



AWARD WINNING



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# This is Malaysian Hospitality.



 Message from Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Arts Sarawak Rainforest

Festiva

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# MESSAGE FROM

Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Arts Sarawak

This harmony in diversity has led to

the city of Kuching being recognised

as the World Craft City by the World

Gastronomy and our expanding efforts

in our Responsible Tourism journey in

making RWMF a sustainable and eco-

I wish to thank each and every one

who has been in any way involved in

making this festival a reality, especially

to those who kept RWMF alive and

To all festival visitors, do take time to

eniov Sarawak's myriad of attractions.

Have a great time at Rainforest World

vibrant for the last 26 years.

great food and friendly people.

Music Festival 2023!

Craft Council, UNESCO's City of

friendly festival.

#### Greetings and welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Rainforest World Music Festival!

I am proud to once again welcome our festivalgoers, both new and repeat. to another year of great world music. And what a momentous year this is as we celebrate the return of Rainforest World Music Festival's physical concert. With the theme "Reflections", it allows us to look back and reminisce on RWMF's humble beginnings in 1998, to the festival becoming Sarawak's iconic event. Let this also be a time for us to reflect on our connection with nature and embrace diverse musical styles, at the same time, gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the world around us.

This is also the perfect time to acknowledge RWMF's transformative power. It is said that music transcends boundaries. People of all ages, race and religion have converged at our living museum - Sarawak Cultural Village to share a common interest to enjoy the world's richest fusion of authentic culture and ethnic diversities.

Heden

Hon. Dato Sri Haji Abd Karim Rahman Hamzah Minister for Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Arts Sarawak Minister for Youth, Sports and Entrepreneur Development Sarawak



SARAWAK TOURISM BOARD



The festival is back at Sarawak Cultural Village for festivalgoers to enjoy the full festival experience and can feel the rhythm of the Rainforest.

For 26 years, the festival has brought forth world music artistes and their cultural music and dances. As citizens of the world, it has brought us closer together, and as people of many races, it has brought us nearer to our own vibrant culture and traditions as well as providing an understanding of the world's culture.

This year's Rainforest World Music Festival marks the return of its full physical concert since 2019. For three consecutive nights, a total of 199 performers from France, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, Jamaica and the USA, Iran, Maldives, India, Russia, Thailand, Japan, Singapore, and also Malaysia have the opportunity to showcase and blend a variety of world music sounds into one harmonious rhythm.

This year's rhythm is special as we invite festivalgoers to take part in our recordbreaking event under the Malaysia Book of Records (MBOR) for the 'Most Percussionists in a Music Festival' We aim to unite as many people as possible whose drumming traditions may differ from one another to connect with each other by playing the same rhythmic beats, sending a strong message of unity, togetherness and oneness.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts and all our sponsors for their continuous support, the festivalgoers as RWMF would not be the iconic event that it is today without all of you, and to the staff of the Sarawak Tourism Board and all the volunteers for your dedication in making this festival possible. Your unwavering support over the years has been a boon and a delight.

May all of you create many wonderful memories. I hope to see you all again next year.

Hon. Dennis Ngau

Chairman - Sarawak Tourism Board





Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Tourism Board

#### Selamat Datang to the Land of the Hornbills!

We are pleased to share and invite the world to Sarawak for our heartracing, foot-stomping world rhythms from the rainforest stage of Sarawak. Every year, RWMF offers festivalgoers an opportunity to not only engage with world music and cultural traditions, but also to connect with and embrace its underlying themes and values.

Rainforest World Music Festival (RWMF) 2023 is made possible through a strong public-private partnership between STB, government agencies and social enterprises in making the festival a platform for conservation and preservation of our musical heritage and environment for future generations, in line with our commitment in advocating Responsible Tourism and sustainability. Festivalgoers are welcome to enjoy RWMF responsibly by adopting sustainable practices as they get in tune with the music, learn from the various activities, shop Sarawak's exquisite handmade crafts at the Craft Bazaar or relish our authentic dishes and international flavours at the RWMF Kitchen.

We hope this festival will become a keystone in bridging the past with the future, and continues to be a catalyst in sustaining and reinventing our musical heritage and its traditions for many years to come.

I believe that together we can make an impactful change for a better and a more sustainable future.

See you again in June 2024!



Sharzede Datu Hj. Salleh Askor Chief Executive Officer - Sarawak Tourism Board

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### A Time For Reflection

In this ever-so-changing world, we take a moment to reflect on the world around us. Every year, Rainforest World Music Festival offers festival goers an opportunity to not only engage with world music and cultural traditions, but also to connect with and embrace its underlying themes and values. Let this be a time for us to reflect on our connection with nature and embrace diverse musical styles at the Rainforest World Music Festival, and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the world around us.

# REFLECTIONS

#### RESPONSIBLE 🔈 TOURISM



Travellers of today, especially the Millennials and Gen Zs, are now more conscious of their impact on the living environment. Modern travellers are more interested in simple and low impact experiences when they travel - they want to explore nature and new landscapes, see wildlife in their natural habitat, mingle with the locals and support local economies.

The Responsible Tourism and sustainability agenda aims to retain the economic gains of the tourism industry while minimising its impact on the environment and local culture so that it will be accessible for future generations, while contributing to generate income, employment, and the conservation of local ecosystems.

ENJOY THE

FE**st**ivai

THE

While the Rainforest World Music Festival (RWMF) celebrates the diversity of world music and the conservation of cultural music traditions, it has also become an ideal platform to advocate for responsible people, businesses and governments and maximise positive economic, social and environmental impact on tourism.







As the organiser of this iconic event, STB has embarked on continuous efforts to make RWMF a sustainable, responsible, and eco-friendly festival. Since 2011, STB has played a major role in promoting the concept of 'Responsible Tourism' in organising green events that highlight our local culture and capturing the diversity of world music to everyone across the globe. Along with STB's many initiatives, RWMF portrays sustainability in organising events that give impacts not only generate economic value for our tourism but also contribute to the conservation of our environments and local cultures.



RWMF 2019 was considered the most impactful year to make the festival more sustainable through various greening initiatives. STB, together with organisations and social enterprises, encouraged festivalgoers to use reusable water bottles or purchase collapsible cups and get a free supply of clean drinking water from water stations throughout the festival ground. Proper disposable management of recyclables was provided using eye-catching decorated wastebins; food and drinks vendors used biodegradable plates and cutleries; and leftovers were collected to be composted. Throughout the three-day event, a total of 568.5kg of food-related waste was collected while for recyclables, 135.6kgs of paper, plastic, cans and scrap iron were collected.



