

Folk Music Performance

By Pakistan Pavilion

A group of street singers of Pakistan led by Sain Zahoor, an internationally known *folk performer* will be performing at Event Spaces of different Global Commons, Expo2005 Aichi Japan from 23rd June, 2005. They will also be performing at Pakistan Pavilion.

The tradition of street singing is centuries old, its origins are vague and lost in the dust of time. Street Singing is an art that has evolved more through individual interest or religious devotion than through any organized or patronized performance activity. The street singers are self taught and self trained not receiving privilege from any established institution. They are supported by and large by the community and neighborhood in which way they perform their art. The lyrics of street singers are devotional and inspirational.

Sain Zahoor and his party belongs to the devotional school of singing which he self tough by spending long hours at different places. His form of singing is highly indigenious and totally localized in Pakistan.



Sain Zahoor with his Japanese student

Sain Zahoor, the lead singer mainly sings the lyrics of Mystic poets like Baba Bhulay Shah, Mian Muhammad Bakhsh and Baba Ghulam Farid. Sain has performed in many European and Asian countries including Norway, Belgium, Dubai, Malaysia, China and India where he has performed for eight times. The *Folk Heritage Institute of Pakistan* and the *Belgium Television* has released documentaries on life and performances of Sain Zahoor. During his performance he also plays a string instrument called “Iktara” or “Tumbi”, a traditional Punjabi musical instrument.

This ancient instrument consists of one (ik) wire (tar). It was originally a droning accompaniment to a sung melody, particularly religious songs. Iktara is made of wooden sticks mounted with a wooden resonator covered with skin. A metallic string is passed on a resonator over a bridge and tied to the key at the end of the stick.. It is played by plucking the solitary

string with a to and fro movement of the forefinger. The same hand holds the instrument. It is played in a vertical position

Mushtaq, one of the performers, apart from accompanying Sain Zahoor in singing also plays “Harmonium”, a musical instrument played in the Sub-Continent. Harmonium is somewhat like early American Pump-Organ. The piano-like keyboard is played with the right hand, while pumping the bellows with the left. Harmoniums give an amazing amount of good sound and music, even for the beginner with little skill or experience. Their mellow, warm-sounding tone blends well with the human voice; thus they are especially well-suited for individual or group singing. The convenient size of harmonium is about 1 foot x 1 foot x 2 feet.

Amin, plays “Dholak”, a side drum, cylindrical in shape, bored out of solid wood. Its pitch is variable and is an essential accompaniment for folk music of South Asia.

Schedule of Performances at Expo site

Date	Time	Event Space of Global Common
23rd June, 2005	12-1Pm	1
24th June , 2005	12-1Pm	1
	4 - 5Pm	1
25th June, 2005	4 - 5Pm	1
26th June, 2005	4-5Pm	1
27th June, 2005	11Am-12	2
27th June, 2005	4-5Pm	1
28th June, 2005	6-7Pm	3
30th June, 2005	4-5Pm	4
In addition to the above given schedule the group will also perform at Pakistan Pavilion everyday till 3 rd June, 2005		