

Sambandha ~ Music of the World began in 2004 when Catherine Mandella searched for fellow musicians who shared a passion for traditional music from around the world. Plus, she needed an excuse to play all the instruments she had been collecting. Several people answered her call and the group was formed. One of the original members, Clark Smith, former guitarist for the Irish band *Out of Kilter*, teamed up and has been a huge supportive force accompanying with guitar. Other folks that still play with Sambandha when they get the chance are Patricio Morales and Guillermo Villagomez, both from Equator and both with various skills that add yet another dimension to the group. Then Sambandha picked up two other permanent musicians. Yadi Kavakabi brought his Persian influence and instruments, and Russell Brown added the finishing touches with his guitar, base, and banjo guitar. Various other artists join as the occasion permits, such as, Steve Bash on percussion, and Reggie Marks from *Mumbo Gumbo*, on flute and sax.

As a poet once said, "Poetry gets lost when it strays too far from the Music, and Music gets lost when it strays too far from the Dance". And so it was, Sambandha began performing with dancers. Drawn by that magnetic pull, Sawako Ama, of Kagoshima, Japan, renown for her grace and passion for many forms of dance, joined Sambandha. She has been a great addition both visually in performance, as well as, being a great instructor at workshops, and supporting the group musically with percussion. Other dancers and dance troops are the Kennelly Irish Dancers, Kanoelani from Hawaii, Manasa, and Daleela Eye of the Cobra with various Middle Eastern and Latin dances.

Sambandha introduces instruments such as saxophones, flutes, penny whistle, quena, nay, duduk, various bagpipes, mandola, mandolin, guitars, banjo guitar, base, didgeridoo, setar, sanchin, saz, tar, balalaika, charango, erhu, accordion, Latin, African, Middle Eastern, European, Asian and Pacific percussion, steel drum, marimbula, kalimba, ukelele, and the list keeps growing.

In addition to all the various festivals, restaurants and parties the group plays for, they have also performed and donated funds to organizations such as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Sacramento and other Northern California library branches and schools, and have formed and been a part of KIBO CONNECTION (www.wix/kiboconnection/hope_prayers) raising funds for Japanese disaster relief.

As the band evolves, so does the sound. Many original tunes of been created within the band. Some of these tunes have been inspired by the member's experiences and some by their ancestry - Catherine's Sicilian and Australian, as well as her newly found Jamaican relatives, Clark's Northern European, Russell's Native American and African, Yadi's Persian and Kurdish, Sawako's Japanese, Patricio's Andean and Chinese..... The opportunity for the group to be able to join such diverse forces brings them great joy. And this joy is what they hope to bring to you.