At RWMF 2023, STB continues to push forward its greening initiatives and this year, another sustainable element is being introduced, which is seed paper for tags. Also known as plantable paper, it is made from discarded paper waste, added with natural additives and seed that can be planted in soil. When the seed paper is planted, the paper fibres break down naturally, providing nutrients for the seeds which will then germinate and grow into plants. The seed paper represents a harmonious blend of creativity, environmental consciousness, and practicality, encouraging a deeper connection with nature, reminding us of the importance of preserving our planet for future generations.









Since 2011, STB started its Responsible Tourism initiatives together with the tree planting projects at Kuching Wetlands National Park with Sarawak Forest Department, in conjunction with RWMF, in line with the festivals' aims in raising awareness about conservation efforts and the ecological values of Sarawak's flora and fauna.



At the 2019 RWMF, STB made a huge mark in sustainable efforts by introducing water refill stations to encourage reusable water bottles amongst festival goers and cut the use of plastic.

The ecoGreenPlanet programme was introduced during RWMF 2022 which was held in a hybrid format. RWMF 2022 online viewers who purchased the virtual tickets played a role in saving the environment as RM10 for each RM25 virtual RWMF 2022 ticket sold was donated towards STB's treeplanting initiatives. RWMF 2022 sponsors also contributed to this initiative and in total, over RM47,000 was raised from the RWMF2022 ecoGreenPlanet programme.



ADVERTORIAL

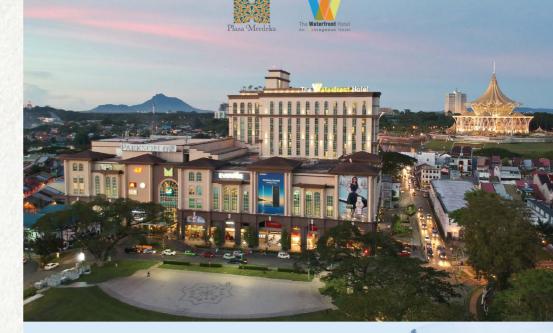
This programme reflects Sarawak's aspiration to plant 35 million trees across Sarawak, in support of Malaysia's goal of planting 100 million trees under the country's Reforestation Programme.



STB and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) marked a pivotal journey together when both organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding together on 27th May 2023, formalising a joint five-year tree planting initiative under the ecoGreenPlanet programme which was then marked by a tree-planting ceremony at the Samunsam Wildlife Sanctuary.







Strategically basking in the oldest charm of the city, Plaza Merdeka Shopping Centre and the 5-star Waterfront Hotel are housed in the same building. Kuching's most affluent landmarks, such as the Brooke Monument, Old Court

House, and Central Post Office surround it while India Street and Carpenter Street are just literally around the corner. The iconic DUN building is within walking distance across the Darul Hana Bridge, and not forgetting the Borneo Cultures Museum where you will find rich

history of Borneo. This is the perfect neighbourhood to hunt for authentic local food, and your playground to discover quaint little cafes and pubs. Street arts worthy of insta shots and tons of other treasures are tucked away in every nook and cranny of this historic city.









Visit our socials!



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Live African dance music, fusing Congolese guitar + Gambian kora virtuosity with UK electronic sensibilities to create uplifting, dancefloor-friendly new music for a new generation of music fans.

Afriquoi are an underground sensation, bringing an uplifting fusion of African music and live electronics. The masterful live show combines Gambian kora, Congolese guitar + Mandinka percussion styles with electronic music drawing on house, garage, disco, soul + jungle to create something entirely unique.

Based in London, Afriquoi is a UK afro supergroup, with every musician a band leader in their own right. With members ranging in age across 3 decades, originating from Africa, the Carribean and the UK, Afriquoi is true fusion music in the best sense of the word, bringing together a vast depth of musical knowledge, culture and life experience.



Formed in 2011 out of London's cultural melting pot, they have established a cult global fanbase, loved by fans both of African and electronic music. Their afro house classic 'Kudaushe' has become an established favourite in clubs all over the world, and they have toured all over Europe, with huge crowds singing along to their songs on major stages at Glastonbury, WOMAD, Dimensions, Fusion, Boomtown, Shambala, Bestival, Secret Garden Party and the London 2012 Olympics.

### PERFORMERS



# ASEANA PERCUSSION UNIT

#### Malaysia

The sound of the drums ... primal, tribal and the heart of most music.

Four seasoned musicians once shared a dream to create a high energy percussion experience using exotic instruments, both local and from all over the world.

What happened when they took the Brazilian surdo, the Indian tabla and thavil, the Malay kompang and gendang, the Chinese er-hu, the Trinidadian steel pan, the African diembe and talking drum, the Australian didgeridoo and put them all in the right hands?

They came up with the brilliant ASEANA PERCUSSION UNIT!





#### Malaysia

At Adau originated in Sarawak, Malaysia on the island of Borneo. The group started as an ambiance traditional contemporary world music band in June 2014 driven by the spirit of traditional Sape' tunes from the Orang Ulu and traditional percussion from the Bidayuh and Iban with their own arrangements to deliver a modern folk medley of songs that have made them a big cult figure in the local Sarawak scene in the last few years.







# BIG MOUNTAIN

#### Jamaica / USA

Big Mountain is an internationally renowned band with roots in both San Diego, California, and Montego Bay, Jamaica. The band gained widespread recognition for their unique fusion of Roots Reggae, Pop, and R&B music, which has earned them a dedicated following of fans around the world.

In 1994, Big Mountain released their hit single "Baby, I Love Your Way," a remake of Peter Frampton's classic song, which quickly climbed the charts to become a top 10 hit in the US. The song's success helped to establish Big Mountain as a leading force in the music industry, and they continue to create and perform music that inspires and uplifts their fans today.









# BULOH BEKOCAK

Malaysia



The name of the group Buloh Bekocak means Bamboo Vibration or "Arumba" (Bamboo Grove Sound).

This group was established from musicians who graduated from the National Dual Training System (SLDN), Malaysian Skills Development Department who have received training in the field of traditional music and contemporary music in 2013 at the Sarawak Cultural Village. Buloh Bekocak is the result of the earnestness of its founder Narawi Rashidi who is very interested in the tunes of bamboo musical instruments.

