

MACHIK CANADA *presents:*

**“Living Songs 3” Benefit Concert & Dinner
For a Primary and Middle School in Tibet**

FEATURING:

BALINESE GENDÈR WAYANG ENSEMBLE, SEKA RAT NADI
(Annette Sanger, James Kippen, Albert Wong, John Carnes);
TIBETAN ARTIST AMCHOK GOMPO (Songs from Amdo, Northeast Tibet)
JENGYI KOREAN DRUMMING ENSEMBLE (Charles Hong);

KURDISH TANBUR (Rob Simms);
GYA SHE (Songs and Dances from Central Tibet);
TIBETAN CHOD RITUAL of Machik Labdron (Pencho Rabgey & Jeff Cupchik);
SONGS from the **BALKANS** (Gabrielle Charron-Merritt & Catherine Ruttan);
POTALA TIBETAN DANCE TROUPE (Tsering Rabgey, Mingmar Tsering & Thupten Champa)



Saturday 7th November, Door & Dinner 7pm, Concert 8pm

The Music Gallery inside St. George the Martyr Church
(1 block north of Queen / John St. in Toronto, musicgallery.org)

Proceeds benefit the first Kindergarten class at the Primary School
and the Summer Enrichment Programme

The Evening Includes:

- * **Tibetan Handmade Crafts Sale** – jewelry, scarves, etc. – find gifts pre-Holiday rush!
- * **Speaker** Prof. Tashi Rabgey, University of Virginia (Machik co-founder & co-director)

EVENING PROGRAMME

Seka Rat Nadi is a Balinese *gendèr wayang* ensemble based in Toronto, Canada. The *gendèr* is a quartet of metallophones struck with disk-shaped mallets. Rat Nadi (“Together As One”) is the name given to this ensemble (*seka*) by one of the greatest exponents of *gendèr wayang* in Bali, the late I Wayan Konolan, whose family has taught the group. The group comprises John Carnes, James Kippen, Annette Sanger and Albert Wong. The varied and difficult repertoire accompanies shadow puppet plays (*wayang*), tooth-filing ceremonies, and cremations. As with most Balinese music, the textures flow quickly, and all parts interweave and interlock.

From a boy growing up in a nomadic family to international acclaim as a Tibetan artist, **Amchok Gonpo Dhondup** has preserved traditional Tibetan music and song. He has taught traditional music to young Tibetans, recorded albums preserving this music, and he continues to perform, blessing us with the sound of ancient Tibet. He will sing Khawa Chengi Mirik (People of the Snow) and Khangchen Jong (Snow Land).

Rob McGuinness Appleby College Assistant Head of School, Global Education.

Brendan Samson Appleby College Faculty; Facilitator of the Summer 2009 Appleby College / Chungba School Summer Enrichment Program.

Nangsal Lama is a senior student at Appleby College. Originally from Nepal, she travelled for the first time to the Chungba School this summer, also participating in the Summer Enrichment Program in Chengdu.

Appleby College is honoured to have a meaningful relationship with Machik. A group of 13 students and staff travelled to Chungba this past summer to help with their summer learning program. It was a very meaningful journey for the group, as they were able to experience both Tibetan and Chinese culture, as well as the magnificent geography of the Tibetan plateau. The group worked with the Tibetan children participating in the Summer Learning Program, teaching Science, Math, English and Geography and having a lot of fun. The experience was very beneficial and rewarding, and will have long-lasting positive effects for all who took part.

Prof. Tashi Rabgey is a Rhodes Scholar and co-founder and co-director of Machik. She became a full-time faculty member at the University of Virginia in 2008, where she is co-director of the Tibetan Centre and the founding director of the Tibet Sustainable Governance Program. After graduating from the University of Toronto, Tashi earned her LLM from Oxford University and finished first in Cambridge University in International Law. She also did advanced study in comparative Chinese Law at the Centre for Asian Legal Studies at the University of British Columbia.

Jengyi is a Toronto-based Korean drumming ensemble directed by Charles Hong, a Ph.D. candidate in ethnomusicology at University of Toronto working under James Kippen. The ensemble performs an exciting and dynamic repertoire of original compositions and dance works as well as traditional pieces (www.jengyi.com).

INTERMISSION

Rob Simms is a professor of music at York University and a multi-instrumentalist with interests in West Asian and West African traditions. In 2005, he and his wife spent four months in the village of Naddi, just outside Dharamsala, taking in the wonders of Tibetan culture and the panorama of the Dhauladhars.

Gya She is a professional performing group of five elder Tibetan performers from Nepal and India. They have given performances at special events in the USA and Canada. Gya She performed for His Holiness The Dalai Lama in Toronto, and more recently in Madison, Wisconsin.

