



→ [NEWSPAPER SEARCH](#)

→ [FIND A BUSINESS](#)

# THE PLAIN DEALER

[More From The Plain Dealer](#) | [Subscribe To The Plain Dealer](#)

## Music from four continents performed at new festival

Sunday, April 30, 2006

**Wilma Salisbury**  
Plain Dealer Music Critic



WILMA SALISBURY

Music, the universal language, rang out in dozens of tongues Saturday at Resonance: A World Music Festival.

The two-day event, presented by Detroit Avenue Arts at its West Side complex, brought together 10 ensembles and soloists representing cultures from four continents. Some of the musicians stayed close to their roots. Others branched out into contemporary fusions. All are based in the United States.

Walt Mahovlich, co-artistic director of the first installment of what is expected to be an annual festival, introduced the groups and pointed out cultural connections. He compared the kobzari, Ukrainian minstrels who used to wander from village to village singing and playing the bandura, to the jeli, West African musician-storytellers who preserve history and tradition by singing and playing the kora.

The Kobzari Ensemble of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus performed a formal concert consisting of Ukrainian folk songs, traditional heroic ballads and Ukrainian sacred music. Director Oleh Mahlay of Cleveland explained the history of the chorus, which was elegantly costumed in heavy velvet coats, embroidered shirts, full blue trousers and red boots. In a workshop, audience members learned to play chords on the bandura, the 55-string Ukrainian lute.

Mamadou Diabate, a Malian jeli now living in Durham, N.C., sang and played the kora, the 18-string Mandinka harp-lute. Although the songs were traditional, the improvisations by Diabate's three-member ensemble gave the pulsing rhythms a jazzy feel.

Mathano Masani added a hip-hop flavor to his playing of traditional African songs on the mbira (thumb piano). Masani, a native of Washington, D.C., and a resident of Cleveland, said he developed thumb dexterity while working for 10 years on a letter-sorting machine in the post office. Later, he traveled to Zimbabwe to study the mellow-sounding instrument that is regarded as a sacred bridge between this world and the next.

In a flute workshop, Nadim Dlaikan, Lebanese-born and Detroit-based master of the Arabic nay, teamed up with Andrei Pidkivka, Ukrainian-born and Cleveland-based master of the Ukrainian sopilka. While Pidkivka's high-pitched wood flute tootled with bright tone, Dlaikan's handmade reed flute nay sounded

### INSIDE Entertainment

- » [The Plain Dealer](#)
- » [Friday!](#)
- » [Dining & Bars](#)
- » [Events](#)
- » [Photos](#)
- » [Caught on Camera](#)
- » [Arts](#)
- » [Books](#)
- » [Movies](#)
- » [Oscars](#)
- » [Music](#)
- » [Television](#)
- » [Going Out Guides](#)
- » [Fun & Games](#)

### Site Tools

- [E-mail This](#)
- [Print This](#)
- [Search Site](#)
- [Newsletters](#)

### Speak Up!

- [Talk Entertainment In Our Forums](#)
- [Arts Scene](#)
- [Book Talk](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Event & Concert Reviews](#)
- [Food & Wine](#)
- [HS Music](#)
- [Listening Party](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Nightlife](#)
- [Television](#)
- [Ticket Exchange](#)

» [Looking for a job?](#)

### FROM OUR ADVERTISERS

• [Advertise With Us](#)

### OUR AFFILIATES



Music from four continents performed at new festival

breathy, dark and mysterious. Each player showed a handful of instruments, including a double Ukrainian flute that allowed the player to perform a duet with himself and a noisy Arabic reed too loud to play indoors.


The afternoon lineup included a demonstration of the South Indian veena by Shiva Sastry of Stow, a dance workshop with the Eternal Tango Quintet of New York and concerts of East European music by Goralska Muzyka of Chicago and Harmonia of Cleveland. The latter two groups had joined with Slavic Soul Party of New York in a rousing concert and dance party that packed Cleveland Public Theatre's Gordon Square Theatre on Friday night.

The festival, the brainchild of Detroit Avenue Arts impresario James Levin, concluded Saturday night with concerts of Indian, African, Arabic, Polish and Brazilian music followed by a tango and milonga dance party and a world-music café.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:

wsalisbury@plaind.com, 216-999-4248

 Print This

 E-mail This

#### MORE ENTERTAINMENT

- [A heroic effort in capturing a hero's story](#)
- [Accents, drumming make complex piece hard to understand](#)
- [Banjo virtuoso Bela Fleck blows the roof off State Theatre](#)
- [More Stories](#)

© 2006 The Plain Dealer. Used with permission.

[The Best Local Classifieds: Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Place An Ad](#)

**THE PLAIN DEALER**  
MISS A DAY. MISS A LOT.

Receive 2 weeks FREE delivery of The Plain Dealer!  
[Sign up now!](#)

[About Us](#) | [Help/Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#).

©2006 [cleveland.com](#). All Rights Reserved.



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Local](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Forums](#) | [Living & Travel](#) | [Entertainment](#)

[Marketplace](#)

*Get The Best Local...*

[Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#)

[All Classifieds](#) | [Place An Ad](#)

**Shop Cleveland**

» **A Complete Shopping Section**

» **Grocery Coupons & More**