Buloh Bekocak was established to promote music sourced from bamboo. In Sarawak society, bamboo is also used to make musical instruments. But we also apply the use of angklung made from Indonesia. We play traditional and common songs, however, they are enhanced with the use of bamboo instruments.







# CHATUSRAM

#### India

Chatusram is an Indian multi percussion ensemble with a focus towards the various facets of Indian traditional and folk percussions.

Chatusram comprises of Nishaant Singh in the Pakhawaj, Surojato Roy and Supratik Chatterjee in the Tablas and Shubhashish in the Indian Folk percussions. As the name suggests, Chatusram is a four-piece Indian percussion ensemble and brings to the audience a platter of rhythmic conversations as well as scintillating individual performances.

A performance of this ensemble, generally, is an hour-long and comprises of several number of compositions each different from the other.

While there are rhythmical conversations of all four percussions, there are also separate tastes of the traditional Dhrupadi Pakhawaj playing and Indian classical Tabla performances as well as the Folk tales from Bengal and India.











# ETHNO THAI FUSION SOUND BAND

Thailand



Providing you with a unique combination of traditional Thai music and ethno instruments is the Ethno Thai Fusion Sound Band from Thailand whose music is a distinctive blend of various cultures, creating a unique identity.

The band celebrates the beauty of Thailand's traditional instruments, namely the Ranat Ek, the Tenaku (Karen traditional harp), the Pong Lan (Isan traditional xylophone) and many more. The traditional sounds are fused together with modern instruments, producing a vibrant and lively danceable music.

The inspiration behind the establishment of the band came because the world is interested to find something more than just modern pop. They realised that Thai folk and ethno music is very interesting to be presented to a bigger audience, and they believe the band can contribute in dispersing the seeds of Thai culture for the vounger generation.

Ethno Thai Fusion Sound Band have been commended for their talent in producing an engaging and thrilling performances for their audiences worldwide, as evidenced by their previous shows in Korea, the US, and numerous other countries around the globe.



#### Maldives

A Maldivian Rock Music Band that consists of the most important three elements of Rock music, the Drums, the Bass and the Guitar with the occasional touch of Keyboards and Maldivian Traditional Drums combined with raw pure energy inside an experiment within a solid structure to be painted in moods emotion. It's music that's very spontaneous and for the audience it's a new experience every time, it's a live experience.

The band was officially named after the success at the London Emergenza band competition in 2006 with the founding line up Addo on bass. Ibbe on Drums and Fasy on Guitar and Vocals.

Their music is made up of power packed progressive riffs rooted in blues, rock and metal on one side while the other side is laced with deep soulful melodies. The first-generation Line up together went on to perform many gigs and concerts and in 2007 released their first album 'Vengeance' followed by 'Silver' in 2008, a project album where they got together with many additional artists and recorded a live concert album produced together with ProDG Projects.

After a long transition period of more than a decade with a few drummers and bassists the 2nd chapter of the band has begun with Dhaai on Drums and Inan on Bass and Fasy on Guitar and Vocals.



During a career which spans out for over 30 years, Fasy has juggled with a lot of hats; he has not only managed to rise himself to the top but once there he has managed to maintain the stature and is well known within the industry as a Leader, a trendsetter and most importantly an inspiration to new generations.





# GENG WAK LONG

#### Malaysia

Geng Wak Long (GWL) has expertise in Kelantanese Traditional Music, Theatre and Dance. A multi-Instrumentalist of Malay Musical arts genres and a wide range stage performance such as Wayang Kulit Kelantan (Kelantan leather Shadow puppet play), Dikir Barat, Kelantanese Silat, Mak Yong, Tari Inai, Asyik, Rebana Ubi, Kertuk, Tarik Selampik, Main Peteri and Kelantanese Traditional Orchestra.

The founder of this group is Mohd. Kamrulbahri bin Hussin, who is also known as Kamrul Hussin or Wak Long. GWL unofficially was started in the 90s when Kamrul and his late father Hussin bin Yusoff (1948-2018), performed Main Peteri, a healing ritual performance in his hometown of Pasir Mas, Kelantan. GWL then expanded to include Kamrul's family members - his siblings, his wife, sister-inlaw, father in law and his uncle.

GWL introduced four art genres of Kelantanese traditional music such as Neo Authentic Traditional, Contemporary Traditional, Contemporary and Contemporary Experimental. GWL also played other genres such as fusion and world music (Music of the world), Malaysian Syncretic Traditional Music (Ghazal, Malay Asli Music, Malay Gamelan, Keroncong, Kelantanese Malaysia Jazz and Malaysian Pop Music).





# PERFORMERS

# GIPSY KINGS FEATURING TONINO BALIARDO

#### France

Gipsy Kings featuring Tonino Baliardo, the renowned musical ensemble from the south of France, have captivated audiences worldwide with their unique fusion of traditional Spanish flamenco, gipsy rhapsody, pop with salsa funk since the 1970s. Virtuosos of gipsy music, the group has sold over 20 million albums worldwide and has been awarded numerous gold, platinum and diamond discs. In 1993 their album "Love and Liberte" won the Latin Grammy Award for Best Pop Album of the Year and the most coveted award is their Grammy in 2013 in the Best World Music category for the album "Savor Flamenco".

With chart-topping hits like the upbeat "Bamboleo", "Djobi Djoba," and ballads such as "Un Amor", the legendary group have established themselves as one of the most beloved and influential groups in the global music scene. Not only music, the band has also left a mark in the movie industry – their cover version of "Hotel California" with fast flamenco guitar rhythms was featured in the 1998 Coen Brothers' movie The Big Lebowski, and the 2010 animation film Toy Story 3 featured their Spanish-language, flamenco styled version of the movie's original soundtrack entitled "Hay un Amigo en Mi" ("You've Got a Friend in Me" in English).

# PERFORMERS KUMI MASUNAGA

#### Japan

Internationally renowned Japanese percussionist and joy-affirming performer, Kumi Masunaga, has traveled with her vibrant music and zest from Africa to the Americas to Asia delivering a wealth of experience and boundless enthusiasm to each programme she conducts. Kumi has shared a stage with the world's change-makers such as Jane Goodall and David Beckham and performed at numerous events worldwide.



Tens of thousands of people have drummed with Kumi in her drum circles, team-building sessions, classrooms, festivals, and wellness retreats since she founded Drum Jam in Hong Kong over twenty years ago. She is trained in the evidence-based HealthRHYTHMS, and is a certified Music Medicine Facilitator, Rhythm2Recovery Facilitator, and Village Music Circles global trainer. During the COVID pandemic, she conducted online drum programs.

