

MALTA INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL – 2011

Ninth Edition

Promoters & Administrators:

M & E Management Group.

Offices: Malta – London – Edinburgh – Dubai.

and

CEFIT EVENTS INTERNATIONAL

OFFICES in MALTA - DUBAI - ITALY - TUNISIA

These organisations are Affiliated with:

European Association of Festival Promoters – UK

International Entertainment Buyers' Association – US

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Open Invitation to Folk and Musical Groups

Rules and Regulations of the Festival.

Part 1 – Who's Who in the Festival.

1.1 – Introduction.

We would like to introduce you to the MALTA INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL 2010. The eighth edition of this prestigious international festival will again be under the auspices of the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Local Government, various Municipalities of Malta and the MALTA NATIONAL FOLKLORE COMMISSION, all government entities. The Festival is held on an annual basis in the month of December in Malta.

1.2 – The Key Personnel and Organisers.

The Festival is being promoted by M & E Management Group – an International Entertainment and Consultancy Company, with offices in Malta, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates. The Group has successfully conducted localised, national and international events in more than 24 countries worldwide, with a proven track record of folk shows and festivals. The *Chairman* of the Festival will thus be the Chief Executive of the Group, Dr. Massimo J. Ellul.

The *Chief Co-ordinator* of the organising committee of the Malta International Folk Festival will be Mr. Francis Pullicino, managing director of CEFIT Ltd, with a proven track record of organising similar events in various countries and regions.

The *Administration and Logistics* of the Festival will be in the hands of the Cultural Division of M & E Management Group. It will be led by Mr. Joseph Deguara.

The Malta International Folk Festival is annually comprised of two different committees, all of which are composed of professionals in their respective fields who sit on the committees in question on a voluntary, i.e. non-paid basis:

The Organising Committee.

The Committee of the Panel of Judges.

1.3 – Festival Committees – The Organising Committee.

The Organising Committee is composed of the officers mentioned in 1.2 above.

It is chaired by the Chairman of the Malta International Folk Festival.

The officers of the Organising Committee can propose and second other additional members to sit on the Organising Committee should they deem that the latter's skills in organisation, execution, implementation and/or overseeing are needed for the smooth projection of the festival.

The officers of the Organising Committee can propose and second personnel and/or executives representing the main sponsoring government and/or private entities which ensure the success of the International Festival to sit on the Organising Committee.

The Organising Committee has the responsibility to:

- 1.3.1 Ensure that all the applicant folk, cultural and dance troupes meet the high criteria imposed by the International Festival.
- 1.3.2 Ensure that all the short listed participants of the International Festival are assisted in their efforts to perform in the Festival from an administrative and logistical point of view.
- 1.3.3 Ensure that during the participants' stay in Malta for the International Festival would be a smooth one and that the groups in question are assisted in their performances as the need arises.
- 1.3.4 Ensure that all the short listed participants of the International Festival abide by the rules and regulations of the International Festival and work in harmony with the organisers and the other

participating groups. The Organising Committee has the power to disqualify any participating group – both before and after their performance – should the latter not abide by the same rules and regulations. The Organising Committee’s decision is final and no appeals are accepted.

1.4 – Festival Committees – The Committee of the Panel of Judges.

The Chairperson of the Committee of the Panel of Judges will be the Chairman of the Festival.

The panel of judges may also include representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, representatives from Malta’s National Folklore Commission, representatives from the Department of Culture, representatives from Malta’s leading international folk troupe, the Paul Curmi Dancers and other local and international authorities in the field as well as representatives from the Municipalities.

The Committee of the Panel of Judges have the duty to analyse and give points to each and every participating group and troupe during the International Festival. The decisions and voting and eventual placing of the participating groups and troupes by the Committee in question is final and no appeals are accepted.

Part 2 – Dates and Other Related Information.

The Festival is being spread over an eight-day period in the month of December – each group being given the option to choose any 7 nights/8days from this period, so long as the whole troupe is physically on the island of Malta on the 27th and 28th of December 2012.

Thus the festival proper will be held on Monday and Tuesday, the 27th and 28th of December 2012 respectively. Performances on these two dates which will be fully competitive, with the panel of judges giving out their votes and placing for each participating group and/or troupe. The competitive performances are referred to as the Official Competitive Performances of the Malta International Folk Festival.

