

decembergirl

Marina Belica

Headline: Nusa Dua, Indonesia, December 30, 2000

Charity Concert in Bali, Indonesia features Performers from Around the World

A benefit concert for the Jasmine Children's Aid Society of Bali took place at the Bali Cliff Hotel in Bali, Indonesia, on December 30, 2000. Headlined by Grammy-winning Swiss harpist multi-instrumentalist Andreas Vollenweider, the concert also featured guest appearances by Indonesian fusion musician Wayan Sadra and his group, as well as singer/songwriters Marina Belica and Makana.

The concert was a highlight of the Bali Nirmala Symposium, a special year end conference organized by Nirmala Journeys, Ltd. People came from the U.S., Europe and throughout Asia, as well as Bali, to attend four days of art, music and inspiration in a spectacular setting atop a cliff overlooking the Indian Ocean. In addition to performances by the Ladies Gamelan Orchestra from the Royal Palace of Peliatan in Bali, dancers from Malaysia and Bali, traditional Javanese & Balinese musicians, and crystal bowl healer Awahoshi Kavan, the conference featured talks by meditation masters Merta Ada from Bali and John Mari Campbell from Cambria, CA, and Barbara Biziou, a respected author of books on ritual in contemporary life. Conference attendees were also given the opportunity to co-operatively paint a large mural created by New York artist/photographer Steven Lowy.

The benefit concert on December 30th opened with Indonesian fusion music from Wayan Sadra, followed by two songs each from New York singer/songwriter/ keyboardist Marina Belica and Hawaiian singer/songwriter/slack guitarist Makana. Marina accompanied herself on piano to sing "When You Go," the opening track from her new CD, followed by a composition that she recorded last summer in Zurich with Andreas entitled "Rainbow." Makana followed with a performance of an original composition, "Redirection," and a slack key guitar favorite, "Poi." Makana's CD is available via moonroomrecords.com.

After a brief intermission, Andreas took the stage, performing on each of three different harps : Celtic, Chinese (cheng) and African (kora). He invited Marina to the stage to sing the October Project classic "Return to Me," on which she played keyboards and Andreas played cheng (which he described as his "Chinese pedal steel guitar"). Later in the set, Makana was also invited back on stage for an instrumental improvisation with Andreas on kora. Andreas closed the set by inviting all of the performers back up to lead the audience in a sing-along of a traditional, hymn-like Indonesian melody that Wayan Sadra had played earlier in the evening. Andreas jumped down off the stage and wandered through the audience like a pied piper, encouraging everyone to join in. The audience response was so enthusiastic that perhaps it will not be another 25 years before Andreas returns to Bali.

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