# PERFORMERS

MERUKED

#### Malaysia

Meruked is a 6-piece contemporary / traditional band hailing from Kuching, Sarawak. Since their inception, their stylistic sound ranges from the nominal raw sound of Borneo's treasure trove lute instrument, the sape. It's intricacies are then fused with a modern alternative/ambient sound which generates euphoric choruses and atmospheric experiences.

Meruked comes from the native Lun Bawang tribe dialect which brings the meaning of "Everlasting" as they hope the sape music will live on in its own entirety.



# NADING RHAPSODY

#### Malaysia

Nading Rhapsody is an Avant-Garde Borneo Ethnic Music band whose music presentation is a unique cross-cultural and fusion of folk songs, ritual chanting, lullabies, myths, stories of ethnic groups in Sarawak and Contemporary music with a new and different arrangement. The band has also composed a few original songs with an injection of various ethnic elements.

Nading Rhapsody has a unique approach of expressing their love to revive the old legacies in Sarawak. Their piece resembles the origins and cultural roots of each band member. They are often experimental, radical and provocative; both in their songs arrangement and their image.

They were the recipient of The Royal Arts Gala Fund in 2016 by My Performing Arts Agency (MYPAA) in collaboration with National Department for Culture and Arts

Malaysia and have represented Malaysia at various international arts involvements since 2012. Hitting twice at the renowned Rainforest World Music Festival in 2012 and 2014, making their way to international festival grounds throughout Malaysia, marking their Europe debut in 2016 for Tong Tong Fair in Netherlands, ASEAN Music Festival 2017 in Manila, Philippines, OzAsia Festival 2018 in Adelaide, Australia, Singapore Writers Festival 2019 in Singapore, Rainforest World Music Festival 2021 virtual experience, What About Kuching : WAK Music Portal 2022 and most recently was part of Sarawak Hearth's Heirloom Showcase 2022.



They say that sometimes it is in your lowest point in life, or your nadir, that you find clarity and strength to rise again from what once was, and manifest a greater tomorrow. Thus, in 2015, Nadir's journey as a band began. Like its Malay translation (rare), the band strives to make music that is rare and unique, combining different life experiences and emotions together with explosive crowd-chanting energy on stage, manifested in the colourful plethora of sounds and languages from various cultures in Malaysia and around the world.

Nadir embodies the idea of celebrating our differences and revering our roots, embracing the colourful ups and downs of our past while bravely exploring the unwritten future to create a meaningful now, worthy of a lasting legacy. By fusing sounds that represent our different worldly experiences, culture, and the spirit of collaboration, the band moulds what is uniquely, Malaysian music with limitless sonic and cultural boundaries. Where carnatic vocals duel with rock riffs, where sitar melodies permeate through explosive percussion and tabla cadences, where tin whistles sing with saxophone melodies, the music is most definitely not what many would expect.

This 8-piece band operates as a family with fluid lineup of regular featured musicians playing a wide variety of instruments such as sitar, violin, gambus, bagpipes, erhu, yangqin and many more. In 2017, Nadir went on tour in Cambodia and performed to 10000+ people at the Cambodian water festival in Phnom Penh and collaborated with Cambodian superstar Laura Mam, with a song due for release internationally in 2022. They've also collaborated with French artistic duo 'lliaeb' on an experimental visual art/ dance/music showcase and are in the planning phase of bringing the show to Paris, France in 2023.



# OLENA LIUTAI

#### Russia

Olena UUTAi is an expert performer on the xomus (or "khomus"), the most ancient musical instrument – a traditional jaw harp. Coming from Yakutsk, Russia and having passed through a classical musical education while young, UUTAi started to attend xomus lessons.

The Jew's harp, also known as jaw harp, mouth harp, Ozark harp, trump, or juice harp, consists of a flexible metal or bamboo tongue or reed attached to a frame. Over time her skill would grow to the point where her on-stage flair can be described as something absolutely fantastic. The sounds from this tiny instrument will summon ancient imagery in ones mind accompanied by voices of nature.





# ORANG ORANG DRYM THEATRE

#### Malaysia

Since its establishment in 2013, Orang Orang Drum Theatre's core members Boyz Chew, Zyee Leow, and Damien Leow have been dancing between music, dance, and theatre, looking for a platform of expression for drum theatre. Bringing a team with them, they participated in the international music festivals such as Sziget Festival 2019, WOMADELAIDE 2020, Venice Theatre Arts Festival, Venice Open Stage, Belgium and Germany Dance Festival Danse en Ville.

In recent years, they have brought their troupe to tour at many cultural and dance arts festivals in Europe, such as in France, Hungary and Serbia. Through interactions with traditional cultures, they search their way to dialogue between tradition and contemporary. The word 'orang' means people, and the heart behind OODT is to bring the arts to the people.









RASTAK

#### Iran

"Rastak," in Farsi, means a newly born plant that grows at the bottom of a tree. Sometimes it grows taller and stronger than the main tree itself. So, it can be interpreted as a plant with its roots in the ground, containing all the essential elements of life, when it is fully grown. The Rastak music group, like the "Rastak" natural process, have borrowed the background of our music from the roots of our history and culture. They have been using ethnic-based themes with our specific arrangement to connect with a more extensive range of the audience worldwide for years.

Rastak is one of the most well-known bands in Iranian contemporary folk music, which was formed as an experimental music group in 1997. The group seeks to collect, record, and interpret Iranian folk music for a global audience. Rastak incorporates language, culture, and history, merging traditional instruments and forms with contemporary rhythms. Rastak has been trying to combine well-known tunes with less well-known ones to shorten the generational gap and create a geographical bridge in the music of Iran



# PERFORMERS RIZAL HADI & FOLK

#### Indonesia

Rizal Hadi is a uniquely talented multiinstrumentalist, singer-songwriter, instrument builder, music producer and social activist from West Java, Indonesia. He dedicates his music and career towards creating real social change and promoting creativity; both in Indonesia and globally.

Rizal harnessed his knowledge of bamboo material to develop his unique and innovative instrument called the Rasendriya. It combines guitar with the didgeridoo and celempung (percussion). further exploring the use of bamboo for instruments, Rizal's latest project is his Bamboo Lapsteel Guitar & Strings instrument. Rizal creates a unique style of folk music by combining ballads, rock, reggae and blues with eclectic ethnic rhythms. His lyrics sung with confidence in both Indonesian and English speak of life, adventure, spirit, democracy and opportunity.

