



Many Hands International
culture based community development

MEDIA RELEASE

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From the concert halls of London to the town squares of Timor-Leste

Concerto Amizare: Ainaro-Australia

4 pm, Saturday 2 February, 2013

Palco Haksolok, Ainaro, East Timor

Young Australian flautist Lina Andonovska has travelled the world, performing in world-class venues including the Barbican in London, the National Performing Arts Centre in Beijing and the Sydney Opera House. This week she changes key to work in Timor-Leste leading music programs with rural communities. Lina's daily journey to schools in remote Ainaro district is made on foot, off the beaten track, with obstacles such as knee-deep river rapids and buffaloes blockading the road to be manoeuvred before the cultural exchange can begin.

Lina's project will culminate in a 'Friendship Concert' next Saturday, February 2, at the *Palco Haksolok* (Happy Stage) in the town centre. With an open stage in front of a soccer field, sporadic electricity and the high chance of a wet-season downpour, the event will be a challenge, but enthusiasm is high. This talented Australian musician will collaborate with local performers in a community exchange of culture. Performers sharing the bill include established Timorese musician Marqy da Costa; local performing groups *Nafu Fila* and *Leu-Idi*, and local choirs. Students from the tiny mountain village of *Mau Nuno* will open the concert with the traditional welcoming ceremony, *Segala* and songs about Timor-Leste's grim past and hopeful future will be shared in celebration.

Lina believes that music can cross borders of language and life experience. Having recently returned from performing with high-profile orchestras in the UK such as the BBC Symphony, and holding the position of co-principal flute with the Southbank Sinfonia, she arrived in Ainaro last week to share her skills and learn about Timorese culture. She hopes that presenting music from her classical and contemporary repertoire will encourage her Timorese collaborators to value and maintain their own rich musical traditions.

Lina's visit is hosted by Many Hands International, an Australian based NGO who promote traditional and creative cultural activities in Timor-Leste, working with local people, community organisations and government. It is part of a larger project promoting traditional culture through a mentoring project in instrument-making, sponsored by US AID; Friends of Ainaro: Ballarat, Blue Mountains and Madison USA and their volunteer Kate Owen; Deakin University and Many Hands International.

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