Media Contact: Ellen Frierson
January 12, 2015
For Immediate Release
Phone: 206-616-7025
Email: ellen@fiuts.org

CulturalFest 2015: Music & Dance from Around the Globe

The Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS) is proud to announce the stage performance program line-up for CulturalFest 2015!

CulturalFest is an annual event that showcases the talent and diversity of the University of Washington’s international community. The celebration welcomes thousands of globally-minded visitors of all ages and backgrounds to engage in cultural exploration and learning. Details are available at www.fiuts.org/culturalfest.

The FIUTS CulturalFest stage performance program will take place at UW’s Meany Hall on Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:00. 2015’s stage program will feature performances from regions across the globe, represented by the following supremely talented groups:

**Dikir West Side (Malaysia):** Dikir West Side performs Dikir Barat, a dynamic group performance that includes rhythmic and energy-filled singing, clapping, and instruments.

**Te Fare O Tamatoa (Tahiti):** Te fare o Tamatoa's vibrant performances use song, dance, and handcrafted costumes/regalia to share legends, culture, and spirit.

**HKDC (China):** Performers trained in Hong Kong share elegant, traditional classical dance.

**Denná Good-Mojab (Iran):** Vocal soloist Denná Good-Mojab will perform a song in Farsi based on an Afghan poem.

**UW Taiko Kai (Japan):** Taiko Kai’s ensemble performance style of Taiko drumming draws from rhythms used in traditional folk dances and inspirations from Buddhist teachings while blending with more modern genres.

**Monica Razniewski (Poland):** Vocal soloist Monica Razniewski will perform a classical Polish song composed by Chopin.

**Hussain Fadwani (Pakistan):** Guitarist and singer Hussain Fadwani presents a Qawwali, a traditional form of subcontinental music, combined with Western influences.

**University of Washington Bhangra (India):** Bhangra is a traditional folk dance from the area of Punjab. Its upbeat and colorful style is performed all over the world.
Irish Dancers at UW (Ireland): Blending traditional Irish dance steps with more modern choreography, the Irish Dancers use solo and group routines as well as both hard and soft shoes in their fun and lively performances.

Karoun Dance Ensemble (Tajikstan): Performing very different dances from two regions, the Karoun Dance Ensemble's performance will convey amazing richness of the dance and music traditions of Central Asia.

Dogg Pound Crew (USA): The Dogg Pound Crew combines high-energy b-boying ('breakdancing') with team-based choreography. This dance form expresses the cultural roots of earning respect, keeping kids out of trouble and off the streets.

Natya UW (India): The piece that this talented student dance group will perform depicts the story of Rukmini Devi Arundale, a pioneer of the Indian classical dance style Bharatnatyam.

To learn more about CulturalFest and its photo opportunities, coordinate performer interviews, or to request media tickets, please contact Manager of Community Programs Ellen Frierson at (206) 616-7025, or by email at ellen@fiuts.org.

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About FIUTS

The Foundation for International Understanding Through Students (FIUTS) was founded at the University of Washington in 1948. FIUTS programs create a community of people, both on and off campus, who are committed to international understanding and cross-cultural friendship. A 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, FIUTS connects international students with the greater Puget Sound region through educational and community programs. FIUTS’ mission is to inspire lifelong engagement in experiences that build global understanding. www.fiuts.org