Since 2008, Rizal has toured extensively in Indonesia and played at major Indonesian festivals, including; Bali Spirit Festival (2015 & 2017), JavaJazz (2019 with Rhythm Rebels), Ubud Writers & Readers Festival, Festival Mata Air and many more. Throughout which he has taken the opportunity to collaborate with many well-known Indonesian musicians. In late 2012 Rizal has made waves on the international music scene, taking his musical and instrument building talents to the world. Travelling as either a one-man band or with accompanied by other band mates, such as the musical due Rhythm Rebels.



Rizal has toured Australia twice and performed at numerous international music festivals, such as; Zero Festival of Music in Arunachal Pradesh, Island Music Festival in Malaysia, Moca Fest in Sarawak, Metro Dubai Festival in UAE, Ulsan World Music Festival in UAE, Ulsan World Music Festival in India, Mint Festival in Russia and many more. In November 2017 he played in front of 30 World Leaders in the 13th World Islam Economic Forum in Malaysia.





# SADA BORNEO

#### Malaysia

Formed in 2013 in Penang, Sada Borneo is a Malaysian band comprising six members from various regions of the country. Their goal is to create a unique sound that captures the essence of Malaysia by blending traditional, modern, ethnic, and natural elements.

The name "Sada Borneo" means "the sound of Borneo," incorporating the Iban word "Sada" which means "sound" from Sarawak's ethnic group. Sada Borneo gained recognition for representing Malaysia in AXN's ASIA'S GOT TALENT 2015, becoming the only Malaysian band to make it to the Semi-Final stage.

The show was broadcast in 20 Asian countries. In 2017, Sada Borneo received the IKON NEGARAKU 2017 AWARD from the Prime Minister's Office and was named "Malaysia's Most Talented Instrumental Band (Traditional Music)" by Top 10 Malaysia and Top 10 Asia Award. In January 2023, Sada Borneo released their debut album titled "Dedicate To You."







#### Tanzania

Safi Theatre performs improvised traditional ngoma music (drumming and dance), blending their unique and lively shows with acrobatics in order to create an exciting mix of traditional Tanzanian Music and artistic creativity. Musically the group plays a variety of danceable and energetic tunes by using traditional percussive instruments as well as other contemporary ones which includes Snare drum, Conga flutes and Toms.

Their shows are always very engaging and explosive from the beginning with a reputation of keeping the audience on their feet throughout shows.

During recent years they have performed at Bagamoyo Festival, Music Crossroads, SADC Dance Festival (Harare), Sauti za Busara Music festival, Olympic torch Tanzania rally and several social and corporate events around Tanzania. In July 2009 Safi theatre participated in the 2nd Pan African Festival in Algeria where they shared same stages with the likes of Kassav and Manu Dibango. In June and July 2014 Safi Theatre was invited for a tour of Germany where they performed in several venues as well as 3 performances on the stages of the annual Festival Rudolstadt. In February 2017, the group participated in the 31st annual Saruj Kund Mela taking place in Haryana New Delhi India where they stayed for 3 weeks.

The group is also a project, which trains drumming, dance and acrobatics to kids from around the suburbs of Dar es Salaam. Apart from performances, the group offers percussion, dancing and marimba workshops to various schools.













#### U.S.A. / Malaysia

Percussionist Steve Thornton is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Before moving to Malaysia in 1997, Thornton lived and worked in New York. In the course of his formidable recording career he has worked and recorded with saxophonist Sadao Watanbe, and continues this gig today.

Thornton has also worked with and appeared on albums by Herbie Hancock, Mongo Santamaria, jazz legend Miles Davis, and pianist McCoy Tyner, as well as Tracy Chapman, Mariah Carey, and Michael Jackson. His playing is particularly well displayed on albums by jazz vocalist Tania Maria and by romantic crooner Jon Lucien. Most recently, Thornton released an album under his own name ("Nature's Plan"), and appeared on CDs with Keiko Lee, a jazz vocalist popular in Japan. Has performed and recorded for such artist as Siti Nurhaliza, Raihan, Zainal Abidin, Roslan Aziz, Sheila Majid and many more.



#### Malaysia

Suk Binie' was formed in 2014 and consists of seven members. In Bau Bidayuh dialect, Suk Binie' means 'young seedlings' which represent themselves as budding performers. Their journey began by performing at various occasions in Bau and the surrounding areas. In 2017, the band emerged champion at the Waterfront Music Festival (WMF17) competition.

As time went by, the band received special invitations from other management performing some bigger events around Kuching, Sarawak which is Rainforest World Music Festival (RWMF), Rainforest Fringe and many other occasions. The music played by the band are composed based on the traditions of the ethnic community in Sarawak particularly the Bidayuh, Iban and Orang Ulu.

# PERFORMERS SYED IBRAHIM

#### Singapore

Syed attained his Masters Degree in Arts Pedagogy & Practices from the Goldsmith's College, University of London at the age of 64. He was the founder of OneHeartBeat Percussions Pte Ltd, HeartBeat Percussion Band of Tampines North Community Club and he was instrumental in setting up and heading the Performing Arts Department at St Anthony's Convent Primary and Secondary School.

Well known in his field for revolutionizing Percussion Music, Group Drumming and Integrated Arts programs, he is a firm believer in lifelong learning and education.

As an Arts Practitioner (Performing, Artistic and Program Directions), Syed has performed at Arts and Music festivals, written and presented papers at Educational and Healthcare conferences locally and internationally. He was Head of the Research Team that ran the pilot program entitled "Rhythm Wellness for Elders", which was later commissioned by the Agency for Integrated Care and supported by the National Arts Council.

Sved is a decorated professional. He was awarded the Citation of Excellence in Percussion Education by the Percussive Arts Society (USA). He is endorsed as an Ambassador of the Community Drumming Facilitator by REMO (USA) and Village Music Circle (USA), achieved the "Enhanced Arts Educator" status by the National Arts Council, Singapore and received the "Spirit of Enterprise" by Spirit of Enterprise of Singapore and Meritorious Award by COMPASS - Singapore

He remains passionate about serving the Arts community as Mentor to Arts educators through developing training programs for healthcare professionals with Agency for Integrated Care (Singapore), educational programs with NAC-AEP and Community Building initiatives with National Arts Council and People's Association in Singapore.







