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## Rock In The Flowers

By Jason Cohen

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**QBG Executive Director Susan Lacerte (l. to r.), Director of Development Darcy Hector and Tina Kang of the Korean Traditional Music and Dance Institute of New York announce the concert series.** Photo by Jason Cohen

The dog days of summer are around the corner and the temperatures are rising. One place where people can relax and enjoy the shade is in Flushing, at the Queens Botanical Garden, home to "Music in the Garden," the site's first-ever series of summer concerts.

QBG Executive Director Susan Lacerte and director of development Darcy Hector said they have been planning the concerts for months and are eager for it to begin. Not only will there be music, but each concert will be a family event where everyone can share in each other's cultures, Hector said.

"It's a new outreach to different programs," Lacerte said. "We know that they have the power to reach out."

The series begins this Saturday when Argentinean singer Sofia Rei is scheduled to perform. On Aug. 13, artists from the Korean Traditional Dance and Music Institute of New York will dance and drum into the night. There will be a Chinese music dance and opera on Aug. 27. Lastly, on Oct. 1, members of the North American Hindu Temple Society will perform. All of the events will take place 6:45 p.m. after the park is closed and the only fee is for entrance to the Gardens. Also, at each event there will be food sold that is related to the culture of the performance.

The North American Hindu Temple Society, which has previously performed at the Gardens, is the largest and oldest Hindu Temple in North America. It will feature the choir from the temple led by Grammy Award-winner Chandilla Tandon and dancing featuring traditional Indian costumes with a combination of Indian and Western music.

Mohan Ramaswamy, who is the director of outreach, and his wife Radhika, who writes for the temple, said they are looking forward to performing and hope the concert is a success. People should come so they can get a taste of a variety of cultures, they said.

"It's an attractive type of people who have an open mind," he said. "If you only listen to Lady Gaga, it's not for you."

People will be able to experience the Korean culture, said Tina Kang, the dance instructor at the KTMDI. If there is one thing that the Korean culture is known for, it is the drumming, Kang said.

People in the crowd will be able to feel the loud vibrations of the drums mixed with some modern rhythms. There will also be traditional Korean dancing with costumes that will illuminate the stage, she explained. The performers range from young children to adults.