



Our mission is
to be a catalyst
in a vibrant arts sector,
inspiring new
generations

Press Release

From Cambodian Living Arts



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REPfest World Music Festival comes to Siem Reap this October

Three days of music, at three special venues, with artists from six countries

PHNOM PENH, 8 SEPTEMBER 2017 - This year, Cambodia will host an international festival dedicated to World Music, drawing artists from around Asia for three days of performances, workshops and forums. REPfest is developed and presented by Cambodian Living Arts (CLA), with support from World Culture Open (WCO) and the Mekong Cultural Hub (MCH). The festival will take place on 27-29 October 2017, at a selection of intimate venues in Siem Reap, home of Angkor Wat and Cambodia's center of living heritage. The line-up will be announced at the launch event, to be held at Kaifun Eatery, at 6pm on Wednesday 27 September.

This festival will bring together artists from around Cambodia and Asia, with a focus on the Greater Mekong, allowing them to share their experiences and skills, and helping to sow the seeds for future collaboration in the region. With artists from a range of styles and backgrounds, REPfest aims to inspire those taking part to develop their music creatively, and to share it with new audiences. As well as showcases and performances, there will be exchange and improvisation workshops so that the artists can learn from each other, and public workshops where artists can engage with the audience on a more personal level. The final day will see a public forum where the participating artists will share about creating new music in their countries, and discuss the challenges and opportunities for collaboration in the region.

REPfest World Music Festival takes its name from Siem Reap's airport code, an international hub bringing people together in Cambodia's ancient former capital. Siem Reap has a rich history of artistry, and the province is home to many traditional musicians and cultural experts. It is celebrated as a city of immense tangible heritage because of Angkor Wat, but its living culture is less well-known. CLA aims to help redress this, with its 'Heritage Hub'

based in Siem Reap, providing a center for the practice, research, and development of Cambodia's intangible cultural heritage.

REPfest will build on the success of the 2016 Jeju World Music Oreum Festival, organized by World Culture Open. With the theme of "The Road, and the Beginning", the 2016 event brought countries along the ancient Silk Road together through music and culture. REPfest will focus on the Greater Mekong region's "living heritage"; the art, culture, and everyday practices that shape people's lives. The work of the artists taking part builds upon traditional forms from the region, to create music that expresses something from their time, and of their experiences.

SONG Seng, CLA's Heritage Hub Manager, said "I am really excited that Siem Reap will be hosting REPfest in October. It's a great chance to bring together artists and audiences from the Mekong region, so people can get to know each other, explore our shared heritage, and continue our stories together. Siem Reap's temples, its status as the birthplace of Cambodian culture remind us of the thread between generations – our music, arts and culture came from generations past, and now it's the role of artists today to build on this, create new work, and keep our culture alive and relevant for future generations."

CLA will host the REPfest Launch on Wednesday 27 September at Kaifun Eatery, Phnom Penh . Heritage Hub Manager SONG Seng will announce the full lineup and provide a short introduction to the festival and the venues. There will be a short musical performance, and photo and interview opportunities with the artists and the festival team.

DATE: Wednesday 27 September

TIME: Doors open from 6pm, announcement and performance start at 6.30pm

LOCATION: Kaifun Eatery, St 334 (nr. Corner St 57), BKK1, Phnom Penh

The event is open to the public. If you would like to join as press, or for any other enquiries, please contact Hermione BROOKS at hermione@cambodianlivingarts.org or +855 70 425 661 (phone/WhatsApp).

Notes for editors

Cambodian Living Arts

Cambodian Living Arts' mission is to be a catalyst in a vibrant arts sector, inspiring new generations. Founded in 1998 by genocide survivor, musician, and peace advocate Arn CHORN-POND, they initially focused on the preservation of endangered art forms and rituals. As Cambodia and its arts sector developed, so did CLA's work; they began to offer scholarships and fellowships, to create jobs for artists, and to support research, international exchanges, and networking. Now, they are also working to integrate arts and culture into the Cambodian education system, and to build links with arts communities around the region.

www.cambodianlivingarts.org .

CLA's Heritage Hub

The Heritage Hub is a branch of CLA located in Siem Reap. It supports CLA's wider mission; to be a catalyst in a vibrant arts sector, inspiring new generations. The Heritage Hub

focuses especially on strengthening living heritage – the range of cultural and artistic practices that are part of people’s lives, from music to ritual and crafts, and even food and social interactions. Our current priority is traditional performing arts.

World Culture Open

World Culture Open (WCO) is a network of creatives and cultural leaders from around the globe, dedicated to facilitating open platforms that invite people to engage, enjoy, embrace, and be enriched together through intercultural exchange and multilateral collaboration, in pursuit of harmony of global community. WCO’s work spans from research and studies to the creation and designing of collaborative platforms and open gatherings on both global and local levels, including festivals, forums, community projects and creative campaigns.

www.worldcultureopen.org/