Malavsia



Music makes pictures and often tells stories. That was how TUKU' KAME' came into being 24 years ago, from a humble beginning at the foot of the legendary Mount Santubong in mystical Borneo.

Formed by various passionate musicians with their respective cultural backgrounds, TUKU' KAME' sprung to life through the personality and hard work of its Composer & Director, the dynamic Narawi Hj. Rashidi.

TUKU' KAME' integrates the use of Sarawak's traditional musical instruments of ethnic races of Borneo with contemporary tunes to create the intonation of a rousing new sounds and music that tells stories of Sarawak; a message to the ears which stays in the heart.

Since then, TUKU' KAME' has come a long way, spreading its wings through its brand of music to Canada, USA, Australia, the Middle East, Morocco, Italy, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Japan, Germany, Brunei, not forgetting plaving host at the annual Rainforest World Music Festival on home-ground.

TUKU' KAME' has won 2 awards since their involvement in the music industry which include "GrandPrix Award & MTV Breakthrough Award" at MTV Battle Of The Band 1996 in Kuala Lumpur and WCOPA (Los Angeles) "World Championship Of Performing Arts" with 4 Golds. Jerry Kamit, the leading star of the band has won another 4 gold awards (Solo Category) makes up 8 golds for the Malaysia Team. Jerry also won the plaque, "The Champion Of The World".



Malaysia

Whimsical jazzy singer/songwriter Izyan Allrahman, better known as Zee Avi, landed her first record deal thanks to the buzz generated by her YouTube channel. In 2008, the multi-talented songstress signed with Los Angeles-based Monotone Records/Brushfire and her selftitled debut album was released on the label during the spring of 2009 - attaining mainstream success in Asia, reaching gold status in Taiwan, Singapore, and Malaysia. Avi followed its success with her seminal sophomore album, Ghostbird, in 2011 which topped the US Billboard Heatseekers Albums chart; spawning tracks like "Swell Window" and "Concrete Wall" that would go on to feature prominently in the hit television series, Gossip Girl.





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FRIDAY, 23 JUNE 2023

unces	CHINESE FARMHOUSE		SAFI THEATRE		ASEANA PERCUSSION UNIT
POCKET PERFORMANCES	THE HUT		CHATUSRAM		NADING RHAPSODY
POCKE	WATERFALL TERRACE	FASYLIVE		MERUKED	<u>y</u> u
₩	DEWAN LAGENDA	- gr	BAMBOO INSTRUMENTS BUILDING (Rizai Hadi)	74	THE RHYTHM COLLECTIVE JAM (FUSION DRUM WORKSHOP)
	ARENA GROUND				
KSH0P5	IBAN LONGHOUSE	BLESSING OF NATURE (OLENA UUTAI)		SOUNDS OF BORNEO (SADA BORNEO)	
WOR	GAZEBO		RECREATIONAL RHYTHM CIRCLES (SHAMEER & SYED)		SARAWAK FOLK SONG (TUKU' KAME')
	THEATRE STAGE	LATIN-CARIBBEAN RHYTHM (STEVE THORNTON)		THAI ETHNIC COLOURS (ETHNO THAI FUSION SOUND BAND)	
ľ		14.00	14.45	15.30	16.15

\*Subject to change 2

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SADA BORNEO

NYIGAR PINYAMUT "BIDAYUH WELCOMING DANCE" (SUK BINIE)

REFLECTIONS 1 GIPSY KINGS featuring TONINO BALIARDO)

17.00

17.45

COMMUNITY DRUMMING (KUMI, SYED, EDWIN & SHAMEER)

1

( 24 JUNE 2023

unces	CHINESE FARMHOUSE		TUKU' KAME'		RASTAK		
POCKET PERFORMANCES	тне нит		BULOH BEKOCAK		SUK BINIE		7
POCKET	WATERFALL TERRACE	AT ADAU		RIZAI HADI & FOLK		NADIR	
ļ	DEWAN LAGENDA		INTERACTIVE MUSIC WORKSHOP (FASTAK)		THE STRING COLLECTIVE JAM (FUSION STRING WORKSHOP)	~	- <u>1</u>
	ARENA GROUND						COMMUNTY DRUMMING (KUMI, SYED, EDWIN & SHAMEER)
KSHOPS	IBAN LONGHOUSE	RECYCLED INSTRUMENTS (RIZAL HADI)		TERAYEN : AN Everlasting Experience (Meruked)		BAMBOO ENSEMBLE (BULOH BEKOCAK)	
MORKS	GAZEBO		BRIDGING RHYTHM WITH WELLNESS (SYED & EDWIN)		ARISE SWING & SING PART 1 (KUMI)		
	THEATRE STAGE	MALAYSIAN Collective Music Making (NADIR)		TRADITIONAL AFRICAN DRUMMING & Dance Techniques (Safi Theatre)		REFLECTIONS 2 (BIG MOUNTAIN)	
ľ		14.00	14.45	15.30	16.15	17.00	17.45

\*Subject to change

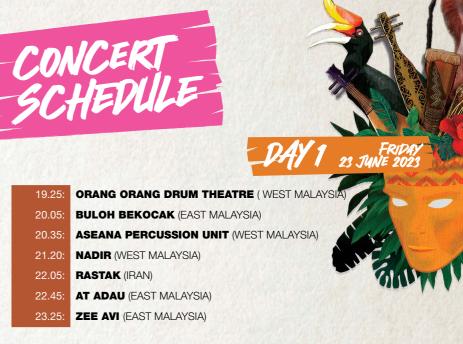
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UNCES	CHINESE FARMHOUSE		MERUKED		ORANG ORANG DRUM THEATRE			*Subject to change
POCKET PERFORMANCES	тне нит		SADA BORNEO		GENG WAK LONG		1	
PUCKE	WATERFALL TERRACE	NADIR		BULOH BEKOCAK		ETHNO THAI FUSION SOUND BAND		
- پلغ	DEWAN LAGENDA		MUSIC THAT HEALS (AT ADAU)		VOICE MOVEMENT & RHYTHM (AFRIQUOI)		- 714	
N	ARENA GROUND						COMMUNITY DRUMMING (KUMI, SYED, EDWIN & SHAMEER)	Ń
KSH0P3	IBAN LONGHOUSE	INDIAN DRUMMING STYLES & RHYTHMIC EXCERCISES (CHATUSRAM)		TEBAH NADING - Rhythm of Nading (Nading Rhapsody)		SOUNDS OF TANBUR & Daf (RASTAK)		
MOR	GAZEBO		KELANTANESE WAYANG KULIT DRUMMING (GENG WAK LONG)		ARISE SWING & SING PART 2 (KUMI)			
	THEATRE STAGE	24 FESTIVE DRUMS - RHYTHM & MOVEMENT (ORANG ORANG DRUM THEATRE)		MALDIVIAN RHYTHMS & DANCE (FASYLIVE)		REFLECTIONS 3 (ZEE AVI)		
		14.00	14.45	15.30	16.15	17.00	17.45	