The participating groups and/or troupes will also be requested to perform at other places and venues in Malta and Gozo in other dates throughout the eight day period in question. These performances are referred to as the Unofficial Performances of the Malta International Folk Festival.

In order to ensure maximum exposure of the participating groups and/or troupes in the Unofficial Performances of the Malta International Folk Festival, the organising committee is thus suggesting that the participating dance troupes and/or groups would travel to Malta on the 26th December 2012 and return back on the 2nd of January 2013. Alternatively, other dates can be organised jointly so long as the Organising Committee will know in advance the wishes of the participating troupe.

Not only will the participating groups enjoy the camaraderie and competition of such a prestigious International Festival, but the former can also indulge in the joy of celebrating their Yuletide days in a country steeped in history, tradition, culinary joys and extensive potential for memorable excursions.

Part 3 – Participating Groups and/or Troupes.

The Organising Committee is inviting **ALL FOLK WITH TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE GROUPS AND MUSICAL GROUPS**, hailing from all over the world, with their traditional costumes, dance, song, and music to participate in the Malta International Folk Festival.

Music can be live or provided on recorded music (compact disk or mini disc) or a mix of both.

The Organising Committee wishes to inform all groups who would be participating in the competitive part of the festival by means of live music that they should also bring with them recorded music which they could also perform to. This would ensure that, in case of circumstances wherein public performances need to be done by means of recorded music, all troupes and groups would have access to the same exposure. This does not in any manner bind the groups to perform in the official competitive – and judged – festival nights solely to recorded music. The choice of recorded or live music on those particular dates remains the responsibility of the participating group.

The number of performers allowed will be from 10 to 30 persons per participating group; all other performers and/or technical personnel will be deemed as guests of the participating group.

Each participating group must have prepared choreography of not less than twenty minutes and not more than thirty minutes to be performed on the competitive – and judged – festival nights.

There will be guest performances by local folk group/s and national personalities. However, local folk, dance and cultural groups and troupes hailing from either Malta or its sister island of Gozo cannot participate in the competitive element of the Festival but will be only invited as guests.

Part 4 – Cash Prizes and Other Prizes.

All participating groups will be judged by a number of experienced judges in this field of cultural activity. Each group will also be invited to nominate a representative to sit down on the panel as an observer, with the judges appointed by the organisers. The observers are thus elected to ensure transparency; they do not have the right to vote on the festival nights.

The decision of the judging panel will be transparent and fully monitored by the Chairperson of the judging panel. The panel's decision will be final.

There will be cash prizes as follows:

- **3000 EUROS FOR FIRST PLACING**
- 2000 EUROS FOR SECOND PLACING**
- **1000 EUROS FOR THIRD PLACING**

All participating Folk troupes will receive a certificate of participation plus a souvenir memento of the event in question. The cash prizes will be sent directly to the winners once the necessary payments to the organisers have been received from the partnering Municipalities, normally around 90 – 120 days after the festival.

Folk troupes placing, as mentioned above, in first, second and third place will receive a certificate of attainment, together with a trophy projecting their placing.

The administrative committee will also be issuing certificates and trophies for the following folk troupe:

- **The Group with Best Choreography**
- **The Group with the Best Musical Interpretation**
- **The Group with the Best Costumes**

Part 5 – Guest Media Personnel.

Each group is welcome to bring from 2 to 3 MEDIA PEOPLE from their native country. These can either be representatives of state or national television stations, or popular private TVs, radio stations or from a popular newspaper or publication.

These media people will be entitled to cover the entire event and the Organising Committee will be provided with a BETA COPY for the relative television stations or reports and clippings from the newspapers-and periodicals by not later than 3 weeks after the festival.

The administrative committee will, by means of its agreement with the Malta Tourism Authority, provide the related media people with any requested visual, photographic and/or written material regarding the history and beauty of the Maltese islands.

5.1 – Local Television airing.

Similarly, the Organising Committee might opt that a number, or all, the participating groups/troupes be televised by Maltese TV stations.

The participating groups and troupes will not possess or ask for any TV rights and/or royalties and payments should they appear on local TV stations.

Each participating group/troupe might be taking part in a number of TELEVISION PROGRAMMES on the national Maltese TV station and other privately owned stations.

