

# TWO VIEWS OF THE 2024 KOLO FESTIVAL

by *Marian Snyder*

The Sound of Kolo (Inspired by Do-Re-Mi)

Let's start at the very beginning.

It's Friday, November 29.

The doors opened at 8:30 am

And the dancers came pouring in.

When they danced they began with

Yannis Kanstantinou

Who taught Greek dances.

The next three teachers just happened to be

Michael Ginsburg, Sonia/Christian,

and Anna Angelova

Balkan, Romanian, and Bulgarian!

Oh, let's see if I can make this easier

Because rewriting the lyrics is not as easy

As I thought it would be.

Classes ran throughout the day

Leaving little time to play.

In addition to dancing with these

amazing teachers in the hall

There were workshops in international singing and

Balkan Brass in the Kafana for all.

After a full day of workshops we were treated

To a fabulous live performance by

Lowiczanie Polish Dance Ensemble

after being seated.

Lunch and dinner were catered by Hristo Kolev

Shish kababs, meat balls, musaka,

Salads, potatoes, baklava, and pita.

Then came the dance party with

one terrific band after another:

Rosen Sisters w/Orkestar Unbound

played International Folk Dance Music on stage.

Fanfare Zambaleta

played Balkan Brass on the dance floor.

Peter & Friends

back on stage played Bulgarian.

Michael & Friends

followed with Aegean Macedonian.

John Morovich & Sinovi

ended the evening with Tamburitza at midnight.

I can't imagine a better, more exciting time than this,

wondering if I would have the energy to go

back on Saturday.

Well, I did, and you will hear all about that from

Marija Hillis.

by *Marija Hillis*

Once again, longtime friends, new friends, and talented teachers gathered for the 73rd annual Kolo Festival at the Croatian Cultural Center in San Francisco.

Although I attended only on Saturday, the day was full of wonderful teaching, dancing, and socializing with folks who were there for a common purpose: to appreciate and enjoy the music and dancing of a variety of folk traditions, and especially Balkan circle dances, whose mesmerizing and complex rhythms can create a feeling of communal joy. I attended the afternoon dance workshops, but the highlights of the day were the wonderful live music groups we got to dance to at the evening dance party: Croatian, Balkan Brass, Bulgarian, Roma/Romanian, and international folk dance until the last waltz at midnight.

And if you didn't get enough dancing, singing, and music on Friday and Saturday, you had another chance on Sunday! My body, mind, and soul were satisfied with my Saturday at Kolo, and I'm so glad to have folk dancing in my life all year long!





# PHOTOS FROM KOLO FESTIVAL

Photos by L. Tucker and C. Dickey.