OLENA UUTAI (RUSSIA)
NADING RHAPSODY (EAST MALAYSIA)
SADA BORNEO (EAST MALAYSIA)
STEVE THORNTON & AFROASIA (USA + MALAYSIA)
CHATUSRAM (INDIA)
FASYLIVE (MALDIVES)
ETHNO THAI FUSION SOUND BAND (THAILAND)
GIPSY KINGS featuring TONINO BALIARDO (FRANCE)



- 19.15: SUK BINIE (EAST MALAYSIA) TUKU' KAME' (EAST MALAYSIA) 19.45:
- 20.15: GENG WAK LONG (WEST MALAYSIA)
- 20.55: **AFRIQUOI** (UNITED KINGDOM)
- MERUKED (EAST MALAYSIA) 21.55:
- 22.35: SAFI THEATRE (TANZANIA)
- 23.15: RIZAL HADI & FOLK (INDONESIA)
- 23.55: **BIG MOUNTAIN (USA & JAMAICA)**

\*Subject to change



As you immerse yourself in the music of the Festival, please also indulge yourself in the extraordinary offerings of the Market. Curated and organized by Society Atelier Sarawak, this Market provides a delightful array of original craft products, fashion-forward brands, body care, face and body art, demonstrations, exhibitions, talks and workshops as well as captivating games to unleash your inner child as well as occupy your active children. For your comfortable enjoyment of the festival, the Market also provides amenities such as lockers, showers, convenience stores and even a kids daycare!

We invite you to enjoy the festival and make great memories at the Market at RWMF 2023 – where we bring you the ultimate comingling of culture, creativity and convenience.













SOCIETY ATELIER SARAWAK PERTUBUHAN PENGGIAT KESENIAN DAN KRAFTANGAN SARAWAK

# - RWMF2023 - MARKET WORKSHOPS • TALKS • ACTIMITES



#### BIDAMH BARUK & LONGHOUSE

- Body Tattoo
- Henna, Face Painting
- Guasha Foot Massage
- Body Massage
- DIY Aromatherapy Make & Take Bar

#### MELANAY TALLHOUSE

- Weave-Fun
- Tibau Swing

#### CHINESE PAGODA

Mahjong & Board Games

#### CHINESE FARMHOUSE

Art Exhibition & Doodling

# AMENITIES

#### MALAY HOUSE

- Convenience Store
- Showers
- Lockers
- Children's Daycare

#### IBAN LONGHOUSE

Art Sculpture Display

#### CRAFTS AVENUE

DIY T-Shirt Bleach Dye

#### GAZEBO

Sape Jamming Session

#### OPEN FIELD BESIDE MALAY HOUSE

Giant Jenga

#### DAMAI CENTRAL

- Glamping
- Archery & Blowpipe Activity

\*Subject to change





#### 10.30

Batik Painting & Pangiah Bead Loom Workshop By Kraftangan Malaysia

#### 17.00

Bamboo Plaiting & Batik Tube Bracelet Workshop By Kraftangan Malaysia

#### CHINESE POTTERY KILN

#### 15.30

Terrarium Pot Painting For Kids & Kokedama Workshop For Adults

#### MALAY HOUSE

15.00 Bua Juli Necklace Making Workshop

#### TOP-SPINNING HUT

13.00 Pua Kumbu Weaving Demonstration

#### DRANG ULY LONGHOUSE

15.30 "Land Of Otherness"-Sound Bath by Shaman Tea Room (30 Mins)

#### BIDAMH BARYK & LONGHOUSE

17.00

Yoga

#### GAZEBO

17.00 "Imagine" - A Sape Demo by Anak Borneo





#### CHINESE FARMHOUSE

#### 10.30

Batik Painting & Pangiah Bead Loom Workshop By Kraftangan Malaysia

#### CHINESE POTTERY KILN

#### 15.30

Terrarium Pot Painting For Kids & Kokedama Workshop For Adults

#### MALAY HOUSE

14.00 Bua Juli Necklace Making Workshop

#### TOP-SPINNING HUT

11.00 Pua Kumbu Weaving Demonstration

14.00 & 17.00

Mental Health

Talk By Inner

Lynx

GAZEBO

12.00 How To Dress Boldly-Styling Tips By Allison

16.00

Malaysia

Bamboo Plaiting & Batik Tube

Bracelet Workshop By Kraftangan

Jong

15.00 LAUNCHING OF **RWMF 2023** MARKET

#### 13.00

**Bisayah Traditional** Costume & It's **Evolution - Talk By** Joachim Atin

#### 16.00

Batik Linut - from Melanau Food to Textile - Talk by Diana Rose

#### 

16.00 "Land Of Otherness"-Sound Bath by Shaman Tea Room (30 Mins)

#### BIDAYUH BARUK & LONGHOUSE

14.00 Aromatherapeutic Div Workshop - Lip Scrub, Facial Mask & Bath Soap

17.00

Yoga

17.00 "Imagine" - A Sape Demo by Anak Borneo

\*Subject to change

\*Subject to change



#### CHINESE FARMHOUSE

#### 10.30

Batik Painting & Pangiah Bead Loom Workshop By Kraftangan Malaysia

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## 15.00

GAZEBO

Bisayah Traditional Costume & It's Evolution - Talk By Joachim Atin

#### **12.00** How To Dress Boldly-Styling Tips By Allison Jong

Jong 16.00

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#### DRANG ULU LONGHOUSE

**16.00** "Land Of Otherness"-Sound Bath by Shaman Tea Room (30 Mins)

#### BIDAMH BARUK & LONGHOUSE

**14.00** Aromatherapeutic Diy Workshop - Lip Scrub, Facial Mask & Bath Soap

**14.00** "Imagine"- A Sape Demo by Anak Borneo

Subject to change

14.00 & 17.00

Mental Health

Talk By Inner

17.00

Yoga

Lynx

RWMF2023 KITCHEN

Come get your sensory indulgence unlock with our local cuisine such as the famous Nasi Lemak, Roti Canai and Sarawak Laksa. If you're feeling snacky, we also have local finger food such as Keropok Lekor, Lok-Lok, Cucur Pisang and many more. Special menus curated and prepared by different ethnic groups such as Malay, Chinese, Iban, Bidayuh, Melanau, serving local flavors that you can only find here in Sarawak! Nonetheless, we also serve international cuisines such as Western, Korean, Japanese, Thai and Middle Eastern.