Therefore, each group must ensure that they bring with them to Malta, a Beta Video Film - which

would be a promotion about their country – to be included in the editing of the said TV programme.

All participating groups can coordinate with their Ministries of Tourism and Culture to give all the promotion possible about their country in the television programme for their disposal.

Part 6 – Souvenirs and Craft Works.

The participating groups can bring Souvenirs, handicrafts, drinks, food, which they can sell to the general public attending the performances.

They can also sell compact disks or tapes of their music.

Should they opt to do so, the participating groups are thus reminded to inform the Organising Committee of such a wish at least a month prior to the International Festival in order to ensure a smooth logistical scenario.

Part 7 – Flags and National Anthems.

Each group must bring 2 flags of their country, one of which might be fixed on the stage/s along with the other flags of the other participating countries and the other one to be carried by the group in other venues. Each group must also bring with them their National Anthem on a compact disc format, The National Anthem will be played before the performance of each group.

Each group must also prepare a short biography/profile about the group, which will be presented prior to the performances by the Master/Mistress of Ceremonies. This must be written in ENGLISH.

Part 8 – Official and Other Performances.

Performances of the groups will be held in prominent places and venues in MALTA AND GOZO as stipulated by the Organising Committee and, where needed, on adequate stages, with adequate sound and light systems.

All performances which are organised by the organising committee throughout the folk troupe's stay in Malta – including the unofficial and thus non-competitive performance - are deemed as part of the Malta International Folk Festival. All participating groups and troupes are duty bound to attend and perform in all the events underlined by the Organising Committee.

The full itinerary of the week's performances of the participating dance troupe will be immediately given to the troupe leader on arrival to Malta.

All transport costs for such performances will be borne by the Organising Committee, except for non-participating guests travelling with the folk group/troupe in question. These will be asked to pay a subsidised travelling fee for such transportation.

The Organising Committee will ensure that, where possible, representatives from the organising committee will always be accompanying the participating dance troupes in their various itineraries in order to aid and assist where necessary.

Performances may include street parades, defiles, open air events, indoor events in venues owned and/or operated by patrons and sponsors of the International Festival and other similar events. Non-acceptance of any or all of these performances by a participating group/troupe, without a valid reason, would immediately mean disqualification of the participating group/troupe. This disqualification is valid and final even if the Official and thus judged Festival days have been concluded.

Part 9 – Participation Fees.

Each participating group must bear the expenses of their travelling to Malta, as their own cost, but on demand the Organising Committee can help and assist the groups in question in order to avail themselves from competitive prices. This cost only refers to air/sea passage and related taxes.

Any visa expenses incurred by persons participating in the international festival are to be individually borne by the participants. The procurement of visas to enter the island is NOT the prerogative of the Organising Committee and the latter does not have any responsibility whatsoever in procuring the mentioned documentation.

Each group will pay 150 EUROS per person as participation fee. The participation fee is compulsory for all the members of the folk groups/troupes, singers and the media people.

Groups which are comprised of 30 persons or more may be given an exemption on ONE person, normally the group leader, who will not be eligible to pay the participation fee.

Each confirmed group participating in the International Festival needs to send a deposit to the Organising Committee's offices of 1,000 Euros at a date agreed to by both parties after confirmation of participation. This deposit is non-refundable.

Participating groups will be confirmed as such by the organising committee on first come, first served basis. Groups are thus urged to register with the committee as early as possible in order to avoid disappointment.

All payment balances remaining once a dance group/folk troupe arrives to Malta need to be settled with the organisers by not later than one day after arrival on the island.

The Organising Committee will provide, in exchange for the participation fee, the following:

- MEET AND ASSIST IN THE AIRPORT/SEAPORT
- TRANSFERS FROM AIRPORT OR PORT TO HOTEL AND BACK
- TRANSFERS TO THE VENUES OF PERFORMANCES AND BACK
- 7 NIGHTS/8DAYS ACCOMODATION IN A MINIMUM 3 STAR HOTEL WITH AMENITIES.
- BREAKFAST AND DINNER DAILY (No beverages included).
- PARTECIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL.
- DIPLOMA AND MEMENTO FOR EACH GROUP PARTECIPATING.
- EXTENSIVE CASH PRIZES AND TROPHIES AS DETAILED ABOVE.
- A NUMBER OF OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS THROUGHOUT THEIR STAY, WHICH MAY INCLUDE VISITING DIGNITARIES, MAYORS OF LOCALITIES ETC.
- TELEVISION PROGRAMMES COVERAGE FOR EACH GROUP & GIVING PROMOTION TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF EACH GROUP.
- POSSIBILITY OF SELLING SOUVENIRS & HANDICRAFTS, FOOD & DRINK, CDs OF RELATED MUSIC TO THE PUBLIC.

