. Recordings of some of the choir's performances have been issued on CD: The Verdi *Requiem*, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Alþingishátíðarkantata (Cantata celebrating the millennium of the Icelandic parliament in 1930) by Páll Ísólfsson, the oratorio *Eliab* by Mendelssohn *Óperukórinn býður til teiðu* (Famous Opera choirs) and *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff. The Choir has taken part in concerts with two of the most famous tenors in the world; Plácido Domingo and José Carreras. In November 2004 the Choir gave a concert in Carnegie Hall in New York under the baton of its conductor Garðar Cortes.

## { Greetings }

**Cantus**, a travel company, is based in Iceland and specializes in performing arts tours. We at Cantus want to send our very best wishes to our clients performing at the U.N. Headquarters today and express our gratitude to them for trusting us to serve them once again in their travels abroad. At the same time we do thank FAF for an excellent cooperation in the project. Our favorite kind of tour is where a cultural exchange is achieved, where our guests get the chance to meet local talent and share common interests and experiences.