You can also enjoy Sarawak's authentic delicacies such as Midin, Terung Dayak, Ayam Pansoh and many more, and our dishes are halal and Muslimfriendly.

Don't miss out on quenching your thirst with local beverage brands serving you carbonated drinks, coffees, smoothies and juices, beers and wines,. Still hungry? There's always space for dessert! We also serve our local's favorite, ABC Ais Kacang, Cendol, Rojak, Kek Lapis and many more that will definitely fill up your tummy!

















### MALAYSIA BOOK OF RECORDS "MOST PERCUSSIONISTS IN A MUSIC FESTIVAL"

Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) invites Rainforest World Music Festival 2023 festivalgoers to participate in its record-breaking event under the Malaysia Book of Records (MBOR) for the 'Most Percussionists in a Music Festival'.

The record-breaking attempt will take place throughout the three days of the festival from 23rd to 25th June 2023 at the festival ground at Sarawak Cultural Village starting from 4.45pm each day.

Festivalgoers are welcome to bring along their own percussion instruments, or they can also use household items such as pails, pots, pans, bottles or any other materials that can be drummed to produce percussive sounds. The use of upcycling items as percussion instruments would be in line with the festival's role in promoting the concept of Responsible Tourism and values of sustainability through a 'green' event that contributes to the conservation of the environment and local heritage.

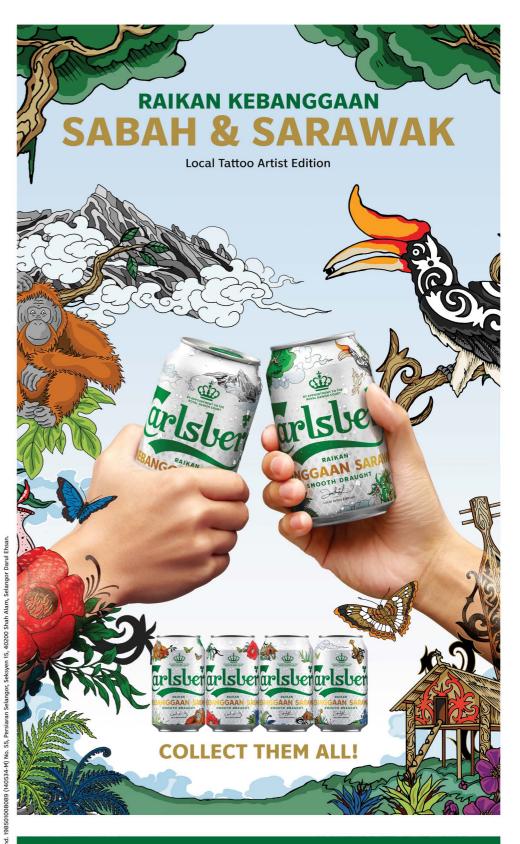
What is a drum circle? Drumming circles has been a cultural part of many societies across the globe. No matter the person's background or the type of drum, a drum circle is a great way to help people bond better with each other, as well as feel a greater connection to life itself. It is the support of interconnectedness that makes uniting cultures through drumming possible, allowing people from every walk of life to feel unified during and after the session.

Drum circles involve one person leading a group of players with a variety of percussion instruments to start with a steady beat as others listen, and then gradually play improvised rhythms together. Participants of drum circles do not need to have musical experience, as long as they can listen and connect to each other.

The action of drumming can have positive impacts on the participants' health and well-being. Studies done through observations during drum circles have shown that the sessions can produce a therapeutic experience. When a rhythm develops into a groove, it helps relax participants, increase heart rates similar to cardio exercise, reduce stress, improve memory and increase the body's defence against illness. This is why drum circles are incorporated in counselling and therapy sessions.

So come and allow yourself to be immersed in the experience of being a part of this historic recordbreaking drumming circle event!





# Scan To Find Out More And Win Exciting Prizes!

For non-Muslims aged 21 years and above only. Images are for illustration purposes only, www.carlsbergsabahsarawak.com





#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Sarawak Tourism Board would like to extend their greatest appreciation and gratitude to the following for their contribution, support and effort in making the festival a success.

Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Arts Sarawak

Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture, Malaysia

Tourism Malaysia

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Information Department, Malaysia

Department of Broadcasting, Malaysia

Ministry of Health

Royal Customs Department

Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM)

Immigration Department Malaysia Civil Defence Force (APM)

Sarawak Tourism Federation

Malaysia Airport Berhad

Hotel & Tour Operators

Volunteers

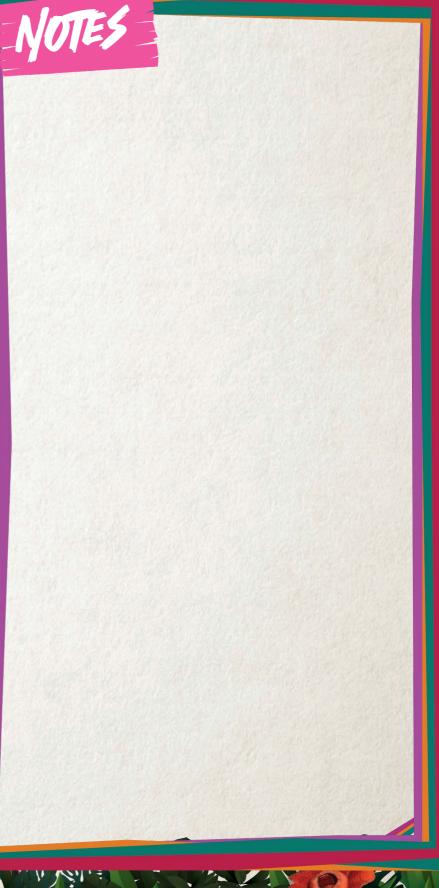
And Organisations, private institutions and individuals for their invaluable contribution and assistance in ensuring the success of this festival.



Rainfore

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