Part 10 – Companions and Extensions of Stay.

Each group participating can bring an unlimited number of companions, friends and relatives. The latter will not be eligible to pay the related registration fee, but can avail themselves of the same services at a payment of 200 EUROS for a full 7-night/ 8 day stay.

All participants and guests can extend their stay in Malta by paying for a half board extension at their resident hotel the amount of 35 Euros per person per night. This payment needs to be effected via the Organising Committee and exact nights per person coming over to Malta need to be given prior to the Group's arrival.

Should participants and/or group leaders wish to upgrade their accommodation by means of a single supplement, then each person thus inclined needs to pay the amount of 25 Euros per person per night extra.

The exact nights per person staying should be properly noted in the official participants' list, which has to be received in our offices by not later than the 1st week of November 2011.

The official participants' list needs to clearly distinguish the following components of the Group:

1. Official Name of Group and country of origin.
2. Group Leader.
3. Other Group Officials (if any)
4. Folk Dancers.
5. Folk Musicians (if any)
6. Singer/s (if any)

7. Media People (with name of media represented).
8. Companions (if any)

Part 11 – Refunds.

It is important to note that fees paid are exceptionally subsidised, and hence no refunds apply.

All participating Groups/Troupes should kindly note that participation fees are specifically that: this means that any fluctuations in bed nights due to transport and logistical problems encountered by the participants and all their guests do not in any way change the fee amounts (both for participants and their guests).

Part 12 – Optional Guided Excursions.

The Organising Committee will be also liaising at least two highly interesting and entertaining programmes of guided excursions/tours.

These excursions are optional and each person participating must pay for them on an individual basis.

- **The first excursion is a full day tour of Gozo, Malta's sister island, wherein lies a treasure trove of prehistoric sites, quaint hamlets and villages, natural beauty and extensive architecture. The excursion includes lunch at a quaint traditional restaurant in Gozo. The fee for this optional excursion is of 45 Euros per person.**
- **The second optional day excursion will take the participants to the unique and scenic old Arab capital of Malta, Mdina. Mdina is also known as the Silent City and has astounding views of the whole island of Malta and beautiful Gothic and Norman architecture in the buildings of the Citadel. The participants will also be taken to the traditional craft village. The fee for this optional excursion is of 25 Euros per person.**

All participating groups need to inform the Organising Committee well in advance of their intent to participate in the above excursions in order to organise accordingly.

The Official Programme which will include all the performances and excursions for all the participating groups/troupes will be sent at a later stage to all the participating groups.

Part 13 – Promotional Material.

With the application herewith enclosed, each group is requested to send by POST TO THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE'S ADDRESS, a VHS-PAL VIDEO of the group in action in some International festival – Coloured photos of the group in action – brochures and posters – a profile plus a possible press-kit of the group. These are very essential for the Organising Committee and have to be supplied as early as possible.

The Organising Committee reserves the right to use, for promotional purposes, any publicity material sent to the former by the applicant dance troupes.

Part 14 – Deadline for the International Festival.

The Closing Date for this international event is the 31st October 2011

However, as stated above, participating dance troupes will be given participation status on a first come first served basis due to the number of requests we already have after the success of last year's first edition of the Festival.

The Organising Committee regards participants to the Festival as such when the former would have received in their bank account a first – AND NON-REFUNDABLE – deposit of 1000 Euros.

By the 31st of October or earlier, the Organising Committee must receive via their address, the application duly filled and signed together with all the other requested information.

The final decision regarding which groups/troupes have been selected will be notified to all applicant groups as indicated above.

The Organising Committee reserves the right to refuse participation to any groups which do not meet with the set, professional standards of such an international event.

Non – adherence to any of the above clauses may lead to immediate disqualification from the festival. Festival disqualification is the sole right and prerogative of the festival organising committee.