

## **Concert “Windy days & Land of Asylum” on January, 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Idecaf**

The French Cultural and Cooperation Antenna in Ho Chi Minh City presents a very special concert named “Windy days & Land of Asylum” at Idecaf on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 8 p.m. This is a combination of traditional and modern music which is performed by Pierre Diaz (saxophone), the string trio Zéphyr (Claire Menguy, Marion Diaques and Delphine Chomel), Huong Thanh (vocals), Alex Tran (percussions) and Nguyen Thu Thuy (Vietnamese violin). Tickets will be soon on sale at Idecaf.

This artistic creation is based on traditional music transmitted from generations with memories of diasporas. The theme of mother-child relationship will be performed and illustrated through.

These artists will offer a subtle fusion of jazz, Eastern and Mediterranean rhythms and traditional Vietnamese music through song, words or improvisation.

### **Pierre DIAZ (saxophone)**

At the age of 12, Pierre Diaz began in Languedoc-Roussillon (France) and soon joined a band, touring around the region. From 20 years old, he discovered jazz, J. Coltrane, dance and theater among which he makes a new musical creation. His first CD (duo), released in early 2000, has been noticed by "hot jazz" critics.

In 2005, he began to develop the theme of exodus, and he created "Sons of refugee Quintet" and "Windy Days". He has already been touring in Vietnam (2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006). He recorded "Tim Gio" (Searching the wind) in 2005 with the support of the Embassy of France in Vietnam which has been presented in Hue Festival in 2006. On this occasion he met traditional Vietnamese musicians like Nguyen Thu Thuy (Vietnamese violin).

### **Trio Zéphyr**

Trio Zéphyr is a group of three talented musicians: cellist and soprano singer Claire Menguy, violinist and mezzo-soprano singer Marion Diaques, violinist and alto singer Delphine Chomel. **Claire Menguy** deepened her knowledge during musicological and instrumental studies at the conservatory. She plays traditional music and especially Mediterranean music. Passion, serene attitude and her magnitude cello highlight herself in the trio. After national music academy, **Marion Diaques** pursues music therapy and explores different aspects of music through vocals and violin. She is inspired by traditional music of Middle East and Eastern Europe, and African dance. Her vivacity and imagination bring warmth and vitality to the trio. During her studies in music therapy, **Delphine Chomel** learned vocal techniques, improvisation and also world music. In the trio, she expresses a fine, deep and voluptuous voice.

### **Huong Thanh (vocals)**

Born in Saigon in a renowned family of traditional music, Huong Thanh began learning Cai Luong (Vietnamese typical opera that combines song, dance & drama) & traditional music at the age of 10. Huu Phuoc, his father was among the most famous singers of Cai Luong. At the age of 13, Huong Thanh studied extensively in various schools of music & theater in Saigon. At the age of 16, she performed for the first time.

She moved to France in 1988 and joined in several shows of Cai Luong with her father and many other brilliant artists all around Europe: France, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium.

1995 is an important milestone in her career: she met the jazzman Nguyen Le and touched a whole new world of music. The result of this combination between Cai Luong and jazz, CD *Ile – Tales from Vietnam* (2006), was a hit and won many prizes: Diapason d'Or, Choc du Monde de la musique (Hit music), Choc de l'année 1996 Jazzman (Jazz hit 1996), 2<sup>nd</sup> best CD 96 for JAZZTHING (Germany), best CD 1996 on the radio TRS 2 (CH).

Huong Thanh has already released 5 CDs since 1999: “Moon and Wind” (1999), “Dragonfly” (2001), “Mangustao” (2004), “Fragile Beauty” (2007) and “Cai Luong music” (2008). Her 6<sup>th</sup> CD about Vietnamese traditional music in cooperation with native musicians will be released this year.

Huong Thanh has won many prestigious prizes: Prize Music of the World in 2007 from the French Radio “France Musique”, World Top Album (with her 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> CD in 2001 and 2004). Her 3<sup>rd</sup> album “Mangustao” won the 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (Word Music Charts Europe) in 2004.

### **Alex Tran (percussions)**

Born in France in 1975, Alex Tran began learning percussions and piano at the Academy of Metz at the age of 7. At the same time, he learned modern percussions with Caribbean digital percussionists.

At 20, he taught for 4 years in a percussion school in Metz, network Tama / Paiste. Then he found his inspiration on stage. He participates in several projects ranging from Jazz, Cuban, Caribbean, African, Electro Funk, Rock and French music. He is a member of an Asian music quartet and he collaborated with Huong Thanh for the album "Fragile Beauty".

### **Nguyen Thu Thuy (Vietnamese violin)**

Nguyen Thu Thuy often travels abroad for traditional music training and performances. She leads a group of traditional musicians and they tour all around Vietnam.

For more information: [www.myspace.com/joursdevent](http://www.myspace.com/joursdevent)

**Date:** 12 January 2011, 8 pm

**Place:** Idecaf (31, Thai Van Lung, Dist 1, tel: 08 38295451)

**Entrance:** 100 000 VND (50 000 VND for students)

**Tickets for sale at Mekong Merchant – 23 Thao Dien on Monday, January 10, 2011 from 8:00 am to 10:30 am.**