

Contacts:

Susan Mendieta Beasley APR [\(209\) 484-7145](tel:(209)484-7145)

Jennifer Mullen, [\(209\) 526-5588](tel:(209)526-5588) ext. 104

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*



## **Pack your bags for a trip around the world on Oct. 6** *Free International Heritage Festival celebrates with entertainment from around the world*

(Modesto, CA) – Families can enjoy free international entertainment as they take a trip around the world at the **21<sup>st</sup> Annual International Heritage Festival**. The event takes place on **Oct. 6**, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the **Gallo Center** for the Arts in downtown Modesto. The free event showcases the kaleidoscope of cultures that compose the local communities and the American heritage they share.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the patriotic **Americana Opening** begins promptly at 11 a.m., with a parade of flags and a special appearance by the YES! Company Ambassadors. Winners of the Stanislaus County Office of Education Choose Civility Art Contest will also be recognized.

Performing at this year's festival are groups representing a broad spectrum of cultural entertainment. Scheduled entertainment includes performances from the Philippines, Portugal, Mexico, the Middle East, Cambodia, Laos, and, for first time, Samoa. There will also be traditional dancing from India, a Chinese fashion show, an Irish pipe band and more. This year's grand finale is local favorite **Simply So** who will take the audience on an American musical journey.

**Free performances** will be ongoing with most groups performing twice – inside the Gallo Center's Rogers Theater and on the outdoor stage. No tickets are needed, but seating in the Gallo Center is offered on a first-come first-serve basis.

The **Kids World** area will again offer a selection of craft activities for kids – including the opportunity to create newspaper hats, masks and "passports." Making a premiere appearance at the festival will be the **Ajax Soccer** team offering demonstrations. MID's **Splasher** and the **Modesto Nuts** mascots will also visit. While the Modesto Symphony's **instrument petting zoo** will help children discover their hidden musical talents.

**Tasty treats** from around the world will be available for purchase in the international food court on I Street. Available cuisine will include dishes from Puerto Rico, Egypt, France and China to name a few. There will also be good ol' fashion hot

dogs, linguica, shaved ice and kettle korn. Cultural representatives will also host displays with information and artifacts. Throughout the Festival there will be representation from almost 30 countries.

The event is presented by the non-profit International Festival Committee whose volunteers, and volunteers from Modesto Junior College and Modesto High School, have worked hard to present an event with fun for the whole family. The Festival is made possible through sponsorships from E. & J. Gallo Winery, Target, Gallo Center for the Arts, Stanislaus County Office of Education, CareMore, Modesto Irrigation District, Cash-Dudley, Speller & Torres Professional Law Corporation, MOCSE Credit Union, Dianne Gagos, Modesto City County Airport, Stanislaus County, Coca Cola, Chris Ricci Presents & Brad Hawn, The Modesto Bee, Ross Carroll, Inc., Davis Guest Homes, radio stations KRVR the River and KVIN the Vine, Save Mart Supermarkets, KAZV Television, City of Modesto, Modesto City Schools, Peer Recovery Art Project, Bertolotti Disposal, Modesto Junior College, Downtown Improvement District, and the Modesto Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For details visit the festival website at [InternationalFestivalModesto.org](http://InternationalFestivalModesto.org) or call (209) 521-3852.

###