

# Sister Cities of Houston 2021 Annual Concert

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sister Cities of Houston One World Concert 2021

Thursday, February 25, 2021 6-7 pm, virtual, free

Sign up at [www.sistercitieshouston.org](http://www.sistercitieshouston.org)

February 8, 2021 – Houston – Sister Cities of Houston showcases a world of talent in the first annual One World Concert. This free, virtual concert will be broadcast on Thursday, February 25, from 6 – 7pm CST. The theme of this year’s One World Concert is “We Are One” that we believe is fitting at a time when the world must come together to fight a global pandemic.

Mayor Sylvester Turner welcomes listeners to enjoy the free concert. Nelly and Felix Fraga will be honored with the first One World Award for their contributions to global understanding in forming the Houston-Guayaquil Sister City Association and founding the Ambassadors International Folklorico.

Sister Cities of Houston President Susan Young said of this year’s concert, “The global pandemic has made it clearer than ever that humankind shares one planet. It has also given us new tools to connect virtually. But the power of music to connect across boundaries, ages and cultures remains the same.”

The following performers with ties to Houston represent world cultures:

# Rhythm India



## Girls Like To Swing

This piece is a Hindi song from the 2015 movie Dil Dhadakne Do. The song is composed by Ehsaan Noorani, Loy Mendonsa, and Shankar Mahadevan with lyrics by Javed Akhtar. Sunidhi Chauhan performs the song.

## Website

<http://www.rhythm-india.com>

## Nev & Kalina



### Makedonija Zemjo Najmila (Macedonia, Our Dearest Land)

Kalina and Nev Neskoska are a power sister duo originally from Ohrid, Macedonia. While the Neskoski family relocated to Chicago in 2000, and the sisters moved to Boston four years ago when Nev began her Berklee diploma and Kalina her new marketing job. Nev and Kalina write Macedonian pop and folk music and create all the content for their Macedonian language learning show called “Darko Biberko.” Growing up in diverse cities like Chicago and Boston has not only given them an appreciation for other cultures but the courage to be themselves and to proudly share their heritage with fellow Americans.

### Website and Social Media

[www.darkobiberko.com](http://www.darkobiberko.com)

<https://www.instagram.com/nevmusic/>

<https://www.instagram.com/kalin4e/>

# Ambassadors International Ballet Folklórico



The mission of the Ambassadors International Ballet Folklórico is to preserve and teach Hispanic and Texan dance and to promote cultural exchanges between the Hispanic community and the people of the various cultures in our Houston more widely. Ballet Folklórico teaches the traditional cultural dance of Latino countries around the world to youth and adults, Hispanic and non-Hispanic alike, and showcases these dances through the presentation of programs in collaboration with the local educational institutions, corporations, foundations and local neighborhoods.

## Website

<https://www.ambassadorsibf.org>

# Eliot Stone Didgeridoo



## Didgeridoo Solo

Eliot Stone first heard the sound of the didgeridoo when he was in school. He loved it so much, he was inspired to study the instrument and follow his passion to Australia. Stone studied with master didgeridoo musicians to not only learn how to play, but how to make the incredibly unique instruments. When Stone returned to Texas, he started Austin Aboriginal Instruments to bring the culture and sound to his hometown. Now Stone builds his didgeridoos from Texas trees and uses the instruments to create one-of-a-kind music.

## Website

<https://abc13.com/what-is-a-didgeridoo-eliot-stone-austin-aboriginal-instruments-music/5982240/>



# Takarabune Creative Dance Co.



## Awa Odori (traditional)

Takarabune is a creative dance company that performs Awa Odori, a traditional Japanese dance form with a 400-year history. They push the limits of this venerable traditional art: their signature dance style is so aggressive and vigorous that it has been characterized as 'dance beyond Awa Odori'.

## Website

<http://takarbune.org/>

# International Voices of Houston



## We Are One & Tshotsholoza

The International Voices of Houston will perform We Are One, by Brian Tate with soloist Loyce Washington and Tshotsholoza, South African Freedom Song adapted by Jeffrey L. Ames with a solo by Kenneth Gayle. International Voices Houston is a multicultural choir in Houston, Texas, that inspires, educates, and brings joy to its audiences through world music. We perform international choral works in their unique styles and languages. We celebrate our cultural diversity as part of the greater Houston community through our collaborative environment of camaraderie, learning, and growth.

## Website

<https://voiceshouston.org>

# Houston Children's Chorus



## A World of Difference & Children of Today

The Houston Children's Chorus performs *A World of Difference* arranged and directed by Joseph Martin and Pamela Stewart, and *Children of Today* arranged and directed by Sandra Berry Musser and Long Beery.

## Website

<https://houstonchildren.org>



# One World Award 2021



## Nelly Moyano and Felix Fraga

Nelly Moyano and Felix Fraga are Houston community treasures who exemplify citizen diplomacy in many dimensions. Felix's family has lived in the Houston East End for three generations. Nelly first came to Houston from Ecuador when she was 23 as a social worker in a professional development program. She met Felix, also a social worker, at Ripley House as part of her program. Three years later, they married, raised a family and enriched their community throughout their lives and continue to do so. Nelly founded Ambassadors International Ballet Folklorico as an arts organization to preserve and teach traditional Hispanic folk dances and created a company that has toured the world and raised generations of dancers.

Nelly and Felix co-founded the Houston-Guayaquil Sister City Association (HGSCA) in 1987 and have guided it and supported it ever since. HGSCA has been very successful over the years. In its first year, it received the International Sisters City Award for establishing a partnership between the fire departments of the two cities, which continues to this day. More recently, in 2019, under the next generation of leaders, it created a STEM-based academic science exchange with Rice University. No two people are more fitting recipients of the inaugural Sister Cities of Houston One World Award.

# About Sister Cities

Sister Cities International was created when President Eisenhower created the organization as the result of a [1956 White House Conference on Citizen Diplomacy](#) attended by Americans from all walks of life. The goal was to help build the road to enduring peace and prosperity between people from different communities around the globe.

Sister Cities of Houston is a nonprofit, volunteer-based organization created to foster citizen to citizen diplomacy in Houston through sister city partnerships that now total 19: Aberdeen, Abu Dhabi, Baku, Basrah, Chiba, Guayaquil, Huelva, Istanbul, Karachi, Leipzig, Luanda, Nice, Perth, Shenzhen, Stavanger, Taipei, Tampico, Tyumen and Ulsan.

For more information go to [www.sistercitieshouston.org](http://www.sistercitieshouston.org)