Machik Labdron (1055-1150) is the namesake of Machik. She is the Tibetan female ascetic who developed the Chod (Tib. *gCod*) tradition. **Chod** is a musical/meditation ritual practice of song-poetry designed to develop compassion and wisdom in the practitioner's heart. Her tradition has been passed down in unbroken lineages to today.

Songs of the Balkans features Catherine Ruttan & Gabrielle Charron-Merritt. These two charismatic performers met while at music school and have been singing and playing music together since 2004. Gabrielle is a dynamic improviser and multi-instrumentalist and has made her home in Toronto for the past five years. Catherine's interests encompass the worlds of Jazz, folk music of the Americas and Eastern Europe and music in education.

Jamyang Tenzin was the top student of the Chungba Primary School in Tibetan, Chinese and Math subjects for six years. He was sponsored to Canada by Pencho and Tsering Rabgey since they felt a student with such promise should have the opportunity to learn English. He was nominated four times at his new Canadian High School in Lindsay, Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute, for exhibiting good character.

Potala Tibetan Dance Group was established by the Rabgey family in 1974 in an effort to help preserve Tibetan performing arts by passing on traditional music and dance to the next generation. They have given 224 performances in the North Eastern United States and Canada. Tsering Rabgey, Thupten Champa, Mingmar Tsering and Pencho Rabgey taught dance and music, with their children becoming multi-instrumentalists. Recordings of their music will be played during the evening in addition to a live performance!

Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) 2009 was part of Appleby College's International Service Program. Appleby College's international service projects are providing a foundation for building compassion, understanding and perspective in our global community. Appleby College's international service projects offer a unique, hands-on experience, where service and learning are equally important, and participants gain leadership and team skills that prepare them for exciting and rewarding futures. Experiencing culturally diverse environments prepares students for future interactions, locally, nationally and internationally.

The Chungba Primary School (CPS) opened its doors in 2002 to 210 students. The students have placed first in Tibetan language, Chinese language and Math exams out of 800 schools in Kanze Prefecture of Sichuan Province every year since opening. Now, CPS is considered the model school for rural Tibetan Primary education.

Pencho Rabgey and **Tsering Rabgey** cashed in their RRSPs in 2001 for seed money with which to build the Chungba Primary School in Pencho's home village, Chungba, on the Southeastern Corner of the Tibetan Plateau. Tsering spent over one year based at the Chungba School 2007-2008. Now, with 12 buildings, and a Middle School completed in 2008, the education grounds and boarding school house over 500 students. Pencho and Tsering design and make jewelry by hand (which is being sold here tonight), and give directly to the poor and orphans in Chungba Valley who need assistance.

Maxine Crook was a CBC television producer in current affairs in major shows: *The Fifth Estate*, *The National News* and *The Journal* as well as several documentaries. She also won an Asia Pacific Fellowship. She is a tireless on-the-ground friend of philanthropic efforts for the poor. She donates her time generously to many causes while serving on the board of Give Girls a Chance, a Tides Canada foundation. Since first encountering Machik's work in 2004 at the first Living Songs benefit concert, she has become a fast friend of the Rabgey family's efforts, supporting the Chungba school's policy of prioritizing the education of rural Tibetan girls.

Jeffrey Cupchik Ph.D. recently completed his doctorate in Ethnomusicology (June 2009) from York University on Machik Labdron's Chod ritual meditation practice tradition. He first encountered Tibetan music while studying Ethnomusicology under Prof. James Kippen at University of Toronto, also studying with Tashi Rabgey and Losang Rabgey, and earning an Honours B.Mus. in music composition and theory. He continued studying Tibetan music in India, and later apprenticed to Pencho Rabgey for 12 years to study the Chod tradition.

Special Thanks to many, many people:

Gourmet Vegetarian Restaurant, 280 West Beaver Creek Drive, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 3Z1
905-886-0680

K.C. Choong, Bhutla Kharpoche, Passang Lhamo, Bhuti, Tenzin Jigme, Chamba, Loga, Thayon, Lobsang Nyima, Mingmar Tsering, Thupten Champa, Jamyang, Scott, Dale, Florence, Dan (the sound guy), and many others!

To learn more about Machik's projects, consult: **www.machik.org**. You can email info@machik.org or call 202-536-4858, or fax 202-386-6239.

If you would like to be an ongoing supporter of Machik Canada, kindly send a donation by cheque to Machik Canada, 15 Blue Ridge Road, Toronto ON M2K 1R4.

Thank you very much for your support of Machik Canada

Thank you for coming!!

Jeff Cupchik, Artistic Director *Living Songs*
Program and Notes organized and produced by Jeff Cupchik