



សហគមន៍គ្រប់គ្រងកម្ពុជា Cambodia Support Group (CSG)

Partly-bilingual: see inside

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A Registered Canadian Charity, est. 1983



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My latest Asia trip, planned for three weeks, grew to 11! A wearying whirlwind it was at times, but the results surpassed all imagining. Much of the good news appears in this issue. - Arne Sahlén (P.S.: ask me about Jackie Chan.)

Royal endorsement - and special events

CSG now has the support of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sirivudh, a brother of Cambodia's retired King Sihanouk. Our adored Khmer tenor Hy Chanthavouth will sing music by Prince and King both, in three B.C. cities this March!

Prince Sirivudh's letter states: *I am pleased to give my endorsement to the Cambodia Support Group (CSG). For more than twenty-five years, CSG has been helping our country and people with deep respect for the traditions, initiatives and abilities of Cambodians in all levels of society... The CSG approach is to serve as a bridge enabling Khmer (Cambodian) people to move from wishes to success. Please offer CSG all the usual courtesies, and assist in any way possible.*

Prince Sirivudh plays five instruments. He also sings and composes. (Cambodia's Royal Family is one of the world's most artistic.) With CSG he co-hosted a reception November 22 to raise support for Chanthavouth; it brought together many of Cambodia's finest 'musical human resources' in lively solidarity.

On studio equipment the Prince arranged the great song *Au Teuk Ho* (Water Below the Bridge) by Khmer composer Sin Sisamuth. I re-set it for orchestra; Chanthavouth will join conductor Imant Raminsh and the *Youth Symphony of the Okanagan* to present it along with *Prey Prausit* (The Enchanted Forest) by King Sihanouk, and *Kampuchea Ruoh Nou Hauy* (Cambodia Lives Again) by composer Yan Bunthan (see next column) - also opera and Broadway music. Contact CSG for tickets!

Penticton: Sat. March 6, 2 pm at Bethel Pentecostal Church, 945 Main St.

Kelowna: Sat. March 6, 7:30 pm at First Lutheran Church, 4091 Lakeshore

Vernon: Sun. March 7, 7 pm at Trinity United Church, 3300 Alexis Park Drive

\$15 Adult, \$10 Youth/Senior, \$5 Child (12 & under)

Dedication, co-operation - a true inspiration!

CSG Co-ordinator Kheav Samnang's day-and-night commitment honours CSG. A polio survivor, he is now starting his own project. He writes: **"Self-Help for Success (SHS) is a new agency to face social problems with entrepreneurship. Its first project, a printing shop, will hire people with disabilities, raising their capacity and self-esteem. A disabled woman will chair the Board of Directors. At least two of six project staff will be women. Many contacts made through CSG helps me to find equipment and gain experience in business. My dream is to be a good leader and bring peace for disabled people with training and employment. My best dream is a world where broken body parts mean nothing, heart and mind are best value."**

The equipment mentioned is from the *Canadian Co-operation Office (CCO)*, a co-ordination service for Canada-based donors, government programs, businesses and aid agencies. Its Director, Mr. **Men Bunleng**, gave CSG a great number of office chairs, tables, computer components, printing machines, lamps and more - for Samnang's project and for KAVTV and KWVC (see page 2). We are very grateful to Bunleng (a Khmer-Canadian who studied in Montreal) - and also Mr. **Chim Piseth**, who documented and helped with the complex process.

CCO supports our work in other ways - as our Cambodia mailing address (see masthead above) and a site to plan projects. A long-term donor to CSG arts projects, Bunleng is listed on page 4 as a *Founding Sponsor* of Cambodia-Canada Friendship Concerts.

With your help, CSG can make dreams come true. **Bo Sarak "Mau"**, a son in a very poor family, heard of us on the radio. Mau's dream was *Lakhaoun Niyei*, Khmer spoken theatre. CSG helps him to study at Fine Arts School and learn English. His shy seriousness has given way to frequent smiles and laughter, and Samnang (see below) counsels him on 'paying forward' - helping others in future to repay his good fortune.

Yan Bunthan trained 35 Khmer students to perform twice last May with Canada's *Prima-Chamber Singers*. Conductor Bruce More wrote him afterward: *"The entire event was one of the most enjoyable which I've had in my career, due in no small way to the hard and successful work you did... I congratulate you on your substantial success and wish you the very best for your future work..."*

Bunthan's life dream was to teach music to kids at risk. He 'lights up' around them and they love him! With CSG as sponsor, he now does a teaching tour of existing child-sites and gives music training to poorest children.



^ Bunthan at A New Day Child Protection Site v Samnang speaking at KAVTV (see p.2)



11th Annual TGIF Concert

Note new weekday and time: Sunday February 21, 2:30 pm at Phillip T. Young Recital Hall, School of Music, University of Victoria. Song, piano, guitar and more: varied music styles.

Watch also for concerts all around southern BC; and if *you* can present a fund-raising event, your efforts will make